OSWA’s Big Move

Oregon Small Woodlands has moved! Starting February 1, OSWA’s office will be located in downtown Salem at the historic Grand Hotel Building.

The new office space provides a variety of benefits for OSWA staff. The office has a professional look and feel and shares the Grand Hotel building with several professionals, attorneys and lobbyists. Staff has access to a large boardroom for OSWA’s board meetings and a smaller conference room for the executive committee, GAC, and other meetings.

A primary concern for members is the availability of free parking. Downtown Salem has 2 hour free street parking from 9am to 6pm. In addition to parking on the street, there are two parking structures that provide free all day parking.

Woodlands Carbon will be joining OSWA in the new office. As Woodlands Carbon grows, there will be opportunity to expand into additional suites.

The new address is 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301. We are located between State Street and Court Street.
 OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To provide opportunity to Family Woodland Owner by:

- Educating and informing the owners of forested tracts and the public regarding forestry and family forestland management issues.

- Providing a medium for the exchange of ideas about family forestland by land owners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.

- Serving as a forum to make recommendations for investigating and solving problems, and for improving forest management, harvesting, and marketing.

- Disseminating information on the establishment, growth, harvesting and marketing of forest crops produced on family forestlands, and to foster the wise use and protection of forests and encourage better forestry practices.

- Representing the owners of family forestlands to the general public and before legislative bodies and regulatory agencies.

- Complying with ORS Chapter 65 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.

 If you are practicing sustainable forest management, you have been providing services to society such as wildlife habitat, clean air, clean water, biodiversity and much more. A collective term, “ecosystem services,” is now being used to identify the group of services you are providing, at no charge, to society in general.

 As a good steward of your land, you are well aware that there is much more of value to be produced from the careful management of your land than the timber in the woods. In fact, if you are a member of the American Tree Farm System, the diamond-shaped sign at your gate proudly proclaims some of the other non-timber values. Perhaps, we should change the sign to a pentagon and add “air.”

 As we lose our private forestland to development, we lose the ecosystems that produce ecosystem services. Perhaps, based on the premise that we will only protect what we value, society and government are starting to consider putting a value on these services. In the past, these other values from our forests have been regarded as “free goods.” Many of us may still question why someone would pay us for that which we would provide anyhow. The most often stated reason is to encourage the family forestland owners to retain their land in forest. Pave over a forest and society loses these ecosystem services forever.

 The concept of payment for ecosystem services has surfaced very visibly here in Oregon. The 2009 Oregon Legislature passed SB 513 dealing with ecosystem services. The bill called for a working group to report back to the 2011 Legislature. In spite of the fact that the bill required representation from the private landowner sector, OSWA was not invited to a chair at the table of this working group. (The state OSWA office is working to remedy this oversight before the next meeting of the working group.)

 SB 513 defines (in this arena of newspeak) terminology such as “ecological values”, “ecosystem services”, “ecosystem services markets”, and “payment for ecosystem services.” For further information, go online and read the complete bill with amendments.

 As this develops, we will be introduced to new definitions for old words such as “bundling” and “stacking.” These have to do with combining different environmental values into one transaction. Concerns have been expressed that there be no “double dipping” which is being paid for two ecosystem services on the same piece of land.

 I have innumerable questions. Will an ecosystem service be paid for if it is located on a portion of my tree farm that is not producing any other services? Should I get a bonus for reduced carbon sequestration on a stand that I am purposely holding below full growth potential to create wildlife habitat? How are ecosystem services identified, quantified, valued and measured?

 Stay tuned. You will be reading and hearing much more on this subject.

 Till next time.
OSWA NEWS

OSWA Serves on Ecosystem Services Work Group

The State Legislature passed SB 513 during its 2009 session. This bill charges the Oregon Sustainability Board with convening of an ecosystem services markets working group.

OSWA President Ken Faulk is serving in the Working Group, and is one of about 30 participants from federal and state agencies, environmental groups and natural resource groups; including the Farm Bureau, OFIC and OSWA.

The goal of the working group is to raise the profile of and advance policies related to ecosystem services markets; create a platform for integrating markets around a comprehensive framework of ecosystem functions/services; build stakeholder support for this framework, including payments for ecosystem services.

The Charge to the Working Group (from SB 513)

“(2) The ecosystem services markets working group shall:

(a) Study and propose overarching goals to guide the development of integrated ecosystem services markets in Oregon that are efficient, coordinated and designed to produce positive ecological and economic outcomes with reasonable administrative costs to all participants;

(b) Address entities that would be most appropriate to guide, facilitate and implement an ecosystem services market in Oregon;

(c) Address the need for a consistent methodology to describe and quantify ecological values and in doing so, consider methodologies that have been developed or are in the process of being developed;

(d) Make recommendations concerning the development of appropriate ecological evaluation and accounting systems;

(e) Consider the appropriate role of government participation in ecosystem services markets in order to ensure that the activities of state agencies are well-coordinated and maintain a positive influence in maximizing ecological, social and economic benefits for the public and private sectors; and

(f) Propose potential policies to help stimulate demand for payments for ecosystem services, in particular the development of regulatory and voluntary ecosystem services markets.”

In addition, an Ad Hoc Group has been appointed to provide high-level policy guidance to the 513 Working Group. The Working Group is being staffed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and will meet once a month through October 2010 to develop a report and policy recommendations for the 2011 Legislative session.

Resources

http://www.oswa.org/

Visit the OSWA web site at www.oswa.org for information about your local chapter. Be sure to click on “Your Local Chapter” for a map link to your own chapter website!

ADVERTISE IN THE UPDATE!

The Update is sent to over 2,900 OSWA members and friends eight times per year.

Our members grow over one million acres of family forestland in Oregon!

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Rates include typesetting and ad preparation.
OSWA NEWS

Oregon Small Woodlands Association

50th Anniversary
2010 Annual Meeting
Hosted by Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association

APRIL 30–MAY 1, 2010

Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Celebrate the Past...Embrace the Future
Sustaining our forests and our families

SAVE THE DATE
As of January 31, 2010, there are 787 certified tree farms in the Oregon Tree Farm System ~ acreage 792,253.

Note: These statistics are tracked by Connie Atkinsin, OTFS Inspection Database State Administrator

Landowner Q&A Webinar on the new 2010–2015 Tree Farm Standards

AmericanTree Farm is offering a series of Internet-based webinars this year that will feature additional information for landowners, volunteers, and forestry consultants. The one-hour webinar will cover how the new Standards will impact current forest management practices. Mark you calendar with the following webinar dates, register now, and make plans to join one or more of these webinars.

Tuesday, April 13 from 1:00–2:00pm
Thursday, May 13 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, September 14 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, October 12 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, November 9 from 1:00–2:00pm


Timber Tax Webinar

Program will cover tax filing tips for timber transactions for the 2010 tax season, new tax form and incentives and the latest IRS regulation on timber. The presenters include: Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Dr. John Greene, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service and Mark Batson, Industry Technical Advisor, Internal Revenue Service. The target audience is: landowners, foresters, agency staff and program leaders, extension agents, tax professionals.

Wed., Feb 24, 2010; 12:00 noon–1:30 pm Eastern
Wed., March 17, 2010; 12:00 noon–1:30 pm Eastern
1.5 CFE Credits Available for Foresters

Join us by simply logging in http://forestrywebinar.net/. No registration required. Steps to participate:

1. On the day of the webinar, go to: http://forestrywebinar.net/about 15 minutes prior to the start of the session
2. Click on the particular tax webinar link.
3. Enter your name to login (no password is needed)… follow instructions for SAF CFE credit if desired.
4. The webinar page will then load (using Elluminatesoftware). Web access will be addressed 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the session.

For those with firewall blocking, getting your IT support to test the day prior to the event (this is rare normally). Technical questions should be addressed to Bob Bardon (Robert_Bardon@ncsu.edu,919-515-5375). For program questions, please contact Bill Hubbard (whubbard@uga.edu,706-340-5070).

Brought to you by: USDA Forest Service, NC State Forestry Extension, Southern Regional Extension Office, Texas A&M AgriLifeExtension and Internal Revenue Service. More details at www.timbertax.org/
OSWA Joins DEQ Non-Point Source Pollution Work Group

In October 2008, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission gave the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) unanimous approval to pursue rule revisions that will set new water quality standards for toxic pollutants in Oregon. The new standards will be based on a new fish consumption rate that is significantly more protective of human health than the existing rate. In addition, DEQ is reviewing the criteria for three naturally occurring earth metals: arsenic, iron and manganese.

The Environmental Quality Commission directed DEQ to take several actions, primarily, to propose a rule language or develop other implementation strategies to reduce the adverse impacts of toxic substances in Oregon’s waters that are the result of nonpoint source (not via a pipe) discharges or other sources not subject to section 402 of the Clean Water Act.

DEQ, along with the standards rulemaking group has been working on rule changes that are focused on changing the toxics criteria around point source regulation, working toward the deadline of rule adoption in late 2010.

In October 2009, DEQ began to look at nonpoint source pollution. Since the discussions to that point had only focused on point source issues, there was no expertise and representation of non-NPDES sources on the Toxics Rulemaking Workgroup. OSWA, Oregon Farm Bureau and others were asked to be on a short-term input group to discuss these nonpoint source issues, and to provide information and advice to make help make DEQ’s effort more effective and inclusive.

The group has met twice and will likely meet two or three more times over the next three months. The group’s charge is to identify changes that could make a significant improvement in the ability of non-NPDES sources to implement toxic pollutant reduction measures and that would have a positive environmental impact. DEQ is consulting with the group to identify potential short-term and long term actions/regulatory changes to the water quality rules or programs and, of these items, identify which are appropriate for further consideration within the current rulemaking process and which are appropriate for further consideration through the Toxics Reduction Strategy.

OSWA is participating in this effort to ensure that any proposed changes to policy and/or rules consider the impacts to small family woodland owners across the state. OSWA’s executive director, David Ford, is serving as a representative on the work group.

OSWA Board Member Elected SAF Chair-Elect

PORTLAND, ORE. - The Oregon Society of American For- esters has elected Mike Cloughesy as chair-elect for 2010. Cloughesy, director of forestry for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, will serve as chair-elect for one year before assuming the chair position in 2011.

Tim Keith, current chair-elect and a forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry, will move to the chair position for 2010. Shaun Harkins, a forester with Plum Creek in Coos Bay, was elected delegate at-large.

Cloughesy has been the director of forestry for OFRI since 2003. Previously he was a professor of forestry extension at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University.

With 964 members in 12 chapters throughout the state, the Oregon SAF is the largest of the 33 affiliates of the national society. SAF is the scientific and educational organization that represents the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, SAF is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.
OREGON NEWS

Oregon’s top loggers for 2009 honored by Forestry Board
January 6, 2010

Three Oregon companies with a reputation for professionalism, skill and commitment to protecting natural resources were named as the state’s Forest Practices Operators of the Year for 2009 on Wednesday. The Oregon Board of Forestry honored this past year’s winning operators during the Board’s January 6, 2010 meeting.

EASTERN OREGON REGION
O’Rorke Logging — John Day

Owner Charlie O’Rorke was recognized for a fuels management timber harvest on 200 acres near the Grant County community of Mt. Vernon.

The landowner selected O’Rorke based on the logger’s consistent good performance record and willingness to partner with the landowner on planning how trees would be harvested or protected. Careful attention was paid to protection of natural resources, including protecting soil and water on the 200 acre harvest. Trees harvested were sorted into different landing zones based on the end use, whether saw-log, biomass fuel or specialty wood uses. The resulting forest is now well-spaced for resistance to fire, disease, and insect attacks.

O’Rorke was also recognized in 1998 as Eastern Oregon’s Forest Practices Operator of the Year.

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION
Gustafson Logging — Astoria

Gustafson Logging was selected for outstanding work placing large wood in a stream within a Stimson Lumber Company tree farm in Clatsop County. Stimson foresters decided to place 55 large trees in Rock Creek, a branch of the Nehalem River, to promote stream health. Gustafson crews harvested trees on a slope above the creek, then precisely placed each of the 40-foot, several-thousand-pound trees into the stream as an equipment operator relied on a skyline carriage system to “dead-lift” the logs into the stream. Once equipment operators established a ‘rhythm’ for the process, logs could be lifted and placed in about 5 minutes, while not disturbing a stand of alders within the stream area.

Mark Gustafson, with brothers Clay and Wade, represent the second generation of family ownership for the Astoria logging company, founded by their father Duane Gustafson in 1974. Mark Gustafson and members of his crew may be familiar to fans of the History Channel TV series “Ax Men” which followed Gustafson Logging for two seasons.

SOUTHERN OREGON REGION
Dave Brink Logging — Roseburg

David Brink was recognized for the planning and community involvement work that went into a timber harvest within the city limits of Sutherlin in 2009. Brink held several community meetings with residents of a nearby manufactured home community to discuss the harvest operation with residents and listen to concerns raised by community members. Brink designed a harvest plan which lessened the impacts to residents’ daily lives, including starting two hours later during the morning, extensive use of water trucks for dust abatement, road repairs which were not directed by the landowner, and starting harvest at the far end of the unit to help familiarize residents to sounds of

cont’d on pg 11
Rural Oregon and climate change
by Guest Columnist

As the U.S. Senate considers climate legislation, Oregonians, especially in our rural communities, are forced to question whether we can afford to tackle a tough problem like climate change in these difficult economic times. With more mills closing, private woodland owners are losing vital opportunities to earn income that comes from managing their land. Without this income, owners struggle to stay on the land and provide the environmental and social benefits produced through sustainable land management, such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, and rural jobs.

At the same time, Oregon's more than 149,000 woodland owners and other rural landowners can play a key role in slowing climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide in forests, farms and grasslands. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that America's rural lands can absorb up to 25 percent of our nation's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with several of their colleagues, have developed a program to reward landowners for capturing and storing carbon on their lands. The program, contained in the Forest Carbon Incentives Program Acts would pay owners for practices that will increase carbon uptake beyond usual levels, like reforesting damaged areas, improving forest management, or preventing development with a permanent conservation easement.

This program is an important complement to strong forest carbon offset markets, helping small owners who may not be able to participate in these markets because of high entry costs. Carbon offset markets and incentives such as these are essential components of climate legislation, to fully tap our forests to mitigate climate change. Recently a new Oregon-based company, Woodlands Carbon, was launched to assist family woodland owners who want to sell carbon offsets.

Merkley carried this important idea forward through his seat on the powerful Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The climate change bill passed by this committee includes millions in new funding for carbon incentives for woodland owners, farmers and ranchers through a similar program.

The field of play around the climate bill is extremely crowded, and it is a remarkable achievement that Merkley was able to make this happen. At a time when rural landowners are struggling with declining markets and high energy costs, this carbon program will create a much-needed incentive to conserve and sustainably manage Oregon's more than 11 million acres of farms and woodlands, create jobs in rural communities, and help slow climate change.

Rural America should not be overlooked in efforts to address climate change. Management of our rural landscape, especially our carbon-rich woodlands, is an essential piece. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley should be applauded for their efforts to create this win-win climate solution that will have far-reaching benefits for our economy and our environment.

David Ford is executive director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Geoff Roach is Oregon state director of The Trust for Public Land.

Forest, farm waste plant could mean E. Ore. jobs

The Associated Press

(AP) — HALFWAY, ORE. — A test plant in northeast Oregon is raising hope for jobs to be had turning wastes from forests and farms into products such as soil amendments and fuel.

Eric Twombly is a former U.S. Forest Service employee who heads a company called Biochar Products. He said one such plant could account for 10 to 15 jobs, and there could be three or four in the region around Halfway south of the Wallowa Mountains.

He led a recent plant tour for owners of timber land and others from Oregon and Idaho.

He hopes the machinery could use waste from forest-thinning work that might otherwise be burned.

But, Twombly says, the machinery needs improvement. He says it is so large and requires so much adjustment it’s not good for mobile operations.
OREGON NEWS

Oregon Forest Practices Act: good forestry, regardless of the state budget

by Rick Gibbons

Dire predictions that Oregon’s landmark Forest Practices Act will be demoted to “voluntary guidelines” are not realistic.

The Oregonian’s recent story on potential budget cuts to the state’s forestry department (“Budget crunch threatens forest protections,” Dec. 7) raises the specter that laws, rules and all enforcement and regulation developed by the Legislature over the past 40 years could be swept away if new taxes designed by the Legislature are not upheld by voters in January.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is learning to live in troubled times. Those of us who work in the woods have been living in troubled economic times for years, and I assure you we feel pinched every time the economy takes a hit. What we are experiencing right now is, simply put, the worst conditions in anyone’s memory.

But I can say without hesitation that loggers do not relish budget reductions to ODF’s Private Forests Program. The Oregon Forest Practices Act has been a way of life for us for two generations. We work cooperatively — and often in partnership — with ODF’s stewardship foresters to abide by the law and obey the rules.

ODF’s foresters spend part of their time enforcing the law and part reviewing plans for timber harvest submitted by private forest landowners. They also spend a lot of time working with small landowners — Oregon has more than 70,000 of them — coaching them on better forestry practices. Loggers work with small and large landowners alike to carefully implement those plans.

No matter what happens with the state’s budget, the timber-harvest planning process won’t go away. Planning is a staple of forestry, as is care for the environment.

But right now, many forest landowners aren’t even thinking about cutting timber because there is little demand for lumber. Our workload is therefore sharply reduced and, by extension, so is ODF’s.

Without doubt, the economic crisis means that ODF’s programs may suffer, along with other state programs. Nearly every state agency is facing troubling choices. But there is little to suggest that Oregon’s Forest Practices Act is headed for the dustbin.

Oregon’s forest landowners and loggers represented by the Associated Oregon Loggers believe it’s vital that the public has confidence that Oregon’s forest practice laws are upheld. Enforcement plays an important role. But Oregonians should also know that we take responsibility for the environment seriously. Our “license to operate” ultimately comes from the public, and it’s in our own best interest to obey all laws all the time — regardless of the number of stewardship foresters.

Rick Gibbons of Allen & Gibbons Logging in Canyonville is president of Associated Oregon Loggers.
$100M plant proposed in Longview

New plant would convert wood waste to energy

*Portland Business Journal — by Erik Siemers Business Journal staff writer*

A Longview, Wash.-based paper company plans to build a $100 million plant that would be the largest waste wood-fueled power plant in the Pacific Northwest.

Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging Inc., a manufacturer of craft paper, corrugated boxes and container board, filed paperwork last week with Washington's Department of Ecology to seek a permit for the plant, said Sarah Taydas, a company spokeswoman.

The combined heat and power plant would replace an existing 25-megawatt wood-fueled biomass plant that now generates 30 percent of the electricity for the company's Longview pulp and paper mill.

Taydas said the company has yet to determine whether the electricity generated by the new plant, which could be in operation by the third quarter of 2011 if approved, would be used to power its operations or whether it will sell the power into an energy market thirsty for renewable fuel sources.

At 65 megawatts of capacity, it would be the largest wood-fueled biomass plant proposed in the Pacific Northwest and about the 14th largest in North America, according to William Perritt, executive editor of the Wood Biomass Market Report, a publication of Bedford, Mass.-based RISI Inc.

The project is the latest in a growing list of wood-fired biomass electricity plants either proposed or in development in Washington.

The state has six combined heat and power plants in operation, another eight in some stage of active development, and another 19 proposed, according to data from the Washington Department of Commerce.

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CONTINUED NEWS

The Longview Fibre project is now the third biomass project proposed in Longview, alongside two 25-megawatt projects from Northwest Renewables Inc. and Rappaport Energy Consulting LLC, whose plant will also produce ethanol, said Peter Moulson, a senior energy policy specialist with the Washington commerce department.

The state of Washington has an abundance of biomass feedstock, much of it relatively cheap. But Moulson said the challenge for independent energy developers has been managing the cost of transporting it to a plant.

“That’s why you’re getting a lot of attention at mills,” he said. “They have it available at known volumes and known prices and it’s a consistent material.”

Meanwhile, the possibility of selling in-demand renewable energy on the market could offer a new line of revenue for companies struggling with the weak pulp and paper market.

Taydas said Longview Fibre’s proposal isn’t designed to offset a weak pulp and paper market. She declined to offer revenue for the company, which was sold in April 2007 to Toronto-based Brookfield Asset Management Inc. for $2.15 billion.

Instead, the plant is considered a long-term investment in the company’s Longview mill.

The company employs 1,700 at its Longview manufacturing plant and seven other plants across the Western U.S. that produce corrugated boxes.

She said the company is still studying various options to finance the plant.

“It’s a complex facility and the strategy is to use more biomass-based energy and improve our efficiency at the mill,” Taydas said.

cont’d from pg 7 (Oregon’s top loggers…)

cutting as the harvest moved closer to their homes. Community residents reported a high degree of satisfaction with how the harvest resulted.

Brink has been involved with forestry in Douglas County for more than three decades, including promoting development of forest biomass energy systems, and serving as an active member of the Douglas County Small Woodlands Association and Associated Oregon Loggers.

Four companies were also recognized by the Board for excellence as Merit Award winners for 2009:

• Butch Jurhs Logging in McMinnville
• Hampton Affiliates in Salem
• Precision Timber of Tillamook
• Roseburg Resources based in Roseburg

Award recipients were reviewed or selected by Oregon’s Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committees, who evaluate nominees based on an operator’s consistency of positive performance, innovation in project design, relative difficulty of a harvest operation and a commitment to protecting Oregon’s natural resources as a basis for selecting a winner from three regions of the state.

In 1971, Oregon became the first U.S. state to enact forest management laws which regulate forest operations and protect natural resources with the passage of the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Additional information about Oregon’s forest management rules is available on the ODF web site, www.oregon.gov/ODF
ODA encourages farmers, ranchers to prepare farm tanks to receive biodiesel blended fuel

As Oregon’s biodiesel renewable fuel standard takes effect, agricultural producers throughout Oregon will receive biodiesel-blended fuel from their suppliers for their farm tanks. ODA encourages farmers and ranchers to take a few simple precautions as they begin to store and use the fuel.

The Oregon Legislature passed a bill during the 2009 session to accelerate the deadline for the 2% biodiesel renewable fuel standard. The standard has already taken effect in nine northwest Oregon counties and will take effect in the rest of Oregon after October 1.

ODA’s Measurement Standards Division has notified fuel distributors and retailers of the deadlines for the standard and that dealers must ensure their tanks and distribution systems are properly prepared to avoid any problems with the introduction of biodiesel into the fuel.

To help ensure quality and minimize problems, in-state produced biodiesel is required to have been tested and received a Certificate of Analysis (COA) on each batch or production lot of biodiesel prior to blending with diesel fuel. In addition, imported biodiesel must have a COA on each batch or production lot after entry into Oregon and prior to blending with diesel fuel.

ODA will also periodically test B100 biodiesel at the receiving terminal prior to it being blended with the standard diesel fuel. The program helps ensure the parent products— the biodiesel and the diesel itself— meet specifications prior to the blending and helps prevent problems at the consumer level.

Most consumers should not notice a difference in vehicle fuel economy or performance with the addition of two percent biodiesel to their fuel. Agricultural fuel users can help prevent problems by taking the following precautions:

- Clean your diesel storage tank to remove water and other contaminants prior to adding biodiesel-blended fuel to the tank. Biodiesel is a natural solvent and can loosen and detach materials deposited in your storage tanks. It can also absorb water.

- Keep extra filters on hand for your diesel fuel tank pump and for your farm equipment during the first few weeks using the blended fuel.

Another potential concern with biodiesel, especially in the winter, is that it can gel at higher temperatures than the standard diesel. However, this shouldn’t be a problem at the two percent blend level. It may raise the gelling point very slightly, but it shouldn’t be noticeable to
OREGON NEWS

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consumers. Biodiesel blends of five percent or less must meet the same national fuel quality requirements as straight diesel, and even straight diesel fuel is treated in the colder months to prevent gelling.

For more information about the renewable fuel standards, contact Stephanie Page at the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4565.

Stephanie Page
Renewable Energy Specialist
PH (503) 986-4565
FX (503) 986-4750
spage@oda.state.or.us

New publication explores research on amphibians and timber harvest

PORTLAND, ORE. – Research conducted in the Pacific Northwest provides new insights on the effect of forest management activities on stream-associated amphibians, and a new publication from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute offers a synthesis of recent findings.

Wildlife in Managed Forests: Stream-Associated Amphibians, is OFRI’s latest publication, and it synthesizes the latest science findings to help forest managers, fish and wildlife experts, conservation organizations, regulators and policymakers to develop more effective practices and plans to protect amphibian habitat on managed forestlands.

According to the research, protection schemes in place for fish habitat may not, by themselves, be effective for some amphibian species. Targeted and site-specific measures might be needed to protect them. For instance, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach to forested buffers along streams, land managers might be encouraged to leave wider buffers in areas amphibians are more likely to inhabit, and leave no buffers elsewhere.

Though not yet conclusive, recent studies have expanded scientists’ understanding on how a significant number of Northwest amphibian species rely on perennial and seasonal headwater streams, while others rely on forested riparian habitat. Studies using refined methodology are also yielding insights into aspects of amphibian habitat, population dynamics and responses to habitat disruption.

Stream-Associated Amphibians is the third in OFRI’s “Wildlife in Managed Forests” series, joining Elk and Northern Spotted Owl. These booklets are recommended reading for forest managers but have proven especially popular with owners of small- and medium- size forestlands, who do not have staff biologists to interpret complex science.

The publication grew out of a joint symposium held by the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology and the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society in February 2009 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash.
Developing a Nontimber Marketing Network for Small Forestland Owners

by Lita Buttolph

Small-scale forests are an important component of the U.S. forest base. Consolidation of global wood markets and lack of access to mills, however, have negatively affected the financial viability of many small tree farms. As income from timber sales becomes more limited, managing for nontimber forest products (NTFPs) can serve as a viable supplement or alternative to traditional wood markets for small forestland owners.

Hundreds of marketable products abound in U.S. forests including mushrooms, mosses, berries, saps and resins, seeds, transplants, floral greens and medicines. Many of these products support multimillion dollar industries. For example, in 2002, the value of the floral greens harvest in Washington state was estimated at $236 million; matsutake mushroom exports from the Pacific Northwest were estimated in 2003 at $9.5 million, and moss and lichen exports were $13 million.

Nontimber forest products harvesting, buying, and processing activities can also serve as an important economic safety net for rural communities. One of the major challenges for landowners wanting to start or expand an NTFP business has been a lack of market information.

Unlike the timber industry, which has a highly developed market infrastructure, there is very little in the way of market data on NTFPs (e.g., contact information for buyers and sellers, seasonal price fluctuations, long-term price trends and risk analyses). Without these data, which are often necessary for developing business plans, NTFP business owners may be ineligible for loans or grants to start-up or expand their business.

In January 2009, the Institute for Culture and Ecology, in collaboration with Oregon State University Forestry Extension, received a grant from the USDA-CSREES National Research Initiative to help develop and expand markets for NTFPs. The project, called Wild Forest Goods, is a first step toward developing an economic infrastructure for NTFPs. One component of the project is to better connect NTFP buyers, sellers, producers, processors and harvesters using an online, regional business directory.
The Northwest discovers that the once-scorned timber industry is better than the alternative: rural subdivisions

by The Oregonian Editorial Board

For 20 years, the Northwest all but demonized timberland owners, blaming them for everything from landslides to the demise of salmon, while shrugging at tax laws and economic forces that made it ever more difficult to hold on to private forestlands.

It’s too late now, in most cases, but it has finally dawned on the Northwest that it needs and misses the very private timberland owners that it kissed off over the past two decades.

In a recent two-part series, The Oregonian's Amy Hsuan described how millions of acres of private forest across the Northwest have rapidly shifted in ownership from forest products companies and timber operators to private investors representing pension funds, university endowments and foundations.

These new owners of great swaths of the Northwest are not interested in making money from the great forests of Oregon and Washington the old-fashioned way — growing and harvesting trees. Instead, they are eager to make much larger, quicker scores by parceling out the forests for resorts and subdivisions, usually made up of trophy-size second homes.

The shift in forest ownership is happening fast and furiously. As Hsuan reported, between 1996 and 2007 some 84 percent of the nation's 70 million acres of privately owned industrial forests changed hands. The sales of forestland are accelerating as billions of dollars of institutional investment funds continue to pour into timberlands.

These new owners look at these Oregon forests and don't see timberland — they see real estate. They have no interest, none, in waiting 40 years for Douglas fir to reach marketable size. Why should they? The going price for an acre of timber in Oregon is $2,000 to $4,000. Forest home sites sell for $30,000 an acre or more.

Moreover, these investors don't own sawmills that need to be supplied. They don't have a presence in Northwest timber towns. Few if any of these investors will ever set foot in the Oregon forests they purchase.

Even Weyerhaeuser, the last major publicly traded integrated forest products company, has bent to the times and the nation's tax laws, Hsuan reports, and decided to become a real estate investment trust next year.

These are deeply disturbing trends in a region that is still dependent on private forestlands to provide wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities and supply logs to the dwindling number of mills in Oregon and Washington. The most farsighted of Oregon's conservation groups understand the threat, and some are even working closely with the wood products industry to preserve private forestlands.

There's some reason to hope that these new alliances will be successful in creating "community forests" owned all or in part by groups united primarily by their desire to protect forestlands from being cut up and turned into gated residential communities. As Hsuan reported, the largest and most promising community project under way is the Skyline Forest in central Oregon.

It's ironic that one of the first challenges of the conservation groups planning these new community projects is to get their members and financial supporters to understand that they must be managed as "working" forests and that, of course, means logging. After all the criticism of Oregonians who owned and managed working forests over the years, now it's their turn.
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