OSWA’s 2011 Day at the Capital

Register now for the OSWA’s 2011 Day at the Capital

Thursday, April 21, 2011, State Capital, Salem - Room 50

Learn how Oregon laws are made and help influence the outcome.

Meet with Senators:

- Senator Devlin - Ways and Means Committee Chairman
- Senator Ferrioli - Senate Minority Leader
- Senator Rosenbaum - Senate Majority Leader
- President Courtney - Senate President

Tour the Capital, Visit Senate and House Activities

Meet your Legislative Representative

Lunch with Representatives:

- Representative Cameron - House Republican Leader
- Speaker Hanna - Republican Speaker
- Representative Hunt - House Democrat Leader

Attend Senate and House Committee Hearings of Interest

Parking can be a challenge at the Capital during legislative sessions. OSWA has 25 all-day parking permits for parking near the Capital. The first 25 people to sign up for the Day at the Capital will receive a parking permit. OSWA can coordinate a shuttle from our office on High Street if required. Please advise if a shuttle is needed.

To register, please email Jim at jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com or Jen at jenerains@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there.
Our Vision
To see privately owned family woodlands as a thriving part of Oregon’s landscape in 2050.

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.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE by Nancy Hathaway

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

SO WHAT’S GROWING IN YOUR WOODS?

Plants are putting out their bursts of spring growth. Our conifers won’t be far behind. We’re noticing this growth as we walk our plantations and forests. What’s out there that we should be paying attention to?

Usually we count our blessings. Let’s take a moment to count the invasives: ivy, scotch broom, grasses, Himalayan blackberry (renamed Armenian), holly, Japanese knotweed. My frame of reference is the Willamette Valley. Other invasives cause grief in wetter site one ground and the drier areas of Central, Eastern, and Southern Oregon.

Treating invasives has been covered multiple times in Small Woodlands Association and other publications.

If you have brush or grass that will be inhibiting the growth of young seedlings, the time to attack is before conifer buds burst in the spring, or later on in the fall after growing ceases. For instance, March is a great month to spray scotch broom, but since there was hardly a dry 12 hour period in March, consider April. While grass and broadleaf weeds can be controlled with soil applied herbicides even during wet weather, you will have to wait until dry weather for foliar applied materials.

Recently I attended an all-day workshop on false brome, and invasive grass that loves to grow even in shaded areas, i.e. under your timber or in your new plantation. False brome is spreading rapidly throughout our local forests and beyond. It is identified by its attractive vibrant light green color which remains green after other grasses have turned brown. But it is rapidly replacing native grasses and plants, reducing nutritious habitats. Deer and Elk will not eat it. And, as false brome falls down in winter, it creates a thatch where nothing else can grow.

In our field visits we saw a 13 acre wooded home site where the family of three had hand-pulled false brome. Karen and Tom Harding, OSWA members of Benton County, took about 5 years to control their false brome on 65 acres with spray application. OSU’s McDonald Forest received a grant to treat 240 acres out of 2400 infested acres. Pulling is best done in wet weather, but spraying can be done in spring if no native plants are present, or in October. By October the seeds have been dispersed so you will need to spray again the following year, but the plants will be much smaller.

For further information, check out the posting from Institute for Applied Ecology which has all the presentations from this workshop. Highlights are: good color photos for identification, prescriptions for herbicide application, and “Search & Destroy” record-keeping from Karen and Tom.


For Eastsiders, see Sheldon Heffernan’s article on page 6.
OSWA NEWS

SAVE THE DATE- 2011 OSWA ANNUAL MEETING

Oregon Small Woodlands Association in Collaboration with Oregon Tree Farm System

2011 Annual Meeting
Hosted by Baker County Chapter

JUNE 23–JUNE 25, 2011
Oregon Tree Farm Tour on Thursday

Dealing with Changing Realities in Woodland Management

Best Western Sunridge Inn
1 Sunridge Lane
Baker City, OR 97814

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting Program:

The program for this year’s annual meeting has been completed. This year our annual meeting is in conjunction with the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and the OTFS Board meeting. This year’s theme is “Dealing with Changing Realities in Woodland Management”. Speakers will address marketing, management, developing new partners, and generational concerns facing small woodland owners. The event is hosted by OSWA’s Baker County Chapter on June 23–25. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Sunridge Best Western Motel in Baker City. The three day event will start with the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour on Thursday, June 23rd. There will be a woods tour and a BBQ lunch at Harry Merlo’s Tree Farm in Union County. Transportation will be provided from Baker City and La Grande. An OTFS and OSWA Board meeting will follow in the evening on Thursday.

Friday’s program and annual meeting will be held at the Sunridge Best Western. Invited and confirmed speakers include; Irene Jerome- Blue Mountain Forest Partners, Tom Martin- American Forest Foundation, Neil Schroeder- Oregon Woodland Cooperative, Nils Christoffersen- Wallowa Resources, Chad Davis- Sustainable Northwest; Mike Cloughesy- Oregon Forest Resource Institute, Steve Fitzgerald- OSU Extension Forester, Lyle Defrees- Baker County Small Woodland Owner; Rich Warner- Oregon Department of Forestry; Paul Oester- OSU Extension Forester, David Shaw- OSU Extension Forester, Mary Sisock- Ties to the Land, and Mike Sterner- Tax Attorney.

A Country Natural Beef steak BBQ will be at the OSU Extension office in Baker City. State Forester Doug Decker will be the dinner speaker. We will also have our annual silent auction.

A Howdy Neighbor tour is scheduled for Saturday morningb on Mac Kern’s property and will focus on thinning, slash disposal, grazing, forest health, and fire. John Shelk- Ochoco Lumber, will be the luncheon speaker and will focus on biomass opportunities.

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 link to local chapter information.

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.

Con't on page 7
Fire Season is Just Around the Corner

At times during the spring season, it is difficult to believe that it will ever dry out enough to be concerned about a fire on your property. That said, we all know that the conditions will change and summer will find its way to Oregon.

As summer approaches, so will another fire season. It will be time to dust off the fire tools and fill the water tanks again. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) appreciates everyone’s dedication and efforts to prevent fires. After all, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a gallon of suppression.

Whether you conduct your own forest operations on your property, or you hire an operator to do the work for you, it is always good to remember your role and your liability as the landowner. First and foremost, it is ODF’s objective to work closely with the landowners and operators to prevent operation fires. The goal is zero fires this season. We would like to see a coordinated effort with landowners, fire wardens and operators to communicate the fire prevention message to everyone on the ground.

Your local ODF office can provide you with all of the information you need concerning Oregon’s Industrial Fire Precaution laws and rules. This information will be useful as you communicate with your operator about the work you are conducting on your property. Discussion points should include: line rubs, clearing blocks, smoking, power saws; the Industrial Fire Precaution Level or “IFPL”, required “fire watch” period; tool and equipment requirements, or assignments during a fire.

It is important to remember that fires which result from negligent activities, including activities where a landowner or the operator did not comply with a fire prevention requirement, subjects both parties to paying the total cost of fire suppression incurred by the department. There is no upper limit or cap on this liability; whether the fire costs $100 or $1,000,000 to suppress. Fires that do not result from negligent acts, those that are true accidents, subject both the landowner and the operator to paying up to a maximum of $300,000 of the suppression costs. The same is true for a fire that burns in an operation area, but the cause of the fire cannot be determined for certain.
OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM NEWS

2011 Oregon Tree Farmer Nominations are Due

It is time again to begin the nominations process for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Each OSWA Chapter can submit a candidate to the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS). Send all applications to Dick Courter using the forms found on the OTFS website www.otfs.org. Remember all applications must be received at Dick Courter’s office no later than June 1st to qualify.

Here are some reminders from Dick to make this year’s application process as smooth as possible:

• Each county chapter can only nominate one candidate for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.
• Contact Dick directly if one has any questions about completing the application.
• Check the eligibility of all candidates. One can contact Dick directly to validate eligibility.
• Assist your nominee in filling out the paper work.
• Make sure individual listed on nomination form as the person making the nomination is the person prepared to answer questions about the candidate and the application.
• Note several changes in the “green box” at the signature page and make sure one has discussed these points with the candidate.
• Be aware that the dates in the estimated schedules are estimates and not guaranteed.
• Do not wait until the last minute. Get the application to Dick as soon as possible.
• Be aware that the form says 2010 but it is the form for 2011.

It is OTFS’s goal to have twelve or more candidates for 2011 with no process glitches. Help make it happen. Get your applications in today.

Oregon Tree Farm System 25 and 50 year Tree Farm Signs

Pictured: Marian & Pat Rents with Bill & Joan Arsenault

OSWA and OTFS are collaborating on presenting the 25 and 50 Year Tree Farm signs at OSWA events. Beginning in January, many OSWA members who were eligible to receive a sign and who attended their Chapter’s Annual Meeting were presented with their 25 and 50 Year Tree Farm signs. OSWA members who have received their 50 Year Tree Farm sign include: Lucile Rummel, Marvin Rowley, Ed Parker, Marian & Pat Rentz and Carol Whipple, Diane Kaldahl and Bob and Margaret Kintigh and Judson Parson.

Members who have received 25 Year Tree Farm sign include: Krause Family Ltd Partnership, Elsie Rose, John Titman, David Schmidt, Louis Mohnike, KC VanNatta, Robert Mahaffy, Bill Arsenault, Ron Gilson, Thomas Bauman, Lindsay Reaves, The Atkins, and William Collins.

To receive you sign, update the tree farm certification and OSWA will ensure recipients are recognized for their accomplishments.
Sheldon Heffernan Talks Weeds for East Side Folks

Spring is in the air (okay, so it is still snowing here in Eastern Oregon), temperatures are rising, birds are singing, grass is growing and the wildflowers will soon be in bloom. This spring, might I suggest that every one of us take time out of our hectic schedules to go enjoy the nice weather, breath fresh air, admire our beautiful scenery and pull weeds. Better yet, convince your kids that pulling weeds is the new craze sweeping the nation! Regardless of who does the work, weed control is a vital aspect in quality land management whether its in a forest, farm, or your own backyard.

So what exactly is a weed? Simply put, weeds are anything you don’t want growing on your property. Notorious invaders here on the east side of the state include; Diffuse Knapweed, Houndstongue, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle and Whitetop. I recommend getting a weed identification booklet that includes pictures, descriptions and characteristics as well as consulting your local weed guru. Your county’s Oregon State University Extension office may be able to help you track down both of these.

Unfortunately, identifying weeds doesn’t make them give up the fight and run away. Instead, you must relentlessly assault your weeds and drive them back into that dark corner of the world where only unpleasantries the likes of IRS audits dwell. Fortunately, weed control is possible if you remember a few basic concepts and utilize some simple techniques:

• The Concepts

1. Weed management is an ongoing process that must be repeated every year. Great management one year and being stagnant the next simply will not cut it.

2. Weeds don’t respect property lines. This means everyone needs to be involved including private landowners as well as state and federal agencies.

• The Techniques

1. Keep a sharp shovel and plastic bag with you. Weeds can be knocked down then bagged and burned. This is a simple and effective means of weed control.

2. Clean your vehicles and logging or agricultural equipment before moving to a new location. Vehicles (including 4-wheelers) can spread weeds and weed seeds rapidly over large distances. Taking a few extra minutes to wash your equipment now will save you a tremendous amount of time in weed control later.

Con’t on page 7
OREGON NEWS

Cont’d from pg 6 (Eastern OR Weed Control)

3. Chemical controls. The use of herbicides can be an outstanding way to control weeds when used properly. There are some newer chemicals such as aminopyralid (Milestone) that can be used around trees but you need to be very careful. Make sure to consult a herbicide expert, always read the warning labels about specific tree species, and follow all instructions precisely before attempting any form of chemical control.

4. Biological controls. Biological control is when a natural pest to weed is introduced to make the weed less competitive against desired plants by putting it under stress. Oregon is a leading state when it comes to biological control and the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s site on this type of eradication is worth looking into.

All of us who reside in Eastern Oregon need to stay informed on the prevalent weeds in our area and those lurking in the shadows waiting to arrive. So read up on your particular area, arm yourself with the weapon of your choice and attack!

As noxious weeds go, no East side weed is more irritating than Houndstongue. Not only is this biennial weed toxic to cattle and horses, its Velcro-like seeds stick to literally everything. It is a common occurrence to see cattle and horses with mats of burrs on their manes or faces, and every rancher or hunter has spent countless hours pulling the barbed seeds from the fur of their canine companions. Houndstongue forms a rosette its first year and sends up flowering stalks the second year, with heights up to 4 feet tall. Its distinct reddish-purple flowers make it easy to spot. Houndstongue can be controlled by hand pulling or chopping, but it must be done before the plant goes to seed. For larger infestations, chemical control can be used in the rosette to flowering stage.

Many thanks to Arnie Grammon of the Baker County Weed Control Program for sharing this information with the Baker County OSWA Chapter at a recent meeting. There is an extensive list of noxious weeds for Baker and surrounding counties at www.bakercounty.org. A list of invasive weeds in Idaho can be found at www.idahoag.us.

Cont’d from pg 3 (OSWA Annual Meeting...)

Saturday will conclude with an afternoon tour of Sid and Nancy Johnson’s property for those who wish to spend the evening in Baker City.

The annual meeting brochure will be mailed in late April. Mark your calendars for a great opportunity to interface with landowners facing similar challenges and hear from individuals with ways and opportunities to address some of those challenges.

Wanted: Silent Auction Items

The OSWA Silent Auction is a fun way to raise funds for a number of OSWA activities. In 2010 we had over 100 items and raised over $4,000.

If you wish to donate an item to the silent auction or would like more information about the silent auction, please contact Ilene Waldorf at 503-829-3181 or iwal@molalla.net

FOREST INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute is your source for information on Oregon’s forests. Visit our Web site and explore OFRI’s new online library where you can download our publications and order copies by mail.

www.oregonforests.org
Message from the Executive Director

Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC)

On March 8th long-term member John Rounds retired from the EFCC after 16 years of service as a volunteer small woodland owner representative. John is a Prineville resident and President of OSWA’s Central Oregon Chapter. He did an outstanding job for small woodland owners in representing our interests. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his dedication and service to the State and small woodland owners. John served on the committee since March of 1995. OSWA’s support of Steve Cafferata to replace John on the committee was approved by the Board of Forestry at their meeting on March 9th. Steve is an OSWA member from Lane County. He retired from Weyerhaeuser Co. following a distinguished 35-year career. Steve is knowledgeable of Oregon’s fire protection system and will serve the interests of small woodland owners well.

DEQ Rulemaking

The public comment period for Department of Environmental Quality’s proposed rulemaking on water quality standards closed March 21st. Forest landowner groups, like OSWA, are concerned with the precedent the new rule could create regarding DEQ authority to regulate forested streams. OSWA sent in comments emphasizing our concerns over the potential for such DEQ authority. The importance to small woodland owners is the potential for DEQ to require wider stream buffers in forested areas following a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculation done by DEQ. Although DEQ claims they have no intent to regulate forested streams, the reality is they believe a TMDL could give them that authority. A concern about TMDLs is the appearance they are developed with less emphasis on scientific rigor which opens them up to political rather than scientific conclusions. Small woodland owners are much better off with the regulatory approach used by the Board of Forestry. Thank you to the many OSWA members who sent in public comments. The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) is scheduled to adopt rules in June. We will have to wait to see if our comments have an influence on the EQC’s decision.

Board of Forestry Meeting

Board of Forestry has scheduled a meeting in Salem on April 29th which will focus on the use of pesticides in forests. OSWA will make a public testimony about our support for integrated pest management. OSWA members use a variety of methods to control unwanted vegetation and invasive species. The use of herbicides is one of those tools. The Board of Forestry has taken up the subject of forest pesticides, recognizing it is a controversial issue.

Day at the Capital

OSWA’s Day at the Capital is April 21st beginning at 8:00 am. Only a few members have signed up as of April 5th. Please consider participating in the event where one can meet directly with Legislative Leaders, tour the capital, and be part of the legislative process. Contact Jen Rains or myself to register.

OSWA and OTFS MOU

At the OSWA February Board meeting, the Board authorized me to investigate modifying the Memorandum of Understanding between OSWA and the Oregon Tree Farm System. The existing MOU was written in 2007, and does not reflect the working relationship between OSWA and OTFS today. A draft agreement approved by the Executive Committee was reviewed and modified by OTFS at their April 1st Board meeting.
OSWA's Legislative News

By: Roger Beyer

HB 2238-A, OSWA’s bill to allow small woodland owners to qualify for farm plates, passed the House with a vote of 52-5. Once the Senate President has assigned the bill to a committee, I can begin working to get a hearing scheduled. Having the bill pass the first chamber before the end of March greatly improves the chances for success, but it still has a long way to go.

HB 2541 and SB 664 are two bills relating to inheritance tax. The Oregon law commission has been working on this issue for the past two years and Clint Bentz has represented OSWA on the workgroup. One of the bills is likely to move forward as long as it is revenue neutral, which the amendments being drafted are expected to accomplish. The basic agreement is that for estates with less than $6 million in assets, the tax will be less, and estates with more than that amount will pay more. As long as the bill is revenue neutral it should have a good chance of passage.

HB 2121, the bill setting up an NPDES permit process for applications of pesticides on or near water or forest canopies, is now on hold pending congressional action on the issue with a nationwide solution. I would expect the issue will be brought up in February of next year if Congress fails to act.

HB 2700-B would allow persons other than property owners to apply for a fill removal permit on property. The bill passed the House on a vote of 40-18 and is now in the Senate Business, Transportation and Economic Development committee. The bill hasn’t yet been scheduled for a hearing and won’t likely be scheduled for action until late April. The committee chairman will likely be looking for amendments that can be supported by both supporters and opponents, which is hard to find with this issue.

The tax credit for reforestation of underproductive land will expire if one of the two bills to renew it is not passed. SB 320 has had a public hearing but no work session and HB 3169 has been scheduled for work session so the bill can be sent on to the Joint Committee on Tax Credits. The process for renewing tax credits is brand new and no one really knows how it will work. This tax credit is not widely used but can be quite important for landowners who are contemplating planting underproductive lands, so we will keep working to get it renewed.

SB 808 is the bill introduced by Senator Ferrioli to allow forestland owners to construct storage buildings on their property like farmers currently can. The bill is in the Senate Environment committee and has not been scheduled for a hearing. Bills must be scheduled for action prior to April 8th or the likelihood of passage becomes quite remote. I met with Senator Dingfelder about the bill but she doesn’t seem inclined to hold a hearing. No one has come forward to oppose the bill publicly so it is quite difficult to respond to objections when we have no idea what they are.

The Department of Forestry budget seems to always be one of the last bills to pass and is never without drama. Because the comparatively large (for a natural resource agency)
Publication Underscores Environmental Benefits of Building with Oregon Wood

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Wood sourced from responsibly managed forests offers unique environmental advantages over alternative building materials, according to a new white paper from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

The eight-page publication, *Environmental Benefits of Wood Products*, offers a brief but well-documented case for the environmental advantages of wood products over other building materials such as steel and concrete. Citing academic, trade and industry research, the white paper explains the science of climate change, the role of forests and wood products in storing atmospheric carbon, and the relative benefits of wood as revealed through life cycle analysis and other measures.

The publication is free and available to order directly from OFRI’s website, www.oregonforests.org.

Unlike concrete and steel, wood stores carbon and is renewable and reusable, the white paper explains. Wood also outperforms competing building materials based on its low embodied energy, a measurement of the energy (and attendant carbon dioxide emissions) required to harvest, mine, manufacture and transport a material or product to where it will be used. Wood products require less energy and water to produce than other alternatives, and much of the energy used to produce wood products comes from environmentally preferable biofuels.

Wood’s advantages as a green building material choice are well-known by Oregonians, the white paper reveals. Nearly two-thirds of those participating in the 2010 *Oregon Forests Values and Beliefs Study* conducted by the Institute said they “prefer wood products as alternatives to steel, plastic and cement because they are a better environmental choice.” Further, 69 percent said they “strongly” prefer wood products that come from trees harvested in Oregon.

“Oregon, as the nation’s top timber and lumber producing region, has an unparalleled opportunity to support and advance the responsible use of wood,” said OFRI executive director, Paul Barnum.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state’s forest resources and to encourage environmentally sound forest management through training and other educational programs for forest landowners. OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers.

ODF Budget Public Hearing

The Department of Forestry’s budget presentation before the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee is scheduled for the week of April 25.

This will be an opportunity for the Department and stakeholders to highlight the value of public investment in keeping Oregon’s forests healthy and working. The involvement of a broad range of stakeholders is integral to the legislature’s budget development process.

The Legislative Fiscal Office, as part of its efforts to package documents electronically for easy access by the subcommittee, has asked agencies to gather stakeholder input.

As currently scheduled, the Department will be making its budget presentation to the Natural Resources Subcommittee from 1 to 2:30 Monday through Wednesday, April 25-27, in Room H-170 at the Capitol. The following session, at 1:00 on Thursday, April 28, is the time reserved for public comment.
CONTINUED NEWS

amount of general fund money in ODF, it seems landowners are always in a battle with education and human resource advocates for the funding. This session is no different as the governor’s budget reduced the general fund portion of the firefighting budget and replaced it with landowner’s money. The co-chair budget restores the 50-50 funding as required by law. The challenge throughout the rest of the session will be to maintain that level of general fund support for the budget and to work to restore the funding for forest practices and the forest resource lab at OSU.

After waiting in a packed hearing room for nearly two hours and then running out of time, OSWA President Nancy Hathaway submitted written testimony in support of restoring funding to the OSU Forest Research Lab, Extension Service and the experiment stations. This funding is commonly known as the OSU statewides. The Governor’s budget reduced them by $20 million dollars or about 19%. The legislative Co-Chairs budget called for restoring $8 million, but $12 million is needed to prevent closing or consolidating some stations or programs. This seems to happen every two years; the governor recommends large cuts and the natural resources lobby works together to get the funding restored to an acceptable level. Sub-committee members seem open to our request of finding $4 million more for these programs, now we need to work with them to find the money.

2011 International Year of Forests Celebration

At a celebration of the 2011 International Year of Forests, surrounded by friends from the forestry community and 50 Tree Farmers in town for our Tree Farm Fly-in, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced yesterday that USDA and the U.S. Forest Service will play a lead role in the promotion of America’s wood products as a green building material.

This exciting new initiative recognizes wood as an environmentally friendly building material and recognizes the role that strong markets play in helping family forest owners keep their forests intact and healthy. USDA has invited the American Forest Foundation to play a key role in implementing the initiative, which gives Tree Farm a seat at the table to help develop this new policy in Washington D.C.

“Thanks to our grassroots network, we created a groundswell of support in the Administration and Congress to promote wood and the green building material. Secretary Vilsack’s announcement at our event last night in front of more than 300 people received several rounds of applause- and for good reason. This is just the market signal we need to expand markets for sustainably grown wood from ATFS,” said Tom Martin, President and CEO of the American Forest Foundation.

The new initiative USDA and the U.S. Forest Service will launch to promote America’s wood products is truly a victory for Tree Farm and family forest owners across America, and it is an important step towards ensuring green building policies at the federal, state, and local levels recognize the benefits of using wood products. AFF will be leading a group of conservation, trade association and industry representatives next week in a follow up meeting with Jay Jensen, Deputy Undersecretary for Forests. We’ll be focused on how to give this new initiative real legs to ensure effective on-the-ground implementation. AFF, in partnership with many coalition members, has been urging USDA to address this important issue and lead in efforts to promote wood.

Please stay tuned for more information and opportunities to take action on policy issues that affect Tree Farmers.
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KATHLEEN GROVE    JAMES WOODS
RICHARD HINTON    RICK RICHMOND
HOWARD KERN       VINCENT ROSENBALM
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