The WOODLANDER UPDATE

August 2011

News and Information for-and-about Small Woodland Owners

Volume 31 Issue 4

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OSWA NEWS

2011 OSWA and OTFS Annual Meeting and Tree Farmer Tours
Baker City, Oregon

DATES

August 13th Chandler Family Ranch Tour, Coos County
Sept 8th Exec Com Mtg
Sept 15th OSWA Board Call
Sept 30th OSWA Board Meeting
Oct 1st Skyline Ridge Area Tour, Multnomah County

PATRONS

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS!

BOISE CASCADE
COASTAL CONIFERS
DAVID FORD
INTERNATIONAL PAPER
KARIN
OCHOCO LUMBER CO.
OFRI
STARKER FORESTS
WEYERHAEUSER

Annual Meeting Program

Tom Martin, President & CEO, American Forest Foundation, speaking during the Annual Meeting Program

Annual Meeting Program
Our Vision
To see privately owned family woodlands are 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.

THANK YOU TO BAKER COUNTY CHAPTER!

For those who didn't get to the Annual Meeting in Baker City, this issue will fill you in on some of the events.

The state was well represented. All in all, there were over 150 of us by the time all the noses were counted.

For some of us, part of the experience was the trip to Baker City. OSU Extension agent, Rick Fletcher and member Greg Vollmer organized a three-van caravan taking twenty-four of us from various counties.

Extension agents Steve Fitzgerald and Nicole Strong met us in Sisters for a trip into the Deschutes National Forest to look at multiple Ponderosa pine thinning projects funded by federal dollars. Mosaic thinning is the new concept to diminish catastrophic fire by restoring clumpiness (greater separation between pines) and variety of tree heights (to help prevent fire crowning). Perhaps the most impressive part of this project was the cooperation among disparate groups. Sisters and Bend are dependent upon forest-associated recreation activities so there was a strong incentive to collaborate.

Outside of Prineville, we met members Lynn and John Breese at their Dixie Meadow Ranch. John operated his small harvester and we viewed their juniper eradication project, begun in 1987. Lynn admonished us never to refer to juniper as “trees.” Juniper “brush” is the preferred term.

Harry Merlo’s MC Ranch, OTFS Tree Farmer of the Year Tour was the mother of all field trips—some say there were 270 attendees! Harry and his crew gave us a full day of looking at projects on his 12,000 acre tree farm and cattle ranch, followed by a delicious chuck-wagon dinner under statuesque pines. Thank you OTFS, Harry and crew!

Thursday night both OSWA and OTFS held their board meetings. We signed a new and significant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations, with an amendment specifically to work together using an ATFS grant to pilot procedures designed to build capacity.

Friday was Program Day, well-organized with excellent speakers by the Baker Chapter Annual Meeting committee. The theme “Challenges of Changing Realities in Woodland Management” focused on Partnerships, Markets, Practices and intergenerational Transfer. It was clear that the realities of a loss of mills and associated infrastructure in eastern Oregon may ultimately occur in western Oregon, if federal forest policies do not change.

Friday evening we ate a delicious barbequed beef dinner—thank you, Lyle Defrees and Dan Warnock—and listened to new State Forester Doug Decker. We also spent wildly at the Silent Auction, generating over $4,000. I bought an elk antler, found by Chris Hef-fernan, which I really, really needed!

Saturday had two interesting local woods tours. A morning tour to Kerry and Kari Bor- gen’s property and an afternoon tour to Sid and Nancy Johnson’s property.

Next year’s Annual Meeting is in Washington County...plan to be there!
MESSAGE FROM JIM JAMES

Why be an OSWA member?

What do I get for my membership dues?

The above are great questions that every member of any organization should ask when asked to renew their membership. I believe OSWA has a great story to tell its members on the value of membership.

Although we did not get everything we would have liked out of the 2011 Legislative Session, OSWA’s efforts, in conjunction with our allies, did have some great successes. Roger Beyer’s article on page 8 summarizes this legislative session. The revisions to Oregon’s inheritance tax laws and the revised Natural Resource Tax Credit are a huge value to small woodland owners. So is the funding for OSU Extension and the Department of Forestry that we helped secure. OSWA’s presence at the Capital does make a difference.

OSWA is also the “go to place” for all state agencies, the governor, and the legislature when addressing issues related to small woodland ownership in Oregon. OSWA represents small woodland owner interests with the Board of Forestry, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Revenue (DOR), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the legislature plus we maintain our alliance with all the other natural resource organizations in Oregon.

Annually, every OSWA member will receive four NW Woodland quarterly magazines, six OSWA Woodlander Updates, and many chapter newsletters, all designed to help keep small woodland owners abreast of issues important to them. Members of OSWA’s Governmental Advisory Committee receive Legislative Updates throughout legislative sessions. OSU Extension programs are available to everyone, not just OSWA members, but OSWA’s partnership with OSU Extension helps facilitate the success of both programs. OSWA’s partnership with the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) and the Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) helps facilitate the success of all three organizations.

And let us not forget Woodland Carbon. Although Woodland Carbon has been controversial within OSWA, eight members signed up in the program will receive payments for carbon being stored on their forests. Only OSWA members are eligible to participate in Woodland Carbon programs.

I believe all of the above mentioned values would justify membership in OSWA, but I have saved the best for last. The real value of OSWA membership is the association members have with one another through county chapter activities, chapter sponsored woods tours, OSWA’s Howdy Neighbor Tour program, and OSWA meetings. OSWA provides the mechanism for small woodland owners, with common interests, to learn from each other and share their pride of ownership with those who can appreciate such pride. OSWA has chapters scattered throughout the state and is looking to add others where we can.

After reviewing the values of OSWA membership, I think the real question is “why would a small woodland owner in Oregon not want to be a member of OSWA?”. I am always looking for feedback in how OSWA can better serve its members. If you have any ideas, I would like to hear from you.
Landowner Liability and Wildland Fire

by Mike Totey, District Forester

To this point, fire season 2011 has been more of a whimper than a roar. Time will tell if the favorable conditions will persist through the rest of the summer season or not.

In earlier editions of the Woodlander Update this year, we highlighted Industrial Fire Precaution Rules and fire season preparedness. In this edition, we will offer a refresher on landowner and operator liability when a fire does occur in an operation on your property.

Each operation that takes place during the course of fire season encounters a certain degree of risk. The more that operators and landowners do to alleviate that risk, the better. The ultimate goal when fire season requirements go into effect is to prevent fires that lead to loss of natural resources and to keep fire suppression costs to a minimum.

Here's a quick Landowner/Operator Liability “Refresher”.

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 forester. There is no upper limit or cap on this liability; whether the fire costs $100 or $1,000,000 to suppress. Give careful thought to this, the next time an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) closure is in effect and you are tempted to bring in one last load of logs just past the close down time.

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. Unless proof exists otherwise, the law requires the presumption that the fire resulted from the operation activity and the landowner and the operator are equally liable for paying up to the first $300,000 of suppression costs.

When a fire does occur in an operation area, the law requires that the landowner and the operator must make “every reasonable effort” to suppress the fire.

Con’t on page 6
Mulching on Harry’s Tree Farm to improve forest stand conditions and reduce risk of fire.
OSWA NEWS

OSWA and OTFS Sign MOU

On June 23rd during a joint OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) board meeting OSWA and OTFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that replaces the joint MOU signed in 2007. This new MOU creates a closer tie between the two organizations, outlines some specific services OSWA will provide to OTFS, and procedures for OTFS to request additional services from OSWA in return for compensation for such services. Both organizations will remain independent of one another, but work collaboratively on issues of common concern. OSWA will immediately begin providing clerical support to OTFS by answering OTFS's phone and picking up and distributing OTFS's mail.

Amendment #1 to the MOU was also signed, which outlines procedures for OSWA to provide administrative support to OTFS. OTFS received a grant from American Forest Foundation (AFF) to investigate how administrative support could improve the operations of OTFS, implement new strategies for the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and grow the ATFS in Oregon. The grant is a three year grant that provides OTFS with revenues to fund such administrative support. OSWA will assist OTFS in meeting their goals and objectives as determined by the OTFS board. It is believed the new MOU and Amendment #1 will help both organizations grow their programs and become more successful.

Cont’d from pg 4 (Fire Season)

This is a legal term that means that all available resources must be used to fight the fire. Failure to make “every reasonable effort” voids the $300,000 maximum liability on fires and opens the door to full liability for fire suppression costs.

So the moral of the story is to do everything possible to prevent the fire from starting. In the end, it could wind up saving you a lot of money.

If you would like additional information on this subject, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) or Protective Association office and ask them for a copy of the “Landowner Fire Liability” informational brochure.
OSWA Board Meeting Update

OSWA Board met June 23rd in Baker City.

Financial Statement - OSWA is financially stable. Although some items in the 2010/2011 Budget are higher and others lower than planned, OSWA’s overall revenue and expenses are in line with budget projections.

Membership - The membership goal for 2011 is to retain 95% of existing members and add 10% with an overall impact of a 5% growth. Membership retention for the first half of 2011 is roughly 93%. OSWA is on track to add about 7% new members. At this pace, the likely scenario for 2011 is to finish the year with roughly the same membership numbers. Although below our goals, this is an improvement over 2010 when retention was 88% and new members added 8% with an overall impact of a 4% loss in membership. The membership committee will be promoting new strategies to chapters to retain existing members and add new members. Growing its membership is a high priority for OSWA.

L&C Carbon – CE2 Capital Partners has decided to terminate its agreement with OSWA to develop carbon projects for the benefit of family forestland owners through L&C Carbon LLC. Carbon markets that were anticipated when the partnership was developed have not materialized. CE2 will cover all legal costs in dissolving the agreement and provide OSWA with a $5000 sponsorship within 30 days of the termination date. OSWA owns all member interests in L&C Carbon, as it was formed as a limited liability company to shield OSWA from liability. The Board approved the sale of all its interests in L&C Carbon to David Ford for $1. Jim James was authorized by the Board to execute the Termination Agreement and the Purchase Agreement prepared by OSWA legal counsel Mike Haglund.

Woodland Carbon – In June, Bend Broadband purchased carbon credits from Woodland Carbon. Through this purchase, eight OSWA members will receive payments for stored carbon each year for the next four years. There are other potential buyers in the voluntary carbon market currently being pursued by Woodland Carbon. John Barnes, Woodland Carbon’s Operations Manager, will be returning to the Oregon Department of Forestry. Ed Cummings has been hired by Woodland Carbon to replace John.

OSWA/OTFS MOU - The board approved the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Oregon Tree Farm System and Amendment #1 to the MOU (see article on page 6).

GAC Committee - Roger Beyer provided a legislative update (see article on page 8). The board approved the priority of two bills for the 2012 Legislative Session; OSWA’s pole building bill, which failed to get a hearing in the 2011 session, and The Wildfire Reduction Act, a bill sponsored by ODF last session that would increase funding in high fire risk areas of the state for initial attack, reduce eastside forest landowner costs in fire assessments, and modify the way the state pays its 50% share of the emergency fire fund.

Next Board Meeting is Friday, September 30th in Salem.

Statewide Fire Statistics; Jan 2011- July 2011

Lightning-caused fires: 17 fires burned 1 acre

Human-caused fires: 165 fires burned approximately 136 acres

Total: 182 fires burned approximately 137 acres

The 10-year average through July 5 is 264 fires burning 681 acres.
2011 Legislative Wrap Up

Oregon's first annual session began on January 10th with the political parties having equal numbers of representatives in the House for the first time in state history. It looked like the perfect recipe for gridlock which was confirmed by the fact that legislators worked for three days to introduce about 2000 bills then promptly adjourned until the first of February. The adjournment was preplanned, in that by taking most of January off they were able to continue session until the end of June and not exceed the constitutional time limit of 165 days. Session days in June are seen as more valuable than days in January, which in the past have been dominated by waiting for bills to be introduced and assigned to committees.

During the two week break, the bills were assigned to committees by the presiding officers so when they started up again things were ready to move. In the Senate, the process worked as usual, but in the evenly divided House, committees soon slowed to a crawl as committee chairs were trying to figure out what it actually took to come to agreement and work cooperatively. Some committee co-chairs never did work together and consequently not much happened in those meetings.

OSWA's government advisory committee (GAC) met last fall and developed a priority list of issues to work toward. Top on the list was to secure adequate funding for the OSU extension program, ODF fire budget and the ODF private forestland program. All were accomplished, in addition to passing a bill which simplifies and lowers inheritance taxes for small woodland owners. Items from the list which weren't accomplished, such as bringing parity between the forest and agriculture land use laws for storage buildings and forest land tax parity for small woodland owners, will be addressed in future sessions.

In the new legislative system, the next session is only 6 months away. The rules adopted by both chambers allow for limited bill introduction by legislators. If all legislators and committees introduce their allotted amount, there will be about 300 bills to be dealt with in 35 days beginning February 1st, 2012. This schedule makes the interim very important for anyone hoping to pass a bill in the short session and controversial bills will be very hard to pass. The GAC will develop a new priority list for February and all OSWA members should contact their legislators prior to the session to educate them about our issues.

Oregonians will be electing 15 Senators and all 60 Representatives next year and this is the best time to get to know the person who will represent you. These policy makers will hold your future in their collective hands and you have the ability to become involved to make sure our elected leaders reflect your personal values and beliefs. Don't let this opportunity slip away without your input. Get out and meet the candidates for office, donate money to their campaigns and educate them about the issues that are important to you and OSWA.

Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC

Boise Cascade
Wood Products, L.L.C.

OSWA Patron
Sponsor of OSWA’s 2011 Annual Meeting

Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC manufactures engineered wood products, plywood, lumber, and particleboard. It also distributes a broad line of building materials. It has log using mills in Oregon located in the La Grande Area (Elgin and La Grande), Pilot Rock, Medford Area (White City) and Monmouth Area (Willamina). Log Buyer contact information is as follows:

La Grande Area Log buyer: Bruce Skvarch 541-962-2044, cell 541-786-1319

Pilot Rock Log buyer: Tony McKague 541-443-3430

Medford Area Log buyers:
Mark Nystrom 541-776-6609; cell - 541-821-2503
Mark Blowers 541-776-6658; cell - 541-821-2505

Monmouth Area Log buyers:
Mike Hicks 503-606-3861; cell - 503-559-1163
Jeff Hedlund 503-606-3864; cell - 503-551-0661
OSWA NEWS

Pictures from the Annual Meeting and Tree Tours Cont’d

OSWA reception and dinner celebration

Jim James presenting the Riggin Slinger Award to David Ford

OSWA Howdy Neighbor tour at Kerry Borgen’s place

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OSWA Annual Election-Members Urged to Vote

OSWA members are asked to elect three Executive Committee members to serve two-year terms. Enclosed in this Update is the election ballot and instructions on how to complete and send in your ballot.

Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mike Barnes, nominated Dave Schmidt, Donna Heffernan, and Bill Potterf to two year terms to the Executive Committee. There were no other nominations from the membership. Please return these voter forms for the three open positions on the Executive Committee.

Judge signs off on NW forest protections

Grants Pass, OR- AP news

A federal judge has signed off on an agreement between conservation groups and the U.S. Forest Service to update protections for rare and obscure species that depend on old growth forests to live.

U.S. District Court Judge John Coughenour in Seattle signed the agreement.

The protections, known as the survey and manage rule, require the Forest Service to look for rare species ranging from lichens to great grey owls before planning timber sales in old growth forests.

The Bush administration had dismantled the protections to increase timber production on federal forests in the Northwest.

A judge restored them, and this update allows exemptions for forest restoration projects. It also puts the red tree vole, a key food of the northern spotted owl, back on the species list.

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Starker Forests Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On July 23rd, Starker Forests, Inc. (SFI) celebrated their 75th Anniversary with an open house at their office in Corvallis and providing woods tours of their forests. Hundreds of friends and neighbors joined in the celebration. SFI is a family owned business founded in 1936 by Thurman James (T.J.) Starker. He had the foresight to purchase second growth forests when few people placed much value of second growth since no one envisioned that then-plentiful old-growth forests would ever be in short supply. T.J. Starker was active in OSWA in the 1960s when he served on OSWA’s Board of Directors. Starker Forests is a long-time member of OSWA and are one of OSWA’s Patrons.

Starker Forests has about 70,000 acres of Western Oregon timberland, most of it within 60 miles of Philomath. SFI is managed by T.J.’s grandsons Bond and Barte Starker. The fourth generation (Bond and Barte’s children) have active representation on the SFI Board and are interested in continuing the tradition of sustainable forest management started by their great grandfather, T.J. SFI uses state-of-the-art silvicultural practices, maintains healthy forests, promotes wildlife habitat, protects the environment, and provides recreational and educational opportunities to the public. Bond, Barte, and the SFI staff are well known for their outstanding forest stewardship and Starker Forests has been certified to the American Tree Farm System for over 50 years.

Picture of Starker Family by Ball Studio in Corvallis
I wanted to be a forest ranger or a coal man. At an early age, I knew I didn’t want to do what my dad did, which was work in an office.” - Harrison Ford

OFFICERS

President: Nancy Hathaway  
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President Elect: Scott Hayes  
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Second Vice President: Bill Potterf  
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Second Vice President: Dave Schmidt  
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Past President: Ken Faulk  
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Secretary: Katie Kohl  
kohl@proaxis.com

Second Vice President: Dallas Boge  
dalboge@juno.com

Timber Industry Sues to Increase Logging in Oregon

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — The timber industry has sued the Obama administration to get them to start logging more on federal lands in Western Oregon.

The American Forest Resource Council and others filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., against Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Salazar, in a separate case must say what he plans to do with the Western Oregon Plan Revision, a Bush administration plan to increase logging on the so-called Oregon & California railroad timberlands overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Salazar withdrew the plan, saying it was not defensible under the Endangered Species Act. A judge ruled that withdrawal was not done properly.

The timber industry lawsuit also contends the timber volume under the plan should double.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

BAKER:  
STEVE GRETZINGER

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CHARLES SLIGER  
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