# Oregon State

# Board of Forestry

**Personal interviews from the Forest Log**

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# State of Oregon

# Department of Forestry

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## BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

# JANET McLENNAN

**This interview was conducted by Public Affairs Assistant Doug Decker in Janet McLennan's Portland office.**

**Decker:** Please tell us a little about what you do here at the Bonneville Power Administration.

**McLennan:** My current title is Senior Policy Advisor. This section of Bonneville has to do with the sale and supply of power, and also fish and wildlife services — the program to protect mitigate, enhance wildlife — and I work in all those areas. Right now what I am doing primarily is working on coordinating the current drought situation and also doing a contracts study, analyzing how we handle the contracts for the sale of power, transmission services, and conservation services, and other things we do under contract. All this gets pretty complicated.

**Decker:** Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, your family background?

**McLennan:** Well, I've been married 38 years, to the same person. My husband is a circuit court judge, and I have three children, all of whom are in their early 30s now and all married. I went to law school about 20 years ago, after my children were out of elementary school. And then after I got through law school, I started working for the State of Oregon. I worked first as Deputy State Treasurer and then for the Legislature for a couple of years. And then I worked for Governor Straub as Natural Resource Advisor which is the job similar to what Gail Achterman has now.

**Decker:** Why did you accept the appointment to the Board of Forestry? How did that come about?

**McLennan:** Well, I don't know exactly how it came about, because I was pleased to be asked, but I hadn't campaigned for the job. I accepted it because I thought it was a challenge, particularly as I became more aware of the modifications in the statute and Forest Practices Act. I had been somewhat aware of the changes while they were happening. After I left the Governor's office and came to Boneville, I maintained my interest in a number of the natural resource management areas that had interested me. And Forestry was one of those things that I kind of kept up with. I served for seven or eight years as a public member of the advisory committee of the Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University. So, the forestry issues were something that I had some continuing familiarity with and interest in. I had also maintained my interest in land-use planning; not working with the government side of it, but as a member of the Board of 1000 Friends of Oregon, and for the last two or three years as president of that organization. And of course 1000 Friends was one of the entities which was instrumental

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in working on the amendments to the Forest Practices Act. Although I hadn't worked directly on that; 1000 Friends has a strong staff and the staff rather than the board does the work in that organization. I had facilitated some meetings between 1000 Friends staff members and people at the School of Forestry and people in the Oregon Forest Industries Council, so I knew that the 1000 Friends staff was active in trying to find some accommodation, some ways of dealing with things like riparian rules and also in terms of legislative change.

**Decker:** In your work with 1000 Friends what kind of contact did you have with the Board of Forestry? Did you have any at all?

**McLennan:** Not in a sustained or regular basis. Some of those people I saw, because they also served on the research advisory committee and I had, over the years, reasonably frequent contact with Carl Stoltenberg, Dean of the School of Forestry. And some of the faculty members, usually in connection with the Forest Laboratory, but also on some other issues as they came along. Ward Armstrong, with the Oregon Forest Industries Council, is somebody I've seen and talked to from time to time over the years as well. I've known him as a lobbyist in Salem for many years, first with the Association of Oregon Counties way back when, then later with Weyerhaeuser.

**Decker:** You served four years with the Straub administration. Can you compare that administration with the Goldschmidt administration, specifically in natural resources issues? Where are the contrasts? How different are they?

**McLennan:** Well, I am very excited and pleased with the Goldschmidt administration in natural resource areas. What I sense is an effort to do many of the things that I thought were important. Times change a little bit but some issues don't change very much at all. And forestry is one, surprisingly where the issues haven't changed very much, which I think is most interesting.

When I became Natural Resource Advisor to Governor Straub, I recall that there were 19 agencies that were loosely characterized as "natural resource agencies." And one phenomenon of those years was consolidation. Today, I don't know now whether you think of 11, 12 or 13, but at any rate, the number of compartments has been reduced. And, to the extent we were influential then in those consolidations, that was generally a constructive thing to do. The Legislature of course did it, but we, as an administration, were working with the Legislature. The thing that was different about that period, was that in the early 70s — beginning in 1969 with the passage by Congress of the National Environmental Policy Act, and in 1971 with the passage of the Forest Practices Act, and in 1973 with Senate Bill 100, which continued some land use ideas that had their first genesis back in 1969 — you saw a great burden of environmental legislation. When Bob Straub became Governor in 1975, those laws were on the books but for the most part they had not been implemented. The rules hadn't been drafted and the effect of them had not been felt. And looking back, I think that was a fairly traumatic experience for people in a lot of sectors. In other words, in those days there was great enthusiasm about protecting the environment and bettering the environment, mitigating damage that had been done. But then when citizens found out that their automobiles had to be tested every year or two and that they couldn't build a privy without a permit from the State of Oregon and on and on, there was a backlash that perhaps we didn't fully anticipate nor were we sensitive to as we brought those laws into implementation. So, that wasn't really popular. Actually, the regulation of industry was generally more orderly and its impact was more predictable. They had lobbyists who lobbied their legislation carefully and followed the administrative agencies' work on a day-to-day basis.

But in areas where individuals felt regulated and infringed upon, those weren't really easy things to do. And as I said, I don't think any of us were really fully cognizant or sensitized to what the public reaction was going to be. On the other side of the coin, things like the forest products industry, at that time, were in their heyday of prosperity. When Neil became governor, that was at the end of a long period of economic recession, if not a depression, in Oregon. Economic impacts were felt here probably worse than in most, if not all, other states. And our recovery came slower than in most other states as well. So Neil's challenge is to continue the level of conservation and protection of natural resources and other environmental amenities and quality of life that Oregonians value, while at the same time, maintain some kind of feeling of economic vitality and forward-looking social growth to complement that and make this a good place to live because it's a prosperous place to live. Different people and different administrators have to respond to the challenges of the times.

**Decker:** What are some of the major challenges you see facing the Board of Forestry in the next few years?

**McLennan:** Well, the two big and most interesting tasks, I think first of all, are developing the new rules and deciding what we want to do with the Forestry Program for Oregon. As a policy and a planning document, the FPFO may be able to coalesce the state's thinking on forest lands and the industry and be influential in dealing not only with the industry, but also with the federal government, and with counties which have a real interest in forest management. And I think in that area we have a lot less certainty as to what dimension that document might take. I want it to be a powerful document, a useful document, an influential document, but I don't have a particular agenda about either what it looks like or what conclusions it reaches. I'm pretty open minded, except that I don't want it to be a waste of our time and I don't want it just to add to the shelf. I want it to be vital and significant.

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The forest practices rules, I think, are going to be a very interesting challenge as well. It's a real challenge to provide conducive regulation that's not inhibitive and overly-restrictive. In other words, you want regulation that makes people behave the way you want them to behave without undue policing or inappropriate constraint; you don't want to stifle initiative or innovation, but you want the result.

The best example that I know in the world of good regulation is the Oregon Bottle Bill, because it's self-enforcing. The reason people don't throw their bottles on the ground is because they get a penalty, or they get a reward — depending on how you look at it — if they don't. They get the nickel if they take it back, and they lose the nickel if they discard the bottle. And if they discard the bottle, there is an army of kids, do-gooders and ne'er-do-wells out there, motivated to pick the bottle up. And so, without any great bureaucracy, that regulation revolves to achieve its end.

I don't think you can necessarily achieve the same thing in such a simple way with forest practices, but I think it is part of the challenge in American government to keep an eye on that kind of a goal. And in forest practices, for example, you debate between whether you want very prescriptive rules about so many feet from this, and so many trees of such and such a dimension per acre, doing such and such a thing; or whether you have a way of defining your goal that allows some flexibility, but achieves the result. And that would be a very vital, vibrant discussion. I am not sure that the industry will be of one mind on that question, some may prefer certainty, and some may prefer flexibility. In terms of the environmental community, they will tend to want certainty and to fight for prescription that's quite precise. And then part and parcel of that is how much continuing involvement of the department is out there on the ground, providing guidance and advice and surveillance and so on. And how much the state is willing to give the department that kind of capability. That's costly in terms of taxes and eventually it will fall on the industry and all the other tax payers as well. It seems to me, and my memory is probably quite imperfect on this point, that when I was in the

Governor's office, at least early on, we had something like four, maybe six forest practice officers in the whole state of Oregon. Obviously, that is not much of a police force. And you don't get much of a product if that's all you are willing to commit to it. On the other hand you can over-do policing. All those are fascinating questions.

**Decker:** In a generic sense, how do you perceive the role of the Board of Forestry?

**McLennan:** That's hard to answer. It is sort of presumptive to answer, because the sense I had during our Senate confirmation hearings was that at least some, and perhaps most members of the Legislature, perceived the Board's role to have changed by virtue of the amendment of the Forest Practices Act Legislation. I sense that they expect us to broadly represent the public interest, with respect to the use and enjoyment of forest lands in Oregon. I am willing to accept that challenge. I think that is a good goal and a good thing to do. But that certainly is not, I think, what the old Board felt its role to be. I think it felt itself to be the hand maiden and representative of the leadership of the industry; the bridge between the industry and other interest groups if you will. But I was not strongly in the ideological camp that said that the latter role for the Board of Forestry was wrong or evil or had to be changed. If the State wanted that kind of a Board of Forestry, that wasn't necessarily bad or unconstructive. But the State decided it didn't want that kind of a Board of Forestry.

**Decker:** Where do you think that change came from? When you say "the State" changed about the type of Board of Forestry it wanted, was that a Goldschmidt feeling? Was that a public feeling?

**McLennan:** No, I think it came out of a lot of interaction and a lot of compromise between people of differing feelings. In other words, it's a synthesis of the State's feelings today about the Board of Forestry. It came from a variety of different pieces and parts; a long-time campaign by the Oregon Environmental Council to get rid of this "industry Board," the continuing legislative patchwork that said, "Let's add one from the AFL-CIO and one from the counties and one from this interest and one from that interest." At one point I think we had about 19 members on the Board and people said, "this is crazy, this is not a good, deliberative body." So we began to peel that onion back down to get a solid core group. At the same time, the industry also felt a sense of uncertainty and continual legislative pressure and pestering. They didn't feel good about what they were doing, because they were continually afraid of litigation or some change in legislation. People were seeking other forums to get around the Board. Counties were not willing to accept the Board of Forestry as the arbitrator of a lot of things involving forest practices. That

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issue was alive when I was down in Governor Straub's office. And at that time, it was my view that the Forest Practices Act should be the control over forest practices in terms of just governmental sorting. I was not a part of, or particularly close to, legislative efforts to patch that up and sort that out in the eight years after I left and before this new change in the law.

**Decker:** Your association with the Straub administration and 1000 Friends gives you a unique insight into the climate that exists between the environmental community and industry. Where are we now and where do we need to go? Do you have any ideas about how to get there?

**McLennan:** I think we are on the threshold of developing a reasonable planning and regulatory scheme for forest practices. I think that's what we ought to do. I think that a lot of sophisticated thought will have to go in to getting there. This recent foray with the herbicide rules was interesting to me, not so much on the issue, although the issue means a lot to a lot of people on both sides of that question. But viewing it at a little more distance, I think in retrospect we could have handled it better. We could have, even in the very limited amount of time we had to deal with it and, even given our newness and lack of familiarity with the subject matter, we should have looked at it perhaps in a more comprehensive way. We should have looked not simply at the one clause or the one section of the law. By the time I was up against it on that night, I was realizing that not only were the definitions of the Forest Practices Act applicable here, but we also should have been looking at the mechanics of how this thing was being implemented in the rules. And we weren't; not only with respect to notice, but with respect to the goal of the act.

In the long run, we need to develop a comprehensive and cohesive piece of regulation. Whatever its policy conclusions may be, it has to make sense and I presume that's not only true in just the herbicide area, but will be true for 15 or 50 or 500 different subjects by the time we get through with all that. I can't begin to anticipate the process of definition and appropriate regulation of certainly dozens, maybe hundreds, possibly thousands, of particular sites in the state of Oregon, which the legislation mandates us to identify and reach a reasonable conclusion about. That is a real challenge, not only to the Board in its deliberations, but also a real challenge for the department. I also hope we find ways of tapping the time and talents of other state agencies and the expertise that is available in state government.

**IF FORESTRY HAD A SINGLE GOAL, IT WOULD BE DEVELOPING THE NON-PRODUCTIVE SMALL OWNERSHIPS.**

**—JANET McLENNAN**

**Decker:** Where should forestry in Oregon be by the year 2000? Should it be much different than it is now? You've said that things don't change very much.

**McLennan:** Forestry in Oregon should be secure in a stable land base, and a growing and healthy resource. If forestry had a single goal — and this is an obvious one, one that we struggled with in the Straub administration and one that was struggled with long before we came along — it would be the nonproductive small ownerships. The field of forestry should hopefully, if not solved that problem, made significant in-roads in the preservation and vitalization of those lands for forest growth. Clearly, the failure to find ways to keep those lands in the forest land base, and encourage active management of them is not only uneconomical, it's probably deleterious to the adjoining forest lands that are growing. It allows urban encroachment and something less than the highest and best use of forest lands. That's economically wasteful and socially wasteful also. If anybody had one goal to concentrate on, it should be that one.

**Decker:** Is there any message that you hope to express through your work on the Board? Perhaps issue-related or perhaps process-related; the way you approach things.

**McLennan:** Well, I don't really think of myself so much as having a personal policy goal with respect to service on the Board of Forestry. I am professionally and personally committed to good natural resource management. I've always viewed that as my profession. The union card I hold is as a lawyer. But I view myself as a natural resource manager. That's what I've done and so those are the talents that I bring to the Board of Forestry. I intend to exercise them responsibly and make decisions on the facts presented, and an appropriate marshalling of the most salient facts to the issue at hand. I don't see a particular dragon I am out to slay, or evil I am out to correct. On the other hand I don't think that the world is perfect in Oregon or any place else probably. When you identify the things that are broke, you try to fix them.

## BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

# LYNN NEWBRY

**This interview was conducted by Public Affairs Director Jim Fisher at Lynn Newbry's home in Talent, Oregon.**

**Fisher:** Let me start by asking about your background, your family and where you come from.

**Newbry:** I am one of a rare breed, a native Oregonian. In fact, I live about two miles from where I was born. My father served in the legislature and was Secretary of State and I guess I've followed in his foot steps. I served on the school board first, then in the legislature for 14 years. We're a family that has always been interested in what's going on around us, particularly in government. We've tried to do our part as citizens by being involved in government.

I graduated from high school, went to Oregon State and my college education was interrupted by World War II. I was in the Army Air Corps for three years. When I got out of the service, I married and I was more interested in farming than I was in going back to college.

**Fisher:** Is this when you went into the family pear orchard business?

**Newbry:** Yes, I came in right after the war and operated the family farm until 1973 when we got into a cold spell. We used to think that we could grow pears without worrying about frost. In the five years preceeding 1973, I lost three crops. That made it kind of tough. So, I decided I had about all of that I wanted and my son didn't want to be a farmer, so I decided that was the time to get out of the business. Now, they haven't lost a crop since.

**Fisher:** When were you first elected to the legislature?

**Newbry:** I was appointed in 1961 to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Durno. He was elected to Congress in 1962. I finished his term and then was elected in 1964, and elected twice again. I was defeated in 1974. I served 14 years, and that was long enough. I am inclined to think that the terms of legislators should be shorter — I didn't at the time, but now I think so. Otherwise, we become professional legislators and I don't think much of that either.

**Fisher:** What did you next do in 1974?

**Newbry:** I went to work for Medford Corporation in January of 1974. I enjoyed working for them. In retrospect, I think it was good that I lost the election. If I had not, I would have been a part-time employee of Medford Corporation, and a part-time legislator, and I really wanted to be back in the private sector. Not that I don't like public life and public activities. If I didn't like it, I wouldn't be on the Board of Forestry. But I just think that probably eight years in the legislature is long enough.

**Fisher:** How long did you work for Medford Corporation?

**Newbry:** I worked until just a year ago for the company, and retired about on schedule. When I went to work for Medford Corporation, I had planned to stay until I was 65,

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but I retired at 64, and I am glad that I did. I wasn't under any duress, but the new owners wanted to reorganize things, and someone a year from retirement doesn't fit into reorganization plans very well.

**Fisher:** You also had a role in the transition of governors' administrations in Salem, didn't you ?

**Newbry:** I was on Gov. Vic Atiyeh's transition team and prepared his budget for him. Travis Cross and I did that work for Victor. I did the budget and Travis organized his staff and his office for him. I was on loan from Medford Corporation at the time. Medford Corporation paid my salary and the state paid my expenses away from home. It was a lot of fun for 40 days and I seriously considered staying and then I decided, "No, if you want to be in the private sector, you'd better stay there."

**Fisher:** Prior to your going to Medford Corporation, had you had much involvement with forestry?

**Newbry:** Not really, I had friends who were in the business, of course, but I really didn't know a whole lot about it. With the help of people at Medford Corporation, especially Russ Hogue, I was able to get by. I learned a lot that year.

**Fisher:** What made it attractive for you to accept the appointment to the Board of Forestry?

**Newbry:** One of the interesting things about my life is that until I retired, every dime I ever earned came directly from the soil. As a small boy, I grew up on a farm and all of our income came from the land. And working for a company like Medford Corporation, my money came from the land too. So I've always been dependent on the soil for a living.

I haven't really seen a whole lot of difference between growing fir trees and pear trees. A little difference in their maturity, but you're growing a long-term crop. And the problems are similar. You have insect problems, you have root problems, you have water problems, so I guess it's just natural for me to be interested in that kind of activity. I guess in retirement I didn't really want to let go of interests in the world around me and this opportunity to get on the Board of Forestry was really very interesting.

I have some pretty strong views about forestry. I don't worry too much about how much we're harvesting, because we are not going to harvest more timber than there is a demand for. But what I really worry about is getting trees back in the ground and taken care of. It's extremely important that we get these forests replanted, reestablished and then take very careful care of them. If we don't, we won't notice it during my lifetime, but down the road, there is going to be some real upset people. It's unfair to them. That's where the shortfall will come.

"IF WE ARE PERMITTED TO USE OUR BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND TECHNIQUES, WE'LL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF TIMBER."

—LYNN NEWBRY

I am very high on reforestation and culturing these forests. I think until maybe 20 years ago, logging activities were pretty much a mining kind of thing. The trees were considered to be the resource rather than the land, and they just went out and cut them like you would harvest coal or oil with not much concern about reforestation. I firmly believe that if we are permitted to use our best available information and best available techniques, chemicals and everything else like farmers do, that we will have an abundance of timber. We will perhaps have a surplus of timber in two generations.

But you have to let people be free to farm. That's one of the things that worries me about the public and the federal timber. Those poor foresters are not permitted to farm. They can't do what they know how to do. The result is that they are not doing a very good job. It's kind of sad.

**Fisher:** In these first eight months, what major differences have you found between being a legislator and a board member?

**Newbry:** There is a lot of difference. In the legislature, you're working with a broad brush, and in broad terms. As a board member in a state agency, you are filling in the details with a fine brush. In the legislature, you are free to do whatever the majority is willing to do. On the Board of Forestry, or in any other board or commission, you are only free to do what the legislature sets forth as its major policy. That's proper, that's the way it should be. I think it's a little easier to work on a board. You don't have so many people to convince as in the legislature. And boards are hand-picked. The legislature is not. So there is a lot of difference.

**Fisher:** What are some of the challenges you've seen on the Board?

**Newbry:** I am really impressed with my colleagues on the Board. I am impressed with their interest and their understanding. The other thing that I've enjoyed doing is getting out in the field and looking at things. I think that gives us a better perception of what we are talking about. Our mental images will be more vivid than if we listened to somebody explain to us what is going on.

I would like to take a look at the balance sheet a little bit once in a while. It seems to me that a board member ought to really examine how we are in our budget, how we are in some other things. We really haven't had time to do that. We've been so bogged down in getting ready to do all this rule-making.

We ought to be knowledgeable about the harvest levels and about the day-to-day operation of the Department of Forestry. I look at the Department as an agency that is running a business. We're actually in the business of growing trees and harvesting trees, so we need to know a little bit about that business. We are also in the business of providing protection for a lot of people from fire and other things. I think we ought to know a little more about that than we do.

**Fisher:** Should the Board be looking at all Oregon forestry issues or should it be looking at specific legislatively-mandated ones?

**Newbry:** We have to pay attention to the legislative mandates, I just don't think that we can do other than that, so that has to be number one. But I think that it's important for the Board to also be aware of what's going on in the rest of the state with other public agencies. We have to try to provide a little leadership in coordinating some of the activities going on around us. If we all go on our merry way and just look at our own backyard, somewhere something is going to fall through the cracks.

I think one of the most important things that is going on right now is this matter of looking at the long-range plans of the U.S. Forest Service and how they impact Oregon. And I think that is the responsibility of the Board to give advice to the Governor, to be critical of those things either in a positive or negative way, whichever they deserve. There is nobody else in the state who can do that. The Board should be involved in these activities. That doesn't mean to say that you are going to go around and tell everybody how to farm their land, I don't believe in that. Fact of the matter is, prescriptive forestry worries me quite a little bit. Growing trees is like farming. Each piece of land takes a little different approach and the only one who really knows how to do it is the guy who has been on the land and understands it. To make the rules so rigid that you can't grow trees is counter-productive.

**Newbry, left, and Assistant State Forester Fred Robinson watch a harvesting operation near Coos Bay during a recent Board of Forestry tour.**

**Fisher:** What about some of the regulatory roles that the Department now finds itself in?

**Newbry:** I was impressed with the idea that came out of the mission statement exercise with respect to regulation. You start to regulate when the resource — the land, soil, or water — is being damaged. I was equally impressed with the decision that we made to look at these lands based on the objectives of the ownership. I think that is important. We have to remember that the private landowner has to be in a profitable enterprise or he isn't going to make it. As a lobbyist, I testified before the former Board that you have to be very careful not to impose regulations that are so onerous that people would quit growing trees.

From a regulatory standpoint, we only ought to regulate sufficiently to protect the other values, i.e. water, soil, and the animal resources. We ought to do that in a way that is the least expensive to the private landowner. If the private landowners in Oregon got so discouraged with the regulations that were imposed on them and they said, "Oh to hell with it, we will just give you that land," what would the state do then? We would be involved in a tremendous reforestation project, and those

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landowners would then be encouraged to cut and run. And that isn't what we want in this state.

**Fisher:** What about another regulatory activity of the Department, smoke management?

**Newbry:** I have a little trouble with this smoke management thing. Last summer, we had the worst fire situation I've ever seen, and I've lived all of my life right here in this area. I've never seen it as bad as it was here. And yet I read in the paper to my surprise that the air quality was not as bad during that episode as it is in Medford during the strong inversions in the winter time. So that leads me to wonder if, except for visibility, smoke from the forest is all that bad.

The problem the landowners have is getting reforested after a harvest. They've got to get the site prepared and that means burning the slash, and getting that land ready to go. And, by golly, if you wait around, you may get delayed a year or so. If you get delayed a year or so that means the brush is going to come in ahead of the trees and so you've got to use herbicides more extensively. You may have to go in and plow, you may have to do a lot of things. I don't think we ought to just let everybody burn helter-skelter, but I think maybe sometimes that if we are getting behind, we ought to explain the situation to the public. That may not be too popular in some segments, but a week of smoke is a small price to pay for reforestation.

**Fisher:** What do you see down the road with conflicts between environmental groups and natural resource managers? Do you see this going on forever, with new plateaus, or do you see something finally coming to a resolution?

**Newbry:** I don't know what to think. The environmental movement has gained strength over the years and 20 years ago I thought it would not continue more than 10 years. But, in the next breath I would have to say that it's important to be concerned about the environment. I think that particularly the basic elements — the soil, the water, wildlife — need care. Treat them carefully so they are preserved.

With respect to forestry, there seems to be a lot of concern about preserving trees, and I think that is a fruitless objective, because sooner or later the trees will, like any other living organism, die. Certainly, when you harvest a 300 year-old tree it will be 300 years before you will have one back like that. And maybe with the human demand for wood fiber, we will never be able to devote 300 years to the growing of a tree. So, in order for people to see trees of that age, I think it's appropriate that some be preserved. But we've done that, and we ought to be getting along to the business of providing for the human needs for wood fiber and that means not preserving beyond the needs for "museum pieces."

The thing that seems to be overlooked is that trees are harvested because they are needed by people. When you look at the reams of paper environmentalists use to explain their point, you would think that somewhere along the line it would occur to them that they are a great consumer of wood fiber. Loggers don't cut trees for the sheer joy of hearing them fall and excitement of loading them on trucks. They only do it because somebody wants that product and if they don't want that product, the trees will not be harvested.

**Fisher:** What do you say to people who raise the question that Oregon is changing from a timber-based economy to a different base?

**Newbry:** I view that as being a misunderstanding of the economic value of the state of Oregon. Oregon has tremendous natural resources that are in a lot of ways better than any other state's. When I was a young man we used to be a little envious of California and all their oil. But their oil is gone, or about gone, and our timber resource is still here as is our ability to grow timber. If we take care of our soil and our water, there is no reason why we can't grow trees forever and ever, until there is a tremendous climatic change of some kind.

There is nothing wrong with looking to other economic bases. I'm involved with State Parks and everywhere I go, people are talking about tourism and I'm all for tourism. I am a tourist myself a lot of the time and it's a great industry that Oregon can capitalize on. But it's tied into our forest resource. People come here because of our forests, and the parks that we have in them. But to say that we are going to abandon an industry that we have a God-given advantage to produce, is foolishness.

**Fisher:** If you could see one major accomplishment or success in your time on the Board of Forestry what would you like to see happen?

**Newbry:** One of the things I'd like to do is set the stage for aggressive and enlightened reforestation. I am not saying the prior boards didn't do that. They did. But I see a threat to reforestation and I would like to make sure that we continue to reforest our state and do the best job of culturing the forest that we can. I want to enhance the interest in replanting and getting the forest industry growing and keeping it growing. That's really what I had in mind, I don't want to change the world.

**Fisher:** Is there anything else that you would like to mention that we haven't discussed?

**Newbry:** I look at this as an exciting opportunity. We burned-over a hell of a lot of land last year, but you know, we get those old burned-over trees out of the way and get young stuff in the ground and it won't be long before we can demonstrate what can happen.

BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

# RICHARD E. ROY

## PARTNER IN THE PORTLAND LAW FIRM OF STOEL, RIVES, BOLEY, JONES, AND GREY

**This interview was conducted by Public Affairs Director Jim Fisher at Richard E. Roy's office in Portland, Oregon where Roy is an attorney and partner in the firm of Stoel, Rives, Boley, Jones, and Grey.**

**Fisher:** Will you begin with a brief resume about your background and family?

**Roy:** I was born in Portland and raised in Baker. I consider my home town to be Baker, Oregon. When I graduated from high school, I went to Oregon State University on a Navy scholarship and graduated in engineering. I spent four years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. When I got out of the Navy, I enrolled at Stanford to get a Ph.D. in engineering. My best friend was a law student and he persuaded me that attending law school would be more beneficial than getting a Ph.D. in engineering. So, I enrolled at Harvard Law School and graduated in 1970.

Since 1970, I have practiced with Stoel, Rives, Boley, Jones and Grey. At the present time, I am chairman of the Corporate, Securities and Finance Section of the firm. That is a section with about 50 lawyers who practice in the business law area. In my own practice, I work in the business planning area with many closely-held businesses that are owned by a few individuals or families, and I handle mergers and acquisitions.

**Fisher:** How did your family go from Portland to Baker?

**Roy:** My parents were divorced when I was fairly young and so I moved to Baker with my mom who was a county extension agent. She raised my sister and myself in Baker.

**Fisher:** Tell me about your family.

**Roy:** I have been married to my wife, Jeanne, for 26 years and we have three children. Brad, our oldest, is 21 and attends Evergreen State College. Jeff is 20 and attends Harvard University. Melinda is 18 and works in Lake Oswego.

**Fisher:** Where did you develop your interest in natural resources or forestry?

**Roy:** Prior to my appointment to the Board of Forestry, I had no direct involvement in forest-related matters. I was raised in Baker, which is a community dependent upon timber. My first job out of high school was working for the Forest Service, so I did spend some time working at the Zigzag Ranger Station in the Mt. Hood National Forest. When I was a law student at Harvard, my third-year paper was written on administrative practices of the Forest Service. In my spare time, I spend a lot of time hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing, so I spend a lot of time in the forest environment.

Another aspect of my background is related in natural resources. During the Straub administration, I was a

member of the Water Policy Review Board for Oregon. I was one of the original appointees to the Board.

**Fisher:** What led to your appointment to the Board of Forestry?

**Roy:** During the summer of 1987, my wife and I spent a lot of time at Cannon Beach. That was the first time in 21 years that we had been without our children. We both believe that citizens should devote time to public involvement and we decided that I had time to make a major commitment. When we returned from Cannon Beach in the fall of 1987, I learned more about House Bill 3396. It appeared that the new Forestry Board and the mission under House Bill 3396 would be interesting. So, I contacted the Governor's office and filled out my papers.

**Fisher:** After almost a full year on the Board, what are your impressions of that role today?

**Roy:** I think that the Board of Forestry has an extremely important mission in Oregon because the forest products industry is the backbone of the economy. It is the life blood of rural Oregon. I have always had a great interest in the State of Oregon outside the City of Portland. I have spent a lot of time in Baker and, as a hobby, in getting acquainted with Oregon. I think growing up in rural Oregon is a very positive thing for families and children. So, one of the things about the Board of Forestry that is important is that we are concerned about forest practices and forest practices are extremely important in rural Oregon.

I think, also, that there are many pressures now on Forestry resulting from increased population and concerns of people who live near the forest. That is why we have the interface problem. I think that dealing with the interface problem, dealing with forest fire suppression costs, and dealing with good practices for forestry are all extremely important issues. What I have found, since I have been on the Board, is that its role is far more important that I had actually perceived.

**Fisher:** Has there been more involvement with people than you thought?

**Roy:** I think a lot of the extremely important issues are related to people or related to perceptions of the public. The public's perceptions of forest practices are very important. For example, there are homeowners who don't understand that their homes are not protected from fire, living outside of a rural fire protection district. There are individuals who spend time in the forests who don't understand that clearcutting, the application of herbicides and forest practices are being conducted in compliance with rules that have been set up by the state. I think the public perception on these issues is important.

**Fisher:** In this first year on the Board, is there something that you have been really pleased or proud about that you have accomplished or has this just been a year of growth?

**Roy:** In this first year, I can think of several accomplishments of the Board that I feel good about. First, because we had an entirely new Board, there has been a process of Board members getting acquainted with each other and gaining confidence in each other. I think that has been very successful.

Second, I think with a brand new Board, there were concerns by those who are going to be affected by the Board, as to how the new members might react and what their thoughts might be. I have been very pleased with the communications between the new Board and the public. I think our policy of taking meetings to areas outside of Salem has been very successful. We have heard a lot of interesting things from people at those meetings, and we have learned a lot. I think we have let the public know that we are very interested in their thoughts and we would like to see good forest practices all around the state.

Another accomplishment this year is that we have plunged into the work required by the House Bill 3396. We have adopted rules governing notice and civil penalties. We have set in motion a framework by which we will start doing the hard work of House Bill 3396, such as identifying resource sites, inventorying resource sites and then adopting appropriate rules.

Finally, this year has been an interesting one as it relates to fire suppression costs. I have been a member of a Board subcommittee that has reviewed funding of forest fires in Oregon. We have recommended new legislation for 1989. I think the involvement of the Board in the funding of forest fires has been a significant accomplishment.

**Fisher:** Does that leave anything that you were hoping to accomplish this first year?

**Roy:** I think that the Board has considered a couple of issues which are frustrating because they present a continuing problem to forestry in Oregon. First, we have received a lot of information and have toured areas in Oregon where the encroachment of dwellings on forest land is presenting a problem. The encroachment of dwellings on forest land creates a fire risk and also creates conflicts between forest practices and those living in dwellings. This is a significant issue that is being addressed by the Land Conservation Development Commission. It will be continually monitored by our Board. Hopefully, we will have laws and regulations in the future that will minimize that conflict.

A second problem is the funding for forest fires. Although, we are proposing legislation in 1989, that legislation really doesn't address the inequity of forest fire funding in Oregon. We have prepared legislation with the thought that there will be no increased revenues from the General Fund. That means all of the forest fire funding must come from the industry and landowners. That system needs to be reviewed in a comprehensive sense. I think the state needs a policy for funding forest fires that is more equitable to the landowners and the operators.

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**Fisher:** Are you suggesting that you personally might still look for additional General Fund support in the future?

**Roy:** I don't have a specific plan in mind, but I do think that we have a problem with the current system. When you have a devastating forest fire season like 1987, the financial risk to the landowner is so great that is presents an unhealthy climate for those who wish to maintain their land as forest land.

I have heard proposals by which the state would fund the extreme costs that might occur in a devastating season. Those proposals do merit consideration. One thing I think we should all be concerned with is the global warming trend and the extent it may affect Oregon. The forest fire future for Oregon may be worse than it has been in the past. It is a far-reaching problem that we need to think about carefully. We need to come up with a funding system that is equitable and gives some stability to the landowner.

**Fisher:** Are there major issues that you see the Board facing in the next two or three years that come to mind?

**Roy:** Under House Bill 3396, we have an obligation to the legislature to complete the required work. We are going to have to adopt rules that provide appropriate protection for resource sites. Under the statute, "resource sites" are sites that are critical habitat for endangered species, bird nesting and roosting sites, significant biological sites and wetlands. I think that fulfilling the charge of the legislature in inventorying resource sites and adopting rules its going to be a significant item before the Board.

In addition to the work that is required by the statute, the Board is beginning the process of rewriting the Forestry Program for Oregon and I think that will be important work. We also are reviewing the means by which the state can coordinate forest fire restrictions and closures. We are considering policies and incentives to encourage timber growth on nonindustrial forest lands. We will continually consider the effect of forest practices on air and water quality. I think in all of those areas we have a great deal of work to do over the next two or three years.

**Fisher:** In your opinion, with what you have been exposed to in the past year as a Board member and your own observations, how well do you believe foresters are managing timber lands today?

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT THE PUBLIC REALIZE THAT THE BOARD OF FORESTRY IS THERE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC."

— RICHARD ROY

**Roy:** During the brief time I have been on the Board, in the area of forest management I have two observations. First, although management practices vary from owner to owner and from public agency to public agency, many private timber landowners are doing an excellent and thoughtful job in managing their land. I have been favorably impressed with the management practices that we have seen on the tours the Board has taken.

Second, I have been very favorably impressed by the attitude and the dedication of the staff of the Department of Forestry. I think our recent trip to Astoria was very heartening. In Astoria, many of the citizens spoke very highly of the Department and its staff and the efforts the Department has made in reaching out to the public and addressing their concerns and fulfilling its major function of administering forest practices in Oregon.

**Fisher:** Do you have any solutions to getting information across to people that timber harvesting is a temporary disturbance to the land?

**Roy:** One of the things that I feel strongly about is that the Board establishes rules which govern the forest practices in Oregon and that the operators must comply with those rules. In some cases, where operators are fully complying with the rules, the practices themselves will still upset the public. Timber harvesting by its nature involves disruption of the soil, construction of roads, and clearcutting; but that all of those practices are in compliance with the rules of the Board of Forestry. So if the public has concerns, I believe those should be addressed to the Board. The Board should be accountable and the public should not be directing displeasure towards the industry itself.

**Fisher:** Do you have any comments on the resolution of the national forest planning process in the Northwest?

**Roy:** The National Forest Planning Act of 1976 requires the Forest Service to develop long-range land management plans for all national forests. I agree fully with the concept of long-range planning. As a lawyer advising businesses, I am often involved in long-range plans for businesses. The idea of a long-range plan is useful because it adds stability and predictability for people who rely on the national forests, so I agree with that process. By the time our Board took office in January 1988, the Governor had already established a means by which the state would make comments on the national forest plans. I agree with the Governor's approach in having a coordinated state response. The Department of Forestry has been actively involved in that. But because the Board was appointed at a fairly late date, we have not been actively involved with that review. As far as the merits of the proposals by the Forest Service are concerned, I know that the preferred alternatives have been criticized by

parties on all sides of the issue. My hope is that the end result will be a plan that will take into account the legitimate concerns of all Oregonians and address them as well as possible.

**Fisher:** Do you think the Board is taking the right role in looking at all forests of the state or should they be more concerned about private and state forests only?

**Roy:** I think that the Board should provide leadership for the entire state on forest issues. With respect to the public lands, I think that the Board is best suited to coordinate the efforts of all public agencies. For example, we should have coordinated restrictions on closures during fire seasons.

For private lands, the Board really has a dual role. First, by statute, we are to adopt rules that regulate forest practices on private land. These rules must provide an adequate level of protection for air, water, soil and wildlife.

Second, the Board should provide leadership on issues which will encourage efficient production of timber on private lands. For example, we need new ideas by which the non-industrial private landowners can be encouraged to continue to grow timber on their lands. Ultimately, it will be to the benefit of all Oregonians if the under productive lands can be brought into production.

**Fisher:** Are there other ways to encourage non-industrial forest landowners to better manage their lands?

**Roy:** The Board has not addressed that issue as such at our meetings. However, I think that ultimately the private landowners need financial incentives which will allow them to make financial decisions to grow timber.

**Fisher:** Is there any other message that you would like to pass on that we haven't covered here?

**Roy:** It is important to me, and I know it is important to Tom Walsh, the Chairman of the Board, and the other Board members, that the public realize that the Board of Forestry is there to serve the public. All of us have learned a great deal from the public and hope to continue the process of hearing from the public as we go through the rule-making process.

**Roy at a recent Board of Forestry field tour.**

I personally am very optimistic after the first ten months on the Board about the future of forestry in Oregon. We live in a location in the world which is uniquely suited to the growth of timber, and production from the non-federal lands should increase significantly over the years to come. I think that the future of the industry is really very bright. On the other hand, because of the complexity of society now, forestry is faced with issues that it has not had to confront in the past. The concerns over water quality, resource sites and public perception of forest practices create hardships for the industry that really have to be addressed. I have been favorably impressed in my work on the Board to date with the ability of the interested parties to communicate with each other even though they have diverse interests. I hope as we go through the process of implementing House Bill 3396 that this continues and that those who may have diverse interests are able to come up with solutions that satisfy their common interests even before the issues come before the Board.

## BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

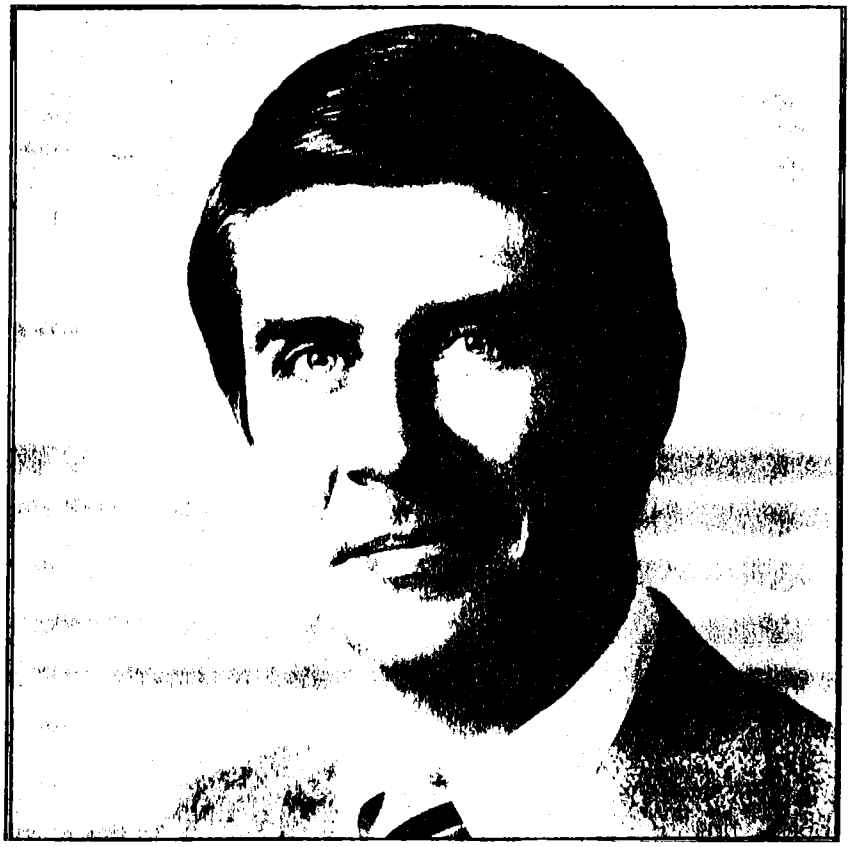
# JOHN SHELK

### PRESIDENT, OCHOCO LUMBER CO.
### PRINEVILLE

**John Shelk, a member of the former Board, was interviewed in his Prineville office by Public Affairs Director Jim Fisher.**

**Fisher:** What is in your personal background that brought you up to this position on the Board of Forestry?

**Shelk:** I was born and raised in central Oregon. All of my life I have been involved, at least indirectly, with the Ochoco Lumber Company, which has both a sawmill and forest land. I have been much influenced by my father's orientation for land management. He has taken a personal interest in land management. Here is a picture of my father about six years ago pruning a ponderosa pine tree. That typifies his attitude towards forest management. He has taken good care of the resource. He has passed down to me the idea that you don't own the land; you have the opportunity to pay taxes on the land and manage it for a period of time. However, ownership of the land gives you some basic rights, but the obligations that it puts on you probably outweigh the rights.



**Fisher:** How many acres do you manage?

**Shelk:** About 80,000 acres, in Crook, Wheeler, and Grant counties.

**Fisher:** Why did you agree to serve on the Board of Forestry for your previous term and then accept an appointment to the reconstituted Board?

**Shelk:** Initially, my desire was to learn about the Forest Practices Act, and about forestry in Oregon and how it was practiced outside of the central Oregon area. In the past, I was unfamiliar with what took place on the west side of the Cascades, other than in just a general way. My initial term furthered my education and allowed me to assist and participate in the process. The potential of being reappointed to he new Board of Forestry was an exciting one for me because at that point I understood the process. I understood what we had at stake as land managers in Oregon. I very much wanted to be able to carry that understanding and the need for action that I felt was generated from that understanding into a new more activist atmosphere. I think that Governor Goldschmidt is certainly providing that new atmosphere.

**Fisher:** In the short time that you have been with the new Board, do you see any major differences showing up yet, compared with the former Board?

**Shelk:** I think what we have with this Board are people with very specific areas of expertise, knowledge, and capabilities that will have the opportunity, I think, to apply them to first becoming educated about forest issues, and then applying their expertise to decision-making in that environment. The old Board I think had a much broader, more general expertise. I guess that I see some very interesting time ahead as a result of

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the background and capabilities of the new Board members.

**Fisher:** What are the major issues facing the new Board?

**Shelk:** I would say the new expanded responsibility of the Board and how that is to be interpreted as it applies to protection of Goal 5 resources. I definitely think we are going to be plowing some new ground in these areas. I think that there are going to be significant pressures from various groups to either make a narrow or broad interpretation of our responsibilities in the area of resource protection.

**Fisher:** Are you suggesting that the Board will be getting in on the ground floor to make some early impact, either with broad or narrow direction, depending on their viewpoint?

**Shelk:** Yes. I would hope that this Board first takes the time to gain the depth of knowledge and the background in the Forest Practices Act and its evolution before they attempt to make any sweeping changes.

**Fisher:** Let's get a little bit closer to home here, with one of the major problems facing eastern Oregon forests. Central Oregon has experienced major insect infestations in the last three of four decades. Do you see anything new being proposed by the Board or any new direction being tested on what the state as a whole can do on insect infestation?

**Shelk:** One of the interesting things is going to be to follow the spruce budworm as it migrates west. I don't think that there was the overall interest in budworm eradication in the past years that there could have been. I think part of this had to do with the gypsy moth and the interest that it took away from the budworm. I think with budworm populations beginning to show up on the Mount Hood National Forest and on the Willamette National Forest and which, I would assume, has the potential for spreading, then we are going to see some increased interest in controlling this insect. I think that this could very well assist us in eastern Oregon because I think the full weight of Oregon's forest industry and the Oregon Board of Forestry can be brought to more fully study the impact of this particular pest. I think that many of the rest of the pests, the mountain pine beetle, particularly, are going to run their natural course.

**Fisher:** Then, you look for forest stand management to prevent mountain pine beetle infestations from being repeated in another 60 to 80 years?

**Shelk:** I don't think you will see that problem in 60 to 80 years because I think the utilization of lodgepole

**Shelk and fellow Board member Janet McLennan confer in Coos Bay.**

pine will increase to the point that you won't have the stagnant, dormant, old-growth stands of lodgepole. Now, let me make one modifier to that statement, that is, if we are allowed to practice good stand management, as opposed to perhaps locking large lodgepole areas up in some sort of an area unavailable for cutting or harvesting.

**Fisher:** Do you have any particular thoughts on national forest planning from your perspective as a private landowner, or as a Board member?

**Shelk:** What bothers me as I look at national forest management plans is the artificiality of management process. On one particular tract of land we are going to do a clear-cut. Right next door to that, we have a roadless area that we are not going to cut at all. Next door to that, we have a wilderness area where we are not going to be doing any cutting, and next door to that, maybe just a little to the south of that wilderness area, we have an area that we are going to again intensively manage for harvest. We move over to another area and we have some old-growth study plots sitting right in the area of an intensively managed forest and we are not going to touch those.

The aggregate effect is not one of any sort of responsible stewardship. It's a patchwork trying to satisfy various different constituencies. It's like trying to put together legislation in Washington, D.C. It is a case of you don't want to watch legislation or sausage ever being made because you won't like what goes into either one of them.

I think you could say the same thing for managing the national forests right now. If I were going to name the perfect world, it would be one in which we recognize a variety of needs and we would manage the total national forest resource to encompass that variety of needs. Let's have some areas that are largely roadless areas and perhaps we can helicopter-log old-growth timber in those roadless areas. But, there is a method of harvesting that timber before it dies and falls over. On the other hand, we don't have to harvest all of that timber. We can leave a few snags here and there for bird nesting sites. We can allow a few to fall over in the streams to provide that natural activity in the streams. The alternative is leaving a portion of the forest locked up and intensively managing another portion of the forest. That makes a patchwork that is not, in my way of thinking, the most realistic way to manage a natural resource.

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**Fisher:** Are you suggesting working with nature?

**Shelk:** I hesitate to say that. Working with nature in some people's definition is staying entirely out of the forests. In our management of our private lands, the instruction that I give to our foresters as they go out to do work on our private land is, "I don't want to see where you have been. I don't want to see a large scar or mark on the landscape. As you go across there, I want you to perform area salvage with a rubber-tired skidder that does not make any strong impact or any noticeable imprints on any piece of land." I think that pretty well typifies our attitude toward management. Leave some snags standing, leave some down woody debris, take care that you really watch what happens, not only on Class I streams which the Forest Practices Act regulate, but on all water sources on all of our land. Go beyond what is required, specifically and strictly required, because that is a minimum standard.

**Fisher:** You don't want to have a minimum forest?

**Shelk:** I want to have something that I can feel truly proud of when I take someone through it. I want something that will impress a member of the Audubon Society or 1000 Friends of Oregon, as well as impress my friends in the timber industry.

**Fisher:** What are your thoughts on the shelterwood system that is practiced on some national forest lands in central Oregon?

**Shelk:** I do not support the artificial sort of management that takes place with this system. I am appalled at timber sales in which a 16-inch pine tree with a nice sharp peak, a very vigorous tree, is harvested because that happens to be the prescription. To me, the prescription should be dictated by what you see out on the land, rather than by writing a prescription in an office and applying that to the tract of land you manage.

**Fisher:** Do you have personal thoughts on the funding of controlling major fires in this state. Does Oregon need to take a hard look at its funding system?

**Shelk:** I understand that there are other states that have perhaps more enlightened views toward funding fire costs on private lands that what Oregon has. My feeling is perhaps we ought to look at some of those and see if there is something that would be appropriate for the State of Oregon.

**Fisher:** Do you have any thoughts on the role of overseas markets and log exports from private or public lands?

**Shelk:** Look out the window. You can see a new small log mill being built right there. A lot of the interest for starting that small log mill has been the tremendous surge in overseas markets that our company has seen just within the last year and a half. Normally, the marketing program in our company follows a very predictable, year-in, year-out, pattern. The most dramatic thing to change that pattern that I have ever seen since I have been back here nearly 20 years has been the opportunity in the export market, primarily for ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, more recently white fir. I am just very impressed with that opportunity, but more so by our company's opportunity, all of a sudden, to be an active player in the international market; to perhaps assist in the balance of trade. We can be an active participant in something that could assist the U.S. economy substantially by assisting the balance of trade.

> I WANT A FOREST THAT I CAN BE PROUD OF. I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL IMPRESS A MEMBER OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OR 1000 FRIENDS OF OREGON, AS WELL AS MY FRIENDS IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.
>
> — JOHN SHELK

As far as I am concerned, what private people do on their own lands, relative to log exports, is now and should continue to be their own business. I think where the substitution rule comes into effect, whereby you cannot buy public timber and substitute that in your own manufacturing facility for private timber that you export, those rules should continue to exist. However, where the export of timber off of public lands comes into play, I'm very much in favor of restricting that activity. I think that the public as a whole, particularly in the Northwest, would be much better served by the additional jobs and the multiplier effect on revenue-producing activities that would occur as a result of holding logs here, processing them here in the United States or in the Northwest. I think there are some numbers that have been floated around relative to net return to the state, that I think take a very narrow view to the larger revenue picture.

**Fisher:** In a somewhat related field, do you have any specific comments on the Department's Service Forestry program and the role of non-industrial landowners?

**Shelk:** I think that service forestry should be at least maintained, preferably expanded. The educational role involved in service forestry can be made more understandable to the individual landowner. This isn't to suggest that the State Forestry people involved in service forestry right now are not doing their job. I think that there are further tools that could be given to them to enhance their role in this process that would do nothing but good for the State of Oregon. I think particularly east of the Cascades, you have a lot of people, ranchers with perhaps only 20 percent or less of their lands in timber. To them, that's an insignificant part of their

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asset base. They look at managing that on a "cut now and then walk away from it for 30-years basis." There is some way we can motivate them. This is going to naturally happen as the timber availability on public land diminishes. I think we are going to turn increasingly to private lands. I would hope that there is a form of assistance there to enhance that timber resource.

**Fisher:** Do you see any other major issues affecting forests in Oregon?

**Shelk:** I touched on this briefly when I mentioned the opportunity for export. Those of us in the timber industry have seen tremendous oportunities that it presents. This, in my view, is an opportunity that even if it didn't expand any beyond where it is now, it's huge. It has some very, very, positive implications for the Northwest, specifically for the State of Oregon. It has some positive implications for the Port of Coos Bay, for the Port of Portland. It has positive implications for secondary manufacturers that might be interested in getting involved in additional secondary processing of wood before it leaves for the Orient. We have just recently begun to see the opportunity that is available there. Even if it doesn't expand beyond where it is, it is going to be tremendous and I fully expect it to expand considerably. We need to factor this into the discussions and arguments that are now being waged over forest lands. I think that the economics of this particular activity are going to need to be considered increasingly. Balance of trade is one of the very large problems we are facing today. The Northwest, Oregon specifically, can benefit from this, not just in exporting logs or a very basically manufactured piece of lumber, but in adding increased value to that product before it leaves the United States for the Orient. We here in Oregon can make a tremendous impact on a very serious federal problem, which is balance of trade.

**Fisher:** Do you have any other comments on anything that we have not discussed?

**Shelk and other Board members in Coos Bay.**

**Shelk:** I think that our company shares my enthusiasm for opportunities in the future. In the early 1980's, we built a mill in John Day. At this time here in Prineville, we are building an additional mill to process small logs. We see a lot of hazards facing us in the near to intermediate term, but those are outweighed by the opportunities that I think we see in just a variety of areas. I wouldn't miss the opportunity to participate in that and I'm very pleased by the opportunity to participate on the Board of Forestry in the coming years. I see this to be a very important, interesting and key time in our industry's future.

## BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

# BARTE STARKER

## EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
## STARKER FORESTS, CORVALLIS

**This interview was conducted by Public Affairs Assistant Doug Decker at the Starker Forests office in Philomath.**

**Decker:** The Starkers have a tradition of being involved in forestry. Please tell us about your own forestry background and your appointment to the Board of Forestry.

**Starker:** As fas as my education goes, I was born and raised in Corvallis and graduated from OSU in forest management in 1972. I've been involved in forestry as a work experience ever since I was able to go with my dad to the woods. So, its been a life-long pursuit for me. I've been working for Starker Forests as it has grown and changed from sole proprietorship, to a partnership, to a corporation, so I've been involved in all those stages since before high school.

My appointment to the Board of Forestry was a total shock to me. Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected to find myself on the Board of Forestry. It is something I am very, very proud of. I feel I have something to contribute and I hope I can live up to the demands of the job. I am still in awe of the responsibility and in awe of the confidence people have in me doing the job. So, I really feel fortunate and I'll give it my best shot.

**Decker:** Tell us about your family.

**Starker:** I am married and my wife's name is Pat. We have twin daughters and they are eight years old. We didn't know we were having twins until the first one was born, so it was a real surprise to us and has really been a lot of fun in the last eight years.

**Decker:** Tell us a little bit about your family's background in forestry.

**Starker:** Let me give you a little detail about the Starker family involvement in forestry all together. T. J. Starker was my grandfather and was the person who started Starker Forests. He as in the first graduating class in Forestry at what was then OAC and is now OSU. He graduated in 1910. There were four people in that graduating class. He bought his first tract in 1936, that's when Starker Forests was started. T. J. served on the Board of Forestry during the 60s and 70s at a time when there were some real characters on the Board, including himself, and they had an awful lot of fun. I think this new Board is going to have some of that kind of atmosphere, because of Tom Walsh's personality. One of the things that Tom said early on was that if we don't do anything else, let's have some fun. I think that is a good attitude to have.

As far as the development of Starker Forests goes, my dad entered the business right after World War II and was instrumental in the expansion of Starker Forests. There was a little difference in the philosophy between my dad and my grand-dad regarding the purchase of land. My grand-dad tended to

buy land that already had trees on it. Even though they may have been young second-growth trees, the lands that he bought were already stocked. And the land that my dad tended to buy was high site, very productive land, but a lot of it had brush on it, and was cut-over from the previous owners that wasn't reforested. Dad believed that because the land was so productive you could afford to get the brush cleared off of it and get trees to grow on it and still make a dollar. My grand-dad, even at the time of his death, still had trouble with that philosophy, My dad was killed, unfortunately, in a private plane crash in 1975. He was the pilot of the plane and my brother Bond was with him at the time and survived the crash. My grand-dad died in 1983, at the age of 92. He lived a long and productive life.

**Decker:** What are the characteristics of Starker Forests? Is your multiple-use attitude unusual for a private ownership?

**Starker:** Starker Forests is unusual in a number of ways in that we have a land base that is exclusively second-growth, we've never had any old-growth. The land that both my dad and my grand-dad — and now my brother and I — have purchased is all second-growth or cut-over land. Some of it, as I mentioned earlier, was brush land and some of it was stocked land, so we have an unusually good distribution of age classes which gives us a lot of opportunities that many landowners don't have. Most age class distributions aren't as even as ours.

Secondly, we like to think of ourselves as very intensive managers. We try to do a real good job of our reforestation and probably, if we have expertise that is exceptional or better than other landowners, it is in reforestation. We pride ourselves in being up to speed on new technology and not afraid of trying new things whenever they pop up. We encourage our employees who have thoughts about a new or different way to do something, to try it. We give them the funds and the rope necessary to get those things done.

As far as multiple-use goes, we really believe that one of the best ways to get public acceptance of forest management practices is to let people see them; just get them out there. They don't have to be going out there on guided tours to see them. When they are out backpacking, hiking, riding their horse, riding their mountain bike or collecting a fern, or whatever they are doing, they are seeing the results of our efforts. They may not understand all the things that went into getting that result, but they will at least see that the area is continuously productive.

**Decker:** Let's talk about House Bill 3396. What does House Bill 3396 mean to Starker Forests? To all forest landowners?

**Starker:** I guess if I was to look at House Bill 3396 in a real general way, it means "manage your land for all its resources, don't single out two or three resources and forget all the rest." And it really doesn't mean a big change for Starker Forests. For years we've recognized that we have multiple resources on Starker Forests; it isn't anything new for us to be doing that. We have recognized for a long time that our major resource at Starker Forests is the soil. The trees are a product of that soil and so are all the other things that come from forest land like clean water and wildlife. And if you keep that land base productive, and keep the soil on the hillsides rather than letting it slide down the hill, all the other resources and all the other products of that soil will flow from it. I think we have long felt that we've got to conserve our soil resource and make sure it stays productive.

**Decker:** In your experience with Starker Forests and your family, you have dealt with the Board of Forestry. How have you seen the Board's role change over the years?

**Starker:** House Bill 3396 made a formal change in the way the Board of Forestry is appointed and the membership of it has changed somewhat. I have never felt that there was a bias on the Board in previous years toward the industry. Even though it was made up of predominately industry members, or people who were associated with industry, I believe they were very, very careful not to put their individual economic gain ahead of what was good for forestry and what was good for the state of Oregon. I really believe that the Board of Forestry has always done an exceptional job of putting the state of Oregon and the general good of forestry ahead of personal financial gain.

**Decker:** How will the Board change in the next ten years?

**Starker:** It is my hope that I can contribute to a stabilization of the land base and give forestry and the state of Oregon a stable future for investments in forestry. In order to make financial investments in forestry, which are anywhere from 50 to 75 years long, you have to have both the faith in the future and some inkling that you will be able to recapture those investments in the future. I really believe it is imperative that we try to give enough thought to both the land base and political considerations so we can contribute to a stable environment for those investments. That's not just good for Starker Forests, it's good for the state of Oregon.

**Decker:** Before your appointment to the Board, you were a member of the Northwest Regional Forest Practices Committee. What role do you see the regional committees playing now and do you see that role changing in the next few years?

**Starker:** I think the regional committees are going to have an increased role especially during the implementation phase of House Bill 3396. They are going to need to review most of the administrative rules that the Board of Forestry is going to adopt and make sure that we don't implement something that is not going to be workable on the ground.

**Decker:** What do you see as the most important issues facing the Board in the next several years?

**Starker:** Obviously the one that's at least the most visible is the implementation of House Bill 3396. That is going to be a tremendous workload and a tremendously important job for the new Board of Forestry. Probably the most critical long-term job for the Board of Forestry is giving stability to the land base on

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which forestry can be practiced in the state of Oregon. We need to be a positive influence on that whole process, both on federal land and private land.

I hope we are able to look into positive things that both the State Forestry Department, other agencies and private landowners can do to improve the productivity of forests, such as genetic improvement of tree species, and be a springboard for enhancing public understanding of forestry.

**Decker:** During the Coos Bay Board meeting, the Board adopted a temporary rule that passed on additional fire suppression costs to forest landowners. Do you have any personal thoughts about the existing fire funding system? Any possible changes?

**Starker:** I have a lot of thoughts about it. I am not sure I have any answers at this point. I think we are definitely going to have to put a lot more effort into the fire funding system over time. I don't think it's going to be a quick-fix kind of a solution.

There are a number of responsibilities that a forest landowner has when he files a deed of ownership to a piece of forest land and therefore takes over that stewardship responsibility. One of those is fire protection. But I also think there is a limit to the responsibility of a landowner for fire protection. I think that a landowner really does have the responsibiity to protect his land from things that he has control over, such as operator-caused fires, and to some degree, public-caused fires, or fires caused by people that he allows on his land. As we increase the ability of the public to access private land and restrict the landowner's rights to control that access, I think the public starts to carry a bigger responsibility for that fire protection. As more rural residences are built, the risks that are not forest landowner-generated begin to increase. At that point the public should start to carry larger responsibility for some of those fires.

An area that I have had mixed emotions about are the lightning-caused fires. There are several ways to look at that. You can look at lightning-caused fires as an act of God in that there are tremendous public and private values at risk during lightning storms. On the other hand, when a landowner buys that land, he needs to look at the history. There are certain places in the state where lightning storms are much more prevalent and the value of the land should reflect that risk. More and more, the public is regulating values on private lands, whether through smoke management regulations that don't allow the landowner to reduce his risk of lightning-started fires, or through the riparian rules that regulate big snags and other kinds of fire hazards. In that case the public starts to generate or create a risk and should be taking a little more responsibility for it. It's time to take a real hard look at increased public funding on an on-going basis for fire protection on the westside. Of course that has been going on for a number of years on the eastside. I think it's time. And right now, with the record fires we have had over the last couple years, is probably a politically good time to bring that subject up to the Legislature.

**COME HELP US MAKE OUR DECISIONS AND COME SEE WHAT FORESTRY IS ALL ABOUT.**

**— BARTE STARKER**

**Decker:** How will the national forest planning process affect the timber industry and forestry in general?

**Starker:** National forest planning is something Starker Forests doesn't get directly involved in, because we don't manufacture, we strictly sell logs to others to manufacture. We are not as familiar with the federal planning process as some others are. National forest planning is not nearly as black or white an issue as it comes out in many publications. You hear one side saying that every old-growth tree is going to be cut in the next five years. And then on the other hand, the industry is saying that environmental groups don't want anymore old-growth cut ever. The truth lies a lot closer to the middle than either side is willing to admit. My general feeling is that good forest management and good land stewardship will provide almost all of the values that both sides want. And I think that if it's structured right and done carefully and conservatively, forest management can be done on a lot more acres than are currently proposed in the alternatives that I see coming from the Forest Service.

**Decker:** The Board of Forestry was tested early-on with the herbicide rule. That decision involved a little bit of everything, including a lot of public sentiment. Did the Board learn anything from that situation?

**Starker:** It was obviously a pressure-packed situation and probably if any of us on the new Board were given the choice, we would not have had that issue be one of the first ones we had to tackle. But we weren't given that choice. The previous Board, probably rightly so, chose to give the new Board of Forestry that responsibility rather than being the "lame duck" making that kind of policy choice for the state of Oregon. I don't think any of the new Board members were looking forward to that session or that meeting, but I think it did teach us several things. We learned that it's awkward to be forced into making a decision in such a short time frame. We had the public hearing so close to the Board meeting that we really didn't have the opportunity to get more than a summary of the hearings. It was impossible to get the full transcript of those public hearings before the Board meeting and it would have obviously been better if we were able to do that. On the other hand, I think the decision that was made was a good one and will protect the public. Given some

experience with this new rule, the public will feel they are well protected.

**Decker:** We've talked a little about how forestry has changed in the last ten years. How will it change between now and the year 2000?

**Starker:** I see a number of changes on the horizon. The main change I see is an explosion in technology in all areas of forest management. There will be more effective and efficient ways developed to deal with competing vegetation in plantations. Harvesting machinery will become more and more fuel efficient and will handle more trees quicker. We will see even more site specific decisions being made on all sorts of practices not just because of regulation but because of economics. We will continue to see specialization within the industry. More and more of the land will move from integrated large companies to more specialized land management companies of small to medium size. There will be many more changes which we can't even imagine. The thing that won't change is the fact that Oregon has some of the most productive timberland in the world and we have Douglas-fir, the most valuable and structurally unique species in the world. Along with this we have and will continue to have a beautiful and diverse place for all of us to live.

**Decker:** How can the Board encourage public understanding of forestry issues?

**Starker:** One of the things the Board can work on is the perception of forestry. We really need to set an example for the state by going around and looking at forestry throughout the state. I think that Chairman Walsh is really working at doing that. When we get the Board out to see what's going on throughout the state, I think we can set the tone for others to do the same. I think we need to get the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and other boards and commissions out. All of this will help build a better overall feeling in the state of Oregon about forestry. I really believe that if we can get people out there to actually see what we are doing in forestry, they will be supportive. But, when they just read about it and have to picture it in their mind's eye, they don't get the same feeling about it as they would if they were seeing it on the ground. I think that it's very, very important that we encourage and do everything we can to get more participation, more tours, and more visibility for forestry throughout the state. The new Board can be a real leader in that regard.

**Decker:** Is there a message that you want to pass on to Oregonians through your work on the Board of Forestry?

**Starker:** Come help us make our decisions, and come see what forestry is all about by visiting either our woods or anyone else's. By getting out there, you not only get a flavor for the enthusiasm that the people who work in the forest have, but you will also get a feel for the depth of positive feeling they have for the forest and for all its resources, not just the timber. I have visited with many different people around the state in both industries and agencies and I firmly believe that foresters have a deep and continuous concern for the land base and all its resources. Foresters aren't just timber harvesters, they really do look at that resource on an overall basis and are concerned about a whole range of things that are involved in forest management.

Obviously, what happens is that people focus on the examples where good management isn't happening, and there are some. One of my greatest fears is that as the national forest plans come out and people start talking about a 20-25 percent reduction in harvest levels, companies that tend to be cut off from the log supply tend to look at small private land as their next best resource for those logs and they go in and cut and run. I see that as a real risk we run if we are unable to stabilize the land base. I hope we are able to do that over the next few years.

## BOARD OF FORESTRY INTERVIEWS:

# PAT STRAUB

**This interview was conducted by Public Affairs Assistant Doug Decker at Pat Straub's home in Salem.**

**Decker:** Please tell us a little bit about your family background and your past involvement in Oregon political leadership.

**Straub:** Bob and I came out here in '47, with three little kids, and landed in Lane County. Bob worked for Weyerhaeuser right off and then became an independent house builder and land developer. When Bob finished high school, he worked for two years in the woods in northern California. After the war, Bob came back and wanted to finish college, but wasn't in time for the term to begin, so he took me up to this same place where he worked for two years. There I was, an easterner with no experience in the woods really—certainly not in the western woods. We had a year-old son at the time and we were up there for three months and living in a logging camp in a cabin. It was a marvelous experience, living up there in the sugar pines and the ponderosa pines, and me with the complete works of Mark Twain. I had lots of time for reading. So anyway then we came up north to Oregon after Bob finished school.

Our kids have all been very much interested in the outdoors and we have too. Two of our daughters and their husbands are involved in horse-logging. Bob reminded me that we were some of the first people to start a Christmas tree farm in Lane County. In the process of trying to keep our teenage children busy and well-occupied in the summertime, we planted these trees and got advice when they weren't growing too well to put sawdust around them so they would do better. Well, they did worse and so the next year, we had the kids take all of the sawdust off. So they had a lot of work and we learned the hard way.

**Decker:** You and Bob are small woodlot owners. Tell us about some of the challenges you have faced as a small woodlot owner and describe your property.

**Straub:** We have a tree farm near Willamina. We have property down in north Douglas County in the Curtin area which is a little different than what we have here in the east end of the coast range. And then we have eastern Oregon timberland. With Bob as a logger at heart, we have been doing some pre-commercial thinning, trying to replant pine and fighting porcupines. Now we are starting to do some commercial logging there. In Willamina, during the process of cutting out oak wood, for instance, where we have almost half our property in oak, Bob has gotten me out doing choker setting while he is doing cat work. It has been a good

"hands-on" experience.

**Decker:** So, given your background, is it perhaps natural that you were asked by Neil Goldschmidt to work on the Board? Why were you interested in accepting this position with the Board?

**Straub:** Why? Because I love the environment. I love the Oregon woods. Of course, we have been out camping and using them mostly for recreation. But I want to have our environment protected from unnecessary herbicides and pesticides. And I could see the need for increasing the growth of wood fiber on our forest lands These are some of the reasons I decided to serve.

When the Governor called, I thought he was calling to ask Bob something. He said, "No, I want you." And I kind of kidded him about it, but after I thought about it, I thought, well, maybe I can contribute something as a person from the general public. I have experience on both sides and maybe there is some wisdom there that will percolate out.

**Decker:** What has it been like being a Board Member? How have you grown into the job?

**Straub:** Well, it has been a bit overwhelming at first, because I have not served as a Board member before. But I am finding it exciting and I enjoy each one of the people on the Board. I've had to learn to be a little faster reader. And I am learning a lot about the legal parts that I haven't known at all before. So I have learned a lot of new things. I'm a better listener, and I'm trying not to be too biased.

**Decker:** How has Bob expressed his interest in your work with the Board? Do you talk about forestry issues at home?

**Straub:** At first he was hands-off and left me there to struggle along. But he has gradually given me a little help in understanding things. There has been a lot he didn't know either. Basically he has helped me with getting the background on basic forestry. I have never read a bill before. So, I am very grateful that we have two people on the Board that are lawyers and well versed with legal matters. And then having Lynn Newbry on the Board, who is a former legislator, has been good. I think it is an extremely well-balanced group.

**Decker:** Let me get back to your role as a small woodland owner. What kind of challenges and management decisions have you faced as a small woodland owner that may have played a role in the kinds of decisions you make as a Board Member?

**Straub:** There are two things: One is that I don't like, personally, to see so many rules that small woodlot owners have to deal with. I like to see things simplified. And I want to work toward that. We are getting so many laws in this country, that we feel defeated sometimes before we start. I want to see things simple and straight forward. I also see a real need for the small woodlot owner to get good help from OSU, from the forestry section there; and the Forestry Department. They need a lot of guidance on what to do. All of us with small woodlots are not graduate foresters.

There is a lot of help out there but there are also a lot of practical things that just crop up on small woodland owners. They need to have a source of good advice. So these are two things that I would like to see worked out.

**Decker:** Do you find it troubling then that the Department's Service Forestry Section may have to take a cut due to budget restrictions?

**Straub:** Yes, I do. Because it is like our experience with the Christmas tree farm way back, and this was 35 years ago, possibly. We needed better advice at that time. I feel that we should have practical advice available now to disseminate to the small woodlot owners. You have to have a source of good advice.

**Decker:** As you see it, what are the most important tasks facing the Board—perhaps the three most important things that the Board can do this year?

**Straub:** Implementing House Bill 3396 is first. I am so glad Barte Starker and John Shelk are able to offer us their background as commercial timber people. We are going to have to work hard to keep commercial timber production strong. I see that as the first thing.

I also think we have an important job to find the significant resource sites that are to be protected. This is a big job. I know we have a committee working on this now. I see this as a tremendous work load and I don't know that it will get done in the next year or not. These resource sites have to be looked at with a balanced outlook of what is happening to our environment and what we want to see happening to it. At the same time, we don't want to take too much land out of forest production.

**Decker:** Can you describe for us some of the forestry or environmental issues that you have followed through the years?

**Straub:** Well, Bob and I balance each other out because he has been looking for the commercial end of production. I have looked at it as "woodsman save that tree!" I am probably more of an environmentalist than a true logger or woodsperson.

I have also carefully followed the issue of chemical use, pesticides and their effects on animals and people.

**Decker:** In the past you've expressed a concern about the future of wildlife in Oregon's forests. Do you feel that today's forest management practices cover those concerns and if they don't, what can be done?

**Straub:** This involves not just the animal life and bird life, but it involves the watersheds too. As you know, I'm working on this watershed enhancement board as a member of the Board of Forestry. I see that first we have to be much more careful and straightforward about what rules come out, like putting roads into areas that are roadless and trying to find alternatives like using helicopters where the trees have been downed due to fire, especially in areas like the North Kalmiopsis. We have to do some artificial work to some degree, I suppose, for forage for elk and deer.

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I don't know how much more we can do. We just have to be balanced about it. I feel fairly comfortable with what's being done. I am trying to get more background so that I can make better suggestions if there are things I think are wrong. One needs to do a tremendous amount of research to get a picture of what is being done positively along these lines — and what could be done.

**Decker:** What is or what should be the role of the Board of Forestry? As you see it, what does the Board do?

**Straub:** The Board lays down the rules for the Forestry Department in keeping the logging industry going well and making sure reforestation is being done well. We have a marvelous source of Douglas-fir and we are not producing like we should and replanting like we should. But it is starting to turn around. The present Board has the directive to help the Department make rules so the environment is preserved at the same time. This is not just Oregon's problem, it is international — the concern for what is happening to the environment. We have a real challenge in keeping things on an even balance between the environment and production. The Board lays rules down for this.

**Decker:** As the Board works to redefine its mission statement and work on the Forestry Program for Oregon, you are reexamining the priorities. What are the most important priorities right now?

**Straub:** I believe we have to look at striking a good balance between all the priorities. It has to do with everything from timber production to recreation to forest protection. Our family came out here because we saw an area where, as outdoors people, we looked forward to a clean outdoor environment and wildlife and forests forever. And we started right off camping up in the McKenzie. At that time, we felt that the forests would be forever. Then we saw over-production and over-cutting coming in for a while and forest practices that weren't good. Three things are essential: Keeping areas for the public for recreation; keeping environmentally sound practices for tree farmers and logging; and keeping steady production so that Oregon has a good source of income and jobs.

**Decker:** There has long been a difference of thinking between the environmental community and the timber industry. Where are we now? How is that relationship doing?

**Straub:** Well, I feel it is getting better. I see an acceptance of each other between the different groups like 1000 Friends, the Wilderness Society and the Audubon Society. I see a positive inter-relationship between them and the Board and the Forestry Department. Their input is thoughtful and cooperative.

"THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO THAT WE NEED COOPERATION. . . . AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL GROUPS' THOUGHTS AND PLANS INCORPORATED IN WHAT WE ARE HEARING AS A BOARD."

— PAT STRAUB

There is so much to do that we need cooperation. I think it is going real well. And I would like to see all groups' thoughts and plans incorporated in what we are hearing as a Board. The Wilderness Society has done tremendous research, for instance, in the ancient forests and ways of caring for the forests. I would like to see all of them keeping up this input so that we have all of the resources possible before we make a decision. I'm encouraged by the cooperative output so far.

House Bill 3396 is a good example. It's been very interesting for me to read some of the background before 3396 came about and how the groups cooperated. So they are not sending sparks up, they are trying to make it work for everyone fairly.

**Decker:** As you know, the Oregon Forest Industries Council has just come out with a commercial in which they portray a caring and upbeat timber industry. What do you think Oregonians really feel about the industry, and does the Board have a role to play in helping build that image?

**Straub:** Well, I have to take it from my own point of view before being on the Board and that is that I didn't pay too much attention to the industry. I think the only way you pay attention to something is to get involved. And I think we need to involve the public as much as we can, encourage them to come to meetings. These meetings we have been having regionally have been wonderful. The people who come are from varied walks of life and they may come bearing a chip on their shoulder, but they have a place to express it. The more we can get the public involved, and the more they feel that they are part of the decisions we make, the better off we will all be. The best commercial is to perform well in all aspects of the job.

**Decker:** Do you think Oregonians look on the timber industry as a caring group of people who are responsible land managers?

**Straub:** I don't think so. Loggers have never had one of the best reputations as husbands of the land and so the Forestry Department is thrown into the bag with the rest of them. When we have had a new outfit come into Oregon, we hear these awful rumors about how they cut and run. Forestry in general gets a bad name. I think the public needs to be made more aware of how hard the forest industry is working to see that the forests go on forever. When you see what Barte Starker's group is doing and what John Shelk and John Hampton are doing, you know that they and others like them are truly concerned about the future.

They are not just thinking of now, of cutting, making a profit and then putting up a bunch of condominiums. The public needs to be made more aware of how caring a lot of timber people and the Forestry Department are.

**Decker:** Where is the timber industry headed based on what's happening now? Historically, the industry has been the number one employer in the state, is that going to change in the next few years?

**Straub:** Probably, yes. The state won't have the volume of timber in the future that it has had in the past.

**Decker:** If we were able to dust off the crystal ball and see a picture of where forestry should be by the year 2000, what do you feel would characterize the ideal forestry situation in Oregon, regarding reforestation, regarding multiple-use, regarding public perception, all of the things we have talked about?

**Straub:** For one thing, I would hope that we have the public more aware that it is their job too to look out for the forests. And that they don't feel that the woods are theirs completely to do anything they want. They have to be more careful about forest fires, which are usually started by hunters or campers.

I would also like to see the industry producing enough that it does stay the top industry in Oregon. Of course, I also hope that we are attracting clean industry to the state to supplement the forestry business.

I would like to see a reduction of logs exported. That's a terrible loss in jobs to Oregon.

I think there are going to be more small mills. Once the Department of Forestry gets House Bill 3396 implemented, we are going to keep the industry in balance. We are going to preserve the environment, we are going to keep the outdoors people happy and we are ging to keep the logging business going on an even keel.

**Decker:** What stands out in your mind as the most important or most interesting thing you have learned since starting with the Board?

**Straub at a recent Board of Forestry field tour.**

**Straub:** Well, I get lots of unasked advice from my husband. He did advise me to not say more than I know, and to listen more. So that isn't too bad a thing to learn. I get quite emotional about some subjects and have to learn to balance it. I find this a real growing process for me. I do find that the cooperation between environmental groups and the industry has been a fine surprise and most heartening.

**Decker:** Has there been one experience where you feel the Board has worked particularly well together as a group?

**Straub:** No, I haven't really seen one particular experience except possibly the mission statement retreat time in Bend. I did feel very strongly that I wished I had more wisdom and experience on our first exposure as a Board, which was the spray issue. I felt very strongly about that. Some of the others you have interviewed have said the same thing; we didn't get enough time to hear all the testimony. I wished I had more knowledge and more persuasive powers, because I feel we would, as a group, have voted differently. This is when I became aware that you really have to have a lot of background when you want to make things work the way you feel is right. It was a tough point to be at—a tough decision point to be faced with so early, with no experience.

Chemicals and sprays have concerned Bob and me so much in different ways in our life in Oregon. We have gone into natural foods and growing things without chemicals. I have found out that things we were told were perfectly safe years back are not safe at all. So, I have to say I don't have all that much trust in research per se. I feel that you have to use better judgment based on experience and common sense.

**Decker:** Is there any message you hope to pass on through your work on the Board?

**Straub:** I want to give a balanced view as a person who has been really general public for a long time, despite our involvement in politics over the years. I want to see this state stay whole and beautiful and not see any degradation and I think that is the thing I care the most about. I hope I can contribute that in my own way.

# TOM WALSH

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIR OF THE NEW BOARD OF FORESTRY

The following interview was conducted by Public Affairs Director, Jim Fisher, in Mr. Walsh's office in Portland, Oregon.

**Fisher:** Can you tell us a little bit about some of the personal reasons you accepted this appointment as the Chairman of the Board of Forestry?

**Walsh:** There were three reasons actually. First of all, Governor Goldschmidt asked me, and I guess it was one of those requests that you just can't say no to. Second, forestry is an area I have been around a lot, but one that I don't know a great deal about, even though I have been a contractor for 27 years. I've used a lot of forest products. My great sin in the world is skiing so there are a few cases where I find the forest pretty valuable and then there are times when I think you ought to cut some trees down so I don't go plowing into them. Third, I guess as a businessman, I am not only comfortable with, but also fully aware of the importance of forest products and other forest uses. I think Oregon's forests are the most valuable of our natural resources today.

**Fisher:** Can you tell us a little bit about your family background? Where were you born and raised?

**Walsh:** I was born and raised in upper New York State and moved to Portland where I attended Lincoln High School. After that I went on to Stanford University where I got a degree in engineering. When I came back, I started as a self-employed house painter and from that, with a bunch of partners, I built a construction business. I am not married and have what I call two "young" sons ages 18 and 20. One is wandering around Europe, and is now teaching skiing in Switzerland. The older one, my son Tom, is a junior at Stanford.

**Fisher:** Earlier you mentioned to me that much of your construction work is in the Seattle area. What kind of construction are you in and do you do much work in Oregon? Is this seasonal or periodic work that brings you back to Oregon?

**Walsh:** We are, by definition, building contractors as opposed to road or utility contractors. Probably 80 percent of the work we do is in large multi-family projects. The RiverPlace project in downtown Portland is one of the projects we've done. Historically, about 50 percent of our work is in the northwest Oregon area and the other 50 percent is scattered either around the northwest or increasingly around other western states. In recent years we have done work in California, Arizona, Utah and Colorado as well as Idaho and Washington. Last year we opened an office in Seattle, because we have an increasing share of the work taking place in that area.

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**Fisher:** Any other big name projects in Oregon people might recognize? Anything unique or special that has name familiarily?

**Walsh:** We did a lot of work in downtown Portland for Standard Insurance. We've done work for John Gray. We're also doing the new addition for Salishan Lodge. And we are doing a new studio building for Oregon Public Broadcasting.

**Fisher:** At the opening of the first Board meeting you commented briefly on the importance of forests to Oregonians. Could you restate that as it comes to mind?

**Walsh:** I would guess that seven out of 10 people in this state know something about forests and are either employed directly in them, or are supported by the forest products industry. They use the forests for recreation, they are hunters, fishermen or fisherwomen, they are naturalists. I may be wrong about the seven out of 10; maybe eight out of 10.

The other small minority who don't use forests or don't think about them are just as equally affected. Fifty percent of the land base, in rough numbers, is forest land in this state. Directly and indirectly, one out of six jobs in this state is tied to the industry. That doesn't mean just forest products, that means the tourism industry as well. If you remove forest lands from Oregon, you haven't got Oregon. You've got a waste land. My common sense tells me that there is enough forest land here to do everything virtually all of us want to do. There may be some real extremists on either end that can't be satisfied, but 95 percent of us can meet our objectives.

**Fisher:** What does this then mean to the Board of Forestry's role?

**Walsh:** Traditionally the Board of Forestry has been seen as a board for the forest products industry. The forest products industry is an utterly crucial constituency in terms of using the forests, but they are not the only ones. I think that there has been a slight change in perception. Look at House Bill 3396. And more particularly, look at the composition of the new Board. I am convinced all Oregonians will come to recognize that this is a talented, dedicated group of people, whose purpose is to oversee the prosperity of the forest, for all constituencies; not just the industry; not just the environmental groups, not just for fish and wildlife people, but for all users.

**Board member Pat Straub and Walsh listen intently during a recent Board field tour.**

**Fisher:** You've been active in several other state commissions. Coming into this with a very early look at the Board of Forestry, do you see any similarities or differences at this point?

**Walsh:** I have spent eight years on the Transportation Commission and almost three years on the Land Conservation and Development Commission. And in terms of a professional staff, I think the Department of Forestry probably parallels the Department of Transportation in most respects. Staff people are very professional and have long-term careers with the department. Technically, they are very confident in what they are doing and have a high degree of dedication that stops just shy of the fanatical. This is a good group of people who have been doing a first class job for a long time. And like the people in the Department of Transportation, sometimes they are slightly baffled by the changes that are going on in the political climate. I know a lot of highway engineers who say, "why don't they just let us get on with building roads?"

Foresters and the staff of the Department of Forestry ought to, by and large, get on with growing trees and managing forests. What they need to look to the Board for is turning off some of those political fires that occasionally pop up.

The second notion I have, having seen better than 10 years in those two departments and a number of boards, is that there is always some changing membership. I could not be more pleased with the confidence and the credibility and stature that I find in the other six members of this Board. It is as fine a group as I've ever seen. They have a wide variety of interests and their ability to work together is astounding and pretty exciting.

**Fisher:** Do you have any close association with Governor Goldschmidt, other than serving as his chairman, socially, philosophically?

**Walsh:** Yes. Through a public service relationship I have known Neil since about 1967. I have worked with him on several different things of both public and political service nature, a number of which had to do with the City of Portland for the seven years he was mayor there.

**Fisher:** Looking at forestry issues what do you see the Board's three major challenges right now?

**Walsh:** First and foremost is the definition of the business. I come out of a background of a small businessman about to get rolled over by a steamroller every time I get up in the morning. We have to define our business and that definition won't stay static, it will change over time. But you have to know at one given point in time what function you're performing, why are you doing it, what are the guiding principals. I think all the nuts and bolts are there. The staff inherently knows what their business is. But, much

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more importantly, I don't think it's crystal clear to a whole lot of citizens in Oregon. I think that is our first and foremost goal. We need to get a clear, common sense of understanding. We need to say, "Here is the function we are going to be performing."

This is probably the first time in history this department and this Board have been able to influence federal forest positions through the draft plans that are out for the 13 national forests. One member of the Board, maybe as the devil's advocate, expressed the viewpoint that we can't influence the U. S. Forest Service at all. And, in a very cooperative way, the rejoinder from the rest of the Board and much of the staff is, "What do you mean *can't* influence them? We not only can, but we are going to!" And we need to do that in a very constructive but emphatic way. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Board in 1988. It's like Halley's Comet, you wouldn't want to miss it. And we're not going to miss this one.

I guess the third opportunity I'd like to see — and as an Irishman, one that no one will ever accuse me of — is being a peace maker. I think there are some signs that environmental groups and industry groups see some kind of a "do-or-die" battle over the future of the forests. That is a misperception. This is not a do-or-die battle. And if ever there was an opportunity for the Board of Forestry to assert some leadership, this is it. We need to say, "Yes, there are some differences, some of those differences will always remain, but these differences are very few." The overwhelming majority of what each constituency wants from those forests, the opportunity is there to deliver it. There is never going to be some grand, sweeping philosophical statement. It's going to be forest by forest, acre by acre, issue by issue, go walk the land, give a little bit here, give a little bit there. I know this is going to be a real challenge for the Board, and I'm convinced they can be successful.

**Fisher:** You were briefed at the Board meeting on public opinion surveys that the Board had requested. Was there anything in there surprising to you about how the people of Oregon feel about forests?

**Walsh:** No, there was nothing surprising. It confirmed the one thing that I hoped was there, and that was that (a) there was generally positive feelings about forests and (b) it confirmed my worst suspicions that we weren't going to get anything very valuable out of the survey. And I am glad the survey work was done. If we hadn't done it, then we wouldn't have even established those things.

But what it does tell you is that there is a tremendous climate for great leadership. It is possible, in fact, to elevate the importance which forestry is held in this state.

**INFLUENCING THE NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING PROCESS IS LIKE HALLEY'S COMET, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS IT. AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO MISS THIS ONE**

**Fisher:** One of the things that certainly comes out in opinion surveys and other studies is that the majority of Oregon's population lives in the metropolitan Portland area and the I-5 corridor, removed from much of the immediate contact of the forest on a day-to-day basis. But, as you explained, not removed from an interest in the forest. Any thoughts on how to reach those people with the big picture of Oregon's forests — the whole scheme of things forests can offer as uses and benefits?

**Walsh:** That's a tough question. You have to do it, but you can't do it overnight. It is not some "gimmicky" public information program.

If you ask a different kind of question like, "How well do people in this state perceive a citizen role in government?" I'd answer that it exceeds any other state in the union in that regard. And the way we have gotten to that position in Oregon is by tradition; things like initiative and referendum, a whole array of citizen participation and citizen control that we have collectively worked hard at for a long time. I think the role of our natural resource base in this state needs to come to the same level of awareness. Fifty years ago or maybe after the second world war, there was a great movement away from a real appreciation of natural resources, and what we are seeing now is that we can't do much with smoke and mirrors. We need to get back to the basics. We need to look at our real assets. What are the productive tools today in Oregon? Most forest lands are at the heart of them. Maybe 20 years from now we will be able to look back and say that after a long drought everybody in the state recognizes that they are dependent on those forests. They sense it today, but not strongly enough.

**Fisher:** You are a great lead-in to my next question. Do you see this being resolved by year 2000? Or are we always going to be in the position of uncertainty because of new issues, new people? Will we ever get on top of it?

**Walsh:** Yes. I think that in 15 years we will make significant strides. I am really keen on the Northwest. Take a look at other parts of the nation in terms of business geography. If you could "buy" a couple of states, which ones would you buy? I think you would buy the Northwest. Oregon and Washington are different but highly complimentary. Seattle is emerging as a major metropolitan area in this country. It will be another San Francisco. We don't need to see that as anything other than an asset for us. It says that our role in taking advantage of the emergency of the Northwest is making significantly better use of the assets we have. Oregon's primary assets are our land-based wealth and our human resources. And we've overlooked the land

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base. We've been making positive strides since Tom McCall and I think in 15 years the entire nation will say, "What they are doing in the Northwest is right, they are doing it well."

**Fisher:** Getting a little more into some operational things, can you outline your thoughts behind the plan to hold more frequent Board meetings many of which away from Salem and throughout the state?

**Walsh:** I guess that if you are charged with overseeing one of the two or three most important assets of the state, you aren't going to do it on a casual basis. There is a statutory requirement that we meet four times a year. And we're just going to meet more often than that because there is a lot to do.

Secondly, in the best sense of the word, a big part of the Board is a "political" one, meaning building a public climate of support. Not all Oregon thinks that the sun rises and sets in Salem.

And the most important thing, in my judgment, that a board of confident but average citizens could do is get out of Salem, get to other places in the state, and people who are interested in the function of that board will say, "They came down here for two days and you know, they are just like us. They are just good, common citizens doing smart things." You can't do that if you're sitting in Salem all the time.

**Fisher:** One of the first specific activities is House Bill 3396, discussed quite a bit at the Board meeting. Any comment at this time as far as its implementation, or anything that you see as the key concern of the Board this first year?

**Walsh:** If you had told most of the special interest groups in 1986 that that form of a bill would emerge out of the 1987 session of the Legislature, they would have told you that you were crazy. Too far, too fast, too much compromise. But it did happen and Tom Imeson, and Gail Achterman ought to get a major share of credit for that. It represents a lot of practical compromise and clears up a lot of ambiguity. I don't know just what all it entails. I don't know all that we have to do. But I pretty fully understand from the work plan that it is an enourmous undertaking. And we have to accomplish it. I guess the one word of caution I would offer is that it's not going to make trees grow faster, it's not going to plant seedlings, and we all ought to keep in mind while we are implementing 3396 that it is not a goal unto itself. It is a vehicle to get to a goal and we have to make sure that we don't get bogged down in minutiae so much that we forget what we are out there to do.

**Straub, Walsh and fellow Board member Barte Starker (right).**

**Fisher:** As Tom Walsh, citizen, do you have other issues that you either are not ready to comment on at this time but see coming up in the next two, three, or four years?

**Walsh:** Yes. I am not sure that it's something the Board is going to have a major role in, but its part of the wealth of forest resources. The wood fiber that we grow in this part of the world is an utterly amazing thing. The uses to which it can be put are endless. We are a major user of truss-joist products. If somebody 20 years ago had said that pieces of laminated plywood were going to replace good old 2×12's, most of the world would have said they were crazy. Interestingly, truss-joist corporations, to my knowledge, have been profitable for the last 15 years. They've taken a basic wood fiber product, mostly Douglas fir, and added technological and marketing innovations. Again, it is my hope and expectation that through Oregon State, through the industry, through the Department of Economic Development in cooperation with the Department of Forestry, that we keep moving in that direction. If we don't, we're taking a marvelous asset, the timber, but we're treating it just as a commodity. The world doesn't work that way. We have to be smarter than that.

**Fisher:** Finally, what other message, if any, would you like to pass on to Oregonians as you start your first year here? Anything that we haven't touched on that you would like to pass on?

**Walsh:** We need your help. That's the wonderful thing about boards and commissions in this state, they are ultimately just representatives of the people. As complimentary as I am about this Board, it is, in fact, just representative of the kind of quality we have throughout this state. About 700 people in the department and just seven people on the Board aren't going to pull everything off. But 2.7 million people can make a difference. Our job is to lead. But no one can get things done by themselves. We need help. And if we do our jobs well, we'll get it.

**Fisher:** Thank you Mr. Walsh for your time, and for those comments.