

# Western Forester

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## Stewardship Contracting: A Brief Overview

BY JAY O'LAUGHLIN

Stewardship contracts are tests of innovative ways for the USDA Forest Service to work cooperatively with local communities to achieve results such as watershed restoration and maintenance, road obliteration for sediment control, wildlife habitat improvements, fuel load reductions, timber stand improvements, and insect and disease protection. Since the 1930s, the agency has been allowed to channel some of the receipts from timber sales to fund such work by agency employees. As timber harvests declined 75 percent nationwide during the 1990s, this funding source diminished along with budget appropriations, the agency's work force and employment opportunities for rural community residents. After several years of community-based efforts, beginning in 1999, Congress authorized the agency to conduct 84 pilot project experiments to test new authorities designed to accomplish stewardship objectives. Some of these projects have now completed required environmental analyses and withstood appeals and litigation, and some work on the ground is getting done.

The new authorities are: exchange of goods for services; receipt retention; best-value contracting; designation by description or prescription; and multi-year contracting.

Accountability stems from multi-party monitoring and evaluation of each project and an annual report to Congress. Other points that characterize stewardship contracting are:

- broad-based public collaboration at the community level;
- provisions for multi-year, multi-task, end-results-oriented activities;
- comprehensive approach to ecosystem management;
- improved administrative efficiency and cost savings for the agency; and

- creation of a new workforce focused on maintenance and restoration activities.

In 2002, the Farm Bill and the President's Healthy Forests Initiative proposed stewardship contracting for funding expanded fuels reduction efforts through exchange of goods for services. Some Forest Service officials view stewardship contracting as the best hope the agency has for getting work done on the ground. Some observers, however, feel the current decision-making environment needs additional reforms, such as streamlined environmental analysis and interagency consultation for protecting habitat for imperiled species tested through a variety of pilot projects and mechanisms.

The Inland Empire and Intermountain SAF sections have a joint position statement supporting pilot project tests in general, including stewardship contracting (see Policy Scoreboard on page 22).

Following are two views of stewardship contracting—one from Michael Goergen, SAF interim executive vice-president, and Michael Leahy, an attorney with Defenders of Wildlife. ♦

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## Experiment for Continual Improvement

BY MICHAEL GOERGEN

I was asked to write on SAF's position on stewardship contracting, and the truth is, at the national level we have not articulated a specific position on stewardship contracting, although we have mentioned support for the concept in testimony. We have advocated for pilot programs and testing new authorities, but the organization's support for stewardship contracting really comes to us from the grassroots of the organization, specifically some of the state societies in the Northwest.

In 1998, SAF had the opportunity to participate in discussions to develop potential legislation to authorize a stewardship contracting pilot program. We led a coalition of organizations (based on the expertise and position statements of our grassroots members in the Northwest), and

eventually developed a set of ideas that Congressional leaders included in Section 347 in the FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 05-277), which authorized the first set of 28 pilot projects. Since then, Congress has authorized additional programs for a total of 84 pilots, changing the legislation only slightly.

The program is starting to build momentum. We are learning much from these initial projects. Citizens from across the country are working with the Forest Service testing new ideas and innovative mechanisms to accomplish work on the ground. In some cases they have accomplished work and leveraged funding to complete projects that had languished on a shelf. In other cases, people have tested assumptions about forest management and managers, and found their perceptions to be wrong. Still others

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## Goergen

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have run into roadblocks, appeals, litigation and all the familiar challenges

to national forest management. However, in all cases, people have come together to develop common solutions and try something new because they are frustrated with the

delays and gridlock so often associated with the national forests. Their efforts may not always lead to success, but these projects are experiments with mechanisms that allow us to learn and strive for continual improvement.

Many have criticized stewardship contracting because they believe that adequate safeguards are missing from these efforts. One authority in particular raises concerns for many activists. The controversy stems from a funding mechanism called goods for services. The authority allows the Forest Service to trade the value of some product on a particular project against the cost of completing service work. Critics fear "big trees" will be cut and sold so that the Forest Service can accomplish work they cannot afford otherwise. Those concerned about this authority must remember that all of the actions in these projects must be consistent with the forest plan and most environmental laws (the stewardship contracting authority does allow for some specific exceptions from the National Forest Management Act, but not NEPA, ESA or others.) In addition, most of the projects are not harvesting large diameter material; they are selling byproducts of the stewardship action they are undertaking.

Critics of stewardship contracting often say if Congress just eliminated the goods for services authority, they might be able to live with it. When pressed as to how they would pay for this work they often reveal their belief that Congress should appropriate dollars for stewardship projects. Unfortunately, expecting additional appropriations for stewardship work will be difficult. Forest management is rather low on the priority list for Congress and the Administration. They continue to focus on issues like the war on terrorism and a possible war in Iraq. We are having difficulty convincing Congress and the Administration that they should pay back all the funding the Forest Service and the Department of Interior borrowed to fight last year's wildfires.

My point is that we might want to get away from thinking of stewardship contracting as goods for services authority and continuing debate on



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that point. It is so much more than a funding mechanism. Along with the additional authorities, stewardship contracting also provides important monitoring objectives. Section 347 requires the Forest Service to conduct all party monitoring, which enables a diverse set of stakeholders to evaluate both a project's effectiveness and the contractor and Forest Service's compliance with the project's objectives. This all-party monitoring is building trust in the Forest Service, something Congress cannot legislate, and something that the Forest Service desperately needs. The trust also extends between the parties involved so that the local logger begins to better understand the environmentalist's point of view and vice versa. It sounds Pollyannaish, but I've seen it happen on the ground.

Section 347 also mandates that projects be developed collaboratively with a broad set of stakeholders from the community working with the Forest Service. This helps implement projects that make a difference and projects that people feel comfortable with.

So why all the fuss about 84 pilot projects that treat relatively small acreages? It is precisely because it is something different. Proponents believe it might be a way out of the morass associated with national forest management, which is why some opponents object. Stewardship contracting is one experimental option for the Forest Service. It is testing new authorities. We should continue to evaluate those authorities and eventually we should make permanent those that truly work. Stewardship contracting was designed with that goal in mind. It is why there are extensive monitoring requirements and why Congress holds hearings to learn about progress to date. Our hope is that we continue learning, develop a better operating framework for the Forest Service and the BLM, and most importantly, produce results that are good for the land and for people. ♦

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## Agency and Industry Interests Trump Communities and Environment, Again

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BY MICHAEL LEAHY

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**S**tewardship contracts are being touted as a cure-all for most of the controversies on national forests, including decreased logging levels, community troubles, forest fires, ecological restoration, funding shortages and more. Stewardship contracts have a powerful list of references, receiving strong support from federal agencies, the timber industry and President Bush. But will this new way of doing business live up to its billing?

No, at least not as currently envisioned. To the contrary, stewardship contracting has drawn sharp criticism from the conservation community, some of whom, the author included, view it as one of the gravest threats facing national forests today. How is it that an innocuous sounding proposal portrayed as doing so much good for so many is eliciting such a visceral negative reaction? Is this just environmentalists being "anti," opposing anything and everything?

Of course not. In fact, many conservationists support the core concepts of stewardship contracts—comprehensive forest restoration projects with widespread community support and involvement. The problem is that this base concept of stewardship contracts has been co-opted to advance agendas unrelated to ecological and community restoration, and loaded down with unnecessary and highly controversial new powers for land management agencies.

The most problematic of the new powers the Forest Service is requesting

through its stewardship contracting package is the ability to pay for forestry work with trees. This power fundamentally alters the way the Forest Service operates in a way that no previous reinvention scheme has. It would give the agency almost complete authority to raise and control its own budget, to a level unprecedented among federal agencies, by trading away the public's trees. Local forest managers could fund any pet projects they want by simply associating them with a timber sale as part of a stewardship contract. As timber sales are mingled with other work, accountability to Congress and the public, and within the agency, would be lost, particularly troubling in light of the agency's ongoing and well-documented inability to account for timber sales and their costs

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### For Further Information on Stewardship Contracting

Authorizing legislation can be accessed at [www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/stewardship/index.php](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/stewardship/index.php).

Brief explanations of the five new authorities and the points that characterize stewardship contracting are provided at [www.pinshot.org/pic/cbf/pilots.html](http://www.pinshot.org/pic/cbf/pilots.html).

Various perspectives, including Mike Leahy's, were presented in recent testimony to Congress, available at <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/testimony.htm>. Scroll to the witness list for July 18, 2002, and click to read testimony.



## Leahy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and benefits. Existing incentives linking increased budgets with increased logging would be exacerbated as any separation between logging and pay-offs is eliminated, and agency receipts no longer have to be returned to and processed by Congress. Subsidies are bound to increase as timber sale costs are lost in the midst of multi-dimensional stewardship contracts, without any insurance that fair market value will be paid for the trees included in these package deals. In short, if the agency is allowed to treat trees as cash, those trees are likely in big trouble.

Under a related new authority, the agency could keep any money it

makes on stewardship contracts in which the value of the trees cut exceeds the cost of the work accomplished. If the object of these projects is truly ecological restoration, why would the agency need to sell more trees than necessary to pay for the restoration work at hand? This provision suggests stewardship contracting may be more about agency financing than forest restoration.

Additionally, there is nothing in any stewardship contract legislation or proposal to date that guarantees or even gives any confidence that the purported goals of community benefits and forest restoration will be accomplished. Just about any project could be put forward as a stewardship contract, including regular timber sales. Smaller communi-

ties are not likely to benefit without the large companies likely needed to afford and implement the larger, more complicated projects put forth under this program. Stewardship contracts are ill suited to address fire concerns, for they are at least ostensibly supposed to be smaller, more thoroughly vetted projects.

Stewardship contracts are theoretically pilot projects designed to test new ways of doing business, yet many proponents are in a rush to permanently extend these new powers to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management before any results from the already authorized projects are in. Some proponents are eager to discard what minimal limitations currently exist on stewardship contracts, such as the requirement for multi-monitoring of projects and the limited number of projects—these provisions were readily tossed aside in a rider on last year's Farm Bill.

Proponents have also aggressively fought proposals to test authorities favored by environmental groups, such as requiring some stewardship contracts to proceed without tree trading authority or testing log decking, in which a contractor is paid to cut trees that are then sold separately by the Forest Service. Log decking is designed to eliminate incentives for the logger to cut more trees than the contract calls for, and has been tested on a limited basis with mixed results but much potential, but was roundly rejected even on a trial basis by stewardship contracting supporters.

These ham-handed strategies by stewardship contracting proponents, in addition to policy concerns and the fact that many stewardship contracts appear to be simply warmed-over timber sales, have created mistrust and a backlash. It is a shame that stewardship contracting has been hijacked to promote objectives that are far from its original intent, for there is opportunity with stewardship contracts to reach agreement on forest restoration if controversial and unnecessary concepts, like paying for contracts with trees, are removed. ♦

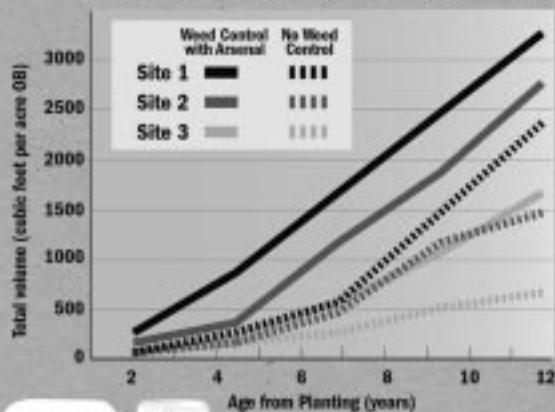
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# Evaluating Landscape-Scale Fuel Treatment Policies with FIA Data

BY JEREMY S. FRIED

**R**ecent proposals to conduct landscape-scale fuel treatments have reawakened perennial interest in biomass based energy generation as a potential market for the substantial volumes of small-diameter wood thought likely to become available from such treatments. However, there has always been something of a conundrum that arises when those contemplating the significant investment required to build biomass facilities ask questions about the extent of the small-diameter timber resource that they will be counting on. They are reluctant to invest without a proven supply, but forest landowners are unlikely to select management options that generate large volumes of small-



diameter material until there is proven capacity to accept and pay for it.

Thus there is currently a high demand for information about the concentration and distribution of biomass available from fuel treatments and the financial feasibility of this approach to reducing wildfire hazard. Ultimately, feasibility depends on treatment and haul costs, product prices, choices made in the design of prescriptions, and the relative weight given to such criteria as fuel treatment efficacy, extent of the landscape treated, net revenue impacts, treatment longevity, and biomass and merchantable product yields.

With support from the National Fire Plan and building on work supported by the Joint Fire Science Program, scientists at the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station have developed a modeling framework, grounded in Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots, for estimating biomass availability, financial returns and fuel treatment efficacy associated with a range of silvicultural prescriptions and price assumptions.

FIA plots offer a critical advantage over other approaches to assessing fuel treatments, such as those that focus on subsets of the landscape where fuel treatments are already occurring, in that they form an unbiased and statistically representative sample of the entire, forested landscape. This unbiasedness greatly increases the extent to which results can be safely generalized.

The analytic framework, dubbed FIA BioSum, has been applied to over 1,000 FIA plots spanning three million acres of federal and private forestland in southwest Oregon's Klamath ecoregion.

## The Klamath FIA BioSum Analysis

Pre- and post-treatment fire hazard was esti-

mated from the torching and crowning index predictions generated by the FVS Fire and Fuels Extension. Treatments considered included thinning across all diameter classes between 3 and 21 inches to a residual basal area of 125 ft<sup>2</sup> and thin-from-below to a residual basal area of 80 ft<sup>2</sup>. Cut-tree lists from each plot were valued for merchantable (7-21" dbh) and sub-merchantable (3-7" dbh) trees, and treatment costs were evaluated via the STHARVEST model, a compendium of regression equations for logging cost components derived from engineering cost studies. Logging costs were high on steep slopes (greater than 40 percent), where cable yarding was considered necessary. Such steep slopes comprise about half of the forested terrain in the Klamath ecoregion.

Haul costs for moving harvested material from each FIA plot location to each of 186 potential biomass and merchantable wood processing sites, defined on a 10 kilometer grid, were calculated in a GIS via cost accumulation over an impedance surface derived from existing road network and road standard attribute data. Haul costs were added to the on-site fuel treatment costs to assess total treatment costs for each plot/processing site combination.

Biomass accumulation and economic and fire hazard implications associated with each potential processing site were assessed under a variety of assumptions (e.g., considering only

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**Figure 1. Optimal sites for locating biomass-based energy generation facilities by four different criteria in the Klamath ecoregion of southwest Oregon when the 125 ft<sup>2</sup> residual basal area fuel treatment is applied to all acres that would generate non-negative net revenue.**

treatments with non-negative net revenue) to generate processing site maps of potential biomass accumulation, treated area, and net revenue for each modeled prescription and set of price assumptions (see Figure 1). Detailed estimates of amounts of removed material by size class and species are easily generated in this analytic framework.

Tradeoffs among costs, merchantable and sub-merchantable sized yield, area treated and treatment effectiveness were evaluated via linear optimization in which the model was allowed to choose among prescriptions (including the no treatment option) for each forested acre.

### Klamath Findings

Results vary widely depending on the assumptions and objectives specified. If revenues generated by fuel treatments were reinvested to treat additional acres, 2.7 million tons of sub-merchantable sized woody biomass suitable as power plant feedstock could be generated and 636,000 of the 1.6 million treatable acres could be treated at no net cost—costs of extraction and transport would be funded from the receipts from sales of merchantable wood and biofuels.

Alternatively, unconstrained biomass maximization would generate nine million tons of power plant feedstock and treat all 1.6 million treatable acres, but at a *negative* net revenue of \$1.7 billion, much of this due to the extremely high costs of removing small diameter wood from steep slopes.

FIA BioSum is capable of simulating many alternative policies, some of which produce positive net revenues but typically treat fewer acres, and others that treat more acres but produce negative net revenues. Because ownership class is known for every FIA plot, it is also possible to model assumptions about likely management decisions and treatment opportunities by landowner class.

Policymakers have been very excited about FIA BioSum because it has the potential to facilitate their examination of the interactions among financial return, fire hazard reduction, and wood utilization potential and their search for a reasonable balance between acceptable costs and desired outcomes.

### Implications

Fuel treatments linked to biomass energy generation have proven to be economically viable in California's Shasta County over the past 20 years, where there is currently over 70 megawatts of biomass-based generating capacity, though such successes may well be a product of forgiving terrain and wholesale energy prices mandated by state regulation. Given the right mix of terrain and forest conditions, there is no reason to believe that biomass energy generation will not work elsewhere.

However, in some areas, perhaps including parts of southwest Oregon dominated by inaccessible terrain or geographic remoteness, the high costs of extracting and transporting low-valued biomass will either require substantial subsidies or lead to consideration of potentially less expensive, but not necessarily as effective, forms of fuel treatment like prescribed fire, or even no treatment.

The preliminary findings from this one ecoregion, selected for its significant departure from historical fire regimes, suggest that making every acre pay for its own treatment (i.e., mandating positive net revenue) would necessitate substantial subsidization of small diameter (greater than 7" dbh) removals.

More importantly, in FIA BioSum, we now have a policy simulation tool that lets us quickly evaluate any area for its potential to supply wood for a biomass cogeneration plant or any other type of wood processing plant, and determine whether areas proposed for these types of plants have the right mix of resource, terrain and transportation infrastructure to make their operation economically feasible. And uniquely, it will also help to determine if the types of treatments proposed will reduce fire hazard at a landscape scale.

Finally, other model-based research has demonstrated fire hazard reduction benefits from treatment of as little as one quarter of a forested landscape when treatments are targeted in such a way as to force fire movement into directions orthogonal to the prevailing wind and slope gradients. While there is currently no way to know whether the 15 percent of the Klamath landscape projected by FIA BioSum as treat-

able with positive net revenue corresponds to locations where such disproportionately high risk reduction benefits can be realized, related research at the PNW Research Station is using FIA and remote sensing data to develop fine scale fuels maps that could address this issue, as well as nationally consistent wildland-urban interface maps that may be utilized to further refine treatment priorities and benefits. ♦

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## A Short Primer on Biomass Power

By Bill Keye

Everything organic is biomass, but the term commonly refers to woody plant material such as chipped or pulverized trees. Wood has heat potential, expressed in units such as British Thermal Units (BTU). We can use it to warm our homes, but also to heat water until it turns to steam. Steam can then be used to do mechanical work, such as spinning a shaft to generate an electric current. We use that current to light our homes, run our appliances and so forth.

Wood from western conifers generally runs about 8500 BTU per bone dry pound. When combusted in a biomass power plant, that 8500 BTU becomes the amount of electricity (500 watts) needed to illuminate five 100-watt light bulbs for an hour. Since freshly cut conifer wood is about 50 percent moisture, it takes two pounds of it to produce the BTUs necessary to spark those five bulbs.

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# A High Noon for Forest and Fire Policies?

BY JOHN F. MARKER

If wildfires again strike the West as hard as they did in 2002, Congress may not be able to resist the public pressure to meddle. Given the public relations successes of several major environmental groups with their "fantasy forestry," the outcome could be legislative mandates that are more politics than science, and do little to help forests, public or private.

The most strident environmentalists continue to hammer away with sound-bite science and a refusal to recognize the need for fuel reduction programs that involve the use of tools like timber sales. They refuse to acknowledge the realities of change that have taken place in both the management of forest resources and the timber industry since the 1980s. They are silent on the impact of wildfire on

people, wildlife and the land.

This assessment is based upon a close watch of media coverage of wildfire and forest management issues during the past year. I paid close attention to media reports because of my involvement as a member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) in the preparation and October 2002 release of a report titled, *Forest Health and Fire, An Overview and Evaluation* ([www.fsx.org/NAFSRforesthealth.pdf](http://www.fsx.org/NAFSRforesthealth.pdf)).

The purpose of the report was to offer the expertise and experience of Forest Service veterans to people charged with building coherent and science-based policies for managing and protecting the nation's public forests. The report challenges major public misconceptions about forest health and fire; discusses the influences of climate, urbanization and bio-

logical factors; and offers recommendations for effective care of forests.

NAFSR printed 1,000 copies of the report and hand delivered or mailed them to the White House, key members of Congress, state decision-makers, conservation organizations and other opinion leaders. We were pleased when White House staff requested additional copies. The feedback has been positive. Recipients were impressed by the professional quality of the document and the focus on directly addressing major accusations of forest mismanagement. The independence of NAFSR and the use of solid science to support the text enhanced report credibility. The biggest frustration of the project was the association's limited resources.

NAFSR's report will not by itself stop the continuing attack on forestry and forest management. If 2003 is filled



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with mushroom-shaped clouds and public outcry forces Congress into the picture, it will again be a tough time for forestry. The "Save the Forest" rhetoric will crank up, especially in the major metropolitan areas away from the forests, and the talking heads will again talk mythology. Unless there is a very strong and believable rebuttal from people who know better, emotion will again out-vote fact.

I believe there is a good opportunity to counter the negative image of forestry and forest management. Much of the public support for saving the forests appears to be based on first impressions from images and rhetoric used in the Save the Forests campaign, rather than knowledge of how forests operate. A pretty picture of the forest contrasted with an ugly picture is a powerful persuader. But this shallow understanding could be the Achilles heel of the anti-forestry campaign. If the message of good forestry was equally well presented, I believe many people supporting the "anti" movement would not.

My thinking is supported by a poll conducted last spring by Moore Information that indicates 73 percent of voters in six western states favored thinning and timber harvesting to reduce the risk of wildfires. But the question is, even if there is an opportunity to gather public support for forest management practices on public and private lands, where will the leadership and resources come from?

Maybe there is an answer—a coalition. If all of the people and organizations that share a common interest in healthy and long-lived forests would pool energy and resources to address the opposition's hyperbole, the forests could be saved for coming generations.

NAFSR members are hearing and seeing an increasing call for better care of forests, especially a reduction in fire losses. For example, we have seen letters to the president supporting scientific forest management signed by state foresters, forestry school deans, the SAF and 31 national conservation organizations. The Western Governor's Association is advocating sound forest management, and is being joined by county governments and citizen groups. The impact of these concerns, in my opinion, would be more effective

in generating public support if they were expressed as part of a common voice, a coalition.

The Society of American Foresters is one of the premier and senior professional natural resource organizations in the country and represents a profession much maligned by some environmental groups. I would think that the Society would be the ideal candidate

to lead a national coalition to truly save the forests. ♦

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May 7 .....Salem  
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Dec. 5 .....Eugene

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# Calendar of Events

## UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS

<b>Course</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Location</b>
Landscape Management System Workshop	March 9-12	UW	Eatonville, WA
Variable Probability Sampling	April 7-11	OSU	Corvallis, OR
37th International Particleboard/Composite Symposium	April 8-10	WSU	Pullman, WA
Introduction to ArcGIS Applications In Natural Resources	April 10-11	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Natural Resources Institute Module 3: Systems Approaches to Ecosystem Management and Landscape Ecology	April 14-24	WSU	Pullman, WA
Plywood Manufacturing	April 21-23	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Innovations in Species Conservation: Integrative Approaches to Address Rarity and Risk	April 28-30	OSU	Portland, OR
Arbor Day Fair	April 30-May 2	UW	Seattle, WA
Summit 2003: Private Forests Forum Conference on Sustaining Washington's Private Forests	May 27-28	UW	Lacey, WA
Natural Resources Institute Module 4: Integrated Problem Solving for Natural Resources Professionals	June 2-12	UW	Seattle, WA
Second International Precision Forestry Symposium	June 15-18	UW	Seattle, WA
4th North American Forest Ecology Workshop	June 16-20	OSU	Corvallis, OR

## OTHER EVENTS

**Cable Logging**, Feb. 17-20, Days Inn and Suites, Albany, OR, and Mar. 24-27, Accent Inn, Kamloops, B.C. Contact: FE.

**Oregon Logging Conference**, Feb. 19-22, Lane County Convention Center and Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR. Contact: Oregon Logging Conference at 1-800-595-9191 or oregonlogging1@aol.com or www.oregonloggingconf.com.

**Cost Control**, Feb. 24, Silver Lake Motel, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FE.

**Harvest Planning**, Feb. 25, Silver Lake Motel, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FE.

**Skyline Payloads**, Feb. 26, Silver Lake Motel, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FE.

**Seed, The Genetic Link to Future Forests**, the 30th Annual Meeting of the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, Feb. 26, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Laura Leites at 208-885-7016 or lleites@uidaho.edu.

**Multi-Span Systems**, Feb. 27, Silver Lake Motel, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FE.

**Forestry Contracts, Easements and Rights-of-Way**, Feb. 27-28, Spokane, WA. Contact: WFCA.

**Guying & Anchoring**, Feb. 28, Silver Lake Motel, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FE.

**SuperACE98/FLIPS98**, Mar. 5, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

**Professional Timber Cruising**, Mar. 11-12, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

**Natural Resource Law for Foresters**, Mar. 13-14, Vancouver, WA. Contact: WFCA.

**Joint Inland Empire/Montana SAF annual meeting**, Mar. 14-15, Missoula, MT. Contact: Dave Stack at dmstack@aol.com or 406 543-4138.

**Basic Road Design**, Mar. 18-21, Accent Inn, Kamloops, B.C. Contact: FE.

**The Restoration Toolbox**, regional conference, Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter, March 24-28, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. Contact: www.sernw.org.

**Washington Farm Forestry Association annual meeting**, Apr. 3-5, Bellingham, WA. Contact: Tom Westergreen at 360-966-3061 or twestergreen@compuserve.com.

**GPS for Mobile Professionals**, Apr. 9, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

**Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting**, Apr. 23-26, Newport, OR. Contact: Joe Steenkolk at 541-875-1541 or Kari Murk at 541-444-7336.

**Oregon Society of American Foresters**, May 7-9, Salem, OR. Contact: Dennis Creel at 503-364-8400 or denniscreel@hamptonaffiliates.com.

**Washington State Society of American Foresters**, May 15-17, Kelso, WA. Contact: Ellie Lathrop at 360-414-3441 or ellie-s.lathrop@weyerhaeuser.com.

**SuperACE98/FLIPS98 User Meeting**, May 21, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

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# Council Has Busy December

BY DAVE ADAMS

**T**his Council update is my last official duty as a member of the SAF Council. It has been an honor to represent Voting District I for these past three years.



Being on Council has provided real insight into just how important and effective SAF is as the body that represents the forestry profession. If not the SAF, who would be speaking for us?

New District I Council member Ann Forest Burns attended the December meeting and immediately became actively involved. She will represent us well over the next three years.

The final Council meeting of 2002 was held at Wild Acres in Bethesda on December 7 and 8. The meeting began with ratification of the following Interim Council Actions (some are revisions or updates of previously adopted statements):

- Clearcutting position statement;

- Public Regulation of Private Forest Practices position statement;

- Hazardous fuels reduction on National Forestlands—letter to Senator Byrd, chairman, Committee on Appropriations;

- Community Forestry and Agriculture Conservation Act—letter to Representative McCrery, chairman, Committee on Ways and Means;

- Conservation tax incentives—letter to Representative McCrery, chairman, Committee on Ways and Means;

- HR 5319, Healthy Forests and Wildfire Risk Reduction Act of 2002—letter to Representative James Hansen;

- HR 4865, National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2002—letter opposing the act;

- Forest Research Advisory Council's recommendation for the creation of a Blue Ribbon Panel—letter to Secretary of Agriculture Veneman;

- Urban Forestry position statement;
- National Fire Plan—joint letter supporting full funding to Senator Byrd and Senator Stevens; and

- Emergency funding for Fiscal Year 2002 wildfire debts—letter to Senator Byrd.

Executive Vice President Bill Banzhaf presented an excellent update of 2002 Strategic Outcomes and national office issues.

Other discussion at the Council meeting included the following.

**Core Values of the SAF.** As a result of suggestions to make the core values shorter and more concise, Council adopted the following version:

1. Forests are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare.

2. Forests must be sustained while simultaneously meeting environmental, economic and community aspirations and needs.

3. Foresters are dedicated to sound forest management and conservation.

4. Foresters serve landowners and society by providing sound knowledge and professional management skills.

**Membership Categories.** An ad hoc committee presented its report on a review of membership categories. Consensus was to retain the current categories.

**Volunteer Organizational Structure.** Council adopted a charter for a task force to prepare an assessment of how various units of the society work together and how to improve SAF's effectiveness.

**Cultural Diversity.** Tina Terrell, chair of the National Committee on Cultural Diversity, reported on planned efforts for 2003. The primary objective is to ensure that diversity is an important focal point in the Society.

**Old Growth Designation.** The topic of old growth continues to draw attention and Council feels that SAF should be proactively involved in providing information on what old growth is and the role of forestry in dealing with old growth. As a start, a white paper on old growth will be developed to help frame the discussion. This synthesis document should also provide an excellent education opportunity. The white paper, titled *Old Trees, Old Stands, Old Forests—A New Understanding*, along with articles in the *Forestry Source*, will build to a *Journal of Forestry* issue dedicated to this topic.

**House of Society Delegates Recommendations.** HSD held its annual meeting in Winston-Salem in October and passed nine recommendations to be forwarded to Council. Here are a few of the recommendations.

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• The 2003 HSD budget will be set at \$7,000 plus CPI index to compensate for inflation.

• Review the issue of federal employees being prohibited from serving in an official capacity as an officer or member of any board of any non-federal organization absent a specific waiver.

• Recommend that SAF embark on a back to basics forestry campaign.

• Develop a position statement on fuels treatment.

• Consider alternative criteria for qualifying to take the CF examination for individuals who did not earn a professional degree from an SAF-accredited curriculum.

#### **Certification Review Board.**

Council approved additional alternate routes of eligibility for the CF examination for 2003.

#### **Task Force on Forest Practices**

**Regulation.** Council approved a charter for a task force to evaluate the types, prevalence and effectiveness of various existing forest practices regulations and regulatory systems.

**Committee on Forest Policy.** Lisa Stocker, chair of the CFP, presented a draft position statement on wildfire management (revision of an earlier statement) and work plan for other committee projects. Issues for 2003 include forest conversion, Forest Practices Acts Task Force, grassroots policy "fly in" Washington day, global warming, Healthy Forests Initiative and related legislation and appropriations.

**2003 Budget.** Council approved the 2003 budget, the five-year planning budget and capital budget as presented by the Council Budget Subcommittee and Charles Jackson, SAF chief financial officer.

As should be evident by this summary, Council had another busy week-end meeting. If you have questions about any of the above items please contact Darrel Kenops, Ann Forest Burns or me. ♦

*Dave Adams represented Voting District I as Council representative from 1999-2002. He can be reached at 208-882-1539 or dadams@uidaho.edu. Ann Forest Burns can be reached at 206-527-5942 or aforestburns@msn.com. Darrel Kenops can be reached at 541-741-3466 or dkenops@attbi.com.*

## Foresters To Gather in the Capitol City

BY REX STORM

**H**ighlight May 7, 8 and 9 on your calendar for the 2003 Oregon SAF Annual Meeting, set in the Capitol City of Salem. This year's meeting sponsor, the Capitol Chapter, invites foresters statewide to attend an engaging program with the theme *Fire, Water, Politics and Foresters: Oregon Society of American Foresters*. Capitol Chapter foresters are planning a program that will connect SAF members to current forest policy and emerging issues.

Kicking off Wednesday will be a legislative reception held inside the state capitol galleria. Foresters will greet state legislators during noontime and proudly demonstrate our professionalism with displays. The afternoon OSAF Executive meeting will be followed by an evening icebreaker at the host site, the Salem Red Lion Hotel.

On slate for Thursday is an exciting program packed with contemporary topics! Oregon's new Governor Ted Kulongoski will be invited to keynote and State Forester Jim Brown is on board to intrigue you. The general session will address watersheds, fish recovery and public opinion. Breakout sessions will give delegates three options to choose from: Thinking Outside the Box; Forest Protection and Restoration; and Fire on the Mountain. An evening awards banquet ceremony and a program featuring new paradigms for the profession will cap the day.

Friday's field tour will show off Northwest Oregon's newest forestry accomplishments. SAF will be hosted by Bentz's Blue Den Ranch, the recently crowned 2002 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. This model 700-acre tree farm boasts an interesting resource mix including a fish hatchery, rehabilitated forests, fishing club, public outreach and forestry museum. An integrated forest management site will also be visited. The final tour stop concludes the annual meeting at the spectacular Oregon Garden, home of the Rediscovery Forest, Frank Lloyd Wright House and lush arboretum.

Look for more details in the next issue of the *Western Forester* and the spring mailing of registration informa-

tion. The program will include vendors and a poster session. Interested exhibitors should contact Kurt Spingath at kspingath@wecon.com or 503-362-5944. For more information, contact meeting chair Dennis Creel at denniscreel@hamptonaffiliates.com or 503-365-8400. See you in Salem! ♦



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIC BALFOUR

**A field tour during the OSAF annual meeting will be the Oregon Garden.**

*Rex Storm is program chair for the OSAF Annual Meeting. He can be reached at 800-452-6023 or rexstorm@oregonloggers.org.*

## Professional Timber Cruising Seminar



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**March 11-12, 2003**

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## Policy Scoreboard

*Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.*

### **OSAF Executive Committee Adopts Revised Position on Landslides.**

At its December 6 meeting the OSAF Executive Committee approved a revised position statement on "Forestry and Landslides." The original position was written in 1997 and, under SAF guidelines, such statements must expire within five years or be formally re-endorsed. The revised position updates the text and citations to include recent policy changes and research on this issue. It also refines the core position and background discussion, including stronger and more specific points about landslides as a natural process, the local scale of slide hazards and

improved forest practices. It can be seen at [www.forestry.org/policy/landslides.html](http://www.forestry.org/policy/landslides.html). Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@orst.edu](mailto:paul.adams@orst.edu).

### **Other OSAF Position Statements To Be Reviewed.**

Seven OSAF position statements are scheduled to expire in December 2003. The OSAF Policy Committee has prioritized these positions for review and will work with the Executive Committee and others over the coming months to see their timely resolution. All OSAF voting members will have a chance to endorse all revised statements in a referendum to be held in late 2003 or early 2004. Although not required under SAF guidelines, OSAF takes this step to strengthen the credibility and member understanding and ownership of the positions. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@orst.edu](mailto:paul.adams@orst.edu).

### **OSAF Drafting Position on Salvage Harvest.**

The 2002 fire season provided a reminder of the issue of salvage harvest, which on Oregon's federal lands is now routinely opposed and delayed by certain groups using administrative appeals and the courts. Most professional foresters are concerned when management practices are opposed without exception, because an

array of options offers the most effective tools for diverse management objectives and site conditions. Successful salvage harvest also requires prompt action, and those who delay such action can fully prevent harvest even when their concerns have little or no scientific merit. The Central Oregon SAF Chapter and the Policy Committee are drafting a position statement to address these and other issues related to salvage harvest. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@orst.edu](mailto:paul.adams@orst.edu).

**Forestry and Salmon.** The SAF regional position statement on Forestry's Role in the Protection of Pacific Salmon Habitat in Forested Watersheds ([www.safnet.org/policy/nwsal.html](http://www.safnet.org/policy/nwsal.html)) is scheduled to expire in September 2003. Renewal or revision will depend on the involvement of SAF units in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It is not too early to get started! It took 18 months to develop this position statement! This item should be placed on agendas for executive councils of these SAF units, with the outcome an expression of interest in expiration, renewal or revision, and the identification of a lead person from each unit. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; [jayo@uidaho.edu](mailto:jayo@uidaho.edu).

**Pilot Project Experiments.** The Inland Empire and Intermountain SAF sections have developed a joint position statement supporting pilot project tests of innovations in public land management. "Pilot Projects Can Test Alternative Approaches for Managing Federal Lands" cites as examples stewardship contracting, the Quincy Library Group project in California, two projects in New Mexico, a proposal by the administration for "charter forests" and a bill for the Clearwater Basin Project Act introduced in the waning days of the 107th Congress by Idaho Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter. Pilot projects will likely be debated as the 108th Congress struggles with fire, fuel and funding. The position provides principles and particulars pilot project designers need to consider. See [www.iesaf.org](http://www.iesaf.org) and click on policy. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; [jayo@uidaho.edu](mailto:jayo@uidaho.edu).

**Fire Management.** SAF Council approved a new SAF position statement on "Wildfire Management" in December 2002. It advocates active and comprehensive vegetation management to reduce the risk of unacceptable wildfire losses, and fully supports the four goals of the National Fire Plan. Position statements are available at [www.safnet.org/policy/statements.htm#national](http://www.safnet.org/policy/statements.htm#national). Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, SAF Committee on Forest Policy member, 208-885-5776; [jayo@uidaho.edu](mailto:jayo@uidaho.edu). ♦



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# Active Management Focus of Meeting

BY DAVE STACK

**S**AF members from the Inland Empire and Montana state societies and the public will gather in Missoula, Mont. on March 14-15 at the Holiday Inn Parkside to discuss issues related with active management of federal lands. The meeting theme addresses the most important regional forest management issue facing society today: *Active Management for Sustainable Forest Ecosystems in the Northern Rockies*.

Registrants will identify two active management problems by answering the following question: "You know forests are in trouble when..." At the conclusion of the conference, participants will be asked to identify and prioritize follow-up actions for Montana SAF.

Mark Rey, under secretary for Natural Resources & Environment, USDA (invited), will discuss the President's *Healthy Forests Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities*. A key element of the strategy is reform of the regulatory processes to ensure more timely decisions with greater efficiency.

Alan McQuillan, University of Montana, will sketch an overview of the history of forest use in the Northern Rockies, and Jack Ward Thomas, University of Montana and Forest Service chief emeritus, will trace the path from active management of the 1980s to gridlock in the 1990s.

Jennifer Ferenstein, Sierra Club president, will present *The Case Against Commercial Harvesting on Public Lands*. The Sierra Club is actively lobbying for the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (HR 1494). The bill would prohibit commercial harvest on National Forest and BLM lands. We have asked the Sierra Club to discuss the long-term implications of their proposal.

Jay O'Laughlin, University of Idaho, will present *The Case for Active Management on Public Lands* and will discuss the recent SAF Position Statement on Timber Harvesting on Federal Lands.

Ed Marston, senior journalist of the *High Country News* of Paonia, Colorado, will discuss reforming and revitalizing natural resource extraction

at the evening banquet.

Speakers with expertise in biology, economics, law, forest management and social sciences will address implications of active management and suggest solutions. A poster session is planned.

The complete agenda and registra-

tion information is available on the Inland Empire and Montana SAF websites ([www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/saf/default.htm](http://www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/saf/default.htm) or [www.iesaf.org/](http://www.iesaf.org/)). ♦

*Dave Stack is general chair of the joint Inland Empire/Montana annual meeting. He can be reached at 406-543-4138 or [dmstack@aol.com](mailto:dmstack@aol.com).*

## WSSAF to Discuss Wood Markets

BY BOB OBEDZINSKI

**T**he Northwest plays an important role in providing wood products to the United States and the world. Current predictions continue to show an increase demand for wood. But what kinds of wood will be needed and for what types of products? This question is the basis for the 2003

Washington State Society of American Foresters annual meeting.

The meeting will be at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso on May 14-17. The program, *Wood Markets: Are We Growing the Right Kind of Wood?* promises to be both informative and

exciting to those interested in the future of the forest products industry in the Pacific Northwest.

We will kick off the meeting Wednesday evening, May 14, with an informal tour of the Aldercrest landslide guided by a geologist and the local city planner, then gather for an icebreaker. On Thursday, May 15, our program will feature speakers from around the Northwest providing information on current conditions of Westside forests, what types of products are currently produced, wood product trends and silviculture treatment techniques to improve wood quality.

On Friday May 16, our annual Society business meeting will be fol-

lowed by a choice of field trips. These tours will focus on local manufacturing facilities and will provide an up close and personal look at the processing of logs into products. One trip will focus on hardwoods with a visit to a red alder plantation and a hardwood sawmill. Another will visit a large sort yard and chipping facility and newsprint paper mill. This day will



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIE LATHROP

**The convergence of good road, rail and river transportation between the coastal and cascade forest regions makes the Longview/Kelso area a major center for manufacturing and exporting a wide range of forest products. The Weyerhaeuser mill complex with sort yard and export dock are on the left; the Port of Longview is just to the right of the Lewis and Clark bridge; and the Longview Fibre mill is on the far right.**


also provide an opportunity to talk with fellow foresters, forest landowners and wood manufacturers about what they see as the future for wood products in the Northwest. The meeting concludes on Saturday, May 17, with a WSSAF Executive Committee meeting.

For more information on the program, contact Ellie Lathrop, Annual Meeting chair, at 360-414-3441 or [ellie.s.lathrop@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:ellie.s.lathrop@weyerhaeuser.com). Registration will be available on-line at WSSAF's website, [www.waforestry.org](http://www.waforestry.org). ♦

*Bob Obedzinski is the publicity coordinator for the WSSAF annual meeting. He can be reached at 360-891-5124 or [silviculturist@aol.com](mailto:silviculturist@aol.com).*




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