

Emerald Forester Gazette



The Emerald Chapter of OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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Editor: Jeff Grogan

Visit The Emerald Chapter Website Here: <http://www.forestry.org/oregon/chapter/5/>

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

February 2016 Meeting

Date: Tuesday February 16, 2015
Location: The Steelhead Brewery
199 E. 5th Ave, Eugene, OR
Time: 5:00 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM Social Hour/Dinner
7:00 PM Program
Speaker: AJ Kroll, Weyerhaeuser
Topic: Young Stand Management in the Pacific Northwest

[February Meeting Evite Meeting Link](#)

March 2016 Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 15, 2016
Location: The Steelhead
199 E. 5th Ave, Eugene, OR
Time: 5:00 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Program
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

April 2016 Meeting

Date: Tuesday April 19, 2016
Location: The Steelhead
199 E. 5th Ave, Eugene, OR
Time: 5:00 PM Exec. Meeting
6:00 PM SOCIAL, 7:00 PM Program
Speaker: George Ice
Topic: Riparian Areas

From the Chair: Noelle Arena

January's meeting was a huge success! We had nearly 40 members attend for Doug Decker's talk. He presented some very important topics, and I was happy to see some great discussion. Special thanks to Bob Alverts and Ed Shepard for taking the time to talk with us and recognize Dave Cramsey for District 2 Field Forester. I am looking forward to this month's presentation from AJ Knoll on Young Stand Management. I hope to see everyone there next Tuesday!

February Speaker: AJ Kroll

AJ Kroll is a Wildlife Research Biologist for Weyerhaeuser and an Oregon State University (OSU) Faculty Member in the College of Forestry.

Additional background information on AJ can be found on his [OSU Bio Page](#)



Photo Credit: Oregon State University

January Meeting Award Presentation

Our own Chapter Member Dave Cramsey was awarded the 2015 District 2 Field Foreseer of the Year award. Congratulations, Dave!



Notes from January's Speaker, courtesy of Steve & Wylda Cafferata

On January 19th, 2016, State Forester Doug Decker addressed about 40 Emerald Chapter members and guests, commenting on fire; rule-making; the Elliot State Forest; the Linn County class-action lawsuit, and the Federal Forest Health Program.

Fire: Doug described the 2015 fire season as the third very tough fire season in a row. He expressed his appreciation to all involved in the fire season under Oregon's complete and coordinated system, including land owners, federal partners, ODF employees and retirees. One and a half million acres burned in Washington and Oregon in 2015. There were 3400 fires and \$463 million in suppression costs. Damage costs added far more. Many hard choices had to be made. Extra protection costs of \$76 million were used on ODF-protected lands. Due to FEMA funding (on fires where many homes were involved) and shared funding (on joint fires with Federal partners), fire costs were reduced so that the \$50 million deductible insurance policy remained untapped. In preparation for the 2016 fire season, ODF will be negotiating to renew the insurance policy with Lloyds of London, with which ODF has a 41 year history. Longer term, a fire program review is underway to answer these questions: what would a sustainable fire program look like in terms of personnel and resources; and how is such a program to be funded. This fire program review is similar to the committee that worked to develop the Wildfire Protection Act of 2011 that is still being implemented. Doug explained how difficult it is to field three incident management teams while concurrently attempting to carry out other forest management activities. He reiterated that hope is not a sustainable strategy.

Rule-Making Process: The riparian rule-making process for cold-water protection now includes a time-line; from March through June a special Rule Committee, composed of the Regional Forest Practice Committees and the Rule Advisory Committee will be working on draft language. In the fall of 2016, the Board of Forestry will conduct formal rule-making, followed by public hearings and comments. In January of 2017, the Board of Forestry will review the rules. In the spring of 2017 the Board of Forestry will take action to approve the final rules, which will be finalized in August, 2017 by the Secretary of State and go into effect in September, 2017. Doug described the process as "deliberate and transparent." Bob Alverts expressed disappointment that there was a lack of attention paid to the SAF's contribution to the discussion, particularly since science is a factor in the decision-making. Doug replied that the Chair of the Board of Forestry said, "Science is not going to decide this for us," but assured the group that the Board of Forestry is aware of the need to keep forestry as a business and that landowners must have a bottom line.

The Elliot: Doug reminded the group that ODF manages the Elliot under contract to the State Land Board; the Board is in the process of divesting itself of the Elliot because they have determined that it is not in the State's best interest to retain it. The transfer-of-ownership process includes a protocol similar to an RFP, and an appraisal

is in process as well. The RFP requires the proposal to include public access, economics, and conservation. ODF is not in a decision-making position but is interested in acquiring it-the Elliot is our oldest State Forest-but at 300-400 million dollars, and the necessity of paying cash, it seems an unlikely hope. Furthermore, ODF is committed to managing land for the greatest permanent value and so could not do this and raise this much cash. The SLB intends to sell the Elliot within the next eighteen months, but no facilitation is in place to create working partnerships. Doug encouraged members with questions to take them to the State Land Board. Sale of the Elliot will be tough on ODF employees and will cause a two to three million dollar hole in the ODF budget.

Linn County Class-Action Lawsuit: ODF is charged with managing the 640,000 acres of State Lands for their greatest permanent value. The pertinent question is defining that value. In 1998 the Board of Forestry adopted a rule change defining “greatest permanent value” as social and environmental value as well as economic. Doug noted that while the counties are suing because they don’t think the land is managed to provide them the income they were promised, the Center for Biological Diversity has filed a 60-day notice to sue as well because they believe the land is not being managed for enough environmental value. Doug believes that ODF is being charged to generate non-commercial value using a business model of management, an unsustainable situation.

Federal Health Program: Doug is proud of this unique program that allocates seven million Lottery dollars to fund thirty seasonal state employees to work in collaboration with the Forest Service to manage forest projects on federal land. This has mostly been on the east side but is moving west. With 60% of Oregon’s forests under Federal ownership, Doug believes it is imperative to move the needle on forest health by working on these lands. Doug concluded by reiterating his pride in ODF for weathering through the 2015 fire season, and for all employees paddling as fast as they can.

2016 OSAF Annual Meeting in Coos Bay – Open for Registration!

The southwest corner of Oregon is a very unique area, home to Oregon myrtlewood and featuring a working port with log export yards and chip export terminals. Our forests are threatened by insects, fire, and sudden oak death syndrome. Come explore Oregon’s Bay Area and have a good time. Join the Coos and Siskiyou Chapters at the 2016 Oregon Society of American Foresters’ (OSAF) annual meeting on April 27-29 at the Mill Casino Hotel and RV Park in Coos Bay.

More Information and registration details located on the OSAF Web Site: <http://www.forestry.org/oregon/2016AnnualMeeting/>



Upcoming Events:

- Oregon Logging Conference, Feb 25-27, Lane County Convention Center & Fairgrounds
<http://oregonloggingconference.com/>
- OSAF NW Events Calendar
<http://www.forestry.org/calendar/#feb2016>
- Forest Field Days at various dates and locations:
<http://foreststodayandforever.org/volunteers/volunteer-opportunities-sign-up/>



This month's featured Forestry WebSite:

OSAF Northwest Office's Policy Updates Page: <http://www.forestry.org/northwest/policyhottopics/>
Keep up to date with the hot policy topics from your Northwest Office.

Your 2016 Emerald Chapter Officers

Chair: Noelle Arena
Chair Elect: **Open (but accepting nominations)**
Treasurer: Norm Michaels
Secretary/Newsletter: Jeff Grogan
Membership Chair: Meghan Tuttle
Program Chair: Bonny Hammons

Newsletter Questions/Comments/Suggestions can be sent via email to: emeraldsaf@gmail.com