



Spotlight on Oregon SAF Activities on Policy Issues in 2008

A group of blue silhouettes of people, representing a committee or group of individuals. There are approximately 12 silhouettes of various shapes and sizes, some facing forward and others in profile, arranged in a cluster.

**Paul Adams, Chair
OSAF Policy & Legislation Committee**

OSAF Policy Activity Update

- ✓ *Position statements*
- ✓ *Policy input*
- ✓ *Leadership tours*
- ✓ *National activities*



**We've been
busy!**

Policy Issues = Public Issues

The Register-Guard

The Oregonian

Mail Tribune

KEZI 9
abc NEWS

FOX 12
OREGON

OPB

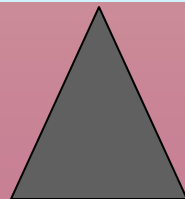
Awareness
Knowledge
Perceptions

of both policy/decision makers & the broader public

*Q. How many Oregonians
were aware that 2000+
forestry professionals
had met in Portland
in October 2007?*



What is seen, read, heard, experienced & trusted



OSAF Position Statements

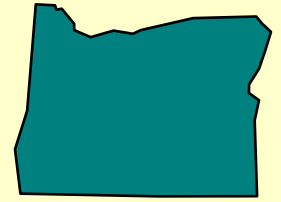


Why?

- ✓ **A way to articulate our views on key issues**
- ✓ **Fosters member dialogue & unity**
- ✓ **National or regional position:**
 - *is not available on specific issue*
 - *does not fit circumstances or emphasis*
 - *does not fit Oregon SAF format*
- ✓ **State & local voice/ownership in position**
- ✓ **Provides a communications & education tool**

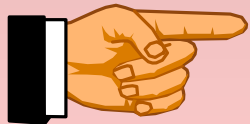


Active Positions - OSAF



	<u>Expires</u>
• Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon	Feb 2012
• Managing Mature & Old-Growth Forests	Oct 2010
• Riparian Forest Management & Fish	Apr 2010
• Salvage harvesting	May 2013
• Using Pesticides on Forest Lands	May 2013
• Clearcutting	Aug 2013
• Active management to achieve & maintain healthy forests	Oct 2013
• Landslides on Forest Land	Jan 2014

**5 Updated
in 2008!**



***Developing & revising such positions have been
core policy activities for OSAF for past 10+ years.***

Salvage Harvesting *Updated in 2008!*

A Position of the Oregon Society of American Foresters

The Oregon SAF supports the well planned, timely, & careful use of salvage harvesting after uncontrollable events have killed or damaged large numbers of trees in a forest.

Salvage harvesting can mitigate economic losses due to the event, recover useful wood products, reduce fire & safety hazards & create the desired environmental conditions for successful reforestation. Application of scientific principles by professional foresters & other resource experts can ensure that economically viable salvage harvesting will be conducted with proper consideration of environmental & social concerns.

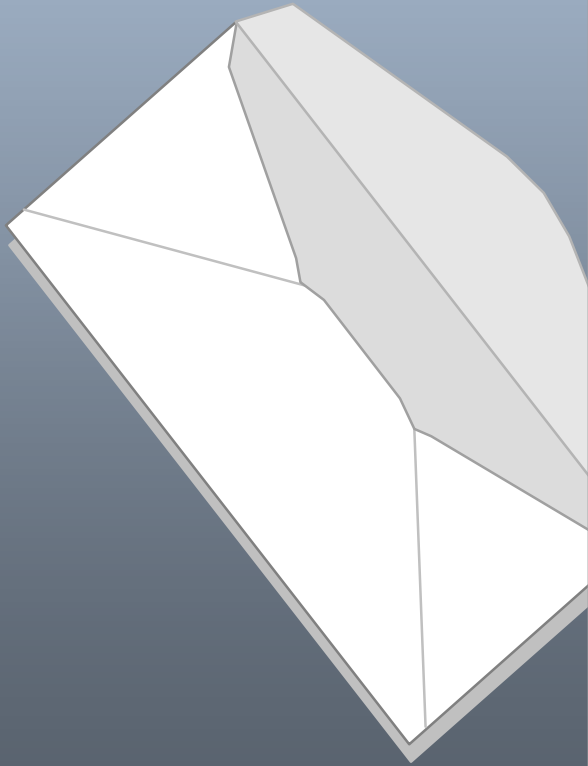


Adopted May 6, 2008 by OSAF Executive Committee



Sharing key facts & views on important policy issues

Letters to Policy and Decision Makers



Oregon Society of American Foresters

- OSAF letter to BLM on WOPR DEIS
- OSAF letter to Sen. Wyden on fed. forest policy
- SAF letter to Rep. DeFazio on his fed. forest bill proposal
- OSAF-SAF letter to Sen. Wyden on his fed. forest bill proposal
- OSAF letter to Governor's "Task Force on Fed. Forest Payments"
- OSAF letter to USDA on Invasive Species regs.
- OSAF letter to Gov. Kulongoski on WOPR EIS

Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon

A Position of the Oregon Society of American Foresters

The Oregon SAF supports commercial timber harvest as an appropriate objective & primary tool for healthy, sustainable forests on public lands in Oregon. Most of these lands are affected by laws that allow or mandate sustainable commercial harvest with resource management planning. Where fish & wildlife habitat, water quality, or recreation is a priority, commercial harvest can be compatible & even promote these values when carefully planned & supervised by professional foresters & other resource specialists. Commercial timber harvest provides important economic & social benefits that help sustain local communities, especially in rural areas. These benefits often extend more broadly than government payments in lieu of shared harvest revenues. Management & use of renewable, recyclable, biodegradable, & energy conserving forest products from public lands are imperative given increasing human needs & environmental sustainability concerns. The expanding scope & cost of addressing Oregon's forest health, wildfire & safety hazards add further urgency to the need for active management & restoration of public lands, including commercial harvest.



Adopted February 1, 2007 by OSAF Executive Committee



Linn County Leaders Forestry Tour



August 26, 2008

Dear _____:

Please join your fellow business and civic leaders on Wed., Sept. 24 for the Linn County Leadership Forestry Tour. This free, all-day educational tour begins at 7:30 AM and adjourns at 4:30 PM.

The purpose of the tour is to inform Linn County leaders about present day forest management practices, engage them in discussing the important role forestry plays in the economic, environmental, and social well being of Linn County...and to learn from each other!

This tour is being convened by the **Marys Peak Chapter of the Society of American Foresters**, the Linn County Board of Commissioners, Cascade Timber Consulting, and the OSU Extension Service.



Wood Consumption in Linn County – An Example

- Building permits, new single homes, 1998-2007:

5880

- Median size, single homes in West, past 10 yrs:

2100 square feet

- Approx. wood use in 2100 square-foot home:

12,500 board-feet

- Est. Linn County wood use, new homes, 10 yrs:

73.5 million board-feet

Local leaders get view of forests on tour

By Scott Swanson, The (Sweet Home, OR) New Era, Oct. 1, 2008

The mood was cautiously optimistic last Thursday as some 45 local community and business leaders and forestry experts spent the day touring seven Sweet Home-area sites to talk about the state of the logging industry in Oregon.

"In Northwest Oregon we have some of the most productive forests in the world," Rick Fletcher, a forester with the Oregon State University Extension Service told the participants.

Fletcher and other speakers throughout the day addressed a wide range of topics including data on the ownership, timber harvest, employment and unique features of Linn County's forests; the future of the forests; challenges faced by families who own forestland; forestry laws and practices; timber harvesting; forests and recreation; forest fire protection; old growth forests; managing forests near water; and the future of the Oregon wood products industry.

Fletcher said the idea for the tour came from a similar event held last year in Toledo, then repeated in Benton County.

Bill Marshall of Cascade Timber Consulting demonstrates grafting technique on a young Douglas fir.
Photo by Scott Swanson



A similar news story also appeared in the Albany Democrat-Herald

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S PROPOSED WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISIONS.

Minutes of the April 21, 2008, Corvallis City Council meeting, con

A resolution submitted by Councilor Patricia Daniels

WHEREAS, the 2.5 million acres of federal forests administered main (BLM) in Western Oregon are currently managed under the 1994 N

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the federal forests in Western Oregon should be managed for the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest time; and

WHEREAS, these forests provide recreational opportunities, generate employment in the wood products industry, yield significant ecotourism potential, safeguard drinking water sources for Corvallis and other communities, provide plant diversity, offer habitat for a myriad of species, provide carbon storage for a livable climate, and allow for a quality of life that attracts new business and skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, for decades before the Northwest Forest Plan, the BLM had clear-cut older forests and built extensive logging road systems in these public lands of Western Oregon, degrading recreational opportunities, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, Benton County revenue has been decoupled from timber sale receipts, and instead the United States Congress has appropriated payments; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to protect remaining older forests, thereby enhancing water quality, restoring habitat, storing carbon, and generating new economic opportunities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORVALLIS RESOLVES that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to request that the BLM reject the action alternatives proposed in the WOPR and work within the current Northwest Forest Plan to protect mature (80 to 180 years of age) and old-growth forests (more than 180 years of age) on federal lands in Western Oregon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to draft a letter urging the United States Congress to pass legislation that (a) provides stable Benton County payments based on ecosystem services such as clean water and air, recreational opportunities, carbon storage, and habitat conservation; (b) protects mature and old-growth forests on federal lands in Oregon, including BLM lands; and (c) advances restoration-driven forestry projects on degraded landscapes in Oregon.


Councilor

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing resolution was adopted, and the Mayor thereupon declared said resolution to be adopted.

City resolutions rejecting all WOPR alternatives

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S PROPOSED WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

of federal forests administered mainly by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Western Oregon are currently managed under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. These forests provide recreational opportunities, generate employment in the wood products industry, yield significant ecotourism potential, safeguard drinking water sources for Eugene and other communities, offer habitat for a myriad of species, provide carbon storage for a livable climate, and allow for a quality of life that attracts new businesses and skilled workers.

B. The City Council believes that the federal forests in western Oregon should be managed for the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest time.

C. For decades before the Northwest Forest Plan, the BLM had clear-cut older forests and built extensive logging road systems in these public lands of western Oregon, degrading recreational opportunities, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

D. For more than a decade, county revenue has been decoupled from timber sale receipts and instead Congress has appropriated payments.

E. It is in the public interest to protect remaining older forests and restore degraded lands to enhance water quality, restore habitat, store carbon, and generate new economic opportunities.

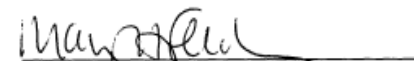
Section 1. The City Council requests that the BLM reject the action alternatives proposed in the WOPR and work within the Northwest Forest Plan to protect mature and old-growth forests on federal lands in western Oregon. As used in this resolution "old growth forests" are defined as forest stands at least 180 years old. "Mature forests are those stands between 80-180 years of age (as per the Northwest Forest Plan).

Section 2. The Council urges Congress to pass legislation that:

- Provides stable county payments based on ecosystem services such as clean water and air, recreational opportunities, carbon storage, and habitat conservation;
- Protects mature and old-growth forests on federal lands in Oregon, including BLM lands; and
- Advances restoration-driven forestry projects on degraded landscapes in Oregon.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

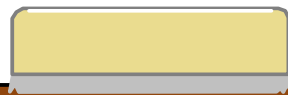
The foregoing Resolution adopted the 11th day of February, 2008.


City Recorder

Input on National Issues:



- ✓ Direct links to Committee on Forest Policy (CFP) & SAF Policy Directors
- ✓ Helped develop position statements
- ✓ Specific input & other help to natl. office on emerging issues/policies





Letter from national SAF to Rep. DeFazio on his federal forest bill proposal

April 2, 2008

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: *Draft Pacific Northwest Forest Legacy Act*

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

On behalf of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and its more than 14,000 professionals, we appreciate your consideration of our comments and remarks on your Pacific Northwest Forest Legacy Act.

We would like to begin by expressing our support for your efforts to address the Northwest Forest Plan. The failure of that plan to meet either species recovery or timber production goals has led to an increasing number of ecological and economic problems, particularly among the Oregon communities surrounded by federal forest. Your leadership in moving Pacific Northwest (PNW) federal forest away from the status quo is appreciated, both among forestry professionals, members and their families that reside in the region. We also commend the effort to actively integrate collaboration among the public forest stakeholders as a means to seemingly endless acrimony and litigation surrounding the public forests of the Northwest.

However, SAF has a number of scientific, policy, and management concerns

Joint letter from OR & national SAF to Sen. Wyden on his federal forest bill proposal

July 31, 2008

The Honorable Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: *Oregon Forest Restoration and Old Growth Protection Act*

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of our more than 14,000 forestry professionals across the United States, with nearly 1000 located in the state of Oregon, we appreciate this opportunity to express our thoughts on your draft legislative concepts addressing federal forest management in Oregon. It is encouraging to see your attention to the myriad problems facing Oregon's federal forests and to the Oregon communities dependent on those forests. We likewise appreciate that you are clearly concerned with the wildfire and forest health issues that have become of increasing importance on our public lands. We do, however, believe that the proposed legislative language would benefit from the expertise and experience of our professional members, particularly those on-the-ground scientists and managers who regularly work in the very forests your bill addresses. For that reason, we respectfully offer the following specific comments:

- Rather than effectively illuminating and clarifying the goals for forest management in the context of the important and diverse legal mandates, this proposal emphasizes a detailed and highly prescriptive set of standards for land managers that are better suited to agency administrative rules or other local guidance. Moreover, the proposed standards may not be operationally feasible, scientifically credible, or suitable in the context of specific forest management settings. Consider these examples:
 - exclusion of trees >120 years old on a tree-by-tree basis requires the agencies to know how old each individual tree is;
 - maintaining 35% of initial basal area in stands (e.g. ponderosa pine) that would have natural openings and a basal area of zero;

Managing Mature and Old-growth Forests

A Position of the Oregon Society of American Foresters

The OSAF recognizes the unique characteristics and values that mature and old-growth forests provide.

Although there are many definitions for old-growth and none are exact, we describe old-growth as forests having: large snags and downed logs; some patchiness (openings, sometimes brushy and caused partly by loss of large, dead and dying trees); one or more canopy layers; and trees of various size and ages, with some relatively large, old trees. Not all forestlands had or will ever achieve this kind of condition. Exact amounts, tree sizes, and ages for development of each of these forest attributes vary depending on forest type, and some are naturally more uniform or younger (e.g., lodgepole pine and aspen forests) due to frequent natural disturbances such as fire and wind. Mature forests, the stage of stand development preceding old-growth forests, contain some attributes of old-growth forests (e.g., some large diameter trees) but lack other key old-growth characteristics. However, not all mature forests will become old-growth because of natural disturbance (e.g., fire).

A common perception is that actively managing old-growth is inappropriate or incompatible with other values, resulting in proposals to set aside mature and old-growth forests and prohibiting any form of management.

However, even where non-timber values are primary, active management of mature and old-growth forests may be necessary to promote and/or sustain ecological values over time. This is especially true of forests in dry fire-prone landscapes. Old-growth management may include everything from preservation to some level of prescribed burning, thinning trees of various sizes (to reduce competition and preserve big trees from the effects of drought and climate change, insects or disease), salvaging, and planting. Such treatments would not be needed every year; in fact, there may be many decades of inactivity between periods when management actions are most effective.

Therefore, a “one-size-fits-all” management approach to every mature or old-growth forest will not address the range of unique and dynamic forest conditions that occur. **Rather, site-specific plans will be much more effective in achieving and maintaining old-growth characteristics. These plans should carefully consider local ecological conditions and objectives, social concerns, and policy constraints of the owners or managers.**



Adopted October 31, 2005 by OSAF Executive Committee



On the near Horizon:

2009 Legislative Issues & Actions

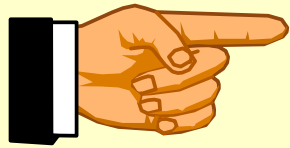
- ✓ **Send OSAF booklet with positions to 90 legislators**
- ✓ **OSAF display, leaders & handouts at Capitol (?)**
- ✓ **Tracking of forestry-related bills**



A Professional View of Forestry Issues in Oregon

Position Statements
of the
Oregon Society of
American Foresters





On the Horizon: **Other Targeted Actions**



- **Forestry in the Wildland-Urban Interface in Oregon**
Important topic being considered for new position statement
- **Contacts & Meetings with Policy & Decision Makers**
Meeting with new USFS Region 6 Director
Contacts with new federal reps., Board of Forestry appointees, etc.
- **Riparian Forest Management & Fish**
Begin review & update of current position that expires April 2010
- **National SAF Policy Director**
Cultivate interaction & mutual support
- **Others?**

Forestry Professionals

A key stakeholder group in forest issues, policies and management planning

An important, ongoing message to policy & decision makers...

The Issue

Public agencies & other decision-making groups often seek stakeholder input as they evaluate forest issues & develop related policies & management plans... However, foresters are rarely called upon to provide a professional forestry perspective independent of their employer or client interests. This independence is important because when they represent these interests, forestry professionals in both the public & private sector may be unable or unwilling to offer their full & candid views about important forest issues.

The result is missed opportunities to tap relevant expertise & experience, as well as a limited voice for a key group that must deal directly with policies & plans often shaped without the unique insights of the professional forestry community.

The Professional Response

Recognizing these missed opportunities & voices, the Oregon SAF stands able & willing to represent the professional forestry perspective when stakeholder input is sought. Oregon SAF has about 1000 members & includes field foresters, researchers, administrators & educators who work for federal, state or local governments; for universities; for small & large landowners; & for small businesses & large corporations. Please contact us at...

Forestry: *An objectives-oriented profession*

The SAF represents much of the forestry profession at the national, state, and local levels. People outside the profession may wonder who belongs to the SAF and what specific perspective(s) they offer, particularly regarding important forest resource issues. The following notes provide some insights about SAF and its members.

*its Code of Ethics
organization and*

**Defining ourselves,
*instead of letting others do it!***

Most professional members of SAF have earned university degrees from SAF accredited forestry programs. In such programs, forestry professionals are trained to be objectives-oriented. This is similar to other professions (e.g., engineering) that use appropriate expertise and experience to address societal needs and related employer-defined, problem-solving tasks.

Thus, forestry professionals view and manage forests for a full range of uses and values – it's the objectives of the owners and related policies for the forest land that drive what SAF members are oriented toward...

Guest commentary by Richard Rogers, The Register-Guard, 15 Jan. 2009

...Since this time the BLM has worked on a new plan that tries to achieve the balance between the timber production required by its founding legislation and environmental protection. The process has been very transparent with public involvement throughout the period. **The state Society of American Foresters offered comments back in January 2008 to the BLM.**

...The Society of American Foresters believes that active management of the forestland is the best way to meet social, economic and environmental goals for the land.

have spoken up publicly about their concerns with the logging profession over the past year!

Richard Rogers is a retired district forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry and past chairman of the Emerald Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

A tip of the SAF hat to
Richard Rogers & all others who
have spoken up publicly for the
profession over the past year!



Oregon Society of American Foresters



For a professional view
www.forestry.org

OSAF web site provides wide access and visibility for position statements, including internal sharing of drafts, etc.

Professional

1a: of, relating to, or characteristic of a **profession** **b:** engaged in one of the learned **professions** **c(1):** characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a **profession**