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Societal Changes Lead to Forest Fragmentation

BY JANEAN CREIGHTON AND KEITH BLATNER

Janean Creighton

Keith Blatner

Private forests in the United States cover 430,000 million acres of land. However, the long-term sustainability of these forests is threatened by development pressures and urban expansion into rural areas, driven in part by a growing population. Between 1982 and 1997, 10 million acres of private forests in the United States were permanently lost—converted away from forest and into development and the trend shows no signs of slowing. According to the 2000 Renewable Resources Planning Act Assessment from the U.S. Forest Service, an estimated 15 to 20 million acres of forestland will be converted to urban and development uses over the next 50 years. The population of the United States is expected to grow by more than 120 million people over this same time frame—the majority of the growth occurring in the western Pacific and the southern U.S.

In addition to the complete loss of forests through land-use conversion, those forests that remain are becoming increasingly threatened with fragmentation. Quantifying fragmentation is difficult, due to the lack of a widely accepted method of measurement. Features such as patch size, amount of edge and interspersion are commonly used to measure the physical aspects of fragmentation, but quantifying the social aspects of fragmentation is more problematic.

In 2004, researchers developed a model for measuring the human causes of forest fragmentation through land-use decisions using multiple linear regressions. The study indicates that population density and percentage of agriculture were positively correlated with fragmentation and could serve as strong predictors. The authors suggest that the variables associated with these land-use decisions are driven by environmental factors, public policies and personal choices, making forest fragmentation a decidedly social issue that is the result of "local decisions that combine to form landscape-scale patterns."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY MASON

A sea of houses or a forest? Land use options are a policy choice, and as regulatory and other burdens compromise private forest returns on investment, rates of conversion to more profitable land uses predictably increase.

In This Issue: Forest Fragmentation

Forest Fragmentation

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Building on the idea of fragmentation as a social issue requiring social solutions, we will discuss issues of forest fragmentation in the western United States, with an emphasis on the rapidly growing Pacific Northwest region.

Defining fragmentation

The phrase forest fragmentation is often used interchangeably with forest parcelization or land-use conversion, but there are some important distinctions between these idioms. Fragmentation is defined with regards to the object that is experiencing the fragmentation. For example, fragmentation of ownership, also called *parcelization*, is the splitting up of a contiguous tract of forest into many different ownerships; fragmentation of vegetation occurs when forest tracts become *isolated pieces* interspersed with new uses and species; and fragmentation of forest use is the complete *conversion* of land away from forest to a decidedly non-forest use, such as agriculture or development.

Another definition of forest fragmentation is "the separation of a unit into smaller and smaller blocks of timberland through management activities that may or may not reflect separate ownerships." Parcelization, then, is the process through which the reduction in ownership size occurs. Each mode of fragmentation has both social and ecological consequences. The ecological consequences manifest themselves in the disruption of ecosystem functions, such as deteriorating water quality, loss of wildlife habitat, increases in populations of invasive species, changes in species composition and declines in native populations. Social consequences result from the urban influence expanding into rural communities.

It has been suggested that one of the driving forces behind forest fragmentation may be linked to the desire for an amenity-rich rural lifestyle and societal support for policies that preserve this lifestyle. Since the late 1980s, western rural counties with high natural amenities have attracted urban migrants. These migrations are often concentrated within a few high-amenity spots, rather then dispersed relatively equally across a geographical area. As these concentrations increase, growth and development opportunities also increase.

This was introduced as a "quality of life" model of economic development, suggesting that in natural resource-based communities, decreases in traditional extractive industries allows entrepreneurial and investment activities to flourish. A high quality of life attracts more "lone eagles" with non-traditional income sources, which in turn provides more investment opportunities. Often the landscape remains the primary source of economic gain, but in a recreational and aesthetic capacity rather then an extractive one.

The influence of industrial forests

In the Pacific Northwest, industrial forest companies are subdividing large blocks of forest into 10-, 20- and 40-acre parcels and selling them off as individual residences. Often these become residential developments with large homes, and have quickly become labeled as "big backyards."

For example, Weyerhaeuser is a commercial timber company in the Pacific Northwest that markets what are called Forest Reserve Communities, which boasts an amenity-rich lifestyle within a safe, gated community. These communities offer hiking trails, lake access and communal recreation areas. Residents are provided with an individualized forest management plan for

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their property. The advertising literature for the Weyerhaeuser Forest Reserves encourages landowners to participate in the "sustainable management of their private forestland" offering the opportunity to "share in the Weyerhaeuser legacy" of traditional tree farming. These kinds of residential developments are attractive to many people in the urban and suburban communities, especially if they are in close proximity to employment centers. Problems that occur in open-access forests closer to urban communities such as trespass, vandalism and illegal dumping, appear virtually non-existent in the Reserve communities.

Whether this parcelization of industrial forests is adding to the overall forest fragmentation problem through increasing ownerships, or is alleviating some of its effects by restricting development is not easily determined. This type of real estate parcelization may illustrate a pecuniary externality, in that these residential developments may drive up the prices of the adjacent properties or increase commercial development in the surrounding areas in order to provide infrastructures to support the new residents. Presumably the individuals that purchase these parcels are not interested in clearcutting their entire 20- or 40-acre plot, but an infrastructure of roads and services is necessary to accommodate residential development. In addition, the forest will still experience a parcelization of ownerships with a variety of forest management objectives.

The mixing of cultures

Research suggests that if trends continue as they have, 95 percent of all private forestland in the United States will be in parcels smaller than 100 acres by the year 2010. People who desire a more rural lifestyle often purchase these smaller parcels, obscuring the distinction between urban and rural landowners. As the boundaries between rural and urban landscapes become blurred, and landscapes become increasingly parceled, there is a growing concern among natural resource professionals that what follows is a decrease in the economic viability of rural communities; a polarization of stakeholders resulting in local communities that are ineffective in addressing impacts of continued sprawl, such as water quality, biodiversity and quality of life; continued conversion of private lands to non-resource based uses; and a limited approach to integrated resource management decision-making. Often, new forest landowners bring with them a decidedly urban perspective on natural resource use and environmental issues, which can trigger social conflict within the rural communities.

The cultural structures of urban communities tend to be very different from those in rural areas, especially with regard to environmental concerns. Research indicates that urban migrants are more likely to support environmental protection and oppose growth and development, as opposed to their rural counterparts. The local community may not have experienced the negative ramifications of urban development and so are less sensitive to development pressures in their own communities.

Quelling growth and development often creates conflict between new folks and the long-time residents. Many have identified this change as a "culture clash" between long-time rural residents and urban newcomers stemming from the differing cultural identities of the two groups. These may reduce social and community well-being, perhaps even leading to the eventual loss of local resource-based economic infrastructures.

A new landowner?

A recent survey of family forest landowners in Washington state indicated that the median ownership size for

respondents with property in rapidly urbanizing forested counties was 35 acres. Forty-eight percent were absentee landowners living a median of 30 miles away from their properties. Twenty-four percent indicated that a second home or cabin was located on their forest property, and 66 percent remarked that the harvest of timber was not significant to their family income.

This group of respondents may be typical of the new landowners appearing in other parts of the United States as fewer and fewer forestland owners are timber-oriented. How does this impact forest fragmentation and overall forest health? Some suggest that regardless of whether the land remains in forest, if it is not actively managed the resource will eventually decline. Landowners may realize only too late that they have a serious problem with their trees. This is understandable if one accepts the possibility that these new landowners are motivated by the amenity values of forestland rather than the potential economic gain. They may be reluctant to harvest trees out of their big backyards.

Expendable income

The laws governing growth management in Washington state allow for residential development in areas where commercial development is restricted. These subdivisions are emerging throughout the rural areas around the state, but the rate of development appears faster in more affluent western Washington. The counties experiencing the highest rate of development are also those with the largest per capita income. Meanwhile, the cities and the adjacent suburbs are providing relatively low-cost housing and easy access to service-oriented jobs and other low-wage employment opportunities. This is almost the reverse of 20 to 30 years ago, where the more affluent resided in the cities and associated suburbs, and the rural communities were often the centers of poverty.

With the change in relative affluence and cultural perspectives of new urban migrants, coupled with increasing rural populations, extractive industries in natural resource-based communities often decreases and may result in a fundamental change in the economic infrastructure of an area. For example, a lumber mill might be replaced with a ski lodge, or saw shops with stores that sell hiking gear. It may be difficult for a landowner with an interest in traditional timber management to have access to a local forest products market, forcing them to do business outside of the community.

The new sources of income and investment opportunities often arise from self-employed migrants who are not bound to a place for income earning and who tend to attract others like themselves into their newly adopted communities. Recent research done in some rural areas in the West has shown that in growing rural communities, economic development follows high investment income, which in turn is followed by high growth of income, thus perpetuating growth and income. In this sense, development makes it easier for more development to occur since self-employment income and investment income are mutually reinforcing.

Conclusion

Forest fragmentation remains an issue of great importance for Washington state, as well as many other parts of the United States. Recent research has identified some of the social consequences of forest fragmentation and how they might influence the larger ecological concerns. One major concern is that the private benefits in retaining family forests are outweighed by the costs associated with ownership, such as increasing property taxes and land-use restrictions. On the face there appears little incentive to grow trees and every incentive to sell off lands for residential development.

Although we cannot say with certainty the specific impacts of fragmentation on social institutions and community structure, we can predict the ecological ramifications. High rates of land conversion result in reduced water quality, fragmented habitats and disrupted ecosystem functions. These will all have some impact on human health, quality of life and societal well-being. Identifying what those impacts might be is the next step in solving the fragmentation puzzle. ◆

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Biodiversity in Multi-Ownership Landscapes

BY THOMAS A. SPIES AND
K. NORMAN JOHNSON

Many landscapes in the West are a patchwork of federal, state, forest industry and nonindustrial private forestlands. Each of these owners has a particular set of goals and practices that shapes the structure, species and dynamics of forest vegetation on their lands. Consequently, the pattern of landownership can have a major effect on the distribution of plants and animals, and their habitats. The pattern of ownership is also important because the organisms that live on those landscapes and the ecological processes that influence their habitat do not stay within ownerships. For example, salmon, owls, fire, landslides and debris flows can move across ownership boundaries.

Concerns over loss of forest biodiversity in recent years have led to changes in forest policies. For example, on federal lands the Northwest Forest Plan shifted management toward protection and restoration of late-successional forests and associated species such as the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. On state lands in Oregon and Washington, policy changes have increased protection for riparian zones and changed forest management to provide for older forest structure, while still producing timber. On private forestlands, state policies have increased protection of riparian zones.

What do these recent changes all mean for biodiversity in the long run? Well, no one really knows for sure given the long time periods over which forests grow, the changes in ownership and management that can occur, and the large and diverse area represented by the mix of ownerships. However, computer models can be used to give some insights about what might happen under particular assumptions.

For example, in the Oregon Coast Range, the amount of old forest is expected to nearly triple as policies on federal and state lands promote the development of this habitat. Conversely, the area of diverse early successional habitat and area of hardwood forests is expected to decline sharply as federal lands emphasize growing of older conifer forests and private forest landowners emphasize growing conifer plantations and reducing hardwood and shrub stages. State of Oregon forests, where management plans currently strike more of a balance between timber, biodiversity and recreation, will produce a mix of early successional forests and older forests. Only the federal lands will provide the largest patches of true old-growth forests (>200 years). Only the private lands will produce large amounts of edge habitat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS SPIES

Mosaic of forest and non-forest land uses in the Coast Range of Oregon resulting from differences in ownership and management objectives.

Each ownership makes a unique contribution to the biodiversity of the region. However, given that forest policies have been developed largely in an ad hoc fashion, we cannot assume that all of the parts of native biodiversity will be provided for. Undesirable cumulative effects may occur. For example, oak woodlands and coho salmon habitat may lie outside the public lands where the strongest emphasis on biodiversity occurs. In addition, diverging management on federal and intensively managed industrial lands may leave some gaps, e.g., diverse early successional and hardwood stages might decline.

It is important that a multi-ownership view of biodiversity is taken because all owners have something important to contribute and because some habitats and species may fall through the cracks as individual owners pursue their own goals and policy makers focus only on parts of the landscape. ◆

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Community Wildfire Prevention Planning: A Tool for Forestry Involvement

BY KRISTI McCLELLAND

Family tree farms are critical to maintaining the forested landscape that defines Washington, the Evergreen State. Over the last decade there has been an increasing change in once-familiar faces on that landscape. As large, commercially managed forests have been subdivided and sold in 20- to 80-acre parcels, forests become increasingly fragmented. These new forest landowners have come from cities and suburbs seeking privacy and a rural lifestyle. Managing these forested homesites has not been the foremost priority for the new property owners. They don't identify themselves as forest managers; they see their land as an extension of their lawns, or in some cases, as potential pasture for horses and other livestock. Agency and consulting foresters used to working with traditional tree farm families struggle to reach and engage these new forest landowners.

While it may seem like a strange connection, concern over wildland interface fires and subsequent interest in community wildfire prevention planning may offer a new tool for inspiring community forestry management. Tolt River Highlands, a community of 20-acre forest landowners in King County, just northeast of Carnation, is leading the way. Their inspiration was a 30-acre wildfire in old logging slash that threatened to blacken their forests and homes in the summer of 2003.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE DUNIHO

This Tolt River Highlands forest stand on the left side is unthinned; the stand to the right has been thinned.

After that fire many of these new forest landowners started casting a wary eye over their dense, overstocked plantation forests. Then two storms decimated many of the community's forest stands, blowing down or breaking out tops of tall small-diameter trees. This increased fuel load heightened residents' already elevated concern of wildfires.

Several Tolt Highlands residents had taken advantage of an eight-week forest stewardship training funded by King County and facilitated by WSU Extension. With that background, they realized that they could not simply allow nature to take its course in an unnatural, planted forest. These new stewards could see the need for thinning, fuel reduction and active forest management in Tolt Highlands to address many of the problems they were facing.

Coincident to the storm damage, Eastside Fire and Rescue and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources held a Firewise Workshop in Carnation. This event was attended by several forest residents and members from adjacent communities. These people realized

that fire did not recognize private property boundaries.

This combination was enough to set the community-focused group into action. The group formed Tolt Triangle Fire Council. They assessed community wildfire risk and established a prioritized list of prescriptions to lower that risk. They have accomplished the first Wildfire Community Prevention Plan approved by the State of Washington west of the Cascades. They see education and involvement of their residents in forest management as one of their most valuable tools. With assistance from stewardship foresters and consulting foresters, their efforts are leading a community of over 100 new forest landowners to become aware and engaged in forest management strategies that will promote forest health. They will have completed between 300-400-plus acres of thinning throughout summer and fall 2005, depending on when the rains end operation for the year. Already there is a waiting list of landowners for the 2006 operating season. The result will be more vigorous and resilient forests less susceptible to wildfire.

Residents have realized that a properly managed forest not only reduces the risk of wildfire, but the harvested forest products can pay for any improvements. Working cooperatively across multiple properties through a consultant, landowners are able to look at the various markets, evaluate commercial versus pre-commercial thinning, and are working together to negotiate better deals from timber harvesters and mills. Some property owners are looking to improve value in the future from increased growth that results when a stand is properly thinned, and possibly from the clear wood resulting from pruning. Others are evaluating the increase in wildlife diversity that may result from a more appropriately managed stand.

Stewardship and consulting foresters working with landowners in these changing forest communities should strive to educate them regarding the many values resulting from community wildfire prevention planning and cooperative management. Planning as a community or cooperative group increases the likelihood of implementation. The end result can be diverse landowners who moved to the forested foothills to escape hectic city life who quickly become a community of savvy forest managers—and all through concern about wildfire.

It has oft been noted that to develop understanding and support for forestry, we must do a better job of educating the public about the relationships among the cities in which they live, the water they drink, the environment beyond their communities and the quality of their lives. Community forest planning offers an excellent way to develop that connection, raise awareness of the value of forest management and stimulate good stewardship. ◆

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Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation

BY JOHN LEHMKUHL

A primary issue in forest wildlife management is habitat fragmentation and its effects on viability, which is the "bottom line" for plant and animal species of conservation concern. Population viability is the likelihood that a population will be able to maintain itself (remain viable) over a long period of time—usually 100 years or more. Though it is true that "habitat is the key to wildlife," as bumper stickers in Washington proclaim, under the population viability framework there are two other key factors that influence viability: the species population structure and life history attributes. More on those topics later.

Habitat fragmentation has two simple components: (1) loss of habitat area; and (2) habitat isolation. The effect of habitat loss is simple: Less habitat means fewer animals that use that habitat. Habitat is temporarily lost either by conversion to some other forest condition (e.g., old forest to clearcut) or by permanent conversion to other uses like real estate development. Clearly, permanent loss of habitat is a more damaging irreversible change compared to losses from forest management practices that retain the possibilities of regeneration or restoration, or that create habitat for different species.

At some threshold of habitat loss, the effects of isolating increasingly smaller habitat patches are added to those of habitat loss. Depending on the species, research has shown this threshold to be 40-50 percent of the landscape with habitat. At this point, the effects of habitat isolation become important as habitat patches, and the wildlife populations in them, become smaller and more isolated. Small isolated populations are more prone to extirpation from demographic, genetic or environmental influences than large well-connected populations. This habitat threshold, however, is not a hard-and-fast rule. The exact threshold for habitat isolation effects depends on the other aspects of population viability: the population characteristics and life history of the particular species.

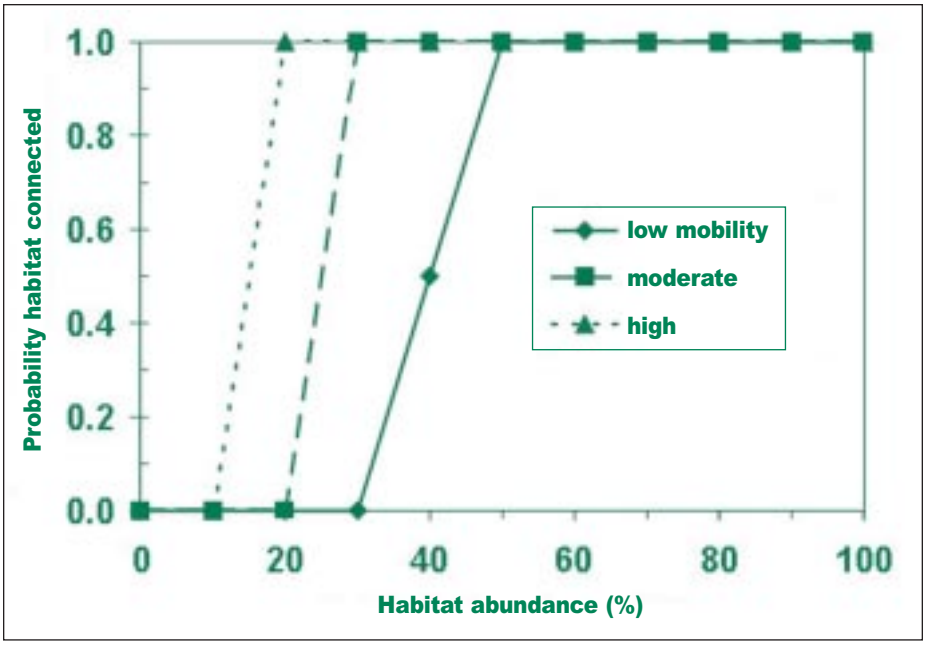
Population characteristics and the life history of the species interact with habitat to determine how well a population persists. Species that usually have few problems are relatively abundant, can live in a variety of habitats and have the ability to move about and find, colonize and reproduce in new habitat patches created by management actions. Examples of these species are deer, most rodents and many migratory birds.

Species that are rare, that do not or cannot move much (e.g., lichens, reptiles, amphibians) or that have very narrow habitat requirements are more negatively affected by fragmentation. Large animals generally can move long distances and are less affected by distance between habitat patches, but because of their size, a viable population might require substantial habitat area in large patch sizes to remain viable. On the other hand, small species often have difficulty moving between habitat patches, but a relatively small patch of habitat can support many small animals, such as mice or hares, that reproduce fairly quickly to maintain a viable population. In general, strive to maintain large patches of well-connected habitat to support viable populations. One way to increase connectivity is to provide dispersal habitat or habitat corridors to facilitate movements between habitat patches.

"Good" and "bad" habitat usually refers to terms related to vegetation conditions that are used (good habitat) or not used (bad habitat). In terms of population viability, good habitat more precisely describes stands or landscapes where a species can reproduce and maintain its population over time. Habitat that meets those conditions is called "source" habitat. It often yields a surplus of animals that disperse to other habitat patches where they can augment declining populations, colonize new habitat patches or recolonize patches where animals are locally extirpated. Ideally, all habitat would be source habitat.

Bad habitat, then, precisely means habitat that is used, but where conditions are inadequate to support survival or birth rates that allow for long-term persistence. Bad habitat may be inherently bad in the sense that food, water and cover are marginal, or it may be otherwise good habitat that has been degraded by outside influences, such as human disturbance. The formal term for bad habitat is "sink" habitat or habitat where a population is not sustainable.

Sink habitat can be created in sev-



SOURCE: FAHRIG, L. 1999

A model example of how animals with different life-history characteristics, mobility in this case, differ in landscape thresholds to habitat loss caused by fragmentation. The probability of occurrence for low-mobility species that cannot easily overcome habitat isolation caused by fragmentation declines much earlier than for high-mobility species.

eral ways. Small patches of habitat created by fragmentation might be too small to maintain a viable breeding population, i.e., the death rate is higher than the birth rate. A patch of habitat might be affected by human disturbance—for example, roads may be barriers to movement or disturbance from traffic and associate human uses (hunting, cutting snags for firewood) might lead to poor reproductive performance or elevated mortality.

A patch of sink habitat might be too isolated from similar patches of habitat to allow for immigration, so a population in trouble because of poor weather or locally poor food production could not be rescued by immigration of animals from patches of source habitat. A small patch has relatively less interior area and more edge where altered microclimate affects plant understory structure, or where high predation might limit successful reproduction in some species. Edge effects have been well documented in the eastern U.S. for birds, but there is little evidence for edge effects on western wildlife species.

An important point is not to equate a naturally patchy forested landscape with a forest landscape fragmented by human activity. Interior Pacific Northwest forests, in particular, are inherently patchy in terms of forest composition and structure across the landscape as a result of strong environmental gradients or disturbance regimes (e.g., fire, insects, disease). Many animals and plants in these landscapes have evolved to live in these patchy areas, and hence have mechanisms to cope at some level with further isolation, or fragmentation, of habitat by humans. The habitat loss component of fragmentation will always be an issue regardless of location.

There are several key things to remember about habitat fragmentation. Forest practices that alter forest composition and structure can be good, bad or neutral for wildlife. Some species might gain and some might lose habitat, with corresponding short- and long-term effects on population size and persistence. Impacts depend on the specific species; their habitat requirements, population structure and life history; and the landscape context. Landscape-level issues of habitat distribution and connectivity across ownerships usually need to be addressed through collaboration among private and government land managers, especially for wide-ranging wildlife. ◆

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2005 National Convention a Huge Success

BY RICK BARNES

The National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, was enjoyable, educational and a great opportunity to network with friends and colleagues. There were 1,200 people that registered for the convention, 353 of those were students.

One of the highlights of the convention was the national awards. Many very deserving individuals received national awards, a number of them have Northwest ties.

• Dan Newton received the Field Forester of the Year award from District 2. Dan is the land and timber manager for Roseburg Forest Products in Roseburg, Ore. He is an excellent field forester and has made many outstanding contributions to our profession during the last 25 years. Among many things, Dan has been a valuable member on the Oregon Forest Practices Advisory Committee and was instrumental in the initiation of the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study.

• John Gordon received the Gifford Pinchot Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions by a forestry professional in the administration, practice and professional development of North American Forestry. John founded Interforest L.L.C., a forestry consulting firm that brings national and international forestry experts together to develop integrated solutions for the forest products industry and forestland management agencies.

• Richard Hopkins received the Carl Alwin Schenck Award, which recognizes demonstrated and outstanding performance in the field of forestry education. Dick is a faculty member in the Technology Division of the Natural Resources Department at Green River Community College. Hopkins is renowned for his tireless efforts to update and expand the Green River forestry curriculum and for dedicating himself to the success of his students.

• Richard Powell received the Outstanding Communicator award, which recognizes an SAF member who displays the ability, talent and skill to lead innovative and exemplary communications initiatives and programs that increase the general public's understanding of forestry and natural resources at the local, regional or national level. In his position as public outreach forester for Starker Forests Inc., of Corvallis, Ore., Dick works to educate different segments of the public about forestry.

The House of Society Delegates took on many issues in their one-and-a-half day-long session. Most notably was the Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force (VOS) report. Chuck Lorenz, chair of Washington State SAF, did an excellent job of leading the discussion on the VOS report; he was also elected chair of HSD for next year. Council will deal with the HSD and all chapter and member comments on the VOS report at their December Council meeting.

Council is taking a serious look at the investments and distributions of both the Foresters' Fund and the Endowment Fund. President John Helms is selecting a committee to come up with options for Council to consider at the December meeting.

I would like to close with a membership challenge. We are very close to turning the corner and stopping the decrease in membership that we have experienced for a number of years. I challenge each local chapter to add two members between now and the end of the year. If we accomplish this we will end the year with a membership gain. ◆

Rick Barnes is District 2 Council representative. He can be reached at rbarnes@barnesinc.com or 541-673-1208. District 1 Council representative Ann Forest Burns can be reached at aforestburns@msn.com.

Family Foresters Workshop to be Held January 20

Family forests (also known as nonindustrial private forestlands) are vital to the economy and quality of life in the Inland Northwest. Unique skills are required of foresters and other natural resource professionals who help family forest owners manage their property. The 14th Annual Family Foresters Workshop is designed to strengthen the skills of consulting foresters, state-employed service foresters, and other natural resource professionals who work with family forest owners.

The workshop will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane, Wash., on January 20, 2006. Topics to be covered include an introduction to variable retention harvesting with examples from interior British Columbia and Idaho forests; how opening forest canopies can benefit fish production; prescribed burning on family forests; focus group research on peoples' acceptance of smoke from prescribed fire on neighboring lands; and the annual Inland Northwest family forests economics/policy update.

Registration forms are available at local University of Idaho and Washington State University Extension Offices. There is a $65 registration fee ($75 after January 13). Questions can be directed to UI Extension Forester Chris Schnepf at 208-446-1680 or cschnepf@uidaho.edu, or Emily Burt at 509-775-5235. ◆

2006 WSSAF Annual Meeting at Beautiful Lake Chelan

Living with Wildfire—Lessons Learned is the theme of the 2006 annual meeting of the Washington State Society of American Foresters. The event will take place on the shores of beautiful Lake Chelan at Campbell's Resort from April 6-8.

An environment with wildfire is a catalyst for active forest management and the meeting will provide an opportunity to examine past, present and future approaches to living with fire.

On Friday, April 7, Fire Ecologist Ron Wakimoto from Missoula will set the stage with an overview of the last century and the changes that have occurred, effects of fire on various ecosystems, changing management policies and the progression of values and expectations by the public. This will be followed with programs on how wildfire is being addressed in planning, prevention, suppression and restoration. An evening banquet program will include a talk on the mammoth prehistoric Lake Missoula Floods and how they formed the present region.

Saturday's field trip will travel up Lake Chelan to look at the effects of wildfire, vegetation treatments and community wildfire protection planning from the deck of the Lady of the Lake.

Spring is a great time to bring the family and come to beautiful Lake Chelan. Participants can stay over another day or two and enjoy the new wine tours of the 13 new local wineries, play golf at one of the local courses or just enjoy the sun.

For further information, contact Michelle Ellis at 509-784-1511, Arnie Arneson at 509-662-3035 or Jerry Gutzwiler at 509-665-0687. ◆

Joint Washington State/Oregon SAF Leadership Conference

January 20 and 21, 2006 – Kelso Red Lion • Kelso, Washington

The 2006 Joint Washington State and Oregon State Society Leadership Conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Kelso, Wash., on January 20-21, 2006.

This conference is open to all SAF members including new members and those new leaders at the chapter and state level that wish to learn more about the workings of SAF. A hard-working committee from the two states has assembled guest speakers and other program items we feel will interest all SAF members. *New leaders are encouraged to attend.* All attendees will receive information about their society that will help organize and implement effective SAF local events.

DRAFT PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

- Northwest Office Committee Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- Group lunch (noon)
- Welcome, Introductions and Overview (12:30 p.m.)
- Joint session, WSSAF and OSAF
- Concurrent OSAF and WSSAF Executive Committee Meetings
- No-Host Social (6:00 p.m.)
- Group Dinner and Speaker: **Ritz Neznek**, Associate Director, Forest Policy, SAF National Office

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- Group breakfast (8:00 a.m.)
- Welcome
- Perspectives from a New Council Representative—**Kirk David**, District 1 (Washington State, Inland Empire and Alaska) Council Representative
- Perspectives from an Experienced Council Member—**Rick Barnes**, District 2 (Oregon) Council Representative
- SAF Organization: Panel Discussion
  – Role of the SAF Northwest Office—**Lori Rasor**, Manager
  – Role of SAF Council—**Rick Barnes** and **Kirk David**
  – Role of SAF House of Society Delegates—**Rod Brevig**, Intermountain SAF and 2005 HSD Chair
- Group Lunch and Speaker: VOS Report Update and the Future of SAF—**Marvin Brown**, SAF National President and Oregon State Forester
- SAF Activities Discussion
  – Foresters' Fund—**Tom Parke** and **Jay Holland**, Oregon SAF
  – Chapter and State History and Archives—**Don Theoe**, Washington State SAF
- 2007 National SAF Convention Update and How to Get Involved—**Lena Tucker**, Oregon SAF Chair
- Lessons Learned and Advice for the Future from the Immediate Past Chairs—**Sue Bowers**, Oregon SAF, and **Chuck Lorenz**, Washington State SAF and 2006 HSD Chair
- Adjourn (3:15 p.m.)

LODGING

A block of rooms at the Red Lion Hotel has been reserved at a special rate of $60 plus tax, single or double. This rate is good until January 10, 2006. For reservations, call 800-733-5466. The Red Lion Hotel is located about a half-hour north of Portland. Take Exit #39 off I-5.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Leadership Conference registration fee is $98 ($110 after January 13, 2006), which covers four meals and all materials. Spouses or guests wishing to join the meals should register on-site. Please return your completed registration form and payment information to: SAF Leadership Conference, Northwest Office, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221. Checks should be made payable to *Washington State SAF*. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Registration Form – 2006 SAF Leadership Conference
January 20 & 21, 2006 • Red Lion Hotel • Kelso, Washington

Registration includes all materials and 4 meals—Friday lunch & dinner and Saturday breakfast & lunch

Name _____ SAF Chapter _____

Address _____ City/State/ZIP _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

I plan to attend the group lunch on Friday YES _____ NO _____

☐ $98.00 if postmarked by January 13, 2006

☐ $110.00 if postmarked after January 13, 2006

Method of Payment:
☐ Check (enclosed) ☐ Credit Card

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Calendar of Events

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS

Course	Dates	Sponsor	Location
14th Annual Family Foresters Workshop	Jan. 20	UID	Spokane, WA
Salmon 2100	Jan. 25	OSU	Portland, OR
Forest Products Management Development	Feb. 26-Mar. 1	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Regeneration of Interior Forests	March 21-23	OSU	Bend, OR
Managing for Biological Diversity in Northwest Forests	June 6-8	OSU	Portland, OR

OTHER EVENTS

Forest Roads: Advancements in Science and Technology, Dec. 13-14, Eugene, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Joint Washington State/Oregon SAF Leadership Conference, Jan. 20-21, Kelso, WA. Contact: Don Hanley at 206-685-4960 or dhanley@u.washington.edu.

Cable Logging Workshop, Feb. 7-10, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact: Forest Engineering.

Basic Road Design Workshop, Feb. 14-17, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Forest Engineering.

Cable Logging Workshop, Feb. 21-24, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Forest Engineering.

Oregon Logging Conference, Feb. 23-25, Lane County Convention Center and Fairgrounds and Eugene Hilton. Contact: Oregon Logging Conference at www.oregonloggingconference.com or 541-686-9191.

Fuel Reduction on Steep Slopes, March 8-9, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Forest Engineering.

WSSAF annual meeting: *Living with Wildfire—Lessons Learned,* April 6-8, Campbell's Resort, Chelan, Wash. Contact: Jerry Gutzwiler at jrgutzwiler@genext.net.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting, April 19-21, World Forestry Center, Portland, OR. Contact: Mike Gaudern at oswaed@oswa.org or 503-588-1813.

Brazil Forestry Study Tour, April 23-30 & April 30-May 7, Curitiba, Brazil. Contact: Mark Willhite at www.world-forestinvestment.com.

Oregon SAF annual meeting, April 26-28, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Coos Bay, OR. Contact: Shaun Harkins at shaun.harkins@plumcreek.com or 541-267-1855.

Washington Farm Forestry Association annual meeting, June 8-10, Stevens County Ag Trade Center and Fairgrounds, Colville, WA. Contact: Rick Dunning at rdunning@wafarmforestry.com or 360-606-5511, or Ralph Ligouri at 509-276-6079 or ligouri.lazyl@att.net.

Contact Information

Forest Engineering: Forest Engineering Inc., 620 SW 4th St., Corvallis, OR 97333, 541-754-7558; office@forestengineer.com; www.forestengineer.com.

OSU: OSU College of Forestry Outreach Education Office, Peavy Hall 202, Corvallis, OR 97331-5707; 541-737-2329; http://outreach.cof.orst.edu/.

UID: University of Idaho Extension, 1000 West Hubbard , Suite 140, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815, 208-446-1680; cschnepf@uidaho.edu.

WFCA: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, 503-226-4562; richard@westernforestry.org; www.westernforestry.org.

Send calendar items to the editor, *Western Forester,* 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515; rasor@safnwo.org. The deadline for the January/February 2006 issue is December 5, 2005.

We Remember

Edwin Heacox
1906-2005

Forester Ed Heacox passed away after 99 years, three months and five days of life, in comfort and peace, with the knowledge that all of his family could take care of themselves, on September 9.

Mr. Heacox was born in Britt, Iowa, in 1906, where he lived until he went to Iowa State University and received a degree in forestry in 1930. He worked for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company from 1930 to 1968, providing overall guidance to forest management activities, retiring as vice president of the timberlands division.

He taught graduate forestry students at the University of Washington until he retired again in 1970. He then worked for West Fork Timber Company and Murray Pacific Corporation for about 20 years before finally retiring for the third time in 1981. During his long and productive career he held numerous distinctions including being on Council and a Fellow of the SAF. He was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to the National Agricultural Research Advisory Committee.

Mr. Heacox was an avid tennis player, amateur labrador retriever trainer, duck hunter, trap shooter, fisherman, private airplane pilot and historian—and he had an inquisitive attitude towards almost everything. He had a wonderful sense of humor, was an excellent writer and had a quick wit and intellect.

Remembrances, in lieu of flowers, should be sent to the American Red Cross, Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund.

John Manwell
1957-2005

John D. Manwell Jr., 48, of La Grande, Ore., died September 24 in an accident on Blalock Mountain near Milton-Freewater.

Mr. Manwell was born March 16, 1957, in Red Bluff, Calif. He graduated from Red Bluff High School in 1975, and later from Humboldt State University with a degree in forest production. He became the resident forester for Diamond Lands in Lyman Springs, Calif. In 1989, he married Jann Phillips in Somerset, Calif., and moved to Medford, where he worked as a forest engineer for Boise Cascade, and later to La Grande where he was chief unit forester for Boise. In February this year he became the Northeast Oregon regional manager for Forest Capital Partners.

He was a devoted husband and father, and was always involved with his children's activities. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, camping, hiking and being with his family. He was a Registered Professional Forester and an active member of the Society of American Foresters.

Survivors include his wife and sons Benjamin, Evan and Jacob Manwell. Contributions may be made to his children's education fund through Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

Ronald Welsh
1929-2005

Ronald H. Welsh, 76, died at his home on September 20 after an eight-month battle with liver cancer. Mr. Welsh immigrated with his family to the United States in 1938, living in Tacoma and then Seattle, Wash. He became a U.S. citizen in 1945.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Reserve and fought in the Korean War.

During his college years, he worked summers in logging camps. With his two best friends, the Koenig brothers, he formed and ran KOWEKA Logging Co. for a time.

After receiving a bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of Washington in 1956, he joined the Forest Service, working initially on the Olympic National Forest.

He went to Alaska in 1960, working in Wrangell and Sitka. In 1964, he was transferred to Juneau, where his family made a home on the beach in Tee Harbor, before coming back to Sitka in 1973.

Mr. Walsh retired from the Forest Service in 1984, but remained active in the local chapter of the Society of American Foresters. For many years he oversaw the "logging Systems" station at the SAF-sponsored Fifth Grade Field Tour.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sitka Faith in Action, P.O. Box 6336, Sitka, AK 99835. ◆

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.

Fuels for Schools (FFS) Program. Montana is a showplace for the federal FFS program, with four communities now burning wood to heat their schools. In Idaho, the Council school district, near McCall, was first to switch from fossil fuel to biomass. Stimulated by a $510,000 federal grant, the boiler was fired up in October. In Kellogg, voters will decide if they want to tax themselves to switch fuels (see www2.state.id.us/lands/nat_fire_plan/fuels_for_schools/). Some people are optimistic that "wood chips and spindly trees" can cost effectively replace natural gas in these mountain towns surrounded by national forests. Salmon, Idaho, Mayor Stan Davis knows better. When the lumber mill closed in the mid-1990s for lack of timber, his school system was forced to switch from a wood-fired boiler to natural gas. Now he worries that Salmon's drinking water source will be contaminated because the drainage is filled with dead fir trees, a fire hazard he says the Forest Service does not seem concerned about managing. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; jayo@uidaho.edu.

State management of federal lands. In September, Oregon State Forester Marvin Brown argued that the state could manage national lands. Part of the problem with better management of federal lands is the government's lack of interest and funding. If stewardship can't improve on the federal government's part, Brown said, then "there should be some other way to get it done." But the federal government declines any other form of discussion on the matter, Brown said. He said the state can do a better job. The state forester suggests influencing the federal government to place federal lands under state management like other models of big government: the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and healthcare programs such as Medicaid. "All of those programs are based on federal rules that are implemented by the states. But for some reason there's never been this leap to 'Why can't we do this with land management?'" Brown said. "And I don't know why we can't." He suggests the Board of Forestry discuss options with the federal government for a plan the state can use for federal lands that the Legislature can adopt and the governor can approve. See www.oregonnews.com/article/20050923/NEWS/50923019/0/ARCHIVES.

Idaho federal land pilot project proposal. In keeping with Marvin Brown's ideas, perhaps it is time to resurrect other efforts to encourage active management of federal lands. The Clearwater Basin Project Act, a bill before the 108th Congress, was heard in Sen. Larry Craig's public lands subcommittee but did not get a full committee hearing and has not been reintroduced in the 109th Congress. The national SAF positions on federal land pilot projects, active silviculture and timber harvesting support such efforts. See www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatements.cfm#FFM. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; jayo@uidaho.edu.

OSAF Members to Vote on Old-Growth Position Statement. At this writing, the OSAF Executive Committee has approved a position statement on "Managing Mature and Old-Growth Forests." The nature and complexity of this topic extended the development process, but the lengthy discussion and review also served to better address the issues involved and sharpened the content. The position statement was included with the 2006 OSAF election ballots sent to all voting members in early November for their consideration and potential endorsement. Although not required under SAF guidelines, OSAF normally takes this step with its statewide positions to strengthen member awareness and support of these statements. Also noteworthy is that the OSAF position may serve as a foundation for a similar statement on old growth that is being considered for development next year by the national SAF Committee on Forest Policy.

Members are encouraged to use OSAF's position statements to help convey their professional forestry views to key decision makers and the interested public. All active position statements are posted at www.forestry.org, and draft positions under consideration can be found in the "members only" section of the OSAF site. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@ oregonstate.edu. ◆

National Election Results Announced

SAF President **John Helms** has announced the 2006 SAF National election results. A full report will appear in the *Journal of Forestry*.

Vice President-elect: **John McMahon**

Council member-elect District 1 (Washington State, Inland Empire and Alaska): **Kirk David**

Council member-elect District 4: **Lyle Laverty**

Council member-elect District 7: **Mary Coulombe**

Council member-elect District 10: **Joe Roberson**

House of Society Delegates elected **Chuck Lorenz** as its 2006 chair

Rick Barnes continues to represent District 2 (Oregon SAF) on Council. Oregon State Forester **Marvin Brown** becomes SAF president in January.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
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