

Bush calls for review of spotted owl plan

U.S. forests | The action stops short of scrapping the plan, which would allow more logging

By SCOTT LEARN and MICHAEL MILSTEIN
THE OREGONIAN

The Bush administration, facing investigations into political interference in environmental decisions, is asking independent scientists to review the science behind a plan that could increase logging in northern spotted owl habitat.

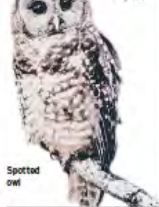
The review, to be announced today, could help the administration defend itself against mounting criticism and lend its strategy more credibility. But it also could undermine a move to restore logging levels that have dropped dramatically.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked Steven Courato, vice president of the Sustainable Ecosystems Institute in Portland, to lead the review. Courato, well-respected for his work on spotted owl issues, will control who serves on the scientific panel, said Joan Lewett, an agency spokeswoman.

Courato's group will review the science on the spotted owl, including the risks posed by barred owls and by loss of habitat to logging and wildfires.

"It's a good faith effort to establish an independent record of the best available

Photo 508
REVIEW, Page A-4



Killings of country stars jar Mexico

Drug gangs | The deaths of 13 *grupero* musicians



State crews work last week to clean up the debris on slopes about a mile and a half at

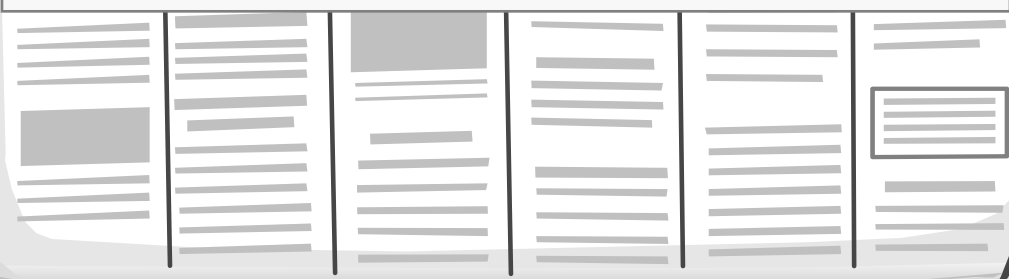
Two clear-cuts emerge that spilled vast loss

By MICHAEL MILSTEIN
THE OREGONIAN

Two clear-cuts on clear-cut land logged by Oregon State University's College of Forestry set into motion last week's torrential mud and debris that inundated homes and U.S. 30 west Clatskanie.

Metro Daily

Forestry Professionals: Finding a Voice in the News Media



WAS BEFORE THE OREGONIAN v their respects ranting as plod

Activists rethink view on logging

Timber policy | Some environmental groups say they want to work with private owners to head off sales of forestland

By MICHAEL MILSTEIN
THE OREGONIAN

You might guess environmental groups would be glad timber prices have collapsed to where loggers' chains saws have fallen silent and sawmills are shutting down.

Instead, they're nervous. If logging doesn't pay, the same timber companies some environmentalists have blamed for eating the forest may get rid of the forest — selling off their prime real estate. Then subdivisions could grow instead of trees, absent the wildlife, clean water and other benefits forests typically present.

A rising number of environmental groups now want to help the timber industry stay in business by providing funds or other support. The question is whether they can save timber companies and mills reeling from the collapse of housing and construction.

"It's a new day — it's a new landscape," said Guido Rabe, president of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland. "We have to realize, private-land timber companies are our friend. Once land gets broken up into smaller pieces, our ability to protect it is eliminated."

Though some logging practices can harm fish, he said, the loss of forests altogether is much worse. That's even more true as trees are increasingly counted on to soak up greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Some land conservation groups such as Ecotrust, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and Pacific Forest Trust have for years tried to protect prime forest by buying it or purchasing easements that limit development. But they cannot alone safeguard enough land.

"We do not at this point have the capital to be meaningful players," said Lawrence Seldner, president of The Conservation Fund, which is based in Arlington, Va. He said the solution is to work with large landowners to help them profit from their forests so they do not sell the land off.

Photo 508 TIMBER, Page A-5

Oregon's forest ownership

Most of the forests along the Cascade Range are in public ownership, but many other acres are in private hands.

Public forests Private forests



Wendy Dreyer, Statewide Office of Forestry, STAFF PHOTOGRAPH BY THE OREGONIAN

Why is this important?

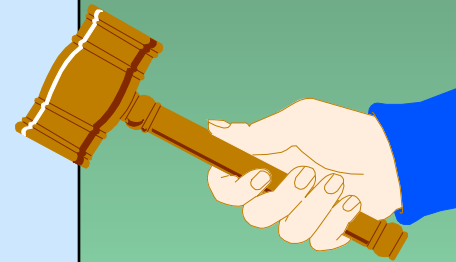


**"One who molds opinion is greater
than one who enacts laws"**

- Abraham Lincoln

**"The hand that rules the press, the
radio, the screen, and the far-spread
magazine rules the country"**

- Supreme Court Judge Learned Hand



*"The influential media [e.g., major newspapers] help
frame how major issues are reported by others."*

Professor Bill Lunch, OSU Political Science Dept.

Media & Environment Seminar, Nov. 24, 1994



Why is this important?



- ✓ Most of the PNW is rural, most residents urban/suburban
- ✓ Arrivals from more urban areas, often to near-forest areas
- ✓ Fewer now work or know someone in forest or farm jobs



Changing demographics & news media

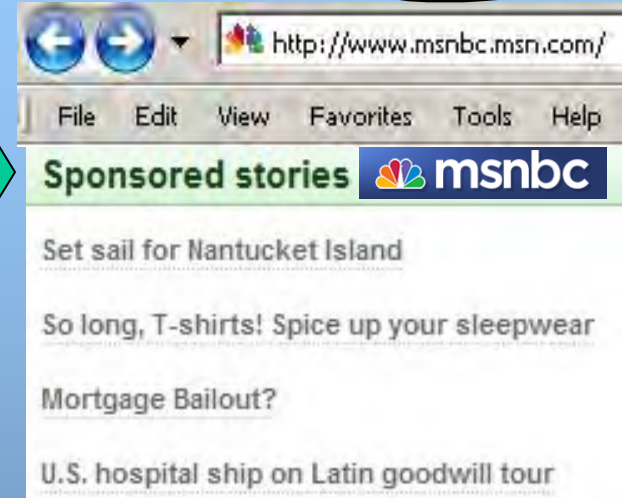
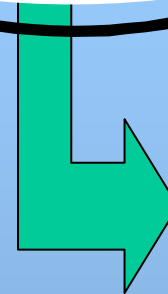
- ✓ Most news media serve urban/suburban audiences
- ✓ Most reporters have urban/suburban backgrounds
- ✓ News business primarily favors provocative content

Similar overall patterns nationwide



It's A Business!

- ✓ Sell advertising
- ✓ Sell broadcast/copies
- ✓ Attract viewers/readers



The Sunday Oregonian

To our readers 1/4/09

Oregon's economic troubles and the relentless change sweeping the newspaper industry have not eroded our commitment to you and to our community. The Oregonian undoubtedly will have to make more tough choices in the year ahead, but you will continue to get all of the usefulness, the watchdog reporting and the sense of place that we can muster. Publisher Fred A. Stickel and Editor Sandy Rowe tell you why they're optimistic about 2009 in today's **Opinion** section, **Page B1**.

Notable Trends (Decade or Longer)

- Large decline in % reading newspapers
- Large decline in % watching networks
- Major shifts / broader news sources

Data from: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/part3/stats.html>

Seattle's oldest newspaper faces closure if no buyer found

BY GENE JOHNSON
AND PHUONG LE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

SEATTLE — Hearst Corp. put Seattle's oldest newspaper, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, up for

in printed form" once the 60 days are up, Hearst said. Steve Swartz, the head of Hearst's newspaper division, broke the news to employees in a meeting Friday. Seattle is one of two ma-

ating agreement. Hearst has owned the P-I since 1921, and the paper has had operating losses since 2000, including \$14 million last year. The mood in the P-I

BUSINESS

THE OREGONIAN • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

Tribune Co. files for Chapter 11

Bankruptcy | A sour economy, ad drop-off and the Internet sink the bottom line

By VINNIE TONG
and ANICK JESDANUN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK — Tribune Co. —

Tribune Co. employees, who received an ownership stake in the company when Zell came in, could also see the value of their holdings wiped out. Tribune Co., which has 20,000 employees, owns baseball's Chicago Cubs as well as 10 daily newspapers, including The Hartford (Conn.) Courant and the Chicago Tribune. Cable

cause of the poor economy and competition from the Internet. Although the Tribune Co.'s next major debt payment is not due until June, the company was in danger of missing the financial targets set by its lenders. The bankruptcy filing could give the Chicago-based company some time to press its lenders to ease their terms.

cable channel. But a tight credit market has made it tougher for potential buyers to obtain loans. (Zell said the Cubs are not part of the bankruptcy filing.) Longtime Chicago Tribune reporter Maurice Possley, who resigned after winning this year's Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism, said many talented people have left the paper in re-

Good News is No News!

"The media considers government & big companies to be bad guys & liars... They print & produce news the public wants - sensational, sexy, violent, or controversial. Good forest management doesn't meet those criteria, so is seldom news."

**- Holly Houston, Former Spokane TV news anchor,
speaking to Selkirk SAF Chapter**

Spotted owls return to protected nest in logged area (3 column inches!)

Owls nest in intact stand of Sugarloaf old growth

CAVE JUNCTION — A pair of northern spotted owls has returned to roost in an island of old-growth forest within the Sugarloaf timber sale, where hundreds of anti-logging protesters were arrested last year.

"This is a really good sign," said Fred Craig, a wildlife biology assistant on the Siskiyou National Forest. "The real test will be if they are still there four or five years from now."

The U.S. Forest Service designed logging on the Sugarloaf timber sale to encourage the kind of old-growth forest structure owls need to thrive.

An island of old-growth forest where a pair of owls was known to be nesting was left intact. That island is where the roosting owls were found this spring. The female was on the nest, but in the past this pair hasn't done well producing young, Craig said.

— From correspondent and wire reports

"The public will believe bad news, but has been conditioned to reject, or be suspicious of, good news as an attempt to whitewash an issue." - Baskerville & Brown 1985, J. of Forestry




Watchdogs & Underdogs

"I have spent a professional lifetime sifting through surveys of readers' attitudes toward newspapers.

One consistent expectation of readers is that the newspapers perform a watchdog role in whatever community they cover."

- John Costa, Editor-in-Chief, The (Bend) Bulletin, 19 Aug. 2007



But, *watchdogs*
over who or what?

And, who or what is
the *underdog*?

**7 of 10 journalists say
it's OK for newspapers
to use their power to
help protect the
underdog.**



Contemporary News & Forestry

The “infotainment” news trend gives emphasis & simplistic spins to crises, conflicts & controversies. And it's helpful that forestry issues can be easily spun in good- and bad-guy terms (e.g., virtue vs. greed). Reporters often view those who study or are involved with economic concerns with suspicion, while regarding others as virtuous or not requiring scrutiny.

Twenty years ago today, the Silver fire complex ignited, and forest science has never been the same since.

EXPLOSIVE LESSON



Ecologist Dave Parry discusses the snow brush's dependency on fire. The seeds of this plant require intense heat to germinate and will remain dormant for decades.

Stories by PAUL FATTIG
The Oregonian

When starting lightning



Judge blocks timber sale in Mount Hood forest

The ruling could mean the end of old-growth logging in the forest

By MICHAEL MILSTEIN
THE OREGONIAN

Logging of centuries-old trees in the Mount Hood National Forest, the crux of fierce protests for years, may have finally come to an end.

The 184 acres cannot be auctioned and clear-cut until foresters rewrite the environmental documentation supporting it, the judge said.

That may be unlikely anytime soon. Forest managers have turned their attention to less contentious thinning

TAKING A STAND ON TIMBER

Environmental groups want old growth logging stopped in the McKenzie watershed, and Eugene councilors agree

By DIANE DIEZ
The Register-Guard

Long after Biscuit fire, a rotten timber sale

Sending loggers into an Oregon roadless area now is not about salvage, but about making a political point

You can imagine all sorts of useful things the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest could have worked on Friday, such as thinning overstocked forests or restoring areas scarred by the 2002 Biscuit fire.

Instead, the agency was auctioning a complete loser of a timber sale, the Mike's Gulch salvage sale, a small but costly cut of dead and decaying old-growth trees in Oregon's largest roadless tract.

The timber sale is a total waste of time, money and public trust in the Forest Service. The timber is in bad shape. The required helicopter logging will be expensive. Meanwhile, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and thousands of Ore-

gonians who have testified in public hearings or sent letters to the Forest Service have made it clear that this state opposes logging in roadless areas.

Yet the Bush administration went ahead with the Mike's Gulch sale anyway. Two bidders submitted proposals by Friday's deadline, and the apparent high bidder was Silver Creek Timber Co. of Meritt. The total bid price for taking chain saws to 261 acres of roadless area is a little over \$300,000.

It's not worth it.

Not for the Forest Service, which will get nothing but controversy and ill will out of the sale, which will get legal and roadless for

in forest communities. But this is neither the time nor the place for salvage.



HI! WE'RE AN UNTHREATENED INDICATOR SPECIES AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP.



Activist at apex of timber protest halts traffic with oversize tripod

Foes of the Biscuit fire salvage block a Portland street for an hour before police lower the booms holding one man aloft

By JOSEPH ROSE
THE OREGONIAN

Out of the mountains and into the city, the giant

roads in the Cascade and Coast ranges. But Wednesday, three steel poles, bound by rock-climbing rope at the apex, rose 30 feet above Southwest Second Avenue.

A man protesting the salvage logging of timber burned in Southern Oregon's 2002 Biscuit fire dangled from the tripod, refusing orders from police to come down.

Below him, about 30 supporters chanted, waved



The “Wire Service” Phenomenon

MCTdirect
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE
INFORMATION SERVICES

GANNETT
THE GANNETT
NEWS NETWORK

AP Associated Press

United Press International
100 YEARS OF JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE

Stories can spread almost instantly

Sets much of the news “agenda”

Journalism “from a distance”

Truncated or added content

A “model” for journalists

Unclear accountability

Editorials shared too

Text added by local reporter to AP story:

Francis Eatherington, conservation director for Umpqua Watersheds based in Roseburg, said the survey and manage rule was adopted as a safeguard for certain species of plants and animals and, if found, would require a buffer of protection from a logging operation.

(News-Review, 19 July 2007)

Financial pressures are likely to increase the use of wire sources

The New York Times

The Washington Post

Los Angeles Times

**OTHER
VIEWS**

Bush logging push is myopic

The Bush administration's last-minute decision to double the rate of logging on 2.6 million acres of federal forest in Oregon's southwest corner is an ecological and political blunder.

StatesmanJournal

<http://www.StatesmanJournal.com>

Another View: Logging in Oregon

January 15, 2009

The Bush administration's last-minute decision to double the rate of logging on 2.6 million acres of federal forest in Oregon's southwest corner is an ecological and political blunder.

It isn't that logging is inappropriate or that places like Roseburg couldn't use a boost. Wood products are clearly essential and the southwest counties are economically depressed.

This ploy of wanting to be seen as advancing the cause of Pacific Northwest timber is close to

January 2009



The News Challenge:

Time constraints

Expertise constraints

Consumer demands

Metro Daily
News Room

One result:

Journalism by press release



PRESS RELEASE – November 1, 2005

NEW REPORT: Rushing to Log After Fires Harms Forest Recovery, Wastes Taxpayer Dollars, Fails to Protect Communities
Legislation expected this week would sweep aside federal land protections

Even the quotes in news articles may be from press releases rather than real interviews

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

After wildfires, to log or not to log?
A report rejects US policy of logging after fires in national forests, arguing a hands-off approach yields better results.

By Brad Knickerbocker, The Christian Science Monitor, 1 November 2005

ASHLAND, ORE. - The 2005 wildfire season was declared officially over here the other day. Rain & snow in the mountains have dampened the timber, & the sound of firefighting helicopters & trucks has been replaced by the rifle fire of deer & elk hunters.



Society of American Foresters

Code of Ethics

Principles & Pledges

4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles & societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge & skills to help formulate sound forest policies & laws; **to challenge & correct untrue statements about forestry**; & to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, & the public regarding forest policies.

SAF & the News Media

Not a neat fit...



- **Controversy & conflict** now most newsworthy
- **Urban view** (experience, values, empathy, etc.)
- **Govt. & industry watchdog role = skepticism**
- **Activists sought out for "balance" & sound bites**
- **Op-eds: Individual view & style are preferred**



Objective & Insightful Reporting?

Metro Daily

- **What** story & focus
- **How** story is described
- **Who** interviewed & quoted

- ✓ Choice of stories
- ✓ Headlines & visuals
- ✓ Use of language
- ✓ Sources & quotes
- ✓ Sequence of content
- ✓ FHUVs (next slide!)



Did you know?

The Society of Professional Journalists has a voluntary Code of Ethics

Shedding Light on Issues

- **Facts?**

(objective, verifiable truths)

- **Hearsay?**

(misconception stated as fact)

- **Unknowns?**

(uncertainties or ambiguities)

- **Values?**

(preferred views or outcomes)

Government scientists critical of BLM logging increase in OR

By JEFF BARNARD

The Associated Press, 28 March 2008

...The agency's plan would *bring back clear-cut logging* and *nearly triple planned timber production* while *jettisoning the fish and wildlife habitat protections* of the Northwest Forest Plan. The Northwest Forest Plan was created in 1994 to resolve a lawsuit demanding habitat for salmon and the northern spotted owl.... [*emphasis added*]

Some Tips:

Letters & Commentaries

The Oregonian	
TALLY FOR 2008	
RECEIVED: 29,087 letters	PUBLISHED: 3,132 letters
MOST POPULAR TOPIC: The presidential race	
SECOND MOST POPULAR TOPIC: The economy	
YEAR-END TALLY FOR 2007	
RECEIVED: 32,246 letters	PUBLISHED: 3,873 letters
MOST POPULAR TOPIC: Iraq	
SECOND MOST POPULAR TOPIC: The Bush administration	

Only
10-12%
printed

- ✓ Know & follow the rules
- ✓ Be simple, lively & personal
- ✓ Show* expertise & experience
- ✓ Challenge ideas, not people
- ✓ Respond quickly!
- ✓ Consider "ghost writers"



**remember to mention your
SAF membership/position!*



Some Tips:

Reporters & Editors

Metro Daily
News Room

- ✓ Consider all types of media
- ✓ I.D. & develop key contacts
- ✓ Offer story ideas
- ✓ Offer resources (info & referrals)
- ✓ Invite to meetings & tours
- ✓ Respond quickly!



As an SAF Member... Western Forester – July/Aug. 2005 By Paul W. Adams

SAF members and leaders have many opportunities to speak to the broader public about important forestry issues, either directly or indirectly. These situations include public meetings, newspaper guest columns, letters to the editor, and occasionally interviews by journalists who report on such issues. As SAF members we also have the responsibility to use these opportunities “to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry” (SAF Code of Ethics) that, unfortunately, have become all too common.

Speaking as a Professional

One certainty these days is that public policy will continue to shape the future of forestry. We foresters seem to take what's served up, wishing we had more influence in the ingredients and how they are prepared. We need to assert more leadership in providing forestry knowledge to citi-

a strong and compelling interest in sound stewardship of natural resources. When dealing with contentious issues, this concern may not be readily apparent and then your message may be less effective.



A forest tour is worth 10,000 words!



From a Field Tour to the "Front Page"

A Positive Example

- 24 Oct. 08: OFRI / Starker Forests Field Tour
- 25 Oct. 08: Pg. A1 story, Corvallis Gazette-Times
- 21 Dec. 08: Pg. A1 story, Sunday Oregonian
- 29 Dec. 08: Editorial, The Oregonian
- 07 Jan. 09: Guest commentary, The Oregonian

Activists rethink view on logging

Timber policy | Some environmental groups say they want to work with private owners to head off sales of forestland

BY MICHAEL MILSTEIN
THE OREGONIAN

You might guess environmental groups would be glad timber prices have collapsed to where loggers' chainsaws have fallen silent and sawmills are shutting down.

Instead, they're nervous. If logging doesn't pay, the same timber companies some environmentalists have blamed for ruining the forest may get rid of the forest — selling off their prime real estate. Then subdivisions could grow instead of trees, absent the wildlife, clean water and other benefits forests typically present.

A rising number of environmental groups now want to help the timber industry stay in business by providing funds or other support. The question is whether they can save timber companies and mills reeling from the collapse of housing and construction.

"It's a new day ... it's a new landscape," said Claudio Riber, president of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland. "We have to realize private-land timber companies are our friend. Once land gets broken up into smaller pieces, our ability to protect it is diminished."

Though some logging practices can harm fish, he said, the loss of forests altogether is much worse. That's even more true as trees are increasingly counted on to soak up greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Some land conservation groups such as Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and Pacific Forest Trust have for years tried to protect prime forests by buying it or purchasing easements that limit development. But they cannot alone safeguard enough land.

"We do not at this point have the capital to be meaningful players," said Lawrence Soler, president of The Conservation Fund, which is based in Arlington, Va. He said the solution is to work with large forestland owners to help them profit from their forests so they do not sell the land off.

Please see **TIMBER**, Page A15

Value of private forests concerns land owners

Land under forests worth more than trees on them

BY TOM HENDERSON
GAZETTE-TIMES REPORTER

Private forest owners can make more money selling their land for subdivisions than harvesting it for timber. It's a simple equation — and po-

tentially catastrophic, said Matt Donegan, the co-president of Forest Capital Partners.

Donegan was among the industry leaders guiding a tour of some of Benton County's private forest lands Friday afternoon. The tour was hosted by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and drew participants from both the public and private sectors. The OFRI was created by the 1991 Legislature to educate

the public on forest issues. Institute officials host these tours annually.

Everyone needs to be concerned about America's dwindling private forests, Donegan said. As forests are destroyed, he said, no one escapes unharmed.

Forest Capital Partners buys and manages forests across North America. Donegan said more than a million acres of forest land — roughly the size of Delaware — are

lost every year. "Once these forest lands are gone, they're gone," he said. And they take thousands of jobs with them.

In Oregon, about 85,000 people directly depend on the timber industry for their livelihoods. That doesn't count those who work in mills and manufacturing plants who also depend on productive forests.

SEE **FORESTS** | A5



Starker Forests representative Dick Powell talks in June about various forestation techniques used by the company during a tour that included a delegation from Gondar, Ethiopia. On Friday, there was a tour of private forest lands such as Starker. CASEY CAMPBELL GAZETTE-TIMES

EDITORIALS

THE OREGONIAN • MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2008

Saving private forests

Conservationists are finally recognizing that the danger is not logging private forest land, but losing it



Some environmental groups have evolved from fighting logging on private lands to helping ensure that those timberlands will not be given over to development.

It takes uncommon patience, and a long view, to grow trees for a living. It takes 40 years, sometimes longer, for an investment to pay off. Oregon's private timberland owners plant trees today not for their own economic benefit, but for their families, for long-term investors, for the future.

It's a difficult business, especially now that forest products are a global commodity, pitting Oregon timberland owners against companies clearing huge swaths of forests in Brazil, Russia and other places with few environmental considerations.

It was interesting to read Michael Milstein's recent report in The Oregonian describing how some environmental groups, but certainly not all, have evolved from fighting logging on private

global warming.

Of course, not all environmentalists are prepared to stop fighting logging. Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild said his group will continue to focus on stopping clear-cutting and strengthening forest practices rules. He's not especially worried about private timberland owners selling their land because Oregon's strong land-use laws should block development. As Heiken told Milstein, "I'm a bit hesitant to make forestry a highly profitable enterprise, because it means there's going to be more logging." In other words, Oregon Wild, at least, is fine with seeing Oregon timberland owners struggle economically, betting that no matter how bad it gets for them, state land-use law will block them from doing anything else with their

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Protecting forestland from development

A recent article and supporting editorial in The Oregonian provide a thoughtful perspective on the future of Oregon's private forestlands. There are many public and private benefits of private forestland, including rural employment, water quality, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration.

But these benefits will be lost if the land is split up into increasingly smaller parcels and developed for residential and other uses.

Thirty-five years ago, the founders of Oregon's land-use planning program decided to encourage continued investment in and management of private forestland by limiting or prohibiting non-forest uses of it. More recently, the Legislature has required forestland to be kept in relatively large lots, making residential conversion less attractive. Both of these steps have meant that the rate that private forestland is converted to other uses is much lower in Oregon than in other Western states.

Nevertheless, even some Oregon for-

our policy goals is to allow owners to transfer or sell the limited residential development rights they have on forestland to other locations where there is both a market for additional development and where state and local governments are willing to allow it.

Used successfully in other parts of the country, the transfer of development rights will be receiving a lot of attention in the 2009 Legislature. This approach allows a property owner to sell development rights to a buyer, who may then use those rights to gain approval for new uses in areas where additional development is more appropriate. By removing the residential development rights from forestland, this approach eliminates the incentive for landowners to break up and sell large tracts as home sites and restores our land markets so that the long-term highest and best use of forestland continues to be for timber production.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development are proposing legislation to allow six pilot transfer projects



RICHARD WHITMAN

IN MY OPINION

1/7/09

Improving the odds: 1) **Story & reporter mentioned**
2) **Use of leadership title**

Letter to the Editor, The Oregonian, September 16, 1999

Public wants it all with forests (headline added by editor)

While busy filing his **story** about Society of American Foresters members needing to be more open to environmental concerns (Sept. 13), **reporter Hal Bernton** must have missed the speech by Jo Ellen Force. Her data showed very striking increases in both the total and per-capita consumption of wood and paper products between 1950 and the 1990's.

Professional foresters have not overlooked environmental values in managing our nation's forests. They simply have been given the Herculean task of finding a reasonable balance for a public whose actions clearly demand very high outputs of forest products, but whose words now increasingly demand attention to other forest values.

Paul W. Adams

Chairman, Policy Committee, Oregon Society of American Foresters

Corvallis

Timber plan doesn't deserve unfounded criticism

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

As a retired forester and past chairman of the local chapter of the Society of American Foresters, I was somewhat surprised by the editorial position taken by The Register-Guard on Jan. 3 relating to the new forest management plan being proposed by the Bureau of Land Management on the western Oregon timber lands.

...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.**

Having personally been involved in other forest management plans, I can say from experience that the process is grueling and difficult...The BLM, after considering all of the public input it received, has made its decision. Not by backroom handshakes with the Bush administration, as The Register-Guard editorial insinuated, but in a public forum with all parties offering comments.

...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.

Much as in managing your own home gardens, active management helps you meet your goals...To let the beds turn to thistles and blackberries probably will not achieve the goals that you wish. That is the concept of active management.

Remember that half of the revenue from these lands comes back to our counties...This is a good plan that will meet the balance between timber harvest and environmental protection. The BLM deserves our support for the job it has done over the past five years of this planning process, rather than unfounded allegations.

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.

Most foresters don't want to cut every last tree

Guest viewpoint by Paul Chapman, The Register-Guard, 6 July 2007

I have been a **professional forester** for more than 20 years - mostly as an industrial or investment forester, but I have worked also as a university research assistant and a tribal forester. I want to address Shannon Wilson's June 26 guest viewpoint, "Calls for more logging are misguided."

It is unfortunate that Wilson starts his column with name-calling... **Most foresters I know**, industrial and public agency foresters, became foresters because of their love of the outdoors and forest. It is a career that entails long hours, physical stamina and working alone for much of the time.

For most, **forestry is more than a profession**; it is a passion and calling. I have considered other careers, but each time I concluded that forestry is worth the effort.

Foresters have been major contributors in conserving our forests - reforesting deforested lands, minimizing impacts from harvesting and providing a sustainable resource for a growing nation and world.

Foresters' work has ensured that there are second- and third-generation forests for society to use, harvest and recreate in, while also providing habitat for wildlife and fish.

Professional foresters (and this includes industrial foresters) do not believe we need to cut all the public forest lands. We support wilderness areas and understand the value of forests for water quality, wildlife and fish...

...I invite Wilson to become an active member of the **Society of American Foresters** and participate in our meetings. If he is not a professional forester, then I invite him as speaker or guest at one of our local meetings.

Our local **Emerald Chapter** is very active, and we appreciate diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

Paul Chapman is area manager for The Campbell Group in Eugene.

*A tip of the SAF hat
to all members who
have spoken up
publicly for the
profession!*

Managers Need Mandate

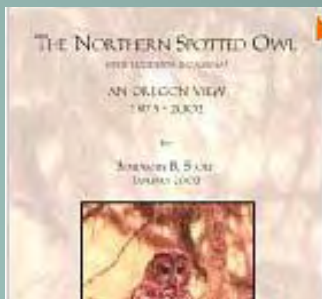
Letter to the Editor, The Oregonian, 1 April 2006

There is a fundamental flaw in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA): Neither in the Act nor in forest regulations can there be found instructions to determine the objectives of management of federal forests.

For two decades I taught a course in forest management. The first rule: Determine the objectives of the owner. The NFMA processes produce alternatives. Because Congress has not stated the objectives of management, no matter which alternative is selected it will be opposed, that is, litigated, and federal forest management is brought to a screeching halt.

I suggest that Oregonians decide how they want federal forests managed and let the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management get on with it.

Benjamin B. Stout, Albany



Ben Stout, 1924 -2007
A model forestry professional



Story by Hasso Hering,
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