

# Western Forester

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## Who is Managing Our Forests?

BY ROY ANDERSON

The *Forestry Handbook* that sits on the bookshelf in my office has 1,335 pages and 25 chapters. It was published in 1984 by the Society of American Foresters and each chapter covers a different aspect of forest management including: forest ecology, insects and disease, fire, hydrology, wildlife, recreation, timber measurement, silviculture, genetics, engineering, logging, and utilization—to name just a few! Each chapter is essentially a discipline unto itself. Yet the men and women charged with the responsibility of managing forests are somehow able to juggle all of the information and competing demands encompassed in those varied disciplines in a coherent way.



The interesting thing is that over the last 30 years or so, there has been a huge change in who owns forests. Between 1983 and 2009, 43.4 million acres of timberland, valued at \$39.7 billion, changed ownership type. That also means big changes in who is managing forests. So, in this issue of the *Western Forester* we explore just who is managing today's forests and how they are responding to current issues.

Using a question and answer format, we've gathered forest management perspectives from family woodland owners, industrial timberland owners, timber investment management organizations, and federal agencies. Later in this article, I'll describe my observations about their responsi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE STANGELL

**A sunrise on Hancock Forest Management land in Washington.**

es. First, however, it's worth reviewing the factors that drove the huge shift in forestland ownership.

### 1983 to 2009—The great ownership transfer

Jim Rinehart, president of R&A Investment Forestry in San Francisco, Calif., has documented the evolution of timberland as an institutional investment asset in a publication called *U.S. timberland post-recession: Is it the same asset?* The following paragraphs are a synopsis of his findings. Note that institutional investors are organizations that pool large sums of money to make investments in securities, real property, and other assets. Examples include insurance compa-

nies, retirement or pension funds, mutual funds, and hedge funds.

Prior to the emergence of institutional investors, the U.S. forest products industry was the dominant, non-government owner of timberland in the United States. However, between 1983 and 1995 institutional timberland investors began to emerge. It was a high time for those early investors as strong demand from Japan and the listing of the spotted owl as an endangered species combined to cause stumpage prices to increase dramatically. For example, the cumulative return on timberland between 1986 and 1992 was 26.75 percent.

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# Who is Managing Our Forests?

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Between 1996 and 2000 there began to be an over supply of timber due to more efficient utilization and increased supply from plantations that resulted in falling stumpage rates. In addition, demand for forest products was falling, especially from Japan. Despite those trends, which should have put downward pressure on the attractiveness of timberland investment, the market continued to heat up. It was driven by the entry of more institutional investors flush with massive amounts of capital available to invest, lured by the success of early entrants, and by a forest products industry in timberland divestiture mode to improve financial returns.

Between 2001 and 2004, many thought the party would be ending soon. However, it was during that time that broader factors came into play—the tech bubble burst and the stock market declined—both of which

caused even more institutional capital to become available for investment in timberland. Thus, the timberland investment market kept rolling along. Also, it was during this period when firms began to identify (and subdivide) those areas of timberland that would have higher value as real estate development property. Another trend during this time was that many of the new timberland owners reduced investment in research and development, silviculture, and community relations.

Between 2005 and 2009 the timberland ownership transfer process was essentially completed. Weyerhaeuser was the only vertically integrated forest products company “still standing” but they too eventually converted to a REIT and along the way divested many of their manufacturing businesses.

The following table shows the number of acres transferred during each time period and the dollar value of the exchanges.

## Why do institutional investors value timberland?

Timberland is attractive to institu-

**Table 1. Acres and value transferred between 1983 and 2009.**

Time Period	Acres (millions)	Dollar Value (billions)
1983-1995	6.0	5.0
1996-2000	7.9	5.0
2001-2004	14.0	11.0
2005-2009	15.5	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>37.8</b>

Source: U.S. Timberland Post-Recession: Is it the same asset? Rinehart, 2010

tional investors because it has historically offered high risk adjusted returns—an assessment of an investment's rate of return after accounting for the amount of risk associated in generating that return. Timberland also allows investors to diversify their portfolio since it is an asset class whose values are independent of other investments. Timberland also provides a hedge against inflation.

So high risk adjusted returns, portfolio diversification, and inflation hedge are characteristics that attract institutional investors. However, the actual components of timberland value are:

**Timber**—historically this was the only value associated with timberland and for investors it was simply a calculation of expected stumpage price, expected harvest volume, real discount rate, and inflation.

**Bare Land Value**—in the past bare land value was equal to the net present value of future timber harvests in perpetuity. Today, however, as population continues to grow, people are placing more and more “intrinsic” value on land for open space.

**Higher and Better Use**—in the past, timber management occurred in parallel with other uses such as hunting and mineral extraction, and there was little conflict between the uses. More recently, however, the value of timberland for real estate development has been increasingly important. Thus, timberland that has been broken into parcels is often well suited for development as recreational property, vacation homes, or “ranchettes.”

**Expanded Sources**—other potential



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## Next Issue: Forestry Education

sources of timberland value are referred to as "expanded sources." These include carbon credits and biomass utilization. Since forests absorb carbon there may be opportunities to capture value by simply growing trees to remove carbon from the atmosphere. There was considerable interest in developing regulations to establish carbon credit schemes among forests, but the recent poor economy seems to have lowered expectations for the establishment of a carbon market. With regard to biomass, there is considerable global interest in using renewable fuels (such as biomass) to generate heat, electricity, or both. It is logical that increased utilization of biomass will add value to timberland ownership. However, the economic value of biomass for use in generating heat/power is such that landowners are likely to receive little value for this material.

#### **Observations about the comments from current forest managers**

As you read the landowner responses, it will be obvious that all mention they've reduced their timber harvests in the face of low timber values. As a result they've all had to cut costs. It's an obvious focus area for timberland managers since they have little control over stumpage and log prices.

However, what's interesting are the different ways in which the various organizations have gone about doing that. For example, at Coast Range Conifers LLC, a smaller family-owned timberland manager, family members have accepted reductions in returns as reduced timber harvests slowed cash flow. They've also deferred maintenance costs on roads and bridges until absolutely necessary, considered applying for cost-share funds, and finally they have opted for purchasing lower cost, non-genetically improved seedlings.

Merrill and Ring was a bit more proactive in cutting costs, including reductions in employee salaries and benefits, closing one office, and eliminating some non-essential programs. At Hancock, expenses such as road maintenance and abandonment were delayed whenever possible. In addition, silvicultural and harvesting costs were more closely examined than ever

before to ensure maximum cost efficiency. At the BLM, a public owner, reduced annual operating budgets have meant careful management of the workforce and a reordering of projects to ensure the highest priority work is completed first.

Another common theme is the difficulty forest managers are facing in retaining a contractor workforce deep enough to complete projects in a timely manner. Merrill & Ring had to make the hard decision to tell its logging and road construction and maintenance contractors to seek work elsewhere. Similarly, Coast Range Conifers, LLC describes a "merry-go-round" of downsized logging and trucking companies being pulled in many directions by eager landowners whenever there is a slight uptick in the market. If there's a silver lining in any of this, perhaps it's that quality used logging and trucking equipment should be available at relatively low prices. As the economy recovers, lower barriers to entry could encourage a new, younger generation of contractors to enter the woods.

At The Beck Group, I frequently consult for forest products conversion facilities. Thus, my view of timberland is often from the perspective of a manufacturing facility. I found it interesting that only one of the landowners specifically mentioned concern about losing mill infrastructure. Yet reasonably close markets are a critical requirement for

providing value to harvested timber. Perhaps landowners don't spend too much time thinking about this issue because the economics of forest products manufacturing are driven by factors far beyond their control? In any event, in my view, an often overlooked risk associated with timberland investment is the loss of nearby conversion facilities that are willing to buy logs, pulpwood, and other products.

The forest managers seem to agree that in the future, demand for traditional forest products (logs and lumber) will return to more "normal" levels. Most also seem optimistic that forest biomass will play a greater role. And finally, all are concerned that growing population and urbanization will place ever greater pressure on forests, both in terms of utilizing what once was forest for other uses and in terms of an ever-increasing demand for forest products. But don't just take my word for it, please read all of the landowner responses contained in this issue and decide for yourself how the people who are managing Pacific Northwest forests are doing. ♦

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## INTERVIEW WITH **Bill Marre** *Hancock Forest Management*

**B**ill Marre is the general manager, Northwest Division, of Hancock Forest Management (HFM) in Vancouver, Wash. HFM is responsible for the management of timberlands on behalf of the Hancock Timber Resource Group (HTRG); HTRG is a TIMO. The Northwest Region is over 775,000 acres and extends from northern California to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Bill can be reached at wmarre@hnrg.com.



### **What are your management goals?**

Hancock Forest Management is the property manager for Hancock Timber Resource Group, a timber investment management organization. As the property manager, we manage land for our clients based on two core values. The first is that timberland can provide attractive returns while enabling investors to diversify their portfolios. The second is that good stewardship is good business. We manage our client's lands to maximize returns through the sustainable growing and harvesting of trees for useful products while at the same time practicing good stewardship to conserve soil, air and water quality, biodiversity, wildlife, and aquatic habitat, and provide socially beneficial values such as aesthetics and recreation. While we will not own the lands we manage forever, our approach is to manage them as if we will.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE STANGELL

### **How have the recent tough economic times challenged your priorities and affected your management decisions now and for the future?**

During the recent tough economic times our priority of maximizing client returns did not change, nor did our commitment to long-term sustainability and our commitment to good stewardship. Even in a tough economy, our management decisions continue to be based on these core values. In addition, we gave extra consideration to the long-term implications of decisions to ensure that we are not putting ourselves in a situation that would be detrimental over time. For example, our decision to defer harvest volume in order to maximize returns was tempered by the need to retain a viable contractor work force. The social consideration to maintain good quality contractors was a significant factor in how much volume was deferred. Costs were viewed in the same way; where they did not impact the long-term direction of property management there were opportunities to delay expenses. For example, some Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) costs were deferred, but only where there was minimal risk of impact to the environment.

### **How are you adapting to changing times and changing situations as a manager, and in your management decisions?**

As land managers we are always adapting to changing times and situations while striving to meet our core values. In the current economic environment we continue to focus on activities that maintain returns and retain the value of the timberlands while being good stewards of the land. Over the past several years we were able to defer harvest volumes preferring to keep the trees growing rather than harvest during the lowest markets that we have experienced in decades. We took steps to actively take advantage of export markets and other markets as they developed. In addition, every cost was evaluated including silvicultural, harvest, road construction and maintenance, and other costs. Our foresters, engineers, and other staff looked for more creative and efficient

ways to operate while the impacts of delaying activities were evaluated. The challenge is to continue to obtain attractive returns in a difficult economic environment while considering long-term social and environmental impacts.

### **What challenges and opportunities do you see for forest management in the Northwest in the coming 5-10 years?**

We anticipate the normal ongoing challenges to deliver favorable returns in tough economic and regulatory environments. Concern around "regulatory creep" is always present. Stakeholder concerns about forestry activities will continue. Water quality and responsible pesticide use will also continue to be high priorities.

The global demand for wood will be an opportunity and a challenge as we look for answers to how we satisfy expanding markets for sustainably grown wood. Given the species that we grow in the Northwest, high growth rates and good access to markets, the Northwest is in a position to be a significant part of the global wood supply.

Our foresters are continuously exploring ways to increase value to our investors through alternative uses of resources. Non-timber resources will become a bigger part of the picture in the next 5 to 10 years due to increasing pressure from urbanization and population growth. There will be increased demand for recreation, conservation easements, and wetlands mitigation. As the demand for clean energy increases, there will be opportunities to supply wind energy and biomass from forestlands. Markets for ecosystem services may develop and present opportunities to monetize resources like carbon sequestration and water quality.

Forests have the centuries old legacy of providing sustainable flows of products to benefit society. Our country was built, in part, from forests. The forests we manage create income streams that ensure the continued viability of the forest environment, forest-dependent economy, and public support. We will actively explore new ways to add value to the forestland that we manage while sustainably harvesting timber. ♦

## INTERVIEW WITH **Norm Schaaf** *Merrill & Ring, Inc.*

**N**orm Schaaf is vice president, Timberlands and Administration for Merrill & Ring (M&R) in Port Angeles, Wash. A graduate forester from Washington State University with a Forest Management MBA from the University of Washington, Norm is responsible for all management activities on M&R properties in western Washington (~ 60,000 acres), British Columbia (~ 10,000 acres), and New Zealand (~ 6,000 acres). He directs a staff of five foresters in Washington/B.C. and three in New Zealand. In addition to owning lands in New Zealand they manage about 25,000 acres under contract. For all of these lands, Norm's responsibilities include silviculture, harvesting, road construction and maintenance, log marketing, all necessary governmental permits, public access and use, land sales and acquisitions, and community and industry relations. For this article, he responds relative to their Washington lands only. Norm can be reached at [nschaaf@merrillring.com](mailto:nschaaf@merrillring.com).



### **What are your management goals?**

The Merrill & Ring lands are privately held by descendants of the original founders, R.D. Merrill and Clark Ring. Three family groups hold title to individual tracts that are all managed cooperatively but financially separate. The family entities are R.D. Merrill Company, Ring Family L.P., and JLCG LLC. The goals of each entity are similar and include timber harvest for long-term sustained yield; grow the asset base over time through silviculture practices and strategic sales and acquisitions; provide positive annual cash flow; be a responsible steward of all lands, managing with high-quality silviculture practices, and operating to meet or exceed all environmental and safety laws and rules; establish and maintain strong relationships with our customers, contractors and key stake-

holders; and support our employees and the industry and communities in which we operate. Because the entities are all privately held, managers quickly adjust all operations to maximize benefits during good economic times and minimize operating costs and harvests during weak economic conditions.

### **How have the recent tough economic times challenged your priorities and affected your management decisions now and for the future?**

As log markets began to decline in late 2008, harvest levels were reduced for all M&R entities. Budgets and operating plans for 2009 all reflected the dismal log markets. Timber harvests declined to meet break-even cash flow requirements. While every effort was made to maintain an economically minimal level of operations, M&R's primary logging and road construction and maintenance contractors were told to reduce production or seek work elsewhere. Silviculture, road maintenance, and construction that were not essential at that time were deferred. Employee salaries and benefits were cut to reduce administrative costs. One office was closed and some non-essential programs were eliminated. These reductions all continued into 2010 until log markets began to rise and production was increased. All operations in 2011 have returned to normal conditions with some catch-up of deferred work.

The tough economic times of 2009 and 2010, and the likelihood of continued problems in 2012 and beyond, have served to help us focus on our priorities and essential functions. Since we can't control log prices we remain very cost conscious while retaining our goal of growing the timberland asset value over time. Annual harvest levels are more variable but remain within long-term sustained yield levels. Harvest levels and specific plans are quickly adjusted to slow down in poor markets and to take advantage of niche opportunities and general market increases. Income and cash-flow concerns for some landowners have created timberland purchase opportunities for Merrill & Ring.

### **How are you adapting to changing times and changing situations as a manager, and in your management decisions?**

Changing times and situations are not new in the forest products industry or in my career. However, the severity, depth, and longevity of the recent economic downturn have caused me to adapt my management practices and decisions. My priorities are to manage operating costs effectively within budgeted levels, establish a high level of flexibility to respond to market changes, and maintain focus on the overall goals and highest priorities. All staff are working together to manage for the highest value, while remaining within annual operating cost constraints. We determine the highest value as the combination of out-of-pocket costs, sales revenues, management and administration requirements, quality, and reliability of the operation. This focuses decisions on overall effectiveness, not specific individual work plans or budgets. We continually ask whether a past or common practice is necessary or effective in achieving our goals and change those practices as needed. Our financial reporting and data management tools have all been improved, providing staff with up-to-date answers on operating results and to assist in management decisions. It is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security and stability in an industry that takes 40-60 years to produce a product and in a 125-year-old company where many of the employees have served for 10-20 years or more. If the recent downturn has taught anything it is that stability and security are a myth, and that as a manager it is my responsibility to challenge the old assumptions and require justification for all operations.

### **What challenges and opportunities do you see for forest management in the Northwest in the coming 5-10 years?**

Depressed log and lumber markets will be the most significant challenge. Without adequate stumpage returns, forestlands will be more susceptible to conversion to non-forest uses. The

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



industry is losing workers to urban and office careers, and mill infrastructure will be lost if lumber markets do not improve soon. Mill closures and worker shortages will drive operating costs up, subjecting Northwest products to more severe international competition.

Additional regulations, such as Clean Water Act stormwater permits or protections for threatened or endangered species will also add to costs.

Population pressures, especially in the Puget Sound Basin to Willamette Basin, will drive forestland conversion to residential and urban uses, further stressing timber supplies and mill infrastructure. The insect outbreaks that started in British Columbia are now affecting Washington's northeast and North Cascade regions.

Logs are and will be the primary economic resource for our forestlands. Economic recovery, both here and internationally, will boost wood use and raise log and lumber prices. The growing re-recognition of wood as a superior building product compared to alternatives (energy efficient, carbon sequestering, renewable, recyclable, forests providing a multitude of environmental qualities) will result in more wood use and a more favorable public opinion of forestry. Forest biomass use for energy will increase. Incentives, in the form of direct payments, market opportunities, or regulatory cost reductions, will be utilized to achieve greater resource protection and prevent forest conversion. Large forest ownerships will continue to sell land, providing opportunities for many companies and individuals. ♦

## INTERVIEW WITH **Sara Leiman** *Coast Range Conifers LLC*

**S**ara Leiman is general manager/owner of Coast Range Conifers LLC, a multi-generation family company that grows and harvests timber in the central coast range of Oregon. They have about 3,200 acres in family ownership, and are considered a larger family forest owner. She is responsible for all facets of family timber land management, from planting trees to surveys to neighbors to logging to taxes to succession to thinning to fire protection to streams. Sara can be reached at [bsleiman@peak.org](mailto:bsleiman@peak.org).



### **What are your management goals?**

We strive to maintain the economic vitality of owning and managing forestlands that contributes to our family members and to our community. We take both a long-term and short-term view of management: to harvest what we are growing each year and to be able to do this over decades and through generations of owners. Our goals, inputs, and outputs for the land have and will change over the years to accommodate the desires of our family owners. We value profit of long, long-term investments. Without commitment to keep the lands in the family and in forestland use, our management

schemes would be out the window. We feel our management achieves and maintains a healthy, productive forest, good water quality, native wildlife habitat opportunities, and other attributes at the same time we are growing and harvesting timber. We are proud we have kept the forestlands in the family.

### **How have the recent tough economic times challenged your priorities and affected your management decisions now and for the future?**

Phew...the tough times have definitely put a strain on harvest levels, and keeping to our plan has gotten tougher due to reduced cash flow from harvested timber. Our family members have accepted the reductions during these times of lower value, but as the years go on and our life needs change, the pressure to increase harvest levels increases. As this recession continues, it is also affecting our contractors we rely on to do our management work. Loggers and truckers have had to downsize and we get in the merry-go-round of fewer contractors to get our work done, and as soon as the market ticks up a little, many landowners want to get their work done, and there are fewer contractors to do it, which either makes it difficult to find a contractor and/or ups the price of the work to be done due to the demand for their time. This affects our hand-crew contractors in the same way. We have been less likely to make inputs back into the land in these tough times. For instance, we have delayed road work and thinning projects. We have deferred order of genetically improved seedlings for future reforestation, and will rely on whatever seedlings are available at the time needed, when cash flow is better. We are not replacing older, log-stringer bridges until we absolutely need the roads to be opened. We are considering "drinking at the public trough" again, investigating cost-share monies that might be used to do enhancement and improvement work.

### **How are you adapting to changing times and changing situations as a manager, and in your management decisions?**

Adaptive management...hmmm, seems like I've heard that phrase before

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in a different context! But of course we are and we must be adaptive. Management is, at best, a guesstimate you make today about the outcomes of your decisions a long, long time in the future. In our system of land ownership (with BMPs!) in this country, it is the people that own private lands that make the decisions about how to manage their forests, not the critters, not the trees, not your neighbors, not our government. This is both a joy and a serious responsibility for the manager and/or landowner. We try to gather as much as we can to inform our decisions, and it's never an isolated factor, or even the information itself that makes the decision. We, the owners and managers, make the decisions to the best of our abilities. In some ways on the landscape it's like picking the color to paint your house: you make the decision to paint and get samples and test out some colors, decide to use a brush or a sprayer or a roller, and then make the decision and just do it. I might pick a different color than you do, but I respect your decision. Same with forest land management: I might do it differently than

my neighbors, but I hope they respect my decisions as I respect their decisions and goals of land ownership.

**What challenges and opportunities do you see for forest management in the Northwest in the coming 5-10 years?**

We love to live in Oregon, and many other people do too, and will in the near future. The pressures to put forestlands under pavement will continue and the challenge is to get across the value of working forestlands near urban and suburban areas to those residents: forests as water and air filters, contributors to infrastructure and communities, for wood to build their structures, for quality of life, and for simple enjoyment of our beautiful, green landscape.

In our family business in the next bit of time, we will be transitioning from one generation of manager to the next, and the road is littered with "fun stuff," but we are planning with chainsaws and 4-wheel drives to make it to the next junction, no problem! Many others in our sector, in our networks, owners, managers, foresters are also transitioning from the older to the younger. As it should be, with all the changes and chances that comes with. I didn't understand earlier in life that we can sink our passion and energy into our management of our lands ONLY for the period of time we are in charge. At some point it will be time to let the next managers have the joy and responsibility to make those decisions. Leave it better than you found it, whatever that means for your own thinking. ♦

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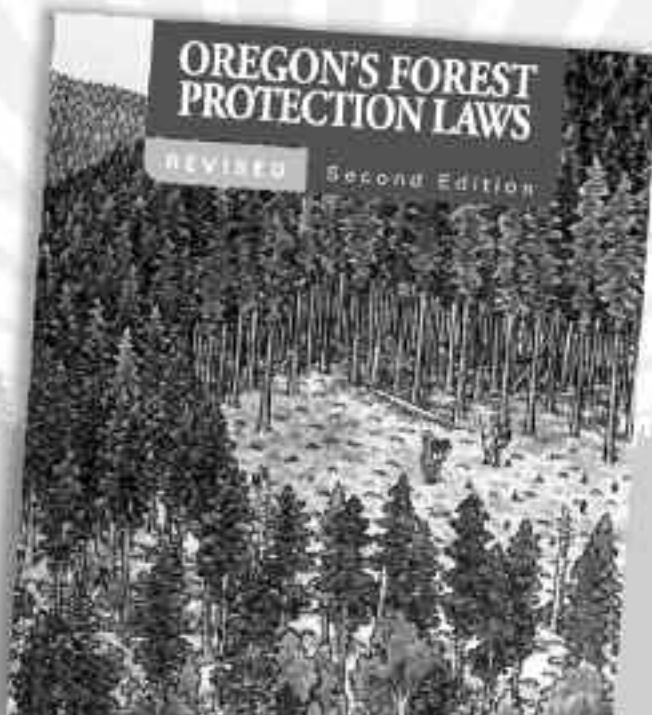
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## INTERVIEW WITH **Ed Shepard** *Bureau of Land Management*

**E**d Shepard, CF, is the state director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Oregon and Washington, located in Portland. He is responsible for the management of BLM lands and resources in the Pacific Northwest, including the regional headquarters and 10 district offices.



The BLM is responsible for managing 245 million acres of land nationwide, more land than any other federal agency. In Oregon and Washington, 16.1 million acres of public resources are managed for multiple uses, including forestry, wildlife and fisheries, minerals, rangelands, waterways, and recreational activities of all sorts.

BLM forestlands in Oregon and Washington are administered under two management programs. The historic Oregon and California Railroad grant lands in western Oregon are managed under the O&C Lands Act of 1937. The other forest holdings are public domain lands, also known as "PD" lands, generally found in eastern Oregon and Washington. Washington has 51,000 acres of forestlands, and approximately 2.5 million acres in western Oregon are primarily O&C forest. Eastern Oregon has about 201,000 acres of PD forestlands. Ed can be reached at [ed\\_shepard@blm.gov](mailto:ed_shepard@blm.gov).

### **What are your management goals?**

The BLM manages all of our forestlands to provide for forest health in balance with the BLM's multiple-use mandate and mission to manage

resources for current and future generations. We also have a goal of contributing to local economies and providing employment opportunities through our management activities. We use service contracts to accomplish much of our labor-intensive work such as fuel reduction and thinning projects. We also provide timber and other forest products through our timber sale program. The newer stewardship contracting authority has been a big help as we can use this tool to conduct more acres of treatment when the value of forest products offsets some of the cost of treatments.

Our primary goal on our forest and woodlands east of the Cascades is to enhance forest health. On the high-value O&C forestland in western Oregon we have a very specific and important mandate under the O&C Act of 1937. In addition to managing to provide resilient forests across the landscape over time, we meet the purpose of the act by managing for a sustained yield of timber to "...contribute to the economic stability of local communities and industries." We seek to do this while meeting our other mandates to provide high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife, clean water, and other treasured forest values.

### **How have the recent tough economic times challenged your priorities and affected your management decisions now and for the future?**

The current economic times have been tough on everyone in the land and resource management business—public and private. Public forest managers, at all levels of government, will continue to see reduced budgets. This is causing us to manage our workforce very conservatively and reorder projects to get the highest priority work done. We recognize that much of the work we do provides jobs that are very much needed at this time. We add this into our calculus when we decide where we

invest appropriated dollars to meet our critical work on timber sales, forest restoration, and habitat improvement.

With the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act and uncertainty about its reauthorization, we are facing increased pressure to meet our obligations under the O&C Act to provide receipts to the O&C counties through the sale of timber. The longstanding conflict over timber management makes it difficult for us to meet our current authorized levels of harvest, let alone increase it to the levels to meet county needs without the SRS Act. The economic slump has reduced housing demand, thus reducing demand for building materials and the demand for timber. The stumpage value on successful sales is the lowest in decades. With the economy, as with the forest ecosystem, everything is connected. Economic cycles are not new to this business. We've been through them before. We will have an upside sooner or later. What is different this time is that large deficits will continue to put pressure on our budgets. This will increase the challenge for us to respond when demand for timber increases.

### **How are you adapting to changing times and changing situations as a manager, and in your management decisions?**

Federal forest management is really a social program. We manage the forests using the biological and physical sciences to meet societal demands that include a range of needs, from spiritual values like solitude to commercial forest products. Meeting the proper balance between all of these societal values has been a challenge throughout our history. In recent decades, we've seen an increase in the demands for amenity values at the cost of commodities values. With the downturn in the economy and the huge deficits facing local, state, and the federal government, there is more desire to use the assets from our public lands to fund many of the societal services governments are expected to provide. This has been successful in the past and can be in the future. However, it is becoming more and more difficult to find the balance that gives public land managers the social license to manage. The challenge we face is to find new

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models of public participation that bring the divergent publics together to find that balance. This is a huge challenge, but one that needs to be taken on. We are adapting by trying new ways to involve stakeholders like including tribes, counties, and other government bodies as cooperating agencies, trying new methods or prescriptions in the forests to restore resiliency, and looking for more opportunities and avenues to involve the public that extend beyond the regulatory processes.

### **What challenges and opportunities do you see for forest management in the Northwest in the coming 5-10 years?**

My background is as a silviculturist, so by definition I'm an optimist. Despite the many challenges we face with the economy, declining forest health, and the potential effects of a changing climate, I'm excited about the potential for finding solutions within the next decade. The debate about forest management has reached a level where sincere people from all sides of the issues realize the status quo is not working for the forest or communities. Neither is sustainable under current management scenarios. There is growing scientific consensus that active management of the forests is needed. There is growing recognition that our forests are assets that can produce amenity values and economic values, and should do so. Congress, the only body that can truly address these issues on federal forests, is paying attention. The last two Oregon governors have paid attention to what is going on in Oregon's forests. Local collaborative efforts are showing some successes in getting people together to suggest paths forward (although there is still far to go). And, the federal agencies are listening and looking for help in finding solutions. The challenges we face with the economy and health of the forest systems are our opportunities. We can seize the opportunity to work together to find solutions, or we can continue to watch our communities and our forests decline. ♦

## **INTERVIEW WITH Tom Nelson Sierra Pacific Industries**

**T**om Nelson is Washington Timberlands Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries in Mount Vernon, Wash. He is responsible for the management of Sierra Pacific's ownership in the state of Washington. They own two separate tree farms in the state—85,000 acres in southwest Washington (Lewis, Cowlitz, and Pacific counties) and 132,000 acres in northwest Washington (Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish counties).



Sierra Pacific Industries is a privately-held, family-run business that owns and manages over 1.7 million acres of forestland in California and Washington. They also operate 12 sawmills (three in Washington, nine in California), a Windows Division, Millwork plants, and eight co-generation power plants.

Tom can be reached at [tnelson@spi-ind.com](mailto:tnelson@spi-ind.com)

### **What are your management goals?**

Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to long-term, sustained yield. Our goal is to maintain, and actually increase the productivity of our forestlands through investments in sound forestry practices. This will augment and complement our ability to secure the logs and other raw materials necessary to continually manage our lands and forest products facilities.

### **How have the recent tough economic times challenged your priorities and affected your management decisions now and for the future?**

Since we do not export logs to other countries (necessary to maintain our ability to purchase public timber for our mills), we have been forced to compete with private owners that send logs into the vibrant Asian markets. The net effect of this has been to raise log prices while lumber prices are severely depressed (since the unprecedented drop in

new home construction and overall demand for lumber in the U.S.). Like most small- and medium-sized companies, we have taken a hard look at all of our expenditures in the current economic climate and sought to keep our costs to a minimum.

### **How are you adapting to changing times and changing situations as a manager, and in your management decisions?**

Some of the added scrutiny and analysis of how we currently incur costs is probably something we should have been doing in "good times" as well. While we have always prided ourselves on being economically efficient, the current recession has caused us to analyze virtually all of our investments—even those that we have taken for granted. We believe this is a positive change, something that needs to happen if we are to remain competitive and efficient.

### **What challenges and opportunities do you see for forest management in the Northwest in the coming 5-10 years?**

More of the same, in the short term (one to five years)—the underlying problems that led to the current decline (i.e., the sudden drop in the housing market that accompanied the home mortgage crisis, foreclosures, etc.) have not been "fixed" yet. Until this stabilizes, there will be considerable uncertainty in the lumber manufacturing business. On the positive side, the population of our world continues to grow, as will the demand for housing. In addition, our forests also continue to grow at a rapid and sustainable level. We believe the future is bright and predictable in that demand for the products we manufacture (and the trees we grow to supply the raw materials for them) will steadily increase over time. ♦

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# The Evolution of the Washington State Forestland Database Project

BY ANDREW COOKE AND  
MATTHEW McLAUGHLIN

**T**he Washington State Forestland Database (WSFD) is a well-developed and evolving tool used to analyze forest ownership and management patterns and model forestry economics at a statewide scale. Started in 2001, it combines land ownership, land use, and assessment information with physical characteristics for every parcel in the state.



**Andrew Cooke**



**Matthew McLaughlin**

In 1999 the Washington State legislature passed the Salmon Recovery Act and established the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Forest Landowner Office, which was tasked with, among other things, collecting and reporting every four years the number of small forest landowners (SFLO) and the size of their land holdings. The Washington State Forestland Database was initially developed in response to this need, in order to provide a comprehensive platform for understanding the spatial characteristics of all private forestland ownership in the state; it was a forest ownership census.

The backbone of the WSFD is parcel-level assessment records collected from Washington's 39 county assessors, combined and standardized into a seamless, statewide dataset. Much of the original parcel data lacked specific spatial information, but there has been a strong push by the county assessors to improve their data by making it spatial. This move toward Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the county parcel data has greatly increased the potential of the database to provide answers to an array of research and policy questions.

## The past: what has changed between the 2001 and 2007 database versions

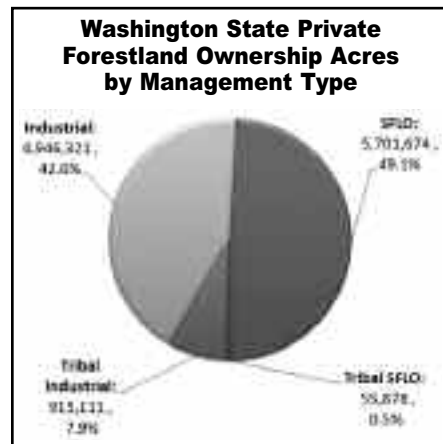
Over the last 10 years, three versions of the database have been developed. The initial version, the Small Forest Landowner Database, was completed in 2001, and was focused on identifying small landowners. It attempted to answer the question "Who owns the forestland?"

In the second version, in 2007, most of the data provided by the county assessors was now spatial (maintained in a GIS database) and also included parcel values. The spatial component made it possible to model the potential of forestland parcels to grow timber over time. The addition of parcel values made economic analysis possible by comparing the present value of potential future timber harvests to the present value of developing the parcel to a non-forestry use. This comparison highlighted parcels where the future harvest value was lower than the current market value. These parcels were considered more likely to convert to a developed land use. With this additional information, the database moved beyond the original forestland ownership census to the projection of possible economic and physical changes to the forestland base in Washington.

## How the 2007 database has been used

The 2007 WSFD was the basis of the October 2008 Northwest Environmental Forum that focused on retaining working forestland. Information derived from the database drove the forum discussion, and guided the recommendations that the forum submitted to the Washington State Senate in the report: *Retention of High-Valued Forest Lands at Risk of Conversion to Non-Forest Uses in Washington State*.

In 2009, the WSFD was highlighted in the Database Final Report to the US Forest Service. The report provided background on the database, and statistics about the ownership of Washington's forestland base. Statistics derived from the database reveal that



215,000 small forest landowners own 5.7 million acres of forestland (see chart above), half of the 11.6 million acres of private forestland in the state. Over 89,000 of those small forest landowners have ownerships greater than 10 acres and 55,000 own more than 20 acres.

While creating the 2007 WSFD, it was recognized that making it publicly available could greatly increase its utility and thus its potential value. A public version of the database was built that retained parcel land use information while protecting private ownership details. This version of the database has been distributed through the Rural Technology Initiative (RTI) website and has been downloaded by 65 different organizations.

## The present (2009 version): new updates and components

The 2009 Washington State Forestland Database was created to support projects with the Washington DNR and the USDA. Lessons learned from the creation of the 2001 and 2007 versions were applied to improve the consistency of the data collection and normalization process. Feedback from users of the previous databases was used to create new features and to increase its functionality. As a result, the 2009 WSFD is a more robust tool that can be used to answer a broader base of research and public policy questions.

The greatest improvement in data consistency came from developing a more rigorous data integration methodology. Parcel datasets from counties were supplemented with

datasets from state and federal agencies. Sometimes the same parcel record was included in multiple data sources, so it became necessary to identify and remove duplicate parcels from different sources. A system was developed to prioritize data sources depending on the type of ownership; for instance, DNR parcel records took priority over county parcel records for DNR lands. The inclusion of state and federal data sources for the first time made the 2009 WSFD a true border-to-border inventory including all private and public lands.

The addition of data from a new rigorously tested inventory dataset (GNN Mapping of Existing Vegetation, Pacific Coast States) made it possible to use the 2009 WSFD to estimate timber and biomass inventories for all of Washington. By importing current forest inventory data into a well-established growth model, the available biomass was calculated over the next 30 years. The available biomass has been requested by the Washington DNR; it is an important factor in determining the viability of creating a biofuel industry to help replace the use of imported fossil fuels.

Another important component included in the 2009 WSFD is a road network dataset. This spatial dataset was developed by combining the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Streetmap data on intrastate roads and highways with the Washington DNR data on forest roads. The combination of the two datasets was critical to model transportation from every parcel to any location. The road network dataset is used extensively in calculating the costs associated with forest harvests and the costs of hauling biomass to potential biofuel refineries.

### The future

The Washington Forestland Database began as a static snapshot of the small forest landowners in Washington state. It answered the question "how many forest landowners are there?" As the use of GIS based assessment data increased, it became possible to use the database to answer "where are the forestlands located?"

The future of the WSFD project involves broadening the scope to

include a more complete picture of Washington's agricultural and forest resource lands and their interaction with urban areas. These resource lands account for over 70 percent of the state's land base. The database is a powerful source of information and can be used for research and to investigate public policy questions on the economy, air quality, water quality, bioenergy, homeland security, and forest industry to name a few. Over the past 10 years the Washington State Forestland Database has continued to evolve to meet new challenges and answer new questions. ♦

*A more detailed background on the development of the Washington State Forestland Database can be found in two articles in the March/April 2006 issue of Western Forester.*

*Andrew Cooke is a research consultant and GIS analyst at the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources. He can be reached at 206-685-8179 or [agcooke@uw.edu](mailto:agcooke@uw.edu). Matthew McLaughlin is an internet information specialist at the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources. He can be reached at 206-543-7418 or [mrm2@uw.edu](mailto:mrm2@uw.edu).*



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# Head to the Oregon Coast for the OSAF Annual Meeting

BY BETH FITCH AND  
GLENN AHRENS

**H**osted by the Tillamook/Clatsop Chapter and co-organized with the Capitol Chapter, the 2012 OSAF Annual Meeting will be held April 25-27 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. The theme of the meeting is *Global Issues, Local Solutions: Sustaining Oregon's Forests*, opening with an afternoon general session (see sidebar) followed by an icebreaker and poster session on the first day. The second day will begin with an Alumni breakfast and proceed with two concurrent technical sessions on *Sustaining Oregon's Forests in a Changing World* and *Oregon's Forest Sector in the Global Marketplace*. Brett Brownscombe, natural resources policy advisor for Governor Kitzhaber, has been invited to speak at the luncheon.

After lunch, concurrent sessions will continue on *Sustaining Oregon's Forests in a Changing World* and *Intensive Forestry in our Future*. The OSAF awards banquet will round out the day.

Participants can choose between two technical field tours on Day 3. North Coast forests have the highest rates of both productivity and harvest in Oregon. One tour will showcase the Northwest Forest Management Plan and how it is being implemented on the Clatsop State Forest to achieve "greatest permanent value" to the citizens of Oregon. The second tour features intensive management, operations, and products from a private forest managed under a TIMO structure that balances forest stewardship and the timber investment value.

Save your lunch money for the



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SEASIDE

**Come to the OSAF annual meeting to learn and enjoy the sights, including the Tillamook Head Estuary.**

Foresters' Fund Silent Auction and Raffle. This important fundraising event will be ongoing throughout the first two days.

Get your ideas and findings out there: Undergraduate and graduate students, practicing foresters, and researchers are invited to submit posters on any subject pertaining to forestry and forest resources. The formal poster session will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, but posters will be up for the full indoor part of the convention. The deadline for submission of poster abstracts is March 30.

We wouldn't want to throw this party without Spouse/Guest Tours or vendor exhibits. Meeting exhibitors



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## Program Highlights

Highlights for the general session on day 1 include:

- Global Forest Marketplace: Implications for Oregon's Forest Sector, Steve Zika, CEO, Hampton Affiliates
- Investment-driven Forestry in our Future, David Rumker, managing director of Research and Resource Planning, The Campbell Group
- Sustaining Forests in a Changing World, Jim Johnson, associate dean for Extended Education and International Programs, College of Forestry, Oregon State University
- Leadership in Forestry to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World, John Gordon, Pinchot Professor of Forestry emeritus, Interforest, LLC
- Capnote: Vision for Oregon Forests, Doug Decker, State Forester



always bring the "latest and greatest" to attendees, whether it's forestry products, services, or information. Spouse/Guest tours are designed to inform and entertain with plans to visit historic and scenic places in the Seaside-Astoria area including Fort Clatsop, Astoria Column, Fort George Brewery and Public House, Columbia River Maritime Museum, and the Clatsop County Heritage Museum.

Annual meeting sponsors, as both organizations and individuals, will play an active and key role in the success of the meeting through their financial commitments, which will help bring the best opportunities for

learning and information sharing to meeting participants and will also help offset the overall costs of the meeting.

See the sidebar for annual meeting contact information and regularly visit [www.forestry.org](http://www.forestry.org) for updates and details on program, field tours, spouse tours, poster session, student participation, registration, sponsorships, exhibiting, and lodging. A registration flyer will be mailed to all OSFA members in February.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with old friends and colleagues and learn about global issues affecting Oregon, all while enjoying the beautiful Oregon coast. ♦



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The promenade turnaround is a popular landmark in Seaside.



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*Beth Fitch is publicity chair of the OSFA annual meeting. She can be reached at 503-458-6111 or [bethfitch@hamptonaffiliates.com](mailto:bethfitch@hamptonaffiliates.com). Glenn Ahrens is the program chair, and can be reached at 503-325-8573 or [glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu](mailto:glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu).*

## Annual Meeting Contacts

Need more information about the OSFA 2012 annual meeting? Contact the appropriate member of the annual meeting team.

### General Co-Chairs:

Jim Culbert, 503-472-8501  
[jhculbert@yahoo.com](mailto:jhculbert@yahoo.com)  
John Tillotson, 503-338-9004  
[john.e.tillotson@state.or.us](mailto:john.e.tillotson@state.or.us)

### Program

Glenn Ahrens, 503-325-8573  
[glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu](mailto:glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu)

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Dave Wells, 503-815-7041  
[dave.w.wells@state.or.us](mailto:dave.w.wells@state.or.us)

### Foresters' Fund

Tom Parke, 503-325-7579  
[tjparke@charter.net](mailto:tjparke@charter.net)

### Poster Session

Doug Maguire, 541-737-4215  
[doug.maguire@oregonstate.edu](mailto:doug.maguire@oregonstate.edu)

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Kevin Boyd, 503-945-7352  
[kevin.m.boyd@state.or.us](mailto:kevin.m.boyd@state.or.us)

### Spouse Tours

Tom Scoggins, 503-325-6358  
[tvscoggins@q.com](mailto:tvscoggins@q.com)

### Students/CFE

Terry Droessler, 503-623-0893  
[forestanalytic@hughest.net](mailto:forestanalytic@hughest.net)

### Publicity

Beth Fitch, 503-458-6111  
[bethfitch@hamptonaffiliates.com](mailto:bethfitch@hamptonaffiliates.com)



# SAF Council Highlights from the National Convention in Honolulu

BY CHUCK LORENZ,  
BOB ALVERTS, AND LYNN SPRAGUE

**S**AF President Roger Dziengeski led a two-day SAF Council meeting at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel on Oct. 31 and Nov. 2. On Nov. 1 and the morning of Nov. 2, Council representatives and SAF national officers attended the House of Society Delegates meeting. This provided an opportunity for Council members and national officers to interact with state society leaders and help gauge member issues and concerns.

Council approved two forest policy position statements on Federal Tax Treatment of Private Forestland and the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Also approved was a charter for the Committee on World Forestry, following a discussion on SAF's role in international forestry.

Strategic Planning continues to be a focus area, using the Jim Collins book *Good to Great*. Although strategic planning has been a major activity in recent years, the work to date has not led to significant advancement of SAF. The disciplined process in *Good to Great* is helping guide SAF to focus on core values, mission, member experiences, and steps needed to get from a good organization to a great organization. This will lead to a commitment on a path that will define SAF in the 21st century.

Phil Aune, general chair of the 2012 National Convention, made a presentation on the Oct. 24-28 meeting that will be held in Spokane. The theme is "Resilient Forests—Foresters—Forestry." The program will address resilient forests, communities, and economies. A call for presentations is open until Feb. 29. Go to [www.eforester.org/nat-conv12/index.cfm](http://www.eforester.org/nat-conv12/index.cfm) for more details. Spokane is a great venue and the convention is shaping up to be an outstanding event. A fine convention center, nearby hotels, and other features make for an excellent convention setting, as well as the proximity to outstanding field trips.

Council approved Salt Lake City as the location for the 2014 SAF National Convention to be held in conjunction with the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) meeting.

The new SAF tiered dues structure is finally in place, after several months of delay caused by SAF's new database software. Invoices for 2012 dues went out in November with three tiers available to members ranging from \$95 to \$240 per year. Renewals are also available on the website (members should go to [www.eforester.org](http://www.eforester.org), then log in, click on the membership tab, then click "your memberships," then click "renew membership" for more details). Current member renewals will be set at the Gold level, which is closest to current dues. Members that wish to change

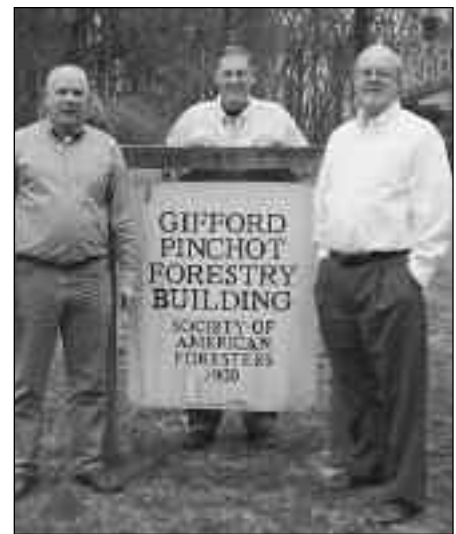


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERNIE HOUGHTON

**Left to right: 2011 Council representatives Bob Alverts, Lynn Sprague and Chuck Lorenz.**

their tier may do so, but need to contact Christopher Whited at [whitedc@safnet.org](mailto:whitedc@safnet.org). Golden members will receive services at the Silver level, but are free to select another dues category and pay the appropriate fees. Golden Members that wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the *Journal of Forestry* will need to pay an additional \$35 annual fee if they continue at the Silver level. State Society and local chapter dues will be an additional expense. A \$20 annual discount will be available to members that recruit new members. This will be applied for five years if these new members stay current, and the new members get a \$30 annual discount.

Greg Brown provided a summary that highlighted the work of the task force developing the proposal to adopt a new SAF accreditation for a natural resource management or terrestrial ecosystem management curriculum. This was followed by a four-hour technical session at the convention on Friday, Nov. 4. While there is much work left to do, most SAF members as well as Council appear to embrace the notion of enhancing our capacity through adoption of a broader accredited natural resource curriculum. This would have no effect on current accredited programs, but be in addition to them.

The non-dues revenue issue was discussed, and the Finance Committee was asked to develop an action proposal for approval at the March 3-4,



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2012, Council meeting in Detroit.

SAFs budget is improving, largely through cost cutting, but we are still operating at a deficit. This is a credit to all SAF staff given the continued economic climate. But additional revenues are needed to help SAF accomplish mission objectives. Staff has been cut as far as it can be without major loss in capacity, so we need to grow the organization through increased membership and non-dues revenue.

SAF continues to have buyers interested in the property surrounding our headquarters office. We are looking at options to help maximize the asset value of our organization, while maintaining our headquarters office.

The fall 2011 Council meeting was the final meeting for District 1 Council representative Chuck Lorenz and District 4 Council representative Lynn Sprague. They have each done outstanding jobs and represented SAF members in Districts 1 and 4 extremely well.

New SAF Council members have been elected for Districts 1 and 4. The new Council representative for SAF District 1 is John Walkowiak, CF, from Tacoma, Wash. His contact details are 360-534-1320 (work); 253-320-5064 (cell); johnwa@dor.wa.gov. For District 4, the new Council representative is Johnny Hodges, CF, from Ft. Collins, Colorado. His contact details are 970-226-6890 (home); 970-218-3394 (cell); jah.16@live.com.

Joann Meyer Cox, CF, from Raleigh, NC, has been elected to SAF vice-president for 2012. She can be reached at 919-676-8285 (work); 919-621-0852 (cell); or joann.cox@ca.pwc.com. ♦

*This Council report is a collaborative effort between Chuck Lorenz (Tumwater, Wash.), SAF District 1 Council representative (360-951-0117; c\_4str@yahoo.com); Bob Alverts (Tigard, Ore.), SAF District 2 Council representative (503-639-0405; balverts@teleport.com); and Lynn Sprague (Garden City, Idaho), SAF District 4 Council representative (208-761-3492; glsprag@aol.com).*



## Working Forests/Wild Forests—What is the Balance?

BY JOHN WALKOWIAK AND  
TOM SWANSON

**T**his year's Washington State SAF (WSSAF) annual meeting will address the theme "Working Forests/Wild Forests—What is the Balance?" with a real-life case study involving the on-going Wild Olympics Proposal to expand Olympic National Park.

Foresters need to be conscious of their role to provide critical information to evaluate proposals that impact the amount of working forests on public and private lands. This meeting will provide a forum for learning issues, points and counter points, and examples of cooperation that show proposals can be modified to meet multiple goals.

The meeting, co-hosted by the Admiralty Inlet/North Olympic Chapters, will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Port Angeles on May 2-4.

On Wednesday, May 2, the WSSAF Executive Committee meeting will be held. The evening will include an ice-breaker with vendors and educational displays.

Thursday, May 3, is the indoor session and will feature keynote presentations by Karen Gustin, superintendent of Olympic National Park; Dale Hom, forest supervisor of Olympic National Forest; and Peter Goldmark, Washington Commissioner of Public Lands. A number of presentations and panels by a variety of speakers

will address: Challenges to Olympic Forests; Wild Olympics Proposal; Keys to Keeping Working Forests Viable; Future Forests of the Olympics—A Politician's View; and Examples of Olympic Forest Cooperation. The WSSAF annual awards dinner will be held in the evening.

On Friday, May 4, after the annual WSSAF business meeting, a field tour is planned to show challenges and opportunities for expanding renewable forests and renewable energy. Planned stops include working biomass operations, working renewable energy facilities, private working forests proposed for federal purchase, and progress on the removal of the Elwha Dam in Olympic National Park.

Look for registration information in February.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to not only network with other professionals, but also to gain a better understanding of how foresters need to promote working forests. ♦

*John Walkowiak, District 1 Council representative, and Tom Swanson of the North Olympic Chapter, are Program co-chairs for the 2012 WSSAF Annual Meeting. John can be reached at 360-534-1303 or johnwa@dor.wa.gov; Tom can be reached at 360-417-3664 or tom@greencrow.com.*



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# Inland Empire and Alaska Join SAF Northwest Office

**B**oth the Inland Empire and Alaska Societies of American Foresters have joined the SAF Northwest Office as full members, beginning in 2012. In the past, both groups received the *Western Forester* on a subscription basis, but were not full members. Both will also join the regional website at [www.forestry.org](http://www.forestry.org) this year.

The SAF Northwest Office was established in 1965 by the Oregon and Washington State Societies to provide services and support to SAF units. The Northwest Office is not an office of the National SAF, nor does it receive any funding from the National Office; rather, it is its own entity with its own budget, strategic plan, and set of services. The governing body is the Northwest Office Committee, which consists of state leaders.

The Northwest Office has been located at the World Forestry Center since 1985, and the Northwest Office committee contracts with the World Forestry Center for staffing of the office. Current staffing levels include

part-time secretarial support and part-time administrative, editorial, and professional support.

With changing volunteer leaders, the Northwest Office provides a stable point of contact as well as the infrastructure and logistics help to assist leaders; administrative support, such as election coordination, to state SAF units; tools to increase member communications; and staff assistance with fundraising campaigns and other initiatives.

"With the expansion of the Northwest Office, we all look forward to strengthening the regional SAF leadership, a centralized website with individual state pages, and an increase in the exchange of ideas and interactions with members in other states," said John Walkowiak, a member of the SAF Northwest office Committee who served as a liaison to the two groups.

Work is underway to fully integrate Inland Empire and Alaska SAF into the SAF Northwest Office Committee and its operations. ♦

# State Election Results are in

**T**he ballots have been tallied and results are in for state elections.

In Oregon SAF, Ron Boldenow, associate professor in the Forest Resources Technology Program at Central Oregon Community College, was elected chair-elect; he moves into the chair position in 2013. Mike Tucker, a forester with Guistina Land and Timber Co. in Eugene, was elected delegate-at-large. The position statement, Managing Mature and Old-Growth Forests, was approved with a 98 percent approval rate. The dues increase, effective in 2013, was approved with 87.5 percent of the members voting in favor.



**Ron Boldenow**



**Mike Tucker**

In Washington State SAF, Ellie Lathrop, commercial thinning manager for Weyerhaeuser Company on the St. Helens Tree Farm based in Longview, was elected to the office of chair-elect, moving into chair in 2013. The Working Forests position statement was approved with 95 percent of the members voting in favor.



**Ellie Lathrop**

Alaska SAF has two-year terms for their leadership. Kathryn (KT) Pyne serves as chair for 2011-12, and Charlie Sink moves from his current role of chair-elect to chair in 2013-14.

John Walkowiak, a Forest Tax and Audit manager for the Washington Department of Revenue, was elected to the SAF Council, representing District 1, which includes the Washington State, Inland Empire, and Alaska SAF.



**John Walkowiak**

At press time, Inland Empire elections were in process. ♦




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Professional Forester on Staff

# Tucker Selected New Private Forests Deputy Chief

**L**ena Tucker has been selected to serve as deputy chief of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Private Forests Division.



Tucker, with 17 years of experience with ODF, will oversee daily operations of programs that enforce forest practices regulations and best management practices, coordinate assistance to forest landowners, forest research and monitoring, forest health survey work controlling insect and disease damage on private lands, tree seed research, and the Urban Forestry program.

These duties will also include two initiatives directed by the Oregon Legislature—a project to innovate and re-align the division's services to make use of current private-sector business models and seek ways to integrate new technology into ODF's services, and a contract for an audit measuring

landowner compliance with Oregon Forest Practices Act requirements.

"Lena brings a wealth of field management experience and knowledge of ODF to the position," said Peter Daugherty, chief of the Private Forests Division. "I am looking forward to the leadership and vision she will provide for the division as we re-align our services to the public."

Tucker joined ODF in 1994 as a natural resources specialist for the State Forests Program in Astoria, and also served as unit forester for ODF in Grants Pass and as the assistant to the Eastern Oregon Area director in Prineville. Since 2004, Tucker has been the ODF district forester for the South Cascade District based in Springfield. She earned a bachelor of science in forest management from Northern Arizona University. She joined SAF in 1989 and is a Certified Forester. She began her new position on January 1, 2012. ♦

# Recognize an Outstanding Forester

**M**any foresters work alone or in small groups and it can be a challenge to be recognized by others for outstanding service, effort, and contributions to the profession. But nominating a colleague for an award is simple to do, and now is the time to do it.

To ease the nomination process, forms and award descriptions for Oregon SAF are available at [www.forestry.org/oregon/forestry/awards/](http://www.forestry.org/oregon/forestry/awards/). Nominations are due to Awards Chair Clark Seely (503-999-3475, [cleeregion@comcast.net](mailto:cleeregion@comcast.net)) by March 15.

In Washington State, contact John Walkowiak at 360-534-1303 or [johnwa@dor.wa.gov](mailto:johnwa@dor.wa.gov). In Inland Empire, contact Terry Shaw at [tshaw@uidaho.edu](mailto:tshaw@uidaho.edu). For information on Alaska awards, contact KT Pyne at 907-590-8230 or [kathryn.pyne@alaska.gov](mailto:kathryn.pyne@alaska.gov).

Let's make this a great year to say "Thanks" to our peers and colleagues and recognize fine work achieved. ♦

## Resilient Forests: Call for Presentations

The 2012 national convention will highlight contemporary forest management issues and the scientific basis of forest stewardship and resilience. We seek oral and poster presentations from diverse disciplines to pique attendees' interest and provide continuing education and exchange opportunities for professionals in all sectors of forest resources research and management.

Spokane offers a natural backdrop for discussing important issues of the entire forestry profession and provides an intrinsic opportunity for exploring the many links between the social, economic, and ecological considerations that contribute to resilience.

The Scientific and Technical Sessions and Poster Symposia will showcase a wide range of projects and programs about current research and field trials, practical applications and innovations, education and outreach, and new ideas or results outside the mainstream of academia and forest practice.

**Presentations, panels, and posters will be accepted for the following program tracks:**

- Agroforestry
- Economics of Forest Enterprise
- Forest Management & Operations
- Geospatial Applications
- Soil & Water Resources
- Wildland Fire
- Community Land Management
- Forest Health
- Forest Policy
- Silviculture & Forest Ecology
- Urban Ecosystems

**See Full Details and Submit Your Presentation at [www.safconvention.org](http://www.safconvention.org)**





## We Remember

### Alton G. "Sonny" Cronk 1932-2011

Alton (Sonny) G. Cronk died Nov. 9, 2011, in McMinnville, Ore., after a very short bout with cancer. He was born Oct. 3, 1932, the second of seven children. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in forest management from the State University of New York at Syracuse in 1954, he and his young family went west to Coos Bay, Ore. It was the beginning of what was to become a long and honored forestry career, culminating in what was to eventually become Cronk & Holmes Consulting Foresters. He retired in 1998.

Al was involved in, and affiliated with, many organizations, including Society of American Foresters, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Master Gardeners, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Yamhill County Parks and Recreation Board, and Yamhill County Historical Society, to name just a few.

His greatest passion was working in The Gnarly Wood Shoppe he partnered with Mark Schroeder, where he could satisfy his love of turning chunks of wood into objects of beauty and value. He was known for his deep, bellowing voice that could alternately be filled with laughter or issuing orders, depending on the situation he was dealing

with. His mentorship in all his areas of interest and his love of passing on knowledge was well known. Al loved to collect things. His collections of everything from plumb bobs to animal skulls held a certain kind of infamy to friends and family.

Al is preceded in death by his parents and his children Robert Cronk, Elizabeth Cronk Butler and Kenneth Cronk. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Cronk; his six brothers and sisters; his children, Les Cronk (Laura) and Laura McManus (Tim); and six grandchildren. Other special people in his life were Rebehkeh Barnum and Shauna Beyer, whom he treated as daughters. Many kids growing up called Al "Dad" and, as adults, still do.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, McMinnville, Alton Cronk Memorial Fund, or to the Yamhill County Historical Society in care of Macy & Son. A scholarship in Al's name at the Oregon State University College of Forestry is being established. For more information on how to donate to the scholarship, contact Mark at gnarlyshoppe@onlinemac.com.

### James Patrick Clason 1933-2011

James Patrick "Pat" Clason died of cancer at age 77 at his home in Medford, Ore.

He was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on December 10, 1933. He and his older brother Don were proud of their western heritage and took part in many Frontier Days celebrations.

In 1946, after World War II ended, the

family moved to Los Angeles, seeking a warmer climate. There Pat learned photography by sneaking into the movie lots at Universal Studios and developed a love of jazz by sneaking into bars. In 1951, Pat graduated from Manual Arts High School.

Inspired by Gifford Pinchot's book on forestry, he went to the University of Idaho where he made life-long friends. He once spent a summer alone staffing a remote fire lookout tower in Northern Idaho; he earned a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management in 1955.

In 1955, he began his 36-year forestry career with the Bureau of Land Management in Medford. In 1956, Pat volunteered for the draft, and served two years the U.S. Army at Fort Lee, Virginia, and as a clerk typist in Oahu, Hawaii, returning to BLM in 1957. In 1962, he left BLM and traveled by freighter to Australia, where he worked for a year as a forester, returning to Medford and a job with BLM in 1963.

He married Gayle Sample of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, in August 1964. The couple had two children: Leslie, born in 1965, and Ian born in 1968.

Pat's BLM career included 26 years in Medford at the start and end of his career, four years in Eugene, Ore., and four years in Washington, D.C. In 1992, he retired as associate district manager of BLM's Medford District.

He served for 15 years on the Board of Directors of Britt Festivals. He and Gayle hosted several mid-season parties for the Britt orchestra, and hosted festival musicians for many years.

A master storyteller, in his retirement years Pat helped many people record their stories as a volunteer oral history researcher for the Southern Oregon Historical Society, recording memories of World War II veterans, aviation, the Rogue Gallery, family businesses, Medco, Britt Festivals, and the timber industry.

He loved the Rogue Valley, the Redwoods, his dogs, his TR3 sports car, jazz and classical music, the Oregon Coast, and being a soccer dad. Pat's love of travel took him to Mexico, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, and much of the United States. His passion for a spirited debate resulted in a continuous stream of letters to the editor. He was proud of his career and proud of his family.

Remembrances can be made to The Britt Institute, PO Box 1124, Medford, OR 97501 or to the Medford Jazz Festival Youth Music Education Program, PMB 201, 221 N. Central, Medford, OR 97501. ♦

## Northwest Deputy Regional Forester Named

**A** woman who began her career in Washington State has been named one of two deputy regional foresters for the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service.

Maureen Hyzer, presently forest supervisor of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia and West Virginia, will begin her new duties in Portland in February.

"I am pleased Maureen has agreed to return to the Northwest and join our team," Regional Forester Kent Connaughton said. "She brings a wealth of natural resource and executive experience, and I know she will help us work in collaboration with our partners to build healthy forests."

Hyzer started her career in 1981 as a student trainee forester on the Galice Ranger District near Grants Pass, Ore. She held various positions on the Okanogan National Forest between 1983 and 1998 after graduating from Washington State University in 1983 with a degree in forest and recreation management. She was a district ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest, acting director of Planning, Inventory and Monitoring for the Forest Service Southern Region, deputy forest supervisor on the Ouachita National Forest and became forest supervisor in 2005 after a number of acting assignments. ♦



## Calendar of Events

**Forest Vegetation Simulator Training**, Feb. 6-10, Vancouver, WA. Contact: Lance David, 970-295-5856, ldavid@fs.fed.us.

**11th Annual Foresters' Forum**, Feb. 8-10, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Jennifer Childers, 208-667-4641, jennifer\_childers@ifacconsulting.biz.

**Oregon Wildlife Society annual meeting**, Feb. 8-10, Salishan Lodge, OR. Contact: Fran Cafferata Coe, 503-680-7939, fran@cafferataconsulting.com.

**Sierra Cascade Logging Conference**, Feb. 9-11, Anderson, CA. Contact: Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, 530-222-1290, <http://sierrascadeexpo.com>.

**Cable Logging**, Feb. 21-24, Corvallis, OR; April 16-19, Boise, ID; May 14-17, Cranbrook, B.C. Contact: FEI.

**Oregon Logging Conference**, Feb. 23-25, Eugene, OR. Contact: Oregon Logging Conference, 541-686-9191, [info@oregon-loggingconference.com](mailto:info@oregon-loggingconference.com).

**Unit Planning and Layout**, Feb. 27-March 1, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

**Oregon Forests and Water Symposium**, Feb. 28, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Mike Cloughesy, [cloughesy@ofri.org](mailto:cloughesy@ofri.org), <http://oregonforestsandwater.eventbrite.com>.

**3rd Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire**, April 17-19, Seattle, WA. Contact: International Association of Wildland Fire, 888-440-4293, [execdir@iawfonline.org](mailto:execdir@iawfonline.org).

**Oregon SAF annual meeting**, April 25-27, Seaside, OR. Contact: Jim Culbert, [jhculbert@yahoo.com](mailto:jhculbert@yahoo.com).

**Alaska SAF annual meeting**, April 26-28, Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, AK. Contact: Jeremy Douse, 907-452-8251 x3374, [jeremy.douse@tananchiefs.org](mailto:jeremy.douse@tananchiefs.org).

**Pacific Northwest Timberland**, April 26-27, Portland, OR. Contact: The

Seminar Group, 800-574-4852, [info@the-seminargroup.net](mailto:info@the-seminargroup.net).

**Washington State SAF annual meeting**, May 2-4, Port Angeles, WA. Contact: John Walkowiak, 253-320-5064, [jewalkowiak@harbornet.com](mailto:jewalkowiak@harbornet.com).

**Washington GIS Conference**, May 7-9, Tacoma, WA. Contact: Dana Trethewy, 206-684-3180, [dana.trethewy@seattle.gov](mailto:dana.trethewy@seattle.gov).

**SkylineXL 2.1**, May 8-9, Covallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

**SERNW Beyond Borders Conference**, May 15-18, Victoria, B.C. Contact: Josh Jensen, 360-733-4311, [jjensen@anchorqea.com](mailto:jjensen@anchorqea.com).

**Joint Western Mensurationists'/ Western Economists' annual meeting**, June 10-12, Newport, OR. Contact: WFCA.

**SAF National Convention**, Oct. 24-28, Spokane, WA. Contact: National SAF, 866-897-8720, [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org).

### Contact Information

**FEI:** Forest Engineering Incorporated, 620 SW 4th St., Corvallis, OR 97333, 541-754-7558, [office@forestengineer.com](mailto:office@forestengineer.com), [www.forestengineer.com](http://www.forestengineer.com).

**WFCA:** Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, 503-226-4562, [richard@westernforestry.org](mailto:richard@westernforestry.org), [www.westernforestry.org](http://www.westernforestry.org).

Send calendar items to the editor, *Western Forester*, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; [rasor@safnwo.org](mailto:rasor@safnwo.org).



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# Forest Restoration Beyond Fuel Reduction Conference

BY MICKEY BELLMAN

While the swallows were leaving Capistrano, over 100 foresters and resource professionals from the Pacific Northwest gathered at Central Oregon Community College Campus in Bend, Ore., on October 12-14, 2011, to attend the conference, *Forest Restoration Beyond Fuel Reduction: What is the Vision?* With a panoramic view of Mt. Bachelor, Broken Top, and Three Sisters in the background, we listened for two days as speakers shared their knowledge of dry and wet forests of Oregon. On the third day we laced up our boots to visit the dry forests west of Bend and Sisters.

Forest history is important, and it influences what we do in the forest today. Much of the old-growth ponderosa pine on private lands had been sent to the local sawmills by the 1980s. Large sawmills in Bend, Burns, and Redmond existed for decades on the old pine, but the mills and those jobs are nearly gone. The cutover lands have reforested, but much of the "blackbark pine" is less than 100 years old. These young forests support a different ecosystem, and it will be many decades before these young stands are transformed into the "yellowbelly pine" stands depicted in the photos of the 1920s. It is these younger forests that are targeted for forest restoration treatments.

On federal lands, active management and harvest of the forests has declined over the last few decades.



Federal regulations and public opinion has limited timber harvesting and active management. We are just beginning to recognize the current unhealthy forest conditions as a result. Today, we know that a variety of forest management treatments must be used to restore forest health.

Historically, periodic fires created and maintained the dry forests of central and eastern Oregon. The repeated, low-intensity ground fires prevented the invasion of young ponderosa pine, grand fir, and Douglas-fir by killing the thin-barked seedlings and saplings. However, over the last 100 years (due to fire exclusion), the forests have become overcrowded with dense thickets of trees beneath the canopy of towering pines. The firs and other small trees compete with the big trees, stressing them severely and reducing their ability to withstand bark beetle attacks.

The pine and fir thickets have become ladder fuels. Any ground fire has the potential to now climb from grass to brush to fir thickets and up into the crowns of the tall pines. What may have been a relatively innocuous ground fire now has the potential to become a catastrophic, stand replacing crown fire. Today, hundreds of thousands of federal acres are in an overstocked or what was termed in the conference as "out of whack" from what is considered natural conditions.

With this change of flora and forest structure, on both public and private lands, there has also been a change of fauna. Species such as the white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owl are dependent on large snags for cavity nesting. These species and others are in decline because the pine forests

are too young, burned by wildfire, or have too few large snags.

And so, what do we do now?

Coalitions of citizens, environmental groups, and foresters are cautiously exploring methods to mimic nature and actively manage overstocked forests toward a desired condition. Limited forest projects that thin out small trees and remove brush show promise for restoring pine forests on a much larger scale. Emphasis is no longer placed on timber volume to be removed; more concern is given on what is to remain. A patchwork of large trees, small trees, and brush is mechanically removed to imitate what a natural ground fire might incinerate. Thickets of small trees may be left for habitat diversity while a small "clearcut" or opening is created to imitate a meadow or early seral conditions. Snags are not only protected but are also created with girdling, topping, and pheromone bug attractants.

In some areas western juniper competes with the ponderosa pine. Each juniper can utilize 30 gallons of water per day, leaving the soil dry and pine and other tree species severely stressed. In the past 70 years of fire prevention, heavy grazing and climate have allowed juniper to expand four-fold—from 1.5 million acres to 6.5 million acres in rangeland areas and in areas bordered by ponderosa pine forests.

Hal Salwasser from OSU's School of Forestry presented a sobering and strong appeal for changing how federal forests in the Pacific Northwest should be managed. He predicted there will be a significant decline in Canadian lumber production within the next few years due to their current bark beetle epidemics while the Chinese appetite for logs and lumber will continue to grow. Foreign interests are already actively seeking to acquire tree farms and mills in the Northwest to satisfy their cellulose demands. While the U.S. housing market is currently deep in the doldrums, a growing population will demand new homes by 2015, pushing housing starts up to 1.7 million units per year. All these factors will come together to create a perfect storm of demand for the forest resource. Meanwhile, says Salwasser, the federal forests languish amid a labyrinth of environmental regula-



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- Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

**Amy Waltz (center) of the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University, discusses the Deschutes Skyline Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project as Phil Chang (left), Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, and Steve Fitzgerald (right), OSU Extension Service, look on.**

tions, policies, and lawsuits and may not be able to respond to these increased demands. Gridlock will reign while professional foresters recognize what must be done to restore ponderosa pine forests.

West of Bend in the foothills of the east Cascades, a thinning operation in a blackbark pine stand reduced tree density to a more natural and healthy level. Small logs were harvested and sold to a sawmill. Slash and brush had been mulched and left on site to enhance soil productivity. Trails for hiking and mountain biking originate at a parking lot just a few minutes from downtown Bend. The trails follow numerous railroad grades and logging roads constructed to harvest the old yellow pine a half century ago. While the management emphasis seems to be recreation, there is actually a strong bias toward fire prevention and fuel reduction. No one wishes a reoccurrence of the disastrous fires of the last decade.

Adjacent to the Black Butte Ranch community, the Forest Service detailed the planning and cooperative efforts that resulted in a first-of-its-kind forest health timber sale. Logging operations were conducted during winter atop a snow pack to minimize soil disturbance. Large logs were harvested and sold to a local sawmill. Smaller material became biomass that was transported to a co-generating plant.

Private associations, such as

Deschutes Land Trust, are acquiring lands to manage for forest health. The management emphasis is on protection of water quality, improved wildlife habitat, and a healthy ecosystem. Log production and revenue are secondary. The trust now manages over 1,200 acres in the Metolius Basin for this purpose.

The three-day Forest Restoration Beyond Fuel Reduction Conference, sponsored by the Central Oregon SAF Chapter, Central Oregon Community College Student Chapter, SAF Northwest Office, and the OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Program, brought together scientists and land managers to share their knowledge and views. Speaker presentations are available at [www.forestry.org/oregon/chapter/3/forestorestoration](http://www.forestry.org/oregon/chapter/3/forestorestoration).

Most everyone agreed there is much work to be done to restore Oregon's eastside forests to a healthy condition. It is imperative that we address the concerns of the general public, and vital that we take aggressive action if we are to save, restore, and improve our forests for future generations. ♦

*Mickey Bellman is a private forestry consultant and timber cruiser working throughout Oregon and Washington. He lives in Salem with his wife, two golden retrievers and 3,500 Christmas trees. He can be reached at 503-362-0842 or [bellman9647@msn.com](mailto:bellman9647@msn.com).*

## Klamath Falls Couple Named Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE BARSOTTI

**Jim and Phyllis Dahm of Klamath Falls were named Oregon's 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in a ceremony held at the World Forestry Center in Portland in November.**

**A** Klamath Falls couple, Jim and Phyllis Dahm, are Oregon's 2011 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The Dahms were selected at the Oregon Tree Farm System's (OTFS) 45th Annual Awards Luncheon held at the World Forestry Center in Portland on November 21, 2011.

The Dahms own and manage 1,900 acres of forest scattered across Klamath and Lake counties. They purchased the first parcels in 1978.

The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year honor was given to the Dahms for how they effectively manage their forests for an array of timber, wildlife habitat, and water quality objectives. In addition, Jim and Phyllis have hosted tours on resource management for local schools and organizations.

Jim is a Certified Forester and has been a member of SAF since 1972.

OTFS is a chapter of the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System, a nationwide organization that started in the Pacific Northwest in 1941. ♦



## 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.*

**Update on Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.** In November the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WiFLC) met in Denver and focused their entire meeting on cohesive strategy. Your correspondent and other members of the Western Governors' Association Forest Health Advisory Committee provided stakeholder perspectives. Strategies for the western, southeastern, and northeastern regions have been developed with considerable stakeholder involvement and were presented to the WiFLC, and their acceptance closed

phase two of the national cohesive strategy development. The western strategy was presented by Joe Stutler, Deschutes County forester in Oregon. Phase three involves tying together the regional strategies at the national level. This will be done primarily by the National Science Advisory Team, which includes several members of the WGA Forest Health Advisory Committee, including your correspondent. The National Cohesive Strategy ([www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/index.shtml](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/index.shtml)) is a requirement of the FLAME Act of 2009. When completed in 2012 it will become the foundation for the nation's wildland fire management policy. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, [jayo@uidaho.edu](mailto:jayo@uidaho.edu).


**Idaho Forest Group completes purchase of Clearwater Paper sawmill.** Idaho Forest Group, which was formed in 2008 when two Idaho lumber manufacturers merged, will begin operations of its fifth large sawmill with the acquisition of the Clearwater Paper sawmill in Lewiston,

Idaho. The financial transactions were completed in December and IFG began interviewing workers so the mill could reopen in December 2011. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, [jayo@uidaho.edu](mailto:jayo@uidaho.edu).

**Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership Workshop and Conference.** On January 31 and February 1, 2012, the IFRP is hosting a workshop and conference in Boise for current and prospective members of stakeholder groups working on restoration projects in Idaho's national forests. The conference is focused on the role of wood products manufacturing and bioenergy production as an adjunct of restoration projects and was organized with the help of the Snake River Chapter of the Intermountain SAE. The agenda includes notable speakers from many western states. Details and registration may be found on the IFRP website at [www.idaho-forestpartners.org/services.html](http://www.idaho-forestpartners.org/services.html).

**Position Statement in Action.** WSSAF members are using the recently adopted Working Forest position paper as a basis for comments at a series of public workshops on a proposal to expand Wilderness and the national park on the Olympic Peninsula. Contact: Harry Bell, WSSAF Policy chair, 360-460-2502; [harry@greencrow.com](mailto:harry@greencrow.com).

**Commercial Harvest Position Updated.** OSFA has updated its position statement on "Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon," and endorsement by the Executive Committee is expected about the time this is printed in early 2012. This remains a very timely issue given extensive forest management needs and costs on federal lands, as well as the fundamental and long-held economic obligations to communities with large areas of nearby state or federal forests. Lawsuits and appeals of commercial harvests also continue to impact both forest management and economic benefits, with some cases originating with groups whose goals include complete elimination of commercial harvest from public lands. All OSFA members are encouraged to use this and other position statements (<http://www.forestry.org/oregon/policy/position/>) to help



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discuss such issues when interacting with those outside the forestry profession. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAP Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

**Logging Roads as Point Sources: The Sequel.** The recent federal court decision (NEDC vs. Brown) recognizing logging roads as a pollution point source has garnered more attention than any other forestry case in recent years, given that this leads to federal permit requirements for public and private forest owners or operators under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Logging roads had been exempted from such permitting for decades, being included with silvicultural activities as a nonpoint-source for regulatory purposes. This approach has allowed states to develop forest practices regulations and other programs to control pollution to comply with the CWA. The decision would add federal permit requirements for logging roads, and it would make the permitting process open to citizen lawsuits and appeals. The decision prompted two major responses by states, legislators, and forestry interest groups: 1) an appeal by Oregon to the Supreme Court, with

related friend-of-the-court support from over half the U.S. states; and 2) bipartisan efforts by members of Congress for legislation that would codify the historical approach. In December, the Supreme Court also requested input from the U.S. Solicitor General, a step that effectively extends its decision on whether or not to hear the case. Thus, much remains to be resolved and many key questions about the federal permit process and its applicability have yet to be answered, so stay tuned! Contact: Paul Adams, OSAP Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu. ♦

## SXPad Data Collector Available for Forestry Applications

**A** new data collector and GPS unit called the SXPad has just been released by Geneq. The SXPad is a rugged and highly affordable handheld computer for GPS/GIS data collection. The SXPad sports a bright, outdoor-readable 3.7" VGA touch screen, 3MP digital camera, SiRFStarIII GPS, external GPS antenna port, WiFi, Bluetooth 2.0, GSM/GPRS modem, Mini-USB 2.0, and a MicroSD port.

With its high-performance features, rugged design, and affordable price, the SXPad is well-suited for forestry GPS/GIS data collection applications. For projects requiring 3-5 meter accuracy, the SXPad has a built-in SiRFStar III GPS receiver along with an external antenna port. For projects requiring sub-meter or centimeter accuracy, the SXPad works flawlessly with the entire line of Geneq's SXBlue GPS receivers including single frequency and dual frequency receivers.

The SXPad is built to work outdoors. The 3.7" VGA touch screen is a "best-of-class" outdoor-readable, color display for viewing crisp vector data as well as sharp, high-resolution aerial photography. The SXPad is completely waterproof and rugged. It will withstand a one meter drop to concrete and operates in temperatures as low as -4°F and as high as 140°F.

The lightweight (9.6oz/276g) handheld runs the standard Microsoft Windows Mobile 6.5 Pro operating system, allowing it to run off-the-shelf

application software such as Esri ArcPad and Digiterra Explorer. Its Bluetooth interface enables the SXPad to interface to laser rangefinders and other Blue-



tooth-enabled sensors.

The SXPad, measuring 6.3" x 3.7" x 1.2", runs on a field-replaceable, rechargeable Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) battery and features a full range of accessories such as a vehicle power adapter, pole-mount clamp, and wind-shield mount.

For additional information, contact Jon Aschenbach with Resource Supply, LLC at 503-521-0888 or jon@resourcesupplyllc.com. ♦

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1



Use your TruPulse laser, in distance mode, to see how far away the bear is.



2



From that data, decide if you should run, or if you need to climb a tree. (NOTE: Make sure it's a grizzly. Other bears climb trees.)



3



If you chose to climb, measure the bear's height using your TruPulse's height routine.



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