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Indian Forest Trust Walk

BY DON MOTANIC

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) has connected several tribal articles with the *Western Forester* to examine the special relationship tribes have with the forest. Hopefully these articles will lead you through an Indian forest trust walk journey.



In a trust walk, two people alternate being leader and blindfolded follower. As part of the Native American youth camp for example, individuals take turns as the blind follower or the visionary leader and guide each other through an obstacle course. Both learn communication skills and develop a sense of trust. The journey through the

Indian forests is significant.

In the Northwest, there's nearly three million acres of Indian forestland with nearly 400 million board feet harvested annually for approximately \$70 million.

Tribal forestland is neither private nor public—it's federal land held in trust. Indian tribes are recognized as having the authority to make and enforce laws, administer justice, manage Indian lands, exercise tribal rights and protect trust resources. This is not a special status: Indian rights and authority are reserved rights, never relinquished by loss of aboriginal title. Federal land agencies have various agreements with tribes to perform the "Forest Trust Walk."

How can we share this forest trust walk?

The Intertribal Timber Council



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALLY CARUFEL-WILLIAMS

A trust walk exercise at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Camp.

(ITC), along with the *Western Forester*, provides this issue on Indian forestry with the hope that it will provide some insight into land management practices and the partnerships that are developing among landowners, such as the special coastal forest easement agreement with the Siletz Tribe. Steve Andringa provides an overview about ITC's education program. Will Putman's article reviews a wood energy conference conducted in Alaska. Jim Petersen, the editor of *Evergreen Magazine*, presents some thought-provoking ideas concerning "returning the federal forest land back to the Indians." Carbon credit incentives are in the talking mode with most forestland managers, but the Nez Perce Tribe is actually processing carbon credit contracts. These articles should provide some insight on events and ideas going on within the Indian forests.

When foresters from every landowner's perspective share information and methods, then the trust walk



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON MOTANIC

The Motanic family enjoys a day at the Mount Adams Huckleberry fields.

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Forest Trust Walk

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

through the forest will help address the challenges of the future, and this walk and talk needs to be continually

shared over time. Sharing this trust walk should include frequent articles in the *Western Forester* and other publications to assure Tribes' viewpoints are heard and understood by its trust walk partners so everyone can feel

safer during their journey through the western forests. ♦

Don Motanic is technical specialist for the Intertribal Timber Council in Portland, Ore. He can be reached at 503-282-4296 or donmo@teleport.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON MOTANIC

Huckleberry picking is a rich Indian tradition.



Western Forester

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Other than general editing, the articles appearing in this publication have not been peer reviewed for technical accuracy. The individual authors are primarily responsible for the content and opinions expressed herein.

About ITC

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) was founded nearly 32 years ago for the purpose of improving the management of Indian forests and other natural resources through building working partnerships between Indian tribes, government agencies, private industry and academia. The ITC is a national association of tribal governments that collectively manage over 90 percent of the 18 million forestland acres held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indian people. The ITC is headquartered in Portland, Ore., and receives its guidance from an 11-member elected Executive Board of tribal leaders from throughout the United States.

Instead of building a large organizational infrastructure, the ITC relies upon contributions of staff from member tribes to work on issues of regional and national significance. The ITC has been an active force in advancing initiatives to improve the management of Indian forests and other resources held in trust for the benefit of Indians. An annual symposium convened by the ITC provides a forum where issues and problems can be investigated and recommendations can be crafted to correct deficiencies or advance new initiatives. Through its annual symposium, periodic meetings of its Executive Board and workshops, the ITC provides forums where forest and other natural resource management problems can be identified and cooperatively resolved.

The ITC maintains a strong scholarship and education program, issues newsletters and updates, participates in national wildland fire activities, monitors and pursues legislation, is engaged in the forest green certification and carbon incentive issues, and is an active contributor to the on-going debate on Indian trust reform. See www.uwv.org or www.researchchannel.org (search for "Indian forestry") for the 2007 video programs on Indian forestry. Also visit the updated ITC website at www.itcnet.org.

Next Issue: The Face of Family Forestry



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Professional Vegetation Management

Coastal Forest Goes to Siletz Tribe for Management to Restore Marbled Murrelet Populations Lost to New Carissa Oil Spill

Thanks to eight years of hard work, topped off by a conservation-minded action from two private forest landowners, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are taking title to nearly 3,900 acres of Oregon Coast Range forest. The Siletz Tribe will manage the land in perpetuity with the goal of restoring the marbled murrelet population lost to the 1999 oil spill from the cargo ship *New Carissa*. In a unique arrangement, limited commercial timber harvest will be allowed in areas of the property without murrelet nesting habitat when consistent with restoration objectives. This will provide revenue for managing the property and paying county property taxes.

Under the federal Oil Pollution Act, and a court-approved settlement agreement, \$15.5 million from the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center was used to purchase the land from the two willing sellers to replace the 262 marbled murrelets lost to the spill. Murrelet habitat on the land will be protected and increased, allowing more murrelet nesting opportunities than are currently available. The Conservation Fund, a national environmental non-profit, assisted the natural resource trustee agencies in locating the property and negotiated the purchase from Forest Capital Partners, LLC, and Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.

"Restoration work actually started while the ship was still on the beach, but this larger action is the result of an eight-year, multi-partner effort to quantify, define and fund restoration for the lost resources," said Ed Shepard, state director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Oregon and Washington. BLM is the lead federal trustee for the spill restoration.

"All the trustees are proud to be able to take the next step with this portion of the restoration, and pleased to have the Siletz Tribe step forward to manage this land for the benefit of marbled murrelets and other natural resources," Shepard said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL CARROLL

The *New Carissa*, which ran aground near Coos Bay in 1999, is shown here leaking oil.

The Siletz Tribe will manage the coastal forest parcel under a legally binding conservation easement developed with the natural resource trustees. A long-range management plan will be developed and reviewed by BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Other trustees for this restoration include the U.S. Forest Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

Other seabirds, shorebirds and recreational opportunities were also lost to the oil spill resulting from the shipwreck. State, federal and tribal natural resource agencies are requesting additional funds to restore these resources. These funds will supplement the \$4 million settlement with



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL CARROLL

Reed Creek is part of the Siletz Tribe's conservation easement to restore marbled murrelets that were lost to the *New Carissa* oil spill.

the ship's owners and insurers for natural resource injuries.

Other restoration projects for which additional funds have been requested include:

- **Western snowy plover**—Annual maintenance is planned on the restored plover nesting area on Coos Bay's North Spit for the next 30 years. The plan also calls for a multi-agency program to recruit and train volunteers to monitor critical plover breeding areas.

- **Other shorebirds**—More than 400



PHOTO COURTESY OF ODFW

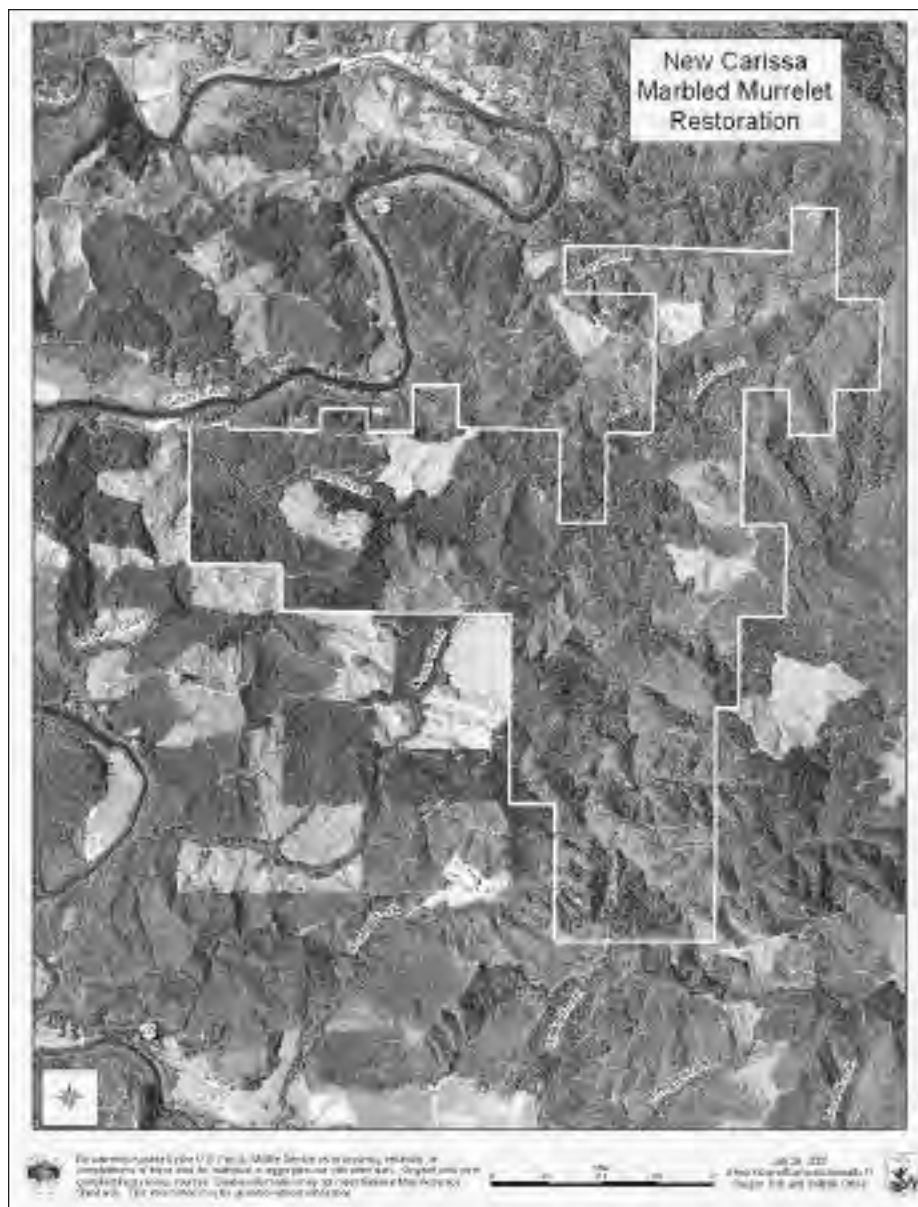
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Deputy Director Laurie Byerly, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Advisory Mike Carrier, Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Thompson, and BLM State Director/Lead New Carissa Federal Trustee Executive Ed Shepard announce the long-range plans to restore the marbled murrelet and other resources lost to the New Carissa oil spill.

acres of salt marsh will be restored on Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge benefiting nesting and migrating shorebirds. Continued funding of a popular shorebird education program has also been requested.

- **Other seabirds**—Three distinct projects are planned as compensation for the other 2,203 seabirds lost due to the spill. The restoration team hopes to acquire land containing, or adjacent to, seabird colonies. The land would be added to the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. A second project will reduce predation on seabird colonies along the south coast of Oregon. Predation on these colonies has increased with the introduction of non-native predators like red fox. An education project is also planned that will benefit seabirds nesting along the Oregon coast.

- **Recreation**—A number of projects have been started or are planned including Governor Patterson State Park Beach trail and parking lot resurfacing; North Spit and Horsfall area directional sign and two entry kiosks; North Spit and Horsfall area beach signs; Horsfall day-use area expansion; North Spit (interior) trail rehabilitation; Horsfall campground accessible sites; fence removal from three locations on the North Spit; signs on North Spit sand roads; Bluebill Campground restroom replacement; Horsfall Road OHV fencing; and BLM North Spit fore-dune sand road upgrade.

In February 1999 the New Carissa ran aground on the Oregon Coast near



Coos Bay. In the following weeks, the vessel broke apart and discharged more than 70,000 gallons of tar-like fuel oil into the ocean and the surrounding environment. After a failed first attempt, most of the wrecked ship was towed to sea and intentionally sunk by the U.S. Navy. The stern remains mired in the sand, but a court settlement between the State of Oregon and the responsible parties provided the funds for its removal and work is planned to begin this year.

The trustees determined that the oil spill killed or injured 2,465 seabirds, including the 262 marbled murrelets (a species that is federally and state-listed as threatened). In addition, agency biologists estimate that 672 sanderlings and four to eight western snowy plovers

(another threatened species) likely perished. Also, 29,000 public recreation trips were lost or diminished. Copies of the restoration plan, which details the resources damaged and how they will be restored, are available for download from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office website at www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/index.asp. Further information with Question and Answers can be downloaded at www.fws.gov/pacific/news/2007/Q&As/Marbled_Murrelet_Restoration.pdf. ♦

This article was reprinted with permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Service News Release. Questions can be addressed to Phil Carroll, Information and Education specialist, USFWS, at 503-231-6179 or phil_carroll@fws.gov.

ITC's Commitment to Education

BY STEVE ANDRINGA

Since the inception of the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) in 1976, the organization has been dedicated to the training and development of Indian natural resource professionals. Indian forestlands have long been managed by tribal people in a sustainable manner consistent with their cultural practices and beliefs. A strong understanding and appreciation of tribal culture, balanced with a strong background in natural resource management, can produce a much more effective natural resource professional. The ITC has recognized this and it is in that effort that they have long supported the education of Indian people in natural resource fields.

The ITC supports the education, training and development of Indian people in a variety of ways. ITC has offered numerous technical workshops during the annual Timber Symposium. These workshops often target personnel who work in the field on a regular basis.

Close working relationships between ITC and academia have helped produce some exceptional workshops. One example is the working relationship with the Rural Technology Initiative, a cooperative program that targets rural communities to provide the best scientific tools and knowledge needed to address complex land management issues. Numerous courses have been held, which included classes in Geographic Information Systems and Landscape Management Systems, a powerful software program that models forest growth.

The ITC also has a close working

relationship with Western Forestry and Conservation Association (WFCA), an organization that has offered a wide variety of forestry-related courses. The ITC and WFCA have jointly sponsored workshops on topics including reforestation, forest roads and timber sales. All of the workshops were targeting individuals working within Indian forestry to address the unique challenges we face.

As part of the annual symposium, the ITC has sponsored essay contests for kids in grammar, middle and high schools making cash awards to selected students. The organization has sponsored poster sessions for Indian college students to display research and thesis topics.

Several workshops on education have been offered at the annual symposium. During the 2007 National Indian Timber Symposium, a workshop was offered titled, *Recruitment and Retention of Indian Professionals: How You Can Make a Difference*. The workshops are designed to solicit feedback from the participants in order to develop "Findings and Recommendations" directed toward the ITC, BIA and Tribes.

One of the crowning achievements for ITC has been through the Truman Picard Scholarship, which is offered annually to Native Americans pursuing higher education in the field of natural resources. ITC has made a conscience effort to include all of natural resources rather than a narrower focus on forestry, recognizing that managing tribal forest resources requires a variety of natural resource disciplines.

Scholarship applicants are rated on five criteria: application letter, resume, academic merit, reference

letters and financial need. The application letter addresses the students' interest in natural resource as well as their commitment to their education, community and culture.

Since the first scholarship was awarded in 1988, the amount and number of awards has steadily grown. Nearly \$300,000 has been awarded to 144 recipients. Several of those recipients have received multiple awards. Tribal members receiving the scholarship come from across the nation. More than 60 tribes have one or more members who have received the Truman Picard Scholarship.

Funding for the scholarship comes from a variety of sources. Organizational membership dues, workshop fees, vendor booth fees, and donations all contribute toward this effort. At the National Indian Timber Symposium, thousands of dollars in items are donated by individuals, tribes and organizations. Those donations are then awarded through a raffle with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to the scholarship. The interest on ITC investments is a significant contributor to the scholarship as well.

Students who receive the Truman Picard scholarship may be eligible to receive additional financial aid. The ITC has cooperative financial aid agreements with the University of Washington and Salish Kootenai College, allowing scholarship recipients to receive matching amounts applied toward their tuition at these institutions.

Has the Truman Picard Scholarship program been successful in supporting Native Americans pursuing higher education in natural resource fields? We believe the answer to that question is "yes." But how do we measure that success? One needs only to gauge the success by looking at the graduates who have received this scholarship and see the leadership roles they now fill throughout Indian Country. It's an impressive list of people and is growing each year. ♦

Steve Andringa is the Intertribal Timber Council Education Committee chairman. He can be reached at 509-865-5121 x4657 or steve@yakama.com.



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Tanana Chiefs Conference Hosts Alaska Wood Energy Conference

BY WILL PUTMAN

During early 2007, planning for an Alaska Wood Energy Conference was initiated by a number of representatives from agencies and organizations across Alaska, including the USDA Forest Service, USDA Rural Development, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Energy, Alaska Energy Authority, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and others. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), a tribal organization representing 42 tribes in interior Alaska, was invited to participate in the conference planning, and eventually served to host the conference at TCC's convention facilities in Fairbanks, Alaska, on November 14-15, 2007.



About 180 people registered for the conference and represented a wide variety of interests, including federal and state agencies, consultants, engineers, academics and the general public. Among the attendees were tribal representatives from 33 of TCC's rural villages. Keynote addresses were made by Mayor Jim Whitaker of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Ron Miller from the Alaska Energy Authority and George Cannelos from the Denali Commission. Presentations were organized into a series of broad topics, including "Wood

as a renewable energy source," "Field proven wood energy systems," "Providing a sustainable fuel supply," "New markets and technologies" and "New project opportunities." The sessions were well received, and the discussions and question/answer sessions following the presentations were quite spirited. Most presentations from the conference are available for viewing and download on TCC's website at www.tananachiefs.org/natural/AWEC2007.shtml.

A number of points of interest came out through the Alaska Wood Energy Conference, including:

- Energy costs, especially in rural Alaska, are at or near critical levels, putting the long-term economic viability of many communities at risk.
- Everybody stresses the importance of efficiency, and that money spent on weatherization and other efficiency measures is even more effective than implementing new systems.
- At least two companies have plans for building and operating wood pellet plants in the Tanana Valley in interior Alaska. While still difficult to access for many rural villages in Alaska, this still represents an interesting option—pellets are relatively easy to transport and lend themselves well to automated energy systems.
- Wood heat represents the easiest form of wood energy to implement, although there is much need for electrical power generation in addition to heat.

• Several presentations were given on centralized community wood heating systems currently in place or nearing completion in Alaska, including facilities at Dot Lake, Tanana and Craig.

• Efforts to examine options and feasibility of wood energy projects are underway in several locations, and there was some discussion as to what is involved in such studies. Over the last couple of years, the Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (AWEDTG) has been soliciting "letters of interest" for wood heat projects; this results in some pre-feasibility work being done for some of those proposed projects, which should help enable securing future funding.

• Current and future opportunities for funding support for wood energy projects were discussed.

The conference proved to be a very productive opportunity for exchanging information on wood energy alternatives and discovering what organizations and people in Alaska are involved or interested in implementing wood energy projects. Using that information to engage Alaska's communities, especially those in a rural setting, in implementing projects leading to long-term energy independence and community sustainability is the next challenge. ♦

Will Putman is Forestry director, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska. He can be reached at 907-452-8251 x3373 or wputman@tananachiefs.org.

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Nez Perce is Walking the Carbon Talk

BY DON MOTANIC

The Nez Perce Tribe is one of the tribal forestry programs exploring and utilizing carbon incentives. While people are talking carbon offsets, the Nez Perce Tribal forestry program is walking through the process.

Carbon producing industries can offset their pollution by paying tribes, like the Nez Perce, to manage forestry

projects that pull carbon out of the atmosphere. The process to initiate the carbon trading between landowners and industry started several years ago among many nations.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was a treaty signed by the United States and 189 other countries in May 1992, which initiated programs to slow climate change. The programs further developed the Kyoto Protocol, which was more powerful and legally binding and went into effect on February 16, 2005. As of December 2007, the United States and Kazakhstan are the only nations not to ratify the act, which expires in 2012.

Since the United States is not part of the international trading system, carbon credits needed a domestic forum. Carbon credits and offsets have been traded in futures and options contracts on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), which opened in 2003.

CCX is an active voluntary carbon trading system, which utilizes annual contracts of "carbon financial instruments" (CFI), which represent 100 metric tons of CO₂ (or CO₂ equivalents). The contracts cover credits (set according to the CCX Emission Reduction Schedule) and offsets, regulated and verified by an approved CCX verifier. Third party verification

and sustainable management is required by the CCX and because third party verification may be an issue with many tribes, the Nez Perce used a series of documents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to validate their federally approved sustainable Forest Management Plan.

The Nez Perce Tribe has been involved with carbon credits along with other tribes in various stages of carbon credit contracts or proposals that include the Confederated Tribes of Colville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, Navajo Nation, Fort Belknap, Lummi Tribe, Assiniboine Sioux and Fort Peck Landowners Association, and the Northern Cheyenne.

The Nez Perce has also sold its first contract through the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC). The NCOC is partially funded by a grant through the Department of Energy to design standards and protocols to meet the Department of Energy's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program "1605b" registry requirements for emerging markets. The NCOC is a group that is targeting tribes and tribal issues and concerns (see www.ncoc.us).

Since tribal land is federal land held in trust by the United States, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs attempted to find where



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carbon sequestration fit into existing Indian laws. The Solicitor's Office in Washington D.C. indicated the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act provided enough freedom to allow carbon credit contracts because "carbon" is neither a harvested nor extracted forest product. At some point in the future the BIA Central Office in Washington, D.C. will be developing a policy citing the conclusions of the Solicitor's Office.

The Nez Perce Tribe has developed two portfolios with a total of 33 projects with acreage and metric tons of carbon sequestered. The portfolio committed to the NCOC and CCX consists of 24 projects that are listed by plantations, acres, established year, age in 2007, planting density and carbon sequestered by vintage years 2003-2010.

The Bottom Line—Payoff

The Tribe's portfolio with NCOC and CCX was 2,205 acres and 5,785 metric tons of CO₂ for the years 2003-2006. The first 500 metric tons (mt) were sold for \$2.28/mt for a total of \$1,140. This first contract was purchased by the United States House of Representatives to offset greenhouse gases from the House Buildings. The second sale of 1,200 metric tons was sold for \$2.00/mt for a total of \$2,400. The second sale was purchased by a school district in Mexico.

The CCX price more than doubled in February 2008 and went up to \$4.40/mt. Currently, the price is \$6.00/mt. The Tribe's subsequent sales combined 4,100 metric tons and sold for \$2.40, \$3.30, \$3.90, and \$4.30/mt for a total of over \$11,000. At today's price of \$6.00/mt, these same sales would amount to almost \$35,000. The CCX domestic market prices fall far

behind the international market prices that average \$30-35/mt.

What's Next?

The Nez Perce Tribe will continue to learn and understand the system and is looking at the possibility of listing the Tribe's other portfolio on the CCX as well. The CCX is currently auditing the 2007 credits and will field check five percent of the 2003-2007 project acres this year. The Nez Perce Tribe will continue to "walk" through this process until Dec. 31, 2010, when the contracts will end with the NCOC and CCX. Terrestrial carbon credits are

controversial and future federal legislation could go either way regarding early action credits, especially with forestry related projects. The future is now to walk and take advantage of the carbon incentives before the opportunity is possibly lost. ♦

Don Motanic is technical specialist, Intertribal Timber Council, Portland, Ore. For further information about the Nez Perce Tribal Forestry Carbon Credit Program, contact Brian Kummet at 208-843-7328 or brian.k@nezperce.org.



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**Tom Hanson
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Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute Tribes: Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations

BY JIM MANION

A 19th-century Indian superintendent once remarked that the Warm Springs Indian Reservation was one of the poorest reservations ever established. Located on the rugged eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountain range, traversed by deep canyons, covered by basaltic lava flows and having harsh temperature variations, the reservation was largely uninhabited even before the arrival of white trappers and settlers.

Now its 640,000 acres is home to a confederation of three Indian tribes: the Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute Tribes. And sustainable development, such as renewable energy development, is an important part of the reservation's past and future. "The land was so poor that few non-Indians wanted any part of it; and the Confederated Tribes were, unlike many other tribes, able to maintain the land base against losses to non-Indians," explained Ron Suppah, chairman of the 11-member Tribal Council that governs the reservation.

Although the reservation contains little arable land, it has an abundance of water, sun, volcanic activity and wind, which makes it ideal for renewable energy generation. In fact, hydro-

electric energy is now the Tribe's major source of income with tribal leadership providing strong support for developing additional renewable resources.

In 1910, when the U.S. Congress recognized that the Deschutes River, which forms the eastern boundary of the reservation, was an ideal hydroelectric site, it set aside federal and tribal lands along the river as Federal and Indian Power Site Reserves. Years later, in 1955, Portland General Electric (PGE) and the Tribe signed an agreement authorizing PGE to build the 440 MW Pelton Hydroelectric Project. It remains today the largest hydro project entirely within the state's boundaries and provides enough energy for about 300,000 homes.

A three-dam complex went into operation over the next 10 years, and the Tribe began receiving rentals for use of its lands. As part of the agreement with PGE, the Tribe reserved the right to install generators in the Reregulating Dam that would be part of the project if it ever became financially feasible. In the late 1970s, with passage of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, the Tribe decided the time was right, and by 1982, put into operation a 19 MW plant that was the first hydroelec-

tric project ever licensed to an Indian tribe by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Through this project the Tribe gained the experience necessary to announce in 1996 that it would file a competitive application for the new FERC license for the entire Pelton project, whose license was due to expire in 2001. PGE and the Tribe eventually settled their differences and agreed to become co-owners of the project with an initial one-third share purchased by the Tribe from PGE and the Tribe's right (over the term of the new license) to buy a controlling interest in the project. For many years the Tribe had disputes with PGE over compensation issues. Now, as partners, the Tribe and PGE are able to explore joint opportunities.

Warm Springs has significant additional hydro potential; however, environmental and fish issues probably rule that out. The Tribe and PGE have committed more than \$125 million over the next few years to restore salmon and steelhead above the Pelton project; and all efforts will be targeted toward making the dream a reality.

Although the tribal government now receives significant support from power sale revenues, historically the Tribe has relied on its timber resource—more than 400,000 acres—to maintain tribal governmental services. The Tribe purchased the on-reservation lumber mill from non-Indian owners in 1967, but decline in the timber industry has seen income from that source diminish. Additionally, a century of fire suppression has left tribal and adjoining national forests subject to catastrophic wildfires like those throughout the West. Those changes led to formation of a unique joint venture between the Tribe's power and forest enterprises to develop a 20 MW biomass electrical generation plant utilizing woody biomass removed from tribal and adjoining public lands to fuel the plant. Steam from the plant will serve the mill's lumber drying kilns.

"A secure fuel supply is the key to any biomass project," remarked Cal Mukumoto, the project manager. The



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Tribe entered into a historic 25-year Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to supply a major portion of the project's fuel. This resource, along with fuel from tribal and private forests, plus clean urban wood, provides a secure, stable energy supply.

Permitting for the biomass project is nearly complete; a long-term power sale contract has been negotiated, and the Tribe is now waiting for federal production tax credit reauthorization. "Our goal has been to develop a market pathway to deal with the serious forest health issues in the West. We think the Warm Springs biomass project can give other developers and forest managers a clear pathway to move forward," said Chief Delvis Heath, a member of the Tribal Council and project development team. But Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises (WSPWE) has been active on other fronts. For the past five years the tribal enterprise has been gathering wind data in the Mutton Mountains on the reservation's east side. The data looks very promising. The Tribe has significant Class 3 wind potential, perhaps as much as 150 MW. Similarly, WSPWE has been conducting a methodical investigation of geothermal resources on the land. Mount Jefferson, on the southwest corner of the reservation, is the youngest volcano in the Cascade Range and preliminary analysis indicates that its eastern flank on the Reservation has significant geothermal potential. So far the analysis has not included any drilling because of cost.

On yet another front, National Renewable Energy Laboratory solar maps demonstrate significant solar potential on the Reservation. Most Oregonians from the soggy Willamette Valley are well aware of the sunny Central Oregon climate causing resort developments to spring up like mushrooms in the past few years. Improving technology and spreading state mandatory renewable energy requirements make it only a matter of time before the solar option becomes feasible at Warm Springs.

Warm Springs is strategically positioned to take advantage of transmission opportunities as well. The Bonneville Power Administration and PGE already have high-voltage lines crossing the reservation; and the Tribe is actively exploring, with a number of parties, options for increasing transmission capacity over the vital east-west path.

The Tribe is committed to sustainable development on other fronts as well via, for example, certification by the Forest Stewardship Council. This international symbol of good forestry was awarded to Warm Springs several years ago in recognition of its management program. In addition, the Pelton hydroelectric project was recently certified "green" by the Low Impact Hydro Institute. And a carbon sequestration program to develop carbon credits from tribal forest management is in development. The Tribe is even designing a program for its planned casino to have a neutral carbon footprint.

"We believe that we were put on this land and cannot own it. We only borrow it. We must take care of it so that others that come after us will also have a place," concluded Chief Heath. ♦

Jim Manion is a member of the Wasco Tribe and is general manager of the Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. This article is reprinted with permission from Live Better Magazine, April 2008, Volume 2, Number 2, <http://forestpartners.net/eng/magazine/>.



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Rediscover Oregon's Forests

Is it Time to Give Our Federal Forests Back to the Indians?

BY JIM PETERSEN

Editor's note: The following speech is reprinted with permission from Jim Petersen, executive director of The Evergreen Foundation and editor of Evergreen Magazine. The speech was given at the 2007 Annual Timber Symposium on June 5.

It's a pleasure to be here among friends on this fine June afternoon. As many of you know, the Evergreen Foundation has in recent years published two special reports highlighting Indian forestry in the United States.

It goes without saying that I am a great admirer of your land management philosophy, especially the way it translates so fluidly into benefits for both land and people. I also have great sympathy for the uphill struggle you face in your ongoing effort to both stabilize and grow your forestry businesses.

I'm always a bit surprised when I'm invited to prestigious gatherings like this one. After all, I'm just a lowly journalist, not a Ph.D. forester or wildlife biologist, as many of you are.

Most of what I know about forests and forestry I've learned from asking stupid questions of very smart people. My Rolodex includes the names and phone numbers of many of the world's most respected forest scientists and economists. They are the real intellectual

horsepower behind *Evergreen Magazine*. Without their energy and input, we never would have gained the reputation we hold today—and I dare say I would not be here with you this afternoon.

I confess that I have struggled mightily with the simple matter of topic. Your program says I am going to talk about "Emerging Challenges in Indian Forestry." And I am. But the title sounds dreadfully boring. So I'm going to spice things up a bit by posing a question that I hope you will consider as seriously as the spirit in which I offer it up for discussion. The question is this: "Is it time to give our federal forests back to the Indians?"

When the question first rose in my mind last February, its magnitude frightened me so much that I sent an email note to my friend Gary Morishima asking for his advice. In a matter of moments, his answer flashed across my computer screen: "Good topic to get the blood flowing," he wrote. I felt better—but only a little.

It would be disingenuous of me to imply that I think the United States ought to consider giving federal forests back to Indian tribes as a peace offering or a long overdue apology for the country's dreadful and ill-conceived reservation policy of the 1800s.

No, there is another far more compelling reason why I think the country ought to consider returning its federal forests to you. Put simply, the system is broken. The federal government and its proxies—the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—are no longer capable of caring for our federal forests. And no amount of congressional tinkering is going to fix what is wrong. It is time to wipe the slate clean and start over. If we do not do this soon, what is left of our federal forest heritage will be lost to insects and diseases, catastrophic wildfires, environmental litigators, activist judges, and wrong-headed environmental groups that seem more interested in their own political power than in defending public interest.

You no doubt know that my idea—giving federal forests back to Indian tribes—is not new. In fact, my good friend Bill Hagenstein, who has been my inspiration for more than 30 years, first broached the subject with you at your Third Annual National Indian Symposium, in Phoenix, Arizona, April 10, 1979. Back then, Bill was the executive vice president of the old Industrial Forestry Association, a position he held for more than 30 years. I know of no one in history who more ably or more passionately represented forestry in public and congressional forums than Bill. Now 93, he remains keenly interested in forestry—and was delighted to know that I intended to hijack his title for my presentation today.

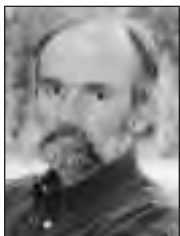
In his 1979 remarks, Bill gave credit where credit was due, recalling that he'd first heard the suggestion 20 years earlier at a wilderness hearing in Albuquerque. Here is how Bill recalled the hearing in his Phoenix speech:

"One of the most imposing witnesses at the hearing, where the battle lines were being drawn between those who understand the need for getting the most out of most of our lands for most of the people and those who think otherwise, was Lester Oliver, chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council, who suggested a possible solution to the controversy. He said, 'Give it back to the Indians.'"

Suffice it to say, Bill Hagenstein, who is himself a very imposing public presence, was very impressed with Mr. Oliver's presentation. I know this because Bill brought it up to me over dinner last month in Portland.

Much has changed since Bill spoke before your group in 1979. Much more has changed since Lester Oliver first suggested it was time for the federal government to return lands it had taken from Indians.

It was Bill's good fortune to work





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briefly in the shadow of Bill Greeley, the third Chief of the Forest Service—and in my opinion the most able and enlightened conservationist the country and the Forest Service ever had. He retired from government service in 1928 to assume leadership of the old West Coast Lumbermen's Association. Under its aegis, he became the architect of the American Tree Farm System and the soul of the post-war Forest Service.

Greeley had great faith in human enterprise; the entrepreneurial spirit that drives so much that is good about our country. He believed that federal foresters could do much more to advance forestry's great cause—especially on private lands—by partnering with landowners in programs that reduced the risk of wildfire, an obvious first step in the process of encouraging reforestation after harvest.

Those of you who are schooled in forest history know that Greeley and his mentor, Gifford Pinchot, who was the first Forest Service chief, engaged in a bitter and very public debate over the best way to encourage improvements in harvest practices. Pinchot was very suspicious of private timber men and held

fast to his belief that heavy-handed federal regulation was the only way to control them. Unlike Greeley, he seemed not to understand that private capital was not going to flow toward forestry until the government got serious about controlling wildfire on its land. It did so when Congress ratified the Clarke-McNary Act in June of 1924.

Clarke-McNary institutionalized the public sector-private sector partnership that remains the historic basis for your contractual firefighting relationship with state and federal governments. It was Greeley's finest hour and Pinchot's final humiliation. But more importantly, it set the stage for forestry's long march in America—an advancement that continued unabated until the 1970s, when our country's great material wealth lured it down new and very different pathways, leading us away from the commitment to forestry earlier generations felt so keenly.

Before I lay out the case for returning the nation's federal forests to your care, I'd like to read what are in hindsight two very insightful paragraphs from Bill's 1979 speech. They help set the stage for what I am going to suggest. These para-

graphs follow Bill's assessment of proposals then in the offing for reducing harvest levels on federal forests in responses to political pressure from environmental groups that by 1979 were enjoying great success in their efforts to undermine both the federal timber sale program and government plans to open vast roadless tracts across the forested West.

"What this whole thing sounds like," Bill declared, "and the way it's dished up, is that Uncle Sam is succumbing to the temptation to turn his back completely on his opportunities for practicing forestry in our national forests and failing to utilize the results of his own 50 years of forestry research, which have cost the taxpayers well over a billion dollars. Instead, he seems to indicate that the non-industrial lands in the country, the least stable in tenure and generally with the poorest opportunities for long-term management because of the nature of the ownership and size of the average holding, is where the American people should get their wood. Also, the bait is held out that all of the other ownerships like yours and ours will have a better incentive to practice much more inten-

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sive forestry because of the fact that Uncle Sam is going to retire from the scene."

For Bill in 1979 and for me today, the question of the hour was and is, "Can the federal government afford the luxury of allocating so little of its very productive federal forestland base to the growing and harvesting of timber for the needs of our ever expanding nation?"

I don't think it can, especially given the fact that the nation's federal lands, with their vast timber, water, mineral and energy reserves, constitute our country's largest single monetary asset. The billions in gold held at Fort Knox are chump change by comparison. But listen to what Bill had to say about what he perceived to be the government's seeming desire to distance itself from its then half-century commitment to sound public lands forestry.

"It is my opinion as a professional forester that this is tantamount to saying that our government seems dedicated to creating a completely unnecessary artificial timber shortage in the country. Once the American people catch on that this is our policy, if it actually happens, you can bet your bottom dollar that there will be a whole new set of politicians in public office and some significant housecleaning in the bureaucracy. Any artificial shortage of anything is inflationary. If it's a renewable resource like our trees, it's criminal."

Twenty-eight years have come and gone since Bill spoke those words to you. There have been many political changes, but none for reasons of artificial shortage. Other nations proved willing and able to fill the supply gap left by the federal government's decision to abandon a half-century of taxpayer investment in forestry, just as they are filling the gap created by our nation's refusal to tap its own energy reserves.

And while we're briefly on the much ballyhooed subject of energy, here's a factoid for you: Did you know that 80-some percent of the oil consumed by Allied forces during World War II came from the United States? Imagine that: Once upon a time in America, we were net exporters of energy!

Can you imagine the stunning transformation that would occur among tribes if the revenue that once flowed from federal forests and federal oil fields into the federal treasury instead flowed into tribal bank accounts? Someone told me a few years back that the day the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law several Alaska tribes became Fortune 500 companies overnight—on the strength of the monetary value of natural resources that were suddenly theirs.

Federal forestry, which at its zenith provided about 25 percent of the nation's timber, provides an amount so small today that it cannot be measured. For all intent and purpose, the federal timber sale program is dead—and there remain very few signs that it can or will be revived. For one thing, the intellectual capacity that delivered federal timber to the marketplace is gone. So too is the political will necessary to restart the program.

What remains of this once splendid program is a waste of taxpayer dollars. The hundreds of millions of dollars that are annually spent on wildfire suppression could easily be transferred directly to states and tribes that do the heavy lifting during fire season. Campgrounds and other recreational facilities could be given to the states in which they reside or sold to private interests. The agencies could be dismantled, just as sawmills and logging companies have been dismantled a thousand times over in the last two decades.

Here I want to add that I have Forest Service friends who are trying hard to do good work, especially in the stewardship contracting arena, dedicated professionals like Bruce Fox, Tim Love, Barry Wynsma and Obie O'Brien here in Region 1, and my old friend Blair Moody, who works for the BLM in Medford, Oregon. None of these men deserve to be simply dismissed because others can't or won't do their jobs, but then again, the 50,000-some woods and mill workers who also did good work did not deserve the fate that befell them after the northern spotted owl was listed in 1990 on the basis of some still very flimsy science.

Permit me to now gather these last two paragraphs into a single sentence, so there is no mistaking what I've just said. Put simply, I believe it is time for the country to consider sunseting our federal land management agencies, especially the United States Forest Service.

You have no idea how difficult it is for me to say this, what sadness I feel. For I have steadfastly and very publicly defended the Forest Service on the pages of *Evergreen Magazine* for the last 22 years, and I remain an unabashed admirer of what old hands called "the outfit." Never let it be forgotten that in 1953 *Fortune* magazine voted the Forest Service one of the two most admired organizations in the country. The other was the United States Marine Corps.

My admiration for the Forest Service goes back to my grade school years at Sunnyside School in Kellogg, Idaho. Every spring, the Wallace District ranger visited our school, and I presume every school in the district. His name was Bill Stout. He stood six-foot-three and had a voice that sounded like it had risen from the basement of time. In my mind's eye I can still see him standing before us, ramrod straight in his green uniform—a uniform I was to learn years later had been deliberately designed to look like a Marine uniform in order to encourage the wearer to do his level best for his country, by executing the Forest Service mission to the very best of his ability, come what may. I also learned that it was the legendary Bud Moore, a Marine himself long before he became Northern Region fire boss who wrote the 10 Standing Orders for Fire Fighters, and patterned them after the Marine's 10 Standing Orders.

It was thus no accident that Bill Stout

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looked and acted like a Marine, and thus no accident that my classmates and I hung on every word he said. Small wonder that I have so many friends who are Forest Service retirees—or that I continue to seek their counsel: *Semper Fi*.

But the esprit décor that was once the outfit's hallmark is long gone—and we and our forests are the lesser for it. It's true that a few stout hearts remain. Those who work at the Forest Service's Forest Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin, are genuinely committed to environmental problem solving on a societal level. I'm very impressed and very supportive of their various wood utilization and wood technology initiatives, most recently in the bio-fuel and bio-chemical arenas. Our country needs this lab and its dedicated cadre of scientists, engineers and technicians now more than ever.

These things said, the Forest Service at large is no longer the fine organization it once was. Too many in its employ today are eight-to-fivers who are only there for the benefits. Others are very open in their desire to remake the organization. While I respect their candor, I do not admire their goal. The idea that late succession species can somehow be held in suspended animation is bogus. Nature won't allow it.

I am reminded of a wisdom shared with me by my friend Alan Houston, a Ph.D. wildlife biologist on the Ames Plantation in middle Tennessee. We were out walking on the Cumberland Plateau one crisp October morning in 1995 when, out of the blue, he turned and said something to me I can still quote verbatim. He said, "When we leave forests to nature, as so many people seem to want to do, we get what nature serves up, which can be pretty devastating at times; but with forestry we have options, and a degree of predictability not found in nature."

One might legitimately ask what brought such profound change to the Forest Service. Sally Fairfax, a professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at Berkeley, and a periodic *Journal of Forestry* contributor, gave us the best answer I've ever seen more than 20 years ago. Here is what she wrote—what I did not want to believe, but now know to be true.

"Far from achieving a rational decision-making process, RPA and NFMA may well result in stalemate and indeci-

sion as the Forest Service turns from managing land to simply overseeing a convoluted, ever more complex set of congressionally mandated procedures. The tradition of land stewardship, if indeed it survived the 1950s and 1960s, may have died in the 1970s. RPA and NFMA take the initiative from experienced land managers—those revered people on the ground, the folks who have lived with the land and their mistakes long enough to have developed wisdom and a capacity for judgment—and gives it to lawyers, computers, economists and politically active special interest groups seeking to protect and enhance their own diverse positions. This shift in initiative will result from the layers of legally binding procedure that RPA and NFMA foist on top of an already complex and overly rigid planning process. Constant procedural tinkering does not, I fear, lead to efficiency or simplicity. Rather it promises a proliferation of steps, sub-steps, appendices and diverticulae that makes the Forest Service susceptible to the ultimate lawyer's malaise, the reification of process over substance."

Sally was right...and in my hopefulness, I was wrong.

I don't know if it is even possible to sunset a federal agency, but if our land management agencies were to pass into history, we Americans would still have to answer one monumental question to our satisfaction. And the question is,

"What should we do with the land itself?"

As I see it, the country has four alternatives that ought to be seriously considered:

First, reaffirm the original intent and purpose of the 1897 Organic Act.

Second, let nature take its course—just as environmental groups have wanted.

Third, sell it to private interests, perhaps REITs or TIMOs.

Fourth, give it back to the Indians.

Alternative One would be the cheapest and easiest to implement, and of course its reaffirmation would mean we would not be sunseting the Forest Service or the BLM. We would instead immediately launch a search for new talent capable of managing the country's quite valuable timber reserves. This is the sweetest dream of many Forest Service retirees.

But I doubt that more than one in 50 members of Congress have ever heard of the Organic Act or would have the slightest understanding of the historic context in which it was ratified. The Act was Congress' response to our country's fear of a timber famine—a result of the widely held public perception that our wood-based economy was cutting more timber than was growing in forests. It gave the President of the United States the legal authority to establish national forests on public domain lands that held timber.

There were three objectives—all very



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clearly stated in the Act. Quoting, "No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the United States."

Despite this Act's clarity—or perhaps because of it—I don't see much chance that Congress will reauthorize it anytime soon, if ever. Too many in Congress are beholden to special interest groups whose main interests lie in controlling access to and development of the nation's natural resources. In the case of the Organic Act, what we are left with is the National Forest Management Act, a bastardized version of the 1897 law, passed in 1976 in response to the Monongahela clearcutting litigation.

The fact that our country no longer believes it needs to manage its federal forest resources—or its mineral or energy resources—has led us down a very dangerous path, into harm's way in god-awful places like Baghdad, Mosul and the Sunni Triangle of Death.

I confess the cynic in me likes Alternative No. 2, "the leave it to nature" plan. It is long past time for Americans to again witness the unbridled forces of wildfire that my grandmother experienced fleeing the great 1910 fire with a one-month-old baby in her arms. So let's think seriously about bowing to the selfish and ill-informed interests of environmental groups that have for years been harping about "letting nature take its course" in the public's forests.

Of course, bowing to their nonsensical view of nature runs 180 degrees away from well documented public support for the kind of long-term thinning programs that would reduce the outsized risks currently posed by wildfires, insects and diseases. Still, it's worth your knowing that in two separate national surveys, these forest amenities poll highest: clean air, clean water, abundant fish and

wildlife habitat, and a wealth of year-round recreation opportunities.

Last time I looked, there were not amenities associated with the aftermath of catastrophic wildfire, yet we are told again and again by environmentalists that these fires are simply natural occurrences—nature's way of rebalancing the scales after a century of excluding wildfire from forests. This claim is nonsense. It ignores both history and science.

But for the moment, let's set this debate aside. We'll concede that neither the Forest Service nor the courts have the slightest interest in heeding majority public opinion. Let's let environmentalists have it their way. Let's let nature take its course for the next, say, 25 years. Then the public can decide once and for all if it likes the "leave it to nature" approach. Maybe it will, but I'm betting that long months of summer smoke, the destruction of watersheds, the loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and the ruination of scenic vistas and recreation opportunity are not things the public will appreciate or support for very long.

This brings us to Alternative No. 3. Given the billions of dollars in ready cash these forests represent, perhaps we should sell our most productive national forest acres to capital-rich REITs and TIMOs. Of these two financial instruments, I prefer Timber Investment Management Organizations because they are the tools of choice for wealthy individuals seeking long-term capital preservation. This is an important concept, because it suggests to me that these owners aren't interested in the rapid liquidation of assets—in this case timber.

There is a good deal of misunderstanding and some misinformation surrounding about both Real Estate Investment Trusts and TIMOs. At their core, these investment vehicles are responses to disparate factors that have in recent years undermined investor confidence in traditional, vertically integrated forest products companies—

companies that own both land and manufacturing facilities. These factors include global competition, double taxation of corporate profits, striking increases in per acre growth rates in forest plantations and the widening acceptance of engineered wood products.

Selling national forestlands to REITs or TIMOs might work, especially if federal tax laws were first changed to make it advantageous for these purchasers to hold standing timber for longer periods of time. It's ridiculous that current laws make it virtually impossible for a timberland owner to hold timber beyond 35 or 40 years. Why not 70 or 80 years or, better yet, why not tie the holding periods to forest types or habitat types? Our one-size-fits-all federal tax code is no more workable or desirable than one-size-fits-all forest management prescriptions.

Although I think this alternative could work well over time, there isn't much evidence suggesting that the American people are yet ready to sell their forest heritage to a bunch of Wall Street suits, which leads me to Alternative No. 4: Giving it back to tribes. This alternative isn't as far-fetched as you may think. I know for a fact that many of the West's surviving family owned sawmills like the idea. Indeed, many of these mills are already regular buyers of your timber. I also believe that counties that have been devastated by the loss of federal harvest receipts—and Congress' failure to renew safety net funding—would be among your earliest and most ardent supporters. Most of these forested counties have no other economic assets or potentials. They owe their very existence to the presence of commercially valuable federal timber, which the Forest Service worked hard to develop in the years following the Second World War.

Were the decision mine, there would be only two strings attached to this transaction. First, I would want counties—not the states, the counties—in which the respective national forests lie to be your working partners. They need the money and you will need their political muscle. Moreover, I like the idea of local coalitions working together to solve social and environmental problems in a litigation-free environment. Lord knows, the national forests were a tremendous source of economic, social and cultural well being for decades before the program fell apart under the crushing weight of litigation.



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To insure that you can actually practice forestry in your new forests it will no doubt be necessary for Congress to pass legislation that bulletproofs your claims to sovereign nation status, thereby eliminating the probability that serial litigators will show up on your doorstep the morning after we complete this transaction.

No doubt some of you are wondering just how you might get this ball rolling in the right direction. Clearly, this is going to take some time and thought. You are going to have to reach far beyond your own tribal community for political support. And you are going to have to develop a well thought out strategy for convincing the country that you have their best interests at heart.

I am not naïve enough to think radical environmentalists are going to take this without a fight. Federal forests have been a vitally important revenue stream for them since the 1960s, more so since the Equal Access to Justice Act gave them unfettered access to the federal treasury. This is why, with the federal timber sale program now all but gone, they're searching for new ways to stay engaged. Some groups even see themselves caring for national forests—and getting paid to do it. I'd much rather see you get paid to do it—and the best way to ensure that everything goes according to plan is to simply transfer title to the land to an independent entity of your creation.

Let's be frank here. You are going to have to enter into iron clad agreements with the country—and especially the counties with whom you would be partnering. And unlike our own federal government, you are going to have to honor

those agreements. Don't get greedy and don't let the past—however painful it was for your ancestors—cloud your judgment or spoil the enormous potential this momentous opportunity represents.

My guess is that most members of Congress from rural environs will be early and effective supporters of your proposal. You will need their help in the many House and Senate sub-committees and committees that will doubtless want a piece of this action. They, in turn, will need the support of important special interest constituencies around the country. We tapped into this reservoir of support during deliberations concerning the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. It worked very well and I see no reason why it wouldn't work here.

I grant you this is a giant leap into the future, so be prepared to seriously discuss alternatives that may be offered up by special interest groups that have a stake in the destiny of our federal forests; especially groups representing citizens who live in or near these forests, far from the political environs of Beltway power-brokers. Form partnerships with local groups as they rise to the occasion. Leave no idea unexplored and turn no one away who is interested in serious dialogue. This idea and the many permutations and combinations that it is likely to spawn are way too important to let the usual sky-is-falling screamers shout them into oblivion.

Count me among those willing to help you sort out this idea whose time may well have come. We've been pleased and proud to represent your hopes, interests and your concerns on the pages of *Evergreen Magazine* twice in the last decade. May I suggest that we need to do this more often in order to get you on the public's radar screen and keep you there?

We have done everything humanly possible to help our readers understand what is happening to our nation's forest heritage—and I think they are coming to

grips with the realities posed by insects, diseases and wildfire, but save for the minor success represented in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, none of the good ideas we've tried to advance that would help pull these forests back from the brink of ecological collapse have gained traction, nor will they until someone figures out how to stuff the litigation genie back in the bottle—an event I consider extremely unlikely given the presence of so many lawyers in Congress. Meanwhile, our forests have become prisoners in a much wider war for our country's soul.

Standing before you then is one American who is prepared to surrender title to these beautiful forests if that is what it takes to save them from unconscionable and immoral elements in our society who have repeatedly signaled their willingness to let our country's forest heritage burn to the ground for the sake of their own political and financial power.

For the sake of their very survival, I want you to have free title to these forests and I want you to manage them the way you manage your own forests.

I am confident that as the American people see more of your brand of forestry—and learn more about your management philosophy and its cultural and spiritual roots—they will become more comfortable with the idea of handing you free title to our nation's federal forestland base. Of course, this great national discourse will take time. There is bound to be heated debate, if for no other reason than the fact that Americans love their forests. The question is do they love them enough to set them free. I know I do.

Thanks for inviting me to join you this afternoon. I wish you well in all your endeavors. ♦

Jim Petersen can be reached at 406-837-1386 or jim@evergreenmagazine.com.

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We Remember

Nils "Arnie" Arneson 1934-2008

Nils "Arnie" Arneson passed away March 21, 2008, of Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. He lived the past year to the fullest. Born December 13, 1934, in Yakima, he spent his early years at the Tieton Ranger Station, where his father was district ranger. The family later moved to Naches, where Arnie graduated from high school in 1953. He went on to graduate from the University of Washington with a degree in forestry in 1957.

He began his career with the Forest Service, even before graduation. His early years with the Forest Service were spent at various districts, including Leavenworth, where he was involved in making Mission Ridge a reality. In 1966, he was transferred to Mt. Hood, where he met and married Carol at Timberline Lodge in 1968. In 1970, he went to Winthrop as district ranger. It

was the highlight of his career. His son John joined the family in 1970, and the family moved to Colorado in 1977.

He retired in 1984, and the family moved to Wenatchee. He then formed his own forestry and recreation consulting firm, which he operated until his death.

Arnie was a 50-year member of the Society of American Foresters and served as state chair, was a Certified Forester and elected Fellow in 2001. Another honor he was very proud of was being appointed honored alumnus by the University of Washington in recognition of Excellence in the Profession of Forestry in 1991. Since 1996, he served as president of the Board for the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center.

Arnie enjoyed spending time outdoors and loved to spend time with Carol and the grandchildren, enjoying the beautiful surroundings of eastern Washington.

A Memorial Service was held April 25 at the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center Amphitheater. The family suggests donations be made to the Seattle Cancer Alliance Center for Sarcoma Research or Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center for a gazebo picnic area.

Walter Bitterlich 1908-2008

Austrian forester Walter Bitterlich passed away in February 2008, just 10 days short of his 100th birthday. It is often said that he is probably the only forester in the world who is known to virtually every other forester, principally because of his invention of variable plot sampling. A nicer man would be hard to find, and a larger contribution to forest inventory would be impossible to imagine.

He managed to live through the Russian Front in World War II just in time to be shipped to Normandy to face the allied invasion. Even during the fighting he was inventing and thinking. It was not just variable plot sampling that he offered the world, but inventions of snowmobiles, garden tools and machines to produce pleasant curves for furniture. The Relascope, of course, is the invention that so many of us know best, and it was made possible by the manufacturing skill of his life-long friend Benno Hesske. Walter's book, *"The Relascope Idea"* is full of credit to other people, which was typical of this extraordinary man.

He lived for much of his professional life in Salzburg while he raised a family of four and taught at the forestry school in Vienna. He took up ice dancing when he was 70, as part of his life-long fitness regime. During his last few years he moved back to Reutte, Austria, where he was born, and near where several generations of foresters in his family had worked. ♦

—Reprinted from *News Quarterly*, *New England Society of American Foresters*, April 2008



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Searching for Missing WJAF Issue

The Oregon State University Extension Library has been donated an almost-complete set of *Western Journal of Applied Forestry* issues. The set is missing Volume 9 Number 2 from 1994. If this issue can be found, the complete set will be bound and available at the extension library.

If anyone has this issue of the WJAF and is willing to donate it to OSU, please contact Jim Johnson at 541-737-8954 or jim.johnson@oregonstate.edu.

Calendar of Events

Washington State SAF Annual Meeting, May 28-30, Shelton, WA. Contact: Pete Heide, pheide@wfpa.org, 360-705-9287.

Starker Lecture Series Capstone Field Trip, May 29, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Nathalie Gitt, www.cof.orst.edu/starker-lectures/registration.php, 541-737-4279.

Intertribal Timber Council Meeting, June 2-5, Pinetop, AZ. Contact: Joann Reynolds, itc1@teleport.com, 503-282-4296.

Forest Pest Recognition and Management, June 3-5, Susanville, CA. Contact: Jack Marshall, jack.marshall@fire.ca.gov, 707-462-5886.

Oregon SAF Fellows Luncheon, June 5, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Eric Geyer, ericg@rfpco.com.

Timberland and Neighbors: Sooner or Later There Will be Issues, June 6, Grand Mound, WA. Contact: WFCA.

Western Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference, June 16-20, Spokane, WA. Contact: Washington State University, www.capps.wsu.edu/wrcssc, 800-942-4978.

Pend Orielle Valley Fiber and Ponderay Newsprint field trip, June 20, Cusick, WA. Contact: Lynn Kaney, lkaney@povn.com, 509-671-3374.

2008 Western Mensurationists' Annual Meeting, June 22-24, Redmond, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Forestry and Leadership Youth Summer Camp, June 22-28, Wilsonville, OR. Contact: Rick Zenn, rzenn@world-forestry.org, 503-488-2103.

Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association Meeting, June 23-25, Missoula, MT. Contact: WFCA.

OSU Tree School South, June 29, Roseburg, OR. Contact: Raini Rippey, raini.rippy@oregonstate.edu.

Association of Consulting Foresters National Meeting, June 29-July 2, Anchorage, AK. Contact: ACE, www.acf-foresters.org, 888-540-8733.

International Educators Institute, July 14-19, Portland, OR. Contact: Rick Zenn, rzenn@worldforestry.org, 503-488-2103.

Advanced Insect and Disease Field Session, July 14-17, Klamath Falls, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Who Will Own the Forest?4, Sept. 8-10, Portland, OR. Contact: Sara Wu, http://wfi.worldforestrycenter.org/wwtotf/, 503-488-2130.

Western International Forest Disease Work Conference, Sept. 15-19, Missoula, MT. Contact: Blakey Lockman, blockman@fs.fed.us, 406-329-3189.

Timberland and Neighbors: Sooner or Later There Will be Issues, Sept. 23, Cottage Grove, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Professional's Night, South Puget Sound Chapter meeting, Oct. 2, Green River Community College, Auburn, WA. Contact: Tom Hanson, tom@inforesstry.com, 425-820-3420.

Professional Timber Cruising Seminar, Oct. 15-16, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

National Tree Farmers Convention, Oct. 17-19, Portland, OR. Contact: American Tree Farm System, info@treefarmssystem.org, 202-463-2462.

Practical Application of New Technology Seminar, Oct. 22-23, Beaverton, OR. Contact: Atterbury.

SAF National Convention, Nov. 5-9, Reno, NV. Contact: Carlton Glead, 866-897-8720 x111, gleedc@safnet.org.

Statewide Safety Conference, Nov. 8, Hood River, OR. Contact: Associated Oregon Loggers, 503-364-1330.

Forest Sector Modeling, Nov. 17, Seattle, WA. Contact: John Perez-Garcia, perjohn@u.washington.edu, 206-685-2315.

2009 OSAF/WSSAF Joint Leadership Conference, Jan. 16-17, Silverton, OR. Contact: Mark Buckbee, Mark_Buckbee@blm.gov.

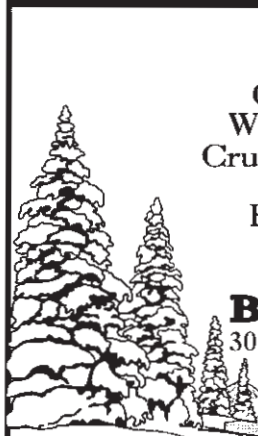
Contact Information

Atterbury: Atterbury Consultants, 503-646-5393, jaschenbach@atterbury.com, www.atterbury.com.

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

Send calendar items to the editor, **Western Forester**, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515; rator@safnw.org. The deadline for the July/August 2008 issue is June 9.

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Council Works Through Full Agenda at March Meeting

BY CLARK SEELY, CF

The SAF Council held their first meeting of 2008 on March 8-9 at the SAF headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. President Tom Thompson called the meeting to order with all Council members present and led the group through a full agenda over two very productive days. Following are the highlights of Council deliberations and decisions:



- Following an outstanding proposal by members of the Portland Chapter that was endorsed by both the Oregon SAF and Washington State SAF, Council voted unanimously to rename the SAF outstanding communicator award to the "W.D. Hagenstein Outstanding Communicator Award" in honor and tribute to our fellow SAF member and leader of the profession, Bill Hagenstein. By the same motion, the Council approved elevating the award to national status, and to present the first newly named award to the successful recipient at the 2008 national convention in Reno, Nevada.

- Council received a status report from the executive vice-president on progress being made on the multi-organization effort with the federal Office of Government Ethics regarding participation of federal employees in professional societies. The federal office is supportive of the approaches being proposed, but the key is what happens at the cabinet level and congressional support. The joint effort with other professional societies will continue. In addition, Council received an update on the progress of liability insurance coverage. Progress is being made on process and updated information should be out to units

soon. In the meantime, if questions or coverage needs arise, contact should be made with our insurance broker through the national office.

- The 2007 SAF audit has been completed and the SAF financial status received a clean bill of health. No concerns were identified.

- Council received a report regarding the Wild Acres property sale and work of the Relocation Task Force. Good progress is being made on both fronts. Members are encouraged to review the summary article in the February *Forestry Source*. More information will follow as significant milestones are reached.

- Council received the final report of the membership category changes from 2007, and endorsed sending the proposed changes to the membership for ratification during the 2008 national election.

- With assistance from the private consultant who conducted the membership surveys last year, Council began the strategic planning revision work based on the results of those surveys. Additional work will be completed at the June 2008 Council meeting.

- In the policy arena, Council received a progress report on the work of the Climate Change Task Force, who will have the final draft report prepared by late spring. From this report, possible SAF position statements will be considered. In addition, Council approved revised position statements on Clearcutting as a Silvicultural Practice, Protecting Endangered Species Habitat on Private Lands, and Public Regulation of Private Forest Practices. Council asked the Committee on Forest Policy to reexamine the need for the position statement on Professionalism in Natural Resource Management Agencies, and possibly modernize the statement for today's needs. Regarding the work in progress of the SAF/NASF Taskforce on Forest Sustainability, Council directed the officers of SAF to meet with their counterparts of National Association of State Foresters and determine the next

steps of the process.

- Council approved the proposed revisions to the Standard Minimum Bylaws for state societies. The primary changes of the revisions are the option of electronic voting, the forest policy process at the unit level, consistent terminology, compliance with state and federal tax laws, and avoiding conflicts of timing with state and national annual meetings. State societies are asked to incorporate these changes as needed or at the next regular update of state society bylaws.

- Council approved a revitalization plan for the national communications committee to provide stronger and more direct communications efforts for the Society, particularly with external communications. Progress is being made on the recruitment of the vacant national director of Membership and Communications.

- Council received an update on the details of the 2008 Leadership Academy, to be held in Potomac, Maryland, at the Bolger Center for Leadership Development. Additional scoping and analysis work will be undertaken to identify areas for future improvement of the Leadership Academy.

- Council received an update on the 2008 National Convention in Reno. Work is progressing well on both the program and arrangements.

- Council received a report from the Task Force on Forest Technology School Accreditation, from which additional work on revised accreditation process and procedures will be based.

- Council discussed current concerns with the new CF program process requirements and asked staff to prepare additional material for future discussion. ♦

Clark W. Seely, CF, is Council District 2 representative, covering Oregon. He can be reached at 503-945-7203 or cseely@odf.state.or.us. Kirk David is Council District 1 representative, covering Washington State, Inland Empire and Alaska societies. He can be reached at 208-683-3168 or kirk-david@earthlink.net. The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 5-7 at the Priest River Experimental Forest in northern Idaho.

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The Forestry Education Dilemma at Washington State University

BY KEITH A. BLATNER

Over the course of past few months, Washington State University (WSU) has been reviewing each academic unit as part of the ongoing "Academic Affairs Program Prioritization" (A2P2) process. The goal of this effort is to begin refocusing the university and improving its stature as a research institution. Achieving this goal will require a substantial investment of new funding from a variety of sources (public and private), while at the same time refocusing itself around areas of preeminence or emerging preeminence in research and graduate education. At the same time, WSU must balance these efforts against the tripartite mission of a land grant university—teaching, research and extension. This is clearly a difficult challenge and one of the reasons why President Floyd has regularly stated that: "WSU cannot be all things to all people; we must focus on what we do well." As a result of the A2P2 process, the undergraduate major in forestry has been identified for possible elimination.

The A2P2 process began in the fall of 2007. The initial phase of this process focused on developing a mechanism for reviewing every unit. WSU identified eight A2P2 criteria that were used to evaluate each unit. These included: centrality, cost effectiveness, demand-external, demand-internal, impact, productivity, quality and size. Multiple measures/indicators were also developed for each of these criteria. Beginning in mid-January, each department was given approximately six weeks to write a self study. The self study was limited to five single spaced pages, plus two pages for tables and figures. Institutional research and the college provided standardized data in order to minimize data discrepancies. In turn, each Dean was charged with the task



of placing each unit, or part thereof, into a matrix of alternative futures. This matrix was composed of four columns entitled: Growth and Investment, Maintenance, Reorganization and Phase-out. The rows were populated with the names of units within each college. All self studies, together with the recommendations of the deans, were forwarded to the Provost and posted on the web. Faculty and chairs were given approximately 10 days to comment (one page maximum) on the results of the process.

Dean Bernardo (College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences) recommended phasing out forestry education, research and extension at WSU. I wrote a one-page rebuttal arguing against phasing out forestry completely. Dean Bernardo has clarified his recommendation relative to phasing out forestry. At this point, it appears likely that WSU will continue to offer at least some forestry-related courses that support other majors, will continue to support some aspects of forestry research and will continue to support forestry extension activities at some level. However, the fate of the undergraduate forestry major remains uncertain at this time.

On Thursday, April 10, 2008, *The Daily Evergreen* (WSU student newspaper) published an article (paper and web-based versions) on the results of the A2P2 process in which Dean Bernardo was quoted indicating that the undergraduate major in forestry would be phased out. The Dean subsequently indicated that his comments had been misinterpreted as his recommendation was a phase-out of the major; however, several additional steps in the A2P2 process needed to occur before a decision was reached. Ultimately, the final decision rests in the hands of the Provost. However, on Friday, April 11, 2008, I began receiving emails and calls from alumni and supporters around the state and region asking if the comments in the student paper were true.

Over the following weekend the *Evergreen* article was rapidly forwarded around the state and region via email. This, in turn, resulted in a number of letters and emails to university administrators. At about the same time, a previously planned forestry club activity made front-page news in the local Pullman-Moscow paper, additional articles concerning forestry appeared in the campus paper, and I was asked to draft this article for the *Western Forester* to provide an overview on the issues facing forestry education at WSU.

The forestry education dilemma facing WSU is not unique to WSU or the profession. Forestry enrollment across the country is at a very low level at many institutions. This legitimately raises the question in the minds of university administrators as to the need for retaining accredited forestry programs. Nor is this problem unique to forestry. At the same time, WSU and other universities have experienced increased student interest in more generalized natural resource majors. This is very perplexing given the strength of the current job market for forestry graduates.

I would like to end this article on a somewhat more positive note by indicating that other initiatives related to environment and natural resources are currently evolving at this time and hold the potential for a positive future for natural resource education, research and outreach at WSU. Unfortunately word limits do not allow me to address these initiatives in this article.

Obviously, I would also like to see the forestry major retained and strengthened in the future at WSU. Washington State is after all the "Evergreen State." If you would like to provide further input into the process relative to the need for retaining the undergraduate major in forestry, please direct your comments to Dean Bernardo at bernardo@wsu.edu. ♦

Keith A. Blatner is professor and chair, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman. He can be reached at blatner@wsu.edu.



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.

Idaho Roadless Rule. The Idaho chapters of the SAF took a position supporting the Forest Service's proposal to adopt the Idaho Roadless Rule in response to a petition by the State of Idaho for the management direction of 9.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands in Idaho. The SAF advocates, as does the Forest Service and the State of Idaho, the reduction of significant risk situations before they become imminent threats to local communities and water supplies, and that this can be better achieved with additional flexibility beyond that provided by the 2001 roadless rule. The SAF supports implementing limited, but necessary projects to allow the Forest Service to be a good neighbor for adjacent landowners and communities, and to help ensure continued forest health and protection for life and property. By the time you read this, the Forest Service should have a Record of Decision in place. The position statement can be accessed from the Policy section at www.iesaf.org. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu.

Idaho Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act. A proposal to offer \$3 million per year in state income tax credits for qualifying conservation easements failed to muster enough votes during the 2008 session of the Idaho Legislature, which adjourned in early April. The Inland Empire and Intermountain Societies' joint position statement on the potential for conservation easements to help keep working forests working did not offer specific support for or against this bill. The position statement can be accessed from the Policy section at www.iesaf.org.

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Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu.

Wildfire Emergency Funding

Proposals. In 2007, more acres burned in Idaho than in any other state. The SAF's March 20 letter supporting comprehensive reform of the federal budgeting process for wildfire suppression has been joined by others who also recognize the budget process as limiting the ability to simultaneously prevent and prepare for wildfires, as well as suppress them. Western governors and state foresters across the U.S. have called for new ways of funding emergency fire suppression that do not compromise needed investments in forest health, fuels management and preparedness activities to make communities safer. One approach is a flexible emergency suppression spending account linked to rigorous cost containment controls and agency line officer incentives. On March 25, five former Forest Service chiefs wrote to Congress supporting budget reform. On April 10, Jack Ward Thomas, Gov. Janet Napolitano (D-AZ), co-lead on forest health issues for the Western Governors' Association, and others testified to Congress in support of budget reform. The SAF hopes key elements from the two leading house proposals can be merged into one (see www.safnet.org/statement_flame_act.pdf). Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu.

OSAF Reviews Legislative Proposal on Federal Forest Management.

Earlier this year Rep. Peter DeFazio's (D-OR) office released a draft bill (available at www.defazio.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=357&Itemid=) that would significantly affect the management of both USFS and BLM forestlands in the region. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) discussed similar legislation at meetings in Oregon and soon after he co-sponsored the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (S. 2593) introduced in Congress. Both legislators are concerned about forest health and wildfire hazards, as well as old-growth forests on federal lands. The scope of these issues and legislative proposals are substantial, and thus both OSAF and national SAF leaders are tracking their development. Several OSAF members reviewed the DeFazio proposal and the OSAF Policy Committee provided some related feedback to the national SAF office, which later sent a letter to Rep. DeFazio raising some pointed concerns about his proposal. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

OSAF Landslides Position

Extended, Others Revised with Renewal Expected. In January 2008 the OSAF Executive Committee approved a one-year extension of the position statement on "Landslides on Forest Lands," which expired late last year. The extension considered the news spotlight on some major landslides in December 2007, which raised questions about possible links to forestry activities. The OSAF Policy Committee plans to draft a new position later this year that will address both landslide and other steep-land or wildland-urban interface issues, but the landslide position will remain useful until this new position is adopted.

The looming expiration of several OSAF position statements prompted some revisions by the Policy Committee, with the goal of Executive Committee approval of the new positions before the 2008 expiration dates. By this printing it is expected that revised positions on "Salvage Harvesting," "Clearcutting," and "Using Pesticides on Forest Lands" will be adopted. The position on "Active Management to Achieve and Maintain Healthy Forests" is expected to be revised and approved by September. OSAF members are encouraged to take a look at the latter position and any proposed revisions, and send comments to local chapter officers or the Policy Committee. All OSAF position statements are online at www.forestry.org and draft revisions are posted in the "members only" section. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

BLM Western Oregon Plan

Revision Remains in Spotlight. The Draft EIS (DEIS) of the BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) covers about 2.6 million acres, most under a mandate (O&C Act) for economic benefits to local communities. The BLM's preferred alternative would substantially increase timber harvests over the 1990s levels that reflected the relatively risk-adverse implementation of the federal Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). In the DEIS the BLM proposes a greater balance between its economic and environmental mandates. The OSAF Policy Committee reviewed the DEIS and developed comments for the OSAF Executive Committee to submit to the BLM. Although involving only agency scientists and not concerned with the balance of BLM's policy mandates, an external review of the use of science in the DEIS generated news headlines earlier this spring due to its criticisms of the document. No doubt many more headlines will result when the final EIS is released later this year. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu. ♦

Tree Farmers to Come to Portland



Mark your calendars now to attend the 15th Annual National Tree Farmer Convention, October 16-18, 2008, in Portland, Ore.

"Where Tall Trees Grow" is the theme for this year's event. The convention will focus on forest sustainability through active management. The three-day gathering will feature educational presentations, workshops and social networking opportunities, including exciting hands-on field trips to local tree farms.

The convention is open to family forestland owners, including both members and non-members of the American Tree Farm System® as well as forestry and natural resource professionals and others associated with or interested in forestry and land management.

For more convention information, visit www.treefarmsystem.org. ♦

Products for Forestry Applications

TruPulse 360 Laser Rangefinder

Laser Technology from Centennial, Colorado, has released the new TruPulse 360 laser rangefinder. This instrument measures tree heights as well as horizontal, slope and vertical distance. It has a built-in compass that allows users to navigate in the field, collect offset GPS points, and measure stock pile volume with optional software. In Missing Line mode, the unit has the ability to calculate the azimuth, horizontal distance and inclination between two targets.

ArcPad 7.1 Software

ESRI just released the latest version of this popular GIS mapping software for Pocket PCs. The new version

includes a wizard for making a Quick Project. The Quick Project makes it very easy to start projects collecting data as points, lines or polygons. It also includes the StreetMap extension and Tele Atlas street map data for the United States

and Canada at no additional charge.

For more information on these products, contact Jon Aschenbach, Atterbury Consultants, Inc., at 503-646-5393 or jaschenbach@atterbury.com. ♦



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