

# Western Forester

January/February 2005

Oregon • Washington State • Inland Empire • Alaska Societies

Volume 50 • Number 1

## Explore Forests Past and Future at the Tri-Society SAF Meeting

BY MICHAEL STERNER

*"When fire gets a good start in the dry fire-killed cedar and white fir of the Selway and burning conditions are just right, the whole United States Army, if it was on the ground, could do nothing but keep out of the way....No new element has been introduced. Not a single one of the greater fires which have swept the [Selway] country since 1910 has been man-caused. And even 130 years ago we have Lewis and Clark's testimony that the Indians habitually set fire for such a trivial purpose as to insure fair weather for a journey."*

Elers Koch. 1935. "The passing of the Lolo Trail," *Journal of Forestry* 33(2), in Forty Years a Forester. 1998. Mountain Press.

Forest fires, human intervention and modern forestry weave a rich history in the Inland Northwest. The SAF Tri-Society Annual Meeting of the Oregon, Washington State and Inland Empire will take place on April 13-15 in Lewiston, Idaho. The theme is "Corps of Discovery: Foresters walking in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark." As Elers Koch, a USDA Forest Service forester from 1903 to 1943 notes, the natural processes in forested ecosystems pose tremendous challenges for management. A single solution or prescription is not likely to work in all stands in all forests.

For those of us who work in and around the forests of the Pacific



**A jet boat tour up the Snake River into Hells Canyon is just one of four tour options for participants at this year's tri-society annual meeting in April.**

Northwest, the tri-society meeting offers a diverse program that looks at past forest conditions, today's forests, and ahead to the forests of the future. Three main subjects for the meeting are: Forest history: Lewis and Clark to present conditions; applying fire ecology to Northwest forests; and managing for healthy forests with Healthy Forests Restoration Act case studies.

The first day will open with a welcome by Terry Shaw, meeting chair, and local government and Tribal leaders. Speakers on the first day are Gail Wells, a natural-resources writer, speaking on Pacific Northwest forests at time of Lewis and Clark arrival; Jeff Blackwood discussing healthy forests and forest management issues; Penny Morgan, fire ecologist professor at the

University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, speaking on historic conditions of fire; and John Olson, Potlatch vice president, Resource Management Division, discussing Potlatch's multiple certifications and their link to healthy forests and other forest management issues.

An evening icebreaker includes hors d'oeuvres, poster session, vendors and a slideshow, "Across the Snowy Range," by Jim Fazio, professor and author, from the University of Idaho.

The second-day program will be filled with field trip options, see accompanying story in this issue for details. In brief, participants have four field trips to choose from: (1) Lewis and Clark History Field Tour; (2) Managing Healthy

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## Tri-Society Meeting

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Forests; (3) Jet Boat and Historical Tour; and (4) Forest Industry Mill Tour. As field trips are on a first-to-register basis, sign up early to ensure your field trip preference. An evening awards banquet will feature keynote speaker Jamie Pinkham of the Nez Perce Tribe.

Day three features a presentation by SAF Executive Vice President Michael Goergen, followed by concurrent breakout sessions on the three main subject areas of the meeting. The luncheon keynote speaker is former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. This past summer Kitzhaber testified to the Oregon Board of Forestry, where he stated: "It is in our best interest to think about how we might move beyond the polarization and political gridlock to a public land management strategy which is truly sustainable—not just from an ecologic or an economic standpoint, but from the standpoint of political sustainability as well. Resolving these problems requires a new vision." Meeting attendees will

have the opportunity to learn more about former Governor Kitzhaber's vision for overcoming the management and policy obstacles in the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

The afternoon features an interview-style discussion with landowners, managers and researchers on emerging issues facing the private forestry sector. Panel presenters and the audience will be engaged to explore public expectations, changing values, forest certification and regulations. This wrap up to the meeting will leave everyone with something to think about and a renewed enthusiasm for forestry in the Pacific Northwest.

The meeting setting will provide ample inspiration for the subject at hand. Lewiston is located at the conflu-



**Rich in history, Lewiston, Idaho, welcomes SAF members in April. For more information on Lewiston, visit [www.lewistonchamber.org](http://www.lewistonchamber.org).**

ence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. Public and private forestlands surround the area. Fish and wildlife are abundant, as are recreational activities. Hell's Gate State Park is only three miles from town and a 25-mile greenbelt with walking and biking paths is accessible from Lewiston. Lewiston is just over 300 miles from Seattle or Portland.

Come to Lewiston and renew acquaintances and collaborate with foresters from around the region, learn the latest on forest research at the science poster display, and visit vendor exhibits. Registration material is available inside this issue of the *Western Forester* and is also online at [www.forestry.org/annual](http://www.forestry.org/annual). ♦



## Western Forester

Society of American Foresters

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We'll be at Lewiston April 13-15

**Next Issue: Water and Fish Issues**

# Opportunities Abound for Spouses and Guests

BY MICHAEL RATH

**H**istory, art and shopping are all part of the activities planned for spouses and guests accompanying you to the IESAF, OSAF and WSSAF Tri-Society Annual meeting. Lewiston, Idaho, is a culturally rich and historic community located at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. Some 200 years ago Lewis and Clark trekked westward through the west coast's most inland seaport during their historic journey to the Pacific Ocean.

The Tri-Society Annual Meeting Activities Committee is planning daily area itineraries for those spouses and guests interested in following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. Day trips planned for each of the three conference days include Lewis and Clark Discovery Center, Nez Perce Tribal cultural center, plus art, museum and antique shopping tours. Details on these trips will be available at the registration table when you check in at the meeting. Participants in these day trips will cover their own costs as needed.

The Lewis and Clark Discovery Center features indoor educational displays, a two-acre outdoor interpretive plaza with a beautiful moving stream and sculptures, plus a 32-minute film, *From the Mountains to the Sea; Lewis and Clark in Idaho*. The Nez Perce National Historic Park has fascinating displays of artifacts and a glimpse of traditional life of the Nez Perce people. While trekking the Lewis and Clark Valley area, on your own or in a group tour, spouse and guest participants will find many quaint shops and eateries, or if you prefer, larger shopping center opportunities are also available.

Experience the Hells Canyon! A scenic tour of Hells Canyon, North America's deepest gorge, is a must for every Lewis and Clark Valley visitor. This wild and spectacular area is best visited by boat—there are no roads leading through the canyon. Wildlife, old homesteads, long-forgotten prospector cabins and Native American petroglyphs offer a fascinating story in the midst of the spectacular scenery. A special jet boat tour is

being offered as part of the regular conference program on Thursday, April 14, on a first registered basis, for an additional fee. Sign up early to ensure a seat along with the participant you are accompanying using the regular registration process. Daily jet boat excursions can also be arranged.

April is the month when the Lewis and Clark Valley comes alive with pink and white blossoms of hundreds of dogwood trees. The entire month of April is the Dogwood Festival with many activities going on. The dogwood festival celebrates the arrival of spring with events that focus on the arts, recreation and family-oriented activities including concerts, art exhibitions, food booths, a classic car show and a 10K fun run. Additional details on the Dogwood festival will be available at registration.

Golf anyone? The Lewis and Clark

Valley is often referred to as the "Banana Belt" due to the area's low 700+ foot elevation. While most of the Inland Northwest is covered in snow and frost, golf courses in the valley are open for business year around. Golf enthusiasts can play golf on one of four 18-hole courses in the valley. All courses are challenging and offer full amenities.

For those participants planning to extend their stay, the Red Lion will honor reduced room rates one day before and one day after the meeting. Please make reservations directly through the Red Lion by calling 800-232-6730 or 208-748-1000 by March 15 to receive the reduced rates. ♦

*Michael Rath is activities chair for the Tri-Society annual meeting. He can be reached at 509-780-3107 or mr@mm.com.*



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# Four Great Field Trip Options Offered at Meeting

**F**ield trips will be a key part of the Tri-Society meeting and will allow participants to get out in the woods and see the impressive landscape of northern Idaho. Participants can choose from four tour options, which are highlighted below. Some tours have limited capacity, so register early to ensure your tour preference. Note that there is an additional charge for the jet-boat tour.

## Lewis and Clark History Tour

Lewiston, Idaho, is located directly on the historic route traveled by Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery 200 years ago. The focus of this tour will not be on forestry, but rather, on history and the relationships between the expedition and local residents—the Nez Perce Nation. The tour will be led and narrated by Jim Fazio, past president of The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and current member on the Idaho governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. He is the author of *Across the Snowy Ranges—The Lewis and Clark Expedition in Idaho and Western Montana*.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE VENSO

**One of the stops on the Lewis and Clark history tour will be to the Clearwater River where Lewis and Clark traveled.**

Participants will visit the Spalding Visitor Center of the Nez Perce National Historical Park. Allen Pinkham, Tribal Elder and member of the National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Committee, will present "Perspective of the Arrival of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Related Oral History as Passed Down Among the Ni Mii Puu People."

The tour will then travel to Weippe, Idaho, and the Weippe Prairie where mayor and local historian Norm Steadman will make a presentation, "Lewis and Clark Meet the Nez Perce on the Weippe Prairie." Next, Norm will guide

us through Weippe's Discovery Interpretive Center and the actual site where these two cultures met. You'll see where the expedition emerged from the forest after struggling across the Bitterroot Range.

The tour returns to the Clearwater Valley and stops briefly to view interpretive materials at Canoe Camp where the expedition fashioned their five canoes from large ponderosa pines and began the west-flowing river phase of their journey to the Pacific Ocean.

Tour participants will enjoy a locally prepared lunch at the rustic Weippe Community Center. Commemorate the bicentennial by seeing some of the important sites mentioned in the Lewis and Clark journals and learn more about this epic adventure.

## Managing Healthy Forests Field Tour

This tour is really a highlight for our foresters, silviculturists and forest management enthusiasts. Emphasis is on forest management through the perspective of several forest management organizations and initiatives. The tour will travel through the forests of northern Idaho featuring Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and International Standards Organization (ISO) certification on industrial forestlands. A mock forest certification audit field exercise and discussion of forest fuel reduction alternatives will underscore industrial forestland activities.

The tour will also visit USFS Palouse Ranger District to view Healthy Forest Initiative silvicultural treatments in the field. Certification of family forests through the Tree Farm Program and biological controls for invasive non-native plants will also be included during this forestry-packed day in the woods. A dutch-oven lunch will be served.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS SCHNEPF

**The healthy forests tour will highlight forest management and certification alternatives.**

## Forest Industry Mill Tour

The Forest Industry Mill Tour will begin at the Potlatch pulp and paper mill in Lewiston, Idaho. The tour will first visit the Consumer Products Division where tissue products are produced. Participants will observe an intriguing

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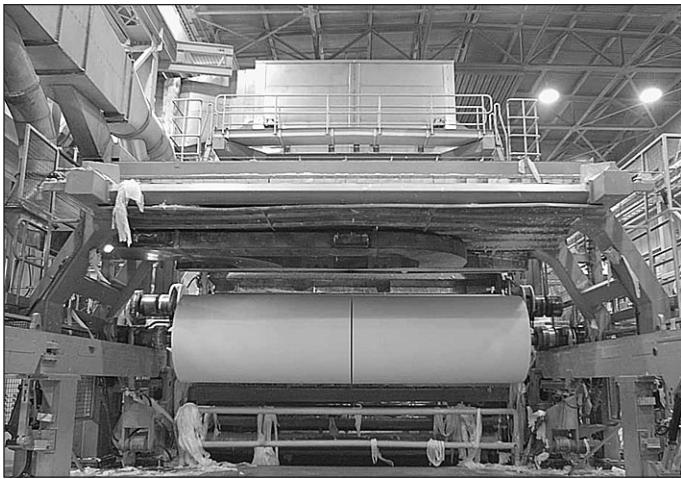


PHOTO COURTESY OF POTLATCH CORP

**Potlatch's Consumer Products Division is one of the stops on the mill tour.**

process where pulp is piped from the pulp mill in a water/fiber mixture, ejected onto forming mats, then dried on steam-heated Yankee dryers, and finally the thin tissue is cut with surgical-blade accuracy. Observers will see first-hand high-speed machines roll tissue onto parent rolls at approximately 60 mph.

The mill tour will then travel from the Potlatch mill by bus along the scenic Clearwater River to the Three Rivers Timber sawmill in Kamiah, Idaho. Three Rivers Timber employs approximately 125 people and produces 40-50 mil-

lion board feet of lumber annually. The mill boasts both state-of-the-art small log and large log processing sides that can process logs as small as a four-inch top diameter and as large as 63 inches at the butt. Participants will watch as logs are scanned to determine optimal sawing profile by a Comact DD10 sawmill system. Rough cut lumber is then sent to an optimizing edger, sorted, dried in six double-track dry kilns and planed into finished lumber. A deluxe box lunch will be provided.

**Snake River (Hells Canyon) Historical Jet Boat Tour**

Adventure is in store for those natural resource historian buffs. Snake River Adventures of Lewiston will jet boat participants up the mighty Snake River into the Hells Canyon. This five-hour jet boat trip will run the rapids to the place where Chief Joeseph and his people crossed the Snake River on their way to the Lapwai Reservation in 1877. Robbin Johnston, USFS Clearwater National Forest archaeologist, will narrate and keep the conversation rolling.

Enjoy the breathtaking beauty and history of Hells Canyon while taking this scenic adventure. Snake River Adventures has been in business for more than 30 years and can assure participants a fabulous and safe trip. This exciting and historically informational jet boat tour is 112 round-trip miles and includes a lunch buffet. An additional \$40 will be charged to registered conference participants and \$65 for guests and spouses. ♦

# Managing Stand Density: The Science Behind the Art

A symposium for Pacific Northwest forestry professionals

March 16-17, 2005

Seven Feathers Convention Center • Canyonville, OR

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Harold Burkhart, PhD., Virginia Tech University**



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- Stand structure management for multiple objectives

# 2005 SAF Tri-Society Annual Meeting

INLAND EMPIRE • OREGON • WASHINGTON

April 13-15 • Lewiston, Idaho

Corps of Discovery: Foresters Walking in the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark

## Wednesday, April 13

8:00 a.m.-Noon SAF State Executive Committee meetings

10:00 Registration opens

1:00-5:00 p.m. Plenary Session

- Introduction—**Terry Shaw**, General Chair
- Welcome—Lewiston Mayor **Jeff Nessit** and **Nez Perce Tribal Member**

Moderator: **Bob Deal**, Program Chair

- *Pacific Northwest forests at time of Lewis and Clark's arrival*—**Gail Wells**, Natural Resources Writer, Monmouth, OR
- *Healthy forest management, perspectives from the PNW*—**Jeff Blackwood**, Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest, Pendleton, OR
- *Fire history, fire ecology and landscape change*—**Penny Morgan**, Professor of Forest Resources, UI, Moscow, ID
- *Use of fire as management tool*—**Speaker TBA**
- *Potlatch's multiple certifications and their link to healthy forests and other forest management issues*—**John Olson**, Vice President, Resource Management Division, Potlatch Corporation

6:30 p.m. Icebreaker with hors d'oeuvres, poster session, vendor exhibits and Foresters' Fund Raffle

8:00 *Across the Snowy Range* slideshow by **Jim Fazio**, Professor and Author, University of Idaho, Moscow

## Thursday, April 14

6:45-7:45 a.m. Alumni breakfast (ticketed event)

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Full-day of multiple field trip options

6:00-7:00 p.m. Poster Session with presenters available, exhibits open

7:00 Banquet and Society awards

8:30 Keynote Speaker **Jamie Pinkham**, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and Nez Perce Tribal member

## Friday, April 15

6:30-7:30 a.m. State Society breakfasts

7:45-8:15 SAF National Update, **Michael Goergen**, Executive Vice-President and CEO, SAF, Bethesda, MD

## Continuing Forestry Education Credits

This conference qualifies participants for 11.5 CFE contact hours in Category 1 (includes three credits for Thursday field tours).

## Spouse and Guest Activities

A range of spouse and guest activities will be available during the meeting. For updated information, visit [www.forestry.org/annual](http://www.forestry.org/annual), or contact Michael Rath at 509-780-3107 or mr@mm.com.

8:15-11:45 Concurrent breakout sessions on three themes

### 1. Forest History: Lewis and Clark to Present Conditions

**Robbin Johnston**, Archaeologist, USFS Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, ID

**George Hatley**, Executive Director, Appaloosa Horse Club (retired)

**Catherine Parks**, Research Plant Pathologist, PNW Research Station, LaGrande, OR

**Jim Bergeron**, Oregon State University Extension (retired)

### 2. Applying Fire Ecology to Northwest Forests History of fire in region

**Paul Hessburg**, Research Ecologist, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee, WA

**Russ Graham**, Research Forester, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Moscow, ID

**Steve Arno**, Rocky Mountain Research Station (retired), and Carl Fiedler, Research Professor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

**Phillip Cook**, Research Associate, University of Idaho, Moscow

**Jay O'Laughlin**, Director, Policy Analysis, University of Idaho, Moscow

### 3. Managing for Healthy Forests

**Greg Filip**, Regional Forest Pathologist, Forest Health Protection, Portland, OR

**Larry Dawson**, Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, ID

**Jose Negron**, Research Entomologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO

**Leslie Weldon**, Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest, Bend, OR

12:00-12:45 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote Address: *A new vision for sustainable forest management*, Former **Governor John Kitzhaber**, Portland, OR

1:00-2:45 p.m. Panel session: An interview-style discussion with landowners, managers and researchers on issues facing the private forestry sector.

Interviewer: **Peter Heide**, Program Committee

• **Mike Gaudern**, Executive Director, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Salem, OR

• **Steve Hollenhorst**, Department Head, Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow

• **Janean Creighton**, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman

• **Phillip Cook**, Research Associate, University of Idaho, Moscow

• **Steve Smith**, Potlatch Corporation, Lewiston, ID

2:45-3:00 pm Concluding remarks and closeout

# 2005 SAF Tri-Society Annual Meeting

April 13-15 • Red Lion Inn • Lewiston, Idaho

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni from: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee includes Wednesday icebreaker, Thursday tour and lunch (Jet Boat \$40 extra), Thursday evening awards banquet, Friday continental breakfast and lunch, and all breaks and materials. Thursday alumni breakfast is an a la carte event. One-day fee includes that day's events, meals and breaks (jet boat \$40 extra).

	<b>By April 5</b>	<b>After April 5</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
SAF Member	\$160	\$180	_____	_____
Family Forestry Association member	\$160	\$180	_____	_____
Retired SAF Member	\$145	\$165	_____	_____
Student Member	\$90	\$110	_____	_____
Non-SAF Member	\$180	\$200	_____	_____
Guest/Spouse	\$145	\$165	_____	_____
One-day (please circle) Wed. Thur. Fri.	\$80	\$90	_____	_____
Thursday Alumni Breakfast	\$13	\$13	_____	_____

### Choose only one—Tours are concurrent

Managing Healthy Forests-Certification	\$0	_____	_____
Forest Industry Mills	\$0	_____	_____
Lewis and Clark History	\$0	_____	_____
Snake River (Hells Canyon) Jet Boat-History	\$40	_____	_____

### A la Carte Events for non-registered spouses/guests

Wednesday Icebreaker	\$12	_____	_____
Thursday Alumni Breakfast	\$13	_____	_____
Thursday Awards Banquet	\$25	_____	_____
Thursday Tour (circle choice below)	\$25/\$65 for jet boat	_____	_____
Healthy Forests      Mills      History      Jet Boat			

Please indicate preference for vegetarian meals: yes no Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

Please complete one of the following:

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Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Questions?** Contact the SAF Northwest Office at 503-224-8046 or [rasor@safnwo.org](mailto:rasor@safnwo.org).

**Program Questions?** Contact Bob Deal at 503-808-2015 or [rdeal@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdeal@fs.fed.us).

### Interested in Exhibiting or Sponsoring an Event?

Contact Bill Lecture at 503-325-7891 or [blecture@pacifier.com](mailto:blecture@pacifier.com).

### Send completed registration form and payment information to:

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**Register online at [www.forestry.org/annual/](http://www.forestry.org/annual/)**

# Foresters' Fund Items Needed

The 2005 Tri-Society Meeting Foresters' Fund Committee is requesting items for the raffle and silent auction. Your support is an integral part in the success of the Foresters' Fund, and now is the time to get energized.

Raffle needs will include the usual items that go for the price of a ticket (drawing) and other items will be bid on as a "Silent Auction." You may make the designation or leave that to the committee to decide. Generally, higher-value items are placed in the auction. We especially request personal crafted items and items corresponding with the Lewis and Clark theme.

Please keep in mind that the Foresters' Fund makes the most revenue on the "Silent Auction" items. Proceeds from the raffle will be split between the national Foresters' Fund and the three co-sponsoring state societies.

Examples of great items include:

- Lodging packages, with meals and entertainment included.
- Regional products, such as wines, beers, gift packages and crafts.
- Excursions: fishing, boating, rafting, trains, etc.
- Apparel, including blankets, jackets, sweatshirts and hats.
- Special entertainment: Sporting events, theater tickets or tourist attractions.

• Forestry related items, such as chainsaws, raingear and tools.

• Merchandise: small appliances, tools, knife sets, etc.

• Hand-crafted paintings, pictures, carvings, pottery, sculpture or sewed items.

The committee will gladly accept anything that is appropriate for the raffle or the Silent Auction. If the item is good enough for you to receive, then it's good enough for us. Remember to utilize your local Chambers of Commerce to secure local package promotions.

If you are unable to attend this historic meeting, please send an item with a member from your chapter or mail to: Clarkston Service Center, c/o Tri-Society SAF Annual Meeting, 720 6th Avenue, Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403-2012.

The Foresters' Fund Committee will be keeping track of donations and sending appropriate thank you letters to contributors, so please remember to provide us with the donor's name, mailing address, the item donated and its value. This information should accompany each item so we can properly record it and acknowledge each donor.

Thank you for your time and effort in this request. We look forward to seeing you and your goods in Lewiston! Join us as we celebrate the Bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery in our region! ♦

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# Tri-Society Meeting Offers Unique Networking Opportunities in Lewiston

BY JOHN BERGVALL

**W**hy plan for April 13-15, 2005 in Lewiston? Because it gives foresters and significant others an opportunity to visit and walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. But more importantly, it also provides an opportunity to rekindle the professional friendships established over the years while discovering something new.

A dynamic program offered by the planning committee for this year's tri-society annual meeting includes history, the role of fire, and the challenges of managing healthy forests—a difficult task that we face as population increases and moves into the former forest.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Enjoy the forester fellowship, participate in the Foresters' Fund Raffle, take part in the tours, enjoy the Lewiston hospitality, honor your forester leaders, and come and participate in a great program. Travel home knowing that you too have walked in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, but you leave as an informed forester with rekindled friendships and a new perspective on the challenges of forestry.

Lewiston-Clarkston is a wonderful place to visit. It offers a visitor great



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY PARSELLS

**Lewis and Clark bronze statues located in Lewiston.**

food, a diversity of antique stores plus the scenic beauty is hard to describe. Mark April 13-15 on your calendar now for Lewiston and attend the Tri Society Annual Meeting. ♦

*John Bergvall is a long-time Washington State SAF member and past state chair from Olympia. He can be reached at johnbergvall@comcast.net.*

## Announcing an International Conference on Transfer of Forest Science Knowledge and Technology

May 11-13, 2005

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# Why Should We Care about Dynamic Nature?

BY GAIL WELLS

**W**hat did the forests of the Northwest look like when Lewis and Clark were here 200 years ago? It's a common assumption that the landscape Lewis and Clark saw was somehow more "natural" than any that existed before or since. This assumption is rooted in a mythical view of the past. By "myth" I mean a set of conditions uprooted from time and space and made to stand in for universal truth. It is a fact that Lewis and Clark saw more old-growth forest along the lower Columbia than we see today. That fact is given a mythical meaning by our cultural ideal of the "natural" landscape, which is strongly conditioned by what we believe the land looked like immediately before European settlement. Our 21st-century aesthetic sensibilities draw us to a landscape that we perceive as untouched, pristine and existing in a timeless state, and we imagine that this landscape is the only natural one.

An understanding of dynamic nature forces us to reject the myth of the unchanging landscape. Even if humans were out of the picture, the forest would continue to change. The climate would fluctuate, soils would develop and erode, wildfires would burn, and plant communities would undergo internal shifts in species composition and continue to succeed one another, all without the help (or hindrance) of humans.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA FOREST SERVICE, PNW RESEARCH STATION

**It is impossible today to think of "natural" processes in the forest as separate from human processes. Understanding dynamic nature can help us come to grips with our ever-present impact on the land.**

An understanding of dynamic nature can also help us come to terms with our own ubiquitous impact. It makes it impossible to think of natural processes as separate from human processes, particularly in modern times and particularly in forests in the Pacific Northwest, where human impacts since European settlement have been widespread and intense. It's impossible to understand the workings of our forests today without reference to past and present patterns of human use. The natural dynamic of these forests is only part of the picture.

At the same time, human impacts are different from those of purely natural forces because humans have the capacity for self awareness and purposeful manipulation of nature. This capacity is, admittedly, a two-edged sword. We can severely damage natural processes locally, regionally and maybe globally, but we can also restrain our destructive actions when we choose to. We have the capacity to restore and protect landscapes; this is reflected in our environmental laws and policies, and in the everyday actions of many people who tend forests and farms.



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And because we are self aware, we have the capacity to judge our actions according to an ethical framework. We can ask ourselves not only, "Will this action reward us?" but, "Will this action be right for us?" Not only, "Is it profitable?" but "Is it just?"

An understanding of dynamic nature along with a well-defined ethical framework can help us think through our choices about how to manage our forests for the future. Dynamic nature can help us get past the preservation/utilization dichotomy that bedevils so much conversation about forests these days.

The conflict between those who would manage the forest for human use and those who would preserve it often comes down to an argument about whether humans are doing too much to nature, or too little. Distilled to its simplest form, this argument is, "Humans know best, and we should do as much as we can and want to," versus "Nature knows best, and we should do as little as we can get by with."

An understanding of dynamic nature enables us to stop arguing about whether humans or nature knows best. It reframes the question,

suggesting that we might well do a lot in some places and not much in others. An understanding of dynamic nature prompts us to clarify our objectives, embrace our responsibilities and respect the limits posed by natural systems.

An understanding of dynamic nature reinforces the wisdom of adaptive management. It encourages us to watch what happens when we do something to the land, and make changes according to whether our activities seem to be having the desired effect.

Finally, an understanding of dynamic nature reinforces the old-fashioned notion of stewardship. In a dynamic landscape, humans need to be good stewards of their environment. Like it or not, we have the power to change the land when and

where we choose. Dynamic nature urges us not to back away from that power, but to act ethically, mindful of the best available information about how the land will likely respond.

Why should we care about dynamic nature? Because it can help us approach our stewardship more effectively. It can help us manage our forests both more realistically and more sustainably than we've managed to do so far. It can help us find the wisdom and humility to take care of the land that takes care of us, for the long haul. ♦

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*Gail Wells is a natural resources writer from Monmouth, Ore., and the owner and president of Gail Wells Communications. She can be reached at 503-838-6552, gailwells@ashcreekwireless.com or <http://wellswebware.com>.*

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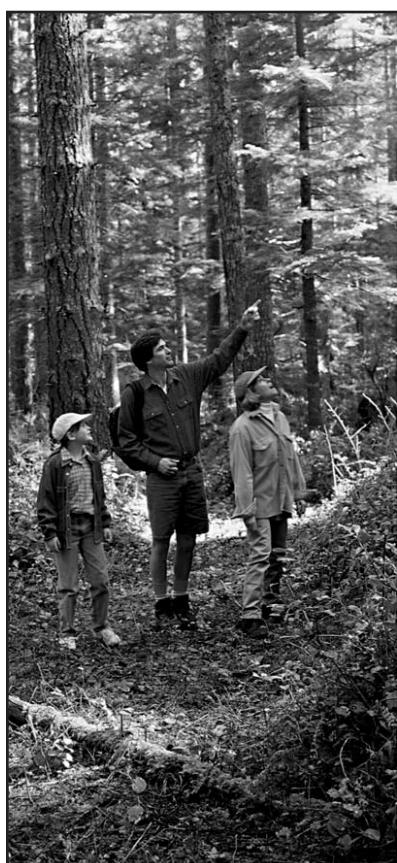


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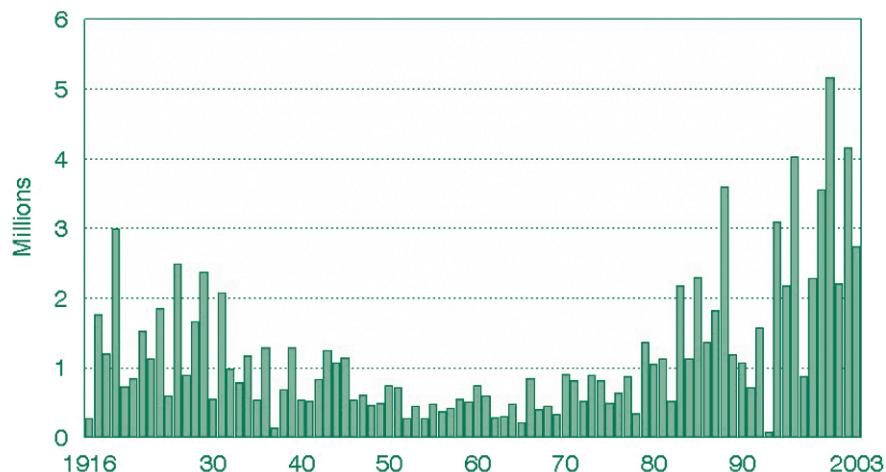
# Applying Fire Ecology to Forest Management: Picking Up Missed Signals

BY STEPHEN F. ARNO AND  
CARL E. FIEDLER

**H**ow long will foresters and western forests be plagued by effects of the ecologically indefensible "fire exclusion" policy that was adopted nearly a century ago? A new book supports an emerging policy that recognizes the essential role of fire by profiling diverse projects that are helping restore fire-prone forests from New Mexico to British Columbia. Before looking at how we can turn the corner and start effectively managing fire and forest fuels, it is worth reviewing the historical roots of our fire-prone forest conundrum.

Early in the 20th century, vast reserves were established in the western United States to prevent abusive exploitation of forests. Forest fires—frequently started by railroads and careless humans—threatened frontier homes and settlements that were springing up by the thousands in and near the forests. The nation's nascent forestry profession adopted concepts from northern Europe where fire was considered an unnecessary and damaging intrusion—much later, palynologists discovered that European

## Wildfire Acres Burned in the 11 Western States\*



\* California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana  
2001 includes all geographic areas from NIFC data

Note the upward trend in acres burned since 1979. Yearly estimates prior to 1931 are low because they do not include all land ownerships. Data provided by the National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, Idaho.

forests, too, had once been ecologically diverse communities molded by fire. Many American conservationists concluded that fire should be eliminated from forests if possible. In 1899, forest inspector John Leiberg summed it up: "The after effects of fires in this region are various, but are always evil, without a single redeem-

ing feature."

Although the science of ecology had yet to develop, a few ecological perspectives on fire were proffered. In 1899, Gifford Pinchot wrote, "A few observers who have lived much with the forest...have grouped fire with temperature and moisture as one of the great factors which govern the distribution and character of forest growth." He noted that splendid forests of coastal Douglas-fir owed their existence to fires and otherwise would have become crowded stands of small hemlocks. Pioneer ecologist Frederic Clements recommended to the USDA Forest Service in 1910 that fire be used as a silvicultural tool in management of lodgepole pine forests.

Some observers, including John Wesley Powell of the U.S. Geological Survey and Secretary of Interior Richard Ballinger, recognized the pervasiveness of fire in western forests and recommended "light burning" to prevent fuel buildup that contributed to severe fires. Prominent timberland owners in northern California, several of whom were civil engineers, tried for more than 20 years to convince the Forest Service to test and seriously

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consider light burning. Engineer George Hoxie admonished in 1910: "We must count on fire to help in practical forestry...The practice invites the aid of fire as a servant...[otherwise]...it will surely be master in a very short time." Ironically, engineers recognized the implications of fuel accumulation in semi-arid forests that foresters did not. Fire-use advocates cited age-old burning practices of Native Americans as a precedent, but in the early 1900s many European-Americans discounted native peoples as "savages" whose ways were not worth studying.

Historian Stephen Pyne notes that in 1908 the fledgling USDA Forest Service was able to secure generous funding from Congress in exchange for promising to restrain the forest fire menace. This bargain evidently encouraged the agency to view all fire as bad. After inspecting the disastrous 1910 wildfires in Idaho and Montana, Forest Service Chief Henry Graves visited extensive ponderosa pine- and sugar pine-dominated timberlands in northern California. Here, a landowner's crew had under-

burned in autumn to reduce hazardous fuels and brush. Although Graves didn't deny the effectiveness of burning, he could not condone the use of fire. The Forest Service argued that light burning was detrimental because it killed small trees. Now we know that without fire, nature commonly produces a glut of understory trees that degrades tree vigor and promotes crown fire.

The credibility of the fire exclusion policy began to erode incrementally during the 1930s with demonstrations of fire's essential role in maintaining longleaf pine forests in the South. In the 1940s, USDI Indian Service forester Harold Weaver and University of California professor Harold Biswell started career-long initiatives to demonstrate the ecological and practical merits of underburning in ponderosa pine forests. During the 1960s and 1970s, the maturing field of ecology broadly documented the vital contribution of fire to western forest ecosystems. Finally, in the late 1970s

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

## BOOK AVAILABLE MARCH 2005

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**Authors: Stephen Arno and  
Carl Fiedler**



The news media and congressional hearings warn of ecological deterioration and increasing wildfire hazard in western forests. The familiar story is that suppression of fires for nearly a century and logging of fire-resistant old-growth trees spawned an overcrowded growth of small trees vulnerable to intense blazes, insects and diseases. Today's dense forests also lack productive grass and shrub undergrowth needed by wildlife. Each year governments channel more money, personnel and technology into fire suppression, but uncontrollable wildfires continue to threaten forests and the homes and recreation areas within them.

This book advocates changing direction in management of western forests and adopting an approach the authors call "restoration forestry" that is based on historical natural processes. This approach reinstates an approximation of historical structure and ecological processes to tree communities that were in the past shaped by distinctive patterns of fire.

The book concludes by placing restoration forestry in a broad perspective and by specifying factors critical to its success. It provides models of stewardship that serve different landowner goals while fulfilling the need for humans to renew the forest.

The book is available from Island Press for \$25 paperback and \$50 hardcover, plus \$6.95 for shipping the first book, \$3.00 for each additional book. Order online at [www.islandpress.org](http://www.islandpress.org) or call 1-800-828-1312.

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# Managing for Healthy Forests

BY GREG FILIP

**H**ealthy forests: What are they? The recently crafted Oregon SAF position statement speaks of a "condition where biotic and abiotic influences on the forest do not threaten current or future resource management objectives or options." The recently legislated Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act provide national guidance for and funding to reduce fire, insect and disease risk through thinning unhealthy forests.

What are the abiotic and biotic influences on forest health? In interior forests east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington, insects such as the western spruce budworm and the Douglas-fir tussock moth defoliate mixed-conifer forests that are overstocked with Douglas-fir and true fir. Bark beetles subsequently invade the defoliated firs and kill many of the

stressed trees. Fuels increase exponentially. Millions of acres of stressed forests become at risk to catastrophic fires and burn extensively as seen in recent years. In coastal forests west of the Cascade Mountains, overstocking and drought have resulted in attack from bark beetles and wood borers. Decades of conversion of spruce-hemlock forests to Douglas-fir along the Oregon and Washington coast may have contributed to unprecedented damage from Swiss needle cast. Now we are faced with another introduced disease, sudden oak death, which has yet-to-be-determined effects on our healthy forests.

So how do we manage for healthy forests? Reduce stocking, reduce stocking and reduce stocking! Most of our forest health problems are the result of too many trees on the site. We have the tools and tables to reduce stocking to acceptable levels. Oregon State University Forestry



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT KETCHUM

**Precommercial thinning in a Douglas-fir stand in the Oregon Coast Range. Early thinning and vegetation management have been shown to reduce the adverse impacts of Swiss needle cast.**

Extension Service will release a new eastside manual this year that summarizes stocking guidelines and management strategies for interior Douglas-fir, true fir, lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine. Workshops are also planned in spring 2005.

Research has shown that properly done thinning reduces the adverse effects of several forest pests including root diseases, dwarf mistletoe and bark beetles. Timely and effective fuels management is also critical. Of course, improperly done thinning and harvesting can create as many pest and fire problems as it can reduce. Careless thinning can wound residual trees and lead to stem decay. Thinning can exacerbate certain root diseases such as black stain and annosus root and butt rot. Thinning creates slash that is attractive to bark beetles and becomes fuel for the next fire. Thinning has also been shown to benefit many wildlife species that utilize more open forests for foraging.

Here are 10 guidelines for thinning to reduce pest-caused damage, improve the health of residual trees and enhance wildlife habitat.

1. In stands with dwarf mistletoe, remove the most severely infected trees—those rating a five or six out of a maximum of six. Light to moderately infected trees will grow relatively well if adequately spaced. Leave a



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few severely infected trees for roosting, resting and hiding cover. Dead mistletoe brooms are fuels whether in the tree or on the ground.

2. In root-diseased stands, thin to favor trees species that are more resistant to root disease such as pine in white fir/Douglas-fir/ponderosa stands with Armillaria root disease or cedar in Douglas-fir/hemlock/cedar stands with laminated root rot.

3. In stands with black stain root disease, thin or prune in August or September to avoid bark beetle flights. Fresh thinning slash and stumps attract root-feeding bark beetles that carry black stain spores to residual stumps and trees.

4. In five-needle pine stands, thin to favor trees without lethal bole cankers of blister rust. Many cankers on resistant trees may be non-lethal. Also, prune lower-crown branches to reduce infection, improve wood quality and reduce fuel ladders.

5. To prevent attack from bark beetles, carefully follow stocking guidelines by tree species and site class. Poorer sites can effectively support fewer trees than the better sites. Overstocking leads to stressed trees that attract bark beetles.

6. In Douglas-fir stands with Swiss needle cast, thin to favor hemlock, cedar or alder, if present; otherwise, thin Douglas-fir to improve growth and vigor. Only Douglas-fir is affected by Swiss needle cast.

7. In thinned ponderosa pine stands, treat all green slash over three inches in diameter. Pine engraver beetles breed in this material and will attack residual trees. Green slash should be lopped and scattered, but not chipped. Chipped slash attracts many species of bark beetles to residual trees.

8. In lodgepole pine stands, thin and prune to remove trees and branches with mistletoe and rust infections, especially trees with bole cankers. Removing these parasites will improve tree growth, prevent bark beetle attacks and reduce fuel ladders. Leave some infections for wildlife.

9. In thin-barked hemlock or true fir stands, carefully plan thinning and harvesting operations to avoid tree injury both in the planning and operation phases. Some wounded trees can be left for future decay and



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FITZGERALD

**Commercially thinned ponderosa pine forest in central Oregon. Thinning can reduce mortality caused by bark beetles and dwarf mistletoe in such forests.**

wildlife habitat. Leaving a few wounded trees, however, will enhance habitat for cavity-nesting birds.

10. In larch stands, thin from below to improve stand health and reduce the adverse effects of dwarf mistletoe, if present. Larch mistletoe brooms load with snow and ice that cause branch breakage, bole bending and subsequent tree mortality.

We have the tools and tables to reduce stocking to acceptable levels and improve forest health. We just need to get out in the forest and use them! ♦

*Greg Filip is regional forest pathologist, USDA Forest Service, Portland, Ore. He can be reached at 503-808-2997 or gmfilip@fs.fed.us.*

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# What Do We Know about Commercial Moss Harvest in the Pacific Northwest?

BY JERI PECK

It's easy to overlook tree moss—it's so common in the Pacific Northwest. For some folks, though, the green drapery of our forests looks a lot like greenbacks. Over 81.5 million pounds of forest moss were harvested in the Pacific Northwest in 1999 alone. Local and migrant subsistence and commercial harvesters work part- to full-time seeking out mossy spots, peeling thick pelt-like mats off trees and shrubs (and increasingly logs), packing it into sacks, and trudging it back to buying sheds for less than 50 cents a pound. The sheds air dry the moss, compress it into 25-pound bales, and sell it to national and international floral greens wholesalers who then sell the moss for \$2-3 a pound. It could end up almost anywhere—Pacific Northwest moss is shipped to over 44 international destinations and throughout the United States.

## Why We Care

Over a third of Pacific Northwest land managers have received requests for moss harvest permits for their land, but most moss is still harvested from federal lands. Regulations for non-timber forest products like moss have only recently appeared in national forest management plans, and guidelines developed by armchair experts aren't always operational.

Case in point: Restricting harvest of tree moss to "every other stem" on the Siuslaw National Forest allows harvest



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERI PECK

**(above)** Mats are considered harvestable when you can easily peel them away from their host.

**(below)** Mats on vertical stems are particularly slow to regrow, like on this tagged vine maple stem that was harvested a decade ago.



from 50 percent of stems on one day, 50 percent of the remaining stems the next day, and so on without violating permit guidelines.

Regulations also affect neighboring landowners: After moss harvest on the Hebo Ranger District was capped at 110,000 pounds per year, harvest on nearby Tillamook BLM land shot from 11,000 pounds per year to over 200,000 pounds per year, prompting them to

sell fewer permits.

Poaching off private and public lands, including protected areas like the Olympic National Park, has also increased in recent years.

Finally, mosses and liverworts are important to healthy forest ecosystems, providing nesting material and food for birds, salamanders and invertebrates, and storing and cycling nutrients and water. Continued moss harvest in forests managed toward old-growth condition (Late Successional Reserves) has sparked opposition among ecologists concerned about how little we know about the impacts of harvest on ecosystem functions. While modern forest management is able to draw on over a century of silvicultural research, moss harvest has been studied for barely a decade.

## What We Actually Know

Most research on commercial moss harvest has been on the Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, in the coastal fog belt of northwestern Oregon, and on Salem BLM resource areas in the western Oregon Cascades. Commercial moss includes around two dozen species of mosses, half a dozen liverworts, as many lichens, and a couple of vascular plants.

In the wet Coast Range, mossy sites may have approximately 140-1,700 pounds per acre at 30 percent moisture content (typical in the Coast Range). The drier Cascades may have harvestable moss below 1,650 feet in elevation and less than 165 feet from perennial water, but even then only a third of likely areas may have any moss at all—and the mossiest sites may not exceed 550 pounds per acre at 15 percent moisture content (typical for the Cascades).

In the past, high grading left small moss mats behind, so that the same site could be reharvested within 10-15 years. Today, crews strip shrubs and trees of every mat that will come off. Of vine maple stems on Hebo harvested this way a decade ago, most are barely half covered with moss today. Even the best sites in the Coast Range

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will require 15-plus years for regrowth and 25 years for average sites. Sites in the drier Cascades will need even longer rotations.

## What We Can Do

Sustainable strategies for the commercial harvest of moss will reduce pressure on our parks and preserves, facilitate community-based industries, and ensure long-term economic and ecologic stability. Some things we can do include:

- Allow commercial moss permits immediately prior to felling on all forestlands scheduled for timber harvest. Private landowners can obtain contact information for potential harvesters from nearby federal agencies that issue moss harvest permits.

- Inventory moss on lands open for commercial moss harvest to set appropriate harvest permit levels. Commercially harvestable quantities of forest moss are unlikely above 1,500 feet, greater than 100-150 feet from a source of at least seasonal water, under less than 50-year-old conifer overstories, or in the understory of stands lacking hardwood trees or shrubs.

- Assess moss regrowth rates on lands open for commercial moss harvest to determine necessary rotation periods. Moist coastal areas may expect rotation periods on the order of 15-30 years, while drier inland areas can expect to require 25-40 years.

- Allow only personal-use harvest in areas with low natural levels of moss, which may include much of the Cascade Range and the southern half of the Coast Range. Moss harvest programs in these areas cost much more than permit revenues generate, the ecological impacts are greater and harvesters can

be directed to other, mossier areas.

- Prohibit commercial moss harvest in areas managed toward old-growth condition until future studies can demonstrate a negligible effect of harvest on ecosystem function.

- Develop truly operational guidelines for harvest. The exact harvesting area should be indicated, not simply where the vehicle must be parked. Permits should be issued in increments of 50 pounds, regardless of water content, and buyers required to retain each permit upon sale. Harvest should be restricted to only trees and shrubs less than 20 feet off the ground and more than 150 feet (paced, not slope corrected) from perennial water. No tools of any kind (rakes, machetes) should be allowed in the vehicle or on site.

- Allow local law enforcement to check nontimber forest product permits and keep officers informed of which areas are not open for legal harvest. Most poachers simply wait until agency law enforcement officers have retired for the day before hauling out their substantial illegal harvest.

- Develop strategies to control illegal harvest—before you join the 40

percent of landowners who know of illegal harvest from their lands. Cooperative efforts with neighboring landowners could help regulate access and minimize risk. This may ultimately be the most important factor in sustainable management.

A decade of research has made it clear that commercial moss harvest is important economically and ecologically and that claims of universal and rapid recovery are just as wrong as claims of hundred-year rotations and utter devastation. Sustainability is a matter of balance. ♦

*Jeri Peck is an Oregon native working as a research fellow, Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. She can be reached at 612-625-3733, peckj@umn.edu or visit www.strengthinperspective.com/JPmoss. Special acknowledgement and thanks to Rich Babcock of the Hebo Ranger District, Don Harrison (our moss steward) and Pat Muir of Oregon State University for their help over the years.*

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## We Remember

### **John R. Bruckart 1915-2004**

Born in Darrington, Wash., John Bruckart grew up in southwest Washington. He worked on Forest Service trail crews in the summers until it was time to go to college.

Mr. Bruckart's first job away from home was as a "flunkie" in a 28-man road construction camp near Skykomish, Wash. Duties were cutting wood for the cook stoves, waiting tables, peeling vegetables and washing dishes. He started the fires at 4:30 a.m. for the cook stoves and finished cleaning up the kitchen by 9:00 p.m. He said this was the hardest work he had ever done, before or since. He only lasted two months and then was put on the job of hauling dynamite for the road crew, which was tame after the flunkie work.

He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in forestry in 1937. After graduation he worked for the State of Washington Division of Forestry in forest fire control, timber sales and reforestation.

Mr. Bruckart then went to work for the Washington Forest Protection Association, and later for Weyerhaeuser as branch forester for the Vail-McDonald logging operation, which at that time was producing a million board feet of logs per day.

When he quit Weyerhaeuser, he and other partners formed a logging and sawmill company that operated on the Olympic Peninsula. He sold out of the partnership in 1948 and "retired" to Mexico for six months. Upon returning to the States, he joined Harbor Plywood Corp. as forester for their timberlands in Washington, Oregon and California.

From Harbor Plywood he was employed as assistant logging superintendent for Lewis River Logging Co. After a year he wanted to come back to Puget Sound, and joined Del Taylor to form Taylor and

Bruckart, Inc. in the spring of 1950. The Taylor and Bruckart partnership lasted 42 years, until the death of Mr. Taylor in 1992.

Mr. Bruckart was a life member of the Society of American Foresters and the Seattle College Club. He served on the board of trustees for Olympic College, board of directors for Kitsap County Bank, was active in Republican Party activities and was also one of the original University of Washington Tyee Club members.

He was an avid reader of books and magazines. He read the newspapers over coffee every day until the morning of his death. He was a breakfast regular at Myhre's in downtown Port Orchard for more than 40 years, and was known for his sharp wit and wry sense of humor. He was not known for his golf scores.

### **James T. Bones 1929-2004**

James T. Bones, 75, died September 5, 2004. Mr. Bones received his bachelor's degree in soil conservation from Utah State University in 1952 and a master's degree in forest management from the same university in 1956. He then did post graduate work at Penn State in 1978.

He was employed by the U. S. Forest Service, primarily in various aspects of forest inventory for 40 years. During that time, he worked at the Pacific Northwest Research Station (Portland, OR), the Institute of Northern Forestry (Juneau, AK), the Northeastern Forest Research Station (Upper Darby, PA) and with the Washington, D.C. Office, where he worked in the Forest Inventory and Analysis section of the Forest Service's Research Division. He also spent part of his career researching timber removals.

Mr. Bones served as a United Nations forestry advisor for the government of Colombia in South America for several years. He was also active on the international scene in boreal forestry, particularly through the International Boreal Forest



Research Association. He served on the Canadian Forest Inventory Committee and over the years was instrumental in providing North America forest inventory data to FAO in Rome. He was an inspector for the American Tree Farm System. He joined SAF in 1948.

### **Jack Winn 1912-2004**

Jack Winn died October 18, 2004, in Poulsbo, Wash., just a few weeks short of his 92nd birthday.

He graduated from Washington State University in Pullman in 1938 with a B.A. in Agriculture and Forestry. A long-time enthusiastic supporter of WSU's academic and sports programs, he earned the affectionate nickname of "Cougar Jack." He always credited his experiences as a Boy Scout in the 1920s with guiding him to his lifelong career in forestry management.

Mr. Winn served in the 146th Field Artillery Battery D in Seattle. In 1943, he joined the Navy, serving during WWII with aircraft carrier service units. He was a member of the Fighting Five squadron operating from the carrier U.S.S. Franklin in the Okinawa campaign, and was fortunate to survive the extensive bombing of that carrier. He then became administrative officer at the Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island. He completed his 20 years of military service in the Weekend Warrior Reserves at Seattle's Sand Point Naval Air Station, retiring with the rank of commander in 1960.

His forestry career included professional positions as area forester in the Soil Conservation Service in Oregon, first forester for Port Blakely Mill Company, researcher for Weyerhaeuser, and wood procurement manager for Scott Paper. His favorite career move happened in 1960 when he founded his own forest consulting business, Professional Forestry Services, Inc., in Olympia.

Mr. Winn's enthusiasm for forestry was demonstrated in the many professional activities he was involved with. He was elected a Fellow in the SAF in 1991 and is a past Forester of the Year. He was also a long-time member of the Association of Consulting Foresters. He enjoyed cooking and planting his personal tree farm on the property he and his wife owned in Olympia.

Donations can be made to the Professional Foresters Institute Trust of the ACF or to the Foresters' Fund of the SAF. All donations should be sent to Mike Jackson, Professional Forestry Services, 100 Ruby St., SE, Suite B, Tumwater, WA 98501. ♦



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# Calendar of Events

## UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS

### Course

	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Location</b>
Introduction to GIS Applications in Natural Resources with ArcGIS	Feb. 24-25	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Forest Products Management Development	Feb. 27-Mar. 2	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Red Alder: A State of Knowledge	March 23-25	UW	Seattle, WA
Variable Probability Sampling	April 4-8	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Science and the Northwest Forest Plan: Knowledge Gained Over a Decade	April 19-20	OSU	Portland, OR
Introduction to GIS Applications in Natural Resources with ArcGIS	April 21-22	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Fernhopper Day	May 21	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Plywood Manufacturing	June 6-7	OSU	Corvallis, OR
5th International Conference on Forest Vegetation	June 20-24	OSU	Corvallis, OR
Western Forest Genetics Association and Northwest Seed Orchard Managers Association Annual Meeting	July 19-21	OSU	Corvallis, OR

## OTHER EVENTS

**Center for Water and Watershed Studies Annual Review of Research,** February 17, Seattle, WA. Contact: CWWS at cwws@u.washington.edu.

**Cable Logging**, February 21-24, Corvallis, OR; March 8-11, Chilliwack, B.C.; and April 4-7, Duncan, B.C. Contact: Forest Engineering.

**Forestry Contracts: Building the Best Legal and Business Relationships; and Access, Easements and Rights-of-Way and Timber Trespass**, Feb. 22-23, Medford, OR. Contact: WFCA.

**2005 Forest Resources Lecture Series**, February 24 and March 10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Contact: [www.washington.edu/alumni/clubs/cfraa/2005cfrllectures.html](http://www.washington.edu/alumni/clubs/cfraa/2005cfrllectures.html).

**67th Annual Oregon Logging Conference**, February 24-26, Eugene, OR. Contact: Oregon Logging Conference at 541-686-9191.

**CFR Wildlife Science Seminar, Variable Density Thinning, Legacy Retention and Winter Wren Habitat in Managed Forests of Western Washington**, February 28, Seattle, WA. Contact Ken Raedeke at [kraedeke@raedeke.com](mailto:kraedeke@raedeke.com).

**Unit Planning and Layout Workshop**, February 28-March 3, Corvallis, OR. Contact: Forest Engineering.

**Managing Stand Density: The Science behind the Art**, sponsored

by OSAF Umpqua Chapter, March 16-17, Canyonville, OR. Contact: Eric Geyer at 541-679-2524 or [ericg@rfpc.co.com](mailto:ericg@rfpc.co.com).

**Tree School**, March 19, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR. Contact: OSU Extension Service, Clackamas County, at 503-655-8631.

**Brazil Forestry Study Tour: Working Conference on Pine and Hardwood Plantations and Forest Products Manufacturing in Southern Brazil**, April 3-10 Curitiba, Brazil. Contact: Mark Willhite at [bwillhite@juno.com](mailto:bwillhite@juno.com) or [www.worldforestinvestment.com](http://www.worldforestinvestment.com).

**Sustainability and Restoration: A Practical Partnership for the 21st Century**, April 4, Seattle, WA. Contact Society for Ecological Restoration-Northwest Chapter at 206-543-5539 or [www.enrgr.washington.edu/epp/ser](http://www.enrgr.washington.edu/epp/ser).

**Inland Empire, Oregon and Washington State SAF Tri-Society**

**Annual Meeting**, April 13-15, Lewiston, Idaho. Contact: Terry Shaw at 208-885-7452 or [tshaw@uidaho.edu](mailto:tshaw@uidaho.edu).

**Basic Road Design**, April 18-21, Redding, CA. Contact: Forest Engineering.

**Alaska SAF Annual Meeting**, joint with Wildlife Society, April 20-23, Fairbanks, AK. Contact: Tom Paragi at 907-459-7327 or [tom\\_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us).

**Transfer of Forest Science Knowledge and Technology**, May 11-13, Troutdale, OR. Contact USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, at 503-808-2599.

**Global Forest and Paper Summit**, June 1-3, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact: [www.globalforestpapersummit.com](http://www.globalforestpapersummit.com).

**Tree School South**, June 16, Umpqua Community College, Roseburg, OR. Contact Elissa Wells at 541-672-4461 or [elissa.wells@oregonstate.edu](mailto:elissa.wells@oregonstate.edu).

### Contact Information

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

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

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

**UW**: Bob Edmonds, College of Forest Resources, Box 352100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195; 206-685-0953; [bobe@u.washington.edu](mailto:bobe@u.washington.edu); [www.cfr.washington.edu/events](http://www.cfr.washington.edu/events).

**Send calendar items to the editor, *Western Forester*, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515; [rasor@safnwo.org](mailto:rasor@safnwo.org). The deadline for the March/April 2005 issue is February 14, 2005.**

# Fire Ecology

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

the Forest Service and its sister agencies adopted policies that recognize the importance of fire and permit its beneficial use.

Unfortunately, the old fire exclusion policy became entrenched in American society, and many barriers prevent the pro-active management of fire and fuels envisioned in the new policy. Still, some forest managers have made impressive strides in restoring different kinds of fire-prone forests in Wilderness, timber producing forests, private conservation reserves, and the wildland-urban interface.

We define restoration forestry as the application of treatments to approximate historical structure and ecological process in tree communities that for centuries were shaped by distinctive patterns of fire. The intent is not to re-create a single, distinct "historical condition," but rather a range of conditions approximating

historical forests.

The following examples illustrate restoration forestry's potential in diverse forest and woodland types:

## 1. Ponderosa pine/fir.

Improvement/selection cutting removes larger shade-tolerant firs, reduces density sufficiently to induce regeneration of shade-intolerant pine and makes progress toward a sustainable multi-aged structure featuring large pines. Cutting can remove excessive fuels or augment existing fuels to facilitate underburning. Burning kills small firs, stimulates forage plants and reduces fuel loadings.

2. *Giant sequoia*. Even after 80 to 100 years of fire exclusion, the highly fire-resistant sequoias survive underburning in existing stands. Burning kills understory trees and many larger individuals of shade-tolerant species, and encourages natural regeneration of sequoia.

3. *Pinyon-juniper*. Thinning followed by dispersal of slash reduces canopy cover in dense stands that were historically fire-maintained savannas, protects against soil erosion, and provides hospitable sites for re-establishment of native grasses and forbs. After a few years, when fine fuels have dissipated, the old slash/herbaceous fuelbed can be

burned to recycle nutrients and return ecological processes.

4. *Lodgepole pine*. Variable retention harvest reduces density, but leaves dispersed individuals or patches of uncut trees. Prescribed burning reduces fuels to moderate levels while killing many residual trees, ultimately creating snags and down woody debris that simulate historical mixed fire regimes. These treatments create young stands and break up landscape-scale fuel accumulations, lessening potential for severe wildfires.

5. *Whitebark pine*. Thinning/improvement cutting reduces stand density and dominance by competing fir and spruce, and augments fuels for fall burning after frost-kill has reduced plant moisture content. Resulting fires are patchy, but create sites for whitebark pine seed caching and regeneration critical to the development of new, blister rust resistant pine.

Diverse restoration projects in these and other forest types serve as practical examples and inspiration for making good on the early timberman's advice that we adopt fire as a servant in maintaining western forests. Given that perhaps 100 million acres of fire-prone western forests harbor deteriorating conditions outside their historical range of variability, some people perceive restoration efforts as futile. On the contrary, our experience suggests that any strategically located restoration treatments can reduce wildfire hazard to homes and communities and return important features of historical forests. ♦



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Stephen F Arno is a retired research forester/fire ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. He can be reached at [arnos@mcn.net](mailto:arnos@mcn.net). Carl E. Fiedler is a research professor of silviculture at the College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula. He can be reached at [fiedler@forestry.umt.edu](mailto:fiedler@forestry.umt.edu).

Posters wanted for the  
2005 SAF Tri-Society Meeting  
[www.forestry.org/annual/](http://www.forestry.org/annual/)  
April 13-15 Lewiston, Idaho

# SAF Council Visits Oregon and the Northwest

BY DARREL L. KENOPS

Portland, Ore., rolled out its fall and winter weather complete with fog, but to our SAF National Council colleagues, CEO/EVP Michael Goergen and our Executive Assistant Barbara Weitzer who gathered for our final 2004 Council meeting on December 3-4, it was a productive, reflective and joyful weekend.

We honored outgoing President John Beuter and Council members in a wonderful evening reception filled with many shared memories, tall tales and gratitude focused on SAF President John Beuter's many significant contributions to forestry in the Northwest, America and the world. We welcomed new incoming members, made important decisions and began the transition to SAF President's John Helms 2005 term.

Decisions made:

- Invite SAF state societies to host the 2007 National SAF Convention in Portland, Ore., in 2007 and in Reno, Nevada in 2008.
- Endorsed SAF policy/position statements on 1) loss of forestland; 2) state programs to credential foresters; and 3) pilot programs for evaluating innovative federal land management strategies.
- Affirmed SAF comments to USDA Forest Service on their proposed roadless area petition regulations.
- Reviewed the 2005 Committee on Forest Policy agenda. It is anticipated that biomass, renewable energy and fuels will be major policy activities at national and state levels.
- Accepted a major task force report on SAF's volunteer organizational structure. This report will now be discussed with SAF units and members to determine what recommendations have membership support and enthusiasm. Former SAF President David Smith and his committee did an outstanding job of scoping the challenges ahead and gathering myriad ideas and



proposals all focused on ways to improve SAF's structure.

- Adopted our SAF Strategic Plan 2005 and suggested actions for SAF units to consider and implement based on their capabilities, grassroots priorities and needs. To keep all SAF units informed of our collective efforts to make progress in realizing our mission, President John Helms will send the suggested strategic plan actions to SAF leaders as plans for 2005 are made.

- Adopted our Certification Review Board Strategic Plan and up-to-date standards for certifying SAF continuing education credits. Further discussion of these subjects is anticipated.

- Adopted an improved National Diversity Committee charter. Michael Goergen attended a Conservation Coalition meeting to improve our approaches to diversity in professional organizations.

- Michael outlined 2004 accomplishments—stay tuned for our 2004 SAF Annual Report—and the challenges ahead for 2005. Challenges include declining membership and its impact on SAF operations and future budgets. Belt tightening continues and our Chief Financial Officer Larry Burner is doing an outstanding job of budget preparation and cost control, while making improvements in concert with our SAF Council Finance and Investments Committees. SAF staff is smaller, but is tackling challenges and priorities that are growing in magnitude and potential impact to the profession of forestry and SAF operations. We continue to outsource where possible.

As my SAF Voting District 2 position term expires, I want to thank all who have been helpful the last three years as I hopefully provided a Northwest voice and view in Council decision making, as well as serving as a link between our national, state and local SAF leaders and units. It was an honor and pleasure to serve. Please give Rick Barnes, our incoming District II SAF Council member, and Marvin Brown, our recently elected SAF vice-president your support, views, ideas and thanks.

I have enjoyed working with Ann Forest Burns, Council colleagues and SAF staff. We are fortunate to have such people of competence, intellect and good will. SAF is a vital and important organization, which is looked to for advice and information. Several Council members were invited to the January 2005 National Conservation Congress to celebrate 100 years of U.S. Forest Service achievements and to look ahead in the 21st Century to see what needs to be done to assure that America's forests play their role in society and communities. ♦

*At the time of this writing, Darrel L. Kenops was District II Council representative, covering Oregon. He can be reached at 541-741-3466 or dkenops@comcast.net. Reach District I Council Representative Ann Forest Burns at 206-522-5942 or aforestburns@msn.com. New Council member Rick Barnes, who began his three-year term on January 1, can be reached at 541-673-1208 or rbarnes@barnesinc.com.*



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## 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.*

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**State Forest Initiative Defeated.** On Election Day 2004 Oregonians defeated Measure 34 (M34), which would have required 50 percent of the Tillamook-Clatsop State Forests to be managed for "permanent restoration of a native old-growth forest" and the balance for "sustainable timber and revenue production." Of the 1.7 million votes cast, 62 percent were marked "No." Organized opposition to M34 was substantial and well funded. Arguments against M34 included the fact that a carefully developed and balanced management plan for the forests already existed and that M34 would cause unnecessary economic hardship.

However, this did not convince 178,681 voters in Oregon's most urban and densely populated county (Multnomah), who provided the only "Yes" majority (54 percent) among the state's 36 counties. Another interesting result was that a mock election held by over 200 middle schools throughout Oregon showed even greater support (59 percent) for M34, even though the students' votes for other measures and candidates were much closer to the actual election results. Complete election results and further information about M34 are now at the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.or.us/elections/elecph.htm](http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/elecph.htm). Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:paul.adams@oregonstate.edu).

**OSAF Continues Work on New and Revised Position Statements.** The OS AF Policy Committee continues to work on some new and updated position statements, which will add to the four adopted in 2003. Because old-growth forests remain an important issue, a position on this topic was drafted. The nature and complexity of this issue has been challenging, however, and thus the process to refine and adopt this position is expected to continue over several months. OS AF's statement on Fish and Riparian Forests expired in December, and a revision of this 1998 statement is now targeted for later in 2005. The committee decided to take more time to make this position more relevant to important issues such as the revised forest practice rules for

stream protection that were proposed recently by the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Members are encouraged to use OSAF's position statements to help convey their professional forestry views to key decision makers and the interested public. All of the active statements are on the OSAF website ([www.forestry.org](http://www.forestry.org)). Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

### Forest Fire Smoke Management

**Policy Analysis.** Smoke from forest fires is regulated by a web of interrelated federal and state laws and regulations designed to protect human health and welfare. Can prescribed fire reduce subsequent wildland fire emissions? Many forest managers agree that using prescribed fire can have less adverse effects on air quality than allowing wildland fires to burn forests under uncontrolled conditions. A policy question arises: Are the laws and regulations that protect air quality flexible enough to allow for increased smoke from prescribed fires in the short-term in order to prevent worse air quality from unplanned wildland fires in the future? A new report from the University of Idaho replies to that question. Access Report #24 from the College of Natural Resources Policy Analysis Group at [www.cnr.uidaho.edu/pag](http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/pag). Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; jayo@uidaho.edu.

### Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Training and Certification.

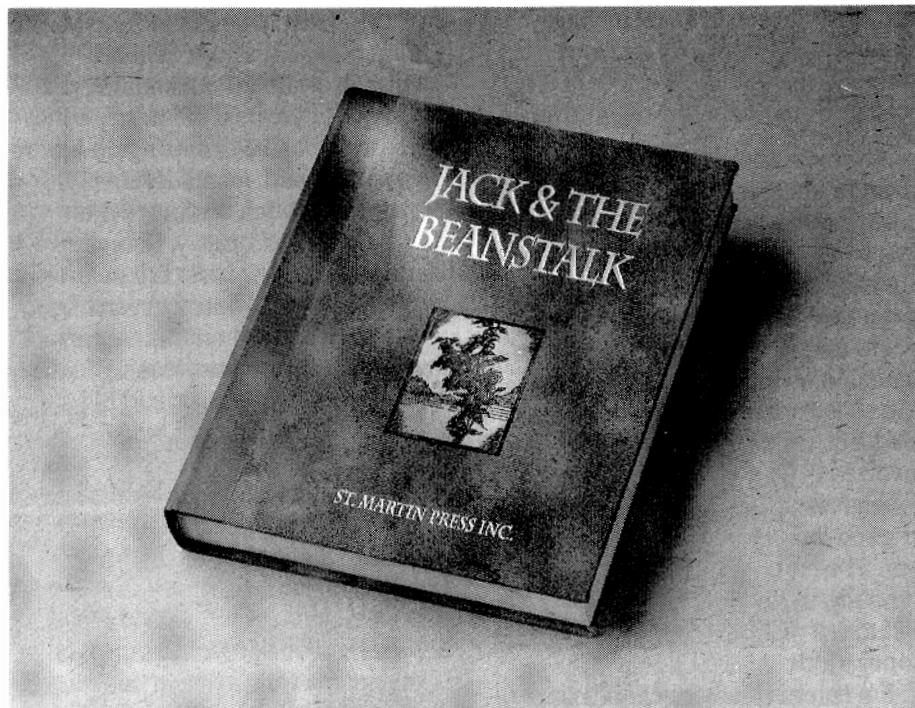
FRCC is an interagency, standardized tool for determining the degree of departure from reference condition vegetation, fuels and disturbance regimes. Although FRCC use will not become policy per se, the ecologically and scientifically based methods are seen as a tool that will achieve a consistent science-based process that will improve both national scale reporting and communication. Because FRCC assessment can help guide management objectives and set priorities for treatments, it has become a very important variable for communication within the agencies, state, private, and with congress and the adminis-

tration. See [www.frcc.gov/](http://www.frcc.gov/). An interactive course will introduce you to the theory and application of the FRCC process, and how to assess landscapes and diagnose FRCC condition classes. Approximately eight hours is required to complete the training modules. After answering a few basic test questions, you will become a certified FRCC user. See [www.frames.gov/frcc/](http://www.frames.gov/frcc/). Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; jayo@uidaho.edu.

### Small Log Mills Struggle to Find Wood.

"Despite being surrounded by seemingly endless tracts of thick forest, a sawmill owner in Plummer, Idaho, says his mill can't find enough timber and is now hauling logs from as far away as the Washington coast." Of course this lead sentence in a December 8 article by James Hagengruber in the *Spokesman-Review*, Spokane, Wash., is about federal forest policies. According to mill owner Todd

Brinkmeyer, "The resource [procurement] issue has been 100 times more difficult than I ever contemplated." Only five of the 750 log trucks that carry loads of small logs to the Plummer mill each month carry timber from national forests. This mill relies exclusively on small-diameter timber and also generates more electricity from mill residues than it can use. Similar frustration was expressed by Duane Vaagen of Colville, Wash., president of a mill that can process large volumes of small wood. Even though the USDA Forest Service has shifted its efforts away from supplying timber to a new focus on forest health restoration and protecting communities from wildfire, spokesman Dave O'Brien blamed lawsuits for stalling four northern Idaho projects that would remove large volumes of timber that could help these mills. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776; jayo@uidaho.edu. ♦



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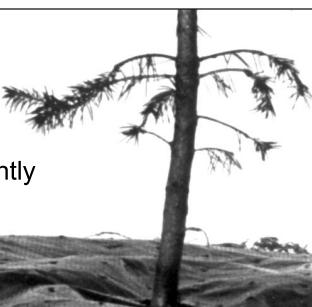
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