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Managing Catastrophe

BY MICKEY BELLMAN

No one plans a catastrophe, only how to cope with the aftermath. Forest disasters can be a tree falling across a gate or a winter storm that levels a well-managed forest.



Insects, disease, fire and flood can decimate a woodland tract. When a single limb plugs a culvert, a valuable road may become a sizable void in the landscape. Professional foresters, including consulting foresters working with family forest owners, must expect these disasters and be prepared to respond. That requires a good and flexible management plan as well as good communication with landowners and others. A thinning operation could be postponed in favor of a salvage operation. New road construction might be curtailed when logging revenue falls off.

1. **Field inspections of the property are a necessity as is communication with the landowner.** It may be as simple as a joint ride through the forest to look things over and adjust the annual plan. Or it may involve lawyers and accountants when a personal or natural disaster occurs. Information and knowledge are key to the decisions that will impact the forest resource for decades.

2. **Know your property and its boundaries.** If the property lines are well marked with fences, blazed lines and solid corner monuments, there is little doubt which trees have blown over or been killed by insects. Pre-determined, well-marked lines will

save weeks if survey lines must be re-established by professional surveyors. While the surveyor surveys, the dead trees continue to stain, rot and lose value. This is time when a logger could be salvaging the trees and getting them to the mill.

3. **Have a well-planned road system in place.** Surfaced roads with good culverts and ditches provide year-round access to all parts of the property. Waiting for the soils to dry and roads to be built will be avoided. Insect and disease outbreaks can be readily identified and controlled. Obviously, a forest fire requires immediate attention and a good road system provides the access for response. When tragedy does strike, the road

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

One plugged culvert caused this extensive road damage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

This road was built atop old logging slash and slumped during a wet winter.

Managing Catastrophe

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

system is already in place to speed the salvage efforts.

4. Understand the regulations and

procedures. Before a catastrophe even looms on the horizon, a forester must understand the permit process and the forest practices act. For example, the Oregon Department of Forestry requires an approved logging permit prior to the

start of any logging operation. The permit can take two weeks or longer to obtain. Maps and detailed information are required. Harvest may be prohibited in some slide-prone areas. Streamside buffers require special planning and review. When the forester understands these regulations and procedures, it will save valuable time, extra phone calls and numerous trips to the ODF office. Delay is not an option when it comes to salvage logging.

5. Know the markets, mills and loggers. Be aware of the local mills and the type of logs they buy. Introduce yourself to the local log buyers, and then pay attention to news regarding log and lumber markets. Who are the local loggers with good reputations? Maintain a list of mills and loggers whom you may want to contact. A ready list will save time and frustration if catastrophe does come knocking.

6. Death and taxes are a 100 percent certainty. When these things occur unexpectedly, the consequences can be catastrophic. For family forest owners, estate planning can minimize the fiscal impacts during some of these most stressful times. Timber and land may be forced into sale to satisfy the inevitable inheritance taxes. A good and viable estate plan will make for an orderly transition to the heirs.

7. Winter storms can cause disastrous floods and landslides. Like volcanoes and earthquakes, there is little that can be done to predict and prepare for the events. However, harvest units can be laid out with consideration for the prevailing wind patterns. It may be necessary to leave extra trees near boundaries to act as a wind buffer.

Catastrophes are sudden and unexpected events that can wreak economic havoc on any forest owner. Planning, preparation, communication and flexibility can at least minimize the disastrous consequences. ♦

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



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Next Issue: Wildlife in Managed Forests

Catastrophic Fire from a Private Perspective: Lessons Learned from the 1992 Fountain Fire

BY JEFF WEBSTER AND
ED FREDRICKSON

The fire ignited on August 20, 1992. Started by arson, it burned 64,000 acres in two days, consuming nearly 300 homes. The majority of the acres burned were the result of a crown fire, causing catastrophic effects to water, wildlife, soils and the timber resource. The site is located in Shasta County in northeast California between Redding and Burney, and ranges in elevation from 1,800 to over 6,000 feet. The entire fire burned on private property, approximately 23,000 acres of small private land and 41,000 acres of industrial timberlands. The small private holdings were predominately oak, brush and gray pine, while the industrial holdings were predominately mixed-conifer stands of ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, white fir and incense cedar. Our story is of reforestation efforts on 26,000 acres burned on Roseburg Resources timberlands.



Jeff Webster



Ed Fredrickson

Post fire restoration

Planning is essential to being successful on a project of this size. Salvage efforts must begin immediately to take advantage of the natural site preparation from the fire for planting before the vegetation recovers and to capture the timber value to pay for the reforestation efforts. The longer one waits, the more difficult it becomes. Prior to salvage logging, other resources were evaluated. Archaeological surveys began immediately to protect valuable historic and pre-historic resources. Soils were evaluated to identify high-risk erosion sites and soils susceptible to compaction. Hydrophobic soils were identified as an issue, and mitigation efforts were incorporated into logging and site preparation (sub-soiling) efforts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF WEBSTER

A test area in the Ponderosa Burn was planted in 1981. Trees and brush were planted the same day using the same methods, the only difference is two herbicide treatments. This photo was taken in 1995; the trees are now over 40 feet tall, but the brush is still the same.

Water quality is always a concern. All water was identified and mapped and buffers were established to protect streams from erosion and herbicide applications. Retention of shade (where still present) and large woody debris were also incorporated into buffers. Buffer zones near water were planted first to capitalize on the natural site preparation of the fire, and knowing herbicide use would be limited in these zones. Roads are historically a major source of erosion and plans were made to rock over a third of the roads in the burn area. Seed banks were evaluated for seed quantity, seedlings were ordered and logging planned to match the seedling orders. Reforestation was a four-year effort, planting 2.3 million

trees per year (6,000 acres/year). Species planted were ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir and incense cedar. Planting plans were initiated by breaking the burn into units based on ecological types and topography, and then developing schedules and prescriptions for each unit.

Lessons learned from restoration efforts

Soils are an essential ingredient to long-term sustainability and great care was taken to maintain site quality. Early after the fire and first rain storm, we discovered significant areas of hydrophobic soils. While logging broke the layer up some, it was decided to

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sub-soil after logging and chipping to make sure it was mitigated. We tried different configurations of shanks, but what worked best were custom shanks with a straight back and wings built on the bottom with a long leading edge. This helped lift and fracture while minimizing the plowing effect. Other benefits of sub-soiling include reduced runoff, easier planting and increased root growth. Traditional erosion control methods of water barring and road rocking were very effective in reducing erosion and mitigating old historic logging and current fire erosion problems.

Water quality is always a critical issue. Extensive negotiations occurred with the Department of Fish and Game and Department of Water Quality about the value of timber retention in the perennial water drainages, with shade and large woody debris (LWD) retention being the major issues. The concern was leaving all vs. leaving what would be effective. The landowners' concerns were that the majority of the wood was dead and provided very little shade and would all come down within the next 10 years, causing extreme risk to flood and debris flows. It was finally agreed to leave six trees over 20 inches per 1,000 feet of stream length—essentially

OSAF Position Statement Addresses Salvage Issue

In 2008, Oregon SAF (OSAF) updated its position statement on "Salvage Harvesting," which includes the following core position: *The OSAF supports the well planned, timely and careful use of salvage harvesting after uncontrollable events have killed or damaged large numbers of trees in a forest. Salvage harvesting can mitigate economic losses due to the event, recover useful wood products, reduce fire and safety hazards, and create the desired environmental conditions for successful reforestation. Application of scientific principles by professional foresters and other resource experts can ensure that economically viable salvage harvesting will be conducted with proper consideration of environmental and social concerns.*

Additional supporting discussion and a downloadable PDF of the complete statement can be found at www.forestry.org/pdf/salvage.pdf.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TED SILBERSTEIN

A before (1995) and after (2007) sequence of the fire area looking north from Highway 299E.

anything leaning over the stream. The other mitigation was to replant the perennial streams as soon as possible. All perennial streams were planted in 1994. Where there wasn't a remaining seed source for miles, planting for future shade and LWD recruitment was essential. If we had to do again we would go to the nurseries and find all the speculation stock available and plant the year following fire. The stream corridors are the hardest to regenerate since this is where the understory vegetation is the most developed and vegetation management options are most limited. Landowner concerns with flooding were confirmed in 1998, with the occurrence of a 100-year storm event that washed out a county bridge and caused major debris flows.

Herbicide use was the other significant issue related to water quality. Due to public concerns, a water quality monitoring program was established. Buffers were established on all perennial and intermittent streams ranging from 25 to 150 feet on each side of the stream depending on application type (ground vs. aerial), herbicide type (soil active vs. foliar active), and slope. Over 95 percent of the water samples came back with

non-detectable herbicide amounts; the remaining samples showed trace amounts of herbicide, but well within the established daily drinking water standards. The benefits of herbicide use far outweighs the risk. Planting without herbicides in Mediterranean climates is doomed to failure. Natural vegetation that re-occupies a site after a fire can out-compete conifer seedlings for available moisture, nutrients and light. Without the use of herbicides, conifer seedling survival and growth will be significantly affected.

One of the key chemicals used after the fire was hexazinone. It is particularly effective on herbaceous vegetation and small brush germinates. It is also a good inhibitor of brush seed germination. Hexazinone is most effective when used early after a fire. Once brush is established on the site, it is not as effective. Foliar site preparation treatments may be required on sites where brush is already established prior to use of hexazinone. It should be noted that the herbaceous competition to seedlings the first year of planting is the most lethal.

Biodiversity is often an issue used to justify not using herbicides and not salvage log. However, a study done in 1996 in northeast California compar-

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ing diversity between treated and untreated burns found greater diversity in the treated units (DiTomaso, et al., 1997).

Lessons learned since restoration efforts

One of our greatest frustrations with the reforestation effort was the amount of Douglas-fir (DF) and white fir (WF) planted and its low survival. We invested a great deal of effort in research trials trying to increase planting survival for DF and WF, but found no single factor to increasing survival. The harsh conditions created by the fire exasperated the situation. The integrated approach we developed was to move away from traditional clean site preparation that has been used. With the biomass industry present in northern California, chipping (post fire or pre-harvest) has to a great extent replaced the need for piling slash. This results in greater organic matter retention that helps with moisture and nutrient retention, which DF and WF are very sensitive to in the establishment phase, and provides shaded micro-sites for planting. Type of planting stock has always been an issue in Mediterranean climates. Trees with smaller tops and vigorous root systems perform best. The problem in California is moisture stress. A balanced root-to-shoot ratio can alleviate some of this problem, and we looked for nursery technology that would provide us with our target seedling. We found the technology in Canada. The use of "dark out" (regulating day-length) in greenhouses stops the height growth at a desired height without shutting down the root system, thus providing the root-to-shoot ratio we desired on a consistent basis.

Planting stock size is also an issue. During the Fountain Fire, we planted

mostly styro 5 plugs. The main problems we observed with these seedlings were sun scald and wind damage, which resulted in girdling and killing of the seedling. Many stock trials were conducted that looked at different seedling sizes and types of planting stock. The results of these trials indicated styro 5s were fine for PP, but larger container sizes (styro 8s and 10s) reduced the amount of injury to DF and WF because the larger seedling (larger caliper) had more lateral branching to increase shade around the stem. In summary, better organic matter retention, good root-to-shoot ratio and large enough seedlings to provide shade to stem and soil will improve Douglas- and true fir survival and growth.

Hard-to-kill evergreen brush species such as golden chinquapin, snowbrush and tanoak were a problem. At the time of the Fountain Fire, we did not have all the herbicide tools available that we do today. In 1997, imazapyr, in the form of Arsenal® and Chopper®, was registered in California, which provided a greater degree of control on these hard-to-kill species with lower chemical use rates compared to historic treatments. It also dramatically reduced our herbicide use overall. The effectiveness of these products led to the continued development of pre-harvest site preparation where the brush was treated in units prior to logging to maximize the effectiveness on brush control. This practice has reduced the number of entries in any given unit by one and a half release treatments on average. Since the brush control is so effective, it has also led to reduced use rates of soil active products such as hexazinone since brush control from the hexazinone application is not required.

Conclusions

Overall, the most successful of any units on the Fountain Fire were the ones planted and sprayed first. If we had to do it over again, we would have done it in three years, not four. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of not waiting. As brush becomes established the chances for success decrease and costs increase exponentially.

With today's knowledge of forest biology we should be putting more effort into restoring our forest to a more resilient condition in order to prevent catastrophic fires. After eliminating fire for the last 100 years from areas that burned historically every 7-15 years, we can't just stop managing the land now and expect nature to create historical conditions without severe consequences. Our forests are overstocked by historical standards and need thinning.

The science and tools are available to manage our forests for all of its resources. To do so requires that "all" tools be available! With these tools one also needs the flexibility to apply them in a timely integrated manner. We can manage our forests for all of society's demands and should. There is no need to import wood when we can produce it locally. ♦

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Managing Mountain Pine Beetle to Prevent Catastrophic Losses to our Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine Forests

BY PAUL OESTER AND DAVE SHAW

Native forest insects are critical to forest productivity, nutrient cycling and tree health. These insects typically occur at background or endemic populations. When they're at these levels their mode of operation is to cause minor growth loss or incidental tree mortality across the landscape. However, some native forest insects can cause tree mortality and/or significant growth loss. Certain groups of insects, such as some defoliators and bark beetles, can periodically reach epidemic population levels that result in catastrophic damage and tree death at the landscape level.

One bark beetle in particular causing recent widespread damage in parts of Oregon is the mountain pine beetle (MPB). Of the approximately 700,000 acres of bark beetle-caused mortality in Oregon reported in the 2008 aerial survey, almost 80 percent can be attributed to the MPB. Although lodgepole and ponderosa pine are the species most damaged by this insect, increasing



Paul Oester



Dave Shaw

amounts of five-needle pines (sugar, whitebark and western white) are also killed. This aggressive beetle is causing the most damage in lodgepole pine along the east slope of the Cascades from Mount Hood south to California, and in Klamath and Lake counties. While some areas have seen a drop in damage intensity, such as parts of Central and Northeast Oregon, dramatic increases continue to occur in the Klamath-Lake area. Currently, some 400,000 acres have been impacted, creating what is known as the "red zone."

So, if you have some lodgepole or ponderosa pines, what should you do?

Tree size and stand density seem to be the most reliable predictor of lodgepole stand susceptibility to this beetle in Oregon. Stands with an average DBH of more than 8-10 inches are more susceptible than stands with smaller trees. Historically, outbreaks of MPB have not been sustained once the mature lodgepole pine has been exhausted.

Thinning overstocked stands, either older stands or young stands on poor sites, is less effective in lodgepole than in other pine species. It seems to be more successful in the northern Rockies. In Oregon, management strategies include:

- Make patch cuts to increase diversity of age classes (tree sizes) across the landscape. This works better in larger ownerships, but owners of



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Bark beetles make pitch tubes on the bark surface at the site of attack. Pitch tubes are cream to dark-red masses of resin mixed with boring dust and are one-fourth to one-half inch in diameter.

smaller tracts could adopt this approach cooperatively, too.

- If the stand includes young and old age classes, and if the younger age class is healthy and has good live-crown ratios (above 30 percent), then remove the older, larger trees in the overstory in a diameter-limit cut.

- In mixed stands, thin to remove most of the susceptible-size lodgepole.

- Thin only young stands on better sites. Older stands typically have poor live-crown ratios, so leave trees will not respond well to the thinning. Also, lodgepole pine tends to have a shallow root system, making it more susceptible to windthrow on thinned sites.

Ponderosa pine is also at risk, particularly following on the heels of an outbreak in lodgepole pine. What typically happens is that large beetle populations that have built up in mature lodgepole forests "spill-over" into adjacent overstocked ponderosa pine stands, attacking normally more resistant mature and small diameter pines. If you have ponderosa pine, consider the following:

- Prioritize stands: thin overstocked, large-diameter, and higher-value stands first.

- Prevent attacks by keeping stand



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densities below the self-thinning threshold to decrease individual tree stress, reduce attractiveness to mountain pine beetles, and give the stand room to grow.

- If bark beetles are active in the stand, complete salvage and sanitation operations before the peak beetle flight period during midsummer.

- For patchy stands, local centers of high stand density will be susceptible to beetle attack, thus don't forget these in your thinnings.

- Use an increment borer to monitor leave-tree diameter growth to determine whether the thinning response meets your goals.

Associated with epidemics of MPB in lodgepole pine is the threat of catastrophic fire. This threat is thought to be a big issue, especially when large kills occur. However, little is really known about the behavior of fuels and potential for fire following this mortality. As a consequence, the U.S. Joint Fire Science program is currently focused on getting answers. The current thinking is that shortly following beetle kill, while needles are still on the trees,

there is a high hazard from fire. Once the needles have fallen to the ground, it may be that the threat goes down for several years, and then after a decade or so, as understory vegetation accumulates and the dead beetle killed trees begin to shed branches and fall down, the threat increases again.

Therefore, fuels management is about the long-term dynamics of the forest following the short-term "red foliage" stage when fire may be a big threat.

Catastrophic landscape-scale impacts of MPB have been documented in the past, but the current 10-year-plus epidemic across the Rocky Mountains, eastern cascades and particularly in central/southern-eastside

British Columbia has bug people really scratching their heads. This is a big one—the biggest forest insect kill in recorded history. Much is being written about why this may be, but this native insect epidemic is certain to be caused by a complex interaction of biotic and abiotic factors with a little bad luck. ♦

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The Wind Blew and Blew and Blew....

BY MIKE BARNES

On an early December day in 2007 a violent windstorm blew on to the north Oregon Coast. Not since the infamous Columbus Day storm of 1962 had the coast sustained winds of such



extreme velocity. This was no quickly passing storm. It lasted for many hours. Significant damage was done to structures on the north coast to include the City of Astoria. The city became a sea of blue tarps from rooftop to rooftop.

The forests of the region displayed amazing evidence of the winds of that day. Thousands of acres lay flattened by the wind. The forests owned by the city of Astoria were among the most heavily impacted. The crowning



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE BARNES

This private residence was surrounded by city forests. The owners were in the home during the storm and were cut off from all contact for several hours while the trees crushed the home.

jewel of the city is the Astoria Column that sits on a ridge high above the city. To the east of the column a vast expanse



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PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE BARNES

Looking toward the Astoria Bridge from the severely impacted area.

of forest can be seen. Today, thousands of acres of those forests are now cleared due to the devastation of the wind-storm. The largest landowners include the city and Oregon Department of Forestry.

The city limits extend for a considerable distance to the east from the column. The forests of the area contain mixed species comprised of hemlock and spruce with ages in excess of 100 years.

These forests withstood the Columbus Day storm, but not the winds of 2007. Hundreds of acres were over 90 percent blown down. With substantial damage to structures and utilities within the city as well as the forest, much work lay ahead to recover from the storm.

The Astoria City Council and staff reacted quickly in response to the work ahead. It was decided that the severely affected stands must be treated to minimize fire and safety risks to the city and to recover as much revenue as possible. This would prove a challenge in light of the downturn in the value of logs and the amount of logs that were suddenly coming to market. With support from the city council, timber sales were quickly placed on the market and successfully sold.

Nearly 300 acres of blowdown was treated, resulting in the harvest of approximately 11 million board feet of timber. Considerable volume was destroyed by breakage during the storm. Several hundred additional acres were impacted by the storm, but not to the severity as those that were treated. The adjacent Department of Forestry

sale (Blastoria Timber Sale) was nearly 1,500 acres in size and is still in process.

Over the following two years the majority of the severely impacted areas

were harvested and successfully replanted. Citizen input was invited as plans were developed to remove the down trees from blocks of forest surrounded by residences. Citizen input was also included in the replanting, planning and execution. The ability of citizens to be involved provided them with the opportunity to be a part of the solution and to bring closure to a devastating experience.

The winds will blow again on the coast, but perhaps it will be many years before such a devastating wind visits Astoria again. When it does, the city will be ready to respond. ♦

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Another Approach to Large Fire Management

BY JOHN PRENDERGAST

Wildfire trends over the last 15-20 years have not been good. Five-year moving averages for firefighter fatalities, suppression costs and acres burned have all been increasing. Firefighter fatalities have been averaging 20-25 per year. This is unacceptable. Total federal suppression costs exceeded two billion dollars in 2006 and 2007, and total acres burned averaged over eight million acres per year for the five-year period from 2004 to 2008 (source: National Interagency Fire Center). The number of fires exceeding 100,000 acres is five times more than it was just 10 years ago.



The gap between appropriated funds for fire suppression and actual costs also continues to widen. Supplemental financial funding of the federal wildland fire suppression program has been an annual requirement in each of the last five years, with annual supplemental funding ranging from \$200 million to over three quarters of a billion dollars to avoid an anti-deficiency situation (source: 2009

Quadrennial Fire Report).

At the same time, forest health trends in the western United States are not good either. Millions of acres are currently standing dead in our forests. Almost all of the forest ecosystems in the U.S. are fire adapted and/or fire evolved. Fire belongs here and has been absent in many places for too long. This absence has resulted in unnatural tree densities and shrub accumulations in our forests and wildlands. The result is more intense, destructive fires than historically burned, which generally were lower intensity fires. Do we have an opportunity to reduce firefighter exposure and therefore fatalities and injuries, restore fire as a natural process in fire-adapted ecosystems, and reduce federal suppression costs? In my opinion, the answer is YES!

Our traditional approach to large fire management is to assume that all fire is bad and must be aggressively suppressed with overwhelming mass (throw all the resources at it we can). This is described in literature as the "Precautionary Principle." There are certainly situations where this kind of suppression response is necessary and appropriate. Wildland Urban Interface fires where human lives, property and private lands are threatened certainly need to be aggressively suppressed. But what about fires in remote areas on federal lands where these aren't an issue? Have we truly analyzed the values at risk for these fires before we applied overwhelming mass and put firefighters in harm's way? Have we recognized an opportunity to allow fire to play its natural role in a fire-adapted ecosystem and considered the benefits? Are we wisely spending taxpayer dollars in our suppression actions? Imagine if every

fire was viewed as an opportunity to think carefully about when, where and to what degree we should risk the lives of our young men and women.

The Boze and Rainbow Fires on the Umpqua National Forest presented an opportunity to test a different approach this last September. These were late season fires that didn't start until mid-September. They were burning in a rugged, remote area on national forest-lands and were not threatening residences or private lands. A long-term analysis completed for the fires indicated a high probability of a season-ending weather event occurring before the fires could spread far enough to threaten any significant values. The decision was made to employ a point-protection suppression strategy, protect identified important areas, and wait for a season-ending weather event to contain the fires, while at the same time monitoring the fires very closely. A point protection strategy requires far fewer firefighters, equipment and aircraft than an aggressive, full suppression-full perimeter containment strategy.

The rains came before the end of the first week in October, and the strategy worked. The reduced exposure to hazards and risks by firefighters and the cost savings realized from this approach were significant. The strategic risk analysis completed for these fires indicated that the point protection strategy resulted in over 200,000 fewer hours of exposure to hazards by firefighters and a cost savings of over \$10 million than the alternative full suppression-full perimeter containment strategy (source: U.S. Forest Service). It was a win for the firefighter, the forest and the taxpayer.

Is this approach appropriate everywhere? Absolutely not! Do we have an opportunity to employ it in more places than we have? You bet! ♦

John Prendergast is safety officer, National Incident Management Organization Team 4—Portland, USDA Forest Service, Washington Office-Fire & Aviation Management, located in Medford, Ore. He can be reached at 541-618-2114 or jprendergast@fs.fed.us.

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Forestry from the Ground Up: OSAF 2010

BY PAUL W. ADAMS

The Marys Peak chapter of the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) invites all interested forestry professionals to explore "Forestry from the Ground Up" at the OSAF annual meeting in Albany, Ore., on April 7-9. As the title suggests, the program will emphasize current and emerging on-the-ground strategies and practices for managing forest resources.

The meeting will be conveniently located at the Linn County Fairgrounds near Interstate 5, with plenty of nearby lodging choices. The location and its proximity to OSU allows for a unique and fun event the first evening, a BBQ dinner with special activities involving forestry students. A banquet and awards program will follow on the second evening. A poster session will also be featured.

The program begins at 1:00 p.m. the first day with discussions of the current state of the art and science of on-the-ground forestry, with attention to each of the major ownerships: state, BLM, USFS, tribal, industrial and family. The array of topics and speakers will reflect substantial knowledge and direct experience with on-the-ground strategies and practices on these ownerships with diverse management objectives.

A full day of concurrent technical sessions follows, and these are expected to present some tough choices for attendees (a good thing!). In the morning one technical track will emphasize technological innovations in field-oriented equipment and software, while another will cover recent advances in reforestation practices. Vendor updates about new and improved forestry tools will complement the technical tracks.

The two concurrent afternoon sessions on the second day include a track on silvicultural innovations, and a track on new equipment and methods for managing roads, stream crossings and riparian areas. Program planners are making a special effort to feature speakers and examples that cover a wide scope of forest types and environmental settings.

A program on "Forestry from the

Ground Up" wouldn't be complete without site visits to see some on-the-ground forestry, and at least two options for field tours will be offered on the last day. One tour will be oriented toward the management of forests on different ownerships east of Albany, including the Cascades, while the other will venture westward into the Coast Range.

Mark your calendars now and watch for further details and registration information at www.forestry.org. If you have questions or are interested in

sponsorship opportunities or exhibitor information, contact Conference Chair Gary Blanchard at 541-929-2477 or gary@starkerforests.com. ♦

Paul W. Adams is a professor and Extension specialist in the Forest Engineering, Resources and Management Department at OSU in Corvallis. He is the marketing chair for the 2010 OSAF annual meeting and can be reached at 541-737-2946 or paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.



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We Remember

Earl Paul Stephens 1920-2009

Earl Paul Stephens was born September 5, 1920, in Marietta, Ohio. He died on October 4, 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee.

At 17, Mr. Stephens competed in the Camp Perry National Rifle Matches, winning several categories over the next three years. After high school graduation, WWII interrupted his education and career when he was deployed to Europe with the 407th Infantry Regiment (the Ozarkians), eventually receiving three battle stars.

Mr. Stephens received his degree in forestry from West Virginia University graduating as Outstanding Senior in 1947. He later received his Masters in Forestry and Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard University.

He began his career years with Champion Paper and Fiber Company in Hamilton, Ohio, and Houston, Texas. Mr. Stephens was the associate director of Research and Development and participated in cottonwood and kenaf fiber research projects with Texas A&M University in College Station and in the Rio Grande Valley during the 1960s. In the early '70s he accepted a position as associate professor with the University of Florida, which included a position with the United States Agency for International

Development for two years in Saigon, Vietnam. His position there was as the USAID counterpart to the dean of Forestry at the Thu Duc Polytechnic Institute at Saigon. While in Saigon, he helped in the development of a forestry school and the establishment of a wood-products cooperative.

Back in the United States, he worked as a student recruiter for Tuskegee Institute (University) in Alabama while living in Auburn. Stephens left that position in the early 1980s and with his wife Blanche, moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where he continued his work in forestry with the Department of Natural Resources and as the executive director of the Alaska Reforestation Council. In 1993, Mr. Stephens was named "Forester of the Year" by the Alaska SAF. Stephens was a 60-year member of the SAF. He remained in Alaska until 2006.

Mr. Stephens' landmark thesis on forest reconstruction is still considered to be the classic work in that field and is a benchmark for those currently studying forest ecology. He initiated the "historical reconstructive technique" that is still used and studied today in forest research. The plot of land in the Harvard Forest where he conducted his studies bears his name today. ♦

Destination La Conner!

BY PAUL WAGNER

The 2010 Washington State Society of American Foresters annual meeting will be held in the historic waterfront village of La Conner in Skagit County. Mark the dates May 12-14 on your calendar for this fun and informative meeting. The North Puget Sound Chapter will be your host for this event.

The meeting will kick off on Wednesday afternoon, May 12, with registration and icebreaker.

Thursday, May 13 will be devoted to indoor sessions exploring the theme of "Opportunities and Challenges in Uncertain Times."

Topics and speakers will include:

- Legal/Regulatory Environment and Timber Supply from Public Lands—Jim Johnston (Weyco), Elaine Spencer (Graham and Dunn, PC) and Ann Forest Burns (AFRC)
- Higher and Better Use vs. Forest Management—David Syre (Trillium) and Keith Balter (Weyco Real Estate)
- Wood Energy/Bio-fuels—Kristiina Vogt (UW) and Rob Janicki (Janicki Engineering)
- Green Certification—Vincent Corrao (Northwest Management, Inc.) and Greg Ettl (UW)
- Global Warming: What's Going On?—Gary Ritchie and Ralph Riley
- Carbon Sequestration and Markets: Opportunity? Encumbrance?—Speaker TBA
- Timber Land Owners Panel—Speakers TBA
- Banquet Speaker—Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands

A field trip to Pilchuck Tree Farm to view thinning spacing trials, alder management and equipment performance is set for Friday, May 14.

We look forward to seeing you in La Conner! ♦

Paul Wagner is acting co-chair of the North Puget Sound Chapter and Washington project manager for Atterbury Consultants. He can be reached at pwagner@atterbury.com.



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Calendar of Events

9th Annual Foresters' Forum,

Feb. 3-5, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Jennifer Childers, 208-667-4641, jennifer@intforest.org.

Basic Road Design, Feb. 8-11, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI

Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Feb. 10-12, The Riverhouse Conference Center, Bend, OR. Contact: http://joomla.wildlife.org/oregon/images/Documents/2010_registrationform.pdf.

SERNW Joint Regional Conference with the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Feb. 16-18, Marysville, WA. Contact: Jake Jacobson, jake.jacobson@snoco.org or Susan Piper, 360-956-2435, spiper@fs.fed.us.

LoggerPC V4, Feb. 17-18, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI

Cable Logging, Feb. 23-26, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI

Inland Empire Tree Improvement Coop annual meeting, Feb. 24, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: John Goodburn, 406-243-4295, john.goodburn@umontana.edu.

Unit Planning and Layout, March 1-4, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI

Climate Change, Bioenergy and Sustaining the Forests of Idaho & Montana, March 3-4, Missoula, MT. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu.

Natural Resource Law for Foresters, March 11-12, Vancouver, WA. Contact: WFC, 503-226-4562, www.westernforestry.org.

Helicopter Logging, March 15, Olympia, WA. Contact: FEI

TimberValue Seminar, March 16, Beaverton, OR. Contact: FEC Consulting, LLC, 503-201-4428, TJHanson@forestmgt.com.

Cable Logging, March 16-19, Olympia,

WA. Contact: FEI

Fuel Reduction, March 22-23, Olympia, WA. Contact: FEI

Mechanized Harvesting, March 24-25, Olympia, WA. Contact: FEI

OSAF annual meeting, April 7-9, Albany, OR. Contact: Gary Blanchard, 541-929-2477, gary@starkerforests.com.

Alaska SAF annual meeting, April 22-24, Anchorage, AK. Contact: Elizabeth Brann, 907-743-9519, ebrann@fs.fed.us.

Washington Farm Forestry Association annual meeting, April 25-27, Union, WA. Contact: WFFA, 360-736-5750, www.wafarmforestry.com.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association annual meeting, April

30-May 1, Clackamas, OR. Contact: Jennifer Rains, 503-588-1813, jenerains@gmail.com.

LoggerPC V4, May 4-5, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI

FRA Western Region Spring Meeting, May 11-13, Seattle, WA. Contact: Tim Gammell, 509-396-2478, fiber@woodcom.com.

Washington State SAF annual meeting, May 12-14, La Conner, WA. Contact: Paul Wagner, pwagner@atterbury.com.

Inland Empire SAF annual meeting, May 20-22, Wallace, ID. Contact: Richard Reid, 509-758-2411, rreid66519@aol.com.

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Glyphosate 4	Roundup Original

Contact Information

FEI: Forest Engineering Inc., 620 SW 4th St., Corvallis, OR 97333, 541-754-7558, <http://forestengineer.com>.

Send calendar items to the editor,
Western Forester, 4033 SW Canyon Rd.,
Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515;
rasor@safnwo.org.

December Council Update: Convention Coming to Spokane

BY CHUCK LORENZ

Under the leadership of President Bernie Hubbard, the SAF Council held their end-of-year 2009 meeting on December 5-6 at Wild Acres, the SAF Headquarters, in Bethesda, Maryland. All Council members and officers were present. Additionally, two of the three Council members-elect, the incoming chair of the House of Society Delegates, and the incoming student representative to Council attended.

Highlights of the December meeting actions include:

- The National Convention in Orlando, Florida, was a success. The technical program was outstanding and contributed to drawing over 1,300 attendees. Financially, the convention exceeded target minimums. Looking forward, the 2010 Convention is scheduled for Albuquerque, NM, October 25-31 and the 2011 Convention is scheduled for Honolulu, HI, November 2-6. Council acted to select Spokane, Wash., as the site for the 2012 National SAF Convention, with proposed dates of October 22-28.

- The Committee on Forest Policy presented two revised position statements for Council review and approval.

Council adopted position statements on "Loss of Forestland" and "Roads in Managed Forests." The Committee on Forest Policy continues to work on updating existing position statements and addressing emerging policy issues. Council anticipates addressing additional position statements early in 2010.

- Membership renewal is in full swing. Christopher Whited, director of Membership and Marketing, reported more than 4,000 renewals for 2010 as of November 30, an increase of approximately 1,000 over 2008. SAF continues to recognize the challenges of the economy. For members needing assistance with either dues remission or payment scheduling, talk with Christopher Whited at 866-897-8720 x110.

The National Fellows Committee reported on several bylaws changes structured to provide improved consistency in the Fellows selection process. With some minor adjustments, Council adopted the committee's proposals. These changes will appear on the website shortly. This also serves as a reminder to the membership that Fellow nominations are due to their respective District Fellows Committees early in 2010. For Washington State, Inland Empire and Alaska, the contact

point is Jim LaBau at JimLaBau3@cs.com. In Oregon, contact John Bell at johnbell@proaxis.com.

- Council accepted the student representative to Council's (SRC) request to modify the term of the SRC. The term is currently on a calendar year in conformance with other Council member terms. The request approved changes to the SRC term to an academic year basis, essentially running June to June. Elections of SRC and SRC-elect will continue to occur at the National Student Congress held annually at convention.

- Council accepted the Charter for the Task Force on Educational Programs in Terrestrial Ecosystems Management. This two-year process will investigate the merits of accrediting such programs, and if warranted, recommend standards, procedures and guidelines for the accreditation.

- Council adopted the recommendations of the Committee on Accreditation and the Committee on Technical School Accreditation revising their respective handbooks.

- The Ethics Committee presented a revised set of Ethics Case Process Standards for Council's consideration. Those process standards were adopted.

- Council reviewed and re-adopted the planned meeting schedule for 2010. While technology offers the opportunity to conduct routine business and we intend to utilize teleconferences and webinars, Council members also recognize the advantages of face-to-face interchange. Council will meet February 6-7, perhaps at a site away from Bethesda as was done in 2009; June 12-13 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (an excellent opportunity for our Northwest and Intermountain members to attend); October 27 at convention in Albuquerque; and December 4-5 in Bethesda, MD.

As always, District 2 Council Representative Clark Seely and I are available to discuss your interests and concerns on all SAF issues. ♦

District 1 Council Representative Chuck Lorenz can be reached at 360-951-0117 or c_4str@yahoo.com. District 2 Council Representative Clark Seely can be reached at 503-999-3475 or cleoregon@comcast.net.



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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.

Tour for Oregon Legislators

Held. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSAF and other forest sector leaders co-hosted a field tour in late October for Oregon state legislators with the theme of "Oregon's Private Forestlands—Keeping Working Forests Working." Introductory talks at the Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters in Salem were followed by a visit to lands near Dallas managed by Forest Capital Partners and a mill tour at Hampton Affiliates in Willamina. Participants included four state senators, six representatives and seven legislative aides. This strong attendance directly reflects (Eugene) Senator Chris Edwards' interest and leadership on this issue, as he invited and encouraged his fellow legislators to participate. The tour was supported by an SAF Foresters' Fund grant, and there is interest in holding similar tours more regularly to develop and maintain stronger ties with our policy makers to effectively provide a professional perspective on important forestry issues. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

Comments Submitted on BLM

DEIS. In November the OSAF Policy and Legislation Committee helped develop and submit comments on the BLM DEIS on Vegetation Treatment in Oregon. The BLM has serious concerns about invasive species and nox-

ious weeds on its extensive land base, and the DEIS proposes both herbicide and other treatments to control the problems. Although no specific position on the DEIS was taken, comments were submitted to provide a professional perspective on some of the broad issues involved. The OSAF core position statement on "Using Pesticides on Forest Lands" was quoted, along with the following key comment: "Clearly, this [OSAF] perspective supports BLM's interests in the analysis and use of herbicides to control noxious weeds and invasive plants on its forestlands in Oregon. Moreover, *it does not support alternatives that would arbitrarily prohibit herbicide use or similarly restrict uses by specific plant classes, locations, or application methods that otherwise are allowed by law on these lands.* To effectively deal with the tremendous range of site conditions and management needs on such a large land base, forestry and other resource professionals must be able to develop site-specific treatment prescriptions with the discretion to choose among all available tools and techniques."

Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

WSSAF Policy Update. State

Government. Washington state elected leaders are grappling with a \$2.6 billion budget shortfall for the 2009-2011 biennium budget that ends on June 30, 2011, as tax receipts continue to lag due to reduced consumer spending. According to Dr. Arun Raha of the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, the recession is over nationally, but state revenue recovery is still fragile. Dropping state revenues are forcing major cuts

in state services. Governor Christine Gregoire and the State Legislature are reviewing existing business credits and possible tax increases during the short legislative session that begins on January 11, 2010.

Position Papers Approved. WSSAF membership voted to approve five position statements during the fall 2009 election: (1) Sustainable forest management can achieve and maintain healthy and productive forests in the State of Washington; (2) Addressing the threat of wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI); (3) Management of Federal Lands in the State of Washington; (4) Revision of the Olympic National Forest Plan; and (5) Considering the contributions of Washington's forests involving carbon sequestration. These position statements will be utilized by the WSSAF Executive Committee and Policy Committee in discussions with federal, state and local elected and appointed leaders. Contact: John Walkowiak, WSSAF chair, 253-320-5064, jewalkowiak@harbornet.com

Inland Empire SAF Partners with Intermountain SAF to Plan Climate Change/Bioenergy Conference.

Featuring the related topics of wood bioenergy and climate change, and designed to attract an audience from outside the forestry community, Idaho SAF members are planning a conference for March 3-4 in Boise titled "Climate Change, Bioenergy and Sustaining the Forests of Idaho and Montana." It is a follow-up to the forest bioenergy workshops held in Missoula, Mont., on September 22-24 in conjunction with the Plum Creek Lecture Series. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu. ♦

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