**POLICY SCOREBOARD – Western Forester – August/Sept. 2013**

Submission from Paul Adams

**OSAF Comments on Federal Forest Issues**

OSAF member and wildlife specialist Steve Mealey led an effort to send a letter to Oregon’s Congressional delegation, calling for a major review and revision of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). The NWFP and related policies for eastside forests will mark their 20th anniversary next year, raising important questions about the resulting changes in forest management and resource conditions on federal lands over the past two decades. The letter was signed by leaders of several organizations, including OSAF Chair Ron Boldenow (with Executive Committee approval). Chair Boldenow also provided testimony on behalf of OSAF at the July 25 meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry in La Grande, which had a strong emphasis on federal forest issues. The testimony referenced OSAF’s relevant position statements and stressed the value of engaging the forestry profession’s unique expertise and experience to help improve policy and decision making for federal forest lands. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy Chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:paul.adams@oregonstate.edu)

**OSAF Completes More Position Statement Updates**

In late July the OSAF Executive Committee approved updated position statements on “Clearcutting” and “Active Management to Achieve and Maintain Healthy Forests.” Earlier this year the OSAF Policy Committee updated “Salvage Harvesting on Public Lands,” which also was approved by the Executive Committee. The modifications of these positions were relatively minor, and focused on updates to the reference lists and background discussions. All of the positions remain important given ongoing concerns related to wildfires, forest health, and negative perceptions of clearcutting. The latter issue was renewed by the recent western Oregon BLM’s pilot projects that include “regeneration harvests.” All members are encouraged to review OSAF’s position statements (<http://www.forestry.org/oregon/policy/position/>) and use them to articulate a professional perspective when discussing forest resource issues with people outside the profession. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy Chair, 541-737-2946; [paul.adams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:paul.adams@oregonstate.edu)