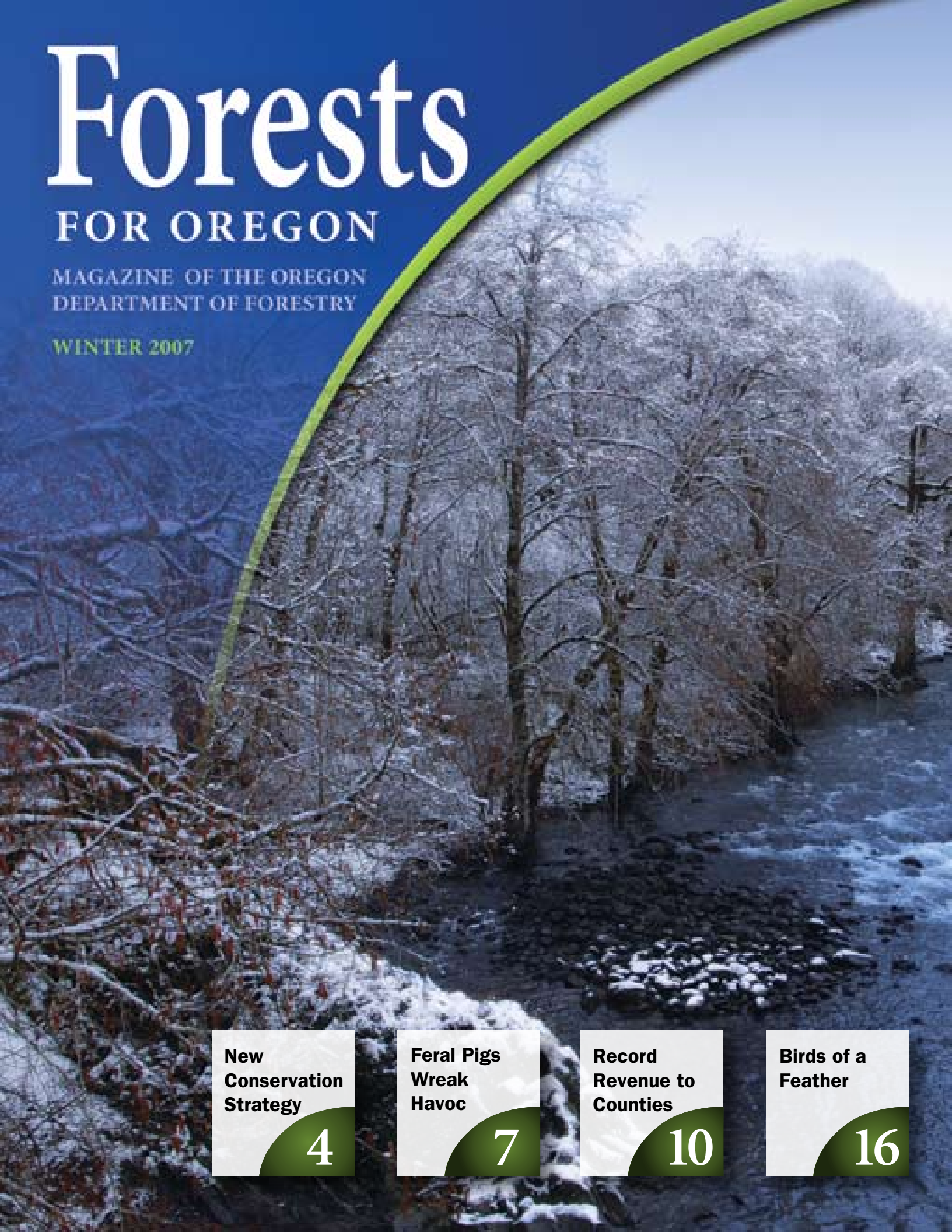
Forests FOR OREGON

MAGAZINE OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

WINTER 2007



State Forester
Marvin Brown

FROM THE State Forester

First of all, I'd like to welcome you to *Forests for Oregon*, the successor to the *Forest Log*, our department's quarterly publication. Although the *Forest Log* served the department for many years, we will strive in the new magazine to draw in greater numbers of folks with an interest in our work and in the many aspects of forestry. You can read more about the transition in editor Cynthia Orlando's column in this edition. *(Page 9)*

You'll note that there are several articles this month on forest wildlife issues. This brings to mind some research I was involved with in the Midwestern U.S. some years ago.

There was concern that clearcuts were eliminating the habitat for birds that required interior forest areas for nesting. Early work found indeed these birds did only nest in forest areas that were a significant distance removed from openings created by clearcuts. Oddly though, once the eggs had hatched, young and mature birds all disappeared from the nesting areas. Researchers eventually found them on nearby clearcuts where the brushy, open conditions were ideal for feeding.

At the same time we had a very small project going to look at the effects of insect feeding on tree seedlings out in the forest areas. We found that screening the seedlings to prevent insect feeding indeed increased seedling growth and therefore improved the ability to reforest.

In my own mind I began to make a connection between these two studies:

The logging that produced the clearcuts created more food for the birds. By feeding on insects the birds improved reforestation efforts and ultimately created more timber value.

It wasn't about arguing wildlife benefits against logging benefits. It was about the fact that the two sets of benefits, to my way of thinking at least, supported one another.

I think we need to quit looking for reasons to fight over forests and start understanding that these benefits are interconnected in ways that may not be obvious, but are very real.

For years now a belief that—if you have logging you cannot have recreation or good wildlife habitat—has dominated the public's perception of forest management. The average person sees nothing but vocal forest interests arguing over their piece of the pie as if it's always an "either/or" discussion.

When King Solomon was confronted with two women arguing over who had the right to a child he ended up having to threaten to cut the child in two before they understood the destructiveness of their disagreement.

Today we are confronted with a multitude of threats to forests—insect, disease, catastrophic wildfire, conversion to non-forest use—that have their roots in this same destructive level of disagreement. We are at risk of substantial forest loss because of this same unwillingness to think about the welfare of forests in the whole.

If we want forests to be here for future generations, it's time to get past these faulty perceptions and begin to acknowledge that all forest benefits are important and, in fact, are supportive of one another.

Forests
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STATE FORESTER
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inside

Oregon's urbanites and family forestland owners are flocking to birding

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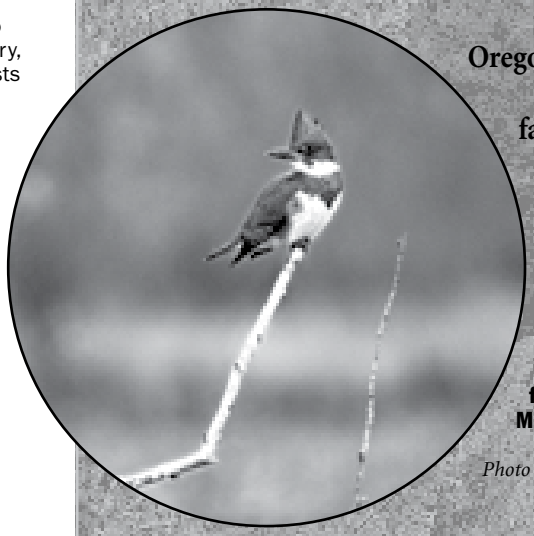


A Belted Kingfisher keeps an eye out for his next meal. These birds are rarely found away from water and are occasionally spotted along Mill Creek near ODF's Salem campus.

Photo courtesy www.vernondipietrophotographer.com

COVER PHOTO: The Wilson River—as viewed from the bridge at the Tillamook Forest Center—gets a dusting of snow. No other place in Oregon or the Pacific Northwest provides the forest-based learning opportunities found at the Tillamook Forest Center. *Photo courtesy Chris Friend, Tillamook Forest Center*

Workshop provides wildlife tips, tools to forest landowners

Cynthia Orlando, Public Affairs Specialist

Since some 46 percent of lands in Oregon are in private ownership, the simple fact that private lands make an enormous contribution to the well-being of Oregon's fish and wildlife is a given. Numerous fish and wildlife species occupy habitats found on private land - indeed, some species are dependent on habitats found almost exclusively on private land. This raises an interesting question: how best can we ensure the ecological viability of Oregon's fish and wildlife populations for future generations of Oregonians?

A coyote pup checks things out by its den near Spring Creek, northwest of La Grande.
photo courtesy Ted Schroeder

For landowners who want to better understand wildlife needs and how to improve conditions and habitats, ODF&W's Conservation Strategy (photo upper right) is a resource to help them make strategic decisions about where to concentrate their sometimes limited time and resources.

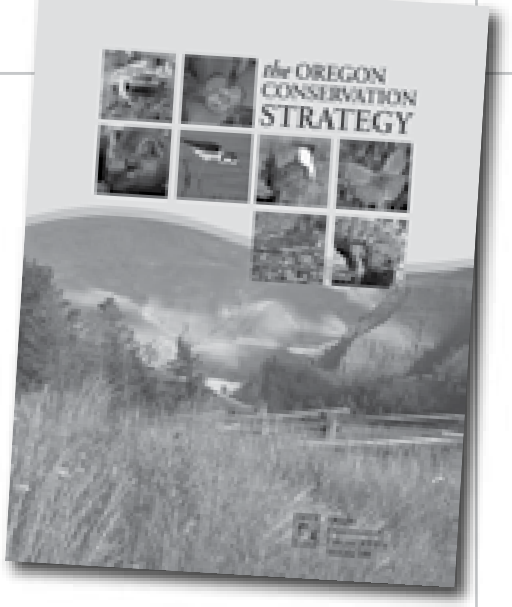
That question and others were explored in depth at a workshop for private landowners recently held at the Eugene Hilton. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W), the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the Oregon Department of Forestry sponsored the event. Titled "Measuring Success on the Landscape," the primary focus of the fall workshop was to introduce concepts outlined in ODF&W's recently released *Oregon Conservation Strategy* document, as well as to help landowners gain an appreciation for the value and relative ease of managing and monitoring wildlife populations on their lands.

ODF&W's new *Conservation Strategy* document is not merely a management plan, but rather, is intended to be a *conservation tool* for all Oregonians. "I'd like people to know that this strategy is a compliment to the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*," says Audrey Hatch, conservation strategy monitoring coordinator with the ODF&W. "It also provides a vision of what the (Oregon conservation) priorities are," she adds. The *Conservation Strategy* is also helping to achieve the outcomes that the Oregon Board of Forestry has called for in the strategic planning document, the *Forestry Program For Oregon*.

Like the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*, the *Conservation Strategy* relies heavily on voluntary measures and on building upon existing successes. Goals of the *Conservation Strategy* include maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and, where possible, reversing the declines in these resources. The document identifies eight ecoregions in Oregon (see map on page 6):

- Coast Range
- Willamette Valley
- Klamath Mountains
- West Cascades
- East Cascades
- Columbia Plateau
- Blue Mountains and
- Basin and Range.

Also identified are these six key wildlife conservation issues:



- Water quality and quantity
- Changes in fire and flood frequency
- Institutional barriers
- Land use change
- Invasive species, and
- Barriers to fish and wildlife migration.

Much work by landowners, conservation organizations, agencies and watershed councils is already taking place on private lands in Oregon. However, for landowners who want to better understand wildlife needs, the Conservation Strategy is a resource to help make strategic decisions about where to concentrate limited time and resources. Addressing the attendees, who included landowners, non-profit groups, watershed council members and state agency representatives, a series of workshop speakers explained that monitoring for wildlife habitat does not have to be extremely complicated or time consuming - it can be as simple as conducting annual bird counts or taking creek temperatures.

Including wildlife considerations in your stewardship plan

Regular readers of this publication know that family forestland owners who have stewardship plans prepared for their property are a step ahead of the crowd. These plans enable long and short-range planning and better position a landowner to apply for cost-share or grant dollars; for example, ODF&W administers a group of habitat-related incentive programs that can provide direct funding or

Continued on next page

The heart of the Conservation Strategy is a blueprint for citizen voluntary action to address the long-term needs of Oregon's fish and wildlife.

The Conservation Strategy identifies eight different ecoregions in Oregon, each with similar climate and vegetation.

materials and assistance. The stewardship plan prepared by you or your consultant for your property can and should include both silvicultural operations (tree planting, thinning) and wildlife habitat management considerations and actions.

What are your project's goals?

Wildlife diversity and health, quality habitat, and providing favorable conditions for native plants and animals are all examples of the kinds of goals you may want to include in your plan.

"Whatever goal you set for yourself, just having one will better enable you to focus your monitoring efforts and make them more meaningful," says Jennifer Weikel, monitoring coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry. As an example, neotropical migratory birds such as Wilson's warblers and Swainson's thrush are closely associated with deciduous shrubs like cascara, vine maple and oceanspray. Monitoring the presence of these plants on your land can be as simple as annually walking the property to eyeball a percentage of shrubs, or using a more complex approach such as taking plots.

Other goals and actions might include removing non-native invasive plants from your property, conducting prescribed burns, or removing barriers to fish and wildlife migration.

You can track your wildlife habitat projects with a web-based registry

Speakers at the fall workshop included private landowner Tom Nygren, who stressed the importance of taking even simple monitoring measures. "Understand what's taking place on the landscape," said Nygren, adding that in many cases, wildlife risks and opportunities can be assessed using the "monitor by walking around" method. Other tips: take fish or bird counts at the same time each year, and "keep the big picture in mind" says Nygren, "your property is only one piece of the big puzzle."

The conference also included a presentation on a web-based registry that gives landowners a tool to track their conservation progress on a central web site. This web-based registry allows landowners to track their own data using a user-friendly, dynamic data entry form, and to access maps and existing GIS information layers as needed. It includes a dynamic mapping tool, search engine, user-friendly entry forms, and the ability to import and export wildlife data in map or tabular format. The Conservation Registry will include a free user account system with personalized web pages allowing users to manage and administer their own project data. The site will facilitate the creation of new partnerships, identify areas where conservation actions can generate strategic benefits, and help maximize efficiency in conservation efforts.

"It will be absolutely key, because it will help us track actions on the landscape," says ODF&W's Audrey Hatch. Hatch encourages landowners to download the simple animal reporting forms located at http://oregonstate.edu/ornhic/animal/index.html. The web-based registry "is especially helpful to ODF&W's landowner incentive program," says Hatch, "because it will allow people to report their activities and will help us make some valuable comparisons" about wildlife management and populations.

Hatch says the information acquired through the site, located at www.conservationregistry.org, will also be useful for compiling data needed for wildlife range and distribution maps.

For more information:

A variety of handouts on wildlife management are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. They include:

- Managing Deer on Small Woodlands
- Wildlife on White Oaks Woodlands
- Managing Small Woodlands for Cavity Nesting Birds
- Beaver, Muskrat and Nutria on Small Woodlands
- Woodland Fish and Wildlife

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Feral pigs in the forest? Like a bull in a china shop.

Feral swine (above) can do a tremendous amount of resource damage (above, right) while roaming and rooting through the forest.
photos by Bruce Coblentz, OSU

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

Imagine you're taking a leisurely hike through one of Oregon's lush forests with your family. You've picked up your pace a bit as dusk rapidly turns to nightfall. You can tell the kids are getting tired because the spring in their step has turned to an occasional inattentive stumble over a branch or stone, and their frequent outbursts of discovery have faded to "How much farther?" and then, lapses of silence. You diligently continue your trek. Then, just as you finish navigating a sharp corner of the trail, your eyes affix on an unexpected sight. You feel your muscles tighten in a jolt of surprise.

There, not more than a few feet away, stands an animal you're accustomed to seeing in a farmyard…a very large, soiled pig. You quickly realize this pig doesn't appear to be a "normal" pig. Its skittish reaction and defensive posture are signs this is a creature of the wild, and you've just had the misfortune of introducing yourself without an invite.

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As odd as this scenario might seem in Oregon, it could happen. It's already happening to our neighbors to the south – California is infested with feral swine (wild pigs/boars), as are more than 30 other states in the U.S. And, therein lies part of the problem. Although an invisible border separates our two states, that border surely isn't on the minds of feral pigs that just happen to wander into Oregon. Those who raise pigs for a living will be the first to tell you that it's hard enough to get pigs to respect the physical boundaries of well-constructed fencing. They'll stubbornly root into the ground and find some way—any way—to nuzzle through inconspicuous openings. And what they don't use in the way of persistence, they'll use in brainpower. Pigs are known to be pretty smart…smarter than dogs.

But, according to Jim Gores, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife invasive species coordinator, the rapid proliferation of feral pigs can't be attributed primarily to domestic pigs looking for a little adventure. Rather, he and others suspect they've gotten a little help along the way by some two-legged creatures. "In the South and the Midwest, some folks are herding up pigs into horse trailers and literally releasing them in the middle of the night to areas where they'd like to hunt them," said Gores.

By now, you might be wondering what an article about feral pigs is doing in a forestry magazine. Even though it may be possible that aggressive feral pigs could potentially create a human safety issue, that isn't the reason concerned folks from several agencies and organizations are at the table discussing measures to prevent a feral swine explosion in Oregon.

The Damage Done

Feral swine do a tremendous amount of natural resource damage and are serious carriers of disease. When a pig starts rooting through the soil to feed, the aftermath literally looks like a rototiller has gone through an area (see photo page 7). They have been known to do considerable crop damage and can easily take out a garden in one night.

Feral pigs threaten tree seedlings and can be as damaging as drought, if not more so. Imagine how their activities might impact reforestation efforts. John J. Mayer, a wildlife biologist from South Carolina who is an expert on feral swine, attests that feral hogs can rip up many acres of newly planted pine seedlings in a night, eating only the cambium-rich taproot and leaving the rest. Some of their favorite targets are wetland areas and cool streams. This is easy to understand, considering pigs don't have sweat glands. "They really like to tear things up, increasing erosion and affecting water quality," said Gores.

Bruce Coblentz, a wildlife ecology professor from Oregon State University, notes that wild or feral mammals can spread Giardia, a waterborne disease spread to humans who ingest water contaminated by animal feces. A study done by the University of California's School of Veterinary Medicine (1) showed that feral pigs in central and northern coastal California have been known to shed Giardia in their feces during the months of June to September; under the appropriate environmental conditions, pigs could very well contaminate nearby surface water.

Feral pigs like those shown at right are carriers of disease – including E. coli.

Recently feral pigs were also implicated in the spinach E. coli outbreak in California where over 204 people in 26 states and a Canadian province became ill and three people died. The bacteria were found in a creek, the gastrointestinal tract of a feral pig on a ranch, and in cattle feces. Health authorities speculate that feral pigs spread the E. coli from the ranch to the spinach field. Telling signs were tracks in the soil and torn-down fencing.

The diseases feral pigs most commonly harbor are the pseudo-rabies virus and swine brucellosis. Both diseases cause abortions, infertility and other reproductive symptoms in adult domestic sows. (Strangely enough, though, the diseases feral pigs carry don't seem to slow them down much.) And you don't have to be a pig farmer to be worried. Brucellosis, for example, can be a big headache for cattle ranchers who also see calves being aborted by the disease. Besides reducing the size of their herds, it affects the marketability of ranchers' livestock. Wild animals like elk aren't immune to the risk, either.

Besides direct contamination through animal feces, Coblentz says pigs can indirectly create other conditions conducive to the spread of disease. "Feral pigs in Hawaii have been known to create depressions in streambeds that hold stagnant water ripe for mosquito breeding. Besides being a nuisance, mosquitoes can be another serious carrier of disease."

And then there is the host of parasites feral pigs carry – scabies, hog lice, various ticks, tapeworms, liver flukes and the list goes on and on. No wonder there's an elite team of veterinarians from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine keeping tabs on their whereabouts, and on diseases like West Nile virus and avian flu that could affect not only domestic animals, but humans as well.

Finally, feral pigs can be devastating to native, sensitive and endangered species. "On a Georgia island, 80 percent of the sea turtle nests have been rooted out by feral swine," said Gores. "They (feral pigs) can push some important species over the edge. And an indirect result can then be increased federal government and land use restrictions or implications."

What to do

So, if we encounter feral pigs in Oregon, how should we get rid of them? That's the question facing state

Feral Pig proliferation . . . Continued from page 8

wildlife experts at the moment. According to Gores, at the very least people need to report sightings of feral pigs to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (see sidebar). In Oregon, feral pigs are considered a predator, just like coyotes. There aren't any bag limits and a landowner may shoot pigs on his private property without a license. If feral pigs are hunted on public land, then only an Oregon hunting license is required.

When you consider the dense understory and terrain of Oregon, it is often more cost-efficient to shoot feral pigs than to try to trap them. Feral pigs quickly learn they are being hunted and can readily make themselves scarce. Animal experts claim they can smell scents seven miles away and 25 feet underground, and they have been documented swimming ocean channels two miles wide with buoyant ease. (Consider that during the New Orleans hurricane, feral hogs didn't have any problem swimming to high ground.) "Experts say that it takes approximately 29 hours of work to trap a single hog," said Gores. "That appears to be a pretty expensive proposition."

Gores notes, however, that having the general public go out and start shooting feral pigs in Oregon may be a double-edged sword. Even though the best remedy is to react quickly to eradicate the problem, he notes he's reticent to fully encourage this because some may get a little too excited about the activity. "You just might find a few people enjoying it a bit too much and start thinking about releasing more into the wild," he said. "I would feel much better about only encouraging those hunters whose sole goal is to eradicate feral swine and protect wildlife. I don't want to see us get into the feral swine management business."

Coblentz also emphasizes the importance of reacting quickly. "An invasion (of feral pigs) is like an explosion sending out shock waves. We can't wait a couple years to ascertain the problem. We already know the end result. Too often people say we need to monitor or study a problem further before taking action. That's what we did with acid rain and the consequences became very clear."

Referring to pig proliferation as an "explosion" may seem a bit exaggerated to some, but as Gores emphasizes, "If you found ten pigs in an area, you'd have to remove seven of them every year just to maintain a consistent population. Some conditions allow pigs to have two litters a year. More and more we're hearing about little pockets of pigs around the state, especially in southwest Oregon and coastal areas. As these little pockets of pigs start to reproduce, we're going to have some serious problems."

(1) Prevalence of and Associated Risk Factors for Shedding Cryptosporidium parvum Oocysts and Giardia Cysts within Feral Pig Populations in California, Edward R. Atwill, Richard A. Sweitzer, Maria Das Gracas C. Pereira, Ian A. Gardner, Dirk Van Vuren, and Walter M. Boyce, Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, Tulare, California, July 15, 1997

According to Oregon law, four conditions must exist before pigs can be considered feral swine: the animals are free-roaming on public or private lands and aren't being domestically managed/ confined; a swine owner or one of their representatives hasn't notified a landowner, manager or occupant that they have had swine; the swine encountered don't appear to be tame or domesticated, and, the swine don't meet a swine owner's (or representative's) description of swine that may have escaped from their domestic management/confinement.

Please REPORT sightings of feral pigs in Oregon to:

JIM GORES
Invasive Species & Wildlife Integrity Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
503-947-6308

from the editor:

New Year, New Publication

Welcome to our very first issue of *Forests for Oregon*, the successor to our 76-year publication, *The Forest Log*.

First, our new name. *Forests for Oregon* seeks to describe our broad mission of working for healthy, sustainable forests on behalf of all Oregonians. Our new layout seeks to incorporate more photos (some in color), graphics and illustrations, more white space, and to more easily guide you – our readers – to the cover story, feature articles and topics that are of greatest interest to you. *The Forest Log* was a long-lived magazine important to the Department's culture, and as we evolve this new publication, we will continue to honor it.

What hasn't changed? You'll continue to see the State Forester's column on the inside cover, and upcoming events on the back ("Coming Up"), as well as feature stories that focus on individuals and their experience related to forestry, stories about our employees ("Forest Log: Around ODF"), and articles about fire, urban forestry and our state forests. We hope you'll welcome the improvements and the new look.

And, whether you're a student, a family forestland owner or an urbanite, we hope you'll find topics that interest you and that you enjoy the new magazine.

Cynthia Orlando
Editor, *Forests for Oregon*

State Forestland Timber Revenue

GENERATES ONE-YEAR TOTAL OF $68 MILLION

Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi keeps a close watch on state forestlands timber revenue, which makes up about a quarter of his county's budget.
photo by Jeff Foreman, ODF

In addition to generating timber revenue, these forestlands have hundreds of miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and off-highway vehicles.

State-owned forests are only 3 percent of Oregon's total forestland base, but it's a productive 3 percent.

From July 2005 to June 2006, timber revenue from state forestlands produced $58 million for counties, local schools and local taxing districts, and $9.6 million for the Common School Fund.

History – as in prior ownership – is the reason counties receive revenue from timber sales. The counties deeded the mostly cutover and burned land to the Board of Forestry about 50 or 60 years ago so it could be replanted and cared for by foresters.

Now that the forests – about 657,000 acres – have again begun producing harvestable timber, the counties – by agreement – are in line to receive a portion of this revenue.

On 124,000 acres of other state forestlands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry, all the timber revenue goes to the Common School Fund. History again dictates where this money goes – in this case, to support kindergarten through 12th grade public education statewide.

When Oregon became a state in 1859, the federal government granted pieces of land to the state to benefit schools. Owned by the State Land Board (governor, secretary of state and state treasurer), this land provides revenue to the Common School Fund.

So revenue from statehood forestlands helps fund schools statewide, and revenue from former county forestland benefits local jurisdictions where harvesting occurred. This forestland revenue – both types – lessens the burden on the state's general fund, freeing up those dollars for other services.

Over the past five years, $247 million was sent to counties and their taxing districts. And $66 million was deposited in the Common School Fund.

"Timber revenue has kept the wolf away from the door," said Tim Josi, Tillamook County commissioner. "We depend on it for everyday operations." Josi also chairs the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, a legally mandated committee of county commissioners that advises the governing Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry on matters related to state forestland managed by the department.

State timber revenue makes up a full quarter of Tillamook County's revenue picture, running a close second only to property taxes. Timber revenue also pays the bills for the state forestry program that manages these two types of state-owned forestlands. No tax dollars come to the program.

ODF's State Forests Program uses about a third of the timber revenue to manage state-owned forestland for economic, ecological and social benefits.

One social benefit is recreation. In addition to generating timber revenue, these forestlands have hundreds of miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and off-highway vehicles. There are campgrounds and places for fishing, hunting and picnicking – practically all paid for by timber revenue (from ODF's one-third share).

"I'm glad to see people using the forest," Commissioner Josi said. "I see it as a win-win – timber harvesting and recreation. There's no reason to shut down the forest." He said nature-based jobs, such as guiding on trails and rivers,

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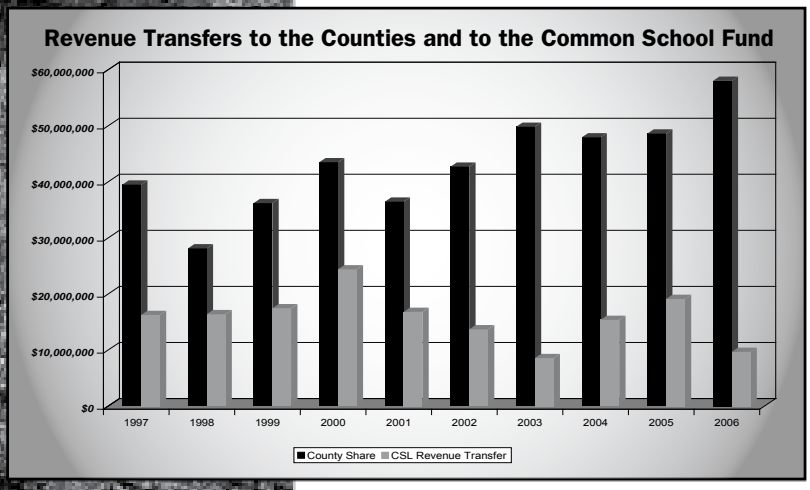

Return on asset value measures financial returns compared to the value of the land.

Board of Forestry Looks at Ways to Best Meet Range of Values

Are state forestlands meeting the range of economic, environmental and social values expected of them?

That's the question the Board of Forestry is currently considering. In particular, the board is eyeing the forest management plan for the two largest state forests – the Tillamook and Clatsop.

The board recently began developing performance measures to help evaluate whether the current forest management plans are meeting expectations for these state forests.

For example, the generation of $68 million a year is a large sum, but how significant is it relative to the inherent productivity of the land? Establishing a performance measure, such as "return on asset value," can help answer this question.

Return on asset value measures financial returns compared to the value of the land. Looking at the return on asset value on similar types of state forestlands in other Western states can help the board evaluate whether or not the level of revenues being generated in Oregon is at a desirable level.

Performance measures for environmental, social and economic values are currently under development. The combination of all three types of measures will be a key tool used by the board in assessing the total suite of "outputs" being achieved on state forestlands.

The adoption of performance measurers and a decision on how well current management of state forestlands meet the anticipated range of economic, environmental and social values is expected in 2007.

and service industry jobs in motels and restaurants serve to augment higher paying natural resources jobs, such as logging.

"Recreation and service industry jobs are important," Josi said. "But they don't replace the family-wage jobs found in natural resources."

The state's investment in these forestlands also extends to the environment. While timber harvesting is a primary consideration on state forests, it is carried out in a different way – to develop a range of habitat for native species.

Upwards of half of the forests are managed to look and feel like old-growth stands. Periodic thinning speeds up the growth of trees left after harvest; and it lets in sunlight for new trees and shrubs.

Well-planned clear-cuts mimic natural disturbances such as fire, disease or insect outbreaks, and provide open areas for foraging deer and elk. Areas along streams get special protection, and logs often are placed in streams to improve fish habitat.

And a healthy forest isn't just green trees. State forest standards call for some standing dead trees and decaying logs on the forest floor. These are signs of a healthy forest ecosystem with places for birds and animals to hunt for food and live.

"There is a cost to providing environmental and social values on state forestlands," said Lisa DeBruyckere, director of the State Forests Program. "Our goal is a triple bottom line that balances economic, environmental and social benefits over the long term.

"That doesn't mean everything is always equal," she added. "It just recognizes that these forest benefits are connected and each one is considered when management decisions are made."

Fifteen counties deeded forestland to the Oregon Board of Forestry. Tillamook County has the most of this kind of state forestland with more than 300,000 acres, followed by Clatsop County with about 150,000 acres. It drops off from there, with Washington County totaling 47,000 acres.

Five counties (Klamath, Lane, Linn, Marion and Lincoln) have state forestland ranging from 15,000 to 27,000 acres, and seven counties (Douglas, Benton, Clackamas, Coos, Columbia, Polk and Josephine) have 2,500 to 8,600 acres.

Each county's distribution of timber revenue is partially established by state law and by the number of schools and local taxing districts within the county.

In Tillamook County, the county retains 30 percent to fund essential public services. Local schools and the community college receive the most at 64 percent. Rural fire departments, port districts and other local taxing districts get the remainder – about 6 percent.

ODF's State Forests Program Revenue – 1997 through 2006

YEAR	COUNTY SHARE	CSL REVENUE TRANSFER
1997	$39,491,154	$16,235,528
1998	$28,108,940	$16,379,935
1999	$36,186,156	$17,439,454
2000	$43,486,541	$24,377,943
2001	$36,450,034	$16,787,101
2002	$42,690,822	$13,671,493
2003	$49,801,650	$ 8,550,000
2004	$47,918,084	$15,360,073
2005	$48,589,600	$19,092,180
2006	$57,997,327	$ 9,656,593
10-year Average	$43,072,031	$15,755,030

County Share *– Two-thirds of timber revenue generated from this state forestland goes to counties where harvest activity occurred. Counties originally deeded these lands to the state. About 657,000 acres.*

CSL *– Common School Land. Federal government granted these lands to Oregon at time of statehood. Revenue goes to Common School Fund for K-12 public education. About 124,000 acres.*

JOHN BORO

Keeping pace with change

Rod Nichols, Public Affairs Specialst

When John Boro stepped into the Fire Operations Manager position in 1991, much of the Department of Forestry's equipment inventory could have qualified for the Antique Roadshow.

"We were FEPPed into antiquity," he joked, recalling the large amount of aging Federal Excess Personal Property program gear in the department's fire cache.

John was quick to say that the FEPP program has been good to the agency and its rural fire department cooperators. But fighting fires in the present day with World War II-era equipment was not the way he wanted to manage fire cache operations.

The ramshackle mobile kitchens to feed firefighters didn't meet state health standards, and an ancient shower trailer resembled the makeshift unit in the 1970s movie, "M*A*S*H."

"Now we have two new kitchens, two new shower units and modern communication trailers," he said. "All of these components will serve ODF well for years to come."

Along with the upgrades in hardware, Boro worked to adapt the department's firefighting strategies to the evolving situation on the ground. Rapid expansion of Oregon's wildland-urban interface in the 1990s put more and more homes in the path of wildfires. This drew the department into a close relationship with the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

"2000-2001 was the beginning of active involvement with the State Fire Marshal's structural teams," he said. "We were having so much structural involvement on our large fires, that meetings between ODF and OSFM generated discussions on development of formal OSFM teams."

Boro worked with his sister department for better interagency coordination of its incident management teams, which are tasked with protecting lives, homes and other buildings during a large-scale fire threat. Eventually, he took the relationship a step further by integrating team training. ODF's annual spring Incident Management Team event, traditionally an in-service training for the department's teams, became a joint venture with the Fire Marshal's teams.

"We felt it was important to work out operational issues ahead of time, rather than meeting each other for the first time at a fire," he said. It has worked exceptionally well. "I see the day when we will have OSFM personnel on ODF teams and vice versa," he said.

When wildfire threatens a community, the State doesn't have to go it alone financially. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers partial reimbursement to both state and local agencies whenever it determines that an incident could become a major disaster. With more than 25 requests for disaster assistance submitted successfully to FEMA during his tenure, Boro takes pride in the close working relationship he has developed with the disaster-relief agency.

"This has literally meant millions and millions of dollars for the landowners in Oregon to help offset wildfire protection costs," he said.

An example is the Bland Mountain No. 2 Fire in 2004, which was human caused. FEMA was not surprised when the assistance request came in. "I was contacting them almost daily about the fire season danger level," he said, "and they were almost

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John Boro: Keeping pace with change . . . Continued from page 13

expecting a disaster-qualifying wildfire any day." The fast-moving wildfire burned several residences and other structures in southern Douglas County.

Mindful of the impracticality of each wildland fire agency maintaining a firefighting force adequate to handle a worst-case season, they cooperate closely, relying on their partner agencies for help in time of need. But a series of intense wildfire seasons across the Pacific Northwest in the 1990s revealed a flaw in the otherwise exemplary partnership among the state and Canadian provincial fire agencies of the region: Administrative bottlenecks were hampering the sharing of firefighting resources across jurisdictional boundaries.

With his counterparts in Oregon's neighboring states and provinces, Boro set out to streamline the process through changes in laws and treaties. Remarkably, a federal law from the post-Civil War era stood in their way: It required congressional approval before states could enter into compacts. "I told the lawyers that as far as I knew, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana were not planning to secede from the Union," he quipped.

In 1998, Congress passed the Northwest Compact Act, clearing away the legal and bureaucratic barriers. The Act enables a fire agency whose resources are overwhelmed to request and quickly receive fire crews, fire engines and aircraft from other Compact members. The signatory agencies anticipated invoking it only occasionally. But the Northwest Compact has been used nearly every year since its inception.

"In 2006, we brought in a lead plane from Alaska, and we brought in firefighters from the Yukon Territory," he said, "and in 2002, we had Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia, Washington and Montana all providing us firefighting resources."

Oregon has been on the giving end as well, sending specially trained fire management personnel to British Columbia in 2001 to assist with the huge fires raking the forests there. Under the authority of the Compact, the department has also provided personnel to Alaska, Washington and Idaho.

While the veteran operations manager respects ODF's firefighting past, he acknowledged that demographic changes have made the job even more demanding today. Urban sprawl has placed more and more homes at risk of wildfire, prompting fire managers to adjust their tactics. Rarely can a fire team incident commander make tactical decisions, such as where to construct a fire line, solely on the basis of protecting the forest resource. If homes lie in the path of a fire, for example, the line may need to be built in a different location and additional firefighters deployed to keep the flame front away from structures.

Well-known for his hunting and fishing recreational pursuits, Boro already has his newfound time in retirement booked.

"The late goose season starts in January, and Molly (his yellow lab) and I will be in the blind before light."

IN MEMORIAM: Jill Bowling

by Ann Hanus, Transportation Infrastructure Manager, OECDD

Former State Forest Program Manager Jill Bowling died in a tragic helicopter crash in Nepal on September 23, 2006, that took the lives of 24 people.

Bowling contributed immensely to forest conservation not only in Oregon but also worldwide. She served as the legislative committee administrator to the Joint Interim Committee on Forest Products Policy in 1989 and 1990, and as a member of the Governor's Federal Forest Planning Team advised Governor Roberts in the early 1990's.

Bowling was the State Forest Program Director for the Oregon Department of Forestry from 1992 to 1997. She effectively dealt with extremely challenging issues such as plummeting harvest levels due to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, by crafting the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Elliott State Forest. The HCP was the first of its kind approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife for state lands.

After leaving ODF, Bowling moved to Switzerland where she lived with her husband, Rodolphe Schlaepfer. She worked for the International Woodworkers Union and over the past two years, for the World Wildlife Fund.

The crash happened as her helicopter was returning from an inauguration ceremony for the Nepalese government to dedicate the conservation of wildlife and habitats surrounding Kangchenjunga to local people. Nepal lost its Minister of State for Forests and Soil Conservation, the Ministry Secretary, the Director General of National Parks and Wild Life Conservation, the Director General of Forests, and several of Nepal's most distinguished natural resources and overseas specialists who were champions for conservation. The Finnish embassy charge d'affaires and USAID deputy director along with other World Wildlife staff also perished.

Jill was highly respected not only for her sharp intelligence but also for her passion for forest conservation. She formed deep friendships with many at ODF, and will always be remembered for her many acts of kindness, her passion, and her wit.

Ann Hanus was Assistant State Forester, and worked with Jill Bowling during her employment at ODF.

JIM WALKER: Planning the future

From nearly his first day on the job, Boro's successor in the Fire Operations position, Jim Walker, displayed a planning bent.

"I developed a survey and sent it to all Forestry employees in early November," Walker said. "I basically asked, 'Where does the department want to be in fire operations three to five years from now?' This position needs to be fully engaged with the field and with the people it is serving."

It is no reach for Walker to connect with field personnel. As incident commander of one of the department's fire teams, he has seen action on several large wildfires in recent years, including the Wasson, Two Cabin and Middle Fork fires.

Coming to the job from the fire training and certification manager slot, he will manage the department's fire operations activities statewide. The duties include coordination of fire aviation resources as well as communication and dispatch functions in the Salem Coordination Center. He will also supervise administration of the fire cache, which provides logistical support to extended firefighting operations. Already a big job, its connections to other government agencies further increase the complexity.

"It is no longer ODF fighting ODF fires," he said. "We also partner with Oregon Emergency Management, Department of Corrections and the National Guard. We have a bigger world now with all of these relationships." Budget permitting, the new fire operations chief intends to continue the department's aggressive use of aircraft in firefighting.

Historically, the state's large forest landowners were a key player in wildland firefighting, but their role has diminished over time. Walker seeks to restore the working relationship between the department and the timber companies as well as smaller forest landowners.

"I'll be strengthening our single resource boss training, as I want to get these folks to a higher level," he said, referring to the national certification required of today's wildland firefighters.

The Forest Log over the years

In 2005, The Forest Log turned 75 - a huge milestone for a flagship publication that came to life as a typed, 6-page newsletter back in the early summer of 1930.

Publication frequency has varied somewhat over the years: sometimes, The Forest Log was published monthly, other times, bimonthly, and some years, fairly sporadically. It's now a quarterly publication, and has been published on a regular basis since 2001.

Readership initially included most agency employees - and while The Forest Log has always included news and notes about staff and the Department, a 2002 readership survey told us what we really needed to know: the majority of our readers are family forestland owners and members of the general public. Regular readers also include non-profit groups, forest industry, other public agencies, retirees, libraries and forestry schools.

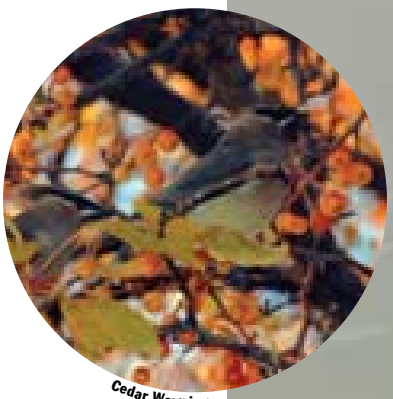
Readers have also helped us re-focus story contents towards topics that most peaked their interest: nuts and bolts forestry, forestry practices, insects and disease, fire, and service forestry, including cost-share incentives.

Change and evolution are a part of life, and as these sample Log covers will attest, the new look is a big departure from the past. Nonetheless, the intent remains steadfast: to inform Oregon citizens about activities, policies, fire and other forestry issues through well-researched articles, graphics and photos.

Both family forestland owners and urbanites flock to birding

Cynthia Orlando, Public Affairs Specialist

Bird watching—often called birding—is the largest spectator sport in America. Its popularity in Oregon is due in part to our abundant birdlife—some 460 different kinds of birds have been sighted here throughout the years.


Cedar Waxwing


Red-breasted Nuthatch


Chestnut-backed Chickadee


Dark-Eyed Junco

Purple Finch

Why so many birds?

One reason is the size of our fair state—more than 97,000 square miles, making Oregon the tenth largest in the country. Because most of our population live in cities or along the coast, there's plenty of room for birds and bird habitat.

Given the numbers of birds and the popularity of birding, it would be unusual if the Oregon Department of Forestry didn't have at least a few experienced birders amongst its employees. State Forests Program Director Lisa DeBruyckere, an active Audubon member, enjoys birding in Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico. Tom Mickel, another employee based out of ODF's Western Lane office in Veneta, has been to the United Kingdom, Hawaii, Central and South America, and even Australia in search of new bird sightings.

Birding is the kind of hobby that can provide both societal and research benefits. For example, birders across America regularly partner with scientists to help with both the annual Christmas Bird Count in December, and the Great Backyard Bird Count over Presidents' Day Weekend. These "citizen science" programs provide Audubon's science staff with invaluable information about birds and habitats that need the most help.

Whether you're a family forestland owner or an urban resident, birding with family or friends is a fun activity you might like to try. On these pages are just a few of the birds most commonly sighted in Oregon's backyards and forests. So take a look, maybe you'll see some you recognize from the past . . . or will encounter around your home or property in the future.

For more information:

http://www.audubon.org/bird/index.html

Cedar Waxwing ***(Bombycilla cedrorum)***
These gregarious birds live in flocks most of the year. Sleek, gray-to-brown bird with pointed crest, light below and a bandit-like black mask. Monogamous, they court by passing berries or other objects back and forth. *Photo by M. Kim Lewis*

Red-breasted Nuthatch ***(Sitta canadensis)***
Males are small gray-backed birds with a black cap and prominent eye line, and a rust-red breast and belly. Females have a gray cap and pale undersides. Inhabits mixed-wood and coniferous forests, preferring spruce-fir forests. Very active birds, able to descend head first on tree trunks and branches as they search nooks and crannies for tiny organisms overlooked by other birds; wedges hard-shelled nuts or seeds into a bark crevice, then hammers them with its bill. *Copyright Bruce Craig – www.birphotographique.com*

Chestnut-backed Chickadee ***(Poecile rufescens)***
The most colorful of the chickadees, the male has a dark brown cap and chin with white cheeks and sides of head, and a rich, warm chestnut color on its back and sides. Like other chickadee species, it spends its time clinging to branches upside down while looking for insects. Uses a cavity nest from two to 20 feet off the ground. *Photo courtesy Jeff Harding*

Dark-Eyed Junco ***(Junco hyemalis)***
This common little visitor has a round shape with dark eyes and a tan-to-brown chest, head and back. Sports a white belly and ivory-to-pink bill. Its tail appears as a white "V" in flight. Its a year-round bird in Oregon with several versions seen in winter. *Photo courtesy Ted Schroeder*

Purple Finch ***(Carpodacus purpureus)***
A year-round resident, common in non-residential areas, preferring open woods or edges of low- to middle-elevation conifer forests. It has been replaced in cities by the House Finch. Male purple finches have raspberry-red heads, cap, breast, back and rump. Females are heavily streaked brown and white birds with large white eyebrows. Its Latin name "purpureus" means "crimson" or other reddish color. *Copyright Bruce Craig – www.birphotographique.com*

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Wildlife rely on urban areas, too

MAPS MEAN NOTHING TO OUR FURRY AND FEATHERED FRIENDS

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

"Creating backyard habitat, or 'Naturescaping', provides important places for wildlife to feed, nest, and find shelter from the weather. Every Oregonian can contribute to the conservation of wildlife and habitats in their own backyard or neighborhood."

So says ODF&W's new *Conservation Strategy*, and in Oregon, birding and wildlife viewing are more popular than ever.

"The US Fish and Wildlife Service conducts a survey every five years and wildlife viewing is the fastest growing outdoor-related activity among Americans," says Bruce Dugger, Mace Professor of Watchable Wildlife at Oregon State University. Dugger says that while the number of hunters is declining, birding within a mile of a person's home continues to increase in popularity. And, Dugger sees an association between respect for wildlife and wildlife viewing. "Just the opportunity to view birds in one's neighborhood helps develop an ethic," says Dugger.

Got kids?

Watch Backyar Habitat weekda at 9:00 am or Animal Plane

Gardening the environmentally friendly way

Following are some sustainable gardening techniques that you can use to help conserve resources.

- Mulch helps keep water in the soil and available to the plant, rather than evaporating into the air.
- Eliminating lawns is helpful because they often require chemicals, and if you used a gas-powered lawnmower, the engines in these machines are often very polluting. Since lawns are often made of only a few types of plants, they don't provide much value for wildlife.
- Xeriscaping is a landscaping approach that minimizes outdoor water use while maintaining soil integrity by using native, drought-tolerant plants. Native plants are better for the environment than exotic plants, generally requiring less fertilizer and other additives, less water, and less effort in pest control; they also promote biodiversity.
- Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater for use during dry months. Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. You can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system.

From a small woodland owners perspective, "10 - 50 acre parcels of forested land contribute to the habitat found in the greater neighborhood," says Dugger. And, for private forestland parcels located in the middle of grass seed parcels, "research shows these parcels increase bird species diversity." Likewise, "properly applied timber management can help maintain regional wildlife diversity," says Dugger.

Whether you live in a small town or in an urban area, exactly what can you do around your home that can help make a positive difference for wildlife?

Animals need the basics: food, water, cover and places to raise young. Let's start with food. You might think the easiest way to provide wildlife with food is to put out a bird feeder, but there's actually an even easier way: plant native plants. Native plants are those that have evolved to live in your area. That means, once you have them settled in to your garden, they normally don't need much maintenance. A partial list of native plants can be found in the boxed shopping list on page 20.

Add a source of water - bird baths or ponds

Clean, fresh water is a welcome addition to any landscape, and birds and animals will seek it out at all times of year - including the winter months when many of their water sources freeze over. An easy way to provide water for wildlife is to put out a birdbath. Change the water at least every other day, and if you want to clean it with something, use a water and white vinegar solution or hot soapy water. Don't be surprised if the birdbath generates a flurry of activity in your yard.

For a water source that requires more up front work but less daily upkeep, you might consider a pond. Start with a simple design and gradually make it complex.

First, dig a hole. You don't have to dig the hole all at one time. Spray the hole with water after each digging session to loosen it up for next time. If you're using a pre-formed liner, place it on the ground first to mark the shape you'll dig. With a PVC or rubber fabric liner, make sure the liner can cover the hole and some distance from the edge. And try to make flat areas. A flat bottom offers secure footing as you finish shaping your pond. Dig your pond at least one foot and preferably 2-3 feet deep. Deeper ponds allow frogs to hibernate near the bottom during cold months.

Next, pad the hole with sand or old carpet to even out rough spots and protect the liner. If your pond site has roots and rocks, you'll need to make an extra effort to protect the liner.

Next, install the liner, using soil and rocks to cover the edges of the liner. Now you're ready to fill your new pond with water and water plants. If you want to attract frogs, leave fish out of your pond because they eat frog eggs and tadpoles. You might be able to have fish and frogs if you make lots of hiding places for frogs using leafy branches.

Cover and Places to Raise Young

Wildlife need a place to hide in order to feel safe in your yard. They also need long-term shelter to raise their young. The easiest way to provide cover is to use existing trees (dead or alive), and vegetation. You can also construct hiding places using logs, brush or rocks. Another popular way to provide cover is to put up a nesting box for birds to raise their young. You might want to contact your local Audubon chapter to find out what kinds of bird boxes they recommend.

The Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) is found in a variety of habitats but requires a cavity for nesting. Their populations have been making a combeack in Oregon's low land valleys, and bird boxes like this one have played a part in that trend.
photo courtesy USDA Forest Service

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Wildlife rely on urban areas, too . . . Continued from page 19

Also, in your neighborhood and around your home, try to incorporate habitat features and functions that are built right into the environment. Examples include discouraging the spread of invasive plants, creating rooftop gardens and nests, and providing backyard bird boxes and road crossings for wildlife. Also, don't dump wastes into storm drains, and discourage others from doing so.

How to get started

For more information about watchable wildlife - including opportunities to submit information about bird or wildlife sightings, and links to wildlife viewing opportunities in Oregon, please visit:
http://fw.oregonstate.edu/mace/index.htm
http://www.nwf.org/backyard
http://www.nwf.org

From its home inside this tree cavity, a Red-breasted nuthatch *(sitta canadensis)* in Eastern Oregon keeps a watch for food delivery from its mate. "Nuthatch" comes from the Middle English moniker nuthak, referring to the bird's habit of wedging seeds into crevices to crack them open.
photo courtesy Ted Schroeder

Shopping list:

THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF PLANTS NATIVE TO OREGON.

Acer circinatum . . . . . Vine Maple
Alnus rubra . . . . . Red Alder
Amelanchier alnifolia . . . . . Serviceberry
Arbutus menziesii . . . . . Pacific Madrone
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus . . . . . Blueblossom
Cornus nuttallii . . . . . Pacific Dogwood
Gaultheria shallon . . . . . Salal
Holodiscus discolor . . . . . Ocean Spray
Lonicera involucrata . . . . . Twinberry
Physocarpus capitatus . . . . . Ninebark
Pinus ponderosa . . . . . Ponderosa Pine
Quercus garryana . . . . . Oregon White Oak
Rhamnus purshiana . . . . . Cascara
Ribes sanguineum . . . . . Red-flowering Currant
Rosa nutkana . . . . . Nootka Rose
Rubus parviflorus . . . . . Thimbleberry
Rubus spectabilis . . . . . Salmonberry
Salix sitchensis . . . . . Sitka Willow
Symphoricarpos albus . . . . . Snowberry
Taxus brevifolia . . . . . Western Yew
Vaccinium ovatum . . . . . Evergreen Huckleberry

Perennials include:

Achillea millefolium . . . . . Yarrow
Aquilegia formosa . . . . . Red Columbine
Asclepias speciosa . . . . . Milkweed
Aster subspicatus . . . . . Douglas Aster
Calochortus tolmiei . . . . . Mariposa Lily
Camassia leichtlinii . . . . . Leichtlin's Camas
Dicentra formosa . . . . . Bleeding Heart
Erthyronium oreganum . . . . Fawn Lily
Fragaria vesca . . . . . Woodland Strawberry
Geranium oreganum . . . . . Western Geranium
Iris douglasiana . . . . . Douglas Iris
Iris tenax . . . . . Oregon Iris
Lilium columbianum . . . . . Tiger Lily
Mimulus cardinalis . . . . . Red Monkey Flower
Sidalcea campestris . . . . . Meadow Checker-mallow
Sidalcea virgata . . . . . Rose Checker-mallow
Tellima grandiflora . . . . . Fringecup

Grasses:

Deschampsia cespitosa . . . . Tufted Hairgrass
Festuca idahoensis var. roemeri . . . . . Roemer's Fescue

Ferns:

Athyrium filix-femina . . . . . Lady Fern
Polystichium munitum . . . . . Sword Fern

A Life in Forestry

TIM KEITH REFLECTS ON HIS CAREER, THE 2006 FIRE SEASON, AND HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT AS EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR

Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

Tim Keith began his career with ODF as a trainee night dispatcher in Grants Pass during the summer of 1970. After graduating with a forestry degree from Oregon State University in 1974, he worked in state forests management in Coos Bay, as assistant nursery manager in Elkton, as a Unit Forester in John Day, and as Assistant to the Area Director for the Eastern Oregon Area. He was then District Forester in Astoria and Medford, Stewardship Forester in Fossil, and District Forester in Prineville and La Grande. In 2004, he became Assistant State Forester for Protection, retiring from that position during the summer of 2006.

Career Reflections

Forest Log [FL]: Besides all of your career experience in fire positions, you were also very involved in fire teams.

Tim Keith [TK]: Yes. I ended up being an Incident Commander (IC) for all three fire teams.

I was IC on Team 3 in 1982 and 1983, and then moved off the team while I was District Forester in Southwest Oregon. When I moved to Fossil, I became IC for Team 2. In 1994, we were dispatched to the Spence Fire – the first project fire in the Pacific Northwest after the Storm King Mountain tragedy which was so connected with Oregon because so many members of the Prineville crew lost their lives. We had some inquiries because of our activity and firefighting, and comparing Storm King Mountain. There were really no comparisons, but we were under the magnifying glass that time.

I moved off that team when I became District Forester in Central Oregon, and assumed command of Team 1 after becoming District Forester in Northeast Oregon. While I was IC of that team, we were dispatched to several fires, including Sheldon Ridge during the severe fire season of 2002.

Sheldon Ridge was the most notable and rewarding fire experience of my career. It started southwest of The Dalles and a strong west wind blew it to the outskirts of that community. Our team was the third team out that summer and there were basically no resources left for us. We worked very closely with the State Fire Marshal's

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A Life in Forestry . . . Continued from page 21

Office and law enforcement agencies in the area, and I was really proud of what we accomplished there. I was also amazed by all of the community support that we received.

FL: What do you think are your most significant career accomplishments?

"The rewards of my career have just been phenomenal. I have really enjoyed it."

TK: First, I left every district I managed in good financial shape –providing real value to the customer. Second, managing a fire program cost-effectively that provided a return for the landowner. Third, mentoring young people that are now in various leadership positions in the agency.

FL: What have you enjoyed the most?

TK: When we were able to work closely with others – the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, landowners – and be successful. Also, hiring the right people and having them succeed. There is no better feeling than that.

FL: What are you and Connie planning to do now?

TK: We wanted to live in Fossil when we retired – to be near family. We have nieces and nephews to follow in sports and other activities, and we love doing that. Our daughter is a junior at Trinity College and will be spending some time this school year in France, so we will meet her over there, and spend some time in Paris and the countryside in France, and then go to Italy and England – a major vacation for all of us that we are really looking forward to.

On the 2006 Fire Season

FL: Does anything stand out for you about this fire season?

TK: One thing is that it doesn't matter if we have a wet winter or not; in the end, it is all about the weather you endure during the season. We had record-breaking winter rain and then this state just basically went into a bake-oven. We had five dry lightning episodes this summer from mid-July to the first week in September – the average is two or three. We set new records around the state for dryness – and that's on top of new records that were set in 2005. I think this is a dangerous trend that people need to pay attention to.

There are three other things that stand out for me this year: the extremely effective relationships with our cooperators – the federal agencies and the landowners; the use of severity resources and the mobilization of the National Guard; and the amazing job that the districts did in aggressive initial attack.

We worked very hard with our partners this season and had huge successes there. One example was on the Middle Fork Fire where a logging helicopter broke away from their regular work to come help fight that fire – something that would not have happened without our close working partnerships with the landowner community.

The U.S. Forest Service worked very closely with us and responded to our concerns. They increased resources when needed, they kept a number of fires that were big threats off of our protection, fought fire where it made the most sense to fight it, and treated us very fairly in the cost-sharing of fire resources.

The Governor mobilized the National Guard early and that was huge. There were not enough helicopters to go around and we would have been in trouble without the National Guard. We used them heavily – on Black Crater, Puzzle, Lightning Complex, Shake Table, Lake George. They were essentially deployed from the middle of July through the end of August – an incredibly long time and something that was unique to Oregon.

Our severity resources were also critical for us. The airtanker based in Redmond was very busy and the airtanker at Medford came to eastern Oregon several times. There were many times when there no other air tankers operating in Oregon, so the two that we had were very important. Severity funds also made it possible for us to hold on to helicopters for the season that otherwise would not have been available. Finally, they were also used to move-up engines. We were able to move all of these firefighting resources where they were needed throughout the season. The investment that the legislature made in severity funding was very important.

The other thing to note is the great job the districts did fighting fire throughout the state. At one point, the John Day Unit had 70 lightning fires from one storm – the highest number ever. There were also a lot of lightning fire starts in the South Cascade District with that early complex. We had above-average fire starts, but below-average acres burned.

On the Emergency Fire Fund Committee

FL: So, you thought you would like to keep involved after your official retirement by becoming administrator of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee?

TK: I didn't want to completely disassociate myself from the fire business and I was fortunate enough to be selected for that position. I am really excited about it.

I believe I bring three things to the job. First, my fire experience – as an Incident Commander and District Forester. Next, strong administrative experience as Assistant State Forester overseeing the whole fire program and system. And, last, I understand the financial aspects – the whole funding structure of firefighting in this state.

FL: Last thoughts?

TK: When I graduated from high school, I planned to study civil engineering. After I took that first trainee position in Grants Pass, I decided I really liked that work, so I changed my major and the rest is history. It was gratifying at the end of a long career that was mainly in fire to actually be in charge of the program statewide. The rewards of my career have just been phenomenal. I have really enjoyed it.

Bob and Margaret Kintigh
photo by Mike Barsotti, ODF

Oregonians chosen to advocate good works of tree farmers nationwide

KINTIGH EARNS 2006 TREE FARMER TITLE

Arlene Whalen,
ODF Public Affairs Specialist

Recently, folks from around the U.S. were reminded that Oregon is renowned for its trees and the people who grow them. At a National Tree Farm System convention in Mobile, Alabama, Bob Kintigh, an Oregon tree farmer from Springfield, learned that he had been named the *2006 National Tree Farmer of the Year.*

Bob and his wife Margaret, who own Mountain Home Ranch with their children, said they were delighted to learn of their good fortune. "It is a great honor to be chosen from among 74,000 good tree farmers," said Bob.

The Kintighs have worked with just about every aspect of forestry—from collecting and planting seeds to managing forests that started from small seedlings and grew to mature trees. "I've logged a couple million feet of timber and even worked in primary and secondary (wood) manufacturing," said Bob.

Their tree farm consists of 249 acres of forestland - plus considerable Christmas tree acreage - which they've intensively managed since 1957. The family also owns and manages a seedling nursery that produces approximately two million seedlings every year. "Ours is truly a 'working' farm that has provided the major source of our family's income for 45 years," says Bob. "But we ensure that we're maximizing wood fiber production without damaging soils, wildlife habitat or water resources."

No doubt, the Kintighs deserve the title for managing their forests responsibly and sustainably as certified tree farmers. However, their contributions don't stop there. As an Oregon State Senator for three terms, Bob focused attention on forestry issues, landowner rights and sound forest and agricultural management practices. As a member of the Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement, he was also involved with salmon restoration issues. Bob has also been active with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon Society of American Forestry and serves on the Oregon Forest Resources Institute Board.

Beyond Bob's influence in the Legislature and participation in forestry organizations, the Kintighs provide opportunities for professionals, school and civic groups, and even foreigners, to tour their tree farm and learn more about forestry. "We've had over 40 tours since 1970," said Bob, "with 22 of them being during the last five years."

Prior to receiving the national title, the Kintighs earned Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year and the Western U.S. Regional Tree Farmer of the Year awards.

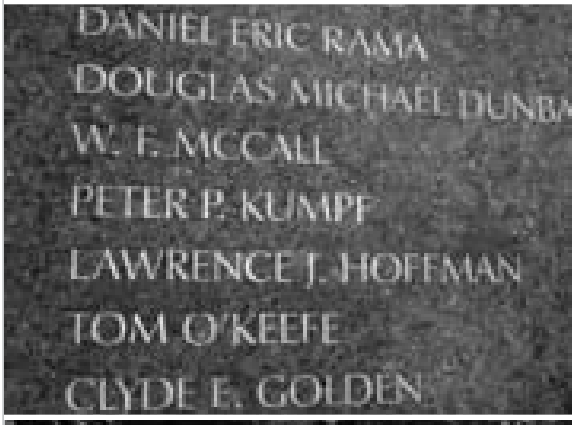
Oregon Fallen Firefighter Memorial

DEDICATED TO HONOR STRUCTURAL AND WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

On Saturday, September 9, a new memorial was dedicated to honor structural and wildland firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. The memorial is on the grounds of the newly constructed Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. It is a polished granite wall, on which names of 138 fallen Oregon firefighters from as far back as 1882 are inscribed. The granite wall also includes a Maltese Cross – the symbol of protection and badge of honor for fire service – and a black granite path inscribed "In the Line of Duty" travels across the front of the wall. The memorial is illuminated at night.

photos by Ann Walker, ODF



Left: The officials and family members pause to read the names of the many individuals honored at the memorial.

"Today we are honored to come together to dedicate a new state memorial that honors our fallen firefighters and recognizes the unselfish acts of courage that these men and women have made while protecting us . . . ."

Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski, September 9, 2006

Representatives of the three wildland firefighting agencies in Oregon – the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the U. S. Forest Service, and the U. S. Bureau of Land Management – and structural firefighting organizations were present on the stage for the ceremony. Approximately 500 people attended, including firefighter family members and friends, and structural, wildland, career, volunteer, public sector and private sector firefighters.

"The ceremony was an especially fitting tribute to all of Oregon's firefighters," said ODF Associate State Forester Clark Seely, who represented the department for the ceremony. "This is the perfect place for this memorial to be located – on the grounds of this new facility that represents the best in the future training and development of Oregon's firefighters and public safety officers."

Oregon State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr, Deputy Chief Rob Dahl of the Boring Fire District, and Gov. Theodore Kulongoski spoke at the ceremony. In his remarks, the governor shared information about some of the individuals whose names are inscribed on the memorial wall, including Craig Mackey, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Dick Black, Weyerhaeuser, who were killed in a 2003 helicopter accident while doing reconnaissance to locate water supplies for future fire suppression.

As part of the ceremony, the names of the fallen firefighters were read by Bill Lafferty, ODF Protection from Fire Program Director, Tina Greiner, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, and Chief John Fowler, Pendleton Fire Department. "This memorial has been planned for some time," said Lafferty. "I was pleased to be present now that it has been completed and honored to participate in reading the names of these very special individuals."

Ann Walker, ODF National Fire Plan Coordinator, also was present. "Attending the Fire Service Memorial ceremony touched my heart," said Ann. "It was truly inspiring to see federal, state, county and local fire service, as well as the governor of Oregon, come together to honor our fallen firefighters. Having had a personal working relationship with a fallen firefighter, Larry Hoffman, it gave me great pride to see his name engraved on the granite wall honoring Oregon's firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage all department personnel to view this memorial and support the Wildland Firefighters Foundation." Larry Hoffman, Protection Unit Forester for ODF's unit office in The Dalles, died in the summer of 2004 during a physical conditioning exercise for his firefighting responsibilities with the department.

Additional plans for the memorial include a sculpture, a marble overlook, and a fountain in a nearby pond. A tax-deductible account to support future additions and enhancements, and to assist with the ongoing costs of the memorial, has been established by the Oregon Fire Chiefs' Foundation. Information about this account and plans for the memorial can be found at www.oregon.gov/DPSST/FC/FallenFireFighterMemorial.shtml.

More information about the Wildland Firefighters Foundation can be found at www.wffoundation.org.

Annual ceremonies at the memorial are planned for September 9 each year. You may visit the new memorial at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, 4190 Aumsville Highway, Salem.

Douglas-fir

PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII

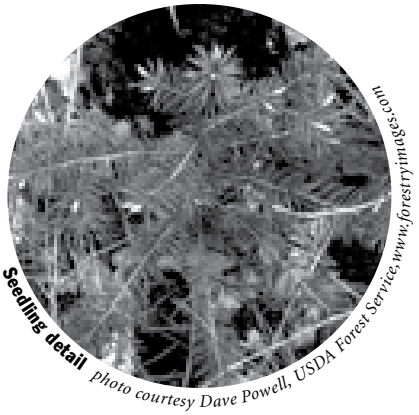
Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

It is Oregon's state tree and best-known conifer. It ranges west of the Cascade Mountains – although it can be found east of those mountains growing among other kinds of trees. It is not a "true fir" – it has the honor of its own genus and actually belongs to the pine family.

from the editor:

"Oregon's Native Trees" is a new feature in *Forests for Oregon*. If you would like to suggest a tree to feature in upcoming issues, just let us know.

Cone detail *photo by Jeri Chase, ODF*



Seedling detail *photo courtesy Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.com*

Branch detail *photo by Jeri Chase, ODF*

Bark detail *photo courtesy Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.com*

The dense wood is very stiff and durable, making it one of the most important and valuable timber trees in the world.

photo courtesy Bill Cook, Michigan State University, www.forestryimages.com

A young forest full of this tree's new-green growth symbolizes renewal. The most ambitious re-planting project ever undertaken produced a "sea of green" – more than 72 million of this tree's seedlings planted by Oregonians over 50 years ago creating the Tillamook State Forest. An older forest of these trees seems peaceful – although people unaccustomed to them may describe them as spooky and claustrophobic. And a forest of these trees in all ages seems vibrant and exciting, and is full of life – from the Douglas Squirrel to the legendary Sasquatch.

Our state was built with this tree –families were nurtured by it for generations. Many still are. It is crucial to our economy. In 2004, over 417 million board feet of this softwood was harvested in western Oregon, providing jobs and every-day products we all use, including the highest quality lumber – which Oregon leads the country in producing. It is also the world's most popular Christmas tree – and Oregon's nurseries lead the nation in Christmas tree production.

The dense wood is stiff and durable, rumored to be stronger than cement. It grows straight and tall – taller than 250 feet and larger than 10 feet in diameter. The "Brummet Fir" state champion grows in southern Oregon – 329 feet tall and 36 feet in circumference.

Native Americans lived among these trees for centuries and used the wood for fuel and to build homes, boiled the bark to heal infections, and made tea from the new growth. Many of Oregon's tribes now manage their own forestlands, and the revenues enable them to offer much-needed services to their people.

Oregon's other state forests are also filled with these trees – the Clatsop, Santiam, Elliott – even some in the southwest corner of the Sun Pass. Forests of these trees are some of the most popular recreation areas in the state.

It is the **Douglas-fir**, and there is no other tree like it. Visit one of Oregon's forests today and find out why.

news briefs

Oregon's State Forester calls for national policy for sustainable forests

Conversion of forestland to other uses. Severe forest health problems on federal lands. Diminishing technical assistance for non-industrial landowners.

State Forester Marvin Brown cites these and other problems in a recent piece in the Journal of Forestry, as part of his call for a national policy commitment to sustainable forests. The Society of American Foresters (SAF) publishes the journal. Brown was SAF's national president in 2006.

He has used his tenure press for a unified national policy on forests, just as the country has federal policies on energy, agriculture and other issues.

Brown notes an array of challenges to sustainable forestry in the United States. For instance:

- Development pressures, tax policies and other factors drive fragmentation and conversion of private forestland.
- National-level policy and budget decisions have constrained management on federal lands, with results that include over-stocked forests vulnerable to unusually severe fires. Federal acreage burned in 2006 was the highest in 45 years, and the year's federal firefighting costs were the highest ever.
- The U.S. has the world's highest per-capita demand for wood and paper – demand often met by harvesting in other countries, with social and biological consequences that would never be accepted here.

Ironically, Brown notes, our forests have passionate champions. "What we do not have," he writes, "is a unified goal making sustainable forests a public policy commitment in our country."

The nation's 2005 Energy Policy Act strives to ensure jobs for the future with secure, affordable, reliable energy. The following 547 pages describe how to achieve this goal.

"What if there was a National Sustainable Forests Policy Act?" he suggests. "The act could say that it is the goal of the United States to secure sustainable forests for present and future generations. And then what if, in detail, it spelled out just how this commitment will be achieved?"

An important element would be the reality that forests' economic, environmental and social values are interdependent, instead of being viewed as in conflict.

Brown acknowledges that establishing such a policy is ambitious, but writes that needed discussions are already underway. The eventual result, he says, could be a national commitment that would "define government's role in securing sustainable forests for our nation."

Got trees to prune?

Just a reminder: January is a good month to prune trees that need pruning.
Here are some tips to get you started.

- As a general guide, you should prune first for safety reasons and next, for the health of the tree.
- Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch.
- Don't cut branches flush to the trunk - it will rob the tree of natural chemicals used to close the wound.
- Never remove more than one-quarter of a tree's crown in a season.
- Many people mistakenly "top" trees because they grow into or close to utility wires; however, arborists know that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of your trees, so never cut main branches back to stubs.
- Much of a tree's natural beauty is found in its crown, so remember: the appearance of a properly pruned tree is like a good haircut - hardly noticeable at first glance.
- If the job is too big for you to handle safely, check the web or yellow pages for a certified arborist.

For more information:
www.arborday.org
www.isa-arbor.com
www.oregoncommunitytrees.org

Climate Change Conference slated for February

The Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) is co-sponsoring a day-and-a-half conference in Corvallis that will examine the many contributions forests and wood products make to sequester the atmospheric carbon that plays a significant role in global climate.

It will also explore:

- Policies that ensure forests remain in forest use, so their contributions to clean air and a livable climate are not diminished;
- The role products made from wood play in sequestering carbon, especially in contrast to fossil fuel-intensive products;
- The potential for global climate change to increase susceptibility of forests to insects, disease and uncharacteristic fire;
- Reducing the vulnerability of forests to uncharacteristic fires that put large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

OFRI is co-sponsoring the February 13th conference with Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

For more information:
Mike Cloughesy
971-673-2955.

Board of Forestry addressing invasive species

Brad Knotts, Special Contributor

Invasive species are plants and animals that invade new areas and cause environmental or economic damage, or that damage human health. Invading species, also called invasive species, are damaging Oregon's forestlands and forest resources. Invaders can be escapees from ornamental plantings in yards, or they can be unseen hitchhikers that travel thousands of miles on airplanes or motor vehicles, in ship ballast, or in shipped products or shipping materials. According to one estimate, control costs and losses related to invasive species cost the U.S. economy $137 billion per year. Serious environmental damage also results.

An Invasive Disease: White pine blister rust is an invasive disease accidentally introduced into the United States in about 1900, that has since killed most of our Oregon white pine trees. Once in the stem of a pine tree, the rust kills the tree; there is no treatment.

An Invasive Plant: A common example of an invasive plant is Scotch broom. This plant was introduced into the United States from Europe and planted as an ornamental because of its showy, yellow flowers; however, its beauty is overshadowed by the damage it does as it spreads across the United States, forming dense fields that exclude other plant species, including shrubs, young trees, and smaller plants. Where Scotch broom has taken over, forest landowners have a difficult time establishing young trees, and because native plants are displaced, wildlife habitat and food sources are reduced.

Comments from forest landowners and others in the Board of Forestry's 2006 Issue Scan process showed that damage from invasive species is a major concern on forestland. At its November 2006 meeting, the Board directed the Department to develop a work plan covering the issue of invasive species on Oregon's forestlands. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the board and department have an established program to prevent and control forest insects and diseases. The board's new work plan will include ways to develop that sort of a program for nonnative weeds and other invaders.

The board will probably begin reviewing the department's work in mid-2007, with opportunities for public input.

Plan Specifics: Some of the things the work plan could contain:

- Recognition that invasive species problems must be managed across land uses, ownerships, and agency jurisdictions
- A strategic plan for managing invasive species on forestland
- Options to help fund emergency control programs of serious, new invasions
- Direction to work more closely with other agencies, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Information on identification, prevention, and control of invasive species.

For more information:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Division http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/index.shtml
- Oregon Invasive Species Council (report invaders at **1-866-INVADER**) http://www.oregon.gov/OISC/index.shtml
- National Invasive Species Information Page http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml
- The Nature Conservancy Invasive Species Initiative http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/index.html

mark your calendar

APRIL 27 & 28, 2007

Your neighbors are disappearing.

At this very moment, the view from your back yard may be changing . . .

Family forestlands in Oregon, often appreciated for adding green space and respite from over-development and a seemingly hectic way of life, are being threatened by a fate that is now very prevalent in other areas of the country . . . conversion to other uses. Those who own these lands – your neighbors – are wrestling to find ways to hold onto what they have cherished for generations.

Sadly, many forestland owners are finding they have to let go . . . for any number of complicated reasons.

Much is at stake . . . clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, economically thriving communities and our overall quality of life. **If you value Oregon's forests,** join us **April 27 and 28** at the Oregon Families and Forestlands symposium, as we work collaboratively to address this disturbing trend.

Chart the Future of Oregon's Family Forests

April 27 & 28, 2007 • Oregon State University
Presented by the Committee for Family Forestlands and the Oregon Board of Forestry

Watch for upcoming details on the ODF or Oregon Forest Resources Institute websites: **egov.oregon.gov/ODF or oregonforests.org**

Prior to the symposium, a series of roundtables will be held during 2007 in several Oregon locations.

The roundtables will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to exchange dialogue in an informal setting about key issues affecting family forestlands and their owners. Information from the roundtables will help guide symposium content.

Roundtable Dates/Locations:

2/23 Central Point
2/27 World Forestry Center, Portland
2/28 Eugene
3/2 Eugene
3/7 La Grande
3/8 John Day
3/9 Bend

Birding . . . Continued from page 17

White-breasted nuthatch ***(Sitta carolinensis)***
Larger than the red-breasted nuthatch, this bird is slate gray with a white face and belly, black cap and nape, and a long thin bill. Its characteristic springtime call is a "whi-whi-whi-whi" in February and March. *Photo courtesy Ted Schroeder*

Rufous hummingbird ***(Selasphorus rufus)***
Ranging as far north as Alaska, the rufous are the most northerly of hummingbirds. Males have a rusty back and orange red sides, while females are green above, white below.
Photo courtesy Maitreya

Steller's jay ***(Cyanocitta stelleri)***
A common resident of conifer forests that's also often found in suburban yards; distinctive for its dark blue wings, tail and belly, black head, and pointed black crest. Thought to mate for life, it usually breeds within 10 miles from place of birth.
Copyright Bruce Craig – www.birdphotographiqe.com

Great horned owl ***(Bubo virginianus)***
The largest common NW owl, these birds are dark brown with a large head, yellow eyes and fluffy ear tufts. Habitat: forests and riverine woodlands. *Photo courtesy Jeff Harding*

Winter Wren ***(Troglodytes troglodytes)***
An active ground feeder that prefers moist woods, especially along stream banks. Dark reddish brown overall with faint barring above and a short, stubby tail.
Photo courtesy Gary Woods / woodshots.com

Evening Grosbeak ***(Coccothraustes vespertinus)***
One of the largest finches with an unusually large bill it uses for cracking seeds, its main food source. These striking birds have a stocky body with a yellow belly and rump, dirty-yellow head, and black-and-white wings and tail. The females are similar to the males with softer colors and gray head and throat. *Photo courtesy Dave Herr (USDA Forest Service)*

Western Tanager ***(Piranga ludoviciana)***
These summer visitors inhabit coniferous mixed forests, searching for insects high up in the tree tops. Males are black and yellow with an orange red head; females have yellow gray plumage. *Copyright Bruce Craig – www.birdphotographiqe.com*

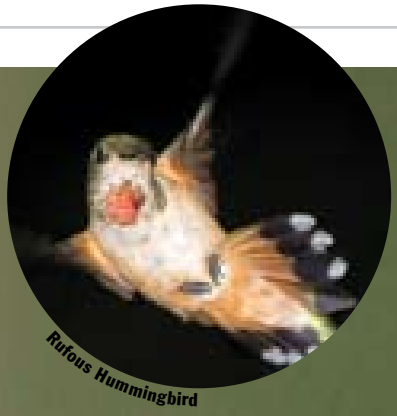
Turkey vulture ***(Cathartes aura)***
These common birds are easy to spot because of their large wingspan and small red heads. Found in lowland forests and grasslands. *Copyright Bruce Craig – www.birdphotographiqe.com*

Belted Kingfisher ***(Ceryle alcyon)***
Larger than a Western Scrub-Jay, these chunky, compact birds are easy to spot perched on wires or branches near rivers and bodies of water, or diving for fish. A blue bird with a large head, ragged crest, white belly and broad blue gray breastband, it has a loud call while in flight.
Photo courtesy www.vernondipietrophotographer.com

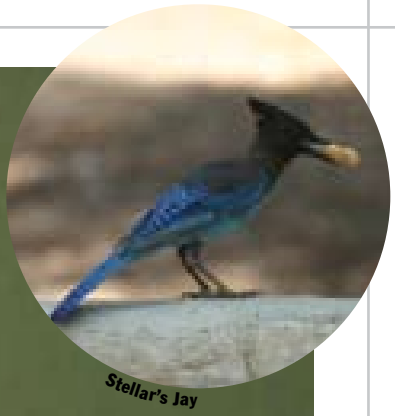
Ruby-crowned Kinglet ***(Regulus calendula)***
A green-to-gray bird, one of the smallest in the state, with two white wing bars, a white eye ring and a hidden ruby-colored crown. Commonly seen during spring and autumn migrations.
Photo courtesy Dave Herr (USDA Forest Service)

Hairy woodpecker ***(Picoides villosus)***
This nine-inch black-and-white woodpecker has a white belly, white stripe down its back and black wings with rows of white spots. Other distinctive features are its long bill and in males, a red mark on the back of the head. These foragers feed on larva and adult beetles, ants, and other insects from tree trunks, downed logs, and also, in the logging debris of recent clearcuts. *Photo courtesy Scott Carpenter*

White-breasted Nuthatch



Rufous Hummingbird



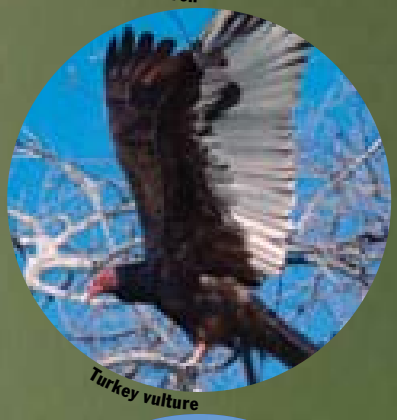
Stellar's Jay

Great horned owl

Winter Wren

Evening Grosbeak

Western Tanager



Turkey vulture

Belted Kingfisher

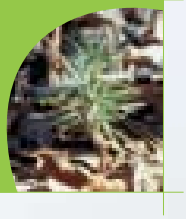
Mountain chickadee
(Poecile gambeli)
Common in mountainous parts of Oregon, preferring old growth spruce, fir and lodgepole pine forest. Feeds on conifer seeds and insects. Is distinguished from the black-capped chickadee by its distinctive white eyebrow.

Photo courtesy Ted Schroeder

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Hairy woodpecker

coming up



JAN. 3
8:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Board of Forestry Meeting
Salem Hdqtrs, Tillamook Room
503-945-7210 for info

FEB 13 AND 14
13th, 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.
14th, 8:00 – 12:00 a.m.
Forests, Carbon and Climate Change
OSU Alumni Center, Corvallis
971-673-2955 for info

FEB 14 AND 15
8:00 – 5:00 p.m.
High Desert
Green Industry Conference
Redmond Expo Center

MARCH 7
8:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Board of Forestry Meeting
Salem Hdqtrs, Tillamook Room
503-945-7210 for info

APRIL 27 AND 28
27th, 8:00 – 4:00 p.m.
28th, 7:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Symposium: The Future of Oregon's Family Forests
OSU, Corvallis
541-737-9300 for info

Forests FOR OREGON

next issue:

Keeping working forests working:
Forests and Open Space in Oregon

Forests for Oregon
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310