

Forests

FOR OREGON

MAGAZINE OF THE OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

WINTER 2008

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New Year!*

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ALSO: Keynote speaker explains why
today's kids vitally need time outdoors.



State Forester
Marvin Brown

FROM THE State Forester

Dear Readers,

There's lots of interesting stories in here, but one that covers a personal highlight of mine was getting to hear Richard Louv speak at the National Society of American Foresters Convention in Portland this past October.

Mr. Louv makes a compelling case for connecting children with nature. He points out numerous examples of how interaction with nature is important in developing learning skills, social skills and creativity. I read his book several months beforehand and promptly sent it to my son and his wife, who just had their first child.

In some ways this theme was also reflected in the September Board of Forestry tour that took place primarily in Clackamas County and is also the subject of one of this issue's articles.

During the tour, participants learned firsthand about the challenges and threats to forests in an area of the state that has seen intense development pressures. One of our points was to stress how important it is for the Department of Forestry to have a presence in these areas in order to protect natural resource values as best we can, and to deal with sticky fire protection and forest practices questions.

Equally important in my mind, though, is having opportunities to connect primarily

urban interests with the forest resources that play such an important role in the social, environmental and economic

well-being of Oregon. Just as it's so important for people to connect with nature as they grow up, it is equally important for grown ups in mostly urban environments to understand and appreciate the values of rural natural resources.

These resources face threats that can only be addressed when urban and rural residents

alike are aware of their condition and support sound solutions. An excellent way to enhance this awareness is to have professional resource managers who can focus their attention on urban populations. Unfortunately, while many states around the country have invested in very robust urban natural resource programs, Oregon has struggled to maintain a pretty modest effort.

I hope that activities like the Board tour and the articulate words of people like Richard Louv will change people's view of the natural resource manager's role in urban settings so that we can keep these important connections alive and well. 🍷

“Just as it’s so important for people to connect with nature as they grow up, it is equally important for grown ups in mostly urban environments to understand and appreciate the values of rural natural resources.”

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Photo by Floyd Schrock

PHOTO, LEFT: A pair of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) take in the view from a treetop near the waters of Tillamook Bay. At the top of the food chain, they flourish in Oregon in part because of the salmon. They have excellent eyesight, able to see both forward and to the sides at the same time.

The male and female birds look similar, and once paired, remain together until one dies. Our national emblem, they may live as long as 30 years.

Although taken off the Endangered Species List last year, they're still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Acts. Coming from as far away as Canada and Glacier National Park, many choose to overwinter at the Klamath Basin Refuge in Klamath Falls. January and February are good months to see them there.

COVER PHOTO: Annie Creek flows through a thick blanket of snow near the Sun Pass State Forest.
Cover photo by John Pellissier, ODF

Boom or bust? Oregon needs sustainable east-side harvests

“BOOM OR BUST” DESCRIBES THE ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN PACE OF HARVESTING ON OREGON’S EAST-SIDE FORESTS. AND RIGHT NOW, IT AIN’T BOOMIN’.

Jeff Foreman, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Mills are closing. In Klamath Falls, for example, three have shut down and only two mills are still operating.

The causes of this on-off faucet of activity can be found in several places. Harvesting on federal lands has slowed to a trickle, meaning the region’s largest landowner – owning about 3 out of every 4 acres of forestland – is no longer a major source for timber.

The change over the last 15 years on federal lands and the resulting decline in timber supply has had a ripple effect on private landowners. Many have either tried to make up the difference by stepping up harvests on their lands to keep mills in business or they saw the writing on the wall and decided the best long-term business decision was to sell.

Trouble is, in some cases the purchasers of this forestland may not have had long-term aspirations, either. They saw the forest for its trees. It was an investment with high liquidity, an asset easily converted to cash, perhaps by harvesting trees rapidly or by selling the land for other use.

The mill-closure situation hasn’t escaped the watchful eye of Oregon’s leaders. In a letter to three eastern Oregon county commissioners, Gov. Ted Kulongoski called “recent mill closures in Harney, Grant and Wallowa counties deeply troubling.”

He said the state must do more “to preserve the fundamental economic infrastructure” of the wood products industry, especially in rural communities that depend on natural resources for jobs.

The 20,000-acre Sun Pass State Forest near Crater Lake National Park is managed by ODF to produce sustainable revenue for counties and schools, while leaving a wide range of trees for native wildlife.



Photos by Anne Maloney, ODF



At a special meeting in November in Klamath Falls, the Oregon Board of Forestry signed a joint resolution with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission, Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon State University's College of Forestry and Oregon Forest Research Laboratory to develop a forest cluster economic development strategy.

This means that efforts will be made to create and maintain a favorable investment climate for forest-based business throughout Oregon. A number of ways are cited for carrying out this initiative, among them – making Oregon's forests more competitive, keeping forestland for forest use, and getting and keeping the infrastructure in place for sustainable timber supplies in the future.

Idle lands

With federal land essentially idle and aging, the private lands temporarily took up the slack – one way or another. The result: Much of the private forestland has been cutover and now sits idle, too, just like the federal forests – but for a different reason.

“Keeping harvesting on east-side Oregon forests from being boom and bust will take some long-term thinking,” said Ed DeBlander, the former unit forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry's Klamath-Lake District. DeBlander recently became the asset manager for all of ODF's state-managed forests.

The east-side solution will likely require a commitment from the federal government to be a major provider of timber – in some way, shape or form. Federal lands are the proverbial “elephant in the room.” With holdings so vast, “they must be at the table,” DeBlander said.

Gov. Kulongoski recognized the need for the state to have a voice in ensuring a more dependable and sustainable harvest of timber from federal lands. In 2004, he directed the Board of Forestry to advise him on how Oregon's interests should be asserted on federal land management.

In response, the Board of Forestry has created a federal lands advisory committee that is developing specific strategies

for assuring increased, predictable and environmentally sustainable supplies of fiber from public lands.

An ‘uneven’ approach to consider

It has been suggested that the light-handed approach now used on the Sun Pass State Forest should be considered by the federal land management agencies for east-side forest management. The 20,000-acre state forest near Crater Lake National Park is managed by ODF to produce sustainable revenue for counties and schools, while leaving a wide range of trees for native wildlife.

“To say you are an important part of our operations is an understatement,” Klamath County Commissioner Al Switzer told a Board of Forestry tour in November. In 2007, Klamath County received \$1.2 million in state timber revenue.

Switzer said revenue from harvests helps pay for essential county services, adding that this is particularly important with the decline in federal harvests.

“We hold this forest up as an example of how you can manage a forest and have it sustainable,” he said.

The Sun Pass State Forest is managed in an “uneven” way. And this is a good thing.

ODF uses uneven-aged management, where trees of varying sizes and species are harvested. The key is that a component of these same young-to-older trees is left behind. This means a stand can be harvested again and again on a regular basis.

It's not unlike going to the barber. Foresters trim the sides and take a little off the top.

The gentle terrain of the Sun Pass State Forest makes selective harvesting economical with ground-based equipment. Some benefits of uneven-aged management given the unique east-side conditions:

- Always having trees on a site results in higher timber production.
- With trees always present, it's visually pleasing.

Continued on next page

- Reforestation costs are lower, and seedlings are sheltered from extreme conditions.
- Biodiversity and wildlife habitat are maintained.

Looking for sustainability

Private land on the east side that has recently changed hands usually ends up in even-aged management – clear-cut, with investors typically seeking immediate financial returns.

The overuse of clear-cutting perpetuates the boom and bust cycle, and it also places the harvested land at risk of becoming something other than forestland.

It takes so long for an east-side clear-cut stand to grow back – much longer on the east side than it does on west-side forests – that it's difficult from a business perspective to justify waiting for the next harvest cycle.

Conventional thinking on west-side harvesting, with quick-growing Douglas-fir and abundant moisture, means even-age management – clear cutting – makes more sense. The trees need open space to grow, and they can reach a harvestable age in 45 years, even sooner in some cases. The trees at this age can be two feet in diameter.

On the other hand, a ponderosa pine on the east side takes 60 years before it's worth harvesting. It's about 15 to 18 inches in diameter at that time. And there aren't as many trees per acre, compared to west-side Douglas-fir.

Simply put, there's just not as much wood growing on the east side. And it grows slower.

This revenue delay tempts many private landowners to look for a quicker payday by dividing the land into smaller, rural residential sites.

Within certain constraints, landowners are free to develop their property. The concern among many, including the Board of Forestry, is simply the loss of productive forestland to other uses, such as rural residential. In short, as more forestland disappears, it becomes harder

to maintain the “infrastructure” – the loggers, truckers, mills and workers – to sustain the wood products industry.

Sustainability is near and dear to the Board of Forestry. The idea of growing as much or more than is being harvested is a central theme of its Forestry Program for Oregon, a strategic plan for Oregon's forests established in 2003.

Sustainable harvesting is important for a lot of different reasons – not just for the obvious environmental aspect in keeping enough forested land for native wildlife.

The benefits of sustainable forestry extend well beyond the environment. There's simple economics – for a mill to be built, the owners making that investment want some assurance of a steady – sustainable – flow of logs. It's sound business practice.

And if mills don't get the logs and fail as a business, it hurts the social fabric of the community. Workers lose jobs and local governments take hits to their revenue, making them unable to provide needed services – ones that are then in even greater demand.

Sometimes, companies are willing to make the long-term commitment and wait for over-harvested lands to become productive again. They buy these cutover lands and nurture them back to forests.

More state forests?

But what if no well-intentioned company steps up, then what?

Another option could be state ownership.

The Oregon Department of Forestry currently manages about 781,000 acres. These are working forests that not only provide timber revenue to counties and schools, but they also provide logs for mills, generate jobs and grow habitat for native wildlife. They provide recreation opportunities, too.

In the most recently completed fiscal year (July 2006 through June 2007), the



Photo by Jeff Foreman, ODF

The gentle terrain of the Sun Pass State Forest makes selective harvesting economical.

department paid out \$57 million to the 15 counties with state forestland within their boundaries. The counties deeded these burned or cutover lands to the state many decades ago after private landowners – seeing the lands as worthless – forfeited them to the counties for back taxes.

Most of the state-managed forests are on the west side, with the largest part – 510,000 acres – in the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests in northwest Oregon.

But there may be opportunities for the state to acquire cutover east-side land – to keep it as forests that over time will provide economic, environmental and social values. The Sun Pass State Forest, for example, was once private land liquidated through harvest. When the Board of Forestry purchased the land in 1943, the only trees left were too small or too defective to be commercially valuable at the time.

Governor Kulongoski has championed the idea of a new type of state forests, where proceeds would go to support college scholarships for students at in-state schools. Bills along this line have been introduced in the last two legislative sessions.

Whether newly acquired state forestland funds a new type of benefit, or stays the same and adds to existing county and school funding, is something to be worked out. The main idea, however, seems to conjure up a magical win-win notion – preserving forestland as productive forests and maintaining a steady, sustainable timber supply. 🌲



Left to right: ODF's Allison Blair, Randy Alvarez, Tyler McCarty, Logan McCrae, Rob Nall, Dave Wells and Harry Kelly (not pictured) were assigned to assist on the Ranch Fire in California.

California fire assistance

Rod Nichols, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

In late October, Oregon Department of Forestry fire personnel had barely settled into the off-season when calls for help began coming in from California. Large wildfires propelled by the notorious Santa Ana winds were threatening lives and property across much of the state, and Cal Fire, the department's sister agency, badly needed additional "overhead" - people trained in specific fire management jobs.

From all across the state, department personnel left their regular jobs and headed south to strengthen the ranks of fire teams battling more than a half-dozen blazes burning under extreme weather and fuel conditions.

With its command hierarchy and position task books, the Incident Command System employed by wildland fire agencies throughout the U.S. and Canada resembles a battlefield organization. But the military-style uniformity paid off as firefighting overhead from Oregon and across the country converged on the Golden State and quickly integrated into the local fire teams.

Department personnel sent to assist California brought a wide range of expertise to the firefighting efforts. Helibase managers, radio operators, division supervisors, finance chiefs, information officers, radio operators and numerous other specialties were represented.

The logistical challenge of sending heavy equipment limited department assistance mainly to personnel. But a handful of ODF fire engines with their crews made the long trek down Interstate 5 to assist their California counterparts.

In addition, five Oregon-based private contract firefighting crews received dispatch orders to join the fight.

The Department of Forestry answered California's call for aid in 2007, but the cyclic nature of fire could well reverse the roles in the years ahead, with Oregon asking its next-door neighbors for assistance. In the wildland firefighting community, everyone recognizes that the vagaries of weather and fuel conditions can overwhelm the capability of a single department. That's why help from across a state line or even an international border is only a phone call away. 🌲

ODF answered California's call for aid in 2007, but the cyclic nature of fire could well reverse the roles in the years ahead.

“Wow” describes this innovative group of forestry professionals

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

A professional networking group designed to make the lives of women forestland owners and managers a little easier celebrates its two-year anniversary this month. Members of the Women Owning Woodlands Network (“WOWnet”) range from those who have never attended a forestry event, to very knowledgeable women seeking networking and mentoring opportunities.

But we’re getting a little ahead of ourselves. How did such a group get started, anyway?

It all began on a forestry field tour two years ago. Several women attending a Tree Farmer of the Year tour on private property near Scio – including Master Woodland Manager Sara Leiman, and Nicole Strong, an Oregon State University Extension forester – got to talking about the fact that women own or manage some 40 percent of family forestlands in Oregon.

They also pondered a shared observation: women attending field tours frequently seemed hesitant to speak up and ask questions. What if they could do something to change that?

The seed of the idea to form a networking group for women who own or manage forestland in Oregon began to germinate. Over the course of the next few months, a small group of women met to agree on a vision, decide their objectives, and come up with a name for the group.

To launch the enterprise, Strong secured a meeting location in December of 2005 at Oregon State University’s McDonald Forest, in a cabin belonging to the school’s forestry club. Those attending that first meeting came from various walks of life and brought different perspectives. Some liked the idea of serving as mentors for other women...others liked the concept of a new resource to help women just starting out in their roles as forestland owners... still others just plain liked the chance to create a new, informal networking group.

As the women looked around the room, “we realized we had five or six counties represented amongst us,” says Leiman, “so we decided to form local, county-based networking groups.”

As an extension agent with OSU’s School of Forestry, Strong’s role in supporting and fostering the success of the WOWnet groups is key. Although

“You need confidence, because a lot of decisions you make on your land you’re going to have to live with a long time.”



Photo by Brenda Woodard

Above: Left to Right: WOWnet members Colene Freadman, Nancy Benzel and Elsie Davis discuss forestry topics including reforestation and animal damage, at a tree farm in Douglas County.



The Douglas County winter WOWnet chapter meeting and tour is being hosted by Woodard; a series of rock weirs (above) she and husband Dale added to their creek to improve coho habitat is one item the group may stop to look at. The Elk Creek Watershed Council assisted the Woodards with this project.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

“Wow” . . . Continued from page 8

the groups are self-directed, Strong takes a leadership role and serves as a sort of hub for the local chapters. She helps the group with meeting logistics and outreach, tries to attend all of the meetings but admits she doesn't always get there, and essentially provides the “glue” needed to help the groups continue to grow.

Sara Leiman, landowner, master woodlands manager, and Oregon Small Woodlands Association member, serves as one of the groups numerous leaders. She manages some 3,000 acres of forestland in Lane, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

“I've helped both the Benton and Lane County groups organize their tours,” says Leiman, who believes one of the most notable advantages of the networking group is its ability to create on-site learning opportunities. For example, walking along a skid trail at a Benton County property the group observed and discussed a tree covered with conk (a fruiting body of a wood-rotting fungus, conk usually indicates some degree of rotten wood). After the landowner cut it down and bucked it up on site, the group had a chance to examine its decay up close and discuss the values of cutting vs. retaining the tree. They also talked about tree felling, how the cuts were made, and safety.

“These kinds of experiences are really helpful for the newer landowners to better understand logger lingo, and gives them a leg up in communicating with loggers about their property,” says Leiman, who adds that the meetings help “build confidence.”

“And you need confidence, because a lot of decisions you make on your land you're going to have to live with a long time,” she adds. Other topics have included chainsaw operations and how to properly identify forest plants.

On another field trip, the group talked about forest roads. “One woman didn't know what ‘3-inch minus’ rock meant,” says Leiman (“3-inch minus rock” refers to rocks 3 inches or less sometimes used for surfacing forest



Nicole Strong, part of the Forestry Extension team at Oregon State University, has helped foster the success of WOWnet. She has served as a state-wide forestry instructor for underserved woodland owners and coordinator of the Master Woodland Manager program for three years. Nicole came to Oregon via Florida, where she was Extension Co-ordinator for the Center for Subtropical Agroforestry (CSTAF) at the University of Florida.

Nicole has a B.S. in Wildlife Sciences (1997) from Purdue University, an M.S. in Forest Resources (2003) from Pennsylvania State University and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala (1999-2001), where she worked with forest-dependent communities in the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de las Minas.

roads). “As managers, we're kind of out here in left-field by ourselves,” she adds.

Brenda Woodard, a forester with some 400 acres of forestland in Lane County, agrees.

“As a forester, for me getting involved with WOWnet is great. It helps women feel more confident to get involved and not be intimidated, and participate more fully,” says Woodard. Woodard, who grew up in a family with forestry ties (her father was a forester) majored in forestry and worked on the Ochoco National Forest before moving to Curtin with her husband, where they now reside and manage their forested property.

Woodard says when questions arise, Wownet members are often able to provide one another with fairly fast answers and helpful information. One member might need tips on what to do about elk browsing on young tree plantations; another member might be

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It's flooring, not firewood

Lisa A. DeBruyckere
Consultant, Creative Resource Strategies, LLC

Education often creates opportunities to see things differently. Many who attended a recent Society of American Foresters (SAF) field trip and came away with a new appreciation for down wood might agree with that. Attendees on the September tour got to see things up-close and personal, inspiring great appreciation for what one man's imagination, creativity, and character can do with one log.

Wise resource use:
standing inside his kiln,
Pender proudly points to
various wood products,
including wild cherry,
bigleaf maple and black
walnut he's curing for
various customers.

Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Pender deftly demonstrates his efficient and portable mill on a cherry log he cuts into boards for a local teacher, who is using the wood for woodworking projects at Fall City High School. Cherry that went for forty dollars per square-foot years ago now sells at \$475 today, says Pender. "Boards can be worth \$6.50 - \$8.00 per board foot, depending on grain pattern," he adds.





It's flooring, not firewood. . . Continued from page 10

Frank Pender, owner of Tanglewood Timber Products outside Dallas, offered a lively demonstration for SAF Capital chapter members eager to spend a Saturday afternoon to learn how ingenuity and lots of hard work can save a homeowner thousands of dollars in home construction costs – just by using logs that might otherwise fuel a fireplace.

Pender is the proud owner of a portable Mobile Dimension saw, a fascinating “mini-mill” that maximizes the amount of wood that can extract from each log, with the added benefit of producing edged boards. One person can operate the saw, as Pender deftly demonstrated. It uses three saw blades—a main vertical blade and two horizontal edger blades—that work in unison, moving along on a saw carriage while the log remains stationary.

Bringing the saw to the logs can save hundreds of dollars in transportation costs, making small amounts of wood and even single logs economically feasible to mill. Powered by a gasoline Volkswagen engine, the saw is portable and mounted on a trailer that can be pulled behind a truck.

“I was most impressed with Frank’s story of using a single maple tree out of a yard to make new flooring and cabinets for a house,” said Dan Clough, one of the SAF participants. “It saved the homeowner thousands of dollars,” said Clough, “and (made good use of) what normally would have been cut up into firewood.”

In addition to his portable mill, Pender has a kiln he built using a Taylor hot water furnace for heat, and an Ebac 800 Dehumidifier to remove moisture. Pender believes lumber that cures “naturally” reduces checking, especially for oak, maple, cherry, madrone, and other less commonly milled hardwoods and conifers. So, before his lumber sees the inside of a kiln, Pender cures it outdoors for anywhere from two to several months.

Pender’s pedigree includes Master Woodlands Management Certification from Oregon State University, Master Watershed Manager Certification, National Tree Farm member, NW Dry Kiln Association member, and Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) member. OSWA members are family forestland owners that promote and advocate for family forestland ownership in a variety of ways, including hosting tours and demonstrations on privately owned forests.

SAF Capital Chapter Chair Terry Droessler organized the tour to promote salvage of storm-damaged trees into products of higher value than firewood. “Pender is passionate about maximizing the utility and exposing the ‘character’ of logs with otherwise low commercial value, and he eagerly shares that passion,” says Droessler. Pender’s passion and enthusiasm, and his willingness to share his knowledge and experience changed the way many on the tour look at logs some call “non-merchantable.”

As Pender said when he fired up his planer, “watch me make a silk purse out a sow’s ear!” 🌿

A little history

“I reckon it all began when I was just a very young whippersnapper,” says Pender on his website (his father was in the retail lumber business). “As a boy of 6-7 years old, I would often get to ride with my father to many of the mills in his 1949 forest green Studebaker pickup . . . from these sorts of experiences, I suppose the sawdust became part of my brain and bloodstream.”

“As the years passed I met a young lady that had a 70-acre timber/tree farm near the community in which I taught. As time would have it, I asked her to marry me. I asked the question on our first date, after visiting the tree farm. It worked!”

You can read the rest of the story and find out more about economical milling at www.tanglewoodtimber.com

Last child in the woods?

Dan Postrel, ODF Agency Affairs Director

Bush-whacking along a creek bank. Whiling away hours in a favorite patch of woods. Or for that matter, spending much time in any sort of natural setting. These things are missing from too many childhoods these days, says Richard Louv, and that's a problem for kids – and for all of us.

“In the last three decades, we’ve seen an accelerated disengagement from nature by children,” Louv, a journalist and author, said at the recent Society of American Foresters national convention in Portland. This contributes to increases in obesity and attention deficit disorder, and fosters a lack of understanding of the natural world, something that today’s children will take with them when they become tomorrow’s leaders, he said.

Louv’s latest book, based on research that included 10 years talking to parents, children, teachers, child-development researchers and others, is *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. He was the keynote speaker at this year’s convention, which drew a near-record crowd of almost 2,200 (see sidebar).

A part of our nature.

A deep connection to the natural world is part of our humanity, Louv said. “We are all biologically still hunters and gatherers. We have an innate attraction to the outdoors.” But that was then. There are many signs of the widening gap between kids and nature, he said, including a decrease in national park visits, and lower sales of the sort of “entry-level” camping gear that young families would buy. A 1991 study showed that the distance that kids are allowed to roam outside their homes had decreased to a ninth of what it had been 20 years earlier.

“Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in our self-interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical, and spiritual health depend upon it.”

Last Child in the Woods
Algonquin Books



Photo by John Mayer, ODF

Fifth grade students from Lyons' Mari-Linn Elementary School learn about nurse logs, snags and decomposition on a hike with ODF's Jonathan Mayer.



Last child ... Continued from page 12

What's going on here? Louv pointed to several causes. Video games, television and other forms of electronic entertainment are obviously involved, he said, recalling what a fourth-grader once told him: "I like to play indoors 'cause that's where all the (electrical) outlets are." But that's just part of the answer, as is the fact that families are increasingly busy, often with both parents working outside the home.

Another key factor, he says, is fear of the dangers of letting children play outside, exacerbated by disproportionate media coverage of a relatively small number of crimes against children. Parents are scared to death, Louv said, even though the incidence of stranger-to-stranger abductions and other such crimes against children is actually going down.

As a result of all this, he said, children are being raised "in a virtual state of house arrest." It's a lifestyle that leads to obesity and other health problems, and Louv cited research indicating that the current generation of kids will be the first to live shorter lives on the whole than their parents. There's evidence, he said, that exposure to outdoor settings enhances kids' health. It can improve symptoms of attention deficit disorders – because of the calming effect of contact with nature, he believes. Spending time in natural settings even can change the way kids play. In fields, woods or other such places, studies show that kids are more likely to be creative, to invent their own games, and to play cooperatively, than they are in developed playgrounds of asphalt and turf, Louv said.

A shared concern.

Louv has found some traction for his ideas about "nature deficit disorder." In the past two years, he said, people in federal natural resources agencies have shown increased recognition of the importance of programs that connect kids to nature and the woods. Bills pending in Congress would take steps to bring more interaction with nature into school curricula. And everyone seems to want to tell him stories about special places from their youth, even members of Congress at a hearing at which he testified. This is an issue on which people from across the political spectrum can find common ground, he said.

Louv said several things must happen to address this problem, and to, as he puts it, "leave no child inside."

First, the good news about the benefits of connecting kids to nature needs to get more attention. Another part of the solution, he said, involves educating today's young parents, who themselves may have grown up without much exposure to the natural world.

It's also important to talk to our children in a new, hopeful way. What with global climate change and other challenges, he said, "We're telling them, essentially, that when it comes to the environment, the game is over." That message needs to change to something more positive. He tells kids that to meet our challenges, we need new urban and suburban designs that keep people in touch with nature, new approaches to pollution control and resource management, and much more – what he called "a new civilization." He added, "To a 16-year-old, that's good news."

Given that today's children will create the future, it's more important than ever, Louv suggests, that those kids go outside to play. 🍷



Richard Louv

Photo by Robert Burroughs



Photo by Anne Maloney, ODF

Attendance up at SAF Convention

When it comes to picking locations for Society of American Foresters (SAF) national conventions, Portland has proved to be a great choice over the years, and the pattern continued with the 2007 convention, held in October.

The attendance of 2,192 was the third-highest in SAF's 88 years of staging such conventions. The highest and second-highest attendance figures came during SAF's Portland conventions in 1983 and 1999, respectively.

"It's not surprising, because we have such a great venue for learning and networking, great local forestry success stories, innovative approaches to collaboration, and wonderful forests," said Clark Seely, Associate State Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the convention's general co-chair, with U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Linda Goodman. "In a lot of ways, what's happening in American forestry is what's happening in the Northwest."

Field trip destinations included the Tillamook State Forest, Mount St. Helens, family forestlands, milling facilities, and a biomass operation under development at the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation.

Particularly gratifying for organizers was the attendance of 567 students – a quarter of the total turnout – from some 55 colleges and universities. It was the largest number of students to attend any SAF event.

The convention was formally hosted by the Oregon and Washington SAF societies and supported by 36 sponsors. Seely said the societies provided more than 200 volunteers over the two-year planning period, a key to the event's success.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Tillamook Forest Center, on Highway 6 between Portland and the coast, is an excellent way to connect kids with nature through exhibits, interpretive programs and other activities.
For more information, call toll-free (866) 930-4646, or visit www.tillamookforestcenter.org

Tour gives Board members a good look at urban interface issues

Cynthia Orlando and Gregg Cline, ODF

Oregon has been among the leading states in population growth since 1990, and as in many western states, residential development continues to spread into forestland around cities, suburbs and rural residential areas. The majority of these lands exist in western Oregon. But steady development pressures in central and northeastern Oregon are creating significant increases in these “residential emphasis forests” there, as well.

In northwest Oregon, these forests are typically found next to larger tracts of private timberland and mixed in with agricultural lands and family forests. In southwest, central and northeast Oregon, these lands are often adjacent to other publicly owned land and lands that have high recreational value. As large blocks of working forestland are divided into smaller parcels, ODF’s stewardship foresters face new challenges.

In September, the Oregon Board of Forestry hosted a well-attended tour in Clackamas County to promote insight and understanding about active forest management in forests within or near Oregon’s urban areas. The tour provided a range of perspectives from landowners, county and city planners, stewardship foresters and Department staff about how these urban fringe areas can contribute to sustainable forestry.

As a backdrop for discussing a continuum of land use settings, the Board tour included four stops:

ODF’s stewardship foresters are addressing the harvest-related concerns of nearby homeowners at this logging site in the urban setting of Damascus.



Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Urban interface issues . . . Continued from facing page

- East of Colton, the first stop looked at a forest managed primarily for wood production. This industrial forest was surrounded by other industrial ownership and some U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands. Administering the Oregon Forest Practice rules is the primary role of stewardship foresters here, but just adjacent to these lands a home site is being planned, a reminder of the residential expansion occurring statewide,
 - The second tour stop northwest of Estacada found the group looking at two small logging operations in a rural residential community of approximately 50 homes. Each logging operation resulted in numerous concerns from local homeowners. Administration of the Forest Practices Act, as well as ODF’s educational role in addressing these concerns, were discussed. Attendees learned that Department stewardship foresters made approximately 20 visits to each of these operations - primarily to address homeowner concerns.
- The third destination was in the city of Damascus, a parcel of forestland now surrounded on three

sides by urban residential development. Here, the landowner is planning to develop the parcel into home sites. The role of the Department is the administration of the Forest Practices Act within the city, addressing the harvest-related concerns of adjacent homeowners, and working closely with the city’s planning staff.

- The final stop, southwest of Redland, looked at a forested parcel located next to a rural residential community. The landowner had just completed logging and was dividing the parcel into home sites. The role of ODF here is to administer the Forest Practices Act and also proactively work with the logging contractor to minimize nearby homeowners’ concerns.

As a result of the work of the Department in exploring these issues across the changing landscape, ODF is now exploring and evaluating barriers and opportunities for better supporting sustainable forest management objectives within these urban fringe areas. Helping communities retain green infrastructure during development, and helping cities develop comprehensive urban forest practices ordinances will likely continue to be a growing part of the agency’s workload. 🌲

“Wow” . . . Continued from page 9

looking for a logger who does good work harvesting small trees. “We try to supplement what is already out there, and be a conduit to access other educational sources,” she adds.

Forestland manager Sarah Deumling, who manages some 1,600 acres west of Salem, also enjoys playing the mentor role. Deumling says last spring a woman with timberland near Dallas was trying to decide what to do with her property. The woman spotted information about Wownet in the local paper and called her for help.

“Her property had a lot of blowdown,” recalls Deumling, “so I walked through it with her and looked at the pros and cons of cutting or leaving certain trees. “And,” adds Deumling, “I taught her how to mark the trees and also helped her find a good logger.” Deumling says the woman later called her for information on where to buy seedlings to re-plant the property, and gave Sarah some oak to thank her.

“That’s the fun part of getting someone up to speed and giving them the ball and letting them run with it,” adds Deumling.

Brenda Woodard says each of the networking groups is slightly different. “In Lane County, the women seem to like more focused discussions, and in Douglas County we’re focused more on field trips and sharing tips about our properties,” she says.

The WOWNet groups are obviously filling a need – and doing a good job of it. Between December 2005 and July 2007, some 238 women participated in 17 workshops and tours around the state of Oregon.

There are currently six county-based WOWNet groups located throughout western Oregon. And, says Strong, although WOWNet targets women woodland managers, men are welcome to attend too, to participate in networking or share their support and ideas.

WOWNet is supported by Oregon Forest Resources Institute as part of the OSU Forestry Extension Landowner Education Program. To find out about upcoming events or get information on starting new chapters, contact Nicole Strong at Oregon State University (nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu) or visit the website at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/wownet. 🌲

Quaking aspen are a visual feast

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is found in more states than any other tree. While in western Oregon their presence is somewhat scarce, these beautiful, unique trees can be found growing in Oregon's upper Cascades and eastward - especially along mountain streams, in openings in the woods, and near the edges of mountain lakes and meadows.

Lovely leaves, bark

Its leaves are what make the Quaking aspen a real standout among trees. Nearly circular, the leaves are green above, and a pale silvery color below, 1 to 3 inches in diameter with small, rounded teeth. Foliage shakes in the slightest breeze (hence, the common name), and seems to shimmer in the wind. That's because the leaf stems, called petioles, are flat and are held at right angles to the leaf blade; the slightest breeze causes the leaves to quiver, flutter and dance. These trees are much loved for both their fall foliage - a brilliant gold or yellow - and for their greenish-white to cream-colored bark (the coarse vertical marks in the photo at right were made by deer).

When injured, these short-lived trees sprout from their roots. An original tree with its attached sprouts is called a "clone," - all members being genetically identical to each other. In fact, one aspen clone in Colorado is said to have 47,000 trees attached to the same root, and may even be the largest single organism in the world. And of course, the mountains of central Colorado are famous for their strikingly beautiful stands of Quaking aspen - so much so that the town of Aspen adopted the tree's name.

In Oregon, aspen are more often seen east of the Cascades; the photos here were taken in the La Grande area in October 2007. Aspen grow 20 to 60 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Trees grow fast, and their white trunks are noticeable at an early age. Their inner bark may be bitter to our taste buds, but it's a favorite of beavers who like to store the cuttings for winter meals.

The mountains of central Colorado are famous for their beautiful stands of Quaking aspen, and in Oregon these striking trees can often be seen east of the Cascades.

Photos by Ted Schroeder





Quaking aspen . . . Continued from page 16

Fire and aspen

Fire indirectly benefits aspen trees, allowing the saplings to flourish in open sunlight in burned landscapes. Fuels are often moister in stands of quaking aspen than in surrounding forests. Quaking aspen stands often act as natural fuel breaks during wildfires, and fires sometimes bypass them.

Aspen wood is softer and lighter than most North American hardwoods. It's used most commonly in pulp products like books, newsprint, specialty papers and particle board, and is the preferred species for structural flake board. It's also well suited for furniture parts, crates, paneling – and also, as tongue depressors and ice cream sticks.

These trees propagate by seed, which may be carried more than 1,600 feet by typical (prevailing) winds, and up to several miles in high winds.

Enhances habitat

Compared to coniferous forests, stands of aspen have a rich understory of shrubs, including serviceberry, snowberry, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. Animals attracted to aspen and its understory species include black bears, cottontails, porcupine, beaver, and many species of birds including grouse and quail. This rich structural habitat diversity, as well as the tree's own bark, buds and foliage, provide excellent forage for wildlife.

Growing tips

Quaking aspen are less happy in extremely high temperatures but they are tolerant of the cold. They grow best in moist, well-drained fertile soils with full sun. Avoid planting near water or sewer lines, as the roots will naturally seek these out.

Plenty of water and some added fertilizer will improve their growth and survival. If soils are heavy clay, rocky or very sandy, add compost or other materials to the planting spot. 🌲

More about Quaking aspen . . .

Name: *Populus*, from the Latin for “poplar,” *tremuloides*, from the Latin, *tremulus*, “shaking, trembling, quivering.”

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland, south to Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the East; south throughout the western states to the mountains of northern Mexico. The most widely distributed tree in North America.

Cultural lore: Much excitement has been generated about carvings made by Basque shepherders on these trees in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Compared to other trees aspen generally live a short life (80-120 years), but carvings on these trees can still be found in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, Colorado and Wyoming.

Called “arborglyphs,” these light carvings are a unique mix of folk art and historical documentation. Whether writing about who was on the land or when, sheep herding life, references to America or a longing for female companionship, these carvings preserve an interesting slice of history of the Old West.

Bark carvings (arborglyphs); right, bark carving reads “Patacon 10 July 1927”; below, carving reads “Tim O’Keeffe 1939”.



Photos by Carol Pedersen

Every picture tells a story:

Below, right, Larry Costello, a horticulture advisor at University of California Extension in Half Moon Bay, explains how “structural pruning” in young trees often yields long-term benefits. Pruning, the act of cutting or trimming tree branches, creates a multitude of benefits when done correctly.

Benefits include:

- pruning helps prevent diseases and pests, so you have a healthier tree
- stronger tree structure
- improved appearance
- reducing future hazard potential.

Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Urban foresters have a “field day” with annual conference

The evolution of urban forestry, connections between arboriculture and climate change, and understanding wind forces and hazard trees were just a few topics presented to urban foresters by the Pacific Northwest chapter of the International Society of Arborists (ISA) at its 28th annual conference in September.

Oregon State University in Corvallis was the site of three days of educational sessions, including a “field day” of outdoor events where attendees could learn about a variety of topics. Among them: tree identification and assessment in urban settings, how to select trees for intensively used landscapes, and “structural pruning” techniques helpful for giving young trees a good start.

Some 420 people attended the conference, which also included a tree climbing championship event and closed with a talk on how arborists can play a greater role in planning for trees during a city’s construction development projects. 🌿



New reports available to help teachers, students, land managers

Three new Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) products presenting easy-to-understand science findings about current research on wildlife and habitat are now available.

Inquiry at Hinkle Creek

This is DVD geared for students in grades 5 – 12, and follows scientists working in the “Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study,” a 5,000-acre outdoor laboratory where one watershed is set aside, and an adjacent one is harvested using techniques approved under Oregon’s landmark Forest Practices Act.

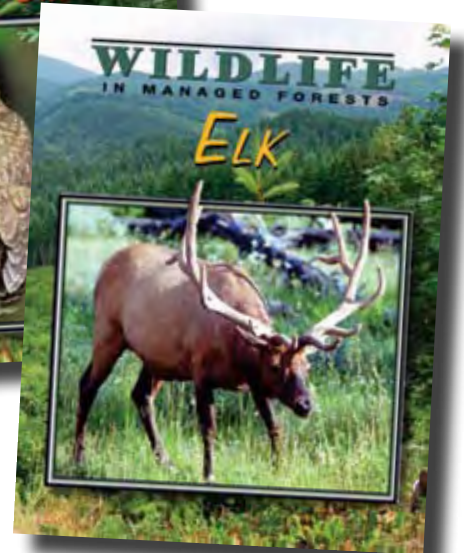
Produced jointly by Oregon State University and OFRI, the 16-minute program shows the important role science and research play in forest management, and also helps teachers and students meet the Oregon Department of Education Science Inquiry Benchmarks.

Wildlife in Managed Forests

This publication series is aimed at making new research findings available in a useful, accessible format for forest managers, wildlife specialists, and conservation organization representatives. Two of the publications now available are:

Northern Spotted Owl

This 22-page publication is based on scientific evaluation of the owl and covers its natural history, current population status, key findings on habitat characteristics, and habitat conservation strategies.



Elk

This 18-page report is based on three decades of research on habitat requirements, including population dynamics, herd productivity, nutritional needs and response to human disturbance.

These items are available by visiting OFRI’s website at www.oregonforests.org

New study: Housing growth near national forests on the rise

America’s national forests and grasslands provide the largest single source of fresh water in the United States, habitat for a third of all federally listed threatened or endangered species, and recreation opportunities for people (about 205 million visits to national forests are made annually).

These and other benefits could be altered by increased housing development, says a recent study

by scientists at the Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station. The population of the United States is projected to increase by 135 million people between 2000 and 2050. Americans are moving closer to national forests and other public lands because of the amenities they provide.

Almost all eastern national forests may experience high to moderate increases in adjacent

housing density. Private lands bordering national forests in Colorado, northwestern Montana, Oregon, northern Idaho, and California are also projected to experience moderate to high increases.

National Forests on the Edge: Development Pressures on America’s National Forests and Grasslands can be found at www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr728/

coming up



JANUARY 7, 2008 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Tillamook Room, Salem Campus

JANUARY 22, 2008 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Committee for Family Forestlands
Sun Pass Room, Salem Campus
For more info: 503-945-7422

JANUARY 26, 2008 • 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Owls: Silent Hunters of the Night
Tillamook Forest Center, Tillamook
For more info: 866-930-4646

FEBRUARY 1, 2008 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Tillamook Room, Salem Campus

FEBRUARY 9, 2008 • 11:30 a.m.
Nature Journaling for Beginners
Tillamook Forest Center, Tillamook
Registration & fee • For more info: 866-930-4646

MARCH 3 & 4, 2008
Update Session,
Community Wildfire Collaboration Workshop
Reno, Nevada
For more info: Ann Walker, 945-7346 or www.iafc.org

MARCH 10, 2008 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Tillamook Room, Salem Campus

APRIL 4, 2008 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee Meeting
Tillamook Room, Salem Campus

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



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"