

Forests

FOR OREGON

MAGAZINE OF THE OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

SUMMER 2008

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prepares them
for anything

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ALSO: How civil penalties help enforce
Oregon's Forest Practices Act.



State Forester
Marvin Brown

F R O M T H E State Forester

Dear Readers,

We know for sure that the only thing constant is change.

This issue of “Forests for Oregon” includes some thoughts about two changes that are pretty significant to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

One is the closing of the Phipps Nursery. For many years, it has provided seedlings to meet the reforestation needs of a host of landowners. In its heyday it was a significant seedling provider to federal agencies and smaller family forest landowners. As the federal agencies reduced their harvest, they also reduced their seedling requirements. As time went on and seedling demand continued to fall, it became increasingly difficult to keep the Nursery financially solvent.

By statute we are required to fund the entire cost of the program from seedling sales revenue. It was becoming increasingly evident that we would not be able to meet that obligation and closing up the business was really the only option available. Commercial nurseries continue to assure us that they can meet all of the seedling demands in a cost effective manner, so we don't feel there will be any impact on the ability of landowners to meet their reforestation requirements.

Our sincere thanks go to all of the past and present employees of the Nursery. Their efforts have no doubt lead to hundreds of thousands of acres that are now well stocked with healthy young trees. Given the length of time the Nursery has operated, some of its progeny could well have been converted to lumber and be part of someone's home by now!

Particular thanks needs to go to the most recent employees who have stayed to shepherd the operation into closing. This is an incredibly difficult task. Trying emotions come with seeing an era come to an end...and in some cases not knowing what's next for yourself. The fact that we don't do this very often brings up all kinds of questions that haven't been dealt with before. You have all done an incredible job.

The second big change has been the retirement of Private Lands Division Chief Ted Lorenson, our renowned policy and regulation guru, fly fisherman and joke teller. To say that we're going to miss him is a huge understatement. Personally, I owe Ted many thanks for his openness and honesty, and his willingness to share the wealth of knowledge he has about the agency and our responsibilities. It has all been simply invaluable to me as I came to the agency some five years ago.

Thanks Ted.....from me, and I know from everyone you've worked with for so many years.

And have fun! 🍷

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin Brown".

Forests

FOR OREGON

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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Photo by Maggi Rackley

PHOTO, LEFT: Easy to identify with its brilliant red head, black wings and yellow body, this male Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), photographed near Gold Hill, is a medium-size songbird that can be seen in Oregon's open coniferous forests, city parks and backyards – especially during summer months.

Diet consists of insects and fruit. Females have no red and are yellow-green above, and yellow below. Widespread in the West from the Alaska panhandle to northern Baja, California, these birds winter in Mexico and Central America.

The red pigment in the face of this bird is a rare pigment called rhodoxanthin; it's not manufactured by the bird, but instead, must be acquired from its diet, presumably from insects that acquire the pigment from plants.

COVER PHOTO: In Douglas County Oregon, placid waters near Siuslaw Falls flow past a short foot trail.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Complex Incident course: now they're prepared for anything

Rod Nichols, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Over the years, as floods and other natural and human-caused disasters occurred in Oregon, state leaders came to realize that the Department of Forestry's expertise in managing wildfires adapted well to other "all-hazard" emergencies. Forestry agencies in other states including California, North Carolina, Texas, Florida and Georgia observed a similar rise in demand for their incident management know-how.

An upward trend in the use of state wildfire personnel on non-fire incidents, coupled with the growing complexity of large wildfires, prompted the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) to develop a new training course in the late 1990s. In November 2000, the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) prototype was tested on teams of wildfire managers in Arizona. The intense, week-long course ran participants through myriad disaster simulations ranging from hurricanes to earthquakes and wildfires, and yes, even terrorist attacks.

Arizona's class went over so well that a cadre of experienced fire managers drawn from state forestry departments nationwide now conducts the course three times every two years, rotating the location to reach every region of the country. ODF fire managers helped develop the curriculum and continue to serve on NASF's training cadre.

No abstract academic exercise, the CIMC runs enrollees through a mix of practical classroom training and sweat-popping simulations.

Formed into eight-person, mini-incident management teams, CIMC participants learn to make key decisions on deployment of personnel and equipment, coordination with local emergency response agencies and elected officials, and other functions critical to success in the chaotic environment of a disaster scene.

Course broadens perspectives

In the West where dozens of large fires occur every summer, state wildfire professionals become fire-line veterans early in their careers. But while their experience is often extensive, it can be narrow.

"We try to get people out of their comfort zone. For western fire folks, that would be involvement in hurricanes, significant floods, etc."

ODF EASTERN OREGON AREA
DIRECTOR CLIFF LIETKE

Photo by Chris Friend, ODF





Photo by Mike Simek, ODF

Whether it's a fire (left) or a flood (above), the Complex Incident Management course (CIMC) prepares attendees to respond to any catastrophe.

“We try to get people out of their comfort zone. For western fire folks, that would be involvement in hurricanes, significant floods, etc.,” said Cliff Liedtke, ODF’s Eastern Oregon Area director and a veteran CIMC trainer. “Those types of incidents require us to provide essential community needs (water, food, shelter), and to deal with access issues due to road and bridge damage – tasks we don’t typically see on a wildfire.”

The non-wildfire scenarios further stretch the trainees’ thinking. They work through on-the-ground situations - such as a disaster in a metropolitan area - that bear little resemblance to a wildfire in a remote forest.

Last December, several ODF graduates had the chance to put their training into action when their incident management team was deployed to northwestern Oregon to assist with recovery from two severe winter storms. Tasked with assessing wind and flood damage to forestlands, the CIMC-trained team members found that they were well-prepared to move outside the traditional firefighting mindset.

“Our CIMC experience prepared us for the different delegations of authority we encountered on the storm damage assessment - in this case working for the governor and the affected counties, rather than a district forester, which is typically the case on a wildfire,” said ODF’s Nancy Hirsch, CIMC training cadre member and Deputy Incident Commander on the storm team.

When he was selected to serve as incident commander for the December storm deployment, Bill Hunt, also a CIMC cadre member, tapped the CIMC network for help. Cadre members from Florida and North Carolina that he had met were able to advise him on how to cope with the extensive blowdown of timber from a windstorm – a scenario the Florida Division of Forestry and the North Carolina State Forest Service see often in the aftermath of hurricanes and tornadoes.

Since most of his team had gone through the CIMC, the prospect of managing an incident totally unrelated to wildfire wasn’t daunting.

“There wasn’t paralysis,” he said. “It was a testimony to the all-hazard training that everyone took this foreign situation in stride ... understood what was important, what relationships were key, and how to accomplish the team objectives.”

The storm team’s Plans Chief, Andy White, found that the course’s diverse disaster exercises helped him adapt more easily.

The CIMC puts attendees through a simulated disaster exercise. Here, the team holds a press conference and former Tillamook District Forester Ross Holloway fields tough questions about the disaster from reporters.

Photo by Cliff Liedtke, ODF

Continued on page 19

The first four days of the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) could be considered a rehearsal for the performance on Day 5. At 7 a.m. on Friday, after a grueling week of disaster scenarios and information-packed classroom sessions, the team is ushered into a room where it will manage a simulated incident. The cadre introduces information about the disaster through phone calls, two-way radio messages, walk-ins and other means in the fragmentary manner of an actual emergency. “The inputs are scripted to exercise all of the positions on the team,” CIMC trainer Cliff Liedtke said. As the participants struggle to get a clear grasp of the incident, they must in the meantime complete the essential tasks of drafting an action plan, developing objectives and strategies, and, of course, filling out paperwork. To keep the team off-balance, cadre assistants role-playing as reporters call in periodically to ask tough questions. Others act as landowners and local government officials, calling or dropping by. At 3 p.m. the simulation ends, and the participants receive immediate feedback on their performance through individual and group debriefing sessions with the trainers.

Lots to do in nearby Tillamook, Clatsop, Santiam state forests

Jeff Foreman, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Fishermen try their luck at Lost Lake.

With gas prices continuing to climb, it makes sense to find something fun to do closer to home.

People living in northwestern Oregon have lots of nearby outdoor options, but some places are often overlooked or passed by, such as the Oregon Department of Forestry's state forests. These are the Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam state forests – the places you casually go through to get someplace else.

Maybe it's time to stop and smell the *Rosa nutkana* – those would be wild roses – along the way.

There's lots to see – breath-taking vistas, lively streams and native wildlife. And lots to do – picnicking, camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding – in serene forest settings.

More than 200 miles of designated trails await enthusiasts who prefer their exploration fast-paced; in other parts of some forests, the revving engines of off-highway vehicles can be heard in motorized staging and camping areas.

The old standbys of fishing and hunting – when they're in season – beckon anglers and hunters. Swimmers and boaters ply the waterways.

State forests are a little different. They're more primitive than state parks and less preservation-oriented than federal forests. State-owned forests are "managed" to have recreation, diverse wildlife habitat and timber harvests. Managed in this case means actual working forests.

Log trucks may be seen once in awhile, and a freshly cut stand of trees – either a thinning or clearcut – can serve as a reminder that these are indeed working forests.

Timber harvesting pays for the development and maintenance of recreation sites and trails, and it self-funds the management of state forests – in other words, no tax dollars are used.

More importantly, most of the revenue generated from timber harvests goes to the counties that deeded these lands to the state in the 1940s. Counties depend on this revenue to help fund local services.

Visitors shouldn't be put off by possibly coming across signs of logging. Timber harvesting on state forests is done with an eye toward creating a mix of forest types.

Recently harvested stands are replanted with a variety of tree species. Many young stands are nurtured to become older ones. All this leads to managed stands with the look and feel of a natural forest.

The 364,000-acre **Tillamook State Forest** is 35 miles west of Portland in the northern Coast Range; to the north is the 154,000-acre **Clatsop State Forest**. The 47,000-acre **Santiam State Forest** is 30 miles east of Salem off Highway 22 in the foothills of the Oregon Cascades (see map).

For those interested in learning about the past, present and future of the Tillamook State Forest, plan a visit to the **Tillamook Forest Center**, located at milepost 22 on Highway 6, about one hour west of Portland.

The center opened April 2006 with interpretive exhibits, a film documenting the area's history, field tours and nature programs. During the summer, it is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the center, visit the following Web site: www.tillamookforestcenter.org or call toll free (866) 930-4646.

This summer or fall, check out the state forests for lots of nearby fun. If camping, try to arrive as early as possible on the weekends because campgrounds fill up fast in the summer. No reservations are taken, but campers can call ahead to the ODF Forest Grove office (503-357-2191) to check on campsite availability.

See the accompanying list of trails and campgrounds and plan a visit soon. 🍄



State Forests in NW Oregon: campgrounds, trails abound

TILLAMOOK STATE FOREST

Campgrounds

(\$10 drive-in, walk-in sites \$5 per night)

Elk Creek – 14 walk-in sites

Gales Creek – 16 drive-in, 4 walk-in sites

Jones Creek – 29 drive-in, 14 walk-in sites

Nehalem Falls – 14 drive-in, 6 walk-in sites

Reehers Camp – 10 horse, 6 non-horse sites

(Closed for repairs) Stagecoach Horse Camp – 11 horse sites, \$10

Non-motorized Trails

(no trailhead parking fee)

Cedar Butte – hiking, 0.75 mile, difficult

Coal Creek – hiking, biking, horse, 1 mile

Devil's Lake Fork – hiking, biking, horse, 0.2 mile (provides access to Nels Rogers Trail) (trailhead won't accommodate horse trailers)

Elk Creek – hiking, biking, 4 miles, moderate

Elk Mountain – hiking, 4.3 miles, extremely difficult

Four County Point – hiking, 1 mile, moderate

Gales Creek (Summit Trailhead to Storey Burn Trail) – hiking, biking, 2.8 miles, moderate

(Closed for repairs) Gales Creek (Storey Burn Trail to Bell Camp Road) – hiking, biking, horse, 5.2 miles, moderate

Gales Creek (Bell Camp Road north to Reehers Camp), hiking, biking, 3.4 miles, moderate

Gravelle Brothers – hiking, biking, horse, 2.4 miles, moderate

Horseshoe Loop Trail – hiking, biking, horse, 0.6 mile, easy

Kings Mountain – hiking, 3.8 miles, extremely difficult

Nels Rogers – hiking, biking, horse, 2.0 miles, moderate

Peninsula – hiking, 1 mile, moderate

Steam Donkey – hiking, 1 mile, easy

Sidestep Trail – hiking, mountain biking, horse, 1.4 miles, moderate

Storey Burn Trail – hiking, mountain biking, horse, 4.3 miles, moderate

University Falls, hiking, biking, horse, 0.4 mile, moderate

Wilson River Trail (Elk Creek Campground to Kings Mountain Trail) – hiking, mountain biking, 3.5 miles, moderate

Wilson River Trail (Kings Mountain Trail to Jones Creek Day Use Area) – hiking, mountain biking, 7.4 miles, moderate

Wilson River (Jones Creek to Footbridge) – hiking, biking, 3.5 miles, moderate

Wilson River (Footbridge to Keenig Creek) – hiking, biking, 6.1 miles, moderate

Wilson River Wagon Road – hiking, biking, horse, 3.8 miles, moderate

Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Areas & Camping (designated OHV trails accessible from the staging areas)

Browns Camp – 30 sites, \$10 per night

Diamond Hill – 20 camp sites, free, very difficult trails

Hollywood – free dispersed camping

Jordan Creek – 6 sites, \$10 per night

Lyda Camp – free dispersed camping

Other Sites

Gales Creek Overlook – viewpoint, exhibits

Keenig Creek Day Use Area – picnicking, trails, river access

Smith Homestead Day Use Area – picnicking, trails, river access

Charles Sprague Memorial Wayside – picnicking, exhibits

Tillamook Forest Center – exhibits, nature programs, picnicking, trails

CLATSOP STATE FOREST

Campgrounds

(\$10 drive-in, walk-in sites \$5 per night)

Henry Rierson Spruce Run – 32 drive-in, 5 walk-in sites

Gnat Creek – 3 walk-in sites

Northrup Creek – 8 horse, 3 non-horse sites

Lower Nehalem – 4 dispersed sites (free)

North Fork Nehalem – 3 dispersed sites (free)

Non-motorized Trails

Gnat Creek – hiking, 4 miles

Soapstone Lake – hiking, 2 miles

Bloom Lake – hiking, 2 miles

Northrup Creek – hiking, horse, 7 miles

Spruce Run – hiking, 2 miles

Off-Highway Vehicle Trails

None at this time; planning under way

Other Sites

Lost Lake – picnic, boat, fish

Archery Range – trail

Chet Reed Arboretum – trail

Demonstration Forest – trail, 1 mile

SANTIAM STATE FOREST

Campgrounds

(\$10 drive-in, walk-in sites \$5 per night)

Butte Creek Falls – 3 sites, hiking

Santiam Horse Camp – 9 horse sites, staging area for hiking and biking

Rock Creek – 4 sites

Shellburg Falls – 4 drive-in, 3 walk-in sites

Rhody Lake – 3 sites, hiking, fishing

Butte Lakes – 3 sites, hiking

Non-motorized Trails

Shellburg Falls Area – hiking, horseback riding, biking, free-ride biking, 6.5 miles, easy-difficult

Rocky Top Lookout – hiking, 0.5 mile, difficult

Natural Rock Arch – hiking, 0.5 mile, difficult

Butte Creek Falls – hiking, 1.5 miles, moderate

High Lakes – hiking, horseback riding, 1.5 miles, moderate to difficult

Monument Peak – hiking, horseback riding, biking, 15 miles

Off-Highway Vehicle Trails

None at this time; planning under way

Forestry responds to recreation report

The Oregon Department of Forestry's State Forests Division asked for an independent assessment of its recreation program in 2007 as a way to plan for the future.

The report identified both bright and weak spots, confirming the agency's belief that the time is right to tune up recreation management in state forests.

Among the findings, the report said ODF needs:

- An overall plan that provides a common direction for recreation, with some flexibility for specific forests.
- Better risk management, good business practices and clear communications.
- More staffing to improve maintenance and operations, and to meet the growing and complex recreation demands.
- A plan based on suitability assessments instead of being driven by historical use and user demands.
- Universal tolerance levels for acceptable use.
- To better manage high-impact recreation, such as off-highway vehicles, dispersed camping and target shooting.

An action plan is being prepared to address the report's findings and recommendations.

For a copy of the report go to: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/docs/Recreation/FINAL_REPORT_ODF_RecMgmtAssmt_5_30.pdf

For a copy of the draft action plan (includes strategic direction, planning, standards, workforce organization and capacity, business management, communications, and monitoring and information systems), go to: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/docs/Recreation/Rec_Action_Plan_Review_Draft_3-7-08.pdf

To comment on the plan, contact John Barnes in Salem at 503-945-7387 or jdubarnes@odf.state.or.us.

Getting the message: How civil penalties help enforce Oregon's Forest Practices Act

Kevin Weeks, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Many sweeping changes have been launched with these six, simple words: There ought to be a law.

In Oregon, policies for our forests are no different. In 1971, Oregon became the first state to adopt forest management laws via the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

Prior legislation, including the state's Forest Conservation Act of 1941, made attempts to regulate use of Oregon's forests but lacked a comprehensive enforcement approach. In 1987, the Oregon Forest Practices Act was amended to create a new enforcement tool: assessment of civil penalties for violations and giving the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) authority to use them.

"The public in Oregon has a basic expectation that ODF will hold people accountable to the intent of the Forest Practices Act," says Peter Daugherty, Deputy Chief of ODF's Private Forests Division. "Landowners and operators, who regularly meet and exceed FPA standards, also expect us to maintain a level playing field. At a minimum, ODF needs to ensure efficient, fair, and consistent administration of the FPA, including enforcement."

A primary goal of ODF is to protect Oregon's forest resources from damage. Civil penalties are meant to deter and discourage timber operators and landowners from committing violations that could result in resource damage, especially damage to streams, drinking water resources and fish habitat. ODF's civil penalty program is focused on preventing and correcting damage to Oregon's natural resources.

The path to enforcement action begins when an ODF stewardship forester documents resource damage or a violation of FPA standards during a site visit. The forester may issue a "Written Statement of Unsatisfactory Condition" — an enforcement document which identifies what conditions exist, and how corrective action can be taken to prevent



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Civil penalties enacted through Oregon's Forest Practices Act help ensure water quality standards are met for creeks like this one (left) in western Lane County. They also ensure that trees are replanted and successfully established following logging (above).

damage to natural resources. When written instructions are followed and damage is avoided, the timber operator or landowner is considered to be in compliance with the FPA.

When a citation becomes necessary

Written statements are often appropriate for administrative violations — such as failure to notify ODF of a harvest operation, or failure to have an approved written plan. However, if natural resource damage has already occurred, the next level of enforcement action — a citation — is issued.

“We need to maintain all our tools which form the three-legged stool,” said Daugherty. “Our primary tools for creating healthy forests in Oregon are technical design and education or engineering. With these tools, we regularly help landowners achieve results far above the expectations of the Forest Practices Act. The third leg of the stool — enforcement — helps ensure the credibility of the FPA and ongoing public support. Without consistent and fair enforcement, we will not remain successful in meeting the FPA’s intent.”

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued 56 citations during 2007 for alleged violations of the Forest Practices Act. The written citation goes above the level of the notice of unsatisfactory condition, however, having a citation issued does not necessarily lead to civil penalties being assessed.

Negotiations encouraged

The civil penalty program is set up so that resource enhancement and mitigation measures can be substituted for all or part of a civil penalty. Landowners or timber operators alleged to be in violation of the Forest Practices Act could potentially mitigate up to fifty percent of the assessed penalty by developing a strategic replanting project or stream restoration effort. The opportunity for negotiated consent orders and settlement agreements are provided before resorting to civil penalties.

Assessment of civil penalties on a citation is frequently delayed to be able to assess resource damage, and evaluate the overall cooperation level and intent from the landowner or operator.

From a simplified approach: civil penalties are computed from a formula. Assessment begins with a base penalty, usually \$100 for administrative violations, \$250 for violations where damage has occurred and \$1000 as a base for more serious violations.

Once the base penalty of \$100 to \$1,000 is generated, other factors are then applied to raise or lower the proposed civil penalty, including:

- The severity of the damage created by the violation
- The extent that damage has been repaired or mitigated
- The operator’s knowledge and record of previous violations
- The operator’s level of cooperation.

Penalties that fall below \$100 generally result in being suspended, unless additional violations occur within the next year. The maximum civil penalty is \$5,000. Some specific violations for damage or resource protection can be noted as multiple violations, each subject to a penalty of up to \$5,000. Failure to cease action or failure to repair damage serves as a multiplier, compounding the final assessed amount for a civil penalty.

Once civil penalties are assessed, a process exists to allow the cited party to contest the civil penalty before a hearings officer, with an infrequent number of appeals ultimately reaching the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Building relationships

Effective enforcement does sometimes place the stewardship forester, generally available to the landowner or operator as a resource educating them about forest practices, in the role of writing a citation to a person with whom they have had an otherwise positive working relationship.

“There is an art to field enforcement,” said Daugherty. “The situation becomes less awkward when the forester is fairly, objectively enforcing mutually understood standards that ensure Oregon’s forests are a renewable resource. Done right, you can fairly enforce the law and preserve the positive relationship with the landowner or operator.” 🌲

Drumbeat of growth, development puts a squeeze on Oregon's family-owned forests

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Family forestlands have been an economic asset to Oregonians for generations. Besides producing some 16 percent of the timber sold in the state each year, they also clean our air, supply clean streams and water, furnish habitat for wildlife, and provide opportunities for recreation.

Unfortunately, in spite of the many benefits they provide, the integrity and longevity of these valuable assets is uncertain.

Just who owns these valuable lands, and why do their futures look uncertain?

Family forestland owners are usually thought of as Oregonians owning up to 5,000 acres of forest. While some work and manage their lands full-time, many others have day jobs ranging from schoolteachers and forestry consultants to doctors and college professors.

The demographics

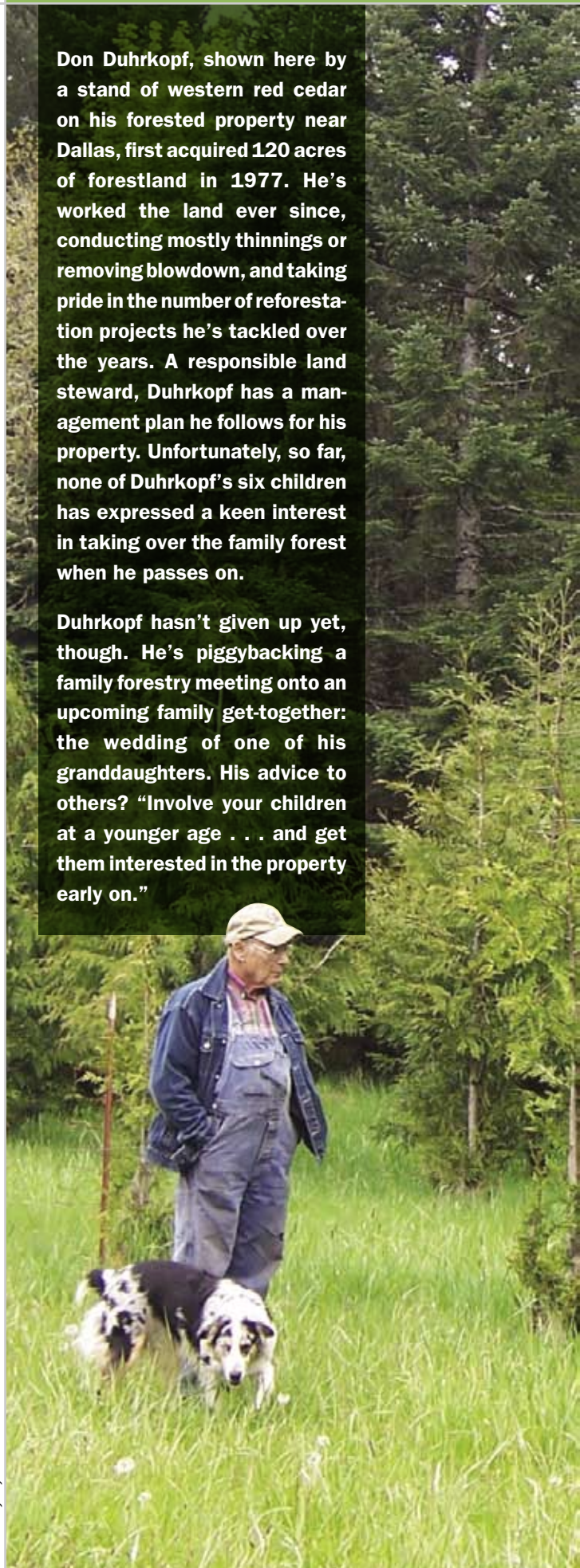
According to 2004 data, nearly two-thirds of family forestland owners in Oregon are more than 55 years in age; more than half are over 65. While the majority of landowners say they intend to pass their property on to the next generation, most do not create a plan for the property that can help the new owners through the transition or help them understand land management strategies so they can be good forest stewards.

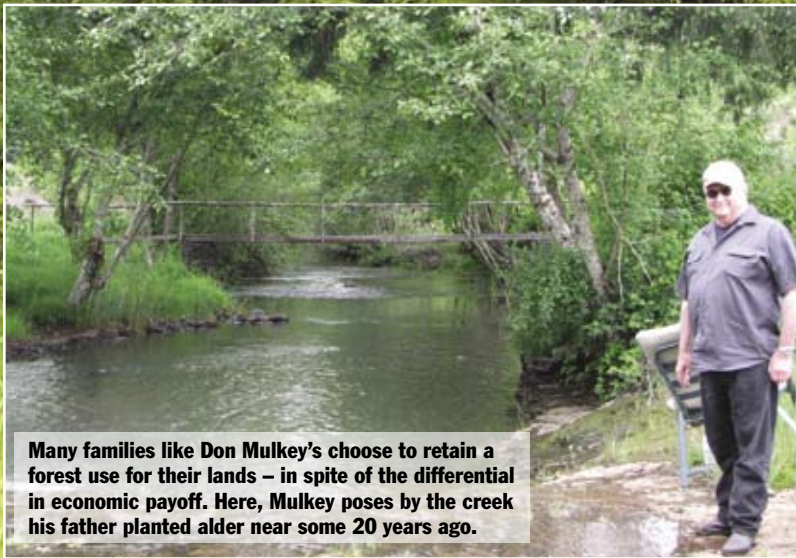
Hence, in most western states and indeed, across the country, keeping these family forestlands intact after the senior generation passes on is one of the most pressing issues family forestland owners face today.

Don Duhrkopf, shown here by a stand of western red cedar on his forested property near Dallas, first acquired 120 acres of forestland in 1977. He's worked the land ever since, conducting mostly thinnings or removing blowdown, and taking pride in the number of reforestation projects he's tackled over the years. A responsible land steward, Duhrkopf has a management plan he follows for his property. Unfortunately, so far, none of Duhrkopf's six children has expressed a keen interest in taking over the family forest when he passes on.

Duhrkopf hasn't given up yet, though. He's piggybacking a family forestry meeting onto an upcoming family get-together: the wedding of one of his granddaughters. His advice to others? "Involve your children at a younger age . . . and get them interested in the property early on."

Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF





Many families like Don Mulkey's choose to retain a forest use for their lands – in spite of the differential in economic payoff. Here, Mulkey poses by the creek his father planted alder near some 20 years ago.

Valuable lands - but vulnerable

The fate of these lands extends beyond individual families and sometimes affects entire communities. Not only do family forestlands produce a multitude of societal benefits; properties tend to be located in lower-lying, more populated areas near towns and cities. They provide a buffer between population centers and large, privately owned tracts of land. Unfortunately, when combined with pressures from population growth, their location makes them extremely vulnerable to land development.

“The thing we’ve seen a lot of is turnover in property ownership,” says ODF’s Steve Vaught, one of two field coordinators with ODF. Adds Vaught, “Since I’ve been out in the field, it certainly hasn’t slowed down.”

Clint Bentz, a Stayon tax accountant, chair of the American Tree Farm System and a family forestland owner himself, agrees. “More and more lands are changing hands via inheritance,” says Bentz. And it’s accelerating. “The average length of forestland ownership in Oregon now is 8 years,” adds Bentz.

Cash on the barrel, or a way of life?

The real estate market and lucrative land values also play a part. “If the owner dies suddenly and no planning has been done, usually a massive liquidation takes place,” says Vaught. “The land gets logged and then divvied up between surviving family members.”

The “liquidation” is often an involuntary action of the estate of the deceased to cover inheritance taxes. This happens where the estate is land rich and cash poor – requiring timber to be cut and land to be sold to pay taxes.

This brings about another emerging trend: smaller forestland parcels between 10 and 50 acres in size are becoming much more common.

Complicating matters is the fact that production value – i.e., commercially growing timber as an investment – has a value “of about \$500 – \$1000 an acre,” says Bentz. On the other hand, selling the land to a developer can bring \$30,000 – \$50,000 per acre, a huge difference. “So unless the family is committed and engaged in maintaining the land for forest use, it’s very hard to keep it intact,” says Bentz, “especially when families no longer live there.”

What’s really surprising? In spite of the differential in economic payoff, “a lot of families still choose to retain the forest use,” rather than sell, says Bentz.

New pilot program: despite challenges, there’s still hope

What are some hopeful signs about trends in family forestland ownership? “One of the bright spots on the

Continued on page 12

horizon is the emerging market in ecosystems services,” says Bentz. “These include carbon, clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and recreation on private lands.”

How this works is evolving, but most likely companies will be able to reduce their carbon “footprint” by purchasing carbon credits to sequester carbon, and the landowners will be paid for these credits.

A new program developing between the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and the American Forest Foundation to help tree farmers sell their carbon offsets looks promising. While this would not provide a huge sum of money, it would help offset management costs for things like hiring contractors for tree thinning or planting projects.

Resources to help plan ahead

Thoughtful estate planning in advance of major life events can provide for orderly handoff of forestland to the next generation. This is usually a big “win” for the family and the resource in the long term.

But keeping forested lands forested in spite of generational land issues is a challenge. Serious estate planning ultimately requires the services of an accountant, an attorney, and / or financial planner. But where to find them?

Finding the right individuals to help advise family forestland owners is often a word-of-mouth process. Talking to neighbors

and getting involved with the local woodland owner association or county Extension forestry agents is a good start. Stewardship Foresters may also be helpful.

Transfer the passion, then transfer the land

What would be some important advice Bentz might offer to family forestland owners – especially those working full time jobs in addition to managing forestland? “Start communicating regularly with your children about the many values of the forestland,” says Bentz. “Talk to them about why you own it, and get them engaged in the management of the forest while you’re still around to show them the value,” he adds. In other words, the only way land transfer occurs successfully is when passion is passed to the next generation. 🌲



Tax accountant and family forestland owner Clint Bentz

The Committee for Family Forestlands

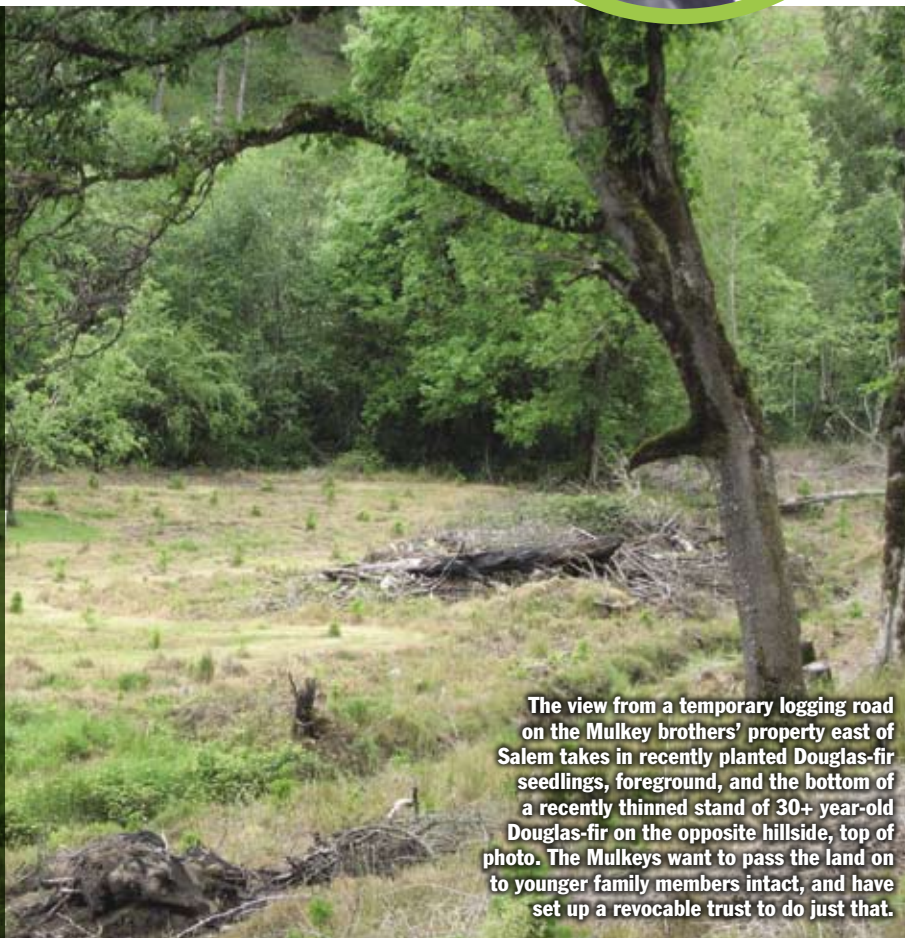
Realizing the importance of family forestlands to the diversity of the state’s forests, the Oregon Board of Forestry established the Committee for Family Forestlands in January 2000. The committee monitors forest policy development and its potential effect on small landowners and advises the board and State Forester on family forestland issues.

They also help define the role family forestland owners play in sustaining Oregon’s forests, restoring salmon, and improving watersheds and the availability of timber. Their guidance is very helpful in determining the type and level of assistance family forestland owners need. For more information: www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/CFF/cff.shtml

Other resources

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association has been working with supporters of family woodlands to deliver valuable programs to its members for many years. For information about upcoming events and membership benefits, visit: www.oswa.org/

The National Tree Farm Convention is being held in Portland, Oregon, this year, October 16-18, at the Oregon Convention Center. Visit www.otfs.org/index.html for more information.



The view from a temporary logging road on the Mulkey brothers’ property east of Salem takes in recently planted Douglas-fir seedlings, foreground, and the bottom of a recently thinned stand of 30+ year-old Douglas-fir on the opposite hillside, top of photo. The Mulkeys want to pass the land on to younger family members intact, and have set up a revocable trust to do just that.



Family forestland owners had a chance to connect, talk about inter-generational transfer of lands, and other, current topics of the day at OSWA's 'Howdy Neighbor' event in April.

Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF

Family forestland owners reach out to say “Howdy, Neighbor”

Kevin Weeks,
ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Up to 150 people in April had the opportunity to tour a working family forest on the Oregon Coast and discuss the challenges facing Oregon’s small woodland owners. The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) hosted the (“Howdy Neighbor”) forestry event on the 300-acre Ellingson Family Farm located six miles from Mapleton.


Owners Ivan and Diane Ellingson manage the property, which includes a stand of 33,000 13 year-old Douglas-fir trees, and 100 acres of mixed-age Douglas-fir, alder and brush.

Attendees broke into small groups to discuss the impact of family forest ownership on Oregon, and new initiatives on topics such as carbon storage, conservation easements and keeping Oregonians connected to family farm ownership. The latter topic covered the advantages of transferring ownership into limited liability corporations (LLC) to preserve family leadership, but allow for succession transfer to a new generation.

“In 2001, we formed an LLC to aid the inter-generational transfer of the

land,” said Ivan Ellingson. “Through the years, the farm has been a dairy and beef operation, we also raised strawberries and some timber. We are shifting from farm crops and beef cattle to timber. We also want to offer recreational opportunities on the farm, which will encourage family members and friends to return to the farm.”

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association has other “Howdy Neighbor” events scheduled this year, including: July 26 near Astoria; September 6th in the Benton County community of Monroe; and, September 27th near Prineville.

For more information on future OSWA events, go to their website at www.oswa.org 



Nursery manager Harry Brown and Field Supervisor Alan Harper survey seedling crop growth at D.L. Phipps State Forest Nursery in Elkton in this 2004 photo.

Photo by Lisa Clemo, ODF

All good things must end

End of an era for the Phipps Forest Nursery

Kevin Weeks, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Spring 2008 marked the end of the final growing season for operations at ODF's D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery near Elkton.

The Dwight L. Phipps Forest Nursery first opened in 1957 to provide government agencies, family forests and private landowners an on-demand source for at-cost tree seedlings without multi-year seedling contracts required. The closure of the nursery was a reflection of changing times, shifting markets and modern economics.

Tree seedling sales at Phipps ceased on April 1. Staff began the task of shutting down the facility – and with it, embracing the 50 years of history the nursery created.

Tears flowed, hugs were sincere and friends remembered the good times during the nursery's final employee recognition event March 24. Ten members of the Phipps staff received recognition or formal service awards honoring their service to the Oregon Department of Forestry, including:

Lisa Clemo - 27 years of service

Alan Harper - 30 Year ODF Service Award recipient

Anne Helms - retiring with 28 years of service to ODF

Rochelle Karpik - 10 Year ODF Service Award recipient

Rosanna Neely - 8 years of service

Earl Plueard - 29 years of service

Jeff Southern - 14 years of service

Richard Stanley - 13 years of service

Elizabeth Van't Zet - 28 years of service

Bonnie Zosel - 29 years of service



The loading dock stands empty and idle at the site of the former Phipps Forest Nursery.

“The Phipps Nursery provided many trees for Oregon and helped landowners meet their reforestation needs,” said acting nursery manager Anne Helms. “Our staff can drive throughout the state, see our trees and know they made a difference in supporting Oregon’s quality of life.”

Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF

The shutdown of the Phipps Nursery brings to conclusion an 83-year run by the State of Oregon providing tree seedlings for sale to the public.

A nursery in Corvallis...

The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 provided Oregon with \$22,764 for forest management and tree seedling production, and led to the establishment of the Corvallis Nursery in 1925. The first production season in 1927 provided 88,688 tree seedlings, mostly to farmers looking to create windbreaks and plant woodlots.

Replanting had been a crucial need for Oregon’s forest stewards. Early experiments in replanting were mainly quick-growing softwoods meant to feed pulp facility needs. Landowners relied primarily on natural reseeding to regenerate forests, as by 1940 only 49,000 acres of Douglas-fir in Oregon had been successfully grown on forest tree plantations. This was primarily a market-driven decision for landowners; in 1940, the cost of planting one year-old Douglas-fir tree seedlings per acre was about twice what a one-acre stand of 50-year-old Douglas-firs would yield on the lumber market.

Reforestation became a pivotal part of Oregon’s future when the Forest Conservation Act was established by 1941 Legislature, promoting regeneration of harvested lands through a mix of natural seeding and replanting tree seedlings. The need for tree seedlings from the Corvallis Nursery blossomed during the 1940s to meet the needs of replanting the devastated Tillamook Burn and harvested commercial lands, with nursery production

reaching 3 million seedlings in 1949 and 7 million seedlings by 1954. It was evident that tree seedlings represented a growth business in Oregon.

...then a nursery in Elkton

The 66-acre Elkton Nursery along the Umpqua River was established in 1957 by ODF and Douglas County under the USDA’s Soil Bank Act. The nursery was re-named in 1965 in honor of former State Forester Dwight Phipps, who guided its founding.

At its peak, the Phipps Nursery produced 16 million tree seedlings per year on a complex that eventually covered 261 acres. However, changing market conditions during the 1990’s and subsequent years impacted the nursery’s long-term financial feasibility. Its fate was made clear by a 2006 Board of Forestry decision which directed ODF to explore selling the nursery property and find alternatives for providing seedling stock to Oregon’s landowners.

Seedlings are still available to Oregon landowners through many private-sector providers. The Oregon Department of Forestry also developed a catalog called “Sources of Native Forest Nursery Seedlings” to assist the public with finding alternate sources for tree seedlings; the guide is available on ODF’s web site (www.oregon.gov/ODF).

As the shutdown continues, the next use of the Elkton facility is unclear.

Despite the difficulty of knowing the current two-year growing cycle would be their last, the staff of the Phipps Nursery took enormous pride in growing Oregon’s future. “These last two years – working with the seed, stratifying the crop and seeing them germinate – was such a positive experience while working with some great people here,” said Rochelle Karpik. “Where else can you work and get to be amongst the trees?” 🌲



(L to R): Former nursery staff Anne Helms, Elizabeth Van’t Zet, Earl Plueard, Jenny Solomon (ODF Salem), Richard Stanley, Lisa Clemo, Alan Harper, Rosanna Neely, Dan Shults (ODF Southern Oregon Area Director), Rochelle Karpik, Dave Lorenz (ODF Western Lane District Forester) and Bonnie Zosel pose for a photo during Phipps final days.

Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF

Scarlet Oak – *Quercus coccinea*

Jeri Chase, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Looking for a different, relatively-large tree that thrives in full sun, will grace your home with sun-dappled shade, display outstanding, over-the-top color from late fall well into winter, and generously nourishes many varieties of wildlife? Consider the scarlet oak.

Native to the eastern and central United States, this tree is a common sight in many eastern and central dry upland forests from Maine to Florida and west to Minnesota and Missouri. Although not much used here in the Pacific Northwest, scarlet oak would be an excellent choice for the right location in many residential and urban settings.

Enjoy an emerald canopy in spring, a scarlet blaze in fall

“Scarlet oak looks a lot like the mighty pin oak,” says Kristin Ramstad, an urban forester with the department.

It is pyramidal in shape when young, developing a classic rounded, relatively open crown shape when mature. It has horizontal to upright spreading branches that do not tend to sweep downward; lower branches may self-prune as they are shaded out by increased growth.

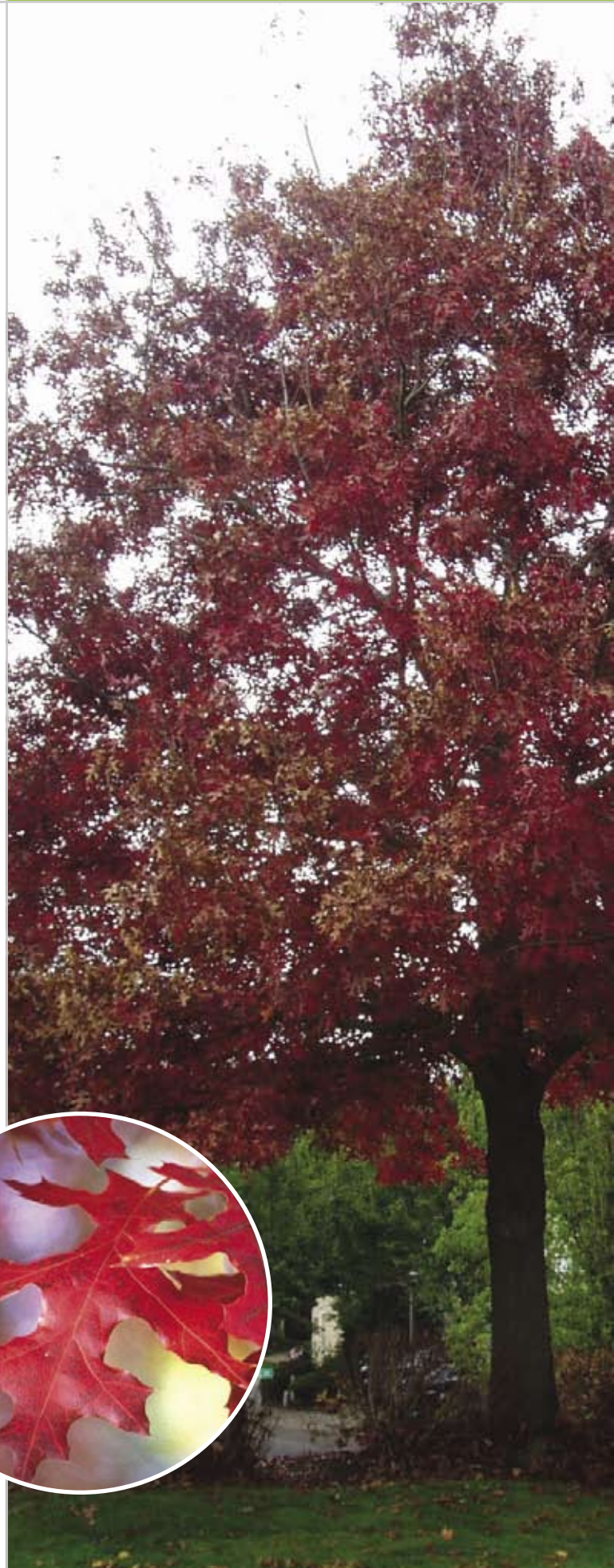
This is a large, medium- to fast-growing deciduous tree that thrives in full sun, eventually reaching 60-80 feet in height, with a spread of 40-50 feet, and a trunk diameter of one to three feet.

In spring and summer, scarlet oak leaves are a deep, emerald green above and paler green below. Leaves are smooth in texture, alternate, and are three to six inches in length and two to five inches wide. They have seven deep, “C”-shaped lobes per leaf, with bristle tips.

This tree’s bark is smooth and lighter brown on young trees, darkening to grey-black in color and furrowing as the

The leaves of scarlet oak have “C”-shaped lobes and bristle tips.

Photo from ODF archives





Late in the autumn the leaves of the scarlet oak change to brilliant colors, from deep russet to scarlet red. This color extends well into winter – long after other showy species fade.

Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

tree ages, and the trunk often swells at the base. The inner wood is reddish in color.

“Scarlet oak has stunning fall color and grows into a large canopy tree. It is very unusual around here, but it would grow well,” says Ramstad. In fact, this oak takes both its common and scientific names from the Latin word for scarlet - “coccinea,” referring to its brilliant fall color display, considered the best of all the oaks. Late in the autumn, the emerald green leaves change to brilliant colors from deep russet to scarlet, and this color extends well into winter, long after other showy species fade, which can make for a spectacular show against a snowy background.

Versatile acorns, plus a unique leaf shape

Acorns of this oak are small to medium in size – one-half to one inch long, and form singly or in pairs. Half of the nut is covered by a deep cap, and they’re a favorite food for many wildlife species, including grey squirrels, chipmunks, mice, deer, blue jays, woodpeckers, wild turkeys, common grackle, and grouse.

Native Americans found many uses for oaks native to America including using the acorns for making coffee, and drying and grinding them into powder that was used for thickening soups and stews or mixed with cereals for bread. The bitter flavor from its tannins was leached out by placing them in a running stream for days or weeks and letting the water wash the tannins away, or by burying them for seasons on end in boggy ground.

Scarlet oak tannin was also used medicinally as an astringent, and in the treatment of hemorrhaging and intestinal problems. The common galls found on the scarlet oak – formed as a result of insect larvae activity – are a rich source of tannin used for tanning animal skins and dye.

The scarlet oak is a member of the “red oak” group of oaks and many of its

other names – black oak, red oak, buck oak, spotted oak, and Spanish oak – are actually names of some of those other species. It can be difficult to differentiate between this and the other red oaks. Key features of the scarlet oak are the deep “C”-shaped lobes on its leaves (as compared to the often “U”-shape in other species), deep acorn-covering cap, and stunning late fall color.

Location, location, location

The right tree for the right place is always critical when choosing trees for urban and residential areas. For the scarlet oak, selecting a proper location is even more important: this tree develops a deep, single taproot, and will not likely survive transplanting if you change your mind about where you want it to be.

Scarlet oak can be a good choice for a shade, lawn, or street tree. Because of its relatively open crown, it provides light shade that you can garden and grow lawn beneath, and horizontal root growth is not a problem. The lack of drooping limbs also makes it an excellent street tree; although the flare at the base of its trunk can lift sidewalks and curbs if planted in space that is too small for it to mature – less than eight feet wide. It can be an excellent option for large parking lot islands, buffer strips, and median strip street plantings.

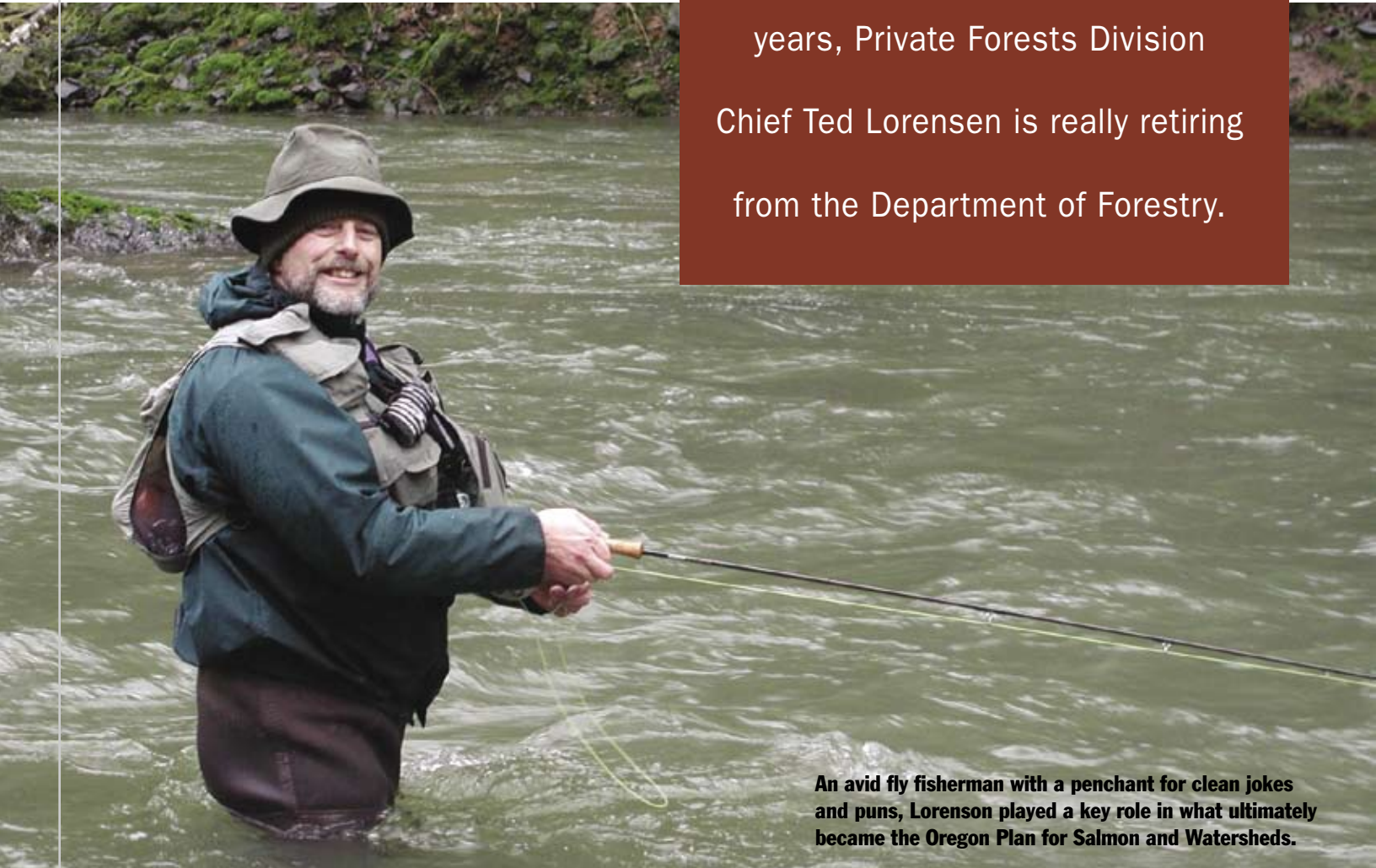
In its native range, it is often found on the dry side of ridges, bluffs, and slopes. As an urban or residential tree, this oak needs little maintenance. It needs very little, if any, pruning, is durable and not prone to breakage, tolerates strong winds, and is relatively pest- and disease-resistant in an urban setting. It can tolerate a wide variety of soils, including sand and gravel, only requires normal moisture, and is somewhat drought tolerant.

Although only grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries, this oak is well worth searching out. For unsurpassed autumn and winter foliage, cool summer shade, and a tree that will attract wildlife and all of their antics, consider the scarlet oak. 🌰

This forester loved science and policy, but after 30 years, it's the people he'll miss most

Jeri Chase, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Yes, the rumors are true. After a career spanning more than 30 years, Private Forests Division Chief Ted Lorensen is really retiring from the Department of Forestry.



An avid fly fisherman with a penchant for clean jokes and puns, Lorensen played a key role in what ultimately became the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

No doubt his legacy will be his passion for using science to make policy decisions. But ODF's Ted Lorenson says it's the people he'll remember the most.

"The relationships, the people and working with others who believe in what forests can contribute," Lorenson says in a recent interview. "I'll miss the creative, energetic problem-solvers, and their ideas and enthusiasm. I enjoy the discussion and the debate, and think that at its highest level it can lead to the best informed policy decision-making."

During his time as an acknowledged "policy geek," Lorenson was involved in lots of high-profile work including land use planning, the siting of dwellings on forestland, and the development of the 1988, 1995, and 2003 editions of the Forestry Program for Oregon, the guiding document for the department and the Board of Forestry.

He was instrumental in developing the department's science-based and field-tested water protection rules. He also played a key role in what ultimately became the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Lorenson says he's come away with great appreciation for the need for sound information in crafting forest practice rules. He says he also values the work being conducted on three watershed studies: Hinkle Creek (Cascades), Trask (north Coast) and Alsea Revisted (mid coast). These studies are evaluating the environmental effects on water and fish of contemporary forest management practices.

"Actually studying possible cumulative effects – rather than assuming them – is a key to ensuring that we have forest practices that are effective and efficient," Lorenson says.

His career with the department began in 1977 in Forest Grove and Astoria, where he worked in fire and forest practices. One of the first two fire behavior analysts in the agency, Lorenson came to ODF's Salem headquarters in 1984 to work for the Protection from Fire program.

He saw some extraordinary fire behavior during the 1986 and 1987 fire seasons.

"The 1987 (fire season) was a benchmark in using resources from outside Oregon," Lorenson says. "We were working 18-20 hours per day, trying to find resources. Since California was hit by the big lightning storms first, most of the nation's resources were not available. Thus, it was the first time we ever used international resources – crews and air tankers out of Canada – and we were just making it up as we went along."

In 1988, Lorenson moved to the Resource Planning Program and began what would become his passion and commitment for the rest of his career: forest policy, land use, water protection, and science-based decision-making. Yet another move in Salem placed Lorenson in the Forest Practices Program in 1991 as policy unit manager, and positioned him on a leadership track within the agency.

He became the Forest Practices Program director in 1998. He was



named assistant state forester (now called division chief) of the Private Forests Division in 2001. He held this position until his retirement at the end of May.

"Working during the 1990's in the Forest Practices Program," Lorenson recalls, "that was a really good time for me. We had an outstanding team of creative and energetic people and we got a lot of really amazing work done. Top to bottom, the department just had a great pool of talent in the program."

Lorenson doesn't rule out returning – at some point – to the natural resource arena in some fashion.

"For the next six months, I just want to decompress for a while and take some time," he says.

An avid outdoorsman, Lorenson has planned trips to Montana, Washington and the back country of Oregon. You'll find him fishing, backpacking and hunting.

After that? "I plan to think about what I would like to do next – reinvent myself," he says, "I think that reinvention will be a good thing." 🍷

Complex Incident course ... Continued from page 5

"At the CIMC training, people who had been at the World Trade Center and other incidents were able to teach us from their experiences," he said. "It was striking at times how well some of the simulations they put us through mimicked the reality of what went on during the storm deployment."

"Coaches" help, too.

While the CIMC curriculum has "sink-or-swim" elements designed to test participants' ability to work under intense pressure, they receive individual and group counsel from coach-evaluators along the way. Two are assigned to each eight-person team.

"The coach-evaluators give lots of feedback and help participants get through tough spots," Liedtke said. "We also have subject matter experts on hand to coach on specific position skills."

Since 2000, 12 courses have been taught across the nation. So far, twenty-five ODF fire managers have gone through the training. 🍷

This western Oregon meadow is the site of a research study, one of many such research projects discussed by the Northwest Oregon Ecology Group.

Restoring land to meadow conditions – tackle it early on

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Photo by Ryan Haugo

In Oregon and much of western North America, invasion of mountain meadows by conifers is a recent, but common phenomenon thought to be caused by long-term suppression of wildfire, climate change, and in some cases, sheep grazing.

Meadows have wildlife habitat advantages that forests do not. Deer and elk, for instance, are attracted to meadows. Many flower and plant species are found in meadows, and nowhere else.

These types of conversions – from meadow to forest – affect local and regional habitat diversity. Yet, little research has been done on conifer encroachment and impacts to biodiversity.

What's the process whereby a meadow changes to a forest, and what might the process tell us about ways to accomplish meadow restoration?

The desire to maintain open habitats for biological diversity and other resource values has led federal land managers to experiment with tree removal and prescribed fire. A research study at Bunchgrass Ridge in the Cascade Range of western Oregon is examining ways in which the composition, abundance and richness of meadow and forest understory species changes during the transition from open meadow to old forest.

Preliminary findings indicate that meadow plant communities are highly sensitive, showing changes in plant species in the early stages of conifer establishment. Early findings also indicate that restoration of a meadow becomes harder once a forest has become established. The most effective strategy for conservation or restoration of meadows may be to remove or kill trees at early stages – before irreversible changes in the plant community take place.

Interested in tackling meadow restoration on your property? Consider the words of researcher Ryan Haugo with the University of Washington. Haugo says that removing trees – especially while they're young – is the most important part of the conversion process. Adds Haugo, "the younger the trees are, the more successful you'll be in seeing a sooner return of native meadow species."

Want to learn more?

An association of ecologists from the BLM and US Forest Service – The Northwest Oregon Ecology Group – provides analyses for ecological issues in forest ecosystems throughout Northwest Oregon. To subscribe to their newsletter or find out about upcoming meetings, contact Cheryl Ann Friesen at cfriesen@fs.fed.us.

Snow didn't hamper their spirits or the cleanup

The Oregon Department of Forestry joined more than 100 groups and agencies to participate in the annual "SOLV IT!" event held in April. Sponsored by SOLV (formerly known as "Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism") at many work sites, the Oregon Department of Forestry's project focused on removing garbage and debris from the Tillamook State Forest.

Thirty-three volunteers including recreation enthusiasts, removed 12,000 pounds of garbage, 15 cubic yards of scrap metal, 3 cars and more than 100 tires from the Tillamook State Forest. Unseasonable snowfall didn't dampen volunteer efforts. "We've never been able to have snowball fights in between loading up the dumpsters before," joked site coordinator Stephanie Beall.

Clubs and organizations helping with the mammoth task included Oregon Equestrian Trails, Jolly Jeepers, Mid-Valley Crawlers and the Portland United Mountain Pedalers. SOLV was founded by Oregon Governor Tom McCall in 1969. 🌲



Photo by Stephanie Beall, ODF

Tons of Fun: SOLV Day volunteers and ODF staff pose with a truck full of garbage collected at a single dumpsite in the Tillamook State Forest in the northern Coast Range mountains west of Portland.

New Forest History Center officially opens its doors

A dedication ceremony in May celebrated the newly-opened Forest History Center at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Salem Campus.



Photo by Jeff Foreman, ODF

L-R: Bill Cook, Oregon Forestry Retirees Association; Emil Sabel, Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni; H. Mike Miller, Keep Oregon Green Association Board of Directors; Alan Maul, Forest History Center Coordinator; and Clark Seely, Associate State Forester, officially cut the ribbon and dedicate the Forest History Center at a ceremony in May.

About 75 attendees toured the center's exhibits to view displays about reforestation, contributions of the CCC to forestry in Oregon, historical memorabilia from the Keep Oregon Green association, and fire look-outs in Oregon. Displays on hand for viewing included radio equipment, tools, and an array of work by noted artist Hugh Hayes.

Alan Maul, Forest History Center Coordinator, and Ray Miller, Forest History Center volunteer, were recognized for their work and commitment to opening the center and developing its many forestry-related displays. Associate State Forester Clark W. Seely spoke about the relationship the Department has with the culture of the past as it builds leaders for the future, and the history of the center's development.

Representatives of organizations that assisted in center development – the Oregon Forestry Retirees Association (OFRA), Keep Oregon Green Association (KOG) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) alumni – also participated in the ceremony.

The Forest History Center is open Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at other times by appointment. For more information, you can visit www.foresthistorycenter.oregon.gov or email fhcinfo@odf.state.or.us 🌲

This plant is on state's "Most Wanted" list



Photo by Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org



Photo courtesy Glenn Miller, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Seen this plant lately? It's Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and it's high on the list of invasive plants both Department of Forestry and Department of Agriculture officials would like to see eradicated from public and private lands in Oregon.

That's because – like most invasives – it spreads quickly. Wherever its seeds land, it seems to take over. In fact, a recent article in the Salem Statesman Journal called Garlic mustard “the state's most devious weed.”

Just a few reasons this plant merits your eradication efforts, should you spot it:

- It spreads easily in tire treads, deer fur, hiking boots, and takes over wherever seeds land;
- It has the unusual characteristic of poisoning its competitors through “allelopathy,” a process that harms soil fungi needed by Oregon's native plants;
- Its roots grow in an S-shape, so when pulling it out of the ground, it breaks easily. And new plants can re-sprout from even a piece of root.

One easy identification method? As its name might imply, when its leaves are crushed, this plant smells like garlic.

So far, Garlic mustard has been positively identified in Washington County, Clackamas County, Columbia County, and a site in Jackson County, as well as in the Gorge and other areas of Multnomah County.

Eradication tips

Pulling all the plants up probably only works for small infestations where a landowner or other person can watch very carefully and pull every plant they see over a period of years. Also, if you find Garlic mustard on your property, don't pull them and put them in a compost pile; you'll need to bag the plants, and make sure they go to a landfill.

Mowing is apparently not a good option, as the plant just flowers at a lower level and seeds can be spread in the mower. Herbicides can work well, but always read and follow all requirements on pesticide product labels. You can contact your local Oregon State University extension forester, your local County forester, or local ODF stewardship forester for information about herbicide choices and safe applications.

Also, whichever method you choose, remember to undertake control methods before the plant sets seed.

For more information

You can read more about this “devious weed” at www.weedmapper.org/alpe4_state.html You can also call 1-866-INVADER to report sightings. 🌿

Kids have a field day at Forestry “Field Days”



Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Students learned how to use a clinometer to estimate tree heights (photos left and center), and about the diet of the northern spotted owl (right) at this year’s “Forestry Field Days.”

Reaching consensus in how to manage “Grandma Petersen’s” forestland is the dilemma facing 6th-grade students fortunate enough to attend this year’s “Forest Field Days,” sponsored by Forests Today and Forever.

Hosted by private landowners on private landowner properties, the program gives students and area educators a natural resource learning opportunity while helping students and teachers meet state benchmark standards. The fun-filled event is packed with learning opportunities - including four “stations,” and a full curricula.

Stations include:

- * soil and water
- * forestry
- * recreation
- * wildlife

Oregon Department of Forestry staff have been instrumental to the program’s success. “As far as I know, ODF staff have been helping out since the inception of Field Days,” says Program Coordinator LaRae Ash. “They’re really a great support, always, especially the Western Lane office stewardship foresters Jordan Ryder, Joe Lynch, Bob Johnson and Paul Clements. They always step up, and sometimes for two days. Good teachers and great with the kids,” she adds.

The annual event got its start in 1985 when forest products leaders and other forestry enthusiasts in Lane County recognized the need to expose more members of the public to concepts of forest management and stewardship.

This year, Forest Field Days is being held in Lorane, Sweet Home and Florence. Middle schools participating this year include Shasta, Prairie Mountain, Meadowview, Oaklea, Mountainview, Cascade, Mapleton, Jefferson Arts & Technology, Hawthorn, Foster, Oak Heights, and Siuslaw.

Contact: coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org for more information. 🌲

“Inquiry at Hinkle Creek” video earns top award

Praising it as “excellent,” understandable” and “well-thought-out,” an international group of communication professionals gave a perfect rating and gold medal to a forestry education video produced jointly by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon State University. In the category of script writing, “Inquiry at Hinkle Creek: Doing Science in our Forests” received the highest honor.

The 16-minute video follows a paired-watershed study to show the role that scientific research plays in forest management. OSU scientists and others are using two branches of Hinkle Creek northwest of Roseburg to study how forestry operations affect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

The instructional video is geared for students in grades 5 through 12; the program also helps teachers and students meet required benchmarks. Visit www.oregonforests.org for more information. 🌲

coming up



JULY 17 & 18, 2008 | State Forests Advisory Committee Field Trip & Meeting • 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location TBA | For more info: 503-359-7426

JULY 24, 2008 | Forest Discovery Tour: Improving wildlife habitat • 8:30 a.m.

For more info: 541-998-6438

JULY 31, 2008 | Forest Discovery Tour: Harvesting, reforestation • 8:30 a.m.

For more info: 541-998-6438

AUGUST 2, 2008 | Forest Discovery Tour: Tree seedling improvement, sustained yield and harvest • 8:30 a.m.

For more info: 541-998-6438

AUGUST 2, 2008 | NW Native American Traditional Technologies Workshop • 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tillamook Forest Center | For more info: 866-930-4646
Registration Required

AUGUST 7, 2008 | Forest Discovery Tour: Long-term sustainable management • 8:30 a.m.

For more info: 541-998-6438

AUGUST 8, 2008 | Wilson River Trail 2.0 Mile Guided Hike • 11:30 a.m. - Shuttle provided

Registration required

AUGUST 23, 2008 | Return for the Burn; specific events marking 75th anniversary of the Tillamook Fire

For more info: www.tillamookforestcentre.org/

SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 | State Forests Advisory Committee Meeting • 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Forest Grove Community Auditorium, Forest Grove
For more info: 503-359-7426

Forests for Oregon

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



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"