

Forests

FOR OREGON

MAGAZINE OF THE OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

SPRING 2008

**Mammoth
post-storm
recovery**

4

**Jacksonville
Woodlands
Association**

10

**Arson Patrol
in Oregon
forests**

16

**ALSO: Oregon celebrates first
Forest Legacy project.**



State Forester
Marvin Brown

F R O M T H E State Forester

Welcome to the spring edition of *Forests for Oregon*. People start turning their attention to the outdoors this time of year. However, we also had some major outdoor “events” over the winter – the wild storms that hit northwestern Oregon in December. You can read about those storms and our response in this edition.

As you’re outdoors during the calmer weather this spring, I’d encourage you to think about who owns the forested properties you see around you.

It breaks out like this. Over half of the State’s 28 million acres of forests are owned by the federal government. A little less than forty percent are privately owned, and the State owns about three percent. Of the privately owned lands, about half are in large ownerships focused on forestry as a business, and half are smaller tracts owned by families with many different reasons for owning and caring for forested property.

Family forest landowners are a vital part of the forested landscapes we know and appreciate in Oregon. They dedicate themselves to owning this land primarily because they enjoy it.

Unfortunately, owning a family forest is not without its challenges. There is the constant risk of forest fire, and unusual insect or disease outbreaks. This winter showed us that high winds and floods can do their share of damage. There is the cost of property taxes and road maintenance and, tragically, cleaning up after trash dumping and vandalism. Many worry about keeping the land whole for their heirs in light of inheritance taxes, pressure from developers and a new generation who may, or

may not, be interested in the land.

All in all, I don’t feel we are adequately “tooled” to help with these challenges. If we can’t offer more assistance, the pressure for these lands to be fragmented and developed will only increase. When that happens we all lose the benefits of clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and beautiful scenery that these lands provide. We are also beginning to understand that forests play a vital role in mitigating global warming by removing carbon from the air.

There is, in fact, a set of public benefits we all enjoy from these private lands. One of the tools we badly need is the ability to provide some reward to private landowners for providing Oregon’s citizenry at large these vitally important benefits. We call these benefits ecosystem services.

The Governor’s Global Warming Initiative offers an example of how landowners could be rewarded. Through the Initiative we are creating a market where landowners can sell the capacity of their forests to store carbon to buyers that want to offset the atmospheric carbon they produce.

This is an exciting opportunity for people to get some financial help in meeting the challenges they face as forest landowners. What I hope is that we can build on this approach to find other ways of rewarding private landowners who have given us all such an important and wide-ranging list of environmental benefits. 🌲

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Forests FOR OREGON

Spring Issue 2008
Volume 78, Number 2

STATE FORESTER
Marvin Brown

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Cynthia Orlando

WRITERS
Rod Nichols
Kevin Weeks
Jeri Chase
Jeff Foreman
Cynthia Orlando

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Katie Lompa
Doug Decker
Christy Donham

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
Larry Smith
Jeanena Whitewilson

BUSINESS &
CIRCULATION MANAGER
Darlene Downey

Forests for Oregon
(ISSN 0015-7449)
is published four times per year
(Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall).

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
Forests for Oregon
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Periodical postage paid at
Salem, Oregon

Anyone may reprint, with credit to
the Oregon Department of Forestry,
any article or graphic in the Forests
for Oregon unless copyright is
otherwise noted.



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

www.oregon.gov/odf

inside

Incident team hustles with post-storm recovery **PAGE 4**

Two new members join Board of Forestry **PAGE 7**

Radical winter storm of wind and rain
hits Northwest Oregon hard **PAGE 8**

Small woodlands group exemplifies
"think big" philosophy **PAGE 10**

Oregon celebrates first Forest Legacy project **PAGE 12**

Hugh Hayes: celebrating a lifetime's work
of forest-related art **PAGE 14**

Arson Patrol: a proven benefit for Oregonians **PAGE 16**

'Best of the Best' Forest Practices Operators **PAGE 18**

Featured Tree: Sitka Spruce **PAGE 20**

News briefs **PAGE 22**

Coming Up **PAGE 24**



Photo by Donald Gudetus

PHOTO, LEFT: The Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Pipilio rutulus*) is a common Swallowtail Butterfly of western North America, often seen in rural woodlands, streamside areas and urban parks and gardens. Its wings are yellow with black stripes; in addition, it has blue and orange spots near its tail.

Rarely seen at rest, these large, brightly colored butterflies are named for the tails on their hindwings that resemble the long tail feathers of swallows. They feed on the leaves of a variety of trees including cottonwood, alder, sycamore and willow.

Normal range includes much of western North America, from British Columbia and North Dakota to Baja California and New Mexico.

You can attract these butterflies to your park or garden by planting zinnias, penstemons, milkweeds or thistles; in summer, it takes about 10 to 15 days for the caterpillar to change into the adult butterfly. The chrysalis is green in summer and dark brown in winter, and looks like a piece of wood.

COVER PHOTO: A man and his granddaughter take in the springtime sights of the Sarah Zigler trail in April. The trail is one of 14 hiking trails managed by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association.

Cover photo by Jeanena Whitewilson

Incident team hustles with post-storm recovery

Rod Nichols, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

When Department of Forestry Incident Commander Bill Hunt got word that his team was being sent to northwestern Oregon, he knew this would not be a typical assignment. After all, it was early December.

The Department of Forestry's three incident management teams typically go afield during the summer months to direct large firefighting operations. When the call to deploy came, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties were reeling from two storms that had raked the region with hurricane-force winds and drenching rain.

This was to be an "all-hazard incident." In wildland firefighter parlance, an emergency response to a disaster other than a forest ablaze. The incident commander and 42 of his team members were tasked to assess the damage to forests and assist landowners and local communities in coping with the thousands of toppled trees and miles of washed-out forest roads left in the wake of the Dec. 2 and 3 storms.

Fortunately for Hunt and Co., this was not a "cold call."

"Before a team comes in for a fire, a lot of relationships at the local level are already established," Hunt said. "In this situation, the relations that our local offices have with county governments and others allowed our team to fit right in. ODF was a known commodity to them."


Answering the call

For Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, the team's arrival was the fulfillment of an appeal to Gov. Kulongoski.

"I requested the team from the governor and specified that it should come from the Department of Forestry," Hyde said. "I knew of their use of the Incident Command System" in responding to emergency situations.

A different pace

For wildfire managers accustomed to the rapid pace of firefighting – arrive late at night, set up camp, initiate fire crew operations early the next morning – the 2007 Forest & Debris Recovery effort required team members to ease off of the gas pedal. The first order of business was to conduct aerial and ground surveys to gauge the extent of the storm damage. Clear weather prevailed the second week of December, enabling team members to fly, drive and hike private and state-owned forestlands. The collected data were used to make digital maps identifying significant timber blowdown and woody debris buildup in streams.



Radical high winds from a monumental storm in early December blew down more than 17,000 acres of forested lands in northwest Oregon. Hundreds of trees – like these on Weyerhaeuser-owned property – snapped off like toothpicks.

"I think it has now been institutionalized that this [team deployment] is a tool that should be in our emergency management pouch."

COLUMBIA COUNTY
COMMISSIONER TONY HYDE



A landslide near Clatskanie destroyed several structures and closed the main arterial to the Oregon coast.

As the team pieced together the information from its surveys as well as those conducted by the ODF districts and large landowners, a sobering picture of devastation formed. Clatsop and Tillamook counties had sustained considerable wind damage, with Clatsop the harder hit. More than 390 million board feet of timber were downed across all forest ownerships in the two counties.

Surveys revealed that high winds had concentrated in a 20-mile-wide band along the coast, flattening entire stands of timber. Industrial forest owners Weyerhaeuser, Longview Fibre and Hampton Affiliates reported extensive downed timber on their holdings. A Weyerhaeuser forester stationed in Astoria said that immediately after the storms, he could drive only about two miles onto company lands from town due to so much fallen timber blocking forest roads.

Wind-related timber losses were comparatively small in Columbia County, where storm-caused flooding had a greater impact, causing extensive damage to forest roads.

Though the region's large timber companies had taken a major hit, their trained workforces and complement of logging and road construction equipment enabled them to respond quickly with little outside help.

Families and forests

The team focused its recovery efforts on helping the many family forestland owners with downed trees and no means to salvage them. In some cases, quick removal was imperative. Water backed up by logjams in nearby streams posed an imminent threat to several landowners' homes.

A local church was the scene of a hastily prepared presentation about the flood and its aftermath for some 200 residents from the community of Westport.



Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF

“We worked with cooperators including Associated Oregon Loggers, the Association of Consulting Foresters, and tree service groups to help small woodland owners remove and transport the material, including logs with market value as well as woody debris,” Hunt said.

Networking to recovery

With local, state and federal agencies all working on the recovery effort, ODF managers saw the need to assign a team member to interact with the other government entities. They added a Liaison Officer position to the team, filled by Cliff Liedtke, whose regular job is director of ODF's Eastern Oregon Area. He quickly made the rounds.

“I was in contact with the state senators and state representatives in the area, also the county commissioners,” Liedtke said, “ensuring that we were meeting their needs for information and letting them know they could call me if they needed answers about anything we were doing.”

Liedtke also touched bases with the regional resource managers of the Oregon departments of Fish and Wildlife, Water Resources, and State Parks, as well as the local office of the Oregon State Police. The networking provided valuable two-way communication for the team.

“As an example, I was talking with a local official, asking what he was hearing from folks in the area,” he said. “If they were hearing rumors or had questions, those would come to me, and in turn I knew that the official would pass along my information about the team's activities to his constituents.”

County connects with urban foresters

Clatsop County Commissioner Patricia Roberts observed the team's work firsthand in the forest, as well as local communities.

“We really appreciated the urban foresters,” Roberts said, citing their advice to the staff of the historic Flavel House in Astoria, which suffered heavy damage to trees on the grounds. “The expertise that they could give to an institution such as that and to individual property owners was a great help.”

Continued on next page

The U.S. Coast Guard took her and other commissioners on a helicopter flight over the county. “That gave me an appreciation of the amount of forest that the team was able to assess,” said Roberts.

Desire to know drives meeting agenda

In most disasters, victims seek information as intently as the essentials of food, water and shelter; the 2007 storms were no exception. A public meeting held by the team in the tiny town of Westport drew more than 200 residents.

“They were upset at the possibility of more flooding from debris build-up,” Hunt said. “They felt that they were at risk and didn’t know whether to evacuate or not, so the meeting ended up providing specific assessment information related to the streams in their area, along with rumor control.”

While ODF serves in an ancillary role to local law enforcement and emergency response agencies in evacuation scenarios, he said, the team dealt with residents’ concerns and supported other response agencies in meeting their immediate needs.

Debris removal or fish habitat?

Advising landowners on how to deal with downed trees on the ground is fairly straightforward; the challenge comes when downed trees enter streams and form debris jams. To reduce the risk of future flooding, the team’s foresters framed their suggestions on debris removal. They also worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to advise landowners about improving fish habitat.

Coordinating with ODF, forest landowners and angler groups, ODF&W will place storm-felled trees in selected stream stretches to create habitat structure and improve the fisheries. These intentional wood placements are designed to maintain streamflow, and not contribute to flooding.

While some of the downed trees can be salvaged for sawlogs and others used for aquatic habitat, the sheer volume of woody debris left by the storms requires that some of it be disposed of by burning.

“We recognize that it is impractical to collect and transport all of this stuff,” Hunt said, “so in those situations where burning is the only practical alternative, we’re advising people to follow the air quality requirements.”

All this and a landslide, too.

Just as team members were getting accustomed to the non-traditional nature of their assignment, an event along U.S. Highway 30 on Dec. 11 provided an adrenaline rush akin to that of a wildfire. The landslide near Clatskanie that destroyed several structures and closed the main arterial to the Oregon Coast could have been much worse, were it not for the actions of the landowner and Jason Hinkle, a geotechnical specialist on the team who gave advance warning of the massive flow of mud and debris. In the aftermath, the team took numerous queries from the public. Team information officers fielded reporters’ questions at the “media village” that quickly sprang up at the landslide site. ODF brought in additional geotechs to help evaluate other stretches of the federal highway for slide potential.

Looking back on the events of last December, Commissioner Hyde expects that his decision to request the Forest and Debris Recovery Team will become standard practice.

“I think it has now been institutionalized that this [team deployment] is a tool that should be in our emergency management pouch,” Hyde said. 🌲



ODF’s urban foresters were instrumental in assisting individual property owners with scenes similar to this one, above, in Astoria.



The forest debris recovery team listens intently to a morning briefing at ODF’s Astoria district office.



Following the severe weather event in December, powerful scenes like this debris flow at Wrong Way Creek in the Clatsop State Forest were a common sight.

Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF



Peter Hayes



Cal Mukumoto

A family forestland owner from the Portland area and a Bend-based forestry consultant have joined the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Nominated by Gov. Ted Kulongoski and confirmed by the state Senate, Peter Hayes and Cal Mukumoto come from differing backgrounds, but share a commitment to a sustainable future for Oregon's 28.5 million acres of forestland.

Two new members join Board of Forestry

Dan Postrel, ODF Agency Affairs Director

Hayes, of Portland, is president and managing partner of a family forestland business in Oregon's northern Coast Range. He also has three decades of experience as an educator, with an emphasis on conservation education, and has served in professional and volunteer capacities with a variety of conservation groups, including Oregon Trout.

Mukumoto is a consulting forester and manager of the Warm Springs Tribes' forest biomass energy project. He has an extensive consulting background, serving American Indian tribes and other clients.

The two were selected late last year, filling vacancies left by Chris Heffernan of North Powder and Diane Snyder of Enterprise, whose terms had expired.

Two sitting Board members were re-appointed – Larry Giustina of Eugene and William Hutchison of Portland. Giustina is managing general partner of Giustina Land and Timber Co. Hutchison is a partner in the Portland law firm of Foster Pepper Tooze, LLP.

The Board of Forestry's seven citizen members establish policy to address a broad range of forest issues, and select the state forester, who directs the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Mukumoto said his interest in the Board appointment is to "help create a sustainable future for Oregon and its forests. Given the measures of environment, economics and community, I believe the best examples of sustainability reside in our Oregon forests."

As a member of the Forest Stewardship Council's U.S. Board of directors, Mukumoto brings a national perspective on sustainable forest management. He envisions an inclusive approach to the challenge of setting forest policy for Oregon: "I have always believed that the vision of the community is the bridge that defines wise management between the economic and environmental demands of the forest," he said.

Hayes said that if Oregon's forests are to thrive, "we are challenged to move beyond short-term thinking and 'either-or' simplifications to build forward-looking approaches designed to work as well in the long run as they do in the short run."

From 2003-2005, Hayes served as assistant director of Oregon Trout's Healthy Waters Institute, helping launch the education program. More recently, he co-founded the Build Local Alliance, creatively linking wood from area forests with innovative local projects.

Hayes said his role as an owner and active manager of a 780-acre family forest provides him with "first-hand experience with the realities of Oregon's forests, forestry and forest economy today."

The Board generally meets seven times each year, in Salem and in other locations around the state. The panel's overarching strategic document, the *Forestry Program for Oregon* (FPFO), sets out a long-term vision for Oregon's 28.5 million acres of forestland.

More information about the Board and the FPFO is available at www.oregonforestry.org.

Winter storms of wind and rain hit Northwest Oregon hard, leveling acres of forests and washing out roads and bridges

Jeff Foreman, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Back-to-back storms – one with winds of 100-plus miles per hour and another with heavy rain – ripped through northwest Oregon Dec. 2-3.

The high wind blew down more than 17,000 acres of trees, many snapped off like toothpicks. The narrow blast – no more than 20 miles at its widest – cut a swath of 390 million board feet of timber, enough wood to build a town of 26,000 houses.

Unfortunately, not all of the down timber is salvageable for wood products. Some is just too damaged or too remote with no access; merchantable volume is estimated at 270 million board feet.

As if the wind wasn't enough, along came the rain. Buckets and buckets of rain – at near record levels – that washed out roads and bridges and saturated hillsides, causing landslides.

And like the wind, the most intense rain also seemed targeted. The downpours specifically drenched the headwaters of the Nehalem, Salmonberry, Trask and Wilson rivers. Flood damage occurred in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. Damaged roads were found at more than 100 sites. Initial estimates of road damage on state forest land alone are \$2.4 million.

The storms didn't discriminate by ownership. Private industrial lands, state lands, family woodlands and federal lands all incurred damage (see related story on help provided by an Oregon Department of Forestry incident management team).

A bridge and bank failure at the confluence of the Nehalem and Salmonberry rivers was just one example of dozens of such incidents across the state following the December storm.

Stewardship forester Ashley Lertora confers with a private landowner about his options for harvesting timber that blew down on his property in the December storm.





▲ A debris flow at Eilertsen Creek near the community of Woodson brought an estimated 40,000 cubic yards of mud, water and debris down onto the highway and nearby homes and businesses.

Winter storms ... Continued from facing page

Timber industry lands were hardest hit by the wind storm, with blow-down on more than 10,000 acres that totaled about 300 million board feet. State-managed forests saw 3,500 acres leveled, with salvageable timber adding up to 40 million board feet. More than 60 percent of the knocked-down stands on state lands are in the Clatsop State Forest.

“The wind as its high point was blowing at 100 to 120 miles an hour,” said Tom Savage, district forester for the Astoria District which manages the Clatsop State Forest. “At that speed, it knocked down everything in its way – from 15- to 20-year-old reprod

(reproduction, or planted trees) to 80-year-old stands.”

Ironically, the Oregon Department of Forestry recently finished selling salvage sales from the December 2006 winter storm, which totaled about 30 million board feet.

“We’re getting a bit practiced (at dealing with salvage sales and harvesting),” said Mike Bordelon, the Northwest Area director in Forest Grove. “This storm is different from last year’s storm because this time the damage is more localized and not spread out.”

In some cases, this year’s blowdown runs on from stands of timber that blew down last year; when possible, contracts are simply being extended to allow salvage harvesting to continue in a timely, cost-effective manner.

“Auctioning the salvage sales is a high priority so we can expedite the recovery of the downed timber,” Bordelon said, adding “we believe we have a 12- to 18-month window.”

Time is of the essence

If harvesting is delayed too long, the value of the wood diminishes – to a point where it’s basically worthless. Even with timely actions, given today’s sagging timber market the down trees are not likely to fetch a top price. Depending on the tree species and other operational considerations, salvaged material is expected to sell for 30 to 60 percent of the total value of a typical timber sale. The value suffers because of the uneven broken trees.

“We don’t really have a choice – we don’t have the luxury of holding off selling the damaged stands,” said

Jim Paul, chief of the State Forests Division in Salem. “It’s an economic issue because the value declines with time, and it’s a forest health issue because this amount of down wood is a fire hazard and an attractor to insects – both of which could adversely impact neighboring healthy stands.”

ODF districts will use the salvage harvest volume as a credit toward annual harvest targets for the next two fiscal years. For perspective, planned harvesting on Clatsop State Forest in 2008-09 fiscal year (July through June) totals 64.7 million board feet. For the Tillamook State Forest, planned harvesting is set at about 59.3 million board feet.

The total bill on state-managed forests for damaged roads, trails and stream-crossing structures (bridges or culverts) in the Tillamook State Forest is estimated at \$3.3 million. That’s the bad news. Better news is that discussions are under way with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to share the cost of these projects.

Fish and wildlife

Some of the down wood will be left for wildlife habitat, and wherever possible, the trees that have fallen into streams will be left to create pools for fish habitat. Another challenge is determining the appropriate time for salvaging blown-down trees near areas with marbled murrelets, a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Most of the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests came from cutover or burned lands deeded by counties to the state many decades ago. These counties receive a two-thirds share of the harvest revenue each year. One-third is used by the Forestry Department to fully fund the management of the forests.

At a recent Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee meeting, Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi asked ODF to keep the trust counties informed about the salvage harvesting and the prices being made on the timber sales.

“We’re obviously very interested,” he said.

Above, right: Damaged roads were found at more than 100 sites in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.



Photo by Kevin Weeks, ODF

Small woodlands group exemplifies “think big” philosophy

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

If you read the newspaper, watch local TV or are a regular reader of this publication, you’re no doubt aware that forest management, land development and conservation are all hot topics in Oregon and across the country. Tract sizes are getting smaller, fewer acres are being retained as a long-term investment in forestry, and more forested acres are being viewed as potential residential development areas. At the same time, much is being written about the contributions trees make to our urban areas, and why it’s important to maintain healthy forests, parks and green spaces in our urban areas. Finding the right balance in land use is not always easy.

Against this backdrop, the Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) in Southern Oregon is one organization doing more than its share to keep forested lands forested by providing leadership initiative to retain valuable woodlands and open spaces around the city of Jacksonville.

The JWA was first organized in 1989, when their initial goal was to preserve the scenic character of Jacksonville - population 2,200 - by protecting from development some 22 wooded acres located behind the historic home of pioneer banker Cornelius Beekman. A public meeting and community involvement paid off; the land was acquired and since then, a series of land purchases, donations and conservation easements added more than 20 other contiguous forested properties to the woodlands system. “We don’t own the land,” explains Executive Director Larry Smith, “but serve as stewards for the properties.”

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

**JWA’S MISSION:
The Jacksonville
Woodlands Association
is working to protect
the human heritage
and natural landscapes
that define the historic
town of Jacksonville,
thus preserving our
quality of life for
future generations.**



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Executive Director Larry Smith poses by a Jacksonville park fountain that simulates an old-time sluice box used by gold miners.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

A small but interesting arboretum forms part of the Beekman Canyon trailhead.



Photo by Jeanena Whitewilson

Fritillaria gentneri, one of Oregon's rarest plants, blooms each spring on woodlands property managed by the JWA.

Partners include National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management

Several adjoining landowners, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), continue to help by working to have portions of their land – especially lands with historical value - included in the woodlands. The National Park Service helped write a trails management plan, and, scores of the JWA's tenacious, hard working volunteers have successfully constructed more than 11 miles of hiking trails throughout the woodlands that encircle the town.

BLM staff administrator Genivieve Rasmussen, who's worked with the JWA some 10 years, assisted with the land transfer process. "I think (the woodlands) is an important place for the BLM to work with," says Rasmussen. "It's a unique resource, so close to a town and readily accessible to the public, and protects some important historic and natural resource values," she adds.

Lots of trails

Trees and green spaces play an important part in the quality of life of city neighborhoods, especially because they provide people a place to run, walk and hike. In Jacksonville, 14 hiking trails are found within the properties managed by the JWA. There are trails for hikers of all different abilities, and trail maps are available at all of the major trailheads. The Sarah Zigler Interpretive Trail, a National Recreation Trail that follows Jackson Creek to where gold was discovered in 1851, is an easy one-mile hike that takes off just a couple of blocks away from downtown Jacksonville. The Chinese Diggings trail is a shorter but more moderate hike, and the best place to view old water ditches left by teams of Chinese workers.

Next to the Beekman home where "the woodlands" story first began is the one-mile Beekman Loop trail. This is a unique trail that originates in a small arboretum whose trees and plants, including flowering current, maple, madrone and sagebrush, give visitors a feel for Eastern Oregon and high Cascades trees and shrubs.

Managing invasive plants

In 1994, after logging with horses to remove beetle-killed Ponderosa Pine from city- and county-owned lands, the presence of scotch broom, a well-known invasive plant, was noted and its population began to mushroom.

Using grants from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the JWA went to work. Using backpack sprayers they treated the unwanted intruders with the herbicide Garlon the first year, took machetes to the re-growth the second year, and sprayed again during the third growing season. It worked. "There's been a huge reduction of scotch broom, now we have to hunt to find the last few remnants," says Bob Budes, a noxious weed coordinator now retired from the BLM.

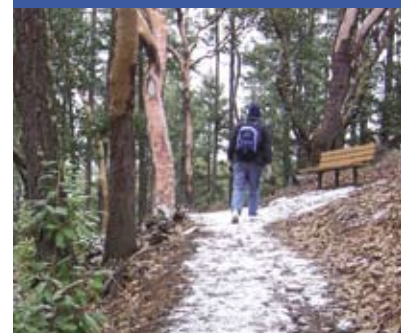
Rare flower habitat

A perennial herb that grows from a bulb, the *Fritillaria gentneri* is one of Oregon's rarest plants. Its deep red to maroon bell-shaped flowers usually bloom in March and April, and it seems to benefit from

Continued on page 13

JWA's Executive Director Larry Smith was asked this question: "If you had one bit of advice for other cities looking to build an organization similar to the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, what would it be?" Here are some of his answers.

- Get teachers and students involved.
- Show that the community supports the project or projects.
- Get the City or a local governing body involved.
- Have "show" projects to get the media involved, especially the print media.
- Build a mailing list. Our mailing list of 500 names is our lifeline to fundraising and support.
- Get support - not necessarily money - from the local business community.
- Go to all of the local service clubs and make presentations.
- Forming a 501c3 can be a challenge. At least work through one for tax deduction.
- Prove you are viable and have staying power.
- Get the local council of governments involved.
- Plan on a long-term commitment.
- **Never give up!!**



Oregon celebrates first Forest Legacy project

**Katie Lompa and Kevin Weeks,
ODF Agency Affairs**

Fortunately, just as parents can plan and provide for the future of their children, supporters of sustainable forestry in Oregon are helping craft the future of working forests through the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). Recognizing that the majority of productive forestlands across the United States are in private ownership, this program is designed to assist state and local efforts in keeping forestland viable.

That's a good thing, because one-half of Oregon's 61 million acres of land are forested, and private ownership accounts for 35 percent of that acreage. Promoting good stewardship and long-term sustainable management of privately owned forests is vital to both our economy, and to Oregon's quality of life.

Forest Legacy is a national cooperative forestry program of the US Forest Service, administered in our state by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).


"These are large areas of private forest land facing the possibility of conversion within the next 10 years, where the consequences are great in terms of overall losses to ecological, social or economic forest-related benefits."

**JENNIFER WRIGHT,
ODF FOREST LEGACY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Photos by Katie Lompa, ODF



(L to R): State forester Marvin Brown and Agency Affairs Director Dan Postrel visit with landowners Jim and Norma Evans, who were crucial to the creation of the South Eugene Hills project.



Using land acquisition or conservation easement, this voluntary program provides financial incentives for private landowners to protect environmentally important working forest areas (those that provide forest products, water, fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities) being threatened by development and other non-forest uses.

“We’re focusing our efforts on those land assets that face immediate threats to conversion to non-forest uses,” says Jennifer Wright, ODF Forest Legacy Program Coordinator. “These are large areas of private forest land facing the possibility of conversion within the next 10 years, where the consequences are great in terms of overall losses to ecological, social or economic forest related benefits.”

Wild Iris Ridge

Oregon welcomed its first Forest Legacy Program project in September, 2007. At that time the City of Eugene received \$460,000 from the Forest Legacy Program allowing city staff to work with a private landowner to preserve more than 25 acres of oak habitat (“South Eugene Hills Phase 1”), in an area known locally as “Wild Iris Ridge.” The area encompasses the headwaters of Willow Creek, and serves as an important habitat and recreational link between Eugene’s Ridgeline Park and the West Eugene Wetlands.

In 2001, the *Assessment of Need* (the guiding document for the Forest Legacy Program) identified the South Eugene Hills site on private forestland as

the state’s highest priority for protection. The area includes important habitat for many endangered species; extensive diverse oak woodlands and savannas, as well as mixed conifer forests. Together, the ecological values preserved at Wild Iris Ridge are among the most diverse in Oregon.

A growing program, the FLP wants to hear from you

Oregon’s Forest Legacy program is now eligible for expanded participation. Until January 2008, only lands located within a city’s urban growth boundary (UGB) were eligible for funding. However, the 2007 Oregon Legislature enacted House Bill 2468, removing UGB restrictions for eligibility and opening the Forest Legacy Program to lands both within and outside urban growth boundaries.

Developed through a public forum in cooperation with the Oregon State Stewardship Coordinating Committee, the *Assessment of Need* is the primary guiding document for the Forest Legacy program. This year, ODF is updating the *Assessment of Need* to evaluate current risks of conversion or threats to forestlands and reflect current perspectives, and is opening the process to public involvement and comment during the next several months.

For more information about Forest Legacy, contact ODF Forest Legacy Program Coordinator Jennifer Wright at 541-267-1753, or jwright@odf.state.or.us. 🌲

Jacksonville Woodlands Association . . . Continued from page 11

association with a wide variety of trees or shrubs, growing in a variety of habitats, from shaded streambanks to open grasslands and chaparral. Because of its extremely limited population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the *Fritillaria gentneri* on the Federal Endangered Species List in December, 1999.

Although the species occurs from northernmost California to Josephine County, the greatest concentration of these rare and attractive plants is found in the native woodlands of the Jacksonville area. Since 1989, the JWA has worked with the City of Jacksonville and the Bureau of Land Management, purchasing and receiving land donations to help keep *Fritillaria* habitat intact.

Keeping fire at bay

When the National Fire Plan program was created, Jacksonville was identified as one of the communities at risk for catastrophic wildfires. That’s when the JWA decided to take a tough stance on fuels buildup. Using federal grant dollars they hired contractors to assist with controlled burning.

To date, they’ve managed to treat some 1,300 acres – not just within the woodlands but outside of it – to reduce the fuel load.

How do they do it?

Successful forest conservation and stewardship always requires strong collaborations and teamwork, and JWA’s story is no exception. An active, cooperative partnership between the JWA, City of Jacksonville, the BLM, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service and many others is a key part of the equation.

The Medford District of the BLM, for instance, is responsible for managing five parcels of public land within the woodlands property. A cooperative agreement was signed in 1990, and two additional parcels of land have since been added.

While their official name may be “Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System,” local residents just refer to them as “the woodlands.” JWA is a non-profit, tax exempt, citizen-based organization with

Continued on page 17

Hugh Hayes: Celebrating a lifetime's work of forest-related art

Doug Decker, ODF Project Leader

It's the 1950s. You're in charge of trying to get people tuned in to wildfire danger and the importance of fire prevention. You've tried some things that have worked, and of course you have Smokey Bear on your team. But you need to find a way to bring the message home about wildfire prevention. What do you do?

Two words: Hugh Hayes.

The Salem draftsman and artist—born and raised outside Wallowa in northeast Oregon—has always had a gift for making people pay attention with his distinctive pen and ink drawings. Beginning at age four or five, when he first got in trouble for drawing cartoons in the margins of family books and catalogs, Hugh had a hunch that drawing was going to be his thing.

Today, pushing 94, Hugh reflects back on a career spent drawing things—including fire prevention characters and cartoons for the Keep Oregon Green Association in the 1950s—and he's sure it all started back there in Wallowa.

"Well, I'd draw just about everything," Hugh remembered during a recent oral history interview. "Ships and planes and houses and everything else. Before school would start, I would be sitting there drawing and the kids would stand around watching me draw. I guess I drew a crowd, so to speak."



Hugh Hayes is a quiet and humble man, more likely to talk about the weather than about his artwork. His calm and modest demeanor masks the often goofy characters who chase, fly, fall, slip and bounce their way across the pages of his work.

As a graduate fresh out of Wallowa High School in the mid-1930s, his path to the Oregon Department of Forestry came through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) station in Hilgard, just north of LaGrande, and lots of blisters and back-breaking work.

“I worked a pick and shovel for a long time – sawing logs and fighting fires,” Hugh remembered. “And then they finally put me in an office, doing office work for the Forestry Department, for a man named Brock.” As he explains it, the CCC bosses recognized Hugh could draw, so they put him to work at the drafting board. That’s where ODF engineer Lou Amort found him. It wasn’t long before Amort “borrowed” Hugh, transferring him to Salem. This would have been about 1936 or 1937. Hugh bunked into the crew quarters on the Salem ODF compound, which was still under construction.

“The first thing I was doing was drafting up drawings for land surveys. I also drew some buildings. I learned how to do this mostly from just being around the engineers. I picked up most of it. Then I started to do bridges.”

Then the war intervened. On the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hugh received his draft notice and was off on a four year life-and-death odyssey. In the South Pacific, he put his bridge expertise to work as a kind-of forward observer and engineer all rolled into one.

“When the Japanese retreated, they would blow up one end of a bridge. I would go out there and make a drawing of it and take measurements. Later, the engineers would come fix it up. Sometimes, just two or three of us would go out in the jungle ahead of the front lines. We’d make quick sketches and then come back and draw it all out. We were making plans for land mines, for tanks and culverts.”

Many hair-raising encounters (and interesting drawings) later, Hugh was safely back in Oregon, back to his drawing board. Over the next 30 years, he produced thousands of drawings and illustrations: everything from bridges and fire lookouts to cartoonish fire prevention materials. His distinctive look includes mischievous embers of flame scampering across the forest floor; illustrated maps of Oregon filled with characters and stories from east to west; stunning perspective drawings of lookout towers and forest guard stations.

Hugh volunteered his time and talents to Keep Oregon Green (KOG), the statewide fire prevention education organization still active today, helping to develop posters, advertisements, leaflets, and even envelope-sized art designed to be mailed out with paychecks. Beginning in 1947, he drew funny, serious, and timely

messages that promoted fire safety. Hugh remembers the day it all began: Charles Ogle, KOG director at the time, brought him an idea and asked for his help expressing it in a drawing.

That’s the way it worked: Ogle, and then Albert Wiesendanger who succeeded him, brought in ideas that Hugh would give life to on the page. Some parodied movie posters of the day. All were aimed at getting people to stop and think about fire. Interestingly, Hugh accomplished this work after hours and on the weekends in his home studio.

In addition to the KOG work, Hugh was also known for his “Accident of the Month” drawings, which provided teachable moments about on-the-job safety. Based on actual reported accidents and spiced with the special Hugh Hayes twist of cartoon humor, the drawings circulated each month throughout the department. Over the years, employees looked forward to Hugh’s safety cartoons which chronicled the many ways bad luck or bad judgment often ended in pain. Hugh was careful to remove any identifying elements of the person or setting, but that didn’t prevent employees from speculating on whose accident it was. Some even took a measure of pride about being immortalized by the cartoons. The popular monthly feature, which retirees still joke about today, got employees thinking and talking about safety in a way that lectures or meetings never could.

One of his most recognizable works is a stylized map of Oregon with regional and local caricatures drawn from history. According to KOG President Mary Ellen Holly, her organization distributed more than 10,000,000 copies of the map to restaurants across Oregon as placemats during the 1960s and 1970s, helping a generation of Oregon youngsters enjoy learning about Oregon history, geography, and fire prevention. Several of Hugh’s murals were recently uncovered during remodeling work in a popular Salem ice cream parlor of the 1950s and are currently being renovated.

Along the way, Hugh has gained a reputation as a maker of some memorable greeting cards. Just about every ODF employee who has retired in the last 30 years has gone out with a special, personalized retirement card—complete with caricature—drawn by Hugh Hayes. It’s become a great tradition.

Hugh turns 94 this summer, but the years have not dimmed his love for drawing, nor his community spirit. He’s driver, errand boy, and helper to several neighbors. Hugh also volunteers each week at a school in northeast Salem, bringing in new drawings, which the kids love to see, and returning full circle to where it all began: 90 years later and still “drawing crowds.”

Thanks, Hugh, for the lifetime of work. 🍷

More than 100 Hugh Hayes drawings, cartoons and sketches were assembled in November 2007 for a show at the Tillamook Forest Center. Many of these works are available for viewing at the Forest History Center on ODF’s Salem compound, and an exhibit of Hugh’s work is being planned for the Oregon State Library in 2009.



Arson Patrol: a proven benefit for Oregonians

Christy Donham, ODF Fire Prevention Specialist

Central Oregon, one of the fastest growing areas in the state for both residents and recreationists, has also remained a leader in the expanding wildland urban interface: homes in the forest. In Deschutes County alone the population has grown a staggering 66 percent over the past 10 years.

If you don't work in a fire program you may not realize the dangers hidden in the wildland urban interface during warm summer days: dry pine needles, grasses and shrubs, and low-hanging limbs of trees that can quickly catch fire and spread to other trees and even homes. Lightning, power equipment, people recreating, and residents burning their debris or trash all contribute to the threat of wildfire. One more contributor is the arsonist.

Human-caused fires are responsible for 46 percent of wildland fire starts in central Oregon and thankfully very few are arson (.03 percent), due in large part to the boost provided to law enforcement by the Wildland Urban-Interface Arson Patrol Project.

Every human-caused fire is investigated. To help with this effort, the Oregon Department of Forestry partners with the Oregon State Police, hiring two Senior Troopers to help assist wildland fire investigators in developing leads on suspicious and arson-related wildfires. The troopers are connected to the Arson Explosive Section of the Oregon State Police. During this time of year they are stationed in the central Oregon and Klamath Falls areas; they help in other locations across the state as needed.

The Wildland Urban-Interface Arson Patrol Project began as a five-year pilot program in 1997. The project had such a significant impact that it has continued each year since. The primary mission for the project is to patrol high-risk arson areas and to respond to critical or emerging situations. Statistical



Photos by Jeff Bonebrake, ODF





analysis has revealed a dramatic reduction - more than 50 percent - in the trend of adverse effects of wildland arson and wildland juvenile fires throughout Oregon, due in part to this program.

High Profile

The patrol officers keep a high-visibility profile in the communities, making personal contacts with forest landowners, recreationists, businesses, law enforcement, and other fire agencies. The patrol officers also rely on the TIP Line (1-877-888-7343) for information to develop leads on suspicious fires, and they work closely with the Central Oregon Arson Task Force.

While arson-related fires have dropped 50 percent over the last 10 years, there were two human-caused fires of suspicious origin in 2007 in which the local Wildland Arson Patrol Officer played a key role with the investigation, liaison work with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Police, and with increased patrol of the area. In the case of a local youth who started a separate fire, the patrol officer also recommended a work plan and issued a citation.

“Central Oregon has seen some uncharacteristic fire starts in the recent past,” noted Central Oregon District Forester Travis Medema. “It has been an enormous benefit to have the Arson Patrol officers available to help investigate these fires and track down responsible parties. Holding people accountable for an escaped fire is important to all Oregonians and visitors to our scenic state.”

Jacksonville Woodlands Association . . . Continued from page 13

no paid staff. All work is done by volunteers, or by contract. An 11-member Board of Directors meets monthly.

This former schoolteacher is a woodlands champion

Retired fifth grade teacher Larry Smith, a founding member of the JWA, serves as the Board’s executive director. Smith does fundraising for the organization, keeps its board apprised of issues, conducts public outreach, keeps records, makes classroom presentations, and yes, of course, leads walks and hikes.

It’s January in Oregon and that means it’s cold. But Larry’s only too happy to serve as tour guide and educator on a chilly, gray afternoon, pausing to observe the remnants of an old Bartlett pear orchard, comment on a young man seen sluicing for gold in nearby Jackson Creek (it isn’t legal), or point out his favorite old majestic manzanita tree along the Sarah Zigler trail. “I don’t know of any other city our size with this

Grant funding makes it possible for the State Police to provide uniforms, equipment, and field supervision, and allows the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide funding for salary, vehicles, communications, equipment, and wildland fire investigation training.

Of course, fire prevention does not start with enforcement. Along with enforcement, engineering and education complete the three sides of the fire prevention triangle. The Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative, made up of six wildland agencies, 14 structural agencies and four associate members, provides an aggressive fire prevention awareness and education campaign throughout Central Oregon, focusing on defensible space and prescribed burning, mechanical treatment, and other clearing methods to help reduce the risk of wildfire due to lightning and other causes. Programs and events also take place throughout the year to educate children and adults on how they can help stop a fire before it starts.

All these efforts together help accomplish the larger goal: reducing the risk of fire in our forestlands and fire-prone urban interface areas.

How you can help

Everyone can help. If you are a witness to, or have any information regarding a wildland fire within the state of Oregon, please call the Oregon Department of Forestry’s fire information TIP Line, 1-877-888-7343. 🌲

much parkland,” says Smith, with just a hint of pride in his voice.

When all’s said and done, Smith says three things stand out as being his greatest sources of satisfaction. The first, he says, is “knowing that 320 wooded acres are saved from all time from development, and the land is preserving history unchanged from the time of the gold rush.” The second, says Smith, is “watching people use the trails” for any number of reasons, and during all seasons.

Lastly, Smith feels a sense of pride when “taking kids out on hikes, and seeing them get excited” about the town’s gold rush history.

The work of this small organization is ultimately benefiting the quality of life for local citizens, the community, and future Jacksonville residents. And in these challenging, changing times in Oregon, seeing a small organization like the JWA accomplish so much is truly an inspiration. 🌲

‘Best of the Best’ Forest Practices Operators

Kevin Weeks, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

The Oregon Board of Forestry in January recognized three Oregon logging companies for excellence as regional Forest Practices Operator of the Year for 2007.

SCOTT ALLEN LOGGING

Scott Allen Logging, owned by Scott and Carrie Lynne Allen of Oakland, received the Southwest Oregon recognition as Operator of the Year for excellence while logging adjacent to residences, schools, and electric utilities. Scott Allen overcame many obstacles at a recent harvest in and adjacent to Drain, Oregon.

“The main thing was planning ahead,” said Allen. “I didn’t want people downtown looking up on the hillside and seeing a cluttered mess. For the Drain project, we did leave several stands of merchantable timber simply to preserve the scenic value of the hillside. Keep in mind, about 90 percent of the residents of Drain could walk out of their homes and see our project on the hill. I wanted those folks to see something nice – rather than a clear-cut.”

The selection committee recognized Allen for overcoming numerous challenges with the Drain project: close proximity to several residences and a school, and thinning trees in the vicinity of an 115,000 volt Bonneville Power Administration power line.

Allen gained attention – and more contracts – from a 2006 harvest at Rice Valley in Douglas County adjacent to Interstate 5. In addition to carefully logging the area, Allen spent his own money to remove slash and clean the site. Several stands of timber left by Allen blended nicely into the landscape.

“Just about anybody in the country could drive by that,” said Allen. “I wanted it to look good.”

“Our belief is that we wrap up an operation, we clean up the area in such a way that we would want to show that to anybody,”



Above: This site overlooking Drain earned Scott Allen Logging recognition for conscientious practices including working to preserve scenic values and slash cleanup.

Above right, L to R: Scott Allen, Steve Morisse, Gary Wright and Chair of the Board of Forestry Steve Hobbs.



Photo by Jim Liesch, ODF



said Allen. “What I’ve learned is that when the job is done, you may not get recognized for it then and there; but six months, a year, even longer down the road you find out someone was pleased about the way you did the job – they’ll see the finished product and realize the effort that went into it.”

Allen has been cutting timber since 1970; in 1980 he teamed with wife Carrie Lynne to found Scott Allen Logging. He credits a tremendous effort by Keith Whitaker Trucking and Valley View Logging in Sweet Home with the success of the award-winning project overlooking Drain.

MORISSE LOGGING

Morisse Logging, owned by Steve Morisse of Astoria, was recognized as the Northwest Oregon region Operator of the Year for the company’s excellence while logging on steep, nearly inaccessible slopes. Morisse was honored for a timber harvest project near Cannon Beach, a site with fragile soils and stream tributaries that featured a nearly vertical cliff.

“This may have been the most challenging job of my career,” said Morisse. Given many different options for logging the site, Morisse chose downhill logging. The choice was a good one; no injuries or near misses were reported on the project.

Morisse’s team spent considerable time planning the operation, evaluating the methods for safely removing marketable timber while keeping stream channels free of debris, and cleaning the site. The landowner estimates the operation took three times longer than a typical harvest operation of the same size, with the safety of the logging crew and reduced impacts to the hillside being positive outcomes.

“With downhill logging, the advantage is not having loose debris on the slope above where your loggers are,” said Ashley Lertora, stewardship forester with ODF’s Astoria district office. “The disadvantage is that some people regard downhill logging as expensive and less effective. Steve Morisse was willing to accept lower production in exchange for crew safety and protection of the soil.”

The 2007 Forest Practices Operator of the Year, Northwest Region award is not the first recognition of Morisse’s work. The company was nominated for Operator of the Year in 2001 and received many commendation letters from ODF in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

GARY R. WRIGHT CONTRACTING

Gary R. Wright Contracting, owned by Gary and Nancy Wright of Union, was honored as the Eastern Oregon regional Operator of the Year for the company’s excellence in comprehensive timberland management. The focus of the award was for Wright’s work coordinating a large harvest project near Union County’s Mt. Emily.

“On the Mt. Emily project we started at the top and worked our way towards town,” said Wright. “We had a number of landowners see that we were doing thinning, then mulching and cleaning up the area as well as doing fire prevention. The next neighbor said I’d like mine done like that, then the next neighbor, and so on.”

Wright worked to educate and coach neighboring landowners about long-term management plans and the benefits of working together on fuel reduction, fire protection and marketing wood debris for biomass energy uses. By the time the project was complete, Wright had helped local landowners establish a 2.5 mile long fire protection buffer on private land that borders U.S. Forest Service land.

Wright sees that his niche in the eastern Oregon market is the focus on mulching wood waste instead of burning. “Around 2000, I came up with an idea of trying out mulching on a 115 acre test patch near Baker City,” said Wright. “After we came through there, instead of the trees going through a shock phase, they just took off growing. When we come through with a mulcher, there’s no burning, no slash because it knocks things right down to the ground, and you end up with a nice mass for fertilizer.”

Wright credits the hard work of crew members Chris Figgs, Lane Smith, Scott Huffman, and Lenny Brown for his award as one of the three Oregon Operators of the Year. 🌲

Sitka Spruce

Jeri Chase, ODF Agency Affairs Specialist

Dense rainforests along foggy coastlines with trees as large as mythical giants. That is one image of the classic Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) forest. The Sitka spruce is all of that and more.

This conifer is the largest of the spruce species and the third-largest tree in the world – after the coastal redwood and Douglas-fir – averaging 125-180 feet tall and three to five feet in diameter. The largest known tree in the United States is a Sitka spruce and until last December’s storm, that honor was shared by Oregon’s own “Kloochy Creek Giant” which was over 200 feet high and 17 feet in diameter.

This species’ natural range is the lower elevations – up to 1500 feet in Oregon – primarily along the narrow strip of the Pacific Northwest coastal fog belt lands from southeastern Alaska to northern California, occasionally venturing short distances further inland. The Sitka spruce thrives in a mild climate of high annual rainfall, and cool, wet summers with accompanying summer coastal fogs that add additional crown moisture and block the warmth of the sun. It is shade- and salt spray-tolerant, and shallow-rooted, growing in brackish bog water and the soils found nearest Oregon’s ocean dunes and coastal beaches, and on the barren wind-swept headlands. Many of this spruce’s other names – the coast west spruce, coast spruce, tideland spruce, western spruce – reflect it’s native range.

After slowly initially becoming established, Sitka spruce are among the world’s fastest growing trees. They are long-lived – up to 800 years – and, as such, were a “pioneer” of the Pacific Northwest coastline, colonizing glacial moraines centuries ago when glaciers retreated.

In Oregon, this native evergreen may grow in pure stands, but is more commonly seen mixed with western hemlock and other species such as western redcedar, red alder, and lodgepole pine or shore pine. Many wildlife species are attracted to spruce forests. Deer, porcupines, elk,

Sitka spruce wood is highly resonant and many musical instruments are manufactured primarily from spruce, including guitars, harps, violins, and pianos.



Photo by Jeri Chase, ODF



Sitka spruce needles

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Guitar soundboards are one common use for spruce wood



Photo by Jack Sleeper, USFS

bear, rabbits, and hares browse the new foliage. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons find stellar roosts in their branches. And a variety of other mammals, game and non-game birds, reptiles, and amphibians use these forests for the excellent hiding and cover they provide.

Because of its unusually long fibers, it is among the finest quality of pulpwood for the manufacture of paper products. The wood is fine-grained, straight, and relatively elastic, soft and easy to work with - if free of knots. It can also be great, long-lasting firewood – a few Sitka spruce “knots” will burn all night.

One of the most unique qualities of Sitka spruce wood is that it is surprisingly both strong and light at the same time – it has what is referred to as “high strength-to-weight ratio.” This makes it valued for many specialty uses – turbine blades for wind-driven electricity generators, ladders and oars, aircraft, spaceship, and missile components and gliders, sailboat masts, and racing sculls – things that need to be lightweight for speed. Nearly all of the Allied forces’ airplanes in World Wars I and II were made largely from Sitka spruce.

Sitka spruce wood is also highly resonant and many musical instruments that rely on this unique quality are manufactured primarily from Sitka spruce – guitars, harps, violins, and pianos. Today’s Native Americans make still make traditional wooden flutes out of Sitka spruce.

Past Native Americans believed the Sitka spruce possessed mystical powers and provided protection against evil thoughts, using boughs in winter dance ceremonies to protect dancers and inspire fear in their enemies. They used Sitka spruce pitch in a variety of ways – caulking canoes, chewing, glue, and a protective varnish. Pitch and decoctions of roots, branch tips, bark, or cones were

also used medicinally – to treat diarrhea, rheumatism, stomach pain, constipation, back aches, and for steam baths. Today, the inner bark and young shoots may still be eaten as emergency food and a tea can be made from young shoots.

In appearance, the Sitka spruce is straight-trunked, often with a characteristic “flared” base – swollen and buttressed, particularly as the tree matures. The bark of younger trees is grey and smooth, becoming darker purple-brown and scaly with age. One to four-inch oblong cones with paper-thin scales that are green to purple grow near the tree’s top.

The crown is open and conical, with horizontal, rigid limbs and pendulous branches commonly reaching the ground, although there may be no branches in the lowest portion of trees as they age. The one to one-and-one-half-inch needles are extremely stiff, sharp, and prickly, yellow-green above and white streaks on their undersides, and borne on woody pegs.

Important for its timber production and as a component of old-growth habitat throughout the Pacific Northwest, the Sitka spruce is probably most valued in the state of Alaska, where it was adopted as the state tree in 1962 because it was so critically important to that state’s economy. Its’ common name and Latin name – *Picea sitchensis* – reflects this relationship, with “picea” meaning “pitch” and “sitchensis” for Sitka, where the tree was first sighted by European explorers.

Dense rainforests along foggy coastlines filled with trees as large as mythical giants...part of Oregon’s heritage and history...products that enhance our economy and enrich us culturally...magical protection and power. The Sitka spruce forest is all of that and more.

Find out for yourself – visit one of Oregon’s forests. 🌲

Note: A famous Oregon icon fell to the December 2007 storm – the Seaside Spruce or Kloochy Creek Giant – the largest spruce known in the United States, sharing that title with Washington’s Quinault Lake Spruce. The spruce will retain its title of heritage tree for the time-being, and Clatsop County will include additional interpretive displays at the park to tell the history of the tree’s life and fall. Its trunk remains on the ground to serve as a “nurse log” for future generations of Sitka spruces – a living story of birth and new life in the forest. For more information on Oregon Heritage Trees, go to <http://www.oregontic.com/heritage/trees.php>



About the Society of American Foresters (SAF)

SAF's mission is to advance the science, education, technology and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills and conservation ethics of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.



Associate State Forester elected to SAF Council



ODF's Associate State Forester Clark Seely has been elected to serve on the council for the Society of American Foresters (SAF). With some 14,300 members, SAF is the national organization that represents all segments of the forestry profession in the United States. It includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators and forestry students.

Nationwide, the SAF is comprised of 11 districts, with one person from each district elected to serve a 3-year appointment. The SAF council – the highest governing body in the Society of American Foresters – provides leadership and direction to SAF.

“Some of the things the council is tackling this year include invasive species, a national sustainability policy, forest certification and climate change,” says Seely. The Council is also looking for new property for its headquarters currently located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Getting elected to SAF's council is no easy task. Candidates must be either professional members or fellows in good standing, submit a petition with at least 30 valid signatures of professional members or fellows, and win the district election.

Currently associate state forester at ODF, Seely's 34-year career has included working as the program director for Fire Protection for five years, as well as serving the agency as district forester at Coos Bay and at Klamath Falls. Seely was also the principal author of state legislation, Senate Bill 360 – the “Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1987.”

He has a BS in forest management from Oregon State University, and served as SAF's general co-chair for its 2007 national convention in Portland. Seely is a certified forester, and was elected a fellow in SAF in 1996. The Oregon Department of Forestry encourages its employees to become involved with professional organizations like the SAF; ODF's Jordan Ryder is chair of the Emerald chapter for 2008. For more information, visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/>

New urban wildlife publication available

A new, 4-page full color publication about wildlife habitat and urban areas is available online. Topics include conserving habitat in new construction areas, basic habitat requirements and habitat diversity, habitat conservation in open spaces and natural areas, and recognizing and preserving wildlife trees.

To access the full color leaflet online, visit http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN_FORESTS/ucf_publications.shtml



Photo by Floyd Schrock

Acorn Woodpeckers

Tree School coming up

Tree Schools are one-day “mini-colleges” for family forestland owners, foresters, arborists, teachers and others interested in learning about forests and forestry. Sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), the next Tree School takes place Friday, April 25 at the Florence Events Center in beautiful Florence, Oregon.

Call 503-655-8631 or visit www.oswa.org for more information.

Mezger earns annual “Tree Farmer” title

Klamath Falls - Mezger Forest Incorporated (MFI), based in Klamath Falls, received the 2007 *Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year* designation from the Oregon Tree Farm System in November.

MFI is co-owned by Robert, Pat and Alan Mezger and Jim and Donna (Mezger) Roberts. Mezger and his family have managed forestland in Klamath and Lake Counties since 1978, beginning as partners in Whiskey Creek Timber Company and forming Mezger Forest Incorporated in 2003. The family currently manages approximately 1,500 acres in Klamath County and 240 acres in Lake County.

“The goal of MFI is to generate limited annual income for current and future generations from timberlands on a sustained basis, with adequate provision for protection of timber, water and wildlife resources while promoting aesthetic enjoyment and recreation,” said Mezger.

Robert Mezger developed Continuous Forest Inventory system for his timberlands and has evaluated their permanent growth plots every five years since 1978, giving MFI and Mezger’s

family valuable information on growth and yield of their forest land.

Local chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association select the County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in Oregon. The Oregon winner as well as Western Oregon and Eastern Oregon regional winners are selected by a team of professional foresters from the public and private sectors. 🌲



Presentation of the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year award at the Oregon Tree Farm System annual meeting in Portland in November. L-R: State Forester Marvin Brown, Alan Mezger, Donna Roberts, Jim Roberts, Robert Mezger, USFS Regional Forester Linda Goodman and Clint Bentz, chair of the American Tree Farm System Operating Committee.

‘Tillamook Burn Country’ reprinted by popular demand

Tillamook *Burn Country*, originally published in 1983 and out of print since 2005, has recently been updated and republished by the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust. Written by award-winning journalist and local historian Ellis Lucia, this book is filled with more than 700 photographs that chronicle the forest before, during and after the catastrophic fires that reshaped the landscape of Oregon’s northern Coast Range mountains.

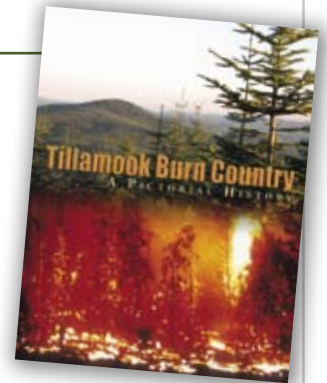
First published by the Caxton Press in 1983 as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the

1933 Tillamook Fire, Ellis Lucia’s *Tillamook Burn Country* quickly became the standard illustrated text describing the fires and the reforestation. Jim Fisher, then ODF Public Affairs Director, was instrumental in facilitating Lucia’s work on the book. Chapters chronicle the Tillamook Forest before the fires; the repeated fires; the salvage and rehabilitation effort; efforts at fire prevention; the tree planting era; and the overall result of that work circa 1983. A new introduction, a section on the author, and a 1983-2007 update chapter have been added

to the revised edition.

Ownership rights to the book were donated by the author’s family to the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, the non-profit organization that helps support the Tillamook Forest Center. Cost of the book is \$20.

Order your copy today over the phone by calling the Tillamook Forest Center at (866) 930-4646, or drop in and pick up your own copy at the Tillamook Forest Center gift shop. More information: www.tillamookforestcenter.org 🌲



coming up

APRIL 24-26, 2008 | OSWA 2008 Fun, Florence and Family Forests
Florence Events Center | For more info: 503-588-1813

**MAY 4-7, 2008 | National Summit Environmental Stewardship
People, Parks and Public Lands**
Portland Downtown Waterfront | For more info: www.nrpa.org/esummit

MAY 11, 2008 | International Migratory Bird Day • 10 am
Tillamook Forest Center | For more info: 503-815-6800

**MAY 14, 2008 | Metro Urban and Rural Reserves
Steering Committee Meeting** | Metro Headquarters in Portland

MAY 18, 2008 | Talk: Wildfire and You • 2 pm
Tillamook Forest Center | For more info: 503-815-6800

**JUNE 3, 2008 | Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee (FFAC) Meeting
8 am - 1 pm • Joint Board of Forestry/FFAC Meeting 1 pm - 5 pm**
Tillamook Room, Salem Headquarters

JUNE 3 & 4, 2008 | Board of Forestry Meeting
Tillamook Room, Salem Headquarters

JUNE 5, 2008 | 8th Annual State Urban & Community Forestry Conference
World Forestry Center, Portland | For more info: 503-945-7210 or
www.oregoncommunitytrees.org

JUNE 9, 2008 | Metro Urban & Rural Reserves Steering Committee Meeting
Metro Headquarters in Portland

JULY 9, 2008 | Metro Urban & Rural Reserves Steering Committee Meeting
Metro Headquarters in Portland

FOREST HISTORY CENTER DEDICATION

You're invited to attend the
dedication of ODF's new
Forest History Center

1:30 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 2
at the
TILLAMOOK
CONFERENCE ROOM
ODF Headquarters in Salem

Displays, tours, refreshments.

CENTER HOURS:
Fridays 10 am - 3 pm
and by appointment.

For more info: 503-945-7208 or
email fhcinfo@odf.state.or.us

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



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"