

Northwest Woodlands

A Publication of the Oregon Small Woodlands, Washington Farm Forestry, Idaho Forest Owners & Montana Forest Owners Associations

THE INVASION OF THE EXOTICS

**Weed Invaders
to Watch For**

**New Broom Sweeps
Oregon's Forests**

**The Gypsy Moth in
Our Forests**

**Biological Control
of Weeds**

**Blister Rust has
Dramatic Impact**



**NEXT ISSUE . . .
Family Forests in
Foreign Lands**

**This magazine is a benefit of membership in
your family forestry association**

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Prevention is the most vital and cost effective method of handling the spread of noxious weeds. Learn some history and the read about the impact these weeds have on North American forests.

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NEW BROOM SWEEPS OREGON FORESTS

A new form of broom—Portuguese broom—has cropped up in southwest Oregon. Learn about its characteristics and how to tell it apart from Scotch broom.

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WATCH FOR THESE NEW WEED INVADERS

Did you know that there might be an invading enemy trying to occupy your land right now? Do you want your land to fall victim to a new scourge such as kudzu or old man's beard? If not, the first step to keeping land free of these invaders is to be aware, educated and prepared. This article puts you on that path.

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EXOTIC DISEASE HAS DRAMATIC IMPACT

White pine seedlings were brought in to replace many that burned at the turn of the 20th Century. What wasn't known was that these seedlings were infected with white pine blister rust, which would eventually kill more white pine than all the fires combined. Read how to grow white pine and combat blister rust simultaneously.

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Prevention is the best way to control noxious weeds, but certain situations may call for chemical solutions. Learn how chemicals can help to control three common Northwest noxious weeds.

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THE GYPSY MOTH IN OUR FORESTS

The gypsy moth defoliates a million or more acres of forestland a year in the Eastern United States. Find out what can be done to hamper their expansion into the Northwest.

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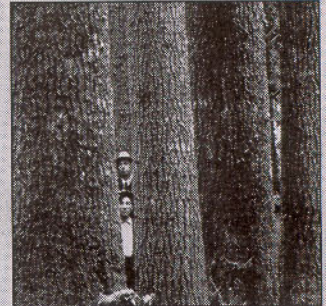
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This historical photo shows a stand of big white pine. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service. (Scotch broom photo courtesy of Bill Wamsley. Gypsy moth caterpillar photo courtesy of E. Bradford Walker.)

STAFF:

LORI D. RASOR, Editor
KAI OLSON-SAWYER, Assistant
4033 S.W. Canyon Rd.
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 488-2104
FAX (503) 226-2515
e-mail: rasor@safnwo.org
kai@safnwo.org

MINTEN GRAPHICS, Graphic Design

Northwest Woodlands Advisory Committee Members:

Nels Hanson
Sara Leiman
Jean McCloskey
Chandler Noerenberg
Bob Playfair
John Poppino
Lori Rasor

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Turn that Field or Brush Patch into a Forest

By **JIM CATHCART**

Over the past two years, 13 family forest landowners have enrolled 397 acres of underproducing lands in Oregon's Forest Resource Trust. By doing so, the landowners receive up to 100 percent financing covering the complete cost of converting their marginal agricultural, pasture or brush land back into healthy productive forest. The 100 percent financing covers the known costs of completing the forestation—site preparation, seedlings, tree planting, moisture conservation and competing vegetation release.

In addition, the financing can also include site-specific contingency funds


to cover practices that may be needed to ensure that a fully stocked, free-to-grow forest is achieved. Examples of contingencies include animal protection, interplanting, and additional moisture conservation and release practices. The financing can cover the cost of hiring a professional forester to oversee and manage the project. In aggregate, the amount financed usually falls between \$800 to \$1,200 per acre. There is no obligation to pay back the monies unless timber is harvested from the newly created forest at some point in the future. The arrangement works through a long-term contract secured by a lien on future forest products. The contract acts as a covenant that runs with the land regardless of ownership.

Under the revenue-sharing arrangement, landowners agree to share a certain percent of the net timber harvest revenues at the time the timber is harvested. The percent share is based on the amount financed for the project and a forecast of the expected volume and future timber value if the forest is harvested at a profitable rotation.

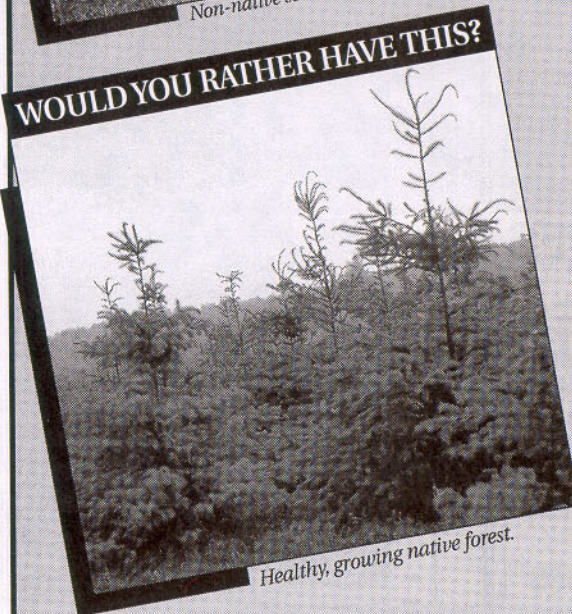
For example, for Site III quality lands for Douglas-fir, if \$1,000 per acre is financed for the project, the revenue sharing arrangement is roughly 30 percent of the net timber harvest receipts on 36,000 board feet per acre harvested at age 60. A buyout option is available to the landowner for the first 25 years of the trust contract. Under this option, landowners pay back the monies actually used on the project at a 6.8 percent loan rate in order to buyout the state's revenue sharing interest in the expected timber volume. Landowners can also choose to wait out the trust and treat the money as a grant by deferring harvest for 200 years.

Since 1995, 1,174 acres have been enrolled in the Forest Resource Trust by 33 landowners. Of these, five landowners have exercised the buyout option on 257 acres. Of the remaining 917 acres under contract, 520 (comprising 15 landowners) have reached or are approaching free-to-grow status. Predominately, the forest cover planted is Douglas-fir (903 acres) followed by ponderosa pine (218 acres). Recent projects have expanded the type of forest planted to western hemlock (11 acres), western redcedar (25 acres) and hardwoods (17 acres) based on site-specific conditions such as streamside zones, wetter spots or areas at risk of Swiss needle cast.

One project in Yamhill County illustrates how the Forest Resource Trust can meet diverse landowner objectives. The total project is 36 acres, of which 18 acres will be planted with Willamette Valley ponderosa pine (wetter areas) and Douglas-fir (drier sites).



Non-native scotch broom, blackberry and grasses.



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Ask About the Forest Resource Trust!

The Forest Resource Trust funds the full cost of establishing a free-to-grow forest on current brush lands, marginal agricultural fields or pasture. There is no requirement to pay back the monies unless future timber is harvested. Landowners agree to a stocking standard through a long-term contract. The Forest Resource Trust — Investing in Tomorrow's Forest. Today.

Visit us at:
<http://www.odf.state.or.us/fa/SF/FRT/FRT.htm>

10-Acre Minimum



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

An additional five acres, initially planted under the federal cost-share Forestry Incentives Program, will be adopted by the trust to continue moisture conservation and release treatments with trust monies. The remaining 13 acres will involve an oak forest restoration project. While the 13 acres was suitable for a commercial species, the landowner wanted to restore this acreage to oak for habitat, aesthetics and possibly commercial purposes. The trust was able to accomplish this by allowing the landowner to shoulder the oak restoration financing on the expected revenues from the conifer acres since at present the trust does not recognize oak as a commercial species. This had the effect of doubling the revenue sharing percent from 30 percent to 60 percent of the net revenue from harvesting the expected conifer volume from the non-oak acres. Similar arrangements can be made if a landowner wants to use their future commercial timber asset to pay for additional streamside planting and other non-commercial forest restoration work as part of the Forest Resource Trust project.

Oregon woodland owners who have marginal agricultural land, pasture or poorly stocked brush that is suitable for growing a forest should look into the Forest Resource Trust or alternative incentive programs that encourage landowners to create forests on under-producing lands. The Oregon 50 percent reforestation tax credit and federal cost share programs are alternative incentive programs; however, both programs require out-of-pocket contributions to the project by the landowner.

The Forest Resource Trust is best suited for the landowner that does not have available cash to put toward the forestation work, or has a more difficult (and expensive) site such that the cost share limits under the alternative incentive programs are not that attractive. The Forest Resource Trust works best for those landowners who want to see their property converted to productive forest for the long-term, but do not have the money or technical knowledge to get started. The Forest

Resource Trust—investing in tomorrow's forest, today. ■

JIM CATHCART is manager of the Forest Resource Trust, Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem. A member of the Society of American

Foresters, he can be reached at 503-945-7380 or jcathcart@odf.state.or.us. For more information on the Forest Resource Trust, visit the trust's Internet site at www.odf.state.or.us/forasst/SF/FRT/trust.htm.

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