



A newsletter for those interested in Forestry, Woodland Management and Christmas Trees in Northwest Oregon

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Deer, Elk and Cedar...a Challenging Combination

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, another planting season will have come and gone. If the sales trends at the Columbia County Small Woodlands Association seedling sale were any indication, many of you are planting western redcedar. Cedar is suitable for areas with shade, moist soils, and/or problems with root disease. Cedar will tolerate all of these conditions though it does not do well on droughty sites.

Unfortunately, anyone that has planted cedar can probably attest to its nickname, “deer candy”. Typical methods to deter deer and elk browse include installing mesh (“vexar”) tubes around the seedlings and/or applying any number of commercial big game repellents. Neither of these methods is perfect. Mesh tubes are expensive, and must be lifted to protect the tree’s leader as it grows. Elk tend to pull the tubes off to get to the tasty tree inside. Repellents must be applied repeatedly as new foliage is produced.

Some local landowners have been creative in trying other things with mixed results. Here are some of my favorite examples that I have run across recently:

- **Prickles:** I have heard numerous reports of landowners planting Sitka spruce and western redcedar in the same planting hole. The sharp spruce needles act as a deterrent to browsers. Once the cedar grows out of browse range, the spruce is clipped, allowing the cedar to grow freely.
- **Decoys:** A Scappoose area landowner laid out empty vexar tubes in the planting area about a month before planting. The elk came through and nosed around in the tubes. By the time the stand was planted, they had lost interest and moved on. Last year’s planting made it through the winter unscathed, so the landowner has repeated his experiment this year.

(continued next page)

Deer, Elk, and Cedar (continued)

- **Scare-elk:** In Timber, one family has worked with a local school group to construct and paint wooden, life-sized coyotes and human figures and placed them around the planted area. The landowners are encouraged by the results thus far (see top photo).
- **Fencing:** On Sykes Rd. near St. Helens, one landowner installed a fence around the perimeter of his cedar plantation. This proved effective at keeping out the deer and elk, but with an unintended consequence. The fence also kept out coyotes, and as a result he ended up with more damage to his seedlings from rodents inside the fence. Nevertheless the cedar are growing quite well (see bottom photo).



Would you be fooled? The elk apparently are. Photo: P. Hayes

As the old saying goes, “where there’s a will, there’s a way” ... and all these experiments prove to me that woodland owners are nothing if not persistent. Meanwhile, on the science front, Canadian researchers have discovered that the degree to which cedar seedlings are browsed is linked to the concentration of certain chemical compounds (terpenes) in the foliage, and this in turn is genetically controlled. “Browse-resistant” seed sources are currently being tested. Maybe this will be something that tree planters will be able to take advantage of in the future. Until then, I look forward to hearing about your experiences, successful or not, with growing cedar in deer and elk country.



Cedar enclosed in this fence are now free-to-grow.

New Publications and Resources

Wildlife Conservation in Willamette Valley Grassland and Oak Habitats: A Research Synthesis

Vesely, D.G. and D.K. Rosenberg. 2010. Oregon Wildlife Institute. Available for download online at http://www.oregonwildlife.org/Publish/synthesis_intro.htm.

Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State

This conference was held in February and highlighted current forest health issues including insects, diseases, invasive species, and weather and climate. Presentations from the conference can be viewed online at <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/event/foresthealth2010/>.



Chainsaw Basics and Mushroom Cultivation (an unusual but fun combination!) St. Helens, April 24th, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

RSVP: Columbia County Extension Office,
(503) 397-3462. Directions will be provided
when you RSVP.

AGENDA

We will discuss the basics of safe chainsaw handling and use, including: safety gear, choosing a saw and keeping it well maintained, starting a chainsaw, and basic cutting skills such as bucking and limbing. If you have your own saw and safety gear, please bring them!

Also, the logs we cut during the class will be inoculated with edible mushrooms for cultivation in a woodland setting. If you know about or are interested in learning about growing mushrooms, we'll discuss that too.

Our discussion leaders will be Amanda Hansen and Jeff Vannatta of Rainier, Oregon.

Soup and beverages provided. Please consider bringing a potluck item to share.

Learn more about WOWNet at
<http://womenowningwoodlands.blogspot.com>.



Women Owing Woodlands Network was formed by Oregon State University Extension Service and local groups of women woodland owners who wanted to:

- Recognize the growing number of women taking a wide array of active woodland management roles.
- Raise basic forestry and decision-making skills through hands-on activities.
- Support and increase women's access to forestry-related information and encouraging communication through state and local networks.

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Columbia County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

Upcoming Events

Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNet) – Chainsaw Basics

Saturday, April 24th, 10 am – 1 pm

St. Helens

Safe chainsaw handling will be discussed and practiced. We will also talk about cultivating edible mushrooms on cut logs. See more details on page 3.



Lewis River Reforestation Tour

Saturday, April 24th, 10 am

Woodland, WA

Tour sponsored by Columbia County Small Woodlands Association. Tour the nursery that supplies many of the seedlings to CCSWA members and the public through their tree sale. RSVP to Bill or Lydia Stennick, (503) 556-2014 by April 20th.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association meeting

Tuesday, April 27th, 7:00 pm

OSU Extension Service Office, Beaverton

Speaker will be Doug Mainwaring, OSU College of Forestry, on western redcedar management.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting

April 30th – May 1st

Clackamas

Indoor programs on Friday and Tree Farm tours on Saturday. Registration deadline April 23rd. For details go to www.oswa.org.

Oregon Woodland Cooperative Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 15th, 10:00 am

Kinton Grange, Scholls

Presentations, demonstrations, and updates on Co-op projects. Public welcome. Contact Neil Schroeder, (503)628-2344, theoneil@upwardaccess.com for more information.

Columbia County Small Woodlands Association General Meeting

Saturday, May 15th, 5:30 pm

Beaver Homes Grange, Rainier

Speaker will be Chip Bubl of the OSU Extension Service on invasive weed management. For details call Bill or Lydia Stennick, (503) 556-2014.

Summer Woodland Tour

Saturday, July 17th

Clatskanie

Co-sponsored by Columbia County Small Woodlands Association and OSU Extension Service. Tour and discussion will feature hardwood conversion, conifer release, and other topics. More details TBA.

New Tree Farm Certification Standards Released

By Rick Fletcher, OSU Extension Forester, Linn and Benton Counties

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) recently announced updated Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification, for use with its nationwide Tree Farm program. The standard revision process occurs every 5 years, so the new Standards replace the current ones which ran from 2004-2009. The 2010-2015 AFF Standards were developed by an independent panel of experts, representing academia, conservation organizations, Federal and State governments, landowners, and foresters. Bob Simpson, AFF Senior Vice President for the Center for Family Forests said "Although our ATF certification program is the oldest in America, founded in 1941, we are constantly working to improve our standards to make them fit new conservation forestry practices and consumer expectations. Consumers want to be able to rely on green brands, and the ATFS brand continues to grow in stature and acceptance."



The six things AFF wants you to know about the new Standards

(material adapted from AFF communication, January 2010).

- 1) Designed for small woodland owners:** These Standards were developed specifically for small woodland owners. The independent panel took care to ensure that the requirements were appropriate for the scale of management practiced on family woodlands across the United States. Industrial companies who manage large landscapes are excluded from participating.
- 2) Management plan:** The management plan requirements help streamline the process for Tree Farmers to participate in USDA conservation incentive programs. The management plan requirements under the 2010-2015 Standards correlate with the US Forest Service guidelines for forest stewardship program forest management plans. If you have a Stewardship Plan, it can be used also for the Tree Farm program and vice versa. AFF is also currently working with NRCS to make a similar arrangement. This is important for many owners because of the high amount of forestry related cost-share money coming through NRCS these days.
- 3) Special Sites:** As the current Standards do, the 2010-2015 Standards require maintenance of special cultural and environmental sites (historical, archeological, geological, High Conservation Value Forests, biological and ecological sites). ATFS will be introducing new tools on the Tree Farm website to help landowners research special sites in their state and on their certified Tree Farms (www.treefarmssystem.org/woodlandresources).
- 4) Monitoring:** Periodic monitoring has been added to the Standards to encourage landowners to monitor their woodlands for changes that could interfere with their management objectives. Things to be on the lookout for include pest outbreaks, invasive species encroachment, and indications of trespass. Many landowners are already doing things like walking their boundaries, and inspecting after a thinning or planting for new groups of invasive species.
- 5) Invasive Species:** Tree Farmers are encouraged to make practical efforts to prevent, eradicate or otherwise control invasive species using a range of integrated pest management methods. Integrated pest management methods may include herbicides, physical removal and preventative methods.
- 6) One year to implement:** The new Standards were officially released January 1, 2010, and Tree Farmers will have one year to ensure their management plans and management activities meet the Standards. All volunteer inspectors will be retrained to the new Standards within the year and we will

be working with state programs to provide education to Tree Farmers about the changes. To read the new Standards, visit http://www.forestfoundation.org/cff_standards.html.

If you have questions about what the Standards mean by terms like High Conservation Value Forests, look for definitions at the end of the Standards in the glossary of terminology. Also, pay close attention to the words “must” or “should”. These terms tell you what is negotiable and what is not in terms of requirements.

AFF has developed a management plan addendum for those Tree Farmers whose management plans already meet the prior (2004) Standards. The addendum covers the new items that were not covered under the prior Standard. You can find the addendum online at www.treefarmssystem.org under Certification.

Participate in the Forest Values and Beliefs Survey

This month, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is cooperating with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) to conduct sampling of Oregonians’ values and beliefs regarding forestry and current forest issues. These random, statistically-valid surveys and focus groups will directly inform OFRI’s communications work and both ODF’s and the Board of Forestry’s strategic planning processes. The Board will receive a report on this work at its September meeting.

In addition, ODF’s contractor, David Hibbitts, and Midgall Inc., has established a separate, informal survey that is now posted on ODF’s home page: <http://egov.oregon.gov/odf/>. Please consider taking this five-minute survey yourself and forward the home page link and a request to take the survey to your partner organizations, stakeholders, friends, and family. All responses will be valuable (in a less scientific way than the other surveys) in helping us understand what Oregonians’ perceptions and opinions are when it comes to forestry. Other benefits may include getting more citizens engaged in thinking about the importance of our forest resources and perhaps attracting more people to our website where they can learn more about ODF’s work in addition to taking the survey.

The ODF online survey will be available through April 30.



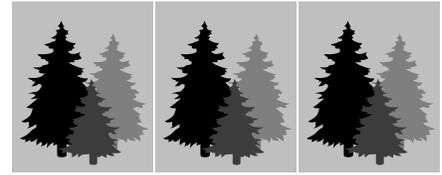
Volunteer Mentors Needed



The Pacific Logging Conference will be held in Clatskanie this fall. Thousands of students in grades 5 through 12 will visit the PLC’s Live In The Woods show on Sept. 15th and 16th. Hundreds of volunteer foresters, forest operators, family forestland owners and numerous other experts are needed to assist with the event and serve as tour guides. Volunteers will receive a free pass to the show a T-shirt, and interpretation materials. If you would like to volunteer, contact Julie Woodward, Woodward@ofri.com or (503) 584-7259.

Christmas Tree Corner

By Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Christmas Tree Specialist



What's Coming Up?

With budbreak here (or coming shortly) there are a number of pests to watch for. For Douglas-fir growers, needle midge is primary, especially if you plan on exporting to Mexico. The first midge sightings that I heard this year, came on the second week of April. Emergence is site specific, so you need to trap, or walk the fields looking for “mosquitoes” as one grower describes them. You may even find them in one part of a field before they are sighted in another. Sprays go out when the midge is sighted, just as the scales of the buds are expanding.

Budbreak is the period to start looking for those pests that like to feed on or colonize fresh foliage. Aphids, Swiss needle cast, rust diseases and cool season mites are some of the problems to look out for. Control tactics are different for the diseases as compared to the insect pests, this time of year.



Five-needle midge trap



Aphids on noble fir

With insects you can wait until you see the pests, or in the case of mites- the eggs. If sprays are called for you can make your decisions on the basis of the number of pests, past damage, age of tree, number of predators and so on. Young trees can stand a bit of damage as none of these will kill trees.

In the case of diseases like Swiss needle cast and to some extent rusts, you need to remember that sprays like Bravo prevent infection by covering the needle prior to infection, rather than clearing up problems. Older infected foliage will still develop symptoms. Also, in the case of needle casts, in fields with problems you will need at least 2-3 years of clean foliage, so plan accordingly.

If the season is moist you may find evidence of botrytis on the new growth, but generally speaking, this is one disease that looks bad in spring, but usually is covered by fall. Also, by the time you find it, it is too late to do anything about it.

What you (maybe) missed

With the poor Christmas tree market and dour economy, many farms went unshered last summer. Shearing, if you have hopes of salvaging the trees, will need to happen before budbreak. Tree salvage after two years of missed shearing is very expensive and usually a waste of time and money.

Fertilization with dry materials should have been done around March, so the spring rain can move it into the root zone. If you missed this year, mark your calendar now for next year. Fall fertilization is seldom effective.

Log Price Information

Below are domestic prices for delivered logs in Northwest Oregon as reported by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past five quarters. All values are reported in \$/MBF and are averages of quotes from regional sawmills. Prices for other log sorts and time frames can be found online at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml

Species	Grade	2009 1 st Q	2009 2 nd Q	2009 3 rd Q	2009 4 th Q	2010 1 st Q
Douglas-fir	2S	315	315	355	400	455
	3S	305	295	320	365	440
Hemlock	2S	260	255	275	310	375
	3S	245	245	260	285	365
Spruce	2S	270	270	320	340	345
	3S	260	265	295	335	340
Cedar	2S	720	740	740	790	820
	3S	720	740	740	790	820
Red Alder	CR	415	430	535	515	520



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