



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

Summer 2009

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Survey Says...

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey that I sent out a couple of months ago. As of this writing, 180 people have taken the survey! I've spent some time analyzing the responses, and I thought you might be interested in the results.

First of all, a few demographic facts:

- The average property size was about 66 acres. But the median property size (the point where half the values fall above and half fall below) was about 20 acres. In this case, the much smaller median tells us that a relatively small number of landowners with very large properties skewed the average. In fact, respondents' woodlands ranged from 0.5 to 1,610 acres in size.
- Almost half of you (47%) have owned your land for more than 20 years.
- More than half (52%) are age 60 or above, and 20% are age 70+.

Now, on to the things you value about your forestland. I asked you to rate a number of potential values or benefits according to their importance to you as a woodland owner. Here are the top five:

1. Privacy/rural lifestyle
2. Aesthetic enjoyment
3. Maintaining a healthy ecosystem
4. Legacy for future generations
5. Personal recreation

Most of these are not surprising. Many surveys across the nation have shown that woodland owners view the ownership of their land as a way of life above all else.

Only 20% of respondents have a written management plan for their woodlands. The Resource Management Planning Class scheduled for this fall (see page 3) should help to raise this percentage!

(continued on next page)

The survey also asked about topics that woodland owners were most interested in learning about. Again, here are the top five overall:

1. Control of invasive weeds
2. Tree and plant identification
3. Timber management (thinning, pruning, etc.)
4. Wildlife habitat enhancement
5. Management planning

This is just a snapshot of the survey results and there is certainly more and deeper analysis to be done. But so far this effort has been valuable in helping me understand woodland owners' interests and priorities here in northwest Oregon. Thanks again for your input. If you haven't taken the survey yet, you can still do so. Just go to

https://surveys.bus.oregonstate.edu/BsgSurvey2_0/main.aspx?SurveyID=3081.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 22nd, 9:30 am

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Field Tour – Zena Timber, Rickreall

The tour will feature Sarah Deumling's management of this Willamette Valley foothill woodland, and especially her oak management, milling, and marketing. For more information, contact WCSWA president Dallas Boge, 503-357-7688.

Saturday, September 19th, 5:30 pm

Columbia County Small Woodland Association General Meeting – Vernonia Scout Cabin

David Ford, Oregon Small Woodlands Association Executive Director, is the invited speaker. He will summarize the gains (and losses) in the 2009 Legislature and share some of the accomplishments OSWA has made during the past year. Dinner is at 5:30 pm prior to the presentation. RSVP by calling Lydia Stennick at (503) 556-2014 at least a week prior to the meeting.

Saturday, September 26th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Woodland Owners' Field Day – Rock Creek Rd., west Multnomah County

Have you got a forest in your backyard? Come to this informative, hands-on and fun field event to get tips on how to care for your forest and find further assistance. Bring your family and your questions about woodlands, weeds, wildlife, and more! For more information, call the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District at (503) 238-4775 or visit www.wmsc wd.org.

September 24th – 26th

Game of Logging Precision Tree Felling Course and Small Scale Log Yarding Course – Oakville, WA

Great hands-on training for those who want to improve their skills in the woods. Sponsored by Northwest Natural Resource Group. For more information visit www.nnrg.org or call (360) 316-9317.

October 7 – December 16

Resource Management Planning Class – Washington County Extension Office (Beaverton)

See next page for details!



Woodland Owners: Ready, Set, Go!

with the

Resource Management Planning Shortcourse

A practical, step-by-step, hands-on, guided process

A forest management plan (a.k.a. forest stewardship plan) is an important tool for woodland owners. Developing a forest management plan involves thinking carefully about you and your family's short- and long-term goals for your property and how you might best achieve those goals through proper stewardship. This process allows you to weigh many options and choose those that are best for the land and for your family's individual circumstances.

Besides these benefits, a management plan has many other uses. If you are thinking about applying for cost-share funds to help offset the costs of forest improvement projects (see related article on EQIP later in this newsletter), you'll need an up-to-date management plan to qualify. Having a management plan is also the first step on the path to certification of your forest through the Tree Farm system or the Forest Stewardship Council. And, if you are thinking of perhaps entering the brave new world of carbon offsets from your forest, a management plan with a thorough resource inventory is one prerequisite.

Writing a management plan takes time and energy, but is well worth the effort. This fall, OSU Extension and the Washington County Small Woodlands Association are teaming up to offer a Resource Management Planning class series to guide woodland owners through the process. At the end of the course, you'll have a completed plan developed for your property.

Course details:

Dates: Wednesdays, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16 (Saturday field session 10/24)

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: Washington County Extension Office in Beaverton

Cost: \$50 per family (WCSWA members receive a 50% discount – pay only \$25)

Registration deadline: Friday, September 25th

Topics to be covered in the course include: setting property goals and objectives, plan elements and structure, mapping, inventory techniques for timber, wildlife habitat, road systems, riparian areas, and other features, recordkeeping, and business and legal considerations. You will receive customized maps developed for your property as well as other course materials. You will also have the opportunity to discuss your plan on a site visit with a Master Woodland Manager or professional forester.

To sign up, please call Amy at (503) 397-3462. Send registration fee (checks only please) to OSU Columbia County Extension, c/o Vicki Krenz, 505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR 97051.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association has some grant money which will subsidize the cost of the course for Association members. If you are not already a WCSWA member, this might be a great time to join! Contact Dallas Boge, (503) 357-7688 about that.

Hope to see many of you in the Resource Management Planning Class. Contact Amy if you have any questions.

On the Lookout for Japanese Knotweed

By Janelle St. Pierre, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Coordinator

Japanese knotweed is often mistaken for bamboo except for its large heart-shaped leaves. It is also commonly called elephant ears or fleece-flower. This invasive plant likes to grow along creek banks, but can also be found away from the water where plant materials have been dumped. It is an aggressive plant that can propagate through sections of the roots or stems that have broken off and have ended up on exposed, moist soil. Flooding is therefore one of the primary ways that knotweed invades new areas downstream. The plants produce a lot of seed, but the seeds generally are not viable. Knotweed grows six to twelve feet high over the course of the growing season and then dies back and is dormant over the winter. Knotweed is important to control because it can displace native plant populations very rapidly.

Knotweed can take several years to control. One of the most effective treatments is herbicide application in late summer or early fall (after the plant starts blooming). Glyphosate-based herbicides (Roundup, Rodeo, or Aquamaster) can be applied to the leaves and stems. If you are working close to water it is important to use an herbicide that is approved for stream-side use (aquatic safe). You can manually control smaller patches with a lot of persistence. You have to dig out and dispose of all the root fragments, or cut the plant every two weeks during the growing season. Make sure to dispose of any stem and root pieces carefully so that they don't end up starting a new patch somewhere else!



Your local watershed council and Soil and Water Conservation District can often help you to control knotweed on your property at no cost. There are grant funds available to assist landowners with treatment. If you live along a creek, you may have been contacted by one of these groups in the last few years. We are planning more treatment this summer. For more information or assistance you can contact the Columbia SWCD at 503-397-4555, or the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (Scappoose and St. Helens area) at 503-397-7904.

Forest Legacy Program Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for a program seeking to protect the future of Oregon's forests by helping landowners acquire easements to assist conservation of forests in areas threatened by risk of fragmentation or development.

The Forest Legacy Program is designed to support state and community efforts to keep forestland viable, and keeping working forests as forests. The voluntary program provides financial incentives -- using conservation easements or land acquisition -- for private landowners to protect environmentally important working forest areas (those that provide forest products, water, fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities) at risk of conversion to non-forest uses. *(continued on next page)*

People interested in submitting proposed projects for federal Fiscal Year 2011 funding should contact ODF and submit projects prior to September 25, 2009 for consideration. Applications, guidelines and additional program information are available on the ODF website, www.oregon.gov/ODF. For more information about the program, contact Diane Partridge, ODF Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at 541-963-3168 or dpartridge@odf.state.or.us.

New Publications

A number of new publications are now available from OSU Extension. Download online at the links below, or order print copies by calling 800-561-6719.

Safe and Effective Use of Chain Saws for Woodland Owners (EC 1124)

Authors: Steve Bowers, Raini Rippey

16 pages, \$2.50 or download free of charge at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1124.pdf>

An updated version of a previous Woodland Workbook publication.



Comparing Firewood and Wood Pellets to Other Energy Sources (EC 1628-E)

Author: Jim Reeb

6 pages, no charge. Available online only at

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1628-e.pdf>

Not that heating your home is the first thing on your mind in mid-summer, but this new publication can help you weigh the efficiency and cost of wood heat vs. other sources.

Managing Organic Debris for Forest Health (PNW 609)

Authors: Chris Schnepf, Russell T. Graham, Sandy Kegley, Theresa Jain

64 pages, \$7.00 or download free of charge at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/pnw/pnw0609.pdf>

This publication focuses mainly on Inland Northwest forests and managing tradeoffs between soil health and fire and insect risks.

Identifying Insects and Arthropods in Oregon (EC 1630-E)

Authors: Brad C. Hollis, Silvia I. Rondon, and James Young

2 pages, no charge. Available online only at

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/bitstream/1957/11951/1/EC1630.pdf>

Got an unknown bug? This leaflet explains how to properly collect and submit a specimen to Extension experts that can help you identify it.

Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers (EM 8980)

Authors: David Shaw, Paul Oester, Greg Filip

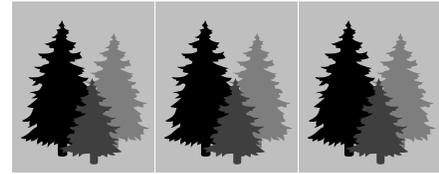
104 pages, \$15.00. View a sample at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8980.pdf>

This guide is designed to help field foresters, loggers and landowners deal with the major insect pests and diseases of conifers on Oregon forests. It focuses mainly on silvicultural approaches to managing insects and fungi that can be integrated with other management objectives.

Christmas Tree Corner

New Trees, New Places

By Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Christmas Tree Specialist



Finding a new and better Christmas tree variety is not that different from finding a new variety of any other plant. It is a numbers game. The more new plants you test, the more likely you are to find something better than you currently have. In black raspberries, for example, OSU/USDA evaluates around 2,000 new plants each year. Around 4,000 new strawberry plants are tested annually at OSU alone. And with strawberries you can finish trials in 2 years and have new plants for growers to use plus eat strawberries along the way. In Christmas trees, the time between testing and seed production runs around 15 years, if all goes well. And from 1996 to 2015 we will have around 500 trees of all species in an evaluation program.

All of this is preamble and a little envy to say that tree breeding is a little slower and lower budget. Nevertheless, we are finding better trees as we continue to evaluate more trees. And we are finding trees in new locations. A few examples from recent tests will help to illustrate these points.

Each year, the OSU Extension Christmas tree team composed of myself, Mike Bondi, Rick Fletcher and Brad Withrow-Robinson evaluate, on average, around 30 new sources for Christmas trees. Typically these trees will be grown at five or six different locations with around 750 trees per site. Prior to harvest, each tree at each site will be evaluated usually by two people - measuring height, grade, pest damage, color, and anything else pertinent to producing a great tree. At the end of five to eight years (depending on the species), a few trees always emerge at the head of the class.

For example, in 2007 and 2008 our team evaluated two noble fir trials comprised of 43 different sources. The “sources” in these cases were cone/seed collections from individual trees. In each trial,



Fig. 1- Mike Bondi in front of a tree from Grass Mountain. A source from Tillamook on his right and a Riley/Fanno Standard on his left. All excellent sources.

we have a “standard” source that we evaluate the newer sources against. Usually these will be a source from Riley/Fanno that we know is a good performing individual. The trees in the 2007 and 2008 evaluations originated from Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service selections made in the early 70’s. Two new locations emerged as being potentially “better” than many of the Riley/Fanno standard trees. Both locations are in the Oregon Cascades. One collection area is east of Tillamook, and the other near Grass Mountain, South of Mary’s Peak in Benton County. Both sources had higher value ratings than the Riley/Fanno crosses. (See example in Figure 1). The exciting part of this is that these are areas new to the testing program and we are likely to continue to find better trees the more we look.

I placed the word “better” above in quotes for a reason. “Better” is influenced by the criteria used in making the evaluations. Growers generally are paid by tree height and grade. So a tree that grows rapidly and fills in well usually

comes out on top in our evaluations. In one of the sites we evaluated in 2007 I had a group of commercial tree growers and a group of wreath makers evaluate a trial. The short story was that they

(continued on next page)

did not agree on a “best” source. The tree growers liked the fast-growing and fast-filling trees. The wreath makers tended to like slower growing sources from the USFS collection in the Cascades. Fast growth did not matter much; they liked the needle form on the Cascade trees (see Fig. 2). So, when you are told that one tree is better than another, ask why. If the reasons fit with your needs and criteria then you may have a winner.



Fig 2. Wreath makers tended to like the needle from on the left, while commercial tree growers liked faster growing sources producing needle forms more like those on the right.

Farm Bill Program Can Benefit Forest Operations

By Don Mehlhoff, NRCS Conservation Program Manager

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that is part of the conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill can benefit forest land operations. EQIP is administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Through EQIP, eligible agricultural and non-industrial forest operators can make natural resource improvements to their land with technical and financial assistance provided by USDA-NRCS.

For example, landowners addressing resource concerns such as soil erosion, water quality, fish and wildlife and healthy forest issues with the use of approved conservation practices may contract with NRCS to design the practices and cover a portion of the implementation costs.

On forestland, a forest management plan that is less than 5 years old is required. If you do not have a current plan, EQIP can assist with the costs of its development. Once the plan is in place, forestry practices which the plan identified as needed may be funded through EQIP. Some example practices might include: stabilization or closure of forest roads, pre-commercial thinning, release applications, tree and shrub plantings, and stream improvements.

To participate, nonindustrial forest operators can sign an EQIP application at the NRCS office. Contract approval is based on funding availability and application priority. Contact your local NRCS representative for more information. In Columbia County, Oregon the contact is Don Mehlhoff at 2514 Sykes Road, St. Helens, Oregon, phone (503)397-4555.

Log Price Information

Below are domestic prices for delivered logs in Northwest Oregon as reported by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past four 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](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml)

Species	Grade	2008 3 rd Q	2008 4 th Q	2009 1 st Q	2009 2 nd Q
Douglas-fir	2S	475	400	315	315
	3S	410	335	305	295
Hemlock	2S	330	290	260	255
	3S	315	265	245	245
Spruce	2S	335	270	270	270
	3S	320	260	260	265
Cedar	2S	955	870	720	740
	3S	955	870	720	740
Red Alder	CR	635	475	415	430

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