



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

**Fall 2014**

The summer of 2014 was long, hot and dry, and accordingly we had another grueling fire season. As the 90-degree days piled on into September, several high-profile fires in the Willamette Valley hit a little too close to home: an 85-acre fire within Corvallis city limits; the 5,500-acre 36 Pit fire near Estacada; and the 200-acre Scoggins Creek Fire that burned private timberland just a few miles from Forest Grove.



*A "superscooper" dips to collect water from Hagg Lake to deliver to the Scoggins Creek Fire, Sept. 23, 2014. Photo by Chris Friend, Oregon Dept. of Forestry. From flickr.com*

Most years, it is easy to be complacent and think of wildfire as only an eastern or southern Oregon issue. This year's fire season proves this to be a mistaken belief. A recent news release from Oregon Department of Forestry, appropriately titled "[Wildfire: It's not If, but When](#)", points out some simple measures that rural residents can and should take to protect their homes and keep firefighting costs down. Creating defensible space is easy to put off when wildfires are out of sight and out of mind. Let's make this year the year when it gets done. Visit [www.keeporegongreen.com](http://www.keeporegongreen.com) for more.

What else can we do? Adhere to fire restrictions when working on your own property, for one. Fire restrictions are set based on fuel moisture levels and current and expected weather. When operations are shut down for the afternoon, call it a day. Respect closures on private industrial land; and set an example for your neighbors in this regard. And finally, thank a firefighter, whether they are a volunteer or professional, for their dedication.

More photos from 2014 fire season, courtesy Oregon Dept. of Forestry, are at:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oregondepartmentofforestry/sets/72157644684753089/>

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# Need a Forest Management Plan?

Write your own by taking the

## Mentored Management Planning Shortcourse

A written Forest Management Plan serves many purposes. It helps you organize and plan for activities on your land. It is a valuable communication tool for your family. A plan is required for forest certification programs and it forms the foundation for sustainable forest management. By writing part, or all of your own forest management plan, you gain a better understanding of your land and can potentially save on professional costs.

Writing a plan takes time and an understanding of your property, but the Mentored Management Planning shortcourse will guide you through the process. In addition to the four class sessions, you will be paired with an experienced "mentor" who will provide one-on-one assistance.

**Course location: Yamhill County Public Works Auditorium**  
**2050 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville**  
**(adjacent to Extension office)**

**Course dates/times: Thursday evenings, 6:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

- A minimum of 8 families must register in order for the course to be held. Space is limited to 15 families.
- There is a \$40 charge (per family/ownership) to attend the course. Participants should plan to attend all sessions and expect to do "homework" on their plan between sessions.
- To attend you must pre-register no later than **October 24<sup>th</sup>**. Use the form below or register online at: <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/792>
- Questions? Contact Amy Grotta, (503) 397-3462 or [amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.grotta@oregonstate.edu)



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### Mentored Management Planning Registration Form

Or, register online at <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/792>

*Mail this form with \$40 course fee to: OSU Extension Service - Yamhill County; Attn: Mentored Management Planning Shortcourse; 2050 NE Lafayette Ave., McMinnville, OR 97128. Make check payable to OSU Extension Service.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal description of your forestland: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ # acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Taxlot number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events



### **Agroforestry Workshop**

**October 21st & 22nd, Corvallis**

Learn basic Agroforestry concepts, practical applications, and practice design considerations specific to the Pacific Northwest. Landowners, Crop Consultants, Conservation Planners, Students, and anyone interested in Agroforestry is welcome to attend. For details: <http://oregonswcs.org/>

### **Yamhill Small Woodlands Association Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 22nd, 6:30 pm social hour/7:00 program, 2050 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville**

Tentative topic is Forest Edibles.

### **Washington County Small Woodlands Association - October program**

**Tuesday, October 28th, 7:00 pm, North Plains Fire Station**

Speaker: Steve Bowers, OSU Extension Service; Topic: Timber Harvesting Equipment

### **Mentored Management Planning Shortcourse**

**Thursday evenings, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Dec. 4, McMinnville**

Get started writing a forest management plan for your property with guidance, tools, and one-on-one assistance. Cost is \$40/family. See details on page 2.

### **Columbia County Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, November 8th, 5:30 pm; Quincy Grange, Clatskanie**

Speaker: Forest historian, author, and Vernonia native Ed Kamholz will present a program on logging railroads of the Northwest and the Oregon-American Lumber Company. RSVP for dinner to: [globe.trotters.email@gmail.com](mailto:globe.trotters.email@gmail.com)

### **Wildlife in Managed Forests: Songbirds and Early Seral Habitat**

**Tuesday, November 18th, 8 am—4 pm, Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany**

Land managers, landowners and biologists are invited to spend a day learning about migratory songbirds and the importance of early seral habitats. The goal of this one-day symposium is to advance our understanding of early seral habitats and how to manage for the species that depend on it. FREE, but space is limited. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/songbirds-and-early-seral-habitats-registration-7669225861>

## Reading this on paper?

You can receive this newsletter (in full color and with working links) and other news by subscribing to our email list.

Just send an email to [vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu](mailto:vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu) and request to be on the forestry email list.

Please indicate which county you are in. Include a physical address and phone number (so we can remove you from our paper mailing list and keep our email list current).

## Western Oak Looper Update

Affected acreage doubled in 2014

By Rob Flowers, Entomologist, Oregon Department of Forestry

State and local agencies handled many calls in summer 2014 concerning what is in some cases a second year of defoliation of Oregon white oaks in areas of the mid-Willamette Valley. Douglas-fir, Oregon ash, and other tree species have also been affected, but this primarily occurs in areas where they are heavily intermixed with the more preferred oaks. The defoliation in these areas is due to the Western oak looper (*Lambdina fiscellaria somnaria*), a native moth that has periodic outbreaks in the Willamette Valley. Affected trees are conspicuous in the late summer by the scorched appearance of the leaves (**Figure 1**), and on closer inspection by the presence of large numbers of small caterpillars (**Figure 2**). Defoliation often tends to be localized and can be highly variable, but where high populations occur trees may appear almost completely defoliated.

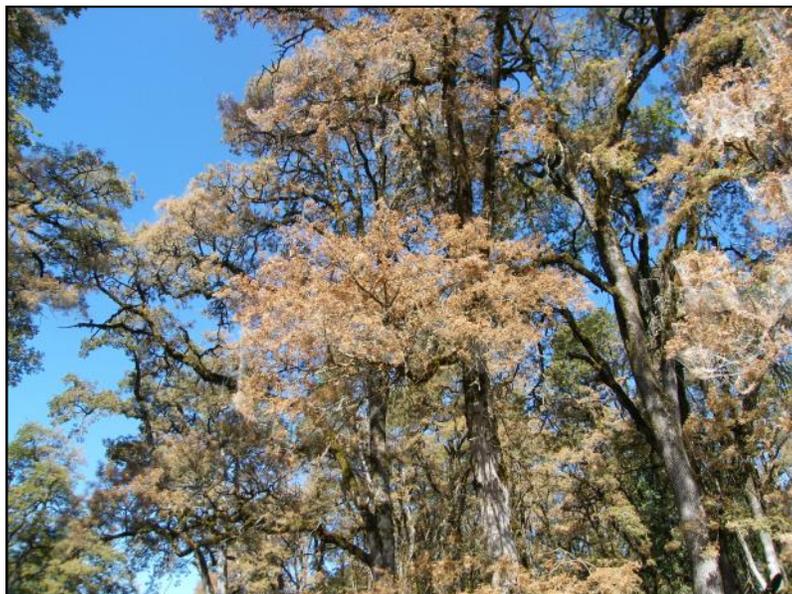


Figure 1: Defoliation of Oregon white oaks (left) and intermixed Douglas-fir (right) by the western oak looper. Photos by Dave Shaw.



Figure 2: Western oak looper larvae are about 1" long and can be seen in large numbers near defoliated areas. Photo: Dave Shaw

Previous outbreaks in the Willamette Valley have been recorded from 1926-1927, 1930-1931, 1957-1958, 1960-1964, 1977-1978, and 1992-1996. The current outbreak, which appears to have begun in 2012, was not observed during annual forest health aerial surveys until 2013, when over 2,500 acres of moderate-to-heavy defoliation was recorded. In 2014, aerial detections expanded more than two-fold to over 6,900 acres. Over 90% of the defoliated area mapped in 2013 was again affected this year; however, some areas appeared to experience less severe defoliation than was seen the previous year. The most heavily affected areas in 2013 and 2014 were generally within the extent of previously reported outbreaks, with the majority occurring West of the I-5 corridor in Yamhill, Polk, and Benton Counties, with other, smaller affected areas in Marion and Linn Counties (**Figure 3**).

(continued on next page)

## Western Oak Looper Update (continued)

Previous outbreak records indicate very limited mortality in oaks or other hardwoods from this insect, even with successive years of heavy defoliation. Douglas-fir and other conifers, by comparison, are much less resilient to defoliation, and can be weakened or killed during outbreaks. Mortality of Douglas-fir was observed in a few locations in 2014, but only where the trees were intermixed with oak and were heavily defoliated in 2013. Douglas-firs growing in pure stands and other conifers growing in forest or Christmas tree plantations were largely unaffected (**Figure 4**).

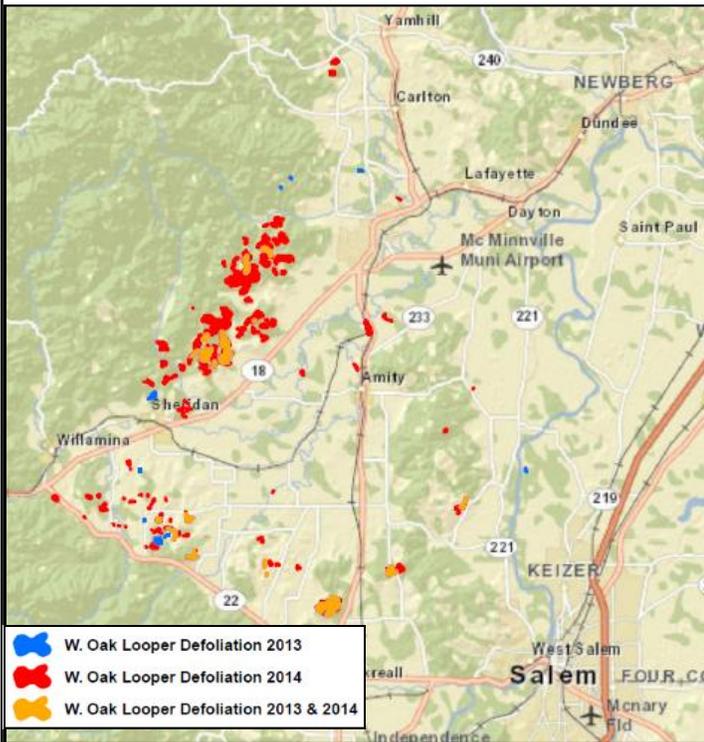


Figure 3: Western oak looper defoliation in Yamhill and Polk Counties as detected by annual forest health aerial surveys in 2013 and 2014. Map by Oregon Department of Forestry.

Due to the high tolerance of oaks to defoliation by this insect and the short duration of most outbreaks, non-chemical management is recommended. Infestations of caterpillars on small, higher-value ornamentals can be manually removed by high-pressure sprays. While there are some insecticides registered for control of the Western oak looper in Oregon, biological products such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) offer the best option as they have less impact on natural enemies and other non-targets. Pesticide applications should be done in early summer as the caterpillars are emerging and beginning to feed. Treatments against older larvae in late summer and fall are generally ineffective as many have already completed feeding and moved from the foliage to pupate. Douglas-fir or other conifers that are intermixed with oaks and become heavily defoliated are more at risk of dieback, top-kill, or even mortality. However, it is very difficult to predict which trees will survive and which ones will not, so the general recommendation for landowners wishing to maintain a conifer component in affected oak stands is not to harvest affected trees until it is clear they will not recover, indicated by no flush of new foliage in the spring.

only minor due to their ability to produce a second flush of leaves in the current year or a normal flush the following year as the buds are unaffected by this insect. In Oregon, outbreak levels and severe defoliation typically last only 2-3 years. During the first year of increasing populations, defoliation often goes unnoticed, but moths may be observed. During the second and third years of the outbreak, populations typically expand and the defoliation is most severe. In the latter year(s) of the outbreak, some expansion and continued defoliation may occur, but damage tends to decline rapidly from the combined effects of naturally-occurring diseases, predators, and parasites. Therefore, populations are expected to decline in 2015 as the outbreak returns to endemic levels.

Although many affected trees may now appear completely defoliated, the damage to oaks is usually



Figure 4: Western oak loopers prefer oaks but will feed on Douglas-fir and other species in intermixed stands. Pure conifer stands near outbreaks were largely unaffected. Photo: Rob Flowers, ODF.

## Propagating Native Shrubs from Seed or Cuttings

By Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension, Columbia, Washington & Yamhill Counties, and Paul Wilson & Linda Farris, Columbia County Master Woodland Managers

Reprinted from TreeTopics, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>, August 26, 2014

When Paul Wilson and Linda Farris bought their small property about 10 years ago, it was a reforestation failure. But they have succeeded in beating back immense Scotch broom and other invasives and have planted a diverse mix of trees. Not stopping there, they continue adding diversity by releasing native shrubs that don't get in the way of their planted trees, and by planting more native shrubs and herbaceous plants to occupy gaps where the invasives used to be.

Paul and Linda propagate most of their own plants from seed and cuttings, having learned over time what methods work for different species. They shared their experience on a recent Twilight Tour, and afterwards agreed to write up and share their propagation tips (in the rest of this article). Thank you Paul and Linda. If you want to try your hand at this, fall is a good time to start.

**How to take cuttings** (adapted from [Washington Native Plant Society guidelines](#)):

We use a very low-tech approach to propagate dormant deciduous native shrubs which come readily from cuttings. By taking cuttings after the leaves have fallen, the cuttings focus on developing roots and require little care.

Use sharp pruning shears. Clean shears with rubbing alcohol or a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water).

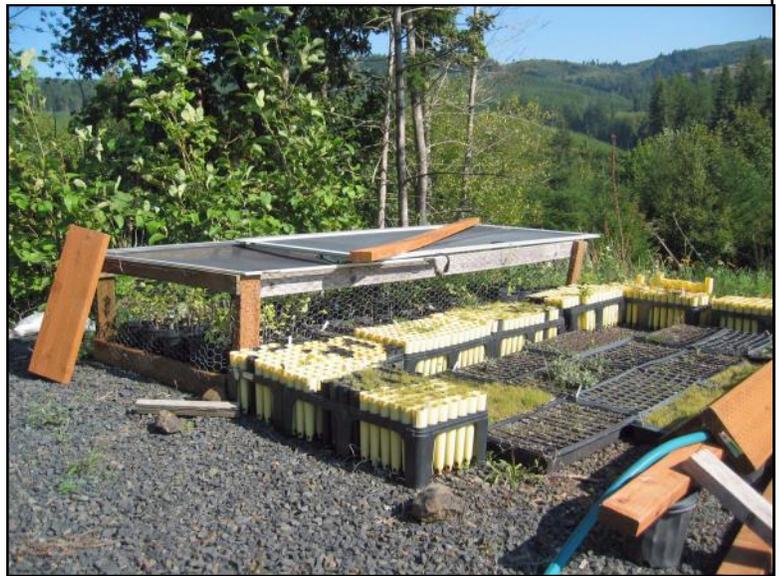
Select young straight shoots about the diameter of a pencil. Collect long branches— you will be dividing them into individual cuttings later. Cut just above a leaf node. As you collect, put the cuttings in a plastic bag or the ends in a bucket of water, and keep them cool, moist, and out of direct sunlight.

To prepare individual cuttings from the long branches, clean your shears again. Cut the branches into pieces long enough to have at least three or four leaf nodes (for most species, cuttings will be about six inches long). The end of the cutting closest to the roots (the "bottom") should be cut at a 45° angle just below a node. To not confuse the bottom with the top of the cutting (essential), cut the top at a right angle (straight across) slightly above a node.

While not essential, for some species success is improved by dipping the bottom (angled) end of the cutting in rooting hormone (Rootone, Hormex and similar), tapping off the excess.

Fill a pot (we use 1 gal. pots or treepots depending on the length of the cutting) with an unfertilized fast-draining soil mix (in many cases perlite, sharp sand or vermiculite alone will work but cuttings need soil after rooting). Poke holes in the soil with a stick a bit larger than the cutting diameter, insert cuttings with at least 2 nodes in soil and 1 or 2 nodes above soil level, tamp soil and water in. We put 5 cuttings of most species in a gallon pot.

Leave out all winter, protecting from slugs and deer in the spring. Wait until leaf growth unfurls and gently check for substantial root development. If you have leaves or roots but not the other reinsert the cutting and wait. Cuttings can be transplanted to a soil mix in a larger container, or transplanted into native soil. During a dry spring keep the rooting medium moist. During the following summer, supplemental water will improve survival and development.



Paul and Linda's plant nursery. Woody plants under the wire frame and herbaceous perennials in the foreground. Photo: Paul Wilson

*(propagation tips for individual species follow on next page)*

### Propagation tips for individual species *(continued from previous page)*

Among these shrubs, red-osier dogwood, Nootka rose, cascara, snowberry, hazel, oceanspray and tall Oregon grape (in order from generally wetter to drier habitat) are 'restoration superstars' – they tolerate moisture fluctuations and disturbance and generally provide a higher success rate after planting. These brief propagation guidelines are adapted from Robson, Richter and Filbert, *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes* (2008).

#### **Red-osier dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*)

Easiest from hardwood cuttings taken late fall to late winter, no hormone required. Can also be grown from ripe fruit collected in the fall, fleshy part need not be removed unless seeds are being stored. Plant outside to stratify over winter.

#### **Nootka rose** (*Rosa nutkana*)

Easiest from seed removed from hips just as they ripen, planted out for winter stratification to germinate the following spring. Lower success from hardwood cuttings mid to late fall, treated with hormones and set to root over winter.

#### **Oceanspray** (*Holodiscus discolor*)

Easiest: hardwood cuttings in late fall or early winter, dip in rooting hormone and root in pumice or other medium. Seeds have a low germination rate: plant thickly in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring.

#### **Beaked hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*)

Easiest from seed; harvest slightly green before the squirrels get them; plant in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring.

#### **Indian plum/Osoberry** (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)

Easy from seed: Collect fruit in early summer, dry the fruits, plant in fall; need cold and moisture to break dormancy and germinate the following spring. Or, take hardwood cuttings in late winter, treat with hormone.

#### **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Collect and clean seed, plant seed in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring.

#### **Common snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos albus*)/**Trailing snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos mollis*)

Hardwood cuttings late fall/early winter; treat with hormone and put in soil to root. Seed requires 2 winters to germinate.

#### **Dwarf Oregon-grape** (*Berberis nervosa*)/**Tall Oregon-grape** (*Berberis aquifolium*)

Collect ripe berries in summer; remove some of the pulp and plant seed soon after harvest; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring. Hard to grow from cuttings.

#### **Blue Elderberry** (*Sambucus nigra*)

Hardwood cuttings mid-fall to early winter, treat with hormone and root in pumice or other medium. Or, collect seed in late summer or fall, remove some of the pulp and plant seed soon after harvest; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring

#### **Bitter Cherry** (*Prunus emarginata*)

Collect seed in late summer or fall, remove some of the pulp and plant seed in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring. Difficult to grow from cuttings.

#### **Cascara** (*Rhamnus purshiana*)

Collect ripe fruit in the fall; remove some of the pulp and plant seed in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring. Expect 2-3 seeds in each fruit.

#### **Red-flowering currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*)

Collect berries and remove seeds; plant seeds in flats of potting soil in fall; need cold and moisture to germinate the following spring.



*Flowering currant seedlings awaiting transplant.*

*Photo: Paul Wilson*

## Birds of a Feather— Mist Netting Photo Journal

By Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension

Reprinted from TreeTopics, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>, September 22, 2014



I often try to write stories that make a connection between the birds you find in a place and the habitat conditions there. Because habitat is something we can create or alter by our forest practices, this illustrates an opportunity for interested landowners to manage their properties to improve woodland habitat conditions for particular birds. While we focus on birds, it is an illustration that applies to all woodland fauna. Animals tend to be quite responsive to habitat conditions. Birds are fun, abundant and easy to observe by watching and listening, which makes them a good group of animals for landowners to key in on. In fact, lots of what we know about birds, and how they use different places (migratory arrivals and departure, where they feed and nest) has been gained through careful observation. But capturing and banding birds is another important tool available to researchers that lets them add another layer of information. By capturing birds, we can learn about their general condition (weight, fat reserves) gender and age distribution, that gives insight on things such as general health or their readiness for breeding or migration. And when lucky enough to recapture a banded bird, we learn valuable details about how they have moved and fared in the time between captures.

I recently caught up with a team of scientists and volunteers out in the pre-dawn light to band birds on a private woodland in Benton County. Dr. Joan Hagar, US Geological Survey Wildlife Biologist, led the team that also included scientists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and OSU Extension. Here is a brief photo journal of the morning.



Mist nets are set up pre-dawn where birds move around during normal feeding activities



Disentangling captured birds is delicate work even for skilled handlers



Captured birds rest peacefully in cloth bags awaiting banding and data collection



(left) Determining a bird's gender takes careful work. You can't just check their driver's license!



(right) Measured and wearing a new bracelet, this Swainson's thrush is ready to go!

## New Publications

### ***Introduction to Conifer Release (EC 1388)***

By Tristan Huff. Revised August 2014, 7 pages, free download at:

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/51056/ec1388.pdf>

### ***Contracts for Woodland Owners (EC 1192)***

By Steve Bowers. Revised July 2014, 38 pages, free download at:

<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/50300/ec1192.pdf>

### ***Field Guide to Common Fish of the Willamette Valley Floodplain (EM 9091)***

By Josh E. Williams, Guillermo R. Giannico, and Brad Withrow-Robinson. New June 2014, 44 pages.

Available for \$14.00 from OSU Extension Publications (800-561-6719) or free download at:

<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/50100/em9091.pdf>

### ***Wildlife in Managed Forests - Fish Habitat and Passage***

By Fran Cafferata Coe. Published by Oregon Forest Resources Institute. 28 pages. Free download at:

[http://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Wildlife\\_Mngd\\_Fish.pdf](http://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Wildlife_Mngd_Fish.pdf)



## Forests in the News

### **[Thinning Oregon's dry-side forests cuts fire risk](#)** *(The Oregonian, August 16, 2014)*

A guest opinion article written by OSU Extension's Max Bennett and Steve Fitzgerald explains the principles that guide thinning for fuels reduction applicable to eastern and southwest Oregon.

### **[For trees under threat, flight may be best response](#)** *(The New York Times, Sept. 18, 2014)*

Some tree species that have a limited distribution may not be able spread quickly enough into new areas with suitable climates in the future. This article explains the concept of assisted migration to ensure species survival, using whitebark pine as an example of a tree species that might benefit from this practice.

### **[Efficient forestry - notifications to be filed online starting October 1](#)** *(Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Sept. 16, 2014)*

The e-notification system for filing Notifications of Operations with ODF is expected to increase efficiency and simplify the process.



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“Log” on and engage with the Oregon forestry community from your home, from the forest, from just about anywhere!



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