Hello!

As we are well into the summer I hope you all are thinking about keeping fire out of the woods as you go about your work. Remember to pay attention to the industrial fire precaution level in your area as it will dictate when you can operate your chainsaw in the woods. You can access the latest closure information at http://www.coosfpaa.net/ or by calling your local Coos Forest Protection Association office.

Now’s also the time when some of us get to wondering whether or not we have enough firewood to get us through the winter. Keep in mind that firewood is an important vector for the spread of various forest insects and diseases (see page 3). Folks in the sudden oak death quarantine area in southern Curry County need to be especially mindful of this.

I’d like to welcome the Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) to the South Coast. The NNRG is an organization that provides certification services for landowners, specifically under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. They will also be putting on a series of workshops geared towards helping landowners effectively manage their forest land (page 2). Jake Robinson (not new to the area) has been hired as the NNRG regional coordinator and will be conducting these workshops. It’s great to have more options available for landowners who want to have their forestland certified (the Tree Farm system is another possibility) and Jake will be an excellent resource for folks here.

As always, please feel free to get ahold of me if you have any questions. Thanks!

New Publication on Safe Falling and Bucking Available

A new handbook on falling safety is now available. This publication was initially developed as a safety manual to help train new timber fallers, the most dangerous job in Oregon. However, the manual is also an excellent source of information for forest owners who do a lot of work with a saw. A step by step method for safely getting trees on the ground, limbed, and bucked is clearly described and illustrated. Also included is a useful fallers glossary of terms.

These valuable books area available free of charge at the Coos and Curry County OSU extension offices during regular business hours. It can also be downloaded on your computer at the following (very long, I apologize) web address:

http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/croet/outreach/or-face/publications/upload/
FallerSafety_web_rev_Feb08.pdf
Log Prices

Below are recent and past domestic prices for delivered logs in Coos/Curry Counties. All values are averages of quotes from sawmills and are reported in $/MBF (thousand board feet). Keep in mind that each mill will have a different price and different grading practices. These values, however, are good measures of general price trends. Last year’s values are not adjusted for inflation. Prices are reported by Oregon Department of Forestry and can be found online at:


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<td>Douglas-fir</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>335</td>
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<td>3S</td>
<td>245</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2S/3S</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red alder</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>535</td>
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</tbody>
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All values reported are in $/MBF (thousand board feet)
P = Peelers
2S = No. 2 Sawmill (Logs suitable for the manufacture of Construction & Better lumber grades - 65%)
3S = No. 3 Sawmill (Logs suitable for the manufacture of Standard & Better lumber grades- 33%)
CR = Camp Run (Log production from the forest of the species or group of species being logged, that are better than Cull grade)

The following article was submitted by Jake Robinson, Southwest Oregon Regional Director for Northwest Natural Resource Group

Northwest Natural Resource Group Opens Office in Coos Bay

Northwest Natural Resource Group has opened a hub office in Coos Bay which will be servicing the SW Oregon area. NNRG has been leading efforts to make ecological forestry a paying proposition in the pacific northwest for over 15 years. The Northwest Certified Forestry program within NNRG is a network of landowners who manage their properties to the high standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Along with FSC certification, Northwest Certified Forestry offers a unique collection of services to its members, including customized marketing assistance, educational workshops, and experience with conservation and financial assistance programs. NNRG also offers enrollment into their carbon offsets program (Northwest Neutral) which is designed to reward landowners for conservation based forest management. Currently Northwest Certified Forestry has 5 members in SW Oregon, representing over 1500 acres of FSC certified forests.

NNRG will have several informational opportunities where interested landowners can ask questions and learn.
more about the services and programs. The first will be Tuesday, Aug 31 at 6:30 pm at the Coos Bay library meeting room; the second will be Thursday, Sept 2 at 6:30pm as part of the South Coast Watershed Council meeting, Gold Beach City Hall. Please feel free to attend either and bring your questions. Contact Jake Robinson at 541 941 1822 or jake@nnrg.org for more information.

NNRG will also be holding a series of workshops in Coos and Curry Counties. The first is “Small Woodlot Management” which is designed as an introduction into private non-industrial forest management. This 4 hour workshop will be held Monday Sept 13th from 1:00-5:00pm at the OSU extension building in Myrtle Point. There is a $15 charge for this workshop. Contact Jake Robinson at 541 941 1822 or jake@nnrg.org for more information. More workshops are planned for later this fall.

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**Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut**

*David Shaw and Paul Oester, OSU Extension Foresters with Jay Pscheidt, OSU Extension Plant Pathologist.*

A new disease syndrome has emerged in the western USA on black walnut (Juglans nigra) called, “thousand cankers disease”. This disease is caused by a newly described fungus called Geosmithia morbida. The fungus is spread by the walnut twig beetle (Pityophthorus juglandis) a bark beetle. The disease causes mortality of both black walnut and Hinds’s walnut (Juglans hindsii), but the cultivated English walnut (Juglans regia) and many hybrids are more resistant. It is called, “thousand canker disease” because cankers develop around every location where beetles attack trees. The beetle doesn’t just attack twigs, as was thought to be typical in its’ native range, but attacks larger limbs and trunks, therefore causing thousands of cankers.

The beetle is native to Southwestern USA and Northern Mexico, where it occurs on twigs and small branches of the Arizona walnut (Juglans major). Apparently, the twig beetle has moved into the urban and rural areas of the West where black walnut was planted, and at some point picked up this new fungus. The disease was first noticed in Boulder, Colorado after all the black walnut trees in town died over a 2 to 3 year period. The disease has since been detected around the west, and is currently known in California, Oregon (throughout the state), Washington (Eastern), Idaho, Utah and Colorado (Figure 1). It is feared that the disease is a major threat to the forests of the Eastern USA where black walnut is native, and several close relatives also may be threatened. Unfortunately, the disease was detected this year (July 2010) in Tennessee, and our worst fears may become realized. The unrestricted movement of firewood and wood products is a direct threat to native forests, and this now appears to be another case study.

**Symptoms:** The dominate symptom is that branches fail to leaf out in the spring. Dieback always appears to start in the upper crown and progresses to lower branches in succeeding years. Trees may die within 2 to 5 years once symptoms are noticed. This problem has been observed mostly in mature trees of large diameter (Several feet!).

(Continued on page 4)
To find cankers, carefully remove the bark from symptomatic limbs. When peeling the bark, do not cut too deeply as beetle galleries and fungi are found in the living bark (cork cambium and not the wood cambium). Individual cankers may at first be only a few millimeters in diameter, but ultimately can be 3 cm or greater (1” +) and have an elongate oval shape. Typically the appearance of a shallow tunnel produced by the walnut twig beetle will be present near the center of the canker. Many small, dark, dead areas (cankers) can be found under the bark of heavily infected trees. The cumulative effect of innumerable cankers produces limb girdling that cause dieback.

**Cultural control**

Because this outbreak is very new, little is know about its control. However, a few guidelines may apply:

1. In a single case, a set of two trees in each of two locations (for a total of 4 trees) that were topped or pruned hard due to their location under power lines have remained healthy while nearby trees that were not pruned declined or died. This indicates that pruning hard (lower on the branch or trunk) may help trees that exhibit less extensive dieback. This limited evidence suggests that removing limbs below the margin between necrotic and healthy cambium may reduce dieback rates.

2. If trees continue to dieback the following year then tree owners might consider selling their trees for lumber to recoup pruning and tree removal costs.

3. Do not sell or transport firewood or logs with intact bark from infected trees to areas without the problem.

**Chemical control**

Research on insecticides and/or fungicides applied to the trunk, crown or soil or injected into the tree has not been done to date. Most experts agree that these applications would have minimal if any effect on disease progression. Anecdotally, infested black walnut trees in Colorado that received repeated commercial insecticide treatments have continued to decline and die.

It is not known if treatments to control powder post beetle on lumber will also control walnut twig beetle. Yes, there are several entomologists looking into developing data on insecticides.

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**For More Information**

Thousand Cankers Black Walnut Disease Website (Missouri Dept Conservation):  
http://www.thousandcankerdisease.com/

Thousand Cankers Pest Alert, Colorado State Univ.:  
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/0812_alert.pdf
Forest Classifieds

Do you have something you’d like to buy sell or trade that’s related to the management of your land. Maybe you need a new saw or would like to sell your four wheeler. Perhaps you have some logs decked up that you would like to make available to firewood cutters. If you’d like to post an article in the next edition of the Coos and Curry Woods News, email, mail, or drop off your ad (along with a picture if you’d like) to me via the contact info on the first page of this newsletter. I’d like to offer this service free of charge so please keep the wording brief and appropriate for the audience (South Coast forest owners).

Free Tree and Shrub Identification Classes Offered in Gold Beach and Coos Bay

Are you interested in learning more about the native plants that make up the forests of the South Coast? Join me on an informal plant identification hike through the urban woods of Gold Beach and Coos Bay. We’ll discuss not only the names of local trees and shrubs but also learn what role they play in the forested ecosystem. We’ll also discuss important invasive species and the deleterious effect they have on native plants. This will be an outdoor event on rough trails so wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. We’ll be moving along at a fairly slow pace with lots of time for discussion. Preregister (appreciated but not required) by calling Tristan at 541-572-5263 x 294 or emailing tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu. Tree and shrub ID books will be available for purchase if you would like.

**Gold Beach**
Buffington Memorial Park
(east parking lot behind St. Charles Catholic Church)

September 15th
1 PM to 4 PM

**Coos Bay**
Mingus Park
(pool parking lot)

September 14th
1 PM to 4 PM

$12
$7
What’s Wrong with the Maple Trees?

Some of you may have noticed a premature and rather dramatic color display in many of our bigleaf maples. It’s not time for them to lose their leaves for the winter, so what’s going on? In almost all cases where branches of maple trees are turning color and dying, bark damage from animals can be blamed. If you look closely at the damaged branches you will see where the bark has been stripped away (usually by gray squirrels) to access the sugary sap flowing up the tree in the spring. Other critters like porcupines and bears will do the same thing but squirrel damage is easy to identify because the bark is removed in thin strips with no teeth marks while porcupines tend to gnaw through the bark and leave teeth marks. Bears will strip trees but they, too, leave gouges from where they chew on the sweet cambium layer. I guess squirrels are just a little more delicate in their destructive ways.

While I don’t keep close track of bigleaf maple damage, this spring’s stripping seems to be a little more severe than normal. I speculate that the unusually mild winter we experienced resulted in greater survival among squirrels and, thus, more pressure of the maples to provide early spring food. The good news is that while the damage looks pretty bad, often, only a few branches on a given tree will be affected and the tree as a whole will bounce back without serious consequences.

While there aren’t many effective treatments available to prevent damage to your trees from squirrels, I will mention that the hunting season for gray squirrels is open August 29th through November 10th. Remember that you don’t need a hunting license to hunt squirrels on your own property (since they don’t require a tag).

Peeled bark can often be found under damaged trees

Damaged maples in a young plantation. A common site this summer.
Planning for the Future of the Family Property:
Ties to the Land Workshops to be Offered this Winter

Passing the family property on to the next generation can be a real challenge. Success in navigating that challenge is critical not just to your family, but to your property, your community, and the landscape of Oregon. Succession planning is an important tool to help families plan to successfully transfer not just their land, but also the passion and skills for taking care of that land to the next generation. Ties to the Land is a national program developed in Oregon to help families begin their succession planning, and this very important conversation about the future of their property.

Our local workshops will be in both Coos and Curry Counties in two parts this November and January. Check in with the Coos County OSU Extension Website or give us a call to check on dates, times and locations as they are finalized.

The Ties to the Land workshops held on the South Coast this fall and winter are part of a coordinated and synchronized statewide effort to present the workshop in communities all around the state. Most will be offered in two parts. The idea of presenting synchronous workshops in many locations at about the same time is to help entire families participate in the workshop, even when family members are living in different communities around Oregon. To find a list of workshops scheduled in Oregon this fall, go to [http://www.tiestotheland.org]. Workshops will also be presented next year in Washington, Idaho and California, if you have family members living in those states.

List of Log Buyers Available Online and at Your Local Extension Office.

If you are planning on marketing your own timber, an invaluable resource is available from OSU Extension. The Log Buyers Directory contains contact info for mills who buy logs along with preferred species and sizes. Mills are conveniently grouped by county so that it’s easy for you to locate local buyers. This directory is available in print from OSU Extension offices or online at the link below. The online directory also contains information on non-timber forest markets such as mushrooms and floral greenery. There is also a classified ad section. If you are a mill operator and would like to be added to the directory that can be done online as well.

If you don’t want to market your logs yourself, remember that professional consulting foresters are able to do the marketing for you and can also help throughout the harvesting process from unit layout to reforestation. While they do charge a fee for their services, their marketing experience will often result in your logs fetching a higher price. A list of local consulting foresters is available from your local OSU Extension office in Gold Beach and Myrtle Point.

Log Buyers Directory Online: http://www.orforestdirectory.com/

EC-1587 Selling Timber and Logs: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1587/
Coos and Curry Woods News

Tristan Huff, Forestry Agent
Phone: 541-572-5263 x 294
E-mail: tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu

Summer, 2010

Inside This Issue:

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- Log Buyers Directory
- Tree and Shrub ID Class
- Walnut Epidemic
- Log Prices