Hello!

We’re well into summer now, in fact I think I felt a little Fall chill in the air this morning. However, in spite of chilly, foggy mornings fire danger remains high and we are still in the middle of fire season. Fire season brings with it a bunch of regulations that, while important for preventing forest fires, can be hard to understand. Inside is an article that should help shed some light on the subject.

Of special interest to local forest is the upcoming Coos Tree Farm of the Year Tour on September 19th (details inside). Kent Tresidder of Tresiddier Tree Farm will show folks around his place and share some of his experiences managing their family forestland. There will surely be some interesting and lively discussion as folks “talk shop” in the woods.

Also included in this newsletter is a brief survey. As a new forestry agent, I am working hard to determine how I can best focus my time and energy to help folks out. This survey is one way of figuring that out. I know surveys are kind of a pain to fill out and bring or mail in, but it will help me determine what sorts of programs are most useful to you forest owners. Of course you can always give me a call or stop by to make suggestions as well.

Thanks!

Now’s the Time to Control Blackberries

It seems to me that the best herbicide for blackberries (and scotch broom and gorse) is a nice healthy Douglas-fir plantation which will shade out most brush. However, if the briars are well established, they may need to be controlled before seedlings can be expected to succeed.

Now is a good time to chemically control blackberries. Spraying blackberries in the late summer/early fall will do the most damage to the below-ground energy storing parts of the plants. This will help reduce sprouting next spring. For specific herbicide recommendations or to learn about non-chemical means of control, consult publication EC 1594-E available at your local extension office or online at: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1594-e.pdf

Remember that you will need to file a notice of operations with the Oregon Department of Forestry if you plan on using herbicides in the forest. And remember to pick the berries before you spray!
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>3S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redcedar</td>
<td>2S/3S</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red alder</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>420</td>
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All values reported are in $/MBF (thousand board feet)

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)

Coos Forest Protective Association to Offer Open House at New Brookings Office

The local agency tasked with protecting our forests from wildfire will host an open house at their new office in Brookings. Details are outlined below but for more information you can call the CFPA office at (541) 267-3161.

NEW Brookings Office

September 12th
12-3 pm

415 Redwood Street.
Brookings, Oregon
Fire Season Decoded

Fire season can be a confusing notion for some small woodland owners. We all know that when the woods dry out each summer we need to be more careful so as not to start a wildfire. Besides the commonsense precautions we all take, State law regulates forestry activities to protect our forests from fire. In Coos and Curry Counties, the duties of preventing and fighting wildfires fall on the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA), sometimes known as the Coos Forest Patrol. According to the CFPA they are “a private, nonprofit corporation in the business of providing protection from fires on 1.5 million acres of private, county, state, and Bureau of Land Management timber and grazing lands in Coos, Curry and western Douglas counties.”

As the woods dry out in early summer, CFPA official will decide when to officially start “fire season”. This year, fire season began on June 19th. The start date of fire season will vary each year depending on the weather. When fire season starts, certain rules are activated that restrict what can be done by the public and industrial landowners on private, county, state, and Bureau of Land Management forestland. Fire season means that you need an inspection and permit from the CFPA to burn debris and also to use a burn barrel. The start of fire season also means there will be certain requirements and restrictions for logging operations. Folks working in the woods will need to have specific firefighting tools on-hand and smoking is prohibited while in or traveling through logging operations. This first level of restrictions is called Industrial Fire Precaution Level I. As the summer progresses and the woods get drier, officials will increase the level of restrictions placed on logging operations. If you are planning on conducting a commercial timber harvest during fire season you will want to carefully study the specific restrictions and requirements of the various precaution levels.

Besides restrictions on logging operations, fire prevention officials can also place restrictions on non-industrial use of forestland. These restrictions are called regulated use closures. The following restrictions are commonly put in place during a regulated use closure:

1) Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles or buildings.

2) Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at designated locations. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.

3) Chain saw use is prohibited in areas subject to Industrial Fire Precaution Levels III and IV.

4) Chain saw use is prohibited, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., in areas subject to Industrial Fire Precaution Levels I and II. Chain saw use is permitted at all other hours, if the following fire fighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one 8 ounce or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the use of each saw.

(Continued on next page )
5) Use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads or for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

6) All motor vehicles must be equipped with one gallon of water or one 2½ pound or larger fire extinguisher, one axe, and one shovel, except when traveling on state highways, county roads and drives. All-terrain vehicles and motorcycles must be equipped with one 2½ pound or larger fire extinguisher, except when traveling on state highways and county roads.

7) Use of fireworks is prohibited.

8) Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.

9) Use of exploding targets is prohibited.

10) Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment is prohibited, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

Folks working on their land with a chainsaw will be interested in restrictions 3 and 4 above. They stipulate that you are allowed to use a chainsaw from 8 at night until 1 in the afternoon as long as you have an axe, shovel, and fire extinguisher when the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is I or II but when the IFPL reaches levels III and IV chainsaw use is not allowed at any time.

It’s important to know that different parts of Coos and Curry Counties will usually be on different levels of the IFPL. This is because fire danger is generally lower on the coast than it is in the dryer inland areas. Consequently, the counties are divided into different “regulated use areas”. You can use the map below to determine which area you are in.

How do you know what IFPL level your property is currently on? The easiest way is to contact your local Coos Forest Protective Association office (contact info below). You can also check the Oregon Department of Forestry website using the following link:


Hopefully, this brief article has helped you understand the various regulations of fire season. However, if you’re still unclear on something the folks at your local CFPA office are the authorities on the topic and would be happy to answer any questions. You can also find more information at CFPA’s website (below).

CFPA Headquarters
63612 Fifth Road
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
(541) 267-3161

CFPA Bridge Unit
98247 Bridge Lane
Myrtle Point, Oregon 97458
(541) 572-2796

CFPA Gold Beach Unit
94276 Gauntlett Street
P.O. Box 603
Gold Beach, Oregon 97444
(541) 247-6241

www.coosfpa.net
NOTE: CS-3 is now considered part of CS-2
Coos County Tree Farm of the Year
Tour on September 19th!

Congratulations to Kent Tresidder, for the Tresidder Tree Farm being named as the Coos County Tree Farm of the Year! Kent and his family have agreed to host a tour of their tree farm on September 19th, 2009.

This will be a great opportunity for small woodland owners and others interested in tree farming and small woodlands to get an on-the-ground glimpse of what it takes to sustainably manage property with trees and forests. It will also be a chance to meet and talk with others who share the same interests and care for the land and its trees.

Plan to arrive around 11:30am with a sack lunch. CCSWA will provide sodas, juice and water. You can enjoy the site, eat your lunch and peruse information about the history of the Tresidder Tree Farm. Other OSWA and forestry-related information will be available for your review.

Following lunch, from 1:00 to 3:00 there will be a car-pool drive through the Tree Farm, with stops at sites of interest. Kent will explain different aspects of their tree farm, what they have accomplished, challenges faced and the plans for the future.

Please RSVP if you are planning to attend so we know how many people to prepare for.

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Tour Details

Date: September 19th
Time: 11:30 - 3:00
RSVP: Kent Tresidder (541) 396-5386 or reddisertk@yahoo.com
Bring: A sack lunch and a lawn chair if you want.
       CCSWA will provide sodas, juice and water.
       Dress for the conditions (sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, rain jacket, etc)
Where: Tressider Tree Farm, off Hwy 42S (near Lampa Mtn)
Directions: From Coquille, take Hwy. 42 S. toward Bandon and drive through Riverton. About a quarter mile beyond the 8-mile marker, look for an elk sign. The driveway is to the left (east) of the sign.
           From Bandon, take Hwy. 42 S. toward Coquille about 8 miles and cross Lampa Creek Bridge. About a quarter mile beyond a sharp left hand corner, look for the driveway on the right (east).

There is a row of tall Lombardi poplars beside the long driveway.
New Forestry Publications

The following publications and many more are available at your local Extension office and can be found online at:

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/

EM 8980  Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers

This full color 104 page book discusses options for managing major insect pests and diseases of conifers in Oregon forests: bark beetles, wood borers, and ambrosia beetles; defoliators; aphids, adelgids, and scale insects; terminal and branch insects and pitch moths; root diseases; stem decays; foliage diseases; canker diseases and canker-causing rust diseases; and mistletoes. Extensive references section.

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

This 17 page publication covers the basics of tree felling, limbing and bucking and also gets into what to do about problem trees, falling against a lean, fixing hangups and how to predict and account for log bind. Safety and the importance of saw maintenance are emphasized. A straightforward and practical guide.

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

How to decide if heating with firewood or wood pellets makes economic sense (6 pages).
Coos and Curry Woods News

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Inside This Issue:

- Fire Season Regulations
- Coos/Curry Tree Farm of the Year Tour
- Three Interesting new Publications Available
- Blackberries!
- Log Prices
- Let Me Know What Interests You

Coos/Curry Tree Farm of the Year Tour
September 19th