Hello!

Log prices on the rise, invasive species on the march, wet unpredictable La Niña spring weather and lots of exciting events coming up: all this and more inside this edition of the woods news!

I won’t take up much room with my introduction here but as always feel free to give me a call, email or stop by if you have any questions regarding your woods!

Thanks,

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

English Ivy

English ivy is a trailing or climbing vine in the ginseng family, native to Europe and brought to America by early colonists. It is an aggressive invader that threatens most forest types in the Northwest. Ivy invades and dominates forest understory vegetation and climbing vines can eventually kill large overstory trees. Ivy is particularly a problem in forests near residential areas and other sources of ivy. As a groundcover, ivy can protect soil from erosion, but it lacks the deeper soil stabilization capability of mature trees and shrubs.

Ivy can be controlled by hand-pulling or herbicide applications although either method will require considerable persistence. Detailed information on controlling this troublesome plant can be found in the publication below (available online and at your local extension office):

EC 1595-E Invasive Weeds in Forestland: English Ivy

http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/19802/ec1595-e.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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All values reported are in $/MBF (thousand board feet)
P = Peeler
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)

Log Prices & Trends

Steve Bowers (AKA Treeman), Extension Forester, Douglas County

Traditionally, the Spring issue of newsletters is the one to watch. If history tells us anything, it is the tendency for Spring log values to be a harbinger for values during the Summer months, i.e., most small woodland owners are out there making stumps at that time. And if history is anywhere near repeating itself, then things look pretty good: not great, but a heck of a lot better than the past couple years. Speaking of the past couple years... two years ago we were bemoaning the lowest Douglas-fir values many could recall over more than 20 years: somewhere in the $300/MBF range. Those values actually helped stabilize the market, a little bit, as most of us refused to cut any wood, and mills were severely limiting their production of logs and lumber. Fast forward to the 2010 Spring’s newsletter and we were reporting values in the $450/MBF range. This was due in part to increased lumber prices, but also the fact log prices had been so poor for so long, that many of the log inventories had grown precariously low and mills needed to “re-stock.” Fast forward again and today we see values for nearly all species having increased substantially since that 2010 Spring report. Why so, you might ask? A lot of people “blame” China for the increase in domestic values. Indeed, they are contributing to the domestic demand side of the equation by

(Continued on page 3)
siphoning off material not traditionally considered part of the export market, i.e. lower quality material, both for Douglas-fir and whitewoods (hemlock and spruce). Currently, for domestic markets we are looking at a Douglas-fir sawlog valued over $550/MBF, then knock-off around $100 for short logs. Quotes in the $570/MBF range are not uncommon, which begs the question: will we see $600 wood this Spring? Over the past year or so, some believed $500 was the threshold to inducing activity. Can we venture a hope that $600 might be a new threshold? I cannot speak for the reader, but it certainly is for me! The China market continues to generate a lot of speculation: does it “have legs” and will values continue to rise? With domestic values for Doug-fir in the upper $500 range, and a similar log potentially destined for China valued around $600 or slightly higher, trucking becomes an issue. And with the recent surge in fuel costs, it may well become an even bigger issue. We cannot assign a specific range, but any woodland owner more than 100 or so miles from a major shipping point on the coast (for local folks we’re looking at Coos Bay), export is likely out of consideration. A very pleasant surprise are export values for those whitewoods, bringing as much as domestic Doug-las-fir. Woodland owners considering harvesting any whitewoods might be able to stretch that trucking distance to reach an export yard. The only caveat that might be added is when everyone starts talking about how high will prices go and how long will it last, then perhaps consider “striking while the iron’s hot.”

Poles continue a reasonably strong demand with 40 to 60 foot material valued around $675/MBF and 65 foot and longer bringing an additional $100/MBF. Current demand is for 45 foot and 65 to 80 foot material. For those of you unfamiliar with poles, it might be beneficial to visit the yard near Wilber to learn a little more about what it takes to enter this market. Redcedar, long logs, is running over $900/MBF for worm-free material. Short logs are just over half the value, while wormy logs are in the $300 range. The product lines for this type of material cannot justify any more money. Anyone wondering whether their reedcedar is worm-free, chances are it’s not, as “clean” reedcedar is a rare commodity throughout this area.

Red alder has seen a slight increase in market activity, but not a lot. Values for alder sawlogs is running in the mid-$400 range or about $55/ton. An operation near Coos Bay is no longer in operation, making one wonder about future markets. The past year we have witnessed a “traditional” prices and trends for Douglas-fir: prices rise through the early Spring months, peak, then fall as the dry weather operations get underway. During the late summer/early fall, there is occasionally a slight “bump” in values, while the last couple months in the calendar year are difficult to ascertain as history has shown a fairly equal number of increasing values as declining ones. 2011 has started in the traditional model: prices have risen during the first quarter of the year. Looking ahead, one thing that is a near certainty will be the activity this coming summer as log values are higher than they have been since the Spring of 2007 and woodland owners will likely take advantage of the opportunity. If indeed, we see an increase in harvests as the weather warms/dries, added supply may well outstrip demand. And we know what that portends.

Steve Bowers is offering a log marketing seminar Monday the 18th of April so bring your questions.

Details on Page 6
National Weather Service Website

The cold, wet La Niña Spring is here, and if you’re like me you’re ready for things to warm up and dry out. Winter, though, seems to be hanging on ‘til the last. Of course, when you’re planning your outdoor work (and play), you want to know what the weather is going to do. While one can find weather forecasts almost anywhere (TV, radio, newspapers etc.), more and more people find themselves turning to the web for this information. There are many commercial weather websites available but I usually find myself at the website of the National Weather Service office in Medford. Since this website is operated by local meteorologists, I find it to be a good source for accurate forecasts. Also, there are a lot of nice features if you want to get into the “nuts and bolts” of the weather. Below are some of the valuable features of this website.

Point Forecast
You can easily enter a Zip Code or city name to get a local forecast but what if you live out of town? By simply clicking on a map (see figure below) you can designate a specific point of interest and get a more accurate forecast.

Forecast Discussion
Those of you who like to take things apart and see how they work will enjoy reading the forecast discussion. This is a scientific discussion of the thinking that went into producing the forecast. Here, meteorologists discuss, among other things, how certain/or uncertain they are in their predictions. A lot of scientific verbiage is used in this discussion but all the technical terms are linked to an online glossary explaining their meanings.

River Levels
Current river levels as well as forecasts on how high rivers will reach are very useful if your land is prone to flooding. Real time readings and predictions at multiple points on most major rivers are available.

![A hydrograph shows the river level of the Coquille River at Myrtle Point as well as its predicted stage](image_url)

Enter your zip code to see a forecast for a town or click on the map for forecast for your precise location.
Interesting Forestry Publications

The following publications and many more are available at your local Extension office and can be found online at the websites provided.

EM 9023  Best Management Practices for Maintaining Soil Productivity in the Douglas-Fir Region
Sam D. Angima and Thomas A. Terry
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20678/em9023.pdf

A detailed publication dealing with forest soils and how to maintain productivity and prevent mass movements.

EC 1192  Contracts for Woodland Owners and Christmas Tree Growers
Steve Bowers
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/18894

Useful publication if you are planning on contracting logging or other work on your property.

EC 1587  Selling Timber and Logs
Steve Bowers and John Punches
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/19774/ec1587.pdf

EC 1201  Understanding and controlling deer damage in young plantations
Ralph Duddles and Daniel Edge
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/14123/ec1201.pdf

EM 8885-E  Selecting Native Plant Materials for Restoration Projects
Brad Withrow-Robinson and Randy Johnson
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20385/em8885-e.pdf

EC 1122  Enhancing Wildlife on Private Woodlands
David deCalista
http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/18887/ec1122.pdf

From EC 1122: Enhancing Wildlife on Private Woodlands
Upcoming Events

April 18th
Selling Timber on the South Coast
4:00 to 5:30 PM
Coos County Annex
201 N. Adams, Coquille, Oregon
No cost but please RSVP to
Tristan Huff: 541-572-5263 x 294

April 21st
Society of American Foresters Student Forestry Dinner
High-school students are invited to learn
about forestry careers and colleges
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Red Lion Hotel, 1313 North Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay
No cost, but please RSVP by April 17th to Tristan Huff: 541-572-5263 x 294

April 26th
Southport Mill Tour
Coos/Curry Oregon Small Woodlands Association
1 to 3 PM, No cost
For more information Call 541-572-5463 x 294 or visit:

May 14th
2nd Annual Manure Pick-up Day
9:00 to 5:00, No cost
G-G Ranch, 92618 Knutson Lane, Coos Bay (Next to Coaledo Weigh Station)
For more info: Eric Himmelreich, Coos SWCD 541-396-6879

May 14th & 15th
OSU Extension Centennial Celebration
10:00 to 4:00
Pony Village Mall
Prizes, speakers, displays and more
More details to come: stay tuned!
Got E-mail?
To save time, paper and postage, we like to offer a digital option to those who prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail. However, as time goes on we find our e-mail database becomes out of date. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email please send me an e-mail (tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu) with the following information:

Name
Mailing Address
E-mail Address
Whether you want to receive only the e-mail newsletter or both the e-mail and paper version.

If you’d like to keep receiving this newsletter only in print format there’s no need to respond.

Coyote Brush
*Baccharis pilularisis*

Coyote brush (sometimes called chaparral broom) is a fairly common shrub that I’m sure most of you will recognize but, if you’re like me, you may not have ever known the name. This plant is found in the coast ranges from Baja California north up to Tillamook County, Oregon. An evergreen shrub, coyote brush in often found establishing itself in disturbed areas such as clearcuts, roadsides, and industrial sites although it usually doesn’t dominate sites like some other shrubs can. This shrub has been used in rehabilitation plantings to help stabilize slopes of poor soil quality.

While coyote brush is not high quality browse, it can provide valuable cover especially for small mammals such as rabbits. Also insects such as bees and butterflies rely on nectar from its prolific fall flowers. A dwarf form of this shrub is often planted as fire-resistant ornamental ground cover. It’s widely spreading root system allow it to survive with minimal watering.
Tristan Huff
Forestry Agent
Coos County Extension
Ohlsen Baxter Building
631 Alder Street
Myrtle Point, Oregon 97458

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Coos and Curry Woods News

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

Spring, 2011

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Selling Timber on the South Coast
April 18th
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