



LANE WOODLAND NEWS

January 2008
Winter Issue

2008 Lane Small Woodlands Annual Banquet

The 2008 Annual Banquet of the Lane Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association

This event is hosted by the Lane Chapter of OSWA, but all interested woodland owners are invited to participate. Last year we had an excellent turnout with approximately 90 attending the event and we anticipate another well attended event for 2008.

When: Thursday, January 17, 2008
Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by a buffet style dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Elks Lodge,
2470 West 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR.
(Next to Staples — the old Kings Table bldg.)

How much: Cost is \$15.00 per person, regardless of OSWA membership.



We are pleased to deliver this material as part of the educational activities of the OSU/Lane County Extension Service and the Lane County Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

Steve Bowers
Forestry Extension Agent

Speakers:

Doug Decker and Jim Quiring, with the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust (an interpretive educational center on the legacy of the Tillamook forest), will be the guest speaker.

Schedule:

5:30 p.m.: Doors open
6:00 p.m.: Social and display viewing
6:30 p.m.: Buffet dinner
7:15 p.m.: Annual Meeting: elections and announcements
7:45 p.m.: Speaker presentation
8:30 p.m.: Close meeting

Pre-registration requested

In anticipation of a large registration and the need for an accurate estimate for dinner and seating, please call the OSU/Lane County Extension Service at 682-4243 or 1-800-872-8980 if out of the local calling area to make your reservation.

Membership with the Lane Chapter of OSWA has been growing steadily over the past few years. Part of that success resides in the fact OSWA invites and encourages non-members to attend all of their events.

If you are a member of the Lane Chapter of OSWA, invite a friend or neighbor. There's always room for one more! We hope to see you there.

If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend an event, please contact the Lane County Extension office at least two weeks



Extension Service

January 24th, 6:30 p.m.
Reforestation Tips & Techniques

February 20th, 6:30 p.m.
Log Merchandising & Log Buyers panel

Tree School West & OSWA
Annual Convention
April 24—26



Inside this issue:

Publications	2
Tax Tips	3
Forest health	5
Editorial	6
Reforestation	7
Firewood	8
Treeman	9
Log Prices & Trends	10
Seedling Sale	12



Publications

EC 1526: Federal Income Taxation for Woodland Owners: An Overview

Authors: Norman E. Elwood, Susie R. Gregory, and
Chal G. Landgren. Revised June 2007, 8 pages, \$2.50

Yep, it's that time of year.....again. This guide is to assist woodland owners with timber tax information. This publication is for educational purposes, so you should consult your legal and/or tax professional for advice on a specific situation. The publication can also be viewed online at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1526.pdf>

Wildlife in Managed Forests ELK

This publication is part of a new series, Wildlife in Oregon's Managed Forests Outreach Project. It has been made available courtesy of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). The series aims to synthesize current findings and make information available at no cost. Anyone wanting a copy of this report can contact OFRI at 1-800-719-9195. The report is also available online at:

www.oregonforests.org.

Tarif Access Tables: A Comprehensive Set

These tables give a comprehensive list of tariff numbers and corresponding tree volumes that may be calculated from your timber stand. Species include Doug-fir, western hemlock, grand fir, ponderosa pine, western redcedar and red alder. Copies are also available online at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1609.pdf>.

Recent Publications

Managing Woodland Roads: A Field Handbook

We have reached the end of the 2nd printing of this popular publication. Approximately 3,000 copies of this publication have been distributed the past two years and there are only a handful remain for distribution. We have recently acquired additional funding, thanks to the USDA Forest Service Cooperative Programs.

Managing Woodland Roads is a high quality, full color publication. The handbook discusses the major aspects of woodland roads management and their design, inspection, maintenance and repair. The primary focus of this publication is to assist landowners in the management of these in-place roads.

For information on how to obtain your **Managing Woodland Roads** handbook, contact us at 682-4243 or 1-800-872-8980 if out of the local calling area. You can also obtain a copy by coming to the Lane County Extension office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Offer is good until the exhaustion of current supplies.

Woody Biomass Energy: A Renewable Resource to Help Meet Oregon's Energy Needs.

Oregon is looking at the potential for woody biomass to help address renewable energy goals. This report is available by phone at 1-800-719-9195 or online at:

www.oregonforestry.org.

We will endeavor to provide public accessibility to services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities. If accommodation is needed to participate at any meeting, please contact Steve Bowers, the ADA Coordinator at the Lane County office of OSU Extension Service at 682-4243 or 1-800-872-8980 at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting time.



Woodland Owner Tax Tips

I know, don't remind you, right? Well, it is that time of year again, and it is our social AND legal responsibility to file our taxes. So here's a few tax tips maybe a few of you didn't know or understand. This is only a smattering of information available to you through OSU Forestry Extension. A complete listing of Publications & Videos is available in hardcopy at the OSU/Lane County Extension office. Just ask for EM 8289. For the most up-to-date listing of publications, go to:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog>

Forestland Management Deductions

Expenses originating from the management of your woodlands are deductible even if you failed to harvest any timber. This includes property taxes and interest and owners can capitalize them if that provides tax relief for a future planned harvest (you need all the deductions you can get!).

Reforestation

A total of \$10,000 can be deducted for the current year. Additional expenses for that year must be amortized over a period of 7 years. Most landowners select to claim their total reforestation costs the first year to offset timber revenue.



Basis

Probably the most misunderstood or non-realized concept involved in timber investments. Basis is the cost of your woodlands as it relates to taxes. Documentation is an absolute necessity, which in turn assists you in recognizing legal deductions. Proper records include: separate purchase price of the land, timber volume and value, and other assets (roads & buildings) any expenses incurred in acquiring the property, planting costs, site prep labor and equipment depreciation. Basis can be established retroactively, but is more difficult and likely require the assistance of a professional forester.

Timber Income

It will benefit the owner to have the timber sale qualify as long-term capital gains. This tax classification is at a lower rate than ordinary income and are not subject to self-employment taxes. Long-term capital gains requires owners to own the timber at least 1 year. Most timber sales of small woodland owners are conducted by the owner or contracted (hire a logger) with the timber sold as logs to a mill. If the owner does not treat the timber sale as a 631(a) transaction (found on Form T), then the income is treated as regular income: a bad thing for tax purposes.

When the timber is sold, the landowner can take a depletion deduction as a write-off against the revenue. The deduction allows recovery of a part of the adjusted timber basis (we talked about basis) proportional to the harvested volume.

Form T

Woodland owners are required to file a Form T "Forest Activities Schedule" if a claim is made for depletion, a 631(a) or 631(b) timber sale. The 631(b) is a timber sale (selling the trees, thus someone else owns them when the yare sold to a mill) versus a log sale (bucking the trees and selling them under your name). Many woodland owners do not utilize the Form T and have no "issues" with the State or IRS. However, it is prudent to file a Form T as an excellent way to keep accurate records.

For timber sales in 2007, tax rates are as follows:

Severance Tax Rates – Rates for 1/1/067to 12/31/07 are:

Western Oregon - \$4.23/MBF

Eastern Oregon - \$3.30/MBF

Forest Products Harvest Tax (FPHT) Rates -

Statewide rate (1/1/06 - 12/31/06) – \$2.61/MBF

Note: The first 25 MBF harvested by an owner each year is still exempt from the FPHT

And least we forget how we determine forestland values:

Forestland Values - forestland values cover the 8 forestland classes (FX - FA) for Western Oregon and one class for all of Eastern Oregon. The value table is available at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/TIMBER/docs/06-07_forestland.pdf

A choice between the **Forestland Program** and the **Small Tract Forestland Option** remains available to small woodland owners in Oregon. A comprehensive explanation of the choices can be found at the website:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/TIMBER/STF_option.shtml

Applications are due to the County Assessor by April 1st of the year woodland owners elect to enter the STF Option.



The Forest Seedling Network

Be Part of the Lane Chapter

**By Bob McNitt,
Forest Seedling Network**

Forest landowners often find the process of identifying appropriate seed zones for their planting site and locating forest seedling nurseries with the correct seed sources time consuming and difficult. After the seed zone identification, landowners usually consider stock type, cost and seedling quality.

Forest Seedling Network (FSN) is an interactive website serving Northwest woodland owners. The site is a one-stop-shop for landowners. The site includes a Forest Seedling Exchange Section, a Regional Vendor Services Directory of over 850 forest related businesses and contractors, and plans to include a Technical Forest Management Resource Information Section in 2008.

There are over 50 forest seedling growers in the Pacific Northwest. Most growers sow limited amounts of speculation stock. The decision for what species and how many to sow is based on timber harvesting projections and marketing experience in their respective areas. Market regions are usually based on a seedling grower's location. Some landowners prefer planting stock from improved seed and are willing to travel long distances to get these quality seedlings. In addition to speculation seedlings, growers often have contract client overruns and lots that do not fit a client's current requirements. These seedlings become available as surplus later in the planting season.

The FSN Seedling Exchange Section has a map with seed zone overlays and a comprehensive seedling search module to help connect seedling sellers and buyers. The seller self-posts speculation or surplus seedling lots for a fee. Potential buyers click their planting site on the map and get a list of seed zones appropriate for the identified area. They use this information to search for posted seedlings that match the seed zones. Buyers directly contact posters to make purchase arrangements for seedling lots that best suit their needs.

FSN now covers Oregon and Washington for the Forest Seedling and Christmas Tree Plant Categories. The site is undergoing a major upgrade. By the time this article is being read, the seed zone map for North Idaho, Montana and California will be operational. Plant categories, Native Plants and Ornamental Conifers will be available for some states at the current as well. Keep an eye on www.forestseedlingnetwork.com to see how we grow to better serve the forest landowners of the Pacific Northwest.

**If you are not a current member,
consider joining the Oregon Small
Woodlands Association today**

Would you be interested in joining thousands of other small woodland owners to better enhance, manage and protect your woodland investment? Are you interested in learning more about forest management? Do you have management goals and ideas you would like to share with others?

Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) is a group of forestland owners dedicated to the protection, management and enhancement of Oregon's forest resources. A non-profit organization founded in 1967, OSWA maintains a professionally staffed office in Salem. With local chapters and thousands of members spread throughout the state, OSWA provides many important direct benefits to its members.

The *Update*, a statewide newsletter published eight times per year, will keep members informed of the latest news impacting family forestlands in Oregon. *Northwest Woodlands* is a quarterly publication produced in cooperation with OSWA's affiliated groups in Washington, Idaho and Montana that will keep members informed on regional issues. The *OSWA Woodlander E-Mail* is a monthly electronic newsletter coordinated by the state office containing items of immediate interest.

Lane County is one of the state's 20 local chapters in association with OSWA. Each chapter elects their representative to the board of directors. Membership in a local chapter is part of OSWA membership.

The Lane Chapter of OSWA has many educational programs and forest tours, oftentimes in conjunction with OSU Forestry Extension. These activities are a valuable resource, with neighbors sharing local news, management information and ideas. For a membership application contact:

**Oregon Small Woodlands
Association**
1775 32nd Place NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97303
Phone: (503) 588-1813
FAX: (503) 588-1970
oswa@oswa.org





Sick Trees in the Willamette Valley

Beginning in approximately 2001, there has been an unusual pattern of tree mortality in the Willamette Valley involving Douglas-fir, grand fir and western redcedar. Although many of these dead and dying conifers show signs of insect damage or disease infections, it appears that water stress brought on by drought and other factors is the central cause of these mortality events. Weather records support the hypothesis that dry conditions are the preeminent factor in these occurrences and are further strengthened by the relative drought tolerances indicated in the table below.

Relative Drought Tolerance for Tree Species

(Tolerance Rating: 1 = High: 5 = Low)

Tree Species	Drought Tolerance
Oregon white oak	1
Ponderosa pine	1
Incense cedar	2
Douglas-fir	3
Grand fir	4
Western redcedar	4

Douglas-fir

The current episode of Douglas-fir mortality in the Valley began in 2001 and continues to the present. Often, the sites where dying Douglas-fir is encountered lends credence to the importance of water stress. Frequently, dying trees are less than 30 years old and growing on shallow, rocky or droughty (heavy clay) soils. These sites may not have supported conifer forests in the past and are unsuitable for Douglas-fir over the long term. Mortality is also common along roads, the edges of stands, and in open-grown trees. Douglas-fir at these exposed locations is subject to higher temperatures and increased levels of water loss, often leading to damage from insects or disease, including the Douglas-fir twig weevil, Douglas-fir engraver beetle, in addition to branch and stem cankers.

Grand fir

Grand fir mortality is largely associated with outbreaks of the fir engraver bark beetle, whose population increased dramatically following 1 to 2 years of below-normal precipitation. Increased grand fir mortality was first detected in 2002 and despite the relative declines in recent years, scattered tree mortality continues to occur. Dying trees are usually mature and located in overstocked stands where they compete with Doug-fir. Mortality also occurs in open-grown trees and on dryer sites located along the edges of the Valley. Historically common in wet, low elevation throughout the Valley, grand fir appears to be largely disappearing due to the combined effects of fir engraver outbreaks as well as a recently introduced invasive, sucking insect, the balsam woolly adelgid.

Western redcedar

Reports of unusual western redcedar mortality at low elevation sites in the Valley, began in 2003 and continue to the present. Dying trees are typically second-growth and are located in drought prone sites or in overstocked stands containing Douglas-fir, grand fir or hardwoods. The current episode of western redcedar mortality has been observed as far north as Vancouver Island, indicating that this is likely part of a regional trend. While round-headed borers and cedar bark beetles often colonize dying trees, the majority of redcedars contain relatively few insects, and it appears most are succumbing solely to the effects of drought. While root disease can also play a role in cedar mortality, field observations have shown that most root systems remain alive while the aerial portion of the tree dies; providing additional support for the role of water stress.

Treatment Strategies: What Can You Do

In the Willamette Valley, tree mortality related to water stress is often concentrated on lower elevation sites and frequently involves multiple tree species dying in the same general area. The trees most susceptible to drought effects are typically found on poor sites or in over-stocked stands. Three of the most drought-susceptible species, Douglas-fir, grand fir and western redcedar will often grow well on marginal sites for decades. However, as they increase in size, they will also have an increasingly difficult time surviving dry periods when in competition with better-adapted species.

The best approach for minimizing drought-related mortality is to plant trees that are well-suited to the site through the selection of local seed sources and species adapted to the soil type. Thinning currently over-stocked stands will also increase tree vigor and provide greater resistance to insects and disease. On sites where Douglas-fir mortality is occurring, it may be advisable to use more drought-tolerant Valley ponderosa pine. In landscape settings, irrigate potentially susceptible trees during dry weather periods. Apply water slowly over many hours so it penetrates to the roots. Reducing competing vegetation and using mulch can also increase soil moisture. Avoid fertilizing during drought conditions as this stimulates foliage production and can increase a tree's requirements for water.

There are a number of other insect and disease agents that cause mortality in both water-stressed and healthy trees in the Valley each year. Therefore, it is often helpful to consult your local Department of Forestry, OSU Extension office, or a private forestry consultant to assist in identifying the problem and developing a strategy.



Paths Cleared to Spawning Beds

This article first appeared in the April 1999 issue of the Lane Woodland News and a repeat in 2003. We continue to add readership, so here we go again! Though stream restoration remains a hot topic, things have "cooled" a bit with global warming now being the issue of the day. Moral of the story: keep an open mind and beware of information and prognostications coming from the "experts."

By Pete Cornacchia of *The Register Guard*. June 7, 1964

Last summer in this hole up the headwaters of the Siuslaw, muddy water ran deep and sluggishly into a massive tangle of gray logs and snags that piled there for nearly half a century.

Now the jam was gone. The gnarled skeletons of fir and cedar were stacked back in the brush. And instead of the still hole up to the top of the banks, water riffled into a shallow pool shaded by overhanging willow and alder.

Several small fish glided and darted over a carpet of pebbles near the edge of the sparkling clear water. "Silvers-steelhead too, couldn't ask for a spawning bed much more suitable than that," remarked Bill Saltzman, State Game Commission's fisheries agent in the Siuslaw country.

His comment brought agreeing nods again from two foresters out of the Bureau of Land Management office at Eugene, Karl Rymer, assistant resource management specialist, and John Robinson, timber manager, were there to see what was being done with the money that BLM contributed.

On a tour along numerous streams in the upper Siuslaw system, we saw many such indications of brighter hopes for future generations of anadromous fish which will come up from the sea to perpetuate their race in some small creek.

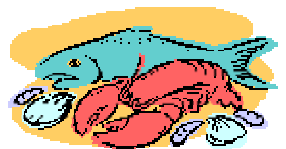
On Nelson, Douglas and Smith creeks we watched wet and muddy chocker setters slip steel nooses around big logs, which then were pulled out of the water by cats. Farther up Nelson, we saw a beaver dam go up in a geyser of muck, sticks and water after Woody Holderman had set a charge of dynamite. It's been obvious for sometime now that salmon and steelhead are losing ground in many of our inland streams where runs are dwindling below dams and in polluted water. But they and cutthroat trout are gaining many miles of spawning beds in the Siuslaw drainage.

Log jams, beaver dams and other debris that have blocked the upstream travel of migrating fish for decades are being removed from the main river and several dozen tributaries.

In the most intensive and thorough clearance programs ever attempted on any coastal stream in Oregon, the game commission is doing the job with help from several other agencies and firms.

Since the Siuslaw project started in 1962. More than \$60,000 has been spent on jobs awarded on bids to heavy equipment contractors and supervised by game commission employees. In addition to the BLM among others that have contributed funds are the federal government through Dingell-Johnson money, Lane County, Forest Service, International Paper and Weyerhaeuser.

And in line with this effort, Rymer pointed out, the BLM is including stipulations for stream clearance in timber sales contracts on the considerable amount of land it has in this region.



On the main Siuslaw, according to Saltzman, about 20 log jams have been removed by cat, crane or blasting powder, in the similar number of miles from Lorane down to Haight Creek. Size of the jams has ranged from a few logs to tremendous pileups up to 400 feet long.

Twenty-five creeks which empty directly into the main stem also have been cleared and four more are due for clearance this summer. Work also is scheduled this year on several of the Siuslaw's larger tributaries and their feeder streams.

About a dozen jams have been cleared in Wolf Creek and more spawning territory has been opened in several of its tributaries. More work is slated for upper Wolf Creek and another tributary, Panther Creek.

In the Lake Creek vicinity, stream improvement work is underway on Fish and Nelson creeks. And activity will start this month on upper Wildcat and two of its tributaries.

As Saltzman pointed out, benefits will have to be assessed on a long-range basis. But an increase in salmon and steelhead use of several cleared tributaries was noted last winter and there can be little doubt, that the opening of additional spawning grounds in bound to be beneficial.

Success of the program is being measured in several ways, he noted. Spawning ground survey units have been established for silvers on several of the Siuslaw and Wolf Creek tributaries which have been cleared.



Periodic collections of fish in the tributaries will be made to determine the relative numbers of small salmon and steelhead using these streams. Clearance activities and the rate of recovery in those waters will be evaluated through constant spot observations.



Reforestation

Matching tree species to site conditions is first-and-foremost for any reforestation work. Different tree species have variable responses to variations in climate, shade, wet soil, and animal damage. In order for trees to survive and thrive you need to correctly estimate the given factors for your property.

This chart lists tolerance levels for certain site conditions. While variations may exist between specific sites in the coast range, eastern and western slopes of the Willamette Valley foothills and lower elevations of the Cascades, the chart remains a reasonably successful guide for matching tree species to site conditions. Considerable research exists for some of the listed species, while others are lacking due primarily to low market demand, such as giant sequoia and chinkapin.



And don't underestimate Mother Nature as the judge to what should be growing on your land. What tree species are present in the surrounding areas? There's no golden rule that says you can't introduce tree species that aren't indigenous to a particular area, but be informed that there can be an increase in the chances of abiotic or biotic diseases with non-native species. Many times, there's good reason a particular species that you want to introduce doesn't exist on the site.

Finally, regardless of which tree is planted, the key to any successful regeneration work is vegetation control. Forget the fertilizer if you haven't controlled the grass and weeds. And remember, mowing the grass doesn't eliminate water loss. If anything, cutting grass and weeds actually stimulates growth, leading to an increased demand for water.

Western Oregon	Market Value	Market Options	Growth Rate	Seedling Availability	Big Game Damage	Frost	Wet Soil	Drought	Shade tolerance	Comments
<i>Douglas-fir</i>	600	5	5	5	2	2	2	3	2	Vegetation control important. Avoid high water table areas.
<i>Noble fir</i>	450	3	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	Use in higher elevations. Cannot tolerate high water tables.
<i>Grand fir</i>	400	3-4	4	2	5	4	3	2	4-5	Good on moist sites. Not a particularly resilient tree.
<i>Western redcedar</i>	1100	4	3	3	1	1	4	2	5	Good in riparian areas. Do not plant in heavy/clay soils.
<i>Ponderosa pine (westside)</i>	350	1-2	3-4	4	3	4-5	5	5	1	Good on wet or dry sites. Extremely tough tree.
<i>Western hemlock</i>	400	4	4-5	4	2-3	3	2	1	5	Use on north aspects. Marginal market value.
<i>Coast redwood</i>	1100	1	4	2	3	3	3-4	2-3	4	Big \$\$\$, but mills in CA. Subject to severe racking.
<i>Incense cedar</i>	850	2-3	3	3	3	4	2	4	2	Subject to cedar log buyers. Growing in popularity.
<i>White oak</i>	400	1-2	1	1	5	5	4	5	1	Slowest grower on the list. Tough to transplant native trees.
<i>Bigleaf maple</i>	400	2-3	3	3	4-5	3-4	4	3	4	Hearty species does well on many sites.
<i>Oregon ash</i>	350	1-2	3	3	4-5	5	5	2	3	Will grow in wettest of sites. Good firewood wet or dry.
<i>Chinkapin</i>	350	1	3	3	5	3	3	4	3	Evergreen broadleaf. Good native tree for diversity.
<i>Pacific madrone</i>	400	1-2	2	2	5	4	2	5	2	Best firewood on the market. Growing popularity as saw/log.
<i>Red alder</i>	850	3-4	4	4	4	2	4	2	1-2	Huge increase in market value. Growing in popularity.
<i>Giant sequoia</i>	400	1	4	2	5	4-5	2-3	4-5	1-2	Hearty growing tree. No commercial markets.



Firewood Ratings

	ease of splitting	spark	ashes	aroma	Coaling qualities	Green rating	Seasoned rating	heating value (btu)	Over-all rating	notes of interest
Douglas-fir	2	3	3	2	3	4	2	21	2-3	Good, all-around burner
oak	2	1	4	3	1	5	1	26	1	Best readily available wood
madrone	3	1	2-3	3	1	4	1	30	1	Clean & the best of the best
maple	1-2	4	2	3	3	3	2-3	19	3	Medium quality hardwood
ash	1	2	5	3	3	1	3-4	24	2-3	Can burn green, but lots of ash
red alder	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	18	3-4	overvalued and overpriced
Ponderosa pine (west)	4-5	5	2-3	4	3-4	5	4	16	4-5	Low quality, dirty & hard to split
Lodgepole pine (east)	1	4	2	3-4	4	4	3	16	3	Clean, easy to cut, fast burning
All cedars	1	5	1	1	4	4	3	17	3-4	Burns clean and fast, but cheap
Fruit trees	2	2-3	3	4-5	3	4-5	3	18	3	Not as good as maple or ash
Cottonwood (poplar)	1	4	2	4	4-5	5	4	14	5	Low quality & price but it burns
elm	4	3	5	4	4	5	4	20	5	Bad, no coals and lots of ash
Western larch	2	3	2	3-4	3	4	2	21	2-3	Similar to Douglas-fir, good quality
grand fir	3	4	2-3	3	4	5	4	19	4-5	Won't burn green burns too fast dry



Tips from The Treeman



Dear Treeman,
Do you know the abbreviation of the term "OK?" As I understand, it originated from Obadiah Kelly, a railroad freight agent, who used to mark his initials, "OK" on documents to indicate all was in order. Can you shed any more light in this subject? If not,

that's ok.

Arnie

Dear Arn,
Excellent question. But I don't think any etymology is going to assist us in this linguistic endeavor, so we'll just "wing-it." Research tells us it might have originated from the Choctaw Indian's word meaning the affirmative "okeh." Andrew Jackson reportedly introduced the word to the white man. Pretty equal trade, some would say: firewater for "ok." Another Jackson story reputed he used the mark "OK" for "oll correct" on court documents. But this pertains to lawyers and 99% of them give all the rest a bad name, so we proceed with caution.

Others tell us it originated from O. Kendall & Sons, who supplied army biscuits that stamped its initials on its product. So is that why we call them "K" rations? How about a French derivation au quai "to the dock" in regards to cotton that had been approved for loading on a ship. But it is French, so who's going to accept that one?

We also uncovered your reference to Obadiah Kelly. And from the Greek Olla Kalla "all good." I checked in the Greek dictionary: Greek to me. Then there's the German general during the Revolutionary War who signed documents OK for Ober-Kommando. Germans: 'ol sauerkrauts anyway.

There are some substantial reports saying OK was derived from the OK Club, an organization which supported Martin "Old Kinderhook" Van Buren in 1840. Further substantiation comes from William and Mary Morris in the Morris Dictionary of Words and Phrase Origins (1977). They mention the OK Club, but also mention some other, far-fetched notions. So much for "research" and "publications."

There was a fad for comical abbreviations in the late 1830s. Numerous citations from newspapers show expressions such as NG for "no go," SP for "small potatoes," NS for "nuff said." Nuff said, I'd say. So where does this get us? There is considerable information that might lead us to accept the Martin Van Buren story, but it does have a political connotation and in today's environment, who's going to believe any politician?

So I cast my vote to Andrew Jackson and the Choctaw Indians "okeh." But I do give you a second place for Obadiah Kelly. Of course, you might be riding us out on a rail.

Treeman

Dear Treeman,
It was suggested to me that I girdle my unwanted large maple trees instead of cutting them down so I would avoid damaging the young Douglas firs. So I took this advise only to see the maples recover and are now bigger and bushier than ever! What gives?
Carl

Dear Carl,
Girdling CAN be an effective method of killing unwanted trees. The process is supposed to destroy the tree's cambium (a layer only a few cells thick), that creates xylem (which carries water and minerals from the roots to the leaves) and phloem (which carries manufactured food (sugars) from the leaves to the roots).

If you girdle a tree during the winter, you most likely will destroy the cambium because the bark is "tight" on the tree and it takes some effort to remove it. If girdling is done in the spring, which I surmise was your time, removing the bark is relatively easy because the tree is active and the bark "slips". This means the phloem and inner bark layer will easily peel free, leaving the cambium and xylem. Girdling will be inadequate if the cambium remains because it will heal. The cambium layer must be destroyed in order for girdling to be an effective tree killer. This requires you to scrape or dig into the wood when girdling. Puzzling, isn't it? How many times do our trees die when we do everything we can to propagate them and then can't kill them when we so desire!

Treeman

Dear Mr. Treeman,
I think I can help you out with Keith's question about the flies. The reason why flies are so much bigger in late summer has to do with the availability of food. In late summer the Beavers begin football practice and the amount of garbage (*sic*) available for consumption by both flies and humans increases substantially between the first practice and the beginning of the season.

Jim

Dear Jim,
Touche'. And your letter is appreciated because we do tend to neglect the fish & wildlife component of forestry. I'm quite sure the Cougars enjoyed your comments, as did the Grizzlies, and especially the Ducks. Some of our readers may think this section of *NW* is going to the Dawgs. Not if I can help it!

Treeman



Log Prices & Trends

Oh, how the mighty have fallen. That might be a somewhat of an exaggeration, but log values, along with the geese, have headed south for the winter. At last report, we were seeing Douglas-fir long logs worth about \$550/MBF. When mills around the area are offering basically the same money for longs, shorts or anything in-between, it's a sign for a stable market, be it good or bad.

Well, the market is rather stable at the time of this report. And if you're looking at merchandising Douglas-fir or whitewoods, it is a bad one. One positive note about values were seeing in December: the buyers have plenty of time to talk with you....there's nothing happening. Douglas-fir values in the southern valley are \$500 for long logs. Some mills consider long logs 32 feet, others 36 feet, some even 40 feet. The only place I could do any better was one of our local mills that was paying another \$25 for larger diameter #2 Sawlogs. And I'm always glad to see this because it will, at least temporarily, silence those who keep saying mills are paying less for large logs than smaller diameter material. However, if you merchandise to the wrong mill, then they're probably correct.

Whitewoods are staying at their traditional values of around \$100 les/MBF than their Doug-fir counterparts. Values for long logs came-in between \$375 and \$400/MBF. And just a quick observation: for those of you bemoaning log values, just take a look at *Randon Lengths* (lumber prices) and you'll wonder how mills are able to afford logs at even the \$500 level. Trust me on this one: those guys aren't making any money in today's business climate.

For those of you who follow *Tips From The Treeman*, we had a spirited discussion a couple issues back on red alder values and how they are better than Doug-fir and also not as variable. I stated alder values were spiking and that like a kidney stone, "this too shall pass." Well, no need

to call the doctor, because it did, indeed pass. I did state that alder values will not retreat to levels of past years, but had established a new plateau and would bounce around that level for the next few years. Time will tell. The 12"+ alder log topped-out at well over \$1000/MBF and is now worth around \$800. Bigger losses occur all of the smaller diameter material: logs down to 8" are in the mid 500-\$600 range and the 6"-7" sort is \$400+. On average, that represents a loss of about 1/3 of historic values, basically the same percentage loss of conifer prices....hate to tell you, I told you so....



The chip & saw log (logs less than 5" scaling diameter) have declined, but not quite as much. One reason for values holding a little bit better than sawlogs is the decreased production, putting pressure on small log buyers to find a log supply. There is a little more variation in these values, with lows coming-in at the mid-to-high \$30/ton and a high of \$50 over towards the coast. Unlike disinterested Doug-fir sawlog buyers, facilities are looking for material.

One of the bright spots in the market are the pole buyers. Again, values have been reinforced through a consistent demand for poles in addition to a decline in sawmill activity, placing pressure on pole buyers to find material. Our local buyer reports 40-45' poles valued in the \$800-\$850 range. 65' to 85' poles are also in demand and you can expect close to \$900/MBF for this material! Pretty good for any market conditions, but remember to contact your buyer before any activity!



Redcedar also is strong. Buyers tell us they are seeking material "at a reasonable cost." Well, "reasonable" is a relative term, but it means over \$1300 from a local buyer, and \$150/MBF less for wormy cedar. I didn't check many buyers for redcedar, but based on local demand and prices for cedar lumber of all types, if you've got any, it is worth some buck\$. With winter conditions affecting supply, cedar values will likely remain fairly stable.

And it is a labor intensive enterprise, but for small operations performing stand improvements or conversions, firewood is hot! I can't believe people are paying over \$200/cord for firewood of just about any species. A friend sold some Doug-fir recently for \$150/cord and said he got tired of answering the phone. Considering you will get 2—2.5 cords/MBF, firewood is worth over \$400/MBF. That beats chip prices a mile and is better than chip & saw values. I know about the labor, but it is worth considering.

So pretty doom & gloom for the traditional Doug-fir and whitewood markets. No one sees any substantial increases, even with the wet months upon us. Our annual timber sale workshop will bring back the log buyer's panel and is planned a little earlier this year, so perhaps they can assist us in shedding a little light on a gloomy subject.





Entertainment

Job Placement Aptitude Test

1. Put 400 bricks in a closed room.
2. Put your new hires in the room and close the door.
3. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours.
4. Then analyze the situation:
 - a. If they are counting the bricks, put them in the Accounting Department.
 - b. If they are recounting them, put them in Auditing.
 - c. If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in Engineering.
 - d. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.
 - e. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.
 - f. If they are sleeping, put them in Security.
 - g. If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology.
 - h. If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources.
 - i. If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved, put them in Sales.
 - j. If they have already left for the day, put them in Marketing.
 - k. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning.
5. Finally, if they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor heard from, put them in Congress.

Conversion Table

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Sterling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semi-colon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahertz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton

Lane County Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Board Members

Ron Gilson *President*
Rgilson@peacehealth.org

Dick Beers *Vice President*
RBeers2606@comcast.net

Maryrae Thomson
Secretary

Mike Atkinson *Treasurer*
Coyote8199@highstream.net

Jim Christian
jchristian@prometheuslabs.com

Daryle McFadden
darylem@ldm.com

Dave Rankin
sslough@oregonfast.net

Steve Woodard
Email address pending

Sara Leiman
Bsleiman@peak.org

Bob Johnson
ODF Service Forester

Oregon Small Woodlands Association
1775 32nd Pl.
NE Suite C
Salem, OR 97303

oswa@oswa.org



Oregon State University
 Lane County Extension
 950 West 13th Avenue
 Eugene, OR 97402

NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 EUGENE, OR
 PERMIT NO. 426

And Don't Forget the OSWA Lane Chapter Annual Seedling Sale

When:

Saturday, February 2, 2008, beginning at 8:00 am and going until noon, or until supplies run out.

Where:

Seedlings will be sold at the OSU/Lane County Extension Service Auditorium, 950 West 13th Avenue, Eugene.

What:

At the present time, available seedlings include Douglas-fir, noble fir, grand fir, western redcedar, ponderosa pine, giant sequoia, incense cedar and a limited number of red alder and coast redwood.

Cost:

Seedling costs will range between \$0.50 and \$1.00.

Remember: This is a very popular event that sells-out each and every year. You are strongly encouraged to arrive early before your seedlings are gone!

Nurseryguide.com A Directory & Buyers Guide Online!

Looking for something you can't always find from the local nurseries? Leyland or bald cypress? Pacific madrone or Pacific yew?

The Oregon Association of Nurserymen's Directory & Buyers Guide Online! is a one-stop shopping source designed to help **wholesale buyers** find the plants, growers, suppliers and services they're looking for.

Search For...

Search enables you to type a specific name or other criteria and go directly to those listings.

Plants by Name

Companies by Name

Services/Supplies by Name

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—*without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status*—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.