

MWM Gazette

A Quarterly Newsletter for Oregon's Master Woodland Managers

Winter, 2004

OR Forestland Taxes Have Changed

*Norman A. Miller, Oregon Department of Revenue
Norman E. Elwood, OSU Forestry Extension Specialist*

Many Oregon forestland owners have noticed that their property taxes for the 2004 – 05 tax year have gone up. This increase is happening because the 2001 and 2003 Legislatures made two important changes to the forestland tax laws. One change created two new forestland property tax programs:

FORESTLAND PROGRAM: For all owners with 2 or more acres of forestland

SMALL TRACT FORESTLAND (STF) Option: A special option for owners with 10–4,999 acres of forestland

The second change was to reset the forestland values. The new values more accurately reflect the prices actually paid for land managed primarily as forestland.

In 2004, the county assessors transferred all forestland into the FORESTLAND Program. The law requires those ownerships with less than 10 or 5,000 and more acres to remain in the FORESTLAND Program. Owners

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A Note from your New Coordinator

Nicole Strong

Whenever anyone asks my mom what I do, she usually responds with, “Nicole is saving the trees”. Though well-intentioned, her response is an example of a common misconception. For some reason, when it comes to forests, most people envision two camps: those who save trees and those who cut them down.

It is hard for those who do not have first-hand experience with woodland managers to conceptualize the steward and logger as one. How easily we

overlook Leopold’s or Whitman’s admiring illustrations of woodland owners and farmers tending lands, earning a bit, enjoying a lot, and keeping their grandchildren’s well-being in mind.

I stumbled upon the realization that those who use the land might also know best how to manage it almost by accident. I was working as a field biologist in Venezuela and, while getting a cold drink at a streetside stand, asked a pair of ranch work-

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Nicole Strong joins MWM!

Tips from



the Treeman

Dear Treeman,

In one of your past editions, you mentioned that the saguaro cactus was not a tree. I beg to differ. If you observe the checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized)

- Elbert L. Little, Jr. Ag Handbook No. 541. Forest Service USDA, you will find on page 86 that the *Cereus giganteus* (saguaro) cactus is indeed listed as a tree. Thank you very much.

Dendrology Will Travel

Dear Dendro,

I will have to concur with your observation. You did indeed visit the office and disclose my incompetence as it relates to cactus trees. I failed to attribute to the saguaro cactus two identifying characteristics generally required for a plant to be considered a tree: woody fiber and annual rings, both of which can be identified in the saguaro. Thus, I stand corrected and genuflect to your superior dendrological capabilities.

Treeman

Dear Treeman,

Thanks for making me famous. The tree removal option has been exercised and the yard has been beautified. I doubt the rascals will return, but stay tuned for further developments.

Jill

Dear Jill,

For those readers who haven't, or weren't, tuned in: you had an issue with raccoons invading your nectarine tree. Note that "famous" and "infamous" are quite similar in many respects: it all depends on the context "in" which they are employed. After many well-educated and carefully thought-out suggestions, you elected to chop down the tree, thus another crass example of the failure of free enterprise

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Coordinator Note, cont....

ers what they knew about the bird I was studying. Three hours later I had heard more about striped-wren behavior, population fluctuations, food and habitat preferences than I ever imagined possible. Shortly thereafter I turned in my mist nets and shifted my focus to the support of community-based forestry, farming, and planning initiatives, taking me to many different places, allowing me to meet many wonderful people, and bringing me today to the role of MWM coordinator.

I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to become a part of MWM, a strong community of diverse people from all over Oregon, united in your passion for your forestlands, and, I assume, in your desire to help others develop the skills necessary to become stewards of their respective lands.

Your wealth of knowledge and experiences is one of the greatest strengths you have to offer each other and the general public. As MWM program coordinator, my job is to deepen this communication, whether it be developing an on-line "chat room", publishing your written accounts, photos, and thoughts in this Gazette (hint hint!), or creating materials you can use in your outreach endeavors. However, I need you to let me know what you think would benefit the MWM program.

Towards the end of providing you with up-to-date information, we are soliciting ideas for the 2005 Fall Mini-College (see page 8). I am also starting to update and expand the MWM web site, and have revised the way in which you can report your volunteer service.

Again, I am very excited to have been brought on to support the MWM program. Originally from Pennsylvania, I feel at home here riding my bicycle below low grey skies, along rural routes and fire roads. I look forward to meeting and hearing from more of you during the next several months. Please feel free to stop in and see me at the Benton County Extension office, or give me a call. I will certainly be in need of your advice and assistance as I learn the MWM ropes.

Happy Holidays!

Nicole Strong

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Taxes, cont....

with 10–4,999 acres who decide that the new STF Option is more advantageous may apply to enroll in it.

Owners in the FORESTLAND Program pay property tax based on 100% of forestland special assessment value. They will **not** pay the new volume-based Severance Tax upon harvest of their timber.

Owners choosing the STF Option pay **both**:

Property Tax: based on 20% of forestland special assessment value,

and the

Severance Tax: volume-based tax intended to recover the unpaid property tax.

2004 Severance Tax rates are:

Eastern OR = \$ 3.03/MBF and
Western OR = \$ 3.89/MBF.

This year's tax statements reflect the actual impact that these two new changes are having on individual properties. Almost 75% of the forestland owners have seen their taxes increase. The increase is mostly because owners who were previously in the Small Owner tax category (where property tax was based on 20% of forestland special assessment values) were, by law, moved to the new FORESTLAND Program (property tax based on 100% of forestland special assessment values).

Some Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, and Hood River county forestland owners received an additional increase because in *the resetting of*

forestland values, the value of the lower productive lands increased.

Landowners still have the choice of entering the STF Option for the 2005-06 tax year. They must apply to their county assessor by April 1, 2005. Landowners should look at their future harvest plans, management plans and ownership plans before making the decision. More than just the annual taxes should be considered before choosing this alternative method of paying forestland taxes. Severance Tax and potential rollback taxes should also be considered before committing to the STF Option.

The Department of Revenue developed a web site devoted to information about the programs that are in place for 2004 and beyond. The web site address is:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/TIMBER/index.shtml>.

You may get individual assistance over the telephone. ***If you need help with this year's tax bill, call or go see your local county assessor.*** The Oregon Department of Revenue Timber Tax staff, Oregon Department of Forestry stewardship foresters, OSU Extension foresters, and county assessment staff are trained to answer questions about the new forestland tax provisions. Consult your local phone directory or the DOR web site (under "Where to Get Help") if you need phone numbers.

*By: Norman A. Miller, OR Dept. of Revenue
Norman E. Elwood, OSU Forestry Extension
Specialist*



Forestland Tax Workshops

Still confused about your forestland tax options? You might want to join us at one of the following OSU Extension Service Tax Workshops:

Portland Metro:

Jan. 19, St. Helens
Jan. 20, Capital Center

Union County:

Jan. 24, Enterprise
Feb. 10, Pendleton

More workshops may be offered. Please contact your local county extension agent to get specific information on locations and times.

4th Quarter Log Prices, 2004 POND VALUE /species and grade

NW OR and Willamette Valley

Douglas-Fir

SM	\$ 685
2S	\$ 625
3S	\$ 600
4S	\$ 560
SC	\$ 250
Utility	\$ 70

Red Alder

CR	\$ 625
Pulp	\$ 325
2S	\$ 655
3S	\$ 620
4S	\$ 590

Hemlock

SM	\$ 425
2S	\$ 425
3S	\$ 395
4S	\$ 365
Utility	\$ 65
Spruce	
SM	\$ 435
2S	\$ 435
3S	\$ 405
4S	\$ 385
Utility	\$ 60

Western Red Cedar

2S	\$ 1050
3S	\$ 1050
4S	\$ 1050
Utility	\$ 75
Wormy	\$ 250

Coos, Curry, Douglas

Douglas-Fir

SM	\$ 690
2S	\$ 640
3S	\$ 605
4S	\$ 565
SC	\$ 235
Utility	\$ 75

Red Alder

CR	\$ 585
Pulp	\$ 190



Rogue Valley

Douglas-Fir

SM	\$ 670
2S	\$ 655
3S	\$ 600
4S	\$ 570
Utility	\$ 130

Hemlock

CR (+12")	\$ 465
CR (12")	\$ 425

Incense Cedar

CR (+12")	\$ 740
CR (12")	\$ 715

Sugar Pine

SM	\$ 850
2S	\$ 950
3S	\$ 850
4S	\$ 650
5S	\$ 550
6S	\$ 350
Utility	\$ 100

Ponderosa Pine

SM	\$ 750
2S	\$ 850
3S	\$ 750
4S	\$ 600
5S	\$ 500
6S	\$ 300
Utility	\$ 100

Klamath

Ponderosa Pine

6"-8"	\$ 275
8"-14"	\$ 295
14"-22"	\$ 470
22"+	\$ 570

True Fir

6"-8"	\$ 355
8"-14"	\$ 365
14"-22"	\$ 385
22" +	\$ 390
SC	\$ 50
Utility	\$ 50

Lodgepole Pine

CR	\$ 325
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Port Orford Cedar

CR \$ 590

Hemlock-White Fir

SM \$ 465

2S \$ 435

3S \$ 425

4S \$ 390

Utility \$ 75

Red Cedar

2S \$ 1100

3S \$ 1000

4S \$ 600

Utility \$ 85

Wormy \$ 225

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Douglas-Fir

6"-8" \$ 450

8"-14" \$ 465

14"-22" \$ 475

22"+ \$ 475

Incense Cedar

6"-8" \$ 500

8"-14" \$ 500

14"-22" \$ 500

22"+ \$ 500

Sugar Pine

6"-8" \$ 295

8"-14" \$ 300

14"-22" \$ 475

22"+ \$ 550

Market Update!

New Oregon Forest Industry Directory

By: Scott Leavengood

Would you like to increase advertising for your u-cut Christmas tree operation?

Would you like to know who in your county might buy your downed black walnut tree?

The NEW Oregon Forest Industry Directory is an on-line search engine designed to help connect woodland owners, wood products manufacturers, industry consultants and anyone else interested in Oregon's forest industry.

Some of the potential ways you can use the Directory include:

Searching for:

1. *Log buyers* in your County
2. Buyers of a *particular species* (e.g., Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine)
3. *Specifications* – min./ max., preferred diam./ length?
4. *Service providers* - Who are the consulting foresters in your area and what sort of services do they provide?.
5. *Niche markets* – Searches for log buyers may lead to identification of buyers of logs for log homes, utility poles, "character logs" for furniture, or even buyers for non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms, boughs, berries, cones, etc.).

Posting Items For Sale

Woodland owners can use the "Request for Proposal" feature to list available products such as burls or other specialty items. This way sawmills and other buyers can conduct searches themselves and contact you.

[Continued, page 6.....](#)

Exploring the Oregon Forest Industry Directory

Search for Firms

You may search by any combination of the categories below.

Examples:

- Selecting Lane under the County selection box will result in all entries for Lane County.
- Selecting Lane under the County selection box, Douglas-fir for Species and Logs for Products Purchased will narrow the search to Douglas-fir log buyers in Lane County.

Company Name
Enter all or part of the name. For example, entering "hardwood" will find all entries with the word Hardwood in their company name.

Keywords
Type in the name of one or more counties, products, species, rawmaterials, equipment, services, or residues.

County
To select multiple counties, hold the "Ctrl" key while clicking. To search the entire State, leave this entry blank.

Region

Individual Species

Species Groups

Products Produced

Products Purchased

Big Logs
 Companies that purchase logs >30" diameter.

Residue

Equipment

Services

NAICS Industry Codes

Certifications
 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
 Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
 American Tree Farm System (ATFS)

Search by county

Search by Species

Search by Products Produced

Search for: Residue

Services

Certifications

Search by Region

Search by Species Groups

Search by Products Purchased

Search for Equipment

Search for Industry Code



As more people take advantage of this tool, the more useful it will be for increasing your market base as well as for helping you find the services you need. You can search the directory, or post your business or items for sale on the web at:

<http://www.orforestdirectory.com>

Contact OSU Wood Products Extension Agent and database administrator Scott Leavengood (503-725-2123; Scott.Leavengood@oregonstate.edu) with comments, questions or suggestions.

Fall 2005 Mini-College

The Fall Mini-College is coming up! Let me know what dates and topics would work best for you. You can e-mail me (nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu) or mail this form to the Benton County Office.

1. Preferred Dates. (Please rank preferred dates from 1 - 5, where
1 = Most Preferred Date, and *5 = Least Preferred Date*.)

___ Aug. 18-20, 2005 ___ Sept. 15-17, 2005
___ Aug. 25-27, 2005 ___ Sept. 22-24, 2005
___ Sept. 8-10, 2005

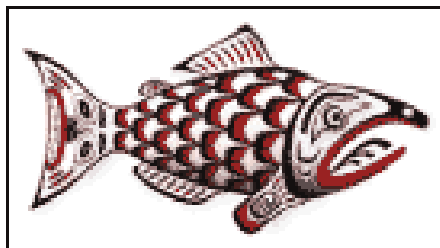
2. Preferred Topics. (Please rank preferred dates from 1 - 5, where
1 = Most Preferred Topic, and *5 = Least Preferred Topic*.)

___ Diagnosis of Forest Diseases	___ Logging Safety
___ Value-added Marketing	___ Intergenerational Transfer
___ Woodland Tax Changes	___ Non-Timber Forest Products
___ Creating Defensible Space	___ Regeneration of Hardwood Species
___ Managing for Wildlife	___ Hardwood Silviculture
___ Vegetation Management Updates	Other _____

Starker Forest Offers Salmon Tours

Gary Springer, a Benton County Master Woodland Manager, is helping Starker Forests conduct fall and winter Salmon Tours in the Coast Range, west of Philomath. Gary is an employee of Starkers and has led "short notice" tours into the Coast Range to watch steelhead and salmon spawning for the past three years. He would like to encourage other Master Woodland Managers who have anadromous fish runs on their properties to conduct similar tours.

The return of mature steelhead and salmon from the ocean to their spawning grounds in the forested headwaters of Oregon is a sight many landowners take for granted. But much of the urban Oregon public has never witnessed this unique end to the salmon life cycle. And there is something truly



<http://www.northwest-art.com>

exciting about watching these big fish fighting, digging redds (nests) and laying their eggs in the gravel of these small streams. It is an excellent opportunity to show our urban neighbors a bit of "nature in the raw", while showcasing our forestland stewardship.

The Starker Salmon Tours are conducted on a "first come, first served" basis, as salmon runs and water conditions allow. Carol or

Julie at Starker Forests (541-929-2477) will take down names and phone numbers of people interested in a tour and then contact those folks when a fresh run of fish are in and the streams are low and clear enough for good viewing.

These "come if you can", short notice tours, are usually conducted within the next day or two after people on the list are contacted. The tours last about three hours and transportation is provided in Starkers 14 passenger bus, from our office between Corvallis and Philomath (ask for directions when you sign up).

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Treeman, cont....

and personal decision making within the social context: cut and run. With that, I leave you a disappointed and rueful....

Treeman

Dear reader,

Just about everyone knows the most famous folk hero of the western woodlands, the giant lumberjack, Paul Bunyon. History says he was a product of rugged humor, wit and spontaneous exaggeration, his 'legend' created in the bunkhouses of ordinary logging camps, by ordinary working men, while they gathered around the glowing woodstoves on cold winter evenings. It was from there that stories about Paul and Babe spread throughout the land. Loggers heard and then retold the fables, often weaving in local or personal embellishments.

But what many do not know is that Paul Bunyon really did exist and is responsible for many of the landmarks that dot today's Pacific Northwest landscape.

Did you know that:

When Paul and Babe were logging Douglas-fir in the southern Cascades, Babe would get so thirsty that she would drink the neighboring streams dry, endangering the fish. Paul was an environmentalist at heart, so he dug a pond to quench Babe's parched throat. Today, there are many landmarks revealing Babe's near insatiable thirst, but probably the most famous of Babe's "water holes" is Crater Lake.

Most people think Paul's exploits were limited to the northwest woodlands, but not so. Paul was an international traveler, and people throughout the world wonder whether Paul was a man, a myth, or a legend. Evidence

of Paul's wanderings permeate the globe. He once spent time in north Africa, logging Pinus saharas, a now extinct tree species. Today, this region is known as the Sahara Desert.

The power of Paul Bunyon was feared and revered even by the gods. Faunus, grandson of Saturn, was worshipped as the god of fields. His earthly woodland deities, fauns and nymphs, mounted an uprising against Paul. So great was the battle that the woods ran red with the blood of these deities. Faunus wouldn't concede victory to Paul and attempted to grow a forest so vast and dense that even Paul couldn't hew them. The blood of the fauns and nymphs became the nutrients in which to grow these giants: the giant red-woods.

So we ask ourselves again: was Paul Bunyon a man or myth? Thanks to genetic testing, we can now be sure of one thing: Paul Bunyon lives on through his offspring. Not all of Paul's lineage cannot be attributed to any earthly beings, perhaps the blood of the fauns and nymphs in their battles. Well known is one of his descendents, John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. John tried to hide his ancestral decent by changing one of the letters in his name, but to no avail.

So why all this bother? Some may think Treeman is merely a figural representation of some prescient, all-seeing being, but such is not the case. Treeman lives: part tree, part human. Proof is in the last chapter of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*:

*Some say the Pilgrim's Progress is not mine,
Insinuating as if I would shine
In name and fame by the worth of
another, Like some made rich by
robbing of my Treeman Brother.*

And now you know...

the rrest of the story.

Book Review

Positive Impact Forestry: A Sustainable Approach to Managing Woodlands. Thom McEvoy.

2004. Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (\$25.00)

By: Nicole Strong



Named "Best Forestry Book of the Year 2004" by the National Woodland Association and The National Forestry Association, "Positive Impact Forestry" is an innovative reference and an inspiring tome relevant to all of us who manage woodlands or work with others who do.

Senator James Jeffords begins with an uplifting foreword that supports balanced forest management. Thom McEvoy (an extension agent with the University of Vermont) provides a captivating history of forest science and management, and then covers tree physiology, forest ecology, (including terrific information on forest soils), and then goes into silviculture and management practices for multiple objectives and long-term productivity. There is also information on financial, legal, and business planning issues, and ends with a chapter on issues related to the transfer of land to future generations.

The book is well-written, relevant, and inspiring. I think it useful not only to MWM's but also to non-forestry audiences, as it is just the kind of literature that might inspire the general public to increase recognition of small private woodland owners and the role they play in our future forests.

Upcoming Workshops 2005

Coos County

Forest Roads Jan. 12
Insects and Disease Feb. 23

Douglas County

Forest Health: Beyond the Basics Feb. 3
Noxious and Problem Weed Control Feb. 22
Density Management Symposium March 16
Oak and Madrone Silviculture March 22

Hopkins Farm

(Contact Jordan Benner, OFRI, 503-229-6718)

OFRI Speakers Bureau Jan.11
Training to prepare individuals for making presentations to local civic groups about the following forestry topics:

Protecting Oregon's Forestlands: A graphical view and Oregon's Forest Sustainability

Linn / Benton County Winter Woodland Workshop Series

Reforestation Techniques Jan. 29
"Ties to the Land"
Intergenerational Transfer Feb. 18
Logging with Synthetic Rope Mar. 21

Portland Area: Forestland Taxes

St Helens Jan. 19
Capital Center Jan. 20

Union County: Forestland Taxes

Enterprise Jan. 24
Pendleton Feb. 10



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