Greetings from your OSU Extension Forester in Astoria

In the aftermath of the Dec. 2 storm, many of us will be picking up the pieces for some time to come. With that in mind, this “Winter Windfall” newsletter is focused on storm damage topics of concern to forest landowners. And if you escaped major damage from the storm, I hope you will still be interested in the items on storm damage assessment, sources of forestry assistance, forest product markets, forest practices, taxes, and reforestation. I am sending this newsletter along with a Storm Damage survey to all family forest owners in Clatsop, Tillamook, and also Lincoln County since the storm touched all three counties.

All the best to you and your forest this Winter season.

Sincerely,

Glenn Ahrens
Extension Forester
Clatsop & Tillamook Counties

OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact Clatsop County Extension at 503.325.8573 to request reasonable accommodation.

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Upcoming Events

February 7
6:30-8:30 PM Family Forest Owner Meeting – Astoria.
Harvesting and Marketing Timber on Small Acreage woodlands.
OSU Seafood Lab, 2001 Marine Dr., Rm. 238

February 12
6:30-8:30 PM Family Forest Owner Meeting – Tillamook.
Harvesting and Marketing Timber on Small Acreage woodlands.
OSU Extension Conf. Rm., 2204 Fourth St.

March 1 and March 8
Ties to the Land Workshops – Astoria (March 1) and
Tillamook (March 8). 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Practical and
motivating workshops on succession planning for forest/farm
families interested in keeping the forest/farm in the family.
Sessions feature video presentations by the experts with activities
facilitated by local Extension staff and volunteers. Call the
Extension Office for more in formation.

March 29
8:00 AM - 5:15 PM
Tree School, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City.
Annual Tree School, ~65 classes on forestry from A to Z.
Catalogs available in mid-January at your local Extension Office.
Register early, it will fill within a couple weeks.

Publications

Available at the Extension office or online, as noted below:

Managing Woodland Roads – A Field Handbook
Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage

For more information on the web:

Oregon Department of Forestry
http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/fh.shtml

Timber Blowdown and Forest Debris
http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/TimberBlowdown.shtml

If you’d like to continue to receive the North Coast Forest News, please call the
Clatsop County Extension Office at 503-325-8573 or the Tillamook County
Extension Office at 503-842-3433 and ask to be put on the forestry newsletter
mailing list. You may also email patricia.heiner@oregonstate.edu
Storm Damage Assessment on Family Forestlands

Damage estimates are coming in for large forest tracts, but we still have no good estimates of impact for family forest owners. A better assessment of damage suffered by family forest owners would help make the case for further assistance from various sources.

How bad was the storm for you and your forest?
Please consider responding to the Storm Damage Survey enclosed with this newsletter.

Here are some highlights of what we have so far:

The area most severely affected by wind is concentrated within 20 miles of the coast, mostly in Clatsop County. Scattered wind and flood damage is widespread in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. The Upper Nehalem River basin was most severely affected by flash floods.

Two zones of wind damage have been mapped: 1) a zone of concentrated severe blowdown and 2) a zone of scattered blowdown. On Family Forest lands, the zone of severe wind damage includes about 16,500 acres and about 425 different landowners, mostly in coastal Clatsop County and some in N. Tillamook County. The zone of scattered wind damage includes about 33,000 acres and about 500 landowners in Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln Co. From the landowner contacts and field observations I have made in the worst zone, I know there is stand replacement blowdown on many parcels. Almost all owners have some damage at stand edges, narrow strips, and exposed clumps of weaker species.

Oregon Department of Forestry assigned a Forest and Debris Recovery Incident Management Team to work with Clatsop, Tillamook, and Columbia Counties on assessing damage to forests and forestry infrastructure. Their report will be made public in early January. As the numbers come in, total forest damage estimates are approaching 350 million board feet in Oregon (and perhaps a similar amount in SW Washington?). For comparison, timber blowdown from the infamous Columbus Day Storm in 1962 was estimated at 11-15 billion board feet from N. California, Oregon, and Washington combined.
Learn From Experiences in the Hurricane Belt

A review of post-hurricane experience with forest damage in the Southeastern US provides some useful insights applicable to our region. Safety is first and foremost – there are too many accidents and injuries during cleanup. Storm damaged forests and roads are hazardous – continuing rain and wind can topple weakened trees and hangups.

Take time to evaluate your forest and identify a) areas too damaged to recover, b) damaged areas that may recover, and c) relatively undamaged areas. In the poor timber market, it may be a good idea to retain any live trees with the option to harvest later if markets improve.

Don’t expect much disaster aid or damage cost recovery for timber losses. Casualty losses on your income taxes are the main option and these are limited to the amount of your basis in timber. Low interest loans and tax credits are other possible sources of financial help. Try to recover the timber value you have, utilize assistance programs and tax breaks that help the bottom line, and seek professional help to get it all done right.

Demand written contracts for any business arrangements including logging, road work, or debris disposal. This is especially important in hectic and stressful times when folks are in a hurry.

Watch for forest health problems from insects in blowdown. In our area, this is a particular concern with Douglas-fir and perhaps Sitka spruce. Just a few down trees per acre can build up bark beetle infestations that spread to adjacent green timber.

Fallen Trees across Property Lines

Fallen trees across property lines are a frequent occurrence. A fallen tree is generally considered to be the personal property of the owner of the land where the tree was rooted. And the owner of the tree is responsible for retrieving it. So there are potential issues for neighbors pertaining to 1) trespassing onto another owner’s property to retrieve your trees, or 2) taking/degrading value of someone else’s tree that fell on your land. Some communication and agreement between neighbors is usually the best way to resolve potential issues.

If a tree or log was carried by flood water to another property, it still belongs to the original owner if it is identified and there is a one-year deadline for removal.

Status of trees fallen into various rights of way depends on specific laws or agreements in place for that right of way. There are statutes that address windblown trees on state highways and county roads.

Cooperative Debris Disposal and Timber Marketing

Free dump sites and collection areas for tree debris have been available in some areas (Astoria, Seaside). This may be discontinued after the initial storm cleanup. In many rural areas free disposal sites have not been available. If the need appears great enough, we may be able to develop cooperative projects or find new funding to subsidize new dump sites and/or continuation of old dump sites. If you are interested, please indicate your needs for debris disposal on the enclosed storm damage survey.
Consider cooperating with your neighbors in the collection and accumulation of large piles of tree debris to facilitate lower-cost disposal by chipping/recycling. Or if your own piles are big enough, consider a chipper/recycler as an alternative to burning huge piles. Recycling companies grind debris into hog fuel for sale to certain mills.

Likewise, cooperative marketing and sale of timber may also be an option of benefit to owners with small amounts or special types of wood to sell. See the section on the Oregon Woodland Cooperative and please indicate if you are interested in cooperative marketing on the storm damage survey.

**Forestry Assistance Available – is more help needed?**

**Stewardship Foresters** for Oregon Department of Forestry are available to provide technical forestry assistance and advice. They also administer the Forest Practices rules and provide proactive advice on managing your forest and complying with the rules (see Forest Practices below). If you are even thinking of logging and marketing blowdown or standing timber, a call or visit with a Stewardship forester is advisable. They can help assess your situation, determine needs for services, and provide lists of service providers.


If calls for assistance triggered by the storm overwhelm local Stewardship Foresters, a request for extra help from Stewardship Forestry may be warranted.

**OSU Extension Foresters** – We provide objective, research-based educational information about managing your forest land via classes, tours, workshops, and individual consultation. Extension Forestry also provides many publications and internet resources on forestry. These are available on the internet or from any County Extension office. OSU Extension Clatsop & Tillamook Co. 503-325-8573, Lincoln Co. 541-574-6534.

**Forestry Consultants** – A forestry consultant can help ensure that harvesting, marketing, site preparation, reforestation, and other forestry activities or related contracts are done right and serve your interests. Contact OSU Extension or Oregon Department of Forestry for a list of consultants.

**The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA)** provides useful information and represents forest landowners to the general public as well as legislative bodies and regulatory agencies. Local members of OSWA can be helpful neighbors willing to share their experiences with forestry and logging.
Forest Practices Rules

Oregon’s Forest Practices Rules are still in effect. There is some flexibility to develop alternative plans that may work better for landowners on a case by case basis. Examples of how FP rules may be pertinent in storm damaged stands include:

- Reforestation required if blowdown and salvage harvest reduce stocking below minimum standards.
- Action to reduce woody debris fuels required to avoid excessive fire hazard.
- Protection of riparian areas (near streams) including retention of down trees and limits on equipment operation.
- Notification of operations when timber will be sold or traded.

Make an appointment with your Stewardship Forester to determine how rules may apply in your case.

Wanted - Large woody debris for stream habitat enhancement  You can donate large woody debris (LWD) to Local Watershed Councils for stream habitat enhancement. Grant funding has been secured to pay for transportation LWD for this purpose. Contact your local watershed council or Troy Goby at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – 503-842-2741.

Forestland Taxes

Regardless of any storm damage, you should know your forestland property classification and tax status. Check with the County tax assessor if you are unsure of your status. If your land is “Designated Forestland” (rather than zoned as forestland), you are required to maintain adequate tree stocking to continue to qualify for special assessment as forest. Cleaning up down trees without replanting may set you back in this case. Timber sales may generate revenue and Forest Products Harvest Tax along with income tax liability. Timber losses due to storm damage may be deductible as a Casualty Loss. For more information call the Extension office or refer to the publications about forestland taxes available online or by mail 
http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE FORESTS/PCFPubIndex.shtml#tax_info
Tree Planting Season

Are you planning to plant trees and have you found all the seedlings you need this year or next year? Note that blowdown will trigger even more need for reforestation. Most conifer seedlings are at least a 2-year nursery crop - what's there now is all there will be through 2009 - get your conifer orders in ASAP. If you are interested in growing red alder, they are usually 1-year seedlings so it's possible that new orders made now can be grown for 2009.

For the current season, seedlings are still available for most species. However, if you don't already have a contract, larger orders (10,000 plus) may be hard to fill.

Two good sources of information on seedling availability are:

1) ODF’s Sources of Forest Nursery Seedlings, on the web at http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/docs/2005catalog.pdf


Or, you can always call the Extension office or ODF to inquire about sources of tree seedlings.

Oregon Woodland Cooperative
(Oregon Woodland Management and Sales Cooperative)

The Oregon Woodland Co-op was formed in the early 1980’s to provide small woodland owning members with management (planning, silvicultural prescription, harvest and planting) and marketing (timber for highest value) services. The Co-op is registered as a cooperative with the state of Oregon, and is intended and able to provide its services state-wide. In 2005 the Co-op acquired a grant from the USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service to prepare a business plan, and that has been followed with another grant to provide working capital to implement the new plan. The new Co-op business plan calls for expanding management services to include a broader range of timber and non-timber products, and to increase marketing benefits and member returns by leveraging the increased supply base offered by cooperative marketing, and expanding value-added product opportunities. The Co-op has contracted for expert marketing skills and other member services through the recently acquired grant.

The Co-op can be reached through the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (503-588-1813), at P.O. Box 144, Banks, OR 97206, or at tnygren@juno.com (Tom Nygren, President).
Forest Market Report

It is unfortunate that timber values are so low at this time. But it is important to take steps to maintain and recover the value of what you have. If you are thinking of selling fallen trees, where possible, determine the desired lengths before you cut trees into logs. It is best to know the destination for your logs and have log length and trim specifications from the purchaser.

The new and improved Forestry Extension Program Marketing website has two very useful pages to help you find markets and buyers. First is the Oregon Forest Industry Directory on the internet at http://www.orforestdirectory.com/

Another good Forestry Extension webpage is the resources for selling timber site at http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/extserv/resources.php

If you do not use the internet, feel free to ask me for help to search these directories and send you the results.

Domestic prices for delivered logs of common species and grades in Northwest Oregon


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Log Grade</th>
<th>3rd Qtr 2007 $/mbf</th>
<th>2nd Qtr 2007 $/mbf</th>
<th>1 year ago $/mbf</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas-fir</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>580</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3S</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hemlock</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3S</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka Spruce</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3S</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Redcedar</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3S</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Alder</td>
<td>CR (5&quot;)+</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>595</td>
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<tr>
<td>pulp/utility</td>
<td>12-in.</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>385</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 to 11-in.</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>580</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 to 9-in.</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>455</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices are delivered or "Pond" value. Dollar values are not adjusted for inflation. Prices reported by Oregon Department of Forestry.

- mbf = thousand board feet, Scribner log scale
- 2S = No. 2 Sawmill, 12-inch min. dia. logs, sound, tight knots, not to exceed 21/2" diameter
- 3S = No. 3 Sawmill, 6-inch min. dia., knots not to exceed 3" diameter, 50 bd. ft. min. volume
- CR = Camp Run (Log production from the forest of the species or group of species being logged, that are better than Cull grade)

The prices above are average quotes from sawmills, reflecting general market trends. If you are thinking of selling YOUR timber, it is best to have an accurate appraisal of log values and negotiate specific prices accordingly with log buyers.
Log Price Trends

Prices for conifers declined throughout 2007 and the current trend continues downward. Prices for red alder went up through mid-summer and then declined through the last half of 2007. Overall, the poor market for logs and lumber is associated with declining home construction. Estimates of blowdown in Clatsop Co. alone amount to about a years’ harvest on the ground all at once, which exacerbates the local log market problem.

A look at 20-year trends in average annual prices illustrates the up-and-down nature of conifer sawlog markets. To put the current market in perspective, with continuing declines this winter, prices for Douglas-fir are about the same as they were at their low point 10 years ago. Prices for w. hemlock have been relatively poor since 2001 and are now dipping toward the very low values seen in the 1980’s.

The increase in alder values for the last 20 years has been a relatively bright spot in the coastal timber outlook. Red alder markets have marched to a different drummer, driven by demand for alder products in the furniture and cabinet industry.

Note that there are often seasonal cycles within each year – log prices are often better in winter/early spring – good for owners with all-season access.

Time Limits on Timber Salvage

Alder are the most perishable and they may degrade within 2 to 6 months during winter or 2 to 4 weeks in warmer conditions. W. hemlock and spruce may degrade within 12 to 18 months. Douglas-fir may last up to 2 or 3 years. Wood will last longer while trees are not cut up and within sections that are not broken. Trees that stay green or are not all the way down will last longer.

You may expect substantial degrade from breakage and stress in fallen or broken wood. Expect higher logging costs due to the extra work, machine time, and fuel consumption in jumbled blowdown.
North Coast Forest News

“Winter Windfall” Issue

Information enclosed on storm damage assessment, timber marketing, forestry assistance, forest practices rules and more....