



Oregon State University Extension Service

Blue Mountains Renewable Resources Newsletter

Vol. 31, No 3 Fall 2015

Paul Oester, Forestry & Natural Resources Extension ■ OSU Union County Extension Service ■ 541-963-1061
paul.t.oester@oregonstate.edu ■ 10507 N McAlister Rd, Ste. 9 ■ La Grande, OR 97850 ■ ph 541-963-1010
fax 541-963-1036 ■ Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php>

Upcoming Events:

After the Fire: Assessing and Restoring Your Forest and Rangeland

When: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday,
October 15, 2015

Where: Baker County OSU Extension
Office, 2600 East St., Baker City, OR to
start, then to the Gyllenberg property on
Beaver Creek

What: This field oriented program is for
woodland owners, ranchers and managers
who want to learn more about assessing
and managing forestland after a wildfire.
We'll cover the following topics:

- Assessing fire damaged trees and
stands, assessing goals and objectives,
direct and indirect impacts
- Salvage harvest issues
- Marketing
- Site restoration, soil stabilization, weed
control
- Regeneration, seedling sources, forest
practices, soil nutrients post-fire
- Cost share opportunities
- Range, forage and livestock issues
- Cohesive Wildfire Strategies

Near the end of the program we'll have a
breakout session where participants can
have a one-on-one time with the various
speakers of their choice. Handout materi-
als will also be available.

Cadre of speakers/specialist on hand:

Steve Bowers, OSU Forestry Extension and
Natural Resources Harvesting Specialist;
Steve Fitzgerald, OSU Forestry Extension
and Natural Resources Silviculture Specialist
and Director of Research Forests; Chuck
Sarrett, Forestry Consultant; Leticia Varelas,
OSU Extension Livestock Agent, Jamie
Knight/Rick Wagner, ODF Stewardship For-
esters; Bob Parker, OSU Forestry Extension
and Natural Resources, Paul Oester, OSU
Forestry Extension and Natural Resources
and representatives from the USDA Farm
Services Agency (FSA), Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS), and Soil Water
Conservation District (SWCD).

Other: Bring your own lunch and drinks.
Wear boots and appropriate clothes for the
weather, we'll be walking short distances
during part of the workshop. Please pre-
register by Friday, October 9th
so we can plan for handouts
and any extra water. Call the
OSU Extension Service Baker
County Office at:
541-523-6418.



Best Regards,

Paul Oester, Extension Forester
Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Ties to the Land: A Facilitated Workshop on Succession Planning

Keeping Family Forests and Farms in the Family

Few challenges that family forestland owners, farmers, ranchers, and other land-based family businesses face are more important than the issue of passing the business and its land base on to the following generation. Many small land-owners want to preserve their family lands but don't know how to involve family members in ownership and operation of their small land-based businesses.

On Saturday, November 7, 2015 OSU Extension will explore Succession Planning in a facilitated workshop. *Succession Planning*--the human side of Estate Planning--focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family businesses and motivating families to address those challenges. This workshop is a mix of presentations and practical exercises to help families develop techniques needed to address tough issues. Topics covered will also be relevant to professionals working with landowner families.

This is a DVD-based workshop featuring presentations by Clint Bentz (CPA, Boldt Carlisle & Smith) and Mark Green (Former Director, Austin Family Business Program at Oregon State University), with live classroom activities conducted by a local facilitator.

Each family will receive a copy of the *Ties to the Land* workbook & companion DVD, which are designed to help families continue to improve and direct their communications at home. More information about succession planning is available on the Ties to the Land <http://tiestotheand.org/> web site.

Workshop Location & Registration

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015

Time: 10 am-3 pm

Workshop location: OSU Extension Conference Room, 10507 N. McAlister Rd., Island City (across from Bronson Lumber)

Limited Space: First 30 people on a first come first served basis

Workshop Fee: \$ 50 per family, for the first 3 people, then \$10 per family member after that.

The fee includes lunch and one copy per family of the workbook: *Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage*.

Registration information: For more information, or to register call the OSU Extension Union County office at 541-963-1010

For planning purposes, please register by: Wednesday, November 4, 2015

NOTE:

If you are interested in attending the same session in Baker City, October 17th, contact Bob Parker at 541-523-6418

Citizen Fire Academy is coming to Northeast Oregon Soon!

OSU Extension, in collaboration with other agencies and organizations will offer this opportunity soon after the first of the year, from late January through March. More detail will be available later this fall. So, watch for more information and how to sign-up. Below are highlights of the program:

The Citizen Fire Academy (CFA) volunteer education program represents a joint effort between many statewide and local agencies. The goals of this program are to develop your skills and knowledge so that you may help reduce the risk of catastrophic effects of wildfire for your home, your neighborhood, and your community.

Topics we will cover:

- Fire science and ecology
- Living in a fire environment
- Home protection strategies
- Fire-resistant landscapes
- Evacuation planning
- Fuels reduction strategies

Skills you will gain include:

- Conducting home assessments
- Assessing fuels and fire risks
- Communicate effectively with a wide array of people
- Work with local partners (e.g. Project Wildfire, homeowner associations, Oregon Department of Forestry) to create neighborhood fire plans

Class format: The Northeast Oregon CFA program will be offered with a mix of online modules and two field tours. Each online module includes reading and video tutorials, a self-

assessment quiz (not graded), discussion board, and “office hour” session that you can either attend in person at the OSU Union County Extension Office in Island City or as a phone call. In addition, you will work on your own fire preparedness plan throughout the course and present your final plan at the graduation session.

Volunteer information: it is hoped that after taking the course, you will contribute to wild-fire preparedness in some capacity. This might look like helping your neighbors assess their properties, to staffing a booth or an outreach event, to writing articles. How you serve will depend on your personal strengths, interests and abilities.

There will be a cost of \$100 per person to take this class. Because we can offer the bulk of this class online anyone in the Blue Mountains region can participate.

Forestry Tour to Sweden & Norway

A View of Scandinavian Forestry Cooperatives

Friday, May 27, 2016 12:00 PM - Tuesday, June 14, 2016 12:00 PM

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC),

Washington Co. Small Woodlands Association (WCSWA) and Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension (OSU) have organized a tour to Scandinavia especially for small woodland owners, forestry professionals and forest products producers. Guided by experienced foresters, this educational tour will focus on private forestry in Sweden and Norway and the role of woodland owner cooperatives. We will meet private woodland owners and tour their tree farms, see harvesting equipment in action, and visit forestry companies, sawmills, equipment manufacturers, and forestry museums. In addition, tour participants will see and experience outstanding natural beauty in the farms, forests, mountains and fjords of Sweden and Norway, and enjoy the cultural highlights of the towns and cities along the way. Includes special group-rate international airfare. Travel will be by private motor coach and accommodation in first-class hotels.

For more information contact:
carrie.berger@oregonstate.edu



Delivered

LOG MARKET REPORT *\$/1,000 board feet*

September 15, 2015

Umatilla/Pendleton									
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs
	6-11"	9-11"	12-15"	11-19"	20+"				
380-400	—	285-340	325-400	325-460	400-485	380	325-350	325	42-45/ton
La Grande/Elgin/Joseph									
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs
	6-11"	9-11"	12-17"	18+"	20-24"				
310-400	280	275-340	350-385	380-460	485	380	300	380	call
Burns/John Day									
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs
	8-11"	12-17"	18+"	24+"					
8-11"+ 275-300	—	245	345	380-420	420	8-11"+ 225-250	—	—	—
<i>Source: Oregon Log Market Report, Editor John Lindberg, ph 360-693-6766, fax 360-694-8466, logmkt@comcast.net</i>									

Diplodia shoot blight on ponderosa pine following hail in northeast Oregon.

B. W. Oblinger, USDA Forest Service, Bend, OR.

Ponderosa pine is an important timber species and plays various ecological roles in drier forest types of the Pacific Northwest. Diplodia shoot blight epidemics in ponderosa pine have been reported previously in parts of western North America but not in northeast Oregon (NE OR). Shoot blight caused by *Diplodia* sp. was recently observed at multiple locations in NE OR. Symptoms were noted on ponderosa pine growing near portions of the Grande Ronde, Wenaha, Wallowa and Minam Rivers. Severe shoot blight was detected following a hailstorm surrounding Troy, OR. To monitor health of pines with shoot blight and severity of shoot blight in Troy, pole-to-sawtimber-sized trees with varying severities were evaluated after the 2012 growing season and revisited after two growing seasons. Each third of tree crowns was visually rated for shoot blight severity (0-2). After two yrs., 31% of trees had died and those dead had higher initial severity than those still living. Severity on trees still living did not change after two years (increased on 38% and did not change on all others). Based on PCR assays, *D. pinea* was detected on cones and shoots (unknown whether other *Diplodia* spp. also are present). Results document Diplodia shoot blight damage in NE OR and the potential for this disease to predispose trees to mortality. Future climatic conditions influencing the frequency of hailstorms may affect incidence and severity of this disease.

Report: Young forests critical to songbirds

Young forests provide essential habitat for songbirds.

That's the conclusion of the newest publication in OFRI's Wildlife in Managed Forests series.

The 32-page report outlines the importance of early seral forests in Oregon and helps managers learn about early seral-associated songbirds, their habitat needs, current research and science-based recommendations to maintain songbird habitat. It highlights important management tools that can provide habitat for early seral-associated songbirds while still growing



timber to meet society's demand for wood products.

The top three recommendations for landowners to promote songbird habitat in young plantation forests are:

- maintaining some shrubs and hardwood trees
- retaining legacy structures in harvest units
- keeping large-diameter down logs

According to research cited in the report, early seral-dependent songbirds such as the rufous hummingbird and orange-crowned warbler have been declining in Oregon, due in part to the emphasis on late-successional and old-growth management goals on federal forestlands. Estimates indicate a decline of as much as 50 percent in early-seral forests since the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Other publications in the WIMF series cover deer and elk, amphibians, and the northern spotted owl. The publications are part of a broader Wildlife in Managed Forests program that includes workshops, symposia and educational material for forest landowners.

Go to oregonforests.org to learn more.

Oregon timber harvest remains steady above four billion board feet for the second straight year

Jeri Chase, Public Information Officer/ Agency Web Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry

For the second year, Oregon's timber harvest has remained above four billion board feet. While private lands have remained steady, the real story is on our state's federal lands. Overall, Oregon had a 1.74 percent decrease in timber harvest for a 2014 total of 4.13 billion board feet.

Approximately 49 percent, or 30.2 million acres, of Oregon is forested. Federal forestlands account for 60 percent of these forestlands, industrial forestlands for 19 percent, family forestland owners own 15 percent, state-owned forests comprise three percent, and all other forestland owners (counties, Tribal, etc.), three percent.

The largest increases, by percentage, in timber harvest were on Bureau of Land Management

(BLM) lands (almost entirely west of the Cascades) and on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands east of the Cascades. The BLM harvest increased 26.67 percent to 209 million board feet. This can mostly be attributed to salvage logging from the Douglas Complex fire and 36-month contracts on green timber that purchasers harvested while prices were high. The USFS overall had a decrease in harvest of 1.28 percent (statewide) to 387 million board feet. However, the USFS had a 32 percent increase in harvest east of the Cascades, buoyed by significant increases in Lake County (468 percent increase) and in Grant and Harney counties (41 percent increase, combined). The Lake County increase is due to the implementation of the Fremont-Winema National Forest's accelerated landscape restoration efforts, while increases in Grant and Harney counties are the result of local collaborative agreements and full implementation of the 10-year Stewardship Contract on the Malheur National Forest.

State lands had a decrease from 252 million board feet in 2013 to 230 million board feet in 2014 for an 8.7 percent decrease in harvest.

Private industry harvest decreased statewide by 4.96 percent from 2013 to 2014 to 2.63 billion board feet. These decreases were present on both sides of the Cascades, but were most prominent on the east side, as a percentage, where private industry harvest declined by approximately 35 percent. Non-industrial private landowners had a 9.2 percent increase (statewide) in harvest to a 2014 total of 558 million board feet.

Harvests on Native American forestlands decreased approximately 14 percent from 66 million board feet in 2013 to 57 million board feet in 2014.

Looking forward, it is expected that harvests will remain around the four billion board feet mark. Issues with exports and port access, along with housing starts not materializing to the 1.5 million start mark that some experts had expected, may keep the harvest rate from rising any further or could lead to slight decreases. The BLM is currently working toward adopting a new management plan for western Oregon that could also affect public harvests

west of the Cascades in years to come, an important source of fiber to southern Oregon mills. Likewise, federal funding levels for the USFS, the extent of collaborative agreements, and adequate market outlets for small-diameter trees provide uncertainty around the harvest levels on the east side.



A link to the 2014 report, as well as links to previous years' annual reports, is available on the department's website at www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/annual_Reports.aspx.

NOTE: One board foot of lumber is one foot wide, one foot long, and one inch thick, or the equivalent in volume. Construction of an approximately 1,800-square-foot house requires about 10,000 board feet.

Funding Forest Stewardship

*Improve the diversity of your forest
(adapted from Northwest Natural Resource Group)*

For the third installment in the Funding Your Forest series, we're focusing on ways to enhance the diversity and productivity of your land. Stewarding a forest that is varied in species with a range of age and size classes and appropriate stocking densities is beneficial to the entire ecosystem, boosting resilience to diseases, pests, and overall productivity. It diversifies your forest's investment portfolio, so to speak.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can be a resource for woodland owners, providing financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that will improve forest productivity and health. If you are planning to take action in your forest, contact your local NRCS office to discuss the projects you have in mind. NRCS has a quick reference guide for basic information on treatments, eligibility and more. Check out our EQIP page for more information.

This year, the Washington EQIP deadline is July 17, 2015. In Oregon, the cutoff to apply for 2016 funding is still to be determined.

We realize EQIP may not be the right fit for everyone's needs, so we've included additional resources. We've identified cost-share programs,

funding, and other resources, as well as information on how to do-it-yourself - all centered around improving forest health by enhancing its diversity.

What can forest diversity do for you?

Thinning declining trees improves growth of remaining trees, planting fruit and mast producing shrubs can make your woods more attractive to wildlife.

Enhancing forest diversity fits into the goals of many woodland owners - be it for aesthetics, agroforestry, improve timber quality, recreation, or all of the above and more. Managing your stands for diverse species, ages, sizes, and density can help you fulfill many visions for your forest.

The objective of enhancing forest health can be accomplished in a variety of ways and typically includes:

- pre-commercial thinning,
- planting native trees and shrubs, and removing invasive species - mechanically or chemically.

For example, forest stand improvement (EQIP code 666), or pre-commercial thinning, entails removing individual trees that are declining (i.e. being out competed by neighboring trees) thereby freeing up resources (light, water and space) for the remaining trees to grow more robust. This not only increases the production of wood volume, it also reduces susceptibility to disease and pests, and in some applications can reduce the risk of wildfire. Tree and shrub establishment (EQIP code 612), or planting, can enhance wildlife habitat and overall species diversity in the forest. Removing invasive species and controlling understory vegetation (EQIP code 490) gives seedlings and young trees the resources to establish and grow.

Below we've identified cost-share programs and other resources for improving forest productivity and health.

Programs in Oregon

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants in the program will receive payments for conservation performance.

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) targets high-priority conservation issues - in Oregon, the purpose of the program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments, incentive payments, and cost share payments to install conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, installing fencing, livestock watering facilities, and other approved conservation measures. For further information about the program, including rental payment information, eligibility and maintenance criteria, and land requirements, visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Grant Programs

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. Projects can range from monitoring to restoration to outreach.

- Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

This grant program allows the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) to fund and administer noxious weed control projects in partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OSWB). Tristen Berg Can be contacted at tberg@oda.state.or.us or 503-986-4622, or you can visit the grant website for more information.

- ◊ There may also be County-wide weed programs. Visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx> to find the contact for your county.

- Access & Habitat Grant Program

To qualify for A&H funding, a project must improve wildlife habitat, increase public hunting access to private land or solve a wildlife damage issue. Some examples of projects that have been approved and

implemented to date include development of wetland habitat, noxious weed control, and improving wildlife forage on private lands. Projects may be on private or public lands, through preference is given to projects on private lands. Before filling out an Access & Habitat grant application, project applicants are asked to contact the ODFW Regional Coordinator in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Regional Coordinator will give applicants advice on planning their projects and help maximize their chance of being awarded a grant.

- Soil & Water Conservation Incentive Programs

Please call your local conservation district and ask them about possible cost-share programs and technical assistance for landowners. There are many smaller programs offered within the county or conservation district that aren't well-advertised. Call today and see what opportunities are available to you!

- Noxious Weed Control

The Noxious Weed Control Program by the Oregon Department of Agriculture serves as a leader in protecting valued natural and agricultural resources from the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. Staff members can provide assistance to those implementing integrated weed management projects across the state. For more information, contact Noxious Weed Control at (503) 986-4621.

- Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP)

The habitat program was created to offer an incentive for private landowners who want to provide wildlife habitat on their properties. Under the habitat program, land subject to an approved wildlife habitat conservation and management plan receives a wildlife habitat special assessment, where property taxes are assessed at the relatively low value that would apply if the land were being farmed or used for commercial forestry. For more information, call your local ODFW office or visit the ODFW website.

Why Wood is so Damn Good

Adapted from: Angela Fedele, Sourceable, Industry News and Analysis



Whether it is its natural aesthetic, its remarkable durability, or its carbon sequestering credentials, wood is gaining traction as a building material in lieu of conventional steel or concrete.

Its potential in construction has also prompted the unveiling of regular “woodscaper” proposals across the globe.

Michael Green, a Canadian architect who is globally renowned for championing the tall timber building industry suggests wooden skylines will reach 30 stories and that we have the technology in place to build them now.

Nick Hewson, structural engineer at AECOM, (a professional firm positioned to design, build and operate infrastructure around the world for public and private sectors) agrees but offers a caveat.

“I think timber could definitely have a role to play in 30-story-plus buildings but they won’t necessarily be entirely timber structures,” he said. “Certain issues can arise when you start to build over 10 stories that include the lateral stiffness of the building and the shortening of the building over time.

“I think there’s probably a timber building sweet spot between four and 15 stories for a wholly timber building – the range where it will be most effective.”

So does combining materials defeat the purpose of using timber?

“If you can maximize the amount of timber you are displacing with the amount of concrete you are using, the timber will offset the carbon in the entire building,” Hewson said.

According to Hewson, timber buildings can weigh 50 per cent less than a traditional concrete building. This can extensively reduce the cost, particularly in cases where developers are working with poor ground conditions or where a build site needs extensive outlay on foundations.

According to Planet Ark’s Make it Wood website, “A comparison with steel and concrete shows that radiata pine structural timber, for example, has a strength for weight ratio 20 percent higher

than structural steel and four to five times better than non reinforced concrete in compression.”

The other benefit in the lightness that is wood is around site quality. Particularly in dense cities, where conditions are restrained and space is limited, timber becomes attractive. It is lightweight and easier to handle, according to Hewson.

Topping out with wood is another possibility, as is extra timber levels to existing buildings.

While the world anticipates high wooden buildings, Hewson forecasts that the next five years will be filled with opportunities to apply wood as decking over railway lines. He identifies Melbourne in particular as a city that has many double crossings and an array of potential development sites around its train stations.

“There are such high costs in deck structure so if you can double the yield by placing a building on top, the economics start to make more sense,” Hewson said.

AECOM is also looking into creating “hubs” which could include commercial buildings, green space and social housing in a bid to help deliver affordable homes and amenities in the one area.

In Sydney, Urban Growth NSW has reported an urban renewal for the Central to Eveleigh Corridor which would see over one million square meters of floor space made available along the three-kilometer railway corridor, and Brookfield Multiplex is in the process of planning Federation Square East in Melbourne. All of these provide opportunities for timber construction.

Another market opportunity is wooden educational buildings.

While many Australian schools are single story buildings, as dense conditions continue, they are more likely to become multi-level, vertical schools. Wood can be particularly beneficial for redevelopment projects at schools in which construction is undertaken while the school is operating.

“Timber can help manage a site better,” said Hewson. “Sites are quieter, less dirty, less dusty and significantly safer.

“They’re also quick to construct with a timber building able to be up in a matter of weeks.” Some studies have found evidence of improved student performance and health in natural envi-

ronments, yet another argument that wood is good for everyone.

“Massive wood constructions provide a good quality of indoor air and, as a building material, are an ecologically sustainable and energy-efficient choice,” Mikko Jaskari, acting president and CEO of Honka said in 2012.

“We believe that the use of massive logs in day care centers, for example, will increase at the same rate as increasing attention is paid to the well-being of children in present day care facilities.”

While cost is often a determining factor when it comes to building materials, wood is not as expensive as some might think.

“Timber buildings can compete on cost with traditional buildings,” Hewson said. “I think there is an amount of education that needs to happen but we’re in a position where we have a few timber buildings in Australia but until we get more, a lot of clients will still have to face a conservative and perhaps costly market.”

A 2014 study (*Cross laminated timber building costs are competitive*) by Russell Hixson published in the online *Journal of Commerce* found that cross laminated timber (CLT) construction is cheaper than conventional methods, though not by much.

When compared to a standard 10-storey concrete building, CLT offered an estimated four per cent cost saving.

Lynn Embury-Williams, executive director of Wood WORKS!BC said that while four per cent is not significantly cheaper, CLT remains competitive.

“The key is having the building expertise. Once contractors really become familiar with this system I think the cost savings will continue,” she said.

Many clients have three fears when it comes to timber buildings:

1. Won’t It Burn Down?
2. It Won’t Last As Long
3. It’s Not As Strong

Hewson blames these concerns on limited experience with timber and in Australia, a country that is more focused on domestic, residential construction.

“It’s more akin in Australia to construct in pre-cast concrete. However, wood can be a robust system - we’re not dealing with small timber,” he said.

Hewson generally refers to the basics of starting a fire – you start with the small sticks to kindle a fire. “These buildings don’t burn down,” he said.

Last year in a video series with the Washington Forest Protection Agency, Green described timber buildings as “incredibly safe” when it came to fire.

"Fire incidents in heavy timber buildings tend to result in smaller fires, as large timber sections have an inherent fire resistance," he said.

"Additionally, charring in the heavy timber member will delay the onset of combust providing greater time for fire fighter intervention."

When it comes to concerns of durability, Hewson cites the leaky buildings arising across the Tasman partly due to poor workmanship and design.

“If you look to Europe who have big timber buildings that have stood for hundreds of years – they don’t have this this problem,” he said. “There is no reason timber buildings shouldn’t last as long as masonry and concrete. It’s very much about the individual site.”

Contrary to what some may think, there is very little maintenance on a timber building assuming it has a weatherproof skin. Hewson has a couple of suggestions when it comes to maintenance.

First, he suggests selecting a timber species that’s durable. Hardwoods last a long time - you just have to accept that it will weather and change appearance over the years.

Less durable species can be treated with paints, oils of other finishes, though this will require more prepping and coating over the long term. So will the skylines of the future indeed be made of wood?

Looks like there is plenty to keep the Australian timber market hustling.

After the Fire

Adapted and modified with permission from Forest Stewardship Notes, Fall 2015

The number of people affected by wildfire in Oregon this year is heartbreaking and tragic. As fires continue to spread as this is being written, we

pray for the safety of humans and animals and their dwellings. We hope that all are taking steps to save lives as the top priority and trust that homes and livelihoods will rebuilt after this storm passes.

After the fire, there is a lot you can do to retake control of your lives and move assuredly to restore your land, tend your animals and build anew. Following these suggestions will help you get back to enjoying your forestland while actively working to minimize the risk that wildfire will menace you again in the future.

The first step, as is the case after every dire emergency, is to stay calm and take solace in all that you still have: your lives, your family and a caring community – local, statewide and nationally – that will help you get through this, and a government with enough resources and caring professionals to provide meaningful support.

The next thing you need to do is to identify the resources you will need and determine who you need to contact to get help with these. This initial stage may involve food, water and shelter and begin with contacting the Red Cross as well as families or friends who can help.

After that you are ready to begin building anew. If you have animals loose, injured or unaccounted for, finding and getting help to them will likely be your most immediate priority. Within the parameters of keeping yourself and anyone who may help you safe and NOT getting in the way of ongoing firefighting and rescue operations or violating evacuation/closure orders, make a rescue plan. Communicate it to others so that they will know where you are before proceeding.

Safety first

Once it is safe to get back into an area, you will want to walk, ride or drive through your property and do a preliminary assessment. First look for anything that poses an ongoing danger – areas rendered unstable by fire that could develop into a landslide, for example. Other hazards might include areas where trees have burned at the base leaving them in imminent danger of falling, or extensive areas where roots have burned out opening the risk that people or animals could fall into the holes created. BE CAREFUL during this early reconnaissance! Trees can fall without warning, the ground can be unstable and have hidden holes and the ends of burned sticks can be very sharp.

Restoration next

If possible, find and review your FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN. The property may look dramatically different in the immediate aftermath of a fire—the plan’s maps and pictures will be helpful in your assessment. Your plan will also provide a reminder of your objectives, giving context around which to rebuild at an emotional and difficult time.

One of the better publications available for learning about post-wildfire rehabilitation is “After the Burn: Assessing and Managing your Forestland after a Wildfire” from the University of Idaho Extension. This 78-page online publication is available as a .pdf file from: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/community_pgs/wildfire_after_the_burn_2011.pdf

Another resource for assessing fire damaged trees is “A Field Guide to Predict Delayed Mortality of Fire-Damaged Ponderosa Pine: Application and Validation of the Malheur Model.” You can download a pdf at: (http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr769.pdf). Also, the following guide you may find useful: <http://centralwashingtonfirerecovery.info/2012/wp-content/uploads/NRCS/AssessingTreeInjury.pdf> There also is a lot of information currently available from the Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service web page: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/sd/home/?cid=nrcseprd337723>

Agencies you will want to contact in the near term include your local Soil and Water Conservation District, <http://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/naturalresources/swcd/pages/swcd.aspx>),

National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>,

Oregon Department of Forestry: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/index.aspx>)

and USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

Each organization may have access to federal funds that they will administer to help people to rebuild and restore. Information you will want to be able to provide includes how many acres were burned, how completely these acres burned, your forest type (major tree species),

amount and type of fencing damaged or destroyed and other important “metrics” that will help determine recovery needs, such as degree of slope, damaged or undersized culverts, bridges damaged, and soils. Other specific features to look for which may help prioritize your restoration work include fire lines cleared down to mineral soil or any other disturbed areas that can serve as entry points for invasive weeds or potential for soil erosion. Restoration techniques can include seeding grasses on dozer fire lines or skid trails, constructing water bars, reforestation, restoring range grasses, timber salvage and sanitation treatments, replacing culverts and others.

Longer term, you will want to determine if the damage you suffered qualifies as “casualty loss” by checking the National Timber Tax website, <http://timbertax.org/> which provides “Tax Management for Timberland Owners.”

Salvaging timber

Eventually you will want to take a good look at the extent of tree mortality, what you can anticipate about the rate and amount of decline in timber value, and what options for salvage logging exist. There is a lot to think about in this regard. Timber that may have had value before a fire may not now, not just because of loss in wood quality but due to simple economics of supply and demand. Northeast Oregon has had a declining number of mills for years and after a fire they are likely to be offered as much wood as they can handle by people eager to salvage some value from killed timber. As supply increases, prices will drop. The logging infrastructure, including the number of fallers, truck drivers, etc., has also declined, so there may be long waits to even get your timber felled and moved to mills. Having a Forest Management Plan and a relationship with a mill, a consulting forester, and a logger is an advantage at a difficult time like this.

Timber Salvage After Wildfires: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/salvagbrochure.pdf>

Post Wildfire Landowner Assistance: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/Fire%20Toolkit/Assistance%20After%20the%20Wildfire.pdf>

Excerpts from a Forest Health Report

David Shaw, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, August 28, 2015

The summer of 2015 is shaping up as a big year for drought and drought related issues throughout Oregon, but especially in the Willamette Valley, SW Oregon, and in Eastern Oregon. We are also increasingly concerned about the high Cascades, but do not know how the drought will influence mortality yet.

In late summer, it can be very difficult to discern whether insects, disease, or drought and heat are causing the issue with tree dieback and mortality, but we are becoming pretty confident that drought and heat together are influencing much of what we see.

In severe drought, trees may die with no associated biotic agents such as bark beetles or canker diseases. However, it is very common to find dead trees with these agents too.

Bark beetles

Bark beetle attacks on conifers increase during drought. This is the case for Douglas-fir, grand fir and other true firs, as well as pine. In these conifers it often results in top – dieback, but can also result in whole tree mortality. We do not have the numbers of the statewide survey yet, but it appears that bark beetle activity is going to be really up. However, symptoms of bark beetle attack vary with beetle type and drought effect. For example, typically when a Douglas-fir is attacked by Douglas-fir beetle in April or May, the tree crown does not go red for many months, perhaps not until late fall or even early the next spring. However, it appears that this year, trees that we attacked in the spring are turning red right away, by mid-summer. This may be because they are already dying from drought, and this may also be impacted by existing root diseases.

Douglas-fir

Douglas-fir in the oak zone of western Oregon as well as parts of eastern and southern Oregon are having an especially hard summer. The general symptoms are top dieback, branch flagging, and whole tree mortality. These symptoms may or may not be directly related to a biotic organism. The major ones are branch cankers, bark beetles, and twig weevils. All these organisms seem to do well on Douglas-fir during drought, and this year is no exception. We also believe root diseases are exacerbating the issue, but it can be diffi-

cult to discern. Twig weevils and branch canker diseases are very common on young Douglas-fir during drought, and both are known to increase attacks on drought stressed trees. Many declining Douglas-fir trees have an associated stress cone crop, a smaller than normal abundant cone crop that is hypothesized to be related to the last gasp of the tree to reproduce before death. For a stress cone crop to hang on a tree in early 2015, means they likely formed in 2014, indicating many of the trees with top-dieback this summer have been suffering for two years or more.

True fir/Grand fir

The fir engraver bark beetle attacks all true fir, but is especially important on grand fir and white fir during drought. We anticipate a lot of grand fir mortality this summer, but it will not become evident until fall, as the trees may take a few months before showing red foliage. Throughout the range of grand fir, the species has expanded its site occupancy with fire suppression, even in the Willamette Valley. During drought, many of these sites are not suitable for fir and mortality may become very common. Root diseases may also exacerbate the mortality.

Foliage loss in conifers.

Many conifers lose foliage in a drought, theoretically as an adaptation to reduce water loss through leaves. Although this is poorly understood, this summer it is quite common to see conifers like Douglas-fir or Ponderosa pine losing two year old foliage and older. There may be interactions with foliage fungi/diseases, but it is very difficult to differentiate what is happening during mid-summer.

Foliage browning in hardwoods.

Foliage browning in hardwoods is becoming more and more common throughout the region as drought intensifies this summer. Partial tree crown and whole tree crown foliage browning is already present in big leaf maple, Oregon ash, and cottonwoods. We anticipate Oregon oak will also begin showing symptoms within the next month. We believe this is an adaptation to prevent whole tree mortality, a type of early season senescence, and next spring most these trees will flush and be healthy if rains return this winter. Significant foliage browning is also being reported in California black oak in Southern Oregon already this summer.



Publications of Interest:

Fuels management and resources for assistance

Here are some useful educational resources to help you consider fire hazard management - and perhaps even more important - to share with any neighbors who might need some lessons in fuels management and fire precautions.

Publications and websites on Hazardous Fuels Reduction on Woodland Property:

EC 1573-E – Thinning: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1573>

EC 1574-E – Disposing of Woody Material: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1574>

EC 1575-E – Mechanical Fuels Reduction: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1575>

EC 1576-E – Pruning: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1576>



PNW Extension Publication 618 – Reducing Fire Risk on Your Property: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw618>

OSU Emergency Preparedness-Wildfire: <http://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Monthly%20topic%20-%202015%2007%20wildfire.pdf>

Wildfire Recovery: Ways to move Forward: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/sites/default/files/documents/WildfireRecoveryOSUExtension06.pdf>

Fire evacuation Planning Guide: http://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Evacuation_guide.pdf

Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes: http://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Fire_resistant_plants.pdf

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire-Resistant Home construction: http://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Building_retrofit_fire_homes.pdf



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