President’s Corner

GARY BUSH

I hope everyone is doing well dealing with the current crisis in this country. I don’t know about a lot of you, but I’ve found it’s not such a bad thing being cooped up on the tree farm! I’ve gotten 4,000 trees planted, blackberries sprayed, more poles cut down and chopped up into firewood, and found time to finish up some shop projects. Except for going to Wilco, Fred Meyer, and the hardware store, and not doing some functions associated with other groups I am involved with, it’s like a vacation! Only, I can’t take the 5th wheel out because nothing’s open to take it to.

To keep this article on a forestry track, my next door neighbor is planning on doing some logging. Unfortunately, it’s too steep to put a culvert in. I told him he could use my road but he would have to rock the road down into the canyon to a spot where the logger could build a landing in order to get the logs out. Being the thrifty type, I asked the logger that since he had his equipment on my property, could he do some logging for me. He being the thrifty type as well said he would be glad to do it. We figure it’s going to take 10 to 15 loads of rock to do the job and now we have to cruise my neighbor’s trees to see if it’s cost effective to cut what timber is there.

The next problem is to see when the lumber mills will start buying logs and what the price will be. As far as I can tell, that is going to be a week by week decision. It looks like this project, if it happens at all, will take place mid-to-late summer. Hopefully by then the pandemic will be controlled or over and we can get back to somewhat “normal”.

So stay safe, keep your head down, stay out of each other’s way, and I hope we can have the annual meeting for OSWA in June!
Tree School has Branched Out and Gone Online!

AMANDA BRENNER, OSU Extension Forestry Program Assistant, Clackamas Co.

Clackamas Tree School, set for March 21, 2020, would have marked the 30th anniversary of Tree School. Since 1991, the Clackamas County Extension office has been organizing this forestry education event for anyone interested in learning about forestry and natural resources. Through the years it has grown and become what it is today, the largest annual forestry education event in Oregon. Not only has it grown in size, it has also inspired five other Extension offices throughout the state to develop Tree Schools, and now we are running our first ever Tree School Online webinar series.

“It has really been fun to watch this event grow over the years,” said Mike Bond, former Extension Forestry Agent in Clackamas County and originator of the program. “The first Tree School grew out of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting. We were looking for a different way to approach forest owner education—providing lots of different classes, all in one day, that would appeal to a large number of landowners, each with their own interests of what to learn. Look at it today—it just gets better every year!”

OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources is working with the Partnership for Forestry Education to bring you Tree School Online, a 15-week webinar series. You can participate in many of the classes that were set for Tree School Clackamas, along with some new classes developed exclusively for Tree School Online. We kicked off the series on April 21 with Glenn Ahrens’s class, “Managing to Keep Your Forest Healthy”.

We will be live every Tuesday morning and afternoon with a new class through the end of July. That is a total of 28 Tree School classes available online! You can register for Tree School Online through the Know Your Forest website at https://BEAV.ES/TreeSchoolOnline and you can find class details, resources, and the full series schedule at https://BEAV.ES/ClassGuide. Please note that all webinars are recorded so you can view them after the fact.

We understand that this will not take the place of Tree School, but we are pleased to be able to offer this online opportunity as we are all spending more time in our homes. Our team is energized to learn new ways to offer our Extension Forestry and Natural Resources programs to you. We hope to see you throughout 2020 for our other Forestry education events either virtually or in-person later in the year, and we look forward to Tree School 2021 next spring!
OSWA Post-Harvest Slash Burning Survey Summary

SCOTT HANSON

OSWA conducted a post-harvest slash burning survey with its membership recently. A survey questionnaire was provided to 1,600 members in the April 2018 copy of Oregon Family Forests NEWS. The survey was designed and edited by OSWA Executive Committee and other members. Special thanks to Jim James, Rick Barnes, and Steve Cafferata for their contributions. A big thank you to Jim James and Jeremy Felty for helping to assemble survey results. No small task! Sixty-two OSWA members filled out and returned the survey (roughly 4% of 1,600 members). Thank you for your cooperation!

What are the survey results?
• Eighty-four percent of responses indicated that they burn harvest slash as a forest management tool and that it is important to have the availability to burn harvest slash in future years.
• Fifty-six percent said that current burn rules and available burn days gives them sufficient opportunity to complete slash burning activities.
• Other methods of harvest slash disposal in the survey were also used to a lesser degree including: chipping (24% of the time), lop and scatter (48%), nothing (45%) and haul to biomass (3%).
• A polyethylene cover (up to 100 square feet) placed over a pile to create a dry spot was used 56% of the time, “sometimes” at 16% and “no” at 31%.
• The amount of time allowed for a pile to dry prior to burning was roughly 3 to 6 months.
• The ratio of time burners had a water tank resource onsite was evenly divided between yes, sometimes and no (i.e., 1/3, 1/3, 1/3).

• Slash burners communicated with neighbors AND chose a season least likely to impact neighbors by slash burning one-third of the time.
• Neighbor complaints toward slash burning did not happen ninety-one percent of the time. Nine percent of the time complaints were listed as “rarely, once, or sometimes”.
• A last category “additional thoughts on harvest slash burning” provided survey responders a free forum chance to respond. Below I share two comments on a case “against” followed by two comments on a case “for” slash burning:
  1. Better to fertilize the soil and provide habitat than to release carbon into the air.
  2. No mention of carbon sequestration in scattered slash. And concerns for air, soil, and water quality disruption from burning.
  3. Done right (good covered spot, sufficiently dried, piled correctly, burned with good wind planning) burning slash is an excellent forest management tool.
  4. Important to reduce fuels for summer fire safety and for site preparation to improve reforestation success.

Thanks to OSWA members for your support in this survey. OSWA leadership will continue to keep a vast array of forest management tools available for our members to choose. Different members will likely choose different tools. Our box of forest management tools must fit within the regulatory framework from policy boards like the Oregon Board of Forestry and Environmental Quality Commission; and agency rules from the Oregon Department of Forestry and Department of Environmental Quality.
OSU Extension Forestry Update

GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Co.

AMANDA BRENNER, OSU Extension Forestry Program Assistant, Clackamas Co.

Extension Service is still there for you, at a distance—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OSU Extension offices are closed and all of our faculty and staff are working remotely. Essential field research and operations continue, with proper precautions. For the first few weeks of the shutdown, it was a big job for us just to cancel Tree School and many other education events, with all the communications involved. But after the initial disappointment and re-arrangement of our working environment, Extension has emerged with a whole new array of learning opportunities. For the most part, these are in the form of online learning modules, webinars, and virtual meetings for discussion and Q&A. Front and center for us is the Tree School Online webinar series, along with webinars on Wildfire Preparedness (see the related articles in this issue of the Forest-Tree Leader). Note that all webinars are recorded so you can view them after the fact.

Youth education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest and other locations is going forward in the virtual world. Hopkins Forest Educator, Peter Matzka is on a steep learning curve with technology, developing video forest tours and learning activities. His crew of PSU students, who usually work on science in the forest by mentoring groups of 5th and 6th graders in the forest, are adapting 360-degree photography and video to help us deliver some virtual field learning experiences. To see the latest events and videos at Hopkins, visit https://www.facebook.com/HopkinsDemonstrationForest/

We normally look forward to field workshops and demonstrations covering the range of seasonal woodland tasks such as planting, weed control, thinning, roads and trails, harvesting and marketing, etc. But until such time as we are allowed to gather in person for field demonstrations and workshops, we will be adopting virtual field learning methods for engaging woodland owners on basic forestry topics, similar to what we are doing for youth education in the forest.

Of course in our field of forestry, trees still need to be planted, weeds threaten to take over, wildlife are foraging and breeding, and fire season is coming. We are trying to keep up with seasonal management chores at Hopkins Demonstration Forest and the OSU Research Forests in our area. We hope that you are able to take advantage of stay-at-home time to keep up with the chores on your woodlands.

Distance education, virtual classes, and emails only go so far and are not for everyone. We certainly look forward to some return of in-person education and communication. And we will continue to develop and offer our written publications and newsletters. I am also available by good old fashioned telephone. Just call the Extension office at 503-655-8631, leave a message, and I will call you back. ■
of the four values on the Tree Farm System sign, Recreation has perhaps the widest range of definitions. But certainly the simple pleasure of being outdoors, in a woodland, is a valid component of recreation, that helps make any activity performed in such a setting more beneficial to one’s well-being than if the same activity were performed in a dreary indoor or urban setting. Many folks who do not have the privilege of visiting their own woodlands have been suffering a deprivation lately, as many outdoor public spaces have been closed to prevent disease transmission. For folks who live in apartments, “staying home” means hardly going outside at all. For us folks with forestland to work in and wander in, it barely affects our access to nature.

Certainly there is an irony in parks and other public outdoor spaces being closed off to prevent us from spreading infection to each other, but the logic is just as clear as the irony. The danger is not just in the large gatherings of people that are intentionally held in public outdoor settings, it’s also the crowding that occurs around the restroom facilities and public-access points for outdoor areas, crowding that immediately shifts to previously uncrowded areas as soon as the more popular ones are full or closed. On a sunny Sunday afternoon on the upper Clackamas River last July, the shoulders of Hwy 224 were packed with parked cars, and young sunbathers thronged the nearby riverbank. How about the ocean? A half-dozen fishermen have at least as good a chance of infecting each other on a charter boat as they would sitting together in a café or riding together on a bus or in a van.

We should try to appreciate those events and occasions that remind us to be grateful for what we have. The current pandemic is awful, deadly, and annoyingly inconvenient, but it at least does serve as such a reminder. Not much of a silver lining for such a nasty dark cloud in our lives, but still... we should remember to be grateful for what we have: the ability to recreate on our own lands, to weed our own gardens, to sit under the shade of our own trees. We are far better off than our friends who do not own woodlands.

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ROB GUTTRIDGE

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NICOLE AHR, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

Have you ever walked your forest in spring and noticed colorful flowers lighting up the forest floor? While we may only have 3-6 tree species in the overstory of many forests, we can have dozens of wildflowers and ferns growing on the forest floor.

Some of these native plants are our first signs of spring! The Trillium certainly comes to mind, as one of the very first flowers to awaken in the forest in the spring, but a variety of other species show up early too. Many of these wildflowers can be easy to miss but when you seek them out, can be very rewarding to find!

More Than Just Pretty

Additionally, these flowers provide food for pollinators, like bumblebees and other beneficial insects. Some of these pollinators will also pollinate the crops that we depend on for our food. In fact, pollinators are required in the production of one out of every three bites of food you eat. Hats off to pollinators (USDA)!

Let's not discount the other beneficial insects that use forest wildflowers. Invertebrates, such as spiders or millipedes, that feed on insect pests, help breakdown dead plant matter on the forest floor, and can provide food for wildlife.

Helping Out The Land and Trees

On small forestlands, the focus is typically on tree establishment. While tree canopy is developing many understory species are working to establish and do so quickly after a disturbance, such as a harvest. The roots of these understory plants can hold the soil, reducing erosion and alleviating compaction. The plants also provide nutrients to the soil and offer food and shelter for wildlife and pollinator species. Establishment of native understory species can occupy areas that could otherwise hold invasive plants, including English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, which can quickly compete with your young forest.

Some common forest understory species that you might find in your western hemlock and Douglas-fir forests include:

- Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)
- Pacific waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*)
- Vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
- Wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
- Candy Flower (*Claytonia sibirica*)
- Bleeding heart (*Dicentra*...
formosa ssp. formosa
- Oregon oxalis (*Oxalis oregana*)
- Western false Solomon’s seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
- Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*)
- Piggyback plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
- Inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandria*)
- Stream violet (*Viola glabella*)

**Watch Out For Invasive Weeds**

The best way to support healthy forests is to provide diversity from the forest floor up to the canopy. Diverse, native plants will provide a variety of foods (berries, nuts, seeds, leaves) and habitat niches for the invertebrates that support pollination and wildlife populations, including forest birds. When invasive weeds take over your forest floor the result is not appealing to wildlife or pollinators and can also be problematic to your trees (e.g. ivy). Some common invasive forest floor plants to look out for, and remove before they get out of hand, include:

- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
- Shining geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)
- Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

If you suspect that you have any of these invasive plants in your understory, or you are concerned about a plant that is spreading, don’t hesitate to contact Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for free technical advice: 503-210-6000 or weeds@conservationdistrict.org. We frequently work with landowners to identify invasive plants and provide them with technical advice for weed treatment.

**Oak Habitat is Important**

If you have Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) trees in or near your forest, you may also have camas flowers in your understory (see photo of giant camas (*Camassia leichtlinii ssp. suksdorfii*)). Oregon white oak habitats are in decline, with less than 10% of oak woodlands remaining in the Willamette Valley. If you have oak trees and have questions about how to support an oak habitat on your property, don’t hesitate to contact Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for free technical advice: 503-210-6000 or info@conservationdistrict.org. We frequently work with landowners to support oak habitats in Clackamas County.

**Looking To The Future**

Local research is underway to determine the best methods and species to use in establishing native vegetation on the forest floor. Early results are showing the importance of raking debris in small areas to produce a clean site where seeds will make good ground contact. It’s also noted that in dense stands, simply thinning the forest can stimulate native growth in the understory even without seeding. Check the Clackamas Tree School website for a full schedule of webinars over the next 3-4 months. On July 14, at 3 pm, there will be a class taught on understory forest vegetation.

We hope you are enjoying all of the forest floor wildflowers on your property!
Everyone said it would happen, that we were “due,” but we just didn’t know how or when. Well, it’s finally here. The arrival of the coronavirus has caused our economy to become recessed. While the country just deemed all aspects of forestry and the forest industry an essential service, it has not been protected from these uncertain times.

Normally, this time of year, I would be telling you that prices were on the rise coming out of January to their peak in March and April. Then, they take their slow descent through the summer as more wood becomes available. However, we have another abnormal year on our hands. In 2017 and 2018 it was good news. Prices were on the rise and higher than they have ever been. This year, prices are way down—if you can find a buyer.

The coronavirus has caused so much uncertainty in the market that consumers, builders, remodelers, etc. would rather hold on to cash than purchase inventory of finished wood products. Along with “stay at home” orders around the country wood products are hardly flying off the shelves. Too bad we don’t make much toilet paper around here. This lack of purchasing has affected everyone up the supply chain and now we have a surplus of wood and the summer hasn’t even started.

At the time this article is being written, mid-April, most log buyers are being extremely conservative writing new purchase orders. They either don’t have new contracts in or are looking for ways to honor the purchase orders they have already written. There are some still buying, however, prices are in the $500 per thousand board foot range for Douglas-fir and $400 per thousand foot range for the Hem-fir logs. Hardly seems worth it when prices have averaged over $600 per thousand for Douglas-fir since 1995 in a normal summer.

If harvesting is on your to-do list this summer and you are lucky enough to have some poles at harvesting size, then poles may be able to offer you some relief. While the pole market has significantly slowed down and become more selective, their prices are more exciting than sawlogs. The volatility of the market has these prices changing frequently, but at the time of this article prices for short poles are fetching $750-$800 per thousand and $975-$1025 for long poles. Looks good compared to the $500 per thousand mentioned above, but these prices are still $100-$200 less than previous reports around this time. Note that if you are selling during this time you may have to deal with more constrained deliveries per week.

Cedar also seems to be doing alright. With all the time at home people must be fixing their fences, decks, and finding other projects around the house. This has kept a demand for cedar, but pricing has come off a bit. Western redcedar is $750-$800 per thousand, incense cedar is $600-$700 per thousand, and Port-Orford-Cedar is in the $500-$550 per thousand range.

During the stay at home order, I...
hope many of you are able to enjoy some extra time on your property. Maybe you’ll even be interested in starting a new hobby that can bring you some added income. Some non-timber forest product companies are still purchasing during this time because they still have contracts to fulfill and these products are often seasonal. Additionally, harvesters are having trouble getting permits with BLM and Forest Service offices being closed. This could be the perfect opportunity to capitalize on the situation. Currently, the ol’ standbys of Oregon grape and usnea lichen are still being purchased. Oregon grape is selling for around $0.70 a pound green. It’s best to get the product to your buyer within 2-3 days from harvest. There is a premium for certified organic. Usnea lichen is still sitting pretty at $5.50 clean and dry/lb. Cascara bark is also currently being purchased and will fetch you $0.45 green and $1.20 “potato chip” dry. Buyers are also looking for cones and it is morel season!

As the log market demonstrates uncharted volatility from week to week during the coronavirus crisis, my recommendation is if you can wait, then hold off on any harvesting until the market starts to look more favorable. In the meantime, now is a good time to dust off your management plan and start getting your ducks in a row, in preparation for more certain times. If you are still interested in harvesting, or have a salvage project you have to do, then call around. The buyers are answering their phones and the market is so volatile that everything changes week by week, even day by day. You might find a buyer with the price you are looking for. Hang tight, we’ll get through this hiccup and see strong prices again soon.

Log market update for Clackamas County area

GLENN AHRENS, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Marion, Hood River Co.

After checking with Clackamas County area log buyers in mid-May, the market continues to be very uncertain. The mills that are open are generally not making new purchase orders as they are just trying to process and sell from the logs they already have. This is true for Douglas-fir, whitewoods, and hardwoods. Always call log buyers before you decide to cut because they may not be buying. There is talk of things starting to move again in June, but there is also great uncertainty about the “re-opening” and the longer term impacts of the shutdown in the construction industry.

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Forests and Wildfire

LISA KILDERS, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

Every year at this time we look around, fingers crossed, hoping wildfires will not start on our property. This is the perfect time to use that fear to energize you to make your plans to create a fire resistant landscape for your forestland.

Here are a few things to consider when making your plans.

Control invasive weeds

Blackberry and scotch broom are common ladder fuels for wildfire.

Himalayan blackberry is a highly invasive plant that replaces native vegetation in forestland. The control of Himalayan blackberry can be a difficult task. Visit our website for more detailed information on blackberry control: https://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/weeds/himalayn-blackberry-rubus-bifrons

Manual removal of Himalayan blackberry can be an effective control option, but it is labor intensive and often a difficult and painful process. Cut large plants at ground level and remove root crowns and large lateral roots. It is important to remove as much of the root system as possible to prevent regrowth. This method will need regular follow-up to remove new growth and seedlings. While effective, this process heavily disturbs soil and increases the erosion potential of a site. This method is not recommended on steep or unstable soils.

If you cut the top of the plant, leaving the roots behind, there will be rapid regrowth from the roots. This is when landowners may want to use a targeted herbicide application on the tender new shoots. Please remember that before using any herbicide product it is important to read and follow the label instructions.

Scotch Broom is a fast-growing shrub in the pea family. It has masses of yellow flowers and forms dense stands that are shade intolerant, so you find it on the edge of forest property or in many harvested areas. As with Himalayan blackberry, the control of Scotch broom can be a difficult task. The seeds have a hard coat that allows them to survive up to 30 years in the field.

Manual removal of Scotch broom can be an effective control option especially for smaller infestations, but it is labor intensive. Pull small plants between January and May when the soil is moist for easier removal. Continuing manual removal until the seed bank is exhausted is one of the most effective controls for Scotch broom. It is helpful to note that while manual removal can be an effective treatment, it can cause heavy soil disturbances and bring seeds to the surface creating a new generation of growth.

For old established stands, cut Scotch broom between ground level and three inches using loppers or a saw during the dry season (July to August). To limit spread, try to cut before seedpods mature. Young Scotch broom plants will sprout following cutting from above the root crowns. Older plants generally will not sprout following a cutting. For best control, landowners may want to follow-up with a targeted herbicide application once new sprouts appear.

Mowing to control Scotch broom is possible, but the process must be repeated at regular intervals to exhaust the plant. Mowing is not a very effective control by itself; however when used in conjunction with herbicide application it can be very effective. Note that mowing equipment can transport seeds if not cleaned before leaving site.

Avoid major weed removal disturbances in the spring and early summer.
when native birds are nesting and other animals have young offspring.

Reduce forest density

Trees growing too close together are especially at risk for wildfire hazards. Thinning will improve tree health as well as reduce fuel for wildfire. Another practice to help reduce excess fuel is to prune lower branches to increase the distance between the ground and your lowest tree branches. This reduces the chance that a fire started on the ground will spread up into the tree canopy. It is important to control ladder fuels on forest edges as that is where fire is most likely to start.

For detailed information regarding fuel reduction and safely disposing of the woody material that these practices generate, visit this Oregon State University website: http://extension-web.forestry.oregonstate.edu/information-woodland-owners

Keep a defensible space

Do not forget to protect your homes and out buildings. Take some time to step back and look at your home through the eyes of a firefighter. There are many structural as well as landscape considerations. As always, control invasive weeds and mow firebreaks on grass, especially near roads, where many fires start.

For more information about home and landscape fire preparedness, visit this Firewise USA website: http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape/defensible-space.aspx

Have an emergency plan

In case of wildfire, do you know the phone numbers for appropriate agencies to contact (for example, the fire department and Oregon Department of Forestry)? Do you have an evacuation plan and know alternative routes of escape? Do you have water sources, like a pond or stream, which may be utilized in the event of a fire? If you do not have good answers to these questions, you may want to get started developing an emergency plan. Wildfires never happen at a convenient time.

A good resource for emergency planning is from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Use this information to get started on a very important component of wildfire safety, your emergency plan. Their address for this information is quite long. Please use this shortened address: https://goo.gl/iidxab

Not all fire is bad. Historically much of our landscape in the Willamette Valley was managed using fire as a tool. Fires do help control disease and insects, reduce fuel buildup, and promote biological diversity. However, there are also downsides to forest fire, including soil damage and erosion. You will find many sources of information on both sides of the “wildfire as a management tool” debate if you search the internet.

In any case, protecting yourself and your forestland is a wise investment of time and energy!

You may access this article online where you can easily click on the links for additional information: https://wp.me/P2aeb5-1Rf.
Forest Fire Prevention Reminder: 2017 Rule Updates

MIKE HAASKEN, Oregon Department of Forestry

2017 RULE UPDATES

Following a more than two-year review by a diverse committee of forest landowners, operators, affiliated organizations and ODF representatives, new and improved fire prevention rules for industrial operations are now in effect (July 1, 2017).

While many changes provided better clarification, others reduced or increased regulation in key areas based on today’s logging technology and practices.

Decreased regulation comes in the form of self-loaders. When the only activity remaining is that of self-loading trucks, a water supply and fire watch is no longer required as long as the activity is done in a clear area free of flammable vegetation. This change allows operations with self-loaders to move their fire watch and water supply to their next job.

Another reduction in the rules is the tool requirements for operations with four or less workers. A tool box is no longer required as long as each worker is outfitted with at least a shovel suited for fighting fire. Sawyers still need to have a fire extinguisher of at least 8-ounce capacity to go along with their shovel.

On the subject of fire tools and extinguishers, fire extinguishers on trucks and equipment must now be rated as 2A:10BC (5 lb.) or a combination of extinguishers that provide equivalent protection (i.e. two 2.5 lb. ABC). This update brings ODF into alignment with OR-Osha requirements. Power saws are still required to have at least 8-ounce capacity extinguishers/suppressants.

Fire extinguishers are also required to have a pressure gauge or measuring device (not required for the smaller extinguishers for power saws).

Increased regulation focuses on water supply delivery. The water supply must have enough hose to reach where power driven machinery is working. 500 feet minimum. This can be achieved by either acquiring enough hose to reach from where the water supply is located or by being able to move the water supply to a location in a timely fashion (within ten minutes of a fire start) where hose can reach the equipment.

Determining the right water pump for fire suppression can be difficult when the requirement calls for 20 gallons per minute. Language was added to this GPM requirement to give operators the needed pressure to achieve this standard. The new rule now reads “the pump will discharge not less than 20 gallons per minute at a pressure of at least 115 pounds per square inch at pump level.” This language was applied from pump discharge tables for smooth bore nozzles that equates the 20 gallons per minute requirement through a 1/4-inch nozzle at 115 psi.

In an effort to reduce the number of electrical fires on equipment that...
spread to nearby vegetation, a rule was added that requires operators to disconnect main batteries from power components through a shut-off switch or other means when machinery is left unattended. If this is not possible, equipment must be left on ground cleared of flammable material.

Finally, clarification was added to fire watch responsibilities. A fire watch is not only required at the end of the day, but also during any breaks up to three hours.

**IFPL’S updated too**

Besides updating Oregon’s Administrative Rules, the Industrial Fire Rules Review Committee also examined requirements within the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) system. Initially, the focus was placed on changes in technology over the years regarding motorized carriages. The group then turned their attention to feller-bunchers, power saws and tethered logging. The end result loosened some requirements while tightening others. These changes are effective immediately on all ODF protected forestlands in western Oregon.

The first noteworthy change is in each level’s title description, putting the language in layman’s terms without jargon. Simply put, the four levels are 1) Fire Season, 2) Limited Shutdown, 3) Restricted Shutdown, 4) Complete Shutdown. Now for the rest of the changes.

Feller-bunchers with rotary head saws will be allowed to work until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 2 and until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 3 when equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available. Non-rotary head feller-bunchers may work all day under IFPL 2 and until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 3 when equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available. Non-rotary head saws are not required to have a continuous fire watch under IFPL 3.

The use of power saws has been expanded under IFPL 3. Besides being permitted to work at loading sites until 1:00 p.m. (no change), power saws may now work on ground based operations as long as equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available.

Another significant change is the use of motorized carriages. “Approved” motorized carriages will be allowed to work under IFPL 3 until 1:00 p.m. Approved carriages are defined as a cable yarding system employing a motorized carriage with two 2A:10BC fire extinguishers mounted securely on opposite sides of the carriage, an emergency motor cutoff, and an approved exhaust system.

Finally, the new practice of tethered logging will be allowed under IFPL 3 as long as equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available.

Looking for a place to make a difference?

Volunteer at Hopkins Demonstration Forest!

Retired? We are looking for volunteers to help us make Hopkins even greater! — No Experience Necessary —

Contact: Phil Smith, Volunteer Coordinator
503-703-2522 • philsmith2522@outlook.com

Hopkins is located just 10 miles south of Oregon City
16750 S. Brockway Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045
demonstrationforest.org
Working Fire Safe in Your Woodlands

JIM SCHREIBER

Have you had to curtail your socializing and travel plans? Is less interaction with family and friends creating more free time for projects around home? Maybe you have been furloughed from your employment. COVID-19 is creating havoc with our lives and it sounds like it will for a while. It is also creating an opportunity to be productive while observing the healthy guidelines recommended too keep you safe from the virus. Be careful and stay healthy.

We are hearing from CCFFA members and other woodland owners, that they are now spending more time on their timberlands; small projects long put off, are now being worked on. THIS IS GREAT!

We are also entering into fire season. We are currently 10” below average rainfall amounts for the rain year 2020-21 and unless we have a wetter than expected May-September period, it could be a very dry summer.

The intent of this article is to provide the newcomers, and refresh the memories of us old-timers, with some specific tool and equipment needs as well as a review of some basic “Fire Safe Practices” when working in the woodlands.

Keep in mind, this information is for use when conducting general forest maintenance and pre-commercial thinning practices, outside of fire season and during Fire Protection level I fire danger status. For higher levels of fire danger and larger operations, please contact the Oregon Department of Forestry and/or your local fire department.

First, some general issues:

• Have a means of communications in case of emergencies; fire, medical, etc.

• A user friendly First Aid Kit is readily available.

• A Notification of Operations Permit from the Oregon Department of Forestry has been acquired.

• If burning of slash (all forest maintenance debris) is part of the operation, be sure and have a burning permit from the local fire district or ODF. Follow guidelines set forth with the issued permit. Late fall sounds like a good time right now.

General Tools Required:

The minimum numbers of basic hand-tools required, inside ODF boundaries, is for a crew of four (4) people. These basic tools should be on hand for all woodland operations, but for those outside ODF boundaries, check with your local fire department—

• 1–Axe or Pulaski.

• 2–Shovels. Shovels should have a minimum face width of 8” and a handle of at least 26”.

• 1–Grub Hoe or Hazel Hoe; a second Pulaski would be ok if you have an axe also.

• 1–Tool Box, clearly marked with lid and latch; this requirement may be waived, by inspectors, if you have the tools well marked and located in a single area that is easily accessible. I have my tool faces and handle tips painted in safety yellow and bundled together with bungee cords. Some operators have their tools in racks stationed at the work site.

• Fire tools are to be used for fire-fighting purposes only; bring extra shovels and axes for work.

Fire Extinguishers:

• Each piece of operating equipment with an internal combustion engine must have a 2.5 lb. ABC fire extinguisher mounted and accessible, on board.

• For each chain saw, a 8 oz. or larger extinguisher is required to be within use reach of the operator at all times.

Water Resources:

While not required for maintenance or pre-commercial thinning
operations, on a limited basis, it is a good practice to have water on site and readily accessible.

• One 5-gallon backpack sprayer, with 5 gallons of additional water. We have a plastic bucket with removable lid and pour opening. The sealed lid is available at some sporting goods stores and most hardware outlets for around $10.

**General Operation Requirements and Suggestions:**

• Make sure that all spark arresters are in good working order.

• Make sure that spark screens on chain saws are in good working order and not damaged.

• Make it a point to set hot chain saws on a firm footing of bare earth or a fire resistant shield. Keep it away from forest duff and other flammable debris.

• Clean away excess flammable material from all power driven machinery.

• Keep spare fuel at least 20 feet away from work site. I know it’s a pain, but should a fire start you don’t want a gallon or two of flammable liquid in the way.

• If burning, clear away excess flammable debris, bare earth would be nice, and keep you piles small.

• Upon completion of the day’s work, after picking up tools, check the area where saws and other combustion-fired equipment were in use. Check for flame, smoke or hot spots.

For more in-depth information on tools, operational practices and fire danger levels, obtain IFPL Self-Inspection Form 5/02 and/or pamphlet 1-1-1-510, on legal requirements and practices from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Let’s be operationally fire safe while working in our woodlands!

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**OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Celebrates Wildfire Awareness Month**

Wildfire preparedness is more important than ever as the 2020 fire season approaches. The Oregon State University’s Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Fire Program (https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program) is moving forward with hiring new faculty to help Oregon address wildfire risks across the landscape. Carrie Berger was hired to be our Oregon Extension Fire Program Manager, on campus at OSU. Carrie has been serving as Coordinator for the Fire Science Consortium as well as Associate Program Leader for our Forestry team. Decisions on hiring our Fire Program Specialists are pending.

For Wildfire Awareness Month (May), our Extension Fire Program hosted a short webinar series to promote wildfire preparedness and prevention. This free 3-part series featured speakers from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Keep Oregon Green, National Associations of Fire Chiefs, OSU Extension and more. All of these webinars were recorded and may be viewed on our Extension Forestry and Natural Resources YouTube channel at https://beav.es/4au.

The first webinar on “Wildfire Awareness” (May 8) covered current weather and fuel conditions, this year’s fire outlook, challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and people’s roles in where fires occur and how we can prevent them.

“Fire Behavior and Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)” on May 15 covered fire behavior and the home ignition zone (HIZ), fire environment, embers, and why structures ignite. The key lessons are on how to mitigate risk by taking care of hazards in the home ignition zone.

Lastly, “Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) and Ready, Set, Go!” on May 22 covered fire adapted communities and the Ready, Set, Go! Program, what it means to be prepared to evacuate, and a demonstration on how to build personal go-packs.

Contact your Forestry Extension agent, Glenn Ahrens or the Oregon Department of Forestry for information about resources and local programs available to help you on your wildfire preparedness journey.
We are planning to offer the Master Woodland Manager Training at Hopkins Demonstration Forest and other locations in Clackamas County. Dates were planned for August-November, but these are now tentative, pending developments with the coronavirus health threat. At this time, we would like to know if you are interested in taking the training and to be notified when our schedule is clear.

The Master Woodland Manager (MWM) program will help you gain important skills for tending your forest and provide you with opportunities to share your passion for stewardship with others, while learning from topic experts from across the state. As this is an advanced program, prior woodland management experience and/or education (e.g. participation in the Basic Woodland Management course, other Introductory Forest Management courses or Tree School) is recommended.

The MWM training is offered by OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, in collaboration with local partners and with support from Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). This support allows us to offer the training at a low cost to participants ($100). In return, graduates commit to give an equivalent number of class hours (approximately 60) in volunteer service.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Woodland Manager, please contact Glenn Ahrens, your Extension Forester for Clackamas, Marion & Hood River counties at glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu or 503-722-6718.