Greetings woodland enthusiasts!

You may be wondering, “when did I sign up for Canopy View News?!” I promise this isn’t spam, rather, what you’re reading is the brand new joint newsletter for the Douglas and Lane County Extension Forestry Programs.

For years, folks in Douglas County have enjoyed The Woodlander, and those in Lane County have enjoyed Woodland Roots. As your Extension Forestry Agents, we decided to combine our efforts and produce one high-quality newsletter for the enjoyment of woodland owners in both counties. You can look forward to receiving Canopy View News each quarter, and you will find that the articles will be relevant to the upcoming season. Pay special attention to the Upcoming Events on page 2, as you’ll find a wide variety of programs for Douglas, Lane, and surrounding counties.

We hope you enjoy Canopy View News!

Alicia & Lauren
Douglas & Lane County Extension Foresters

Overlooking the Umpqua National Forest. Credit: Alicia Christiansen
Upcoming Events

Dec. 1  EFFECTIVE FOREST ROADS. 10am-4pm. Tyee Rd., Umpqua (Douglas Co.). $15/person, or $25/couple sharing materials. Learn how to properly maintain/improve the roads in your forest. Workshop also covers water quality/aquatic habitat concerns, regulations, contracts, & technical/financial assistance available to small woodland owners. To register, visit https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas (scroll down to “Events”), or call (541) 672-4461.

Dec. 8  WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP. Hosted by the Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWnet). 10am-1pm. Sutherlin Senior Center (Douglas Co.). $10. Learn from two small woodland owners how to make and decorate holiday wreaths/swags! Some greenery & decorations available, but please bring more to share. You don't have to be a member of WOWnet to sign up! Space is limited, so no day-of walk-ins will be accepted. Contact Tiffany Hopkins by 12/6 to RSVP – tiffany.hopkins@oregonstate.edu or (971) 409-4030.

GROWING TREES FOR OPTIMAL WOOD QUALITY.
Two times/locations offered – Jan. 9 & Jan. 10! $15 per person. The way you manage your timber can have big implications for the quality of the wood. Learn how trees grow/develop their wood, how wood quality is defined for different end uses/markets, and how activities like pruning & stand density management impact wood quality. Instructor: John Punches, Extension Forester, NE OR.

Jan. 9  Lane Co. 6:30pm-8:30pm. Lane Co. Extension Office (996 Jefferson St., Eugene). Register online at https://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane (scroll down to “Events”) to register, or call (541)344-5859.

Jan. 10  Douglas Co. 5pm-7pm. Douglas Co. Extension Annex (1134 Se Douglas Ave., Roseburg). To register, visit https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas (scroll down to “Events”), or call (541) 672-4461.

Jan. 14  TILLER FOREST MANAGEMENT & FIRE PROTECTION WORKSHOP. Time TBD. USFS Station, Tiller (Douglas, Co.). Free. For landowners in the Tiller area. Learn about recent nearby wildfires, how to prepare your home/property for wildfire, how to maintain the work that’s been done on your land, & what landscape-scale efforts are being done to increase forest health/fire resiliency on nearby public/private lands. Presentations by DFPA, NRCS, ODF, OSU, & SRCUP. Call David Ferguson (NRCS) to RSVP & for more information – (541) 378-3536.

Jan. 25/26  LOG SELLING SYMPOSIUM. Jan. 25 afternoon, Jan 26 all day. Phoenix Charter School, Roseburg (Douglas Co.). Thinking of selling logs off your land someday but aren’t sure how to go about it? Attend this symposium and hear directly from loggers, log buyers, foresters, and other landowners how the process works. Hear from local experts on pertinent contract, regulatory, marketing, and taxes information. Brochure with registration info will be mailed in December. Contact Alicia Christiansen to get on interest list – alicia.christiansen@oregonstate.edu or (541) 672-4461.

Feb. 2  LANE COUNTY SMALL WOODLAND SEEDLING SALE. 8am to whenever seedlings are sold out. Alton Baker Park, Eugene (Lane Co.). Purchase tree seedlings sourced from local seed to plant on your woodland property. Species available: Douglas-fir, Western redcedar, redwood, noble fir, ponderosa pine, & mixed hardwoods. Prices range from $1-$2 per seedling. Fundraiser for Lane Co. OSWA. Contact Mike Atkinson for more info – coyote8199@wildblue.net or (541) 344-4991.

March 29  TREE SCHOOL UMPQUA. 8am-5pm. Phoenix Charter School, Roseburg (Douglas Co.). Pick up to 4 classes to attend during this 1-day mini college. Over 25 classes offered! Learn from local & statewide experts on topics related to forestry & natural resources, including forest health / management / products, fire, wildlife, restoration, & more! Continuing education credits have been applied for through ISA, SAF, & AOL. Class catalogs will be mailed Feb. 1st. Register early to ensure a seat! Registration ends 3/17. Contact Alicia Christiansen for more information & to make sure you receive a class catalog – alicia.christiansen@oregonstate.edu or (541) 672-4461.
I've been taking part in an OSU Extension program called Oregon Season Tracker (OST) for about five years. OST is a citizen science program where volunteers keep track of rainfall and plant phenology (seasonal growth patterns) and submit their records to national databases. OST also connects natural resources managers, landowners, educators, and others in the community with researchers and their science. At our office in St. Helens, we have an approved rain gauge which we try to check each morning, and a phenology “garden” consisting of two large Douglas-fir trees and some native shrubs.

When I first got involved in OST, my motivation was practical. I thought that having some consistent record of weather and phenology patterns would ultimately be useful in my work in Forestry & Natural Resources Extension. I wasn’t quite sure exactly how it would be useful. But I figured that since weather affects trees in many ways, something would come of it; and even if not, I would be helping scientists with THEIR research questions.

Recently I put my data to use when a puzzling Douglas-fir sample came into the office. None of us had ever seen anything quite like it. The current-year needles were stunted, curled, and dried out at the tips (see photo). It sort of resembled light herbicide damage, but the landowner affirmed that no spraying had been done around these trees. Only a few of the landowner’s many trees were affected; but of the ones that were, the symptoms were present all over the tree, on the current-year needles only. The terminal buds, however, appeared to be sound.

The next thing we considered was freeze damage, but this spring was nowhere near freezing around here. Drought? The symptoms aren’t quite consistent with what we usually see in conifers from drought stress.

But the needles really did look scorched, so maybe the intense heat was the culprit. Could they have been damaged when they were soft, shortly after bud break? I went back and looked at the phenology data that I recorded for the two Douglas-fir trees at our office. This spring, the last “NO” I recorded for bud break was on April 27th, and the first “YES” was May 10th, so bud break on our two trees actually would have occurred sometime in that two-week window. While there’s variation among trees of the same species, it’s probably safe to assume that the landowner’s trees also broke bud somewhere in that time frame, or perhaps a day or so on either side, since his location is close by.

Now for the heat. We had an early heat spell in May, but exactly when was it? For this, I needed to look up temperature records, so I went to the Oregon Climate Service website, which houses records weather station data from across the state (including from OST volunteers!). The nearest station with daily

**Solving a Sick Tree Mystery with Weather Data**

Originally featured on the Tree Topics Blog (http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/)

Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forestry Agent – Columbia, Washington, & Yamhill Counties

Current year needles were stunted and had curled, dried tips. But the terminal buds were sound. Credit: Amy Grotta.
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temperature data was ten miles away, at the Scappoose Airport. On May 13 and 14, there was a high of 88 degrees, which ties the record high for those dates. While that’s not considered extreme heat, it certainly is extreme for that time of year. And it happened very soon after Douglas-fir trees had broken their buds.

So my theory? The few trees that looked scorched were among the bud break “stragglers” – that is they were among the last to break bud, and probably did so less than a week before that hot weather. That’s why they were the only trees that were damaged – because their needles were still very young and tender.

My theory can’t be proven, but it sure was cool to have the phenology records to back it up in this “sick tree” case. Incidentally, of the three years I’ve observed these trees, bud break has occurred right around the same date. It will be interesting to see whether they are that consistent every year going forward.

On another note, you are reading this as the 2018 Water Year (Oct 2017-Sept 2018) wraps up. By participating in OST, I can easily see how this water year’s rainfall stacked up to normal, without doing the calculations myself. “Normal” in this case refers to a 30-year average, currently calculated from the 1981-2010 time period. We all know it was dry this year, but here’s the data to show that since May, our water deficit has been slowly getting bigger (data as of Sept. 28th).

Rainfall in St. Helens vs. 30-year normal. Data source: cocorahs.org

If this sort of thing sounds interesting to you, consider getting involved in Oregon Season Tracker. Have a look at the program website: http://oregonseasontracker.forestry.oregonstate.edu/

Looking for some winter reading? Then check out these new pubs!

Visit https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ to download/print

- Planning & Implementing Cross-boundary Landscape-scale Restoration & Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects (PNW 707). Leavell et al.
- Sudden Oak Death: Prevention, Recognition, Restoration (EM 9216). Kline, Navarro, Shaw.
- Thinning in Mature Douglas-fir Stands in SW OR: A Case Study (EM 9199). Bennett, Main.
Fall Roads Checklist

Originally featured in South Coast Field & Forest Newsletter (Fall 2018)

Norma Kline, OSU Extension Forestry Agent – Coos & Curry Counties

Have you been logging this summer? Or perhaps your woodland roads just need a tune-up. Proper maintenance will save you time and money. Walk your roads with the Fall Road Checklist (below) and schedule needed repairs before the winter rains start. This is also a great time to take note of bigger tasks; are your culverts starting to rust out, or is the gravel road starting to lose its shape? The winter months are a great time to start calculating costs and arranging contractors for nonurgent tasks that can be completed next summer. But for now, make sure that dirt spurs have been properly spaced and angled water bars to prevent rutting and sediment entry into streams. Check the ditch-relief culverts; do the inlets need to be cleaned out? Don’t get carried away with cleaning out road ditches, remember vegetated road ditches can be a good thing; vegetation collects sediment and slows down the water.

Have you found a lot of problems? Go ahead and make a list prioritizing the work. High priority should go to fixing road drainage problems, sediment discharges into streams, and fill or cut-slope failures that could end up blocking your road (as well as delivering sediment to a stream). Arc-shaped cracks in the fill or roadway or other signs of slope instability may require consultation with a technical specialist. Problems that affect fish passage/stream crossings are also serious issues, consult an Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester.

DON'T forget, you will need to file a Notification of Operations with the Oregon Department of Forestry, if you are planning road building or reconstruction, or replacing a cross-drain or stream crossing. Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual Third Edition is a great reference to the rules and regulations. The updated 2018 edition is now available at: https://www.oregonforests.org/publications

Once the rains start, pull on some raingear and head out for a walk. This is a great time to see how your road maintenance is holding up. The old road contractor saying is “Follow the Water”. Is the water running where it should? That is, are the water bars properly diverting the water off the roads and is the water draining through the culverts? Small problems at this stage can often be fixed with a little hand shoveling before they turn into big ones.

**CHECKLIST OF COMMON FOREST ROAD PROBLEMS**

(An excerpt from Managing Woodland Roads, A Field Guide, PNW 641)

- **Running surface**: Potholes, ruts or berms, washboarding, erosion, wet spots, aggregate thickness (if applicable)
- **Ditch**: Too shallow, excess vegetation, blockage, overflows, erosion
- **Cut/Fill**: Slumping, erosion
- **Brush or vegetation**: Brush encroaching on road, grass, weeds, or brush growing on road surface
- **Water bars (and rolling dips)**: Too shallow, improper angle, rutted, eroded, too few
- **Ditch-relief culverts**: Blocked or clogged, fails to drain ditch, damaged, eroding, downslope erosion

Credit: Alicia Christiansen
The Age Old Secret to Tree Planting is...

Lauren Grand, OSU Extension Forestry Agent – Lane County

...green side up and brown side down. Seriously, it is that easy. But, just in case you are a detail-oriented person here are a few extra things to consider while getting those roots in the ground.

Pay special attention to your planting spot. Does it get a lot of sunlight? How's the drainage? Will there still be enough space for the tree in 10, 20, or even 50 years when it is full grown? These are important questions to ask when choosing the type of tree you are going to plant.

Different trees have adapted to different environmental conditions. If the environment doesn't match the tree there may be problems in the future. For example, ponderosa pine does well in the drier, heavy clay soils of the Willamette Valley. Douglas-fir does best in many Western Oregon locations except on wet sites or in shady areas, where western hemlock or western redcedar may be a better choice.

Once you match your tree to your site order some seedlings. If you are only planting a few there are a lot of native plant nurseries around Lane County to shop at. Additionally, Lane County Small Woodlands association has a Native Tree Sale Fundraiser the first Saturday in February at Alton Baker Park each year. If you are planning over 150 seedlings you'll need to order them from a seedling nursery at least a year in advance. Contact your local Extension office for more resources to find seedlings.

Seedlings are able to endure the most handling while they are still dormant. This is why planting season is often opposite to growing season. In Western Oregon, planting season is from January through March for conifer (evergreen) trees. Hardwood (deciduous) trees will respond better when planted from mid-March through mid-April when lots of water is available.

Handle seedlings gently, even while they are dormant because their roots are very fragile. If you are not planting your trees right away, store them in a cool (34° to 40°F), dark, and moist place until right before putting them in the ground. When transporting seedlings, keep them away from direct sunlight and cover them with a reflective tarp. Seedlings left out in the sun or allowed to freeze will not survive the planting.

Special long-bladed shovels, planting spades, planting hoes (called hoedads), or power augers are used to plant seedlings. Dig your planting holes deep enough so all the roots can hang down completely into the hole without bending. Do not cram roots into the planting hole. Plant seedlings upright and cover all the roots with firmly pressed soil to eliminate air pockets. Avoid mixing any organic debris, such as rotten wood, branches, or needles, in the planting hole. This can affect the water drainage or create air pockets when the soil settles.

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Fertilizing at the time of planting can actually harm seedlings and is not recommended. Fertilizing newly planted trees can burn the roots, encourage excessive leaf growth, or by encouraging the growth of weeds that compete with root establishment and water uptake.

If populations of deer, elk, gophers, or mountain beavers are large, you can protect newly planted seedlings with tubes or deterrents. This way the critters can munch on better-established vegetation allowing your trees a fighting chance.

If you follow these steps, you'll have a beautiful tree to enjoy for years to come. Most of all, have fun getting some dirt under those nails. For more information on this or other forestry and gardening topics contact your local agent at Oregon State University's Extension Office in Lane County at 996 Jefferson St., Eugene or call (541) 344-5859; or Douglas County at 1134 SE Douglas Ave, Roseburg or call (541) 672-4461.

Credit: Lauren Grand

We’re Experiencing a Seedling Shortage...What Can You Do?
Alicia Christiansen, OSU Extension Forestry Agent – Douglas County

Seedlings are getting harder and harder to come by for small woodland owners. Each winter, I receive many calls from folks who need to plant trees but can’t find any that are available to purchase that match their seed zone and elevation. For these reasons, it is crucial to plan ahead and order seedlings 12-24 months before you plan on planting so the nursery can guarantee your trees. That’s not always possible though, so what are your options if you need trees this winter and haven’t secured them yet?

You can always call nurseries to check their availability. You can also go online to the Forest Seedling Network to search for seedlings that are available (http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com/). If neither of these options are fruitful though, and you’re in need for trees this winter, call or email me and I will add your name to the “Seedling Interest List” (my contact information is on the back page of this newsletter). When timber companies and the BLM finish up with their planting season, there is a possibility that they will have surplus seedlings leftover, in which case they will sell to small woodland owners and anyone else who is in need of smaller quantities of trees. Species and quantities available vary, but it’s a good option if you’re in a pinch. When trees become available, I will notify the folks on my interest list and they can connect with the agency/company to see if the trees are the right fit for them. This is not a guarantee that you will get trees, or even trees that are the right match for your land, however it can be helpful if you’re in desperate need of trees.

Need seedlings but don’t know where to find them?

Check out these sources to get you started.

- Forest Seedling Network – an online marketplace that connects independent buyers & sellers. Visit http://www.forestseedlingnetwork.com/ to connect with a nursery and place an order.


It Was Good While It Lasted: Logs & Non-Timber Forest Products
An update on log prices & trends as of November 8, 2018

First published in WoodlandRoots - Logs & Non-timber Forest Products: Prices and Trends in the Lane County area: http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/lanelogprices/
Lauren Grand, OSU Extension Forestry Agent – Lane County

Usually I get to say that I have good news and bad news for you, but today I only have the unpleasant. Our two years on the cloud 9 of Douglas-fir prices are culminating in a free-fall ride back to earth. The lumber market has finally readjusted and log buyers don’t need to pay a premium for logs anymore. In addition Inventories and log availability are high, so demand is low which means prices are low.

During the summer, Doug-fir values were in the $800-$900/MBF range for long logs. However, with most mills backing off a bit, prices are down to the $550 - $575 range as we go into the winter. Small landowners are usually dirt road loggers, and with the rains holding out, some of you may still have access to your timber. Normally I would say, “wahoo” to this, but normally prices would be on the rise this time of year. Instead, do your due diligence. Double check with your log buyer that the price on your purchase order holds out until the expiration date. Not all mills will honor it until the end especially if prices drop fast, so it’s important to know which mills it’s worth sending your wood too in the time crunch.

The Hem-fir sorts (spruce, hemlock, grand fir) are not a hot commodity at the moment and prices are down a bit from last quarter. These logs aren’t suffering as much as Douglas-fir, but many buyers are in a waiting pattern to see what happens with the tariffs on Chinese logs. If you can find a buyer, long logs are in the $475 - $500 range and a mix of the shorter lengths will be even less.

Similarly, it’s not a good time to sell pine. There aren’t a lot of outlets, prices are down, and uncertainty in the Chinese tariffs are keeping people conservative. It will be interesting to see how things start to play out in the New Year.

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Conifer chips are holding steady from last quarter’s report in the $30 – $40/ton range. For small landowners chipping material rarely has much monetary incentive, but can be an option if you are doing a large stand improvement project. Don’t forget some fiber mills are actively looking for hardwood chips and they are $10/ton less than conifer chips.

With hardwoods on the brain, let’s flash back to when alder prices were better than Doug-fir. Wait a minute, they are again! Prices for alder have remained steady since my last report at $95 per ton or $700-$800 for the premium logs and $500-$700 for the smaller logs. If you have some premium (large diameter and straight logs) alder then you can claim $150 – $200 more per thousand board feet than Douglas-fir at the moment.

Alder isn’t the only species that is holding steady. Cedar has actually gone up $100 since my last report and if a person had some volumes of large diameter, clean wood, they could consider trucking it to Washington. However, if you wanted to save on trucking there are sort yards in the valley paying $1200/MBF for long-log cedar (there’s that 36 foot thing again). Short log values decline significantly. Redcedar has been strong, is strong, and will likely stay that way for the foreseeable future. And buyers are actively seeking these logs.

Incense cedar values in Douglas County mills are running close to $800 for long logs at 8”+. Drop down to the 6” – 7” log and you’ll see values about $100/MBF less. Short logs come down $100- $300/MBF further depending on diameter. Incense is being purchased in the valley, but at lower values than Douglas County roughly in conjunction with the cost of trucking it to the Roseburg mills. Again, incense is in demand.

For the time being the Japanese export log is holding strong. Japan buys very high quality long-logs at somewhat larger diameter requirements. At the moment, prices are around $850/MBF. Domestic prices are now low enough that depending on your proximity to the ports, it may be worth it to spend a bit more on trucking. However, we don’t expect this to last long. Japan pays attention to our markets and their prices will correct and fall in line with domestic prices soon.

One last report before the non-timbers. Poles retreated ever-so-slightly since this summer. Historically, pole values are a steady-eddie in large part to the increased time between harvest and end-use. Poles less than 70 feet are bringing in the low to mid $900/MBF range and typically there’s a premium on poles longer than 100'. Remember, there is some competition in the pole market, so make sure you check them out. Basically, one will pay a little more, but with somewhat tighter requirements and the other a little less, but a lesser quality log can make-the-grade.

Last, but not least non-timber forest products. Oregon grape is still the prime candidate for small woodland owners. Starting in mid-December, Oregon grape will be going for $0.75 a pound green. It’s best to get the product to your buyer within 2-3 days from harvest. Usnea lichen is also of high interest. Usnea lichen is commonly confused with some others including false and fishnet lichens. To tell them apart, Usnea lichen has a white bungee-like cord in the center that stretches when you try and pull it apart. Usnea lichen goes for $5.50 clean and dry/lb. If you aren’t sure you’ve got the correct lichen, bring in a sample to your buyer.

While floral greens wholesale orders are finished right now, you may be able to get in some smaller contracts for home use. These buyers are typically looking for salal, fern, and huckleberry. Mushroom season is also upon us. We’ve had just enough rain to get them sprouting without getting too soggy. Mushrooms typically claim a large sum, but they have to look good and be clean. There is a lot of competition out there, but if you have the time and patience, it’s worth the reward especially if you are just collecting for yourself. Always, be 100% sure you know what you are eating. If not, contact your mycological society for some good resources.

I’m sorry to say this was the most depressing log prices article I’ve had to write yet. I’m glad I wasn’t around for the recession. Despite the reduction of prices in Douglas-fir all the other markets seem to be doing OK. Let’s try and close this article with optimism and take the opportunity to try and learn something from all this. Having a management plan that can help you identify early when it will be time to plan a timber harvest is key. In these situations you can get your operators lined up early and notifications in at the beginning of the year. The market is all about timing and when you’re on top of the ball, you can take advantage of a good situation on short notice.