A Message From Your Extension Foresters

This edition of Canopy View News is packed full of useful information as we enter into fall. Take the time to learn about your land’s site productivity before the rain settles in (pg. 3), walk your land to observe the health of your bigleaf maples (pg. 6), and start planning for future forest management activities. Although the chore list may be long, be sure to refresh by attending an upcoming class or tour (pg. 2). The Tree Farmer of the Year tours are a great way to meet other woodland owners, see new places, and learn how others have tackled managing a forest. Plus, they are free! The Lane County Tour is on August 17th, and the Douglas County tour is on September 14th. See page 4 for more details.

We are all hyper-aware of our surroundings now that fire season is in full swing. Make sure you stay up to date on current public fire restrictions in your area while fire season is in effect. There are restrictions regarding smoking in forestlands, open fires, motor vehicle use, fireworks, electric fence controllers, non-industrial powersaw use, the cutting/grinding/welding of metal, cutting/trimming/mowing of dried/cured grass with gas-powered equipment, and using power driven machinery. For the whole state of Oregon, exploding targets/tracer ammunition and debris burning are prohibited during fire season, and sky lanterns are prohibited year round. For detailed information, Douglas County residents can visit the Douglas Forest Protective Association’s website (https://www.dfpa.net/public-fire-restrictions), and Lane County residents can visit the Oregon Department of Forestry’s website (https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restrictions.aspx).

Have a fire-safe & happy fall!

Alicia & Lauren
Douglas & Lane County Extension Foresters
Upcoming Events

Aug. 17  LANE COUNTY TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR TOUR. 9:30am – 3pm. Whitewater Forests LLC Penn Rd. Tree Farm, owned by Gail & Gordon Culbertson. Free! Topics include local history, reforestation & young stand management for wood & wildlife, red alder management, forest roads, thinning with root rot in mind, & riparian management. Coffee, soft drinks, & catered lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by August 10th with Dick Beers at rbeers2606@comcast.net or (541) 729-2516. A free shuttle will leave the Western Lane ODF office in Veneta at 9:00 AM.

Aug. 22  TWILIGHT WALK IN THE WOODS. 5:30pm. Turkey Crick Ln., Roseburg. Free! Hosted with the Douglas Small Woodlands Association. This tour is light on the walking & heaving on the talking! Enjoy a “tour” of the woods from the comfort of your chair while sitting on a log landing at Benson Tree Farm. The tour will start with some social time, including a pizza dinner. We will discuss forest management challenges in light of recent drought and snow damage, as well as species diversification, salvage logging, & poison-oak. Pizza & lemonade provided. Please consider bringing a dessert to share. And don’t forget to bring a chair! RSVP for everyone in your party by Aug. 21st! Call (541) 672-4461 or go online to https://beav.es/Zdf  [Directions: From Roseburg: Drive NW on Garden Valley Rd., turn right on Turkey Crick Ln. (approx. 1 mile after Joseph Jane Winery). Meet at entrance to property 1.1 miles up Turkey Crick Ln. Just follow the “woods tour” signs!]

Aug. 29  MASTER WOODLAND MANAGER TRAINING begins in Douglas County! Ends Dec. 12th.

Sep. 14  DOUGLAS COUNTY TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR TOUR. 8am – 1pm. Doug & Becky Schlatter’s small woodland property - Lone Rock Rd., Glide. Free! Topics include property history (an old mill site with log pond), riparian forest management challenges, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, controlling scotchbroom, & strategies for managing a property you don’t live on. Morning coffee/donuts & a catered lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by September 9th to Tami Jo Braz at btbraz@dcwisp.net or (541) 459-1402. Be sure to leave your contact info & number attending when you RSVP.

Oct. 11  NATIVE TREE WALK. 10am – 1pm. Elton Community Education Center, Elton. Cost: $25 per couple & includes a copy of the book Trees to Know in Oregon ($10 per couple without the book). Join OSU Extension Forestry Agent Alicia Christiansen for the 4th annual tree walk! Do you have trouble distinguishing white and black oaks? Wondering if that huge cedar is an incense, Port-Orford, or Western red? The more you know about your trees, the better you can care for them and improve their overall health. This workshop will give you all the tricks of the trade to identify the native trees in Douglas County – even the look-a-likes! We will also discuss the tree’s life characteristics, so you know how to give your trees what they need to stay healthy. Register by Oct. 7th online at https://beav.es/Zdf or call (541) 672-4461.

Nov. 2  Save the date! ROADS WORKSHOP. Lane County. Learn how to properly maintain & improve the roads in your forest. Topics also include water quality/aquatic habitat concerns, regulations, contracts, & technical/financial assistance available to small woodland owners. Email Lauren.Grand@oregonstate.edu to get on the interest list.

Dec. 2  WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP. Hosted by the Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWnet). 1pm - 4pm. Riversdale Grange, Roseburg. $10. Meet, learn, & create with local women woodland owners at this fun & hands on workshop! Learn how to harvest & use native forest materials to make wreaths & swags. You will design & construct your very own wreath to take home with you, just in time for the holidays! Before class, walk your woodland & collect greenery, cones, & berries to bring to the workshop. Round up any extra decorations too! Some greenery and decorations will be available at the workshop as well. You don’t have to be a member of WOWnet to sign up! Space is limited. Contact Alicia Christiansen by 11/28 to RSVP – alicia.christiansen@oregonstate.edu or (541) 236-3002.

Watch your email for more Lane County course offerings this fall! Topics include wildlife habitat, management plan writing, & carbon/climate.
Size Matters:  
A brief look at site productivity & what it means

This article was originally published in the OSU Extension blog, Tree Topics, on April 26, 2019
By Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension – Columbia, Washington and Yamhill Counties

Essentially, site productivity refers to the amount of vegetation that a particular site can grow. In forestry, it’s usually expressed in terms of wood production, but technically all vegetation counts. In Oregon, we have a wide variety of forests that range from low to high site productivity (see map). You can discern site productivity somewhat with your eyes: forests in eastern Oregon tend to have sparse, lower-growing vegetation between the trees. In the Coast Range, there is biomass everywhere – tall trees, ferns, berry thickets, and thick carpets of moss.

Site productivity is largely influenced by the climate, the soil, and the terrain. For example: copious rainfall and mild winter temperatures favor plant growth; cold temperatures at high elevations do not. South-facing slopes tend to be hotter and drier. Silty loam soils are generally highly productive for conifer growth.

Site Index and Site Class

Foresters have quantitative measures to describe site productivity-site index and site class, which can help to predict expected wood volume grown over a period of time. Site index is based on tree heights. That is because for conifers, there tends to be relatively little variation in height growth of a given tree species on a given site, regardless of how close together the trees are spaced (in contrast, diameter growth is highly dependent on stand density).

Researchers in early decades of the 20th century measured thousands of trees of different ages on different sites. From their data, they constructed curves that would predict how tall trees would grow by a certain age, on sites with different gradients of productivity. Then, to compare one site to another, an index age is used (typically 50). So on a site with a 50-year Douglas-fir site index of 110, Douglas-fir trees would be expected to reach 110 feet tall at age 50.

Site classes are simply groupings of site index, with site class I being the most productive and V being the least.

If you’ve ever been out on a field tour with a bunch of foresters, you probably heard one of them use the term “site productivity” in describing a particular forest, or comparing two different forests. But to the person without a lot of formal forestry background, site productivity may be a vague concept at best. However, it is an underlying attribute that turns out to explain a lot of what we observe in our forests: what types of trees thrive, which seem to have problems, what amount of competition our seedlings face, and more. So let’s take a closer look at site productivity.

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Almost every forest landowner I know is interested in managing their land to sustainably produce environmental, social, and economic benefits. Certification is a way to publically recognize a landowner’s commitment to sustainable forestry. Having your forestland certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) lets people know that you are proudly managing your forest sustainably and are in it for the long haul.

To become certified, the landowner must write and follow a management plan that adheres to a set of agreed-upon standards. These standards are written to facilitate avoiding harm to the natural forests and the human systems that they support. The property and management plan is verified by an independent inspector, typically on a 5 year cycle.

The American Tree Farm System and its state chapters operate an internationally recognized forest certification program for woodland owners who are committed to sustainably managing their property for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. Each state program is run by a diverse group of partners that aim to promote sustainable forest management through education, recognition, and assistance.

Anually, the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year (OTFY) award recognizes a certified private landowner that has done an exceptional job of forest management on their property and are also actively promoting sustainable forestry. Through this award program, these individuals are honored as leaders in good forestry while their land demonstrates the benefits of good forest management.

The purpose of the award is to:
• Promote sustainable forest management,
• Recognize outstanding Tree Farmers and the foresters who work with them,
• Inspire other landowners to manage their land for good stewardship, and
• Engage candidates in efforts to influence legislation affecting private forest owners, where applicable

Each year the Lane and Douglas County chapters of the Oregon Tree Farm System have an opportunity to nominate a Tree Farmer of the Year in their respective counties. The winners are celebrated at a tour of their exceptional properties.

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Continued from page 3 (Size Matters: A brief look at site productivity & what it means)

Recently we explored the concept of site productivity with our Master Woodland Manager trainees. At two different sites we calculated site index by measuring the heights of trees that were roughly 40 years old, and then found where they fell on a site index chart. At the first site, a higher elevation Coast Range location with 85 inches of annual rainfall, we estimated site index to be about 130, or a high site class II. At the second site, which was lower elevation and receives only about 50 inches of rainfall, it was about 95, or a low site class III.

So, equipped with the right tools and knowledge, you too can estimate your forest’s site index. But, it might not match up with published values. This brings us to the last factor that influences site productivity (at least in terms of wood production), and that is management. It is really the only factor that we can control.

Remember, the forests where those scientists did their work to construct site index tables were natural in origin. But contemporary forest management practices typically result in trees that grow much faster than their naturally-originating counterparts. For example, tree breeding programs have selected genetic stock that is fast-growing, and that is the majority of what is produced by forest nurseries today. Secondly, we emphasize vegetation management in reforestation so that trees reach the free-to-grow stage as quickly as possible. This reduces management costs and ensures better compliance with the Forest Practices Act.

As a result, much of our managed forest landscape is probably out-performing the site index tables to some degree. It’s like Lake Wobegon, where all of the children are above average. So take your forest’s expected site productivity figures with a grain of salt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Want to get your tree farm certified by the Tree Farm System?
Contact Lauren @ 541-579-2150 or lauren.grand@oregonstate.edu

- Forest Certification: https://knowyourforest.org/learning-library/sustainability-and-forest-certification
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI): http://www.sfiprogram.org/
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): http://us.fsc.org/
- OSU Management Planning Website: http://oregonforestmanagementplanning.org

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The 2019 Lane & Douglas County Tree Farmers of the Year are:

Lane County
Whitewater Forests LLC Penn Rd. Tree Farm, owned by Gail & Gordon Culbertson

Tour Information: **Saturday, August 17, 2019** from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Topics include local history, reforestation and young stand management for wood and wildlife, red alder management, forest roads, thinning with root rot in mind, and riparian management. Coffee, soft drinks, and catered lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP by August 10th** with Dick Beers at rbeers2606@comcast.net or (541) 729-2516. A free shuttle will leave the Western Lane ODF office in Veneta at 9:00 AM. This is a free tour.

Douglas County
Doug & Becky Schlatter

Tour Information: **Saturday, September 14th** from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Topics include property history (an old mill site with log pond), riparian forest management challenges, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, controlling scotchbroom, and strategies for managing a property you don’t live on. Doug will also have two plots showing different density management strategies. Morning coffee/donuts and a catered lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP by September 9th** to Tami Jo Braz at btbraz@dcwisp.net or (541) 459-1402. Be sure to leave your contact info and number attending when you RSVP. The Schlatter’s property is on Lone Rock Rd., Glide. This is a free tour.
Bigleaf Maple Decline

By Alicia Christiansen, OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agent - Douglas County

Forest pathologists in Washington have been investigating the decline of bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) in the Pacific Northwest since it emerged in 2010. This year, Dave Shaw, OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist, has noticed the declining maple in Oregon has intensified and hypothesized that it may be attributed to a causal agent other than drought, winter weather, canker diseases, squirrel damage, or other common culprits. Bigleaf maple decline has been reported throughout the tree’s entire geographic range, including in California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

Currently, Dave and others report that there is no known cause associated with this decline. Scientists in Washington have been researching this and have yet to find a conclusive answer as to what’s causing the decline of this beloved riparian species. There are theories out there, one of which is that it may be caused by a leaf hopper. Water stress from drought may also be playing a role in the decline of maples. One study done by scientists from the University of Washington found that bigleaf maple decline was associated with increased human development, proximity to roadways, as well as hotter and drier summers.

While nothing is conclusive at this point, Dave is asking that we all keep an eye out for symptoms. Symptoms of the decline include partial or entire crown dieback, discoloration and reduced size of leaves with heavy seed crops, crown thinning, and tree death. Additional symptoms may include leaves with yellow edges and red-to-brown tips, typical of leaf scorch. These are all signs that something is awry with the tree, which could include drought stress, root disturbance, chemical imbalance, or pathogens.

So, what can we do about this? The *Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook* suggests that landowners “maintain trees as best as you can with minimal care and infrequent deep waterings during the summer months while forest pathologists scratch their heads.”

To learn more about bigleaf maple decline, visit:  
- Washington DNR - Tree Link News:  
  [https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2019/02/06/bigleaf-maple-decline-results-of-uw-study/](https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2019/02/06/bigleaf-maple-decline-results-of-uw-study/)  
- PNW Plant Disease Management Handbook:  
The Snowstorm Strikes Again!
Log & Non-Timber Forest Product Prices & Trends
By Lauren Grand, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Lane County

I'm sure you all remember the huge snowstorm we had in March. Of course you do! How could anyone forget being stuck in their home for days or even weeks without electricity? (Strike 1) The beautiful winter wonderland lasted a few weeks, but eventually melted to reveal a huge mess of fallen trees and broken tops (Strike 2). Now summer is here, and you are trying your best to clean up some of that mess. This might include trying to salvage some value from the fallen and damaged trees. So, you call the local log buyers and ...STRIKE 3!!!

So many landowners, large and small, were affected by the snowstorm that the market is starting to become overwhelmed with small diameter, snow damaged logs. Sawmills are currently buying modestly in hopes that they don’t build up their inventory too much. If you've got logs that are 2mil or are in the 8-11 inch top sorts then prices are not too bad, ranging from $600-650/MBF. While this price SEEMS shockingly low (are we remembering prices to be $100 higher last year?), if you consider the three-year trend in the graph above, these prices are more historically in line with summer pricing. Here comes the tough news: if all you have are small diameter logs with 5-7 inch tops, you may have a hard time finding a buyer. If you do find a buyer, prices may drop another $100/MBF. If your damaged trees are even smaller than that, selling to a fiber mill for chips is always an option, but the chip market has come down with prices at $28-29/ton.

The Hem-fir sorts (spruce, hemlock, grand and white fir) are remaining pretty stable if not decreasing slightly. If you can find a buyer, long logs are in the $435 - $485 range. If you’ve got really rough looking logs, prices may dip to the $300 range. Roseburg’s prices are slightly higher ranging from $425-$500.

Unfortunately, the story of ponderosa pine is getting tired. There aren’t a lot of buyers, prices are down, and uncertainty in the Chinese tariffs are keeping people conservative. Prices in Lane County saw a small rise to $320. Prices usually increase slightly more down south. If you are selling pine, consider your trucking distance. At these prices, if you have to move it too far, you may be losing money instead of making it. That being said, rumors of light at the end of the tunnel are starting to surface. Hopefully I’ll have some higher prices for you with my next report, but no promises.

Harvesting of red alder seems to be slowing as a response to the softer lumber market and China tariffs. Despite this, prices are remaining steady since my last report. Alder is hovering around $600/MBF for the 8” and up sorts. More realistic log sizes/values show prices at $70 - 80/ton and $400 for 6” and 7” logs.

Incense-cedar and redcedar prices are holding steady from the last report as well. Current values of incense-cedar in the south valley are running close to $650 for long logs. Incense-cedar in Douglas County is usually purchased at slightly higher values. Western redcedar prices are still lower than they have been in the recent

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past and are holding at $850/MBF for a long-log and $50 less in Roseburg. Short log values decline by another $100-$200 depending on the length. Redcedar demand isn’t what it has been because the mills have a good inventory at the moment.

Poles are continuing to go strong and look irresistible to sellers who are missing those late 2017 and early 2018 prices. Because of this, landowners are focusing on poles for their harvest while they wait in hopes for sawlog prices to come back up in the fall. Historically, pole values are steady in large part to the increased time between harvest and end-use. They also aren’t tied to the lumber market which is down at the moment. Despite my excitement about poles staying solid, the prices have come off a bit since my last report. Poles less than 65 feet are bringing in about $100 less than earlier this year and are sitting in the $900/MBF range. Prices increase as length increases. Long poles are currently selling around $1100.

In the non-timber forest products world, cascara is king. A real mover and shaker, just be careful handling it or you’ll only be moving to the nearest bathroom! Cascara bark is currently being purchased at $0.45/ pound green and $1.25 per pound dry. I’ve also been hearing that summer chanterelles are starting.

As this report comes to a close, I’m working on staying on the brighter side of things. While the snowstorm gave everyone a run for their money, prices aren’t dropping that much. Usually we see larger dips in the summer as a result of more sellers entering the market, but this year things are fairly steady from last quarter. If you are working on a harvesting project make sure you communicate with your local log buyers, consultants, and loggers early. And always get your purchase order before you cut!

[Image of Downed trees in Douglas County, photo credit: Alicia Christiansen, OSU Extension]
Two Bills passed in the 2019 Legislative Assembly that directly pertain to family forestland owners in Oregon. Information on House Bill 2469 (HB 2469) and House Bill 2225 (HB 2225) is provided below. There were several bills that did not pass that would have impacted family forestland owners, such as HB 2152, HB 2659, and HB 2656. We will see what the next legislative session brings.

HB 2469

In summary, this bill allows for counties to approve a second dwelling on forestlands under certain conditions. Forestlands must be within a rural fire protection district to qualify. Additionally, the second home must be near an existing dwelling and house an owner or relative who supports the forestland owner's forestry practices.

HB 2225

This bill passed with amendments. Essentially, it changes the way properties are measured to allow a dwelling using the template test. This may increase the difficulty of getting a second dwelling authorized on forestland properties. The HB 2225 bill summary states: “Defines "center of the subject tract" for siting certain permissible forest dwellings. Prohibits forest dwellings that would not have been permitted before January 1, 2019. Allows exceptions until November 1, 2023. Establishes applicable dates by county.”

For more information on the 2019 Legislative Session, visit https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/.

Do you have a pesky insect, plant disease, or weed on your property? The Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks are here to help! These handbooks are available for free online and are updated annually to reflect the best science available for controlling invasive and nuisance species. Visit https://pnwhandbooks.org/ to begin your search for solving all (ok...some of) your property's problems! The handbooks provide a description of the pest, as well as management options for controlling it. Please remember that when using pesticides, always read/follow the label, and wear proper safety gear!

https://pnwhandbooks.org/
Canopy View News
A Forestry & Natural Resources Newsletter for Woodland Enthusiasts of Douglas & Lane Counties

Fall 2019 – Issue 4

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