

Life on the Dry Side

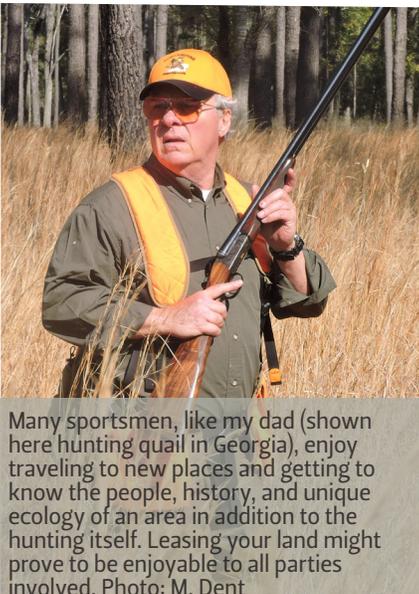
An OSU Forestry and Natural Resources newsletter serving land managers and owners east of the Cascades

Hunting & Fishing Leases: A non-timber forest income opportunity

Nicole Strong, Extension Forester, Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties & the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Hunting and fishing on private land has long been a practice in parts of the country where public lands are limited. As the number of people recreating on public lands in Oregon increases, personal experiences can be diminished due to congestion, competition and lack of access. This creates an opportunity for private landowners to generate income from the many people who are looking for alternative ways to enjoy all types of recreation.

In addition to hunting and fishing (referred to just as hunting for the rest of this



Many sportsmen, like my dad (shown here hunting quail in Georgia), enjoy traveling to new places and getting to know the people, history, and unique ecology of an area in addition to the hunting itself. Leasing your land might prove to be enjoyable to all parties involved. Photo: M. Dent

article), other recreational leases include camping or lodging, bird watching, horseback riding, skiing, biking, hiking, or snowmobiling. Whatever you can think of really! Some people will pay to come and learn about or help you work on your land, a recreation experience coined "agritourism". Studies have shown that many recreationalists are willing to pay a premium to private landowners for experiences that they perceive will be less crowded, more exclusive, convenient, safe, and include more abundant wildlife. Hunters seem the most willing to pay the most amount of money, so we are focusing on considerations for working with that user group for the rest of this article.

A Hunting Lease

Oregon's Public Trust Doctrine states that water, wildlife, and beaches are under public ownership. You do not own or regulate the wildlife that live on or travel through your land. However, you do control the right of access to your land, so whether you want to prohibit or open access to your land is up to you. You have three options when it comes to allowing access: 1. Allow open use, 2. Create permits for selected users (family, friends, neighbors, your local Extension Forester, etc.), or 3. Lease part or all of your land to an individual, club, or association.

A hunting lease is an arrangement between a landowner and a hunter (or hunting group) that grants access rights to a part or all of your land for a specified period of time. It is the responsibility of the hunter to get the

Continued on page 2...

In This Issue:

- *Hunting Leases/Agritourism*
- *Private Landowner Workshop*
- *Down on the Tree Farm*
- *Logging Checklist*
- *Log Market Report*
- *Local Updates*
- *New Publications*

Sign up to receive the FNR newsletter via email!

Deschutes/Crook/Jefferson:

nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu
(541) 548-6088

Klamath/Lake/Harney:

daniel.leavell@oregonstate.edu
(541) 883-7131

Baker/Grant:

bob.parker@oregonstate.edu
(541) 523-6418

Union/Wallowa/Umatilla:

paul.t.oester@oregonstate.edu
(541) 963-1010

Summer
2017

Our Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources agents serve all counties in Oregon. Find your local office and agent here:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/find-us>

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

appropriate Oregon hunting licenses and to abide by all regulations. Please see the “Further Hunting Resources” section at the end for hunting license information. You will want a written and signed lease to avoid liability, reduce risk and potential conflict. We recommend working with an attorney to help prepare a legal lease agreement.

Considering Tradeoffs. Allowing people onto your land comes with it’s own risks and rewards. It will be up to you and your family to carefully consider these before undertaking a new enterprise.

Benefits

Annual Income Generation. If you are a forestland owner, you might be waiting several decades before you ever see income from timber. Creating a reputable high quality hunting experience on your property might be one way to generate short-term income while you wait for your trees to grow.

Land Stewardship Education. Having people on your land is always a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work and effort private landowners put into their farming, rangeland, and forest stewardship. Every time you invite someone on to your land, you help tell our Oregon story.

Wildlife Populations. We all love to see deer, elk and turkey on our land, but sometimes populations grow to such an extent that they begin to degrade other values. Allowing hunting on your land might help control the populations of some of these species, as well as improve the health of remaining individuals.

Habitat Management. Landowners who lease their land for hunting have more incentive to maintain and manage that land. You also gain opportunities for some grant funding opportunities to enhance habitat if you show that you allow hunting on your land.

In-kind Payment. Leasing to a hunt club or association often leads to that group helping invest in habitat enhancement practices so that they receive maximum benefits from hunting there. They might also help conduct wildlife surveys, or other work that needs to be done. Partnering

with a local hunt club will also provide several more sets of eyes with keen interest in keeping your property safe. This is especially important if you are an absentee landowner.

Risks

Liability. A leasee injured on your land, or doing something that puts your land at risk is the biggest concern. You will want to make sure that the lease agreement alerts leasees of the potential risks of being on your land. You will also want to document steps taken to reduce potential risks. If there are any hazard areas (abandoned wells, hazard trees) putting those on a map will be helpful. You will want to make sure that hunters on your property have taken hunter education courses and know to follow all rules or forfeit their lease rights, such as putting out or not having campfires, not smoking on the premises, etc. In addition to ensuring that hunters on your land have their own insurance, it is recommended that you purchase your own additional property liability insurance. There are some insurance companies that deal specifically with hunting and recreation, you might inquire with local hunt clubs. Also, most hunting leases are on properties of 40 acres or greater so that there is minimal risk of shots being fired onto neighboring properties, and to maintain a sustainable wildlife population.

Personal Conflicts. If you have allowed friends and family to hunt for free in the past, they might become upset at losing their favorite hunting grounds or having to compete with paying customers. It will be important to communicate your goals with those people and either offer them a discount or free hunting, or block certain dates for those people who are important to you.

Time, Money, and Labor. In addition to the time and labor of taking care of your land, getting set up to lease your land to hunting will take some initial investment. Paying a lawyer to draft a lease, building lodging or improving roads, installing gates and locks, setting up a website and dealing with queries and scheduling are just some examples of anticipated investments.

Giving Up Privacy. Part of leasing means that you will have strangers on your land, and you will probably have to interact with them to some capacity. If you aren’t really a “people person” you might consider hiring or finding a family members who likes to engage with customers.

Marketing and Pricing. Lease prices can vary substantially so knowing how to reach people and how much you can charge is going to take a little research, and depend a lot on where you are located as well as what kind of hunting experience you are offering. As you develop a positive reputation you will most likely be able to increase your prices.

Hunting leases are a fairly new and growing opportunity for private landowners in Oregon to help pay for the costs associated with maintaining their lands. Though it is not right for everyone, some landowners might consider this an attractive opportunity. We recommend doing a little more research and asking other landowners about their own experiences before jumping in.

Regulations and Info

ODFW Big Game Hunting

Licenses and Season Information
www.eregulations.com/oregon/big-game-hunting

ODFW Big Game Bird

Licenses, and Season Information
www.eregulations.com/oregon/game-bird

ODFW Landowner Preference

Must have at least 40 contiguous acres of land
<https://tinyurl.com/odfw-LOP>

ODFW Access and Habitat Grant

www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH

Private Pond Stocking Information

www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/private_ponds/index.asp



Workshop brings together private forest landowners and partners

Emily Jane Davis, Natural Resources Collaboration Specialist

Private forestland owners and partners in eastern Oregon have been increasingly working together to overcome common challenges and achieve shared goals. These partnerships have taken several forms, such as a landowner cooperative to sell timber, and all-lands fuels reduction and restoration projects across ownerships. OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Department of Forestry, American Forest Foundation, and Wallowa Resources organized a workshop on this topic on May 2nd in La Grande.

The meeting was based on feedback from a survey of forestland owners and partners, and sought to blend information-sharing and presentations with time for conversation. 42 participants representing a range of landowners and organizations attended. Several presenters provided valuable information about the Blue Mountains Forest Cooperative, East Face of the Elkhorns Project, Ritter Land Management Team, and My Blue

Mountain Woodland. Presentations focused on the specific activities and lessons learned from these efforts. Area operator and industry perspectives were also shared, covering topics from log markets to value-added processing opportunities in small diameter biomass and juniper utilization. Resource tables around the room offered a one-stop shop where landowners could learn about resources and organizations available to assist with private forestland management.

Participants shared what they learned at the end of the meeting, including:

- Private forestland owners should work together to aggregate harvest and project opportunities, making it easier to access consulting foresters, operators, and mills. What's new after 10 years with our 50-acre, uneven-age management case study: how are the different age classes growing; how has the diameter distribution changed; what about the regeneration quality and growth?
- Collective purchasing of equipment is complex and challenging; managing a processing facility takes a unique set of skills and resources.

- The challenges facing private landowners are part of a larger picture of limited mill capacity, inconsistent harvest/activity on federal lands and large industrial private lands, limited local workforce capacity, and market access. We have to work on all these issues to see change.
- More regular dialogue and information sharing is needed. Meetings such as this one should occur annually. Attendance at priority-setting meetings like NRCS local work groups helps get our voices heard.
- Landowner outreach is most effective through local connections—loggers, neighbors—and the use of specifics, rather than general mailings.
- Collaboration takes time, and can be process-heavy—but can result in improved outcomes for private landowners working together.

Meeting notes and powerpoints are available at: <http://knowyourforest.org/events/conferences>.

We thank all the presenters and participants for the excellent day of conversation and learning!



American Forest Foundation



Timber Harvesting Checklist

Francisca Belart, Assistant Professor & Extension Timber Harvesting Specialist

Photo by EESC Lynn Ketchem

After a rough winter in Oregon, we are finally starting to see our roads drying and with that increasing logging activities. The long stretch of wet weather this spring makes access to harvest units and log truck traffic challenging, increases the probability of water quality issues during a logging operation and delays access to harvest units without rock-surface roads. As a result, mills typically experience log supply shortages in late winter and early spring, which is a major factor driving log prices up. This might be a good reason to start harvesting timber, but before you do, make sure to consider the following steps:

1. Determine your objectives

Before conducting any operation, consider evaluating the objectives you want to accomplish for the specific area you are planning to harvest and how that fits the overall goals for your woodland property. Evaluate what is most important to you and understand the trade-offs of your management objectives. Developing a written management plan is the best way to organize, rank your objectives and determine the specific actions you need to take to accomplish them.



2. Wood markets

Finding the right time to sell your timber is an important consideration when planning a harvesting operation. Doing research on log prices will give you an advantage on the best timing to sell logs, however, that flexibility will depend on the durability of your roads and the availability of a logging contractor. The best prices usually occur in late winter/early spring, but unless you already have rock surface roads or enough timber volume to rock your roads, the best option may likely be as soon as your road is capable of hauling timber.

3. Notification of operation

The Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) requires submitting a notification of operation to ODF at least 15 days before beginning certain activities in the forest. That includes operations such as timber harvesting, biomass removal, fuels reduction, thinning and road building. This notification or application for permits to use fire or power driven machinery can be filed online at <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or at a kiosk in your nearby ODF office. Either the landowner or contractor can file this notification; however, the landowner is responsible for compliance with the OFPA on his/her property.

4. Access/Property boundaries

As part of planning your harvesting operation, it is crucial to have clear understanding of the harvest unit boundaries and ensuring there is adequate access for harvesting equipment and log trucks. If you are unsure of your property lines, have a licensed surveyor define them for you. These lines are the only legally valid boundaries of your property, not roads, fences or other landmarks. The importance of roads is paramount in conducting a timber harvest. Compared to regular vehicles, log trucks have different limits on road gradient, need wider horizontal curves, wider running surface and sufficient rock for wet-weather operations.

5. Find a contractor

A recent survey shows that over 60% of logging contractors are busiest between June and September, if you are planning a

timber harvest during this time, contact them far in advance. The best sources to find contractors are other landowners, log buyers, your local ODF office or the Associated Oregon Loggers website. You should contact at least three of them and ask for bids. Ask for references, current insurance policy and make sure you explain your objectives clearly. Indicate any special requirements that might need extra care during the operation such as nearby buildings, power lines, specific leave trees, etc. Ideally, have the contractors visit the site so they can make a better assessment of the work you want to do. Pick the contractor that best fits your objectives; the cheapest bid is not always the best one.

6. Write a contract

A written contract is key to a timber harvesting operation. It will protect you and the contractor for any future misunderstandings or legal issues. Some of the basic items on a contract are the method of payment (\$/MBF, percentage, for the entire job, etc.), set up and trucking costs (who pays and how much it costs), payment schedule and insurance bonding. Ensure road access and easements if you are hauling logs through a neighbor's road, operating conditions (residual stand protection, operation near buildings, termination, etc.) and adherence to the OFPA. For complete information on contracts, please refer to EC1192 Contracts for woodland owners.

7. Find a log buyer

Your logging contractor is a good source of information to find log buyers; they know each other and work together constantly. Other sources can be a neighbor who has previously sold timber, the log buyer directory available at OSU Extension forest harvesting classes, the Oregon Forest Directory (<http://www.orforestdirectory.com/>) or your local ODF office. If you are selling logs and have more than 400 MBF or 100 truckloads, consider developing a prospectus. It is important to know not only the volume, but also the quality of your timber. When a log buyer visits your property, he/she will look for the specific products manufactured at their mill; some mills might require products that are best

suited for the quality of your stand than others. After receiving offers, do not only consider the price offered for the logs, also consider any special requirements on the purchase order and most importantly, distance to the mill.

8. Operation monitoring

Once harvesting starts, visit the operation regularly as it progresses. It allows you to ensure the stipulations of the contract are being met and gives you the chance to discuss any discrepancies with the logging contractor. Let the contractor do their job, but make sure they understand you want to be involved. Every truckload leaving your property should have a trip ticket; this ticket has your name, destination, number of logs, date and time the logs left your property. Once logs get to the mill, a scale ticket will be generated; this information is used as the basis of payment and it serves as a reference to match the trip ticket.

9. Post-harvest inspection

Before the contractor leaves your property, make sure all contract provisions have been met. Consider checking that all trees in the harvest unit have been removed and expected residual stand parameters have been met. Ensure yarding and log delivery has been completed (unless justified), that the Forest Practices Act regulations have been followed, haul roads repaired to the extent stipulated in the contract and slash cleanup performed as agreed. Adherence to the OFPA is your responsibility, so making sure the requirements have been met cannot be overemphasized.

10. Tax liability

After your timber harvest is completed, seek a qualified professional with experience in timber harvest taxation to assist in determining your obligations. In Oregon, timber harvested on any property except tribal lands are subject to The Forest Products Harvest Tax (first 25 MBF/year are exempt). You are also subject to the small tract forestland (STF) severance tax if your property is classified as STF.

National Woodland Owners Association

The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) is one of the largest family forestland owner organizations in the country, providing exceptionally strong educational and advocacy resources for their 46,000 members. Benefits for members include a subscription to their quarterly 30+ page National Woodlands Magazine, the Wednesday Woodland Word e-news, insurance coverage, plus educational videos and publications on their website, and more! Here's some more information about this great organization.

The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) is a nationwide organization made up of non-industrial private woodland owners with members located in all 50 states and Canada and also includes affiliations with 36 state and 287 county woodland owner associations throughout the United States. Founded by non-industrial private woodland owners in 1983, NWOA works with all organizations to promote non-industrial forestry and the best interests of family woodland owners. Some of these organizations include: The National Council on Private Forests, Natural Resources Council of America, National Forestry Association, and Society of American Foresters.

The mission of the National Woodland Owners Association is to use unbiased, research-based, objective and factual information to inform, educate and advocate for woodland owners, forest managers, natural resource agencies, media professionals, cooperating organizations, the general public, and policy makers to ensure a sustainable managed forest resource in the United States.

NWOA Goals include assisting forestland owners with making informed decisions and policies to accomplish sustainable management and stewardship of the Nation's private and public forest lands and ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy our woodlands as we enjoy them today for their beauty, conservation values and wildlife, and for the forest products they produce.

NWOA, with its 36 affiliated state organizations working as the Alliance of Landowner Associations, has become the most active, independent landowners group in the country. The alliance starts at the grass-roots level and is comprised of local and state associations of forest and woodland owners. Its purpose is to develop policy, legislation and representation at the national level as one unified voice as well as provide educational and networking opportunities to landowners throughout the country. It is NWOA's goal to have all 50 states represented by this influential alliance.

For more information on NWOA, visit: www.woodlandowners.org.





Down on the Tree Farm

Bob Parker, Extension Forester, Baker/Grant Counties

June

Planning a harvest this summer? Don't forget:

- ☑ Logging notification/permit at state forestry department. There may be a waiting period so don't wait until the last minute.
- ☑ Sign a written contract with the logger. You'll both be happier.
- ☑ Track flow of logs with log load tickets.
- ☑ Talk with neighbors. There may be issues of boundaries, dust, fences, etc.
- ☑ Log or standing timber marketing? This may be the most important financial decision you ever make on your tree farm. Do a thorough job and/or get help from a consulting forester to maximize returns.
- ☑ Plan for site preparation or slash abatement needed after harvest

Are your logger, operator and/or you prepared for fire season?

- ☑ Find out when fire season starts from local forestry office and what is required for operations.
- ☑ Know what fire equipment your logger/operator should provide on-site. Ask logger to demonstrate use: a fire pump that won't start on the first pull might allow a small blaze to spread out of control.

- ☑ Carry required equipment in your own pick-up.
- ☑ Clean up firebreaks, fire trails and road sides: talk dry grasses and mufflers don't compute!
- ☑ Will your roads and bridges handle fire equipment if needed?
- ☑ Where will pumpers get water on your place or nearby? Consider building access for fire trucks to a small pond or other stream spot to fill fire tanks. It may take a bit of planning and some permits, so plan now for construction.
- ☑ When fire dangers are highest: patrol your property for unauthorized and potentially fire-starting uses like summer campfires and your neighbors' illegal debris burning. Preventing problems before they happen can be an "offensive defense" to fires.
- ☑ Clear a defensible space around your house if you live in the woods.

July

Safety first is not just a cliché.

- ☑ Don't cut corners, you may end up cutting yourself.
- ☑ Don't operate your chainsaw alone.
- ☑ Always wear a hardhat when cutting down anything: A small sapling or limb can be thrown with enough force to knock you silly, or worse.

- ☑ Footing is everything! For slash, wet weather and steep slopes, caulked boots are necessary. Otherwise, go for good quality, lug-soled boots with ankle support.
- ☑ Sharp, well-maintained equipment used with the proper technique can and will SAVE YOUR BODY. Heck, treat yourself to a new chainsaw – it might save your back and be fun.
- ☑ Fit for some new saw chaps and hardhat while you're at it. Newer chaps are light and comfortable, and some hardhats have ear and eye protection attached.
- ☑ "Sometime" loggers need all the safety equipment, every time!
- ☑ Many chainsaw accidents occur when you don't think ahead or when you work past exhaustion. It's not worth it.

Apply summer foliar brush sprays.

- ☑ Always follow labels.
- ☑ Plan Fall herbicide projects now.

Check your stands for Bark Beetle activity.

- ☑ Look around last winter's blowdowns. Watch for ORANGE DUST on bark of trees near blowdowns which indicate infestation. Beetles are good flyers and can travel from those dead trees to live ones, so consider salvage of down logs if infested.

August

The 2017 Total Eclipse is August 21. Are you ready?

A record number of visitors are expected to show up along the path of totality and many of our rural communities will be stretched to the limit. Here are some things you may want to consider:

- ☑ Start early. Many people will start arriving before the event and spend more time here afterwards so be prepared for crowds.
- ☑ Trespassers. People may be tempted to camp wherever is convenient. Post your property to help keep out unwanted intruders.
- ☑ Wildfire. Campers love camp fires and in late August that could result in wildfires so plan accordingly.
- ☑ Stock up. Stores may run out of groceries and other essential items fast.
- ☑ Gas up. Make sure your vehicles have a full tank of gas in case you need to travel.
- ☑ Stay home. Record numbers of people means record numbers of cars and traffic problems.
- ☑ Stay safe. Police, fire departments and ambulance services will be challenged with so many people.

Central Oregon News

*Nicole Strong, Extension Forester,
Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties & the
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs*

The last few months have been a whirlwind of field visits, workshops, grant writing, and Collaborative tours. And maybe it's the first time I have really paid attention, or maybe it was our long cold wet winter, but I am seeing a lot more wildflowers out in the woods and in the desert this year, especially in stands that have been thinned, or thinned and burned. I have also had great luck gathering morels from recent burns and now higher elevation forests. I know many of you spend long days out working in the woods, but I hope you also get to take some time to just enjoy it.

If you missed the last few workshops this Spring, stay tuned for Fall. We won't be offering much in the way of workshops during July and August out of regard for fire season, Solstice season, and everyone's busy schedules.

FNR Needs Assessment Survey

Some of you may have taken the online survey I sent out in May. I am currently looking for a break in the field season so I can crunch numbers and analyze all of your responses. To those 130 people who took the time to respond to the survey, I thank you and look forward to learning how I can incorporate your responses into future programming and publications.

If you have not yet taken the survey but want to, I will keep the link open until July 13: <http://tinyurl.com/FNRExtSurvey>

Aspen Leaf Blotch Miner Outbreak

If you have aspen in your landscape, you might have noticed some leaf browning. This is most likely aspen leaf blotch miner.

The damage is caused by larvae of this insect, and is usually limited to

aesthetic issues. Otherwise healthy trees can recover from even a heavy infestation. According to Amy Joe Detweiler, our OSU Extension Horticulture agent, these insects have a heavy outbreak every 3-4 years, but predatory insects will eventually control the population. There is no chemical or cultural control recommended other than to let this run its course and keep your aspen trees healthy with regular deep watering.



Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) found on BLM land



Morels (*Morchella* spp.) about to become a morel kale egg scramble.



Aspen leaf damage and Aspen Leaf Blotch Miner larvae by A. Detweiler, Oregon State University



Northeast Oregon News

Family Forest Owners and Forest Health

Angela E. Boag¹, Paul Oester², and Joel Hartter¹; ¹PhD Candidate, ¹Environmental Studies Program, University of Colorado Boulder; ²Oregon State University Extension

As part of the ongoing Communities and Forests in Oregon project funded through the USDA, University of Colorado PhD student Angela Boag interviewed 50 family forest owners in Wallowa, Grant, Crook and Wheeler counties in 2015. Many of those interviewed had lived in eastern Oregon for over 30 years and owned their properties for more than 20 years. Respondents' properties ranged in size from 15 to over 12,000 acres, with a median property size of 140 acres. The interviews gave family forest owners an opportunity to share their views on forest health and management as well as wildfire risk and resource needs. A full report will be published later this summer and will be available for download at www.cafor.weebly.com.

Angela asked forest owners how they define a healthy forest. As shown in Figure 1, low tree density was the characteristic most commonly used to define a healthy forest in eastern Oregon, mentioned by approximately half of respondents. This aligned with many forest owners' goals to thin large portions of their property. Other frequently mentioned characteristics included diverse tree species and age structures, as well as heterogeneity in forest structure across the landscape. Only five respondents mentioned frequent fire in their definition of a healthy forest, despite the importance of low-intensity frequent fire in reducing fuel loads in dry conifer forests. This is likely due to the complexities and risks associated with prescribed fire on private lands. Over half of respondents had experienced uncontrolled fires on their properties in recent years, with the

most common causes being escaped pile burns or prescribed burns.

Individual definitions of a "healthy forest" differed depending on whether landowners were primarily managing their forest to maximize timber yields or for other objectives such as wildlife habitat or recreation:

Landowner A: "[Defining a healthy forest] depends on your objectives. Trees can grow closer to get straighter lumber, and you need trees to self-limb. You should let trees grow as long as they're healthy."

Landowner B: "[Healthy forests have] healthy trees...healthy populations of wildlife and other species...increasing biodiversity and biomass; trees that are thriving and some mortality, [and stands in] late successional stages."

Recognizing that different family forest owners have different ideas of what a healthy forest looks like has important implications for wildfire risk across the landscape. In general, if the branches of adjacent trees are overlapping in a forest stand, crown density is high enough to sustain a crown fire and trees are more prone to insect and disease outbreaks. Family forest owners can both maintain forest health and mitigate wildfire risk through thinning and fuels management. Opening a dialogue with neighbors can

be a key part of reducing risk, as one landowner said:

Landowner C: "Your neighbors may have different ideas about what a healthy forest looks like, and that could increase your [wildfire/pest/disease] risk. I think of neighbor to neighbor communication as active management. Thinning is usually a good thing to do."

We also asked respondents to describe any forest health challenges they had experienced in the last several years. Responses are described below.

- Root disease in grand/white fir, e.g. • Armillaria root disease (*Armillaria ostoyae*) or Annosus root disease (*Heterobasidion annosum*)
- Black stain root disease (*Leptographium wageneri*)
- Pine butterfly (white butterflies on ponderosa pine) (*Neophasia munapia*)
- Dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium* spp.)
- Declining subalpine fir (likely Balsam Woolly Adelgid) (*Adelges piceae*)
- Bark beetle in grand/white fir (fir engraver, *Scolytus ventralis*)
- Tip damage (drooping red needles on branch ends in ponderosa pine and pines in general), due to Diplodia tip blight (*Sphaeropsis sapinea* = *Diplodia pinea*) or western gall rust
- Western gall rust in lodgepole and

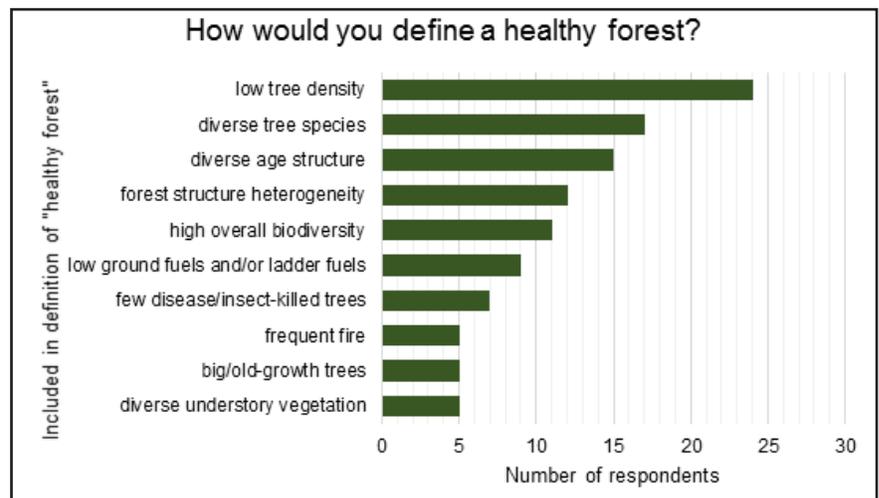


Figure 1. Forest characteristics included in respondents' definition of a "healthy forest". This graph shows characteristics mentioned by 5 or more people.

¹ Bennett, M., Fitzgerald, S.A., Parker, B., Main, M., Perleberg, A., Schnepf, C.C., Mahoney, R. Reducing Fire Risk on Your Forest Property. PNW 618. Published October 2010. 40 pages.

ponderosa pines (*Endocronartium harknessii*)

- Western spruce budworm on grand/white fir and Douglas-fir (*Choristoneura occidentalis*) –(NOT pine)–
- Blue stain in pine sapwood (this results from bark beetle attacks: the beetles carry the fungus on their bodies and inoculate the sapwood upon entry into the phloem area under the bark)
- Black pineleaf scale on ponderosa pine (*Nuculaspis californica*)
- Ips bark beetles (pine engraver beetles, Ips pini)
- The need for watering newly planted seedlings to improve survival and establishment
- Red trees/dead trees (cause unknown)

Twenty percent of the landowners interviewed had professional forestry experience, while others had little to no forest management experience, so there was a wide range of expertise with forest pests and disease. Some landowners confidently identified and managed specific issues, while others expressed a desire for more education and training to help them manage forest health.

This work provides insights into the forest health issues landowners view as important, what they think defines forest health and how that might impact fire behavior, and finally what additional information is needed to improve management decisions.

If you would like to learn more about forest health and management in eastern Oregon see Oregon State University Extension's guidebook *Ecology and Management of Eastern Oregon Forests: A Comprehensive Manual for Forest Managers* (Manual 12) or contact an OSU Extension Office near you. Also consider contacting an Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester who can provide free technical assistance, including pest and disease identification. Find your local Stewardship Forester here: www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/FindAForester.aspx

Baker and Grant County News

*Bob Parker, Extension Forester,
Baker/Grant Counties*

I thought it would be interesting to take a look at some of the things going on in the national and international lumber markets, which of course influence what's going on with our local log markets. And for your amusement and edification another Letters to the Treeman I pulled from the archives. See page 12 - enjoy!

US Home Sales Strong.

From: Lauren Thomas, CNBC.

U.S. home prices rose slightly less than what was anticipated for the month of March, according to new data from the S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index. But the gains were enough to reach a 33-month high, climbing at the strongest rate in nearly three years. This, as inventory of homes for sale remains "unusually low," the group said.

The national home price index increased 5.8 percent in March, while analysts were expecting home prices to rise by 5.9 percent for the month, according to Thomson Reuters consensus estimates. Meanwhile, the widely tracked 20-city home price index rose 5.9 percent from a year ago in March, the most since July 2014. The latest data released Tuesday shows that home prices continued their impressive rise, across the country, over the past 12 months. Home prices had hit a record in September, and the pace of growth accelerated ever since then. Among the 20 cities surveyed for this report, Seattle, Portland and Dallas just reported their highest year-over-year gains. The smallest gain of 4.1 percent was in New York.

"People are staying in their homes longer rather than selling and trading up," David Blitzler, managing director and chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones Indices, said in a statement. "If mortgage rates, currently near 4%, rise further, this could deter more people from selling and keep pressure on inventories and prices."

"While prices cannot rise indefinitely, there is no way to tell when rising prices and mortgage rates will force a slowdown in housing."

Impact of U.S. Duties: Delivered-Lumber Cost Curve/Competitiveness Set to Change.

The current softwood lumber trade dispute is a continuation of previous U.S. concerns going back to 1980. Most estimates expect the combined/ final duties in January 2018 to be 25%–30%; can it be only a coincidence that the Canadian dollar has devalued by about 25% since January 2013? The net result, as we are forecasting (Global Timber/Sawmill/Lumber Cost Benchmarking Report), will be higher U.S. lumber prices that will keep Canadian mills in play while enabling European exporters to expand the volumes they ship to the U.S. market. This will be especially noticeable in 2018, when the full brunt of the final export duties will fall on the shoulders of Canadian mills. The duties will allow U.S. West mills to finally achieve higher sawmilling margins than Canadian mills; this is despite the region having the highest delivered log costs in North America (almost double those of the U.S. South, whose delivered log costs are only slightly higher than those of Canada's SPF region). It will be a bumpy road going forward, and price volatility will be increasingly evident.

From: International Wood Markets Group. May 2017 Monthly International Report Highlights. www.woodmarkets.org.

Klamath Basin Research and Experiment Station (KBREC) News

Daniel Leavell, Extension Forester,
Klamath/Lake/Harney Counties

Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project

About 30 Rainbow Park Subdivision landowners attended a public meeting Tuesday, the 14th in Chiloquin to learn how they can work with the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) to reduce wildland fire danger, assist effective fire response, and improve forest health and wildlife habitat on private land surrounding the town of Chiloquin. The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership held the meeting to kick-off its Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project, which includes about 32,000 acres owned by about 3,200 landowners. Both the Chiloquin and Klamath County Community Wildfire Protection Plans identify the Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project area as high-risk for wildland fires. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the American Forest Foundation are providing assistance for this effort. More information on the Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project, and ways landowners can reduce

fire danger, while connecting with specialists and each other can be viewed at the KLFHP website at www.klfhp.org. The Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project area is adjacent to the 97,500-acre Lobert Restoration Project on the Fremont-Winema National Forest and is an opportunity to complete cross-boundary treatments on public and private land. The key to making this effort a success is for all landowners to outreach to your neighbors. A collective success over this large landscape depends on the participation of all the individuals who live here.

We have completed vegetation maps from satellite images for the entire 32,000 acres. We will be contacting landowners for permission to conduct a ground-truthing and inventory of natural resource information property by property.



Verticillium Wilt

A year and a half ago, a property owner in Klamath Falls called and asked for an opinion on a favored variegated maple tree (*Acer platanoides*) in his yard. He and his wife were worried they would lose it. The tree had several branches with dead and curled leaves, overall bleached, neurotic leaves, and a large, bleeding canker along its trunk. The tree was about 30 to 40 years old and held a dominant place in the yard.

A friend who owned a nursery advised them to cut it down. Calling OSU Extension for advice was a final effort to save it. Thanks to resources from the OSU Plant Disease Clinic on campus, I was able via the signs and symptoms to diagnose a case of Verticillium Wilt (*Verticillium dahliae*). According to the Clinic, “Verticillium dahliae, a soilborne fungus that, once established in the soil, is almost impossible to eradicate due to microsclerotia that germinate and infect roots. The fungus grows into the xylem where it colonizes the plant through mycelial growth and conidial production. Fluid movement in the xylem passively transports the conidia. Once in the xylem, this fungus partially blocks water movement and produces toxins that result in wilt symptoms. The cambium may die, resulting in an elongate canker, which can be colonized by other pathogens such as *Nectria* sp. and *Cytospora* sp. Current-season sapwood may not be infected, and symptoms may not reappear; or infection may occur without foliar symptoms. This may result in branch dieback or bud failure in spring.”

I prescribed a treatment that included a systemic fungicide, some clearing and mulching around the base of the tree, pruning, and fertilizer for overall strength. Last week the property owners called telling me to rush over and see the tree. Knowing the treatment was risky at best, which is what I told them up front, I wasn't sure what to expect. When at the yard, two beaming folks proudly highlighted their beautiful – and HEALTHY – maple! The treatments worked.

Proud to be an Extension Agent!

Delivered

LOG MARKET REPORT \$/1,000 board feet

June 15, 2017

Umatilla/Pendleton										
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs	
	6-11"	12-17"	18-23"	24"+						
285-400	—	190-260	350-390	375-430	425-445	330	300	—	call	
La Grande/Elgin										
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs	
	6-11"	9-11"	12-17"	18+"	20-24"					
425	270	260	360	400	400	330	270	—	call	
Burns/John Day										
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					Grand fir /White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs	
	8-11"	12"+	24+"	30"+						
8" - 300	—	260	315	315	315	8"- 190	—	—	—	
11"+ 300						11"+ 240				
Redmond/Bend/Gilchrist										
Douglas-fir /Larch	Ponderosa Pine					White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Engelmann Spruce	Pulp/Chip Logs	
	6-13"	14-19"	20-24"+	25"+						
—	250	345	350-400	425		—	—	—	—	
Export to Longview Pine — Hemlock —										
Export to Dallasport J-Sort C-Sort										
Lakeview/Klamath Falls										
Douglas-fir Western Larch	CR	Ponderosa Pine				White fir	Lodgepole Pine	Incense Cedar		
		8-11"	12-16"	17-23"	24"+					
—	—	285	325	400	400	8"+ 325	8"+ 300	300		
<i>Source: Oregon Log Market Report, Editor John Lindberg, ph 360-693-6766, fax 360-694-8466, logmkt@comcast.net</i>										

Summer 2017 Log Market Summary

Log prices have remained relatively flat since March with some increases in some areas. The long wet spring slowed logging activity, with the drier weather logging will pick up. The export market has been steadily improving with China, Japan and Korea buying logs. Exporters have opened the Umatilla log yard and are buying multiple species. Longview and Dallesport are also buying export.

10507 N McAlister Rd
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 963-1010

Oregon State University Extension Service offers education program activities and materials without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age marital status, disability, and disable veteran or Vietnam era veteran–status as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Letters to the Treeman

(aka Steve Bowers , OSU Extension Forester). Circa 2008.

Dear Treeman,
My uncle is building an outhouse. I ask him if he was going to put a moon on the door. He said of course he was but that got me wondering. What's with the moon?
Signed, Dean.



Dear Dean,
We may have need for a scatologist to assist in this edition. Your uncle's outhouse, or thunderbox, earth-closet, long-drop, privy, crapper... the list goes on... is subject to state and local government restriction, regulation, and in some cases prohibition. Procedures differ throughout the region, so be sure to check with your respective controlling legal authority.

According to some, the crescent moon began during the colonial period. It stands for the ancient sign, luna, or womanhood, and connotated the women's space. The sign of the sunburst or sol (star) indicated the men's room. When the outhouse was first invented people needed these signs to discern which was the men's or women's bathroom due to the illiteracy of most of the general public.

Regardless, just about everyone will agree the purpose of the hole is for venting and light: no one likes working in the dark. And a crescent moon, restricting an outsiders view, is a logical shape as a full moon may give the viewer just that.

Supporting the theory that things never change, the men's bathroom became rundown and was very unkempt, so everyone began using the women's room. Thus, the men's sunburst sign fell out of favor while the moon sign remained as the symbol for what became the uni-toilet. Supporters of today's gender-neutral restrooms unquestionably fall under the Treeman Commandment: they're so far behind they think they're ahead. So you see? There's nothing new under the sun... or moon.

Treeman