

# Private forest owners and environmental stressors

## *Understanding forest management challenges*

### Overview

Across the West landowners are facing land management challenges due to environmental stressors like drought, wildland fire, insects and tree disease. This project aims to understand what kinds of management challenges private forest owners face in eastern Oregon. By surveying private forest owners we can gain a better understanding of the concerns and needs of the community, and use this information to improve forest health and management.

### Key Question and Methods

*What environmental stressors are private forest owners experiencing, and what are they most concerned about?*

Semi-structured in-person interviews will be conducted lasting from 30 minutes to 2 hours on the landowner's property or in a public setting, at their convenience. Forest owners will be asked about recent forest and range management challenges and any management actions they may have taken to address these challenges. Subjects will include forest health, drought, wildfire, wildlife, and agriculture where applicable. Landowners will also have an opportunity to indicate on a map of their land where they are most concerned about threats, or where they have taken certain management actions. Landowners will be able to keep these notes for personal reference.

*Do forest owners have the tools they need to address challenges?*

We will also ask participants about concerns regarding potential future environmental stressors, and whether they have the tools and resources needed to address these challenges. This information will help improve public education and training programs like those of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

### A note on privacy

Participating in this research contributes valuable information to the broader community of forest managers and private landowners. Participants may refuse to answer any of the questions asked, or end the interview at any time, and responses will be kept anonymous. Data collected through our mapping exercise is used only with the landowner's permission.

### Acknowledgements and Funding

This research is part of the Communities and Forests (CAFOR) project in cooperation with the University of Colorado, the Carsey School of Public Policy and the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Louisville, Oregon State University College of Forestry Extension, and Wallowa Resources. Funding for this research was provided by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA grant no. 2014-68002-21782).



For more information, or to participate in this survey, please contact:

Angela Boag, M.Sc.  
Ph.D. Student, Communities and Forests in Oregon (CAFOR) Project

Phone: 720-212-6505  
Email: [angela.boag@colorado.edu](mailto:angela.boag@colorado.edu)  
[www.cafor.weebly.com](http://www.cafor.weebly.com)