

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

August 2008

Message From the President

Landowner News is the official newsletter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

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Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

Edited by Martin Flynn Public Affairs,
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On August 15, State Officers and Chapter Presidents headed to Spokane to hold a Board Meeting. This rather complicated endeavor (rather than meet at the WFFA office in Centralia) was to assist our east side representatives who make many treks to the west side for our meetings. It also gives the entire executive board opportunity to hear some east side concerns first hand.

As an organization, we are dealing with some tough decisions. No small tree farmer I know is happy with the present regulatory system. We feel that we have been let down. Legislative promises made to small forest landowners in Forests and Fish and subsequent legislation have not been fulfilled. We are trying to find the best way to rectify this situation.

Such negotiations can be lengthy and at times, touchy. Be assured that we will try and keep you informed and seek your input as best we can as we continue forward helping you be recognized and perhaps even rewarded for your responsible stewardship.

On another note, last week I spent some time planning one of the bus tours for the National Tree Farm Meeting being held in Portland in mid-October. I hope you can attend. I would love to see you on my tree farm as we demonstrate early 20th century steam logging. And hey, given present diesel prices, it might soon be early 21st century steam logging too!

Bob Brink

Calendar

Register Now for the 2008 National Tree Farmer Convention

"Where Tall Trees Grow" is the theme of this year's National Tree Farmer Convention, October 16-18th at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Workshops will feature the latest information on carbon credits, intergenerational transfer, recreational income and forest products technology. Additional events include a Field Day at award-winning Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm, exhibits and silent auction, a banquet and awards ceremony and optional tours and workshops showcasing local tree farming and other attractions. For more information and to register online, visit http://www.treefarmssystem.org/cms/pages/73_1.html or call co-chair Tom Fox @ 360-749-1302.

Family Forest Owners Field Day August 23

PULLMAN, Wash. . Recovery from last winter's windstorm and flooding damage will be an area of focus for the Regional Family Forest Owners Field Day, scheduled Saturday, Aug. 23, near Naselle.

Southwest Washington and northwest Oregon were hit hard by 36 hours of winds last December, said Andy Perleberg, Washington State University Extension forestry educator. The coastal forests were besieged and small landowners were hit especially hard. The field day will provide information and skills to help landowners make sound decisions to protect and enhance their rural lifestyle, the health and beauty of their forests and their financial investment.

The field day will offer presentations on more than 20 topics, including many topics focusing on helping landowners devastated by storm damage: salvaging blowdown, managing a timber sale, reforestation, forest health, thinning and pruning, and more.

Join the more than 5,600 landowners who have participated in this out-in-the-woods

educational event. Gates open 8 a.m. Presentations start at 9 a.m. Register before August 19 and pay \$20 per person or \$30 for two. Registration on the day of the event \$30 per person and \$40 for two or more.

Bring your own lunch, order an on-site barbecue lunch benefiting the FFA, or dine in nearby Naselle. BBQ lunch should be preordered no later than August 19. Cost is \$8 per lunch. Naselle is about 23 miles east of Long Beach and about 17 miles north of Astoria, Ore.

Mobility assistance is available if requested in advance.

Registration information is available at <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship/> or contact your local WSU Extension office. Contact Andy Perleberg at (509) 667-6540 or andyp@wsu.edu if you have any questions.

Ties to the Land

Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage, Planning for an Orderly Transition, Intergenerational Family Forest Project.

As written in the last issue of 'Landowner News', the WFFA with support from American Tree Farm, Austin Family Business Program, Family Forest Foundation, and WSU Extension Forestry are scheduling eight seminars to be held around the state this fall and winter. Currently the cities and tentative schedules are: Eastside - Colville (Nov. 3rd & 24th), Spokane (Nov. 10th & Dec. 1st), Wenatchee (to be announced). Westside: Everett (tba), Mt. Vernon (tba), Seattle (tba), Olympia (tba), Aberdeen (tba), and Kelso (tba).

The seminars will explain a process of succession planning, a process that could save time and money as you consider entering into estate planning for your tree farm. We are currently seeking contributions to keep registration fees low and help offset the cost of the notebooks, video, meeting rooms and facilitator support. Contact the WFFA office at (360) 736-5750 or email info@wafarmforestry.com for more information.

Timber Industry/Conservation Groups to Work Together on Spotted Owl Solution

The state Forest Practices Board has given its unanimous support to a group made up primarily of timber industry officials and conservationists to work on spotted owl habitat protection on private forestlands.

The group is committed to exploring voluntary, incentive-based measures that could help landowners remain economically whole when old trees are left standing.

In the past, timber interests and conservationists have wrangled before the forestry board and in court over rules, regulations and enforcement of forest practices designed to protect owls on private timberlands.

Seattle and Kittitas Audubon Society chapters sued the state Department of Natural Resources and Weyerhaeuser Co. in 2006 over harvest of owl habitat in southwest Washington.

A confidential settlement of the lawsuit announced last week calls on the new spotted owl working group to find a long-range solution to managing owl habitat on private lands.

The northern spotted owl has been federally listed as a threatened species since 1990 and most of their nest sites and habitat are found on federal land. State and private forestlands play a secondary, but still important, role in owl recovery.

But owl populations continue to sharply decline with everything from habitat loss to invasion of the more-aggressive barred owl to blame.

The policy group will consist of 11 to 17 members, conduct its work in public meetings and probably convene for the first time in September. The WFFA will recommend a small forest landowner for the policy group. It has until November 2009 to deliver recommendations to the board.

Log Market Report

Originally Published July 23, 2008, by the
NCW Farm Forestry Association

Log Market Report: Log markets fluctuate and are now in a low cycle.

The number of sawmills operating has decreased significantly during the past 10 years, due mainly to a lack of supply - not enough timber logged in the mill's working circle to operate. The log prices reported here are not cast-in-stone. Log buyers will want to know the quantity and quality of your logs before offering you prices.

Sawmills and Estimated Log Prices:

Hampton Resources, Darrington, WA: Douglas fir 5"+ = \$490 per MBF; Grand fir 5"+ = \$390 per MBF; Lodgepole pine 5"+ = \$400 Per MBF;

Sierra Pacific Industries, Mt. Vernon, WA: DF 6"+ = \$460 per MBF; GF & Western hemlock 6+ = \$370 per MBF. Remember to reduce these prices by at least 20% to convert to Eastside log prices - the difference between Long Log Scale (Westside) and Short Log Scale (Eastside).

Colville Timber Resources, Omak, WA: Plywood Lengths: DF&WL: 7-9" = \$300; 10"+ = \$400; PP 7-9" = \$250; 10-16" = \$325; GF 7-9" = \$300; 10+ = \$375; Pulp 4"+ = \$35 per Ton;

Boise Cascade, Kettle Falls, WA: Plywood Lengths: DF&WL: 6"+ = \$440; Sawmill Lengths: PP 6-10" = \$360; 11"+ = \$450. BC is actively seeking logs for its mill.

If you are logging or having it done, be sure to check-out the pulp log market. It's a good way to remove non-sawlog material from your property, such as trees to a 2-3 inch top. The landowner is likely to breakeven removing pulp logs, because the logger will need all of the chip plant price to cut, skid, load, and haul this material at \$35-\$40 per Ton. For sawlogs your logger will likely demand a larger percentage of the delivered log prices in the current market. He normally operates at a fixed cost per MBF or Ton to stay in business.

Tree Farm System Receives International Certification

At 9:49 AM EST, Thursday, August 7, 2008, the threshold vote for PEFC endorsement was received at PEFC Council, Geneva, Switzerland.

With this vote, the American Tree Farm System is now formally recognized and endorsed as an internationally credible sustainable forest management certification system.

This shining achievement belongs to each and every one of you who shouldered us through this nine year endeavor. You all have dedicated countless hours to the American Tree Farm System, many of you sacrificing your own personal time and expense because you believed in the American Tree Farm System and the values and principles it stands for.

This path has not been easy and it has involved much change, but the change has brought its hard-earned benefits. This recognition now opens the door to new markets abroad and on shore. Already, many nations are setting procurement policies that would have barred our forest owners' products from their markets. As future markets of other non-timber products emerge such as carbon and bio-fuels, international certification endorsement is materializing as a prerequisite for entrance.

Although I am personally proud of this achievement, I am most proud of having the honor to be associated with so many of you whose dedication and devotion to the health of our family forest lands has brought our Tree Farmers to this pinnacle. I give my heartfelt thanks to you all and my congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,
Bob Simpson
Senior Vice President
Center for Family Forests
American Forest Foundation

Tree Farm System Recognizes Stewardship Plans for Certification

Washington Farm Forestry has joined the Washington Forest Protection Association as a co-sponsor of the Washington Tree Farm Program, an affiliate of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

The American Tree Farm Program is a certification program and is mutually recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification program. Now, large forest landowners typically are certified by SFI, while the non-industrial tree farmers use the ATFS.

The ATFS is also known for its National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. Washington State tree farmers have received this national award twice in recent years. Tom and Sherry Fox of Ethel were the 2005 winners and Bob and Lynette Falkner of Frances were the 2003 winners. Bob Playfair, the 2006 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year was named the Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year for 2007.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and the ATFS have announced that ATFS certification universally recognizes DNR-approved multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plans as meeting management planning requirements for family forest landowners.

Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President, American Forest Foundation said the recognition will open the door for thousands of Washington's family forest owners seeking affordable certification of their forest management.

If you would like your tree farm to be certified by the Washington Tree Farm Program, call (360) 736-5750 or e-mail: info@watreefarm.org.

Global Warming, Climate Change, Cap and Trade: What does it all mean?

by Steve Stinson



Federal legislation implementing a nation wide cap and trade system is widely expected in the near future. In the mean time, the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) has been busy developing a cap and trade strategy which is expected to heavily influence federal efforts. WCI is a

collaborative process led by the Governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington to develop regional strategies to address climate change. Utah, Montana and the Premiers of British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec have also joined the Initiative. WCI is identifying, evaluating and implementing collective and cooperative ways to reduce greenhouse gases in the region. On July 23, 2008 WCI announced Draft Design Recommendations and Draft Essential Requirements for Reporting which can be found at <http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/>

So what is cap and trade?

The goal: To limit the rise in global temperature by reducing carbon dioxide and other emissions from companies as part of a larger plan for curbing global warming.

The cap: Businesses would have to obtain permits allowing them to release a certain quantity of carbon dioxide (emission quotas).

The trade: Companies unable to meet their emission quotas could purchase credits (offsets) from other companies that have acquired more credits than they need. The cost of buying and selling these credits would be determined by the marketplace.

How does this affect you? One way forestlands may participate is to sell carbon emission "credits" to power plants or other entities required to reduce their emissions to the regional "cap and trade" system being designed by WCI. Pacific Northwest forests and long-lived forest products act as sinks for atmospheric carbon, and careful accounting of those functions could create sellable credits. Sellable credits may come from working forests, forest

products, forests set aside or managed for conservation, reforestation or avoiding conversion of forest land to non-forest use. These recommendations represent significant advances for the forestry community when compared to earlier efforts such as the Kyoto agreements. However, the devil is in the implementation details and terms such as "permanent, additional, transparent and real" will need to be defined at the program level in ways that are meaningful to sustainable forestry operations.

At the State level our Governor has established the Climate Action Team and last year our legislature passed House Bill 2815 which tasked the Departments of Ecology and Community Trade and Economic Development to report back this fall with recommendations on potential cap and trade systems along with other incentive programs to reduce greenhouse gas production at the state level. A Forest Sector Working Group has been formed to help meet this request. A detailed explanation of the Working Group can be found at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/008FA_overview.htm

A lot is happening very quickly on the cap and trade front. The State and WCI processes are open to public comment and it behooves us all to be informed.

Finally, the American Forest Foundation has named Oregon as a case study for carbon credit trading under the Chicago Climate Exchange protocol. There is potential for Washington State to partner in this effort. More information will be provided as the process progresses. In the meantime check out the forestry guidelines for the CCX at http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/docs/offsets/CCX_Rulebook_Chapter09_OffsetsAndEarlyActionCredits.pdf

Steve Stinson is the president of the Lewis Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association and represents the Association and the Family Forest Foundation on the Washington State Forest Sector Working Group developed by the legislature. For more information on these efforts he can be contacted at stevestinson@familyforestfoundation.org.

You Need to Know This

Desired Future Conditions

Desired Future Conditions (DFC) sounds like some mythical rules for utopia and are actually the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources guidelines for what they want our forests to be. DFC is the complicated formula that they use to show us how many leave trees (conifer only) for both sides of every foot of every "fish" stream in the state THAT IS PRACTICING FORESTRY as a land use.

In 1999 the table below was used for DFC as best science (BS):

Site Class of Forestland	DFC Basal Area
1	285 sq. ft.
2	275sq. ft.
3	258sq. ft.
4	224sq. ft.
5	190sq. ft.

So the DFC target of basal area (in square feet) that was politically decided during the Forest and Fish Report (FFR), has now been deemed inadequate. Through the Cooperative Monitoring and Evaluation Research (CMER) Adaptive Management process a new basal area utopia has been decided to be 325 sq. ft. for all Forest Site Classes (Soil Quality).

Figuring basal area in the forest prior to harvest is a requirement that Forest Industry decided they could manage. And with foresters on staff it is easier for them to do so. But this left tree farmers to figure it out on their own, pay a forester to do it for them, or just leave a big enough buffer (usually 200') to make sure they stayed out of trouble. And now the number of trees and size of those trees that need to be left in the three tier buffers of 'fish' streams has been proposed to be changed by the Forest Practice Board (FPB). This is why we continue to fight within FFR Policy discussions for a simple single tier buffer for Small Forest Landowners.

Please consider letting the FPB know what you think of this rule change. Your comments are needed if the FPB is to better understand the difficulty that this complexity imposes on the small business of tree farming. We need you to help get us to a simpler rule.

Send written comments to Patrica Anderson at:
Forest Practices Board PO Box 47012 Olympia, WA
98504-7012
360.902.1413 / Fax 360.902.1428
forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

King County Land Grab Overruled

The Washington State Court of Appeals has invalidated the 65 percent set-aside rule in King County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). This ordinance required rural property owners in King County to set aside 50 percent to 65 percent of their property in a permanent state of "natural vegetation."

The appellate court held that the 65 percent set-aside rule violates a state law prohibiting a "tax, fee, or charge" on land use.

Specifically, the CAO limited rural landowners with five acres or more to clearing only 35 percent of their property, forcing them to maintain the remaining 65 percent as native vegetation indefinitely. Rural landowners owning less than five acres may clear only 50 percent of their parcels. Affected landowners were not compensated and were not relieved from paying taxes on the portion of the property rendered useless by the CAO.

Understanding the Value of Well-Managed Forests

by Mark Doumit

Originally Published in the Seattle Times



MOST of the time when you read about logging and forestry, especially in urban newspapers, the focus is on controversy. That's a shame. In reality, forestry is one of the greatest success stories in the Northwest. The industry has been a vital part of our state for more than 150 years. It continues to sustain the values

we hold dear - our heritage, environmental benefits and jobs that sustain our rural economies - while producing products that everyone uses in their daily lives. But this good news rarely makes even the back pages, and never the headlines.

If we were smart, we'd realize that wood is an amazing material. It's renewable, sustainable, stores carbon in trees and wood products and provides homes for wildlife. Forestry is truly a preferred land use. Managed forestlands that are harvested and replanted at 40- or 50-year intervals continuously provide clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and numerous other benefits at no cost to the public.

Our Northwest forest practices are based on a farming model, in which two to three trees are planted to replace every one that is harvested. This model focuses on sustainability. In other areas around the globe - such as Brazil and Indonesia, which have the highest loss of natural forests in the world - forests are simply extracted or converted to other land uses and not replanted.

Environmentally, there is no better building product than wood because it is natural and renewable. Most people are unaware of all the energy, mostly from burning fossil fuels, that goes into creating other building products such as steel, aluminum and concrete.

Our forests act like trillions of solar panels, pulling carbon-based air pollution out of the atmosphere and storing it through photosynthesis in the trunk of the tree. The carbon stays in the wood, even after the timber is harvested.

So using wood for our homes and furniture is the most environmentally sensitive choice we can make. Washington is the first state in the country to have forestry acknowledged in climate-change

legislation for wood's ability to store carbon and the other environmental benefits forests provide.

A majority of our legislators understand the value of well managed forests. Under the Forests & Fish law, administered by our state Department of Natural Resources, we have the best forest-management regulations in the nation and indeed the world. Our current forest-practice rules are the product of broad, bipartisan support by the Legislature with the support of two Democratic governors - Gary Locke and Christine Gregoire. A public body, called the Forest Practices Board, oversees development of forest practices. By any account, we've seen tremendous progress in the past eight years, under direction of Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland. As part of the Forests and Fish law, more than 1,570 miles of stream habitat on private forestland has been opened for salmon and other fish. The new law has resulted in the largest-scale improvement for fish in our state's history by removing blockages, replacing culverts and fixing roads. This newly opened, natural spawning ground and habitat will help improve our fish runs.

Forestry in Washington is about our heritage, but also about our future. When foresters plant trees, it is truly an act of faith that in another 50 years, the next generation will be able to enjoy and benefit from that forest.

With this state growing by an additional 1.5 million people over the next 10-15 years, there will continue to be some forestland conversion. A healthy timber economy, careful management and strong forest-practices laws will make sure that our forests continue to provide clean water and wildlife habitat, both urban and rural jobs, products essential to our everyday lives and to help slow the conversion of forestland to developed land.

Next time you read about forestry, try to remember all the benefits that a working forest provides. Also remember how lucky we are to live in a region with some of the best growing ground for trees in the world, with among the toughest environmental laws in the nation and the blessing we have in being able to say we are from the Evergreen State.

Mark Doumit is executive director of the Washington Forest Protection Association, www.wfpa.org, based in Olympia.

**Welcome New
WFFA Members!**

Membership Chair **Donna Loucks** reports the following new members. We hope that joining the WFFA brings support in making your tree farm an enjoyable and profitable part of your life.

AT LARGE
Will Wagoner

COWLITZ
Robert & Ada Emry

SOUTH SOUND
Michael & Tammie Perreault

SPOKANE
Jennie Dickinson and Family
Glen Barbara Feagins
Bill & Marlene Guhlke

UPS
Brent Tuckfield & Margaret Cahill

From the Executive Director's Desk



While we hear of the log markets being down (while just about everything else we want is up), of expected campaign posturing that wants us to question the very value of our county, of climate change, carbon markets, and other winds swirling out of our control, I am reminded that tree farmers are in it for the long haul. Your trees will likely withstand many market changes, elections, and 'emerging' ideas that predict our doom or our salvation.

So, while giving tours of my tree farm this month, I found myself instead talking about the good rain that we have been blessed with this year in our area, the better than average leader growth on my trees, and the hope of markets to come. That led me to reflect on the fact that all the educational, policy, and legislative work of our Association pales in comparison to the value that you and your tree farm bring this state.

I have also been reminded recently of the many supporting groups working on your behalf today. National groups like the American Tree Farm Program, the National Woodland Owners Association, and the Forest Landowners Association all have staff and are working in Washington DC to develop recognition and benefits for all woodlot owners in our nation. The WFFA office stays in contact with all of them, and their work, for you.

Here in Washington, the WFFA also takes great pride in working for all tree farmers of the state. We feel that a core value of serving the greater good is important to you too. We hope that the WFFA is the association that you are willing to continue to support, for the Chapter education and programs, for the many partnerships we engage in, and for efforts to be your tax and legislative watchdog in this rapidly changing world. If this connects with you, we ask you to consider introducing our association to a neighbor who might not know of the support we bring our state, just hand them this newsletter (or email it) and ask them to consider joining. If they ask why, just tell them it's for the generations to come.

Treefully,

Rice Dunning

Washington Farm Forestry Membership Application

Name _____

If this is a family membership:

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

Local Chapter _____

City, State and Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Dues Level (Please check One)

- General 1-40 acres \$65
- General 41-200 acres \$125
- General 201 and up \$175
- Lifetime \$1700 (onetime payment)
- Associate \$65 (non-land owning)
- Additional Chapter(s) @ \$10

Name of Additional Chapter(s) _____

Additional Voluntary Contribution to Support WFFA . Amount \$ _____

Please cut off this form and mail with a check made payable to %WFFA+ to:

Washington Farm Forestry Association
P.O. Box 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532

Please use this form to encourage new members to join.
Current members are invoiced annually in December.