

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

October 2004

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

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Edited by Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.,
Olympia, Washington.



Message From the President

I'm writing this in a poll site as an election worker for this year's Primary. Based on the reaction of folks forced to pick a particular Party Ballot, and my own inclination to vote for a person rather than a party, it's clear

Washingtonians cherish their independence and the privacy of their political preferences very highly.

WFFA has a long history of not endorsing any candidate, presumably for some or all of the following: our membership and officers appear to mirror the general population politically; the Agency folks we deal with are also likely as diverse politically; & forest management, at least on private land, shouldn't be a political issue. Our Association's needs are bi-partisan and we certainly need bi-partisan support for regulatory relief or any legislative agenda we might have.

I don't understand why the Commissioner of Public Lands isn't a non-partisan office, but I do understand how this position can impact our forestland management flexibility, economic viability, and the cooperation/services available to forestland owners.

Regardless of my own, or your political persuasion it would be irresponsible of me as your President to not personally commend the work of the incumbent, Doug Sutherland. From my vantage point, Doug is an atypical politician in that he's been more about effective management in the various government organizations I've watched him manage over the last 20+ years.

We sure don't get everything we want from the DNR but over the last 4 years there has certainly been an improving culture that's far more receptive to our concerns. We are making progress, albeit slowly, and cannot afford the risk of an untested candidate that could easily reverse the gains and stifle our future options.

Regardless of your political leanings I personally urge you to be a typical Washingtonian by voting for the person regardless of party. Doug Sutherland is one of those individuals who has proven to be an effective administrator that cares about small family forestland owners.

Sincerely,

Ken Miller,
President

P.O. Box 7663
Olympia WA 98507
Phone: 360/459-0984
Fax: 360/687-7595
Visit us on the Web at:

www.wafarmforestry.com

Association Name Change Discussion

An Ad Hoc committee created to explore the idea of a name change for our association has begun evaluating potential names for the Board's review. The process to explore a more descriptive name requires us to re-examine who we are and what we stand for. This is not a decision to be rushed, as we need time to absorb the idea and fully explore the options and ramifications while providing ample time for comments from the membership. A straw poll of the membership's desire for a name change will occur before any suggested names are presented to the membership for a formal vote, if at all.

The committee has agreed any potential name change should include the word "Washington"; "Forest" or "Forestland"; "Owner" &/or "Association"; and the word "Family", or some other word synonymous with, but more positive than "small" or "non-industrial". It would minimize confusion if we chose a name that gave us the same acronym (WFFA), but in any case we believe it should be no longer than 4 words/letters.

Also being explored is a change in our slogan in response to suggestions from several members. Our official Slogan is "A Crop Today—Another Tomorrow Through Good Forest Management". Another popular phrase "Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come" has been used in many of our publications to describe who we are. Until we deal with the name change idea it seems prudent to leave the official Slogan alone.

Some of the reasons for going through this process are the recognition that our membership has a multitude of management goals, generally including some level of harvests but perhaps not in our individual lifetimes. "Farm" and "Crop" are valid terms for what most of us do (at some point), but can a name change convey more of our shared goals/values?

Although still wide open to new ideas, including keeping our existing name, the following list includes the more popular names being considered:

WFFA
Washington Farm Forestry Association

WFFA
Washington Family Forest Association

WFFA
Washington Family Forestland Association

WFFO
Washington Family Forest Owners

WFFLA
Washington Family Forest Landowners Association

SFLW
Small Forest Landowners of Washington

FFOW
Family Forest Owners of Washington

FFLW
Family Forest Landowners of Washington

What do you think?

Pass your comments on to Ken Miller at kenmiller@olywa.com or Rick Dunning at rdunning@starband.net.

You may also mail your comments to WFFA at P.O. Box 7663 Olympia WA 98507.

Pinchot Institute for Conservation Survey

The Pinchot Institute (Washington, D.C.) is working on a survey that explores the top reasons why private forestland owners decide to fragment or convert their family forestlands. Mater Engineering, Ltd. has contracted with the Pinchot Institute in development of this survey.

The Washington Farm Forestry Association has chosen to take part in this study and has supplied Mater Engineering with the names of 50 member families that have offspring 16 years or older. You may be receiving a letter from Mater Engineering asking for your permission to contact your offspring and conduct an interview. We feel that your support in this project will bring greater understanding, in our nation, of private forest landowners. We would appreciate your involvement in the survey.

Tours for Teachers

The Temperate Forest Foundation has announced the locations and dates for their 2005 Forestry Tours for Teachers:

South Central, Hot Spring, Arkansas June 15-18
Western Canadian, Vancouver, British Columbia July 6-9
Lake States, Grand Rapids, Minnesota July 20-23
Northeastern, Saranac Lake, New York August 10-13

Sponsors are encouraged to recruit teachers from their local communities. TFF also matches interested teachers with sponsors who pay their transportation and registration fee. Emphasis is on urban teachers (science/social studies) in grades 3-8, but all K-12 teachers are accepted. Learn more by clicking on "Teachers" at www.forestinfo.org. To sponsor a teacher, fill out the online sponsorship application at: www.forestinfo.org/Teachers/FAQ-sponsors.htm. For additional information, please contact Morgan Holen at: morgan@forestinfo.org.

WASHINGTON AG/FORESTRY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Washington AgForestry Leadership Program is dedicated to advancing the natural resource industries through enhanced understanding, education and empowerment of future leaders. They have been instrumental in developing leadership skills for officers and staff of the WFFA.

Your Executive Board recently approved a \$1000 scholarship for any member of the Washington Farm Forestry Association who is accepted as a participant. To be eligible for this scholarship you must:

- be a member of the WFFA
- be a citizen of the USA and a Washington resident for at least one year.

- be able to take the required time away of 58 days over 18 months.
- remain in an ag/forestry/fishing profession or in a service sector dedicated to the natural resource industries during the 18 month term of fellowship.

You would be expected to attend all seminars and travel, assume leadership responsibility, participate in post-graduate leadership activity and help perpetuation of the AgForestry Leadership Program.

Participants, or their businesses, pay the \$2500 participants' tuition and meal fees on their own. This scholarship offer would help you pay for those costs.

This program is primarily subsidized by past participants and the natural resource industry.

If you would like to consider applying for or would like to receive more information about this program, contact them through their website at www.agforestry.org. For information regarding this scholarship offer contact Rick Dunning at 360.359.0984.

National Tree Farmer Convention

by Donna Loucks

The 11th annual National Tree Farmer Convention was held in Fort Collins, Colorado, on September 23-26th. WFFA members Norma Green, Bryon & Donna Loucks, Jack & Sylvia Schumacher, Doug Stinson, Walt & Dardean Wheaton attended, along with 2003 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Bob and Lynette Falkner. After an excellent keynote speech on family forests by Clint Bentz, 2002 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year from Oregon, attendees scattered to numerous concurrent sessions. On Saturday, a field day was held at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. Demonstrations and activities showed how "Tree Farming with Altitude" in Colorado is definitely different than conditions in western Washington. It more closely resembles the eastern Washington situation, with serious fire hazard concerns and limited markets. At the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, the North Central Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, Jim and Marlene Zdanovec, were awarded the 2004 National title. Although the Falkner family has relinquished their National title, they will always be outstanding tree farmers and we thank them for representing Washington so well during the past year.

EQIP Cost Share Available

If you are a non-industrial forest landowner, farmer, rancher, or small farm landowner, you may be eligible for up to 75% cost share for specific conservation practices. Incentive payments may also be provided for up to three years to encourage producers to carry out management practices they might not otherwise implement.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a federally funded program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns in an environmentally beneficial and cost effective manner. To achieve these EQIP goals, a conservation plan is provided to the landowner, who signs an EQIP contract and implements the plan, which may include structural, vegetative, and land management practices. *For information about the NRCS EQIP cost-share program, contact your local conservation district or NRCS office.*

Electronic Version of "Landowner News" Available

If you would rather receive your copy of "Landowner News" via e-mail, please let us know.

E-mail subscribers will receive a PDF file with all of the graphics and text of the printed version. PDF copies can be printed from your home computer. **This month's electronic edition will have extra photos from the Family Forest Field Day.**

E-mail subscriptions save the WFFA printing and mailing costs.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of "Landowner News," please send an e-mail to Membership Chair Donna Loucks at loucksd@localaccess.com. You will ONLY receive an electronic copy and no printed copy will be sent.

Calendar

For information on all three of the following conferences call WFCA at 503-226-456 or 888-722-9416. E-mail aimee@westernforestry.org.

Register for ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING THREE conferences online www.westernforestry.org

Alternative Species Silviculture or When Douglas Fir Isn't the Answer

December 1, 2004
Red Lion Hotel
Eugene, OR

Sponsored by: Emerald Chapter of Oregon Society of American Foresters and Western Forestry and Conservation Assoc.

Many silviculture plans now include alternative species. This workshop will take a closer look at ponderosa pine, red alder, coastal redwood, western red cedar, western hemlock and larch.

The agenda will provide detail on each species and cover: site selection, selecting nursery stock, animal damage, mixed species compatibility, site prep, vegetation control, insects and diseases, markets.

Registration Fee of \$85 for SAF member or Family Forest Owner and \$95 for SAF non-member.

Where There is Smoke, There is Fire

Western Forestry
Conference

December 7-8, 2004
Coeur d'Alene Resort
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

The interaction of smoke, fire and forestry in the management of western forests.

Registration is \$145 on or before 2/1/1 and \$175 after 12/1.

8th Annual PNW Integrated Vegetation Management Forestry and Rights-of-Way Conference

Sponsored by:
PNW-Integrated Vegetation
Management Association

November 9-10, 2004
Holiday Inn/Portland
Airport, Portland, OR.

Registration Fee is \$125 if postmarked by November 3, \$150 if postmarked after November 3, and \$25 for students.

2004 Fall Forestry Educational Seminar

"Forest Technology"

November 13, 2004

Pack Forest
Conference Center
Eatonville

The 2004 Fall Forestry Educational Seminar is an educational opportunity for owners of private forest land, professional foresters, and accredited loggers in Washington to learn about existing technologies as applied to managed, second-growth forests. Seminar is open to all; familiarity with these new technologies **not** required. Optional hands-on demonstration available.

For registration information contact:
Donna Loucks
360-736-2147
loucksd@localaccess.com

Sponsored by:

WSU Cooperative
Extension
UW College of Forest
Resources
DNR Forest Stewardship
WFFA
WCLA
Assoc. of Consulting
Foresters
Washington State SAF
USDA Forest Service R-6
Cooperative Programs

International Symposium on Red Alder: A State of Knowledge

March 23-25, 2005

University of
Washington Center for
Urban Horticulture,
Seattle

Once considered a weed, alder is now recognized as a premium commercial species and an important ecological component of Pacific Northwest forests. Yet changes that are affecting red alder management and utilization, including advances in our understanding of biology and silviculture, market and non-market values, and the regulatory climate may not be broadly understood. This symposium will bring together regional experts for a critical examination of the economic, ecological and social values of red alder.

Contact: Megan O'Shea
College of Forest
Resources.

Box 352100 University of
Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

206/543-9744
moshea@u.washington.edu

REDUCING ELK PROBLEMS

WILDLIFE TIPS FOR FAMILY FORESTS

by Dan L. Campbell

Wildlife Research Biologist
WFFA Member

wildlife@thurston.com
360/352-6055

Fences: Fencing to control elk damage to family forests is rarely usable unless high value crops need long term protection. Installation and maintenance of most elk-proof fencing is often very difficult and expensive. Elk seldom pay attention to fences unless they are heavy weight “hog-wire” or similar type fencing, and even the best New Zealand type fences have been destroyed by elk.

Do not challenge elk with fences, because they will usually win. Fencing should be considered *only on relatively level terrain where the elk can easily go around the fences. Fence small enclosures with openings between them.* Small enclosures of about 1/4 acre to 1 acre, can be fenced with lightweight “poultry wire”, or a durable small mesh black plastic fencing about 6 feet tall on posts, tall stumps, or similar support. Sites should be fenced for only a few years or unbrowsed brushy species may become dominant inside the enclosures. Costs for elk fencing should include maintenance, overall protection, aesthetics, and damage from other species. There may be a negative reaction to fences from

visitors or hunters. Habitat changes inside fences, such as an *increase in the density of grass will promote voles and girdling of tree stems.* Fencing to exclude rabbits and hares requires *1 inch diameter maximum mesh, partially buried and about 3 feet tall.* Fences will not exclude mountain beavers or pocket gophers.

Seedling Protectors:

Paper/plastic mesh seedling protectors originated in the late 1960's, were then developed into photodegradable “Vexar” plastic mesh seedling protectors for use against elk and deer and other damaging species. Elk chewing on tubes and bamboo supports is a problem in some areas. *To reduce damage to tubes and trees, the plastic mesh protectors should be installed on sticks, or any support, several months or a year before planting tree seedlings.* They will then usually ignore most of them after tree seedlings are planted. Bamboo stakes (“elk toothpicks”) should be installed so they are shorter than the tubes and less easily chewed or pulled. Avoid supporting tubes with bamboo if possible because it eliminates their flexibility. *Tubes can often be planted deeply and firmly to the first lateral roots at the time of planting.* Tubes can enclose the roots *if air pockets are*

avoided.

If seedling protectors cannot be installed for exposure to elk before planting, treatment may be required. *At the time of planting, or before installation, the seedlings, tubes, and bamboo should be treated with “Seadust Wildlife Controllant”.* Pre-treated tubes, tapes, and bamboo are available. Tree seedlings planted in high damage locations, such as benches near streams, will require treatment for several years either in spring or winter, or both. Seadust and treated tubes can be safely used along streams.



Repellents and

Controllants: Hundreds of candidate repellent materials have been tested, newer materials are Wildlife Controllants, which may either repel or attract certain wildlife species. Repellents and controllants must be safe for the animals and plants, the applicators, and safe for use along or in water and streams. Some of the earlier effective repellents were formulations of putrefied protein materials with low appeal to tree planters. Some of these formulations were diluted to have more acceptance and utility, but became ineffective because of low concentration. Bitter compounds, described as being systemic, are not usually repellent to deer or

elk and are difficult to use without affecting the user.

Recently patented and registered “Seadust Wildlife Controllant” has proven effective against elk in testing during spring and winter. It should be applied depending on the time period damage is expected; usually about the first of May or about the first of January. *Seadust should be applied to wet foliage and stems, or wet tubes.* Pretreated tubes and bamboo are available. Bundles of tree seedlings should be lightly sprayed with water and treated with Seadust before planting, or treated immediately after planting. Treating before planting is more cost effective. Treatment of new terminal foliage (usually about May 1, *after bud burst*), will protect terminal growth. Treatment of foliage in winter (usually about January 1) will protect dormant seedlings. Dan and Joanne Campbell and family conduct forest animal R&D on several family forest lands, and are members of the Washington Farm Forestry. Dan was leader of forest animal damage control research for USDA before returning to private R&D. They can be contacted at wildlife@thurston.com.

Welcome New Members

Membership Chair **Donna Loucks** reports the following new members. Best wishes that joining WFFA makes your tree farm and enjoyable part of your life.

At Large

Donald & Pam Gaines
Robert & Annette Seaman

Clark

Eric & Nancy Clark
Peggy Degg
James & Leah Mattila
Ralph & Lonna Parker
Barbara & Stephen Temme

Cowlitz

Paul & Suzy Gardner
Bernard & Jacqueline Graham
Abe & Rose Martin -
Paul & Judy Nys

Kittitas

Sean & Amber McAfee
George & Robin Smith
Bill & Mary Ellen Hundley

Lewis

Arthur D. Ciapponi
Roger & Sylvia Corbin
JoLe Miller
Gary & Andrea Phelps
Terry & Bobbie Robbins
Tom & Abby Treloggen
Josephine Vetter

Olympic

Patricia & Dannie Lewallen

Pacific

John & Rose Bay
Kathy & Jack Benoun
Gordon & Rebecca Chaffee
Larry & Mary Doubek
Robert D. Fischer
Linda & Royce Rotmark
Michael J. Sullivan

Pierce

Allan & Pamela Bennett
Mark & Isabel Boyd
Norman & Barbara Brandfas
Ron & Phyllis Byers
John & Kathy Clark
Jason & Cheri Coursey
Paul Forsberg
Eugene & Karen Freemon
Helen R. Griffin
Richard & Myrle Guthrie
Michael & Theresa Henley
Kevin Jones
Robert & Nancy Loiselle
John Nicholas & Linda Martin
Rose Karen & Katy McCullough
Michael Natzke & Sunny Sun
Thomas & Patricia Naugle
Nancy A. Nelson
Jeffrey & Paula Pielak
John & Cher Prettyman
Karen & Orville Quillen
Randall & Paula Ransom
Randall & Janet Redding
Alberto & Michele Rossi
Bruce Stelman
Vladmir & Shawna Stepin
Michael D. Stogsdill & Christine Loveland
Brian Wester & Sylvia Russell
Alan & Debra Willoughby
Susan B. Winston & Martha Faulkner

South Sound

Allen & Janice Erickson
Joe & Mary Gross
Rick Helman
Katherine Shelton
Diane Smith
Brooke & Esther Campbell

UPS

Karen Carlson-Iffert
Priscilla D. Darby
Shirley Hettiger
Anne McSharry
Brad & Susan Peterson
W.R. & Nancy Smith

Timber-Taxes Updates Await President's Signature

On October 11, by a vote of 69-17, the Senate cleared a \$137 billion corporate tax overhaul package and, since the House passed the bill last week, President Bush is expected to sign the bill (HR 4520) into law.

The measure repeals a current export tax break that has been deemed an unfair trade subsidy by the World Trade Organization, as well as modifying a number of timber-taxes, including Internal Revenue Code Section 631(b) and allowing landowners to expense of reforestation costs in an accelerated fashion. As most of you are aware, efforts have been underway for a long time – over 15 years – to obtain a change in the federal tax rules regarding the Internal Revenue Service requirements in the sale of timber necessary to ensure capital gains tax treatment on lump-sum sales. This effort has been one of the primary goals of the Forest Landowners Tax Council.

The legislation contains language that will amend IRC Section 631(b) to eliminate the requirement for timber sale contracts to contain a “retained economic interest” provision, which means that non-industrial private forest landowners will no longer be forced to sell under pay-as-cut contracts and will be able



to use “lump sum” sale contracts with no concern over the loss of capital gains treatment. While, in the big scheme of Washington legislative activity, this is a very minor issue (you won't hear about it on the evening news!!), it is a big deal in the field of timber taxation and is a big deal for non-industrial forest landowners in this country; Henry Barclay, a CPA in Birmingham, Alabama and a FLTC Board member, said “whether they know it or not, **this may be the most significant timber-tax legislation for non-industrial private forest landowners in our lifetimes.**”

The Forest Landowners

Tax Council has been the lead organization on the IRC Section 631(b) fix for years, having focused on the issue since our establishment in 1996. This tax reform will allow non-industrial private forest landowners capital gains treatment on income from lump-sum stumpage sales. FLTC is pleased to have recruited the interest of Senator Jeff Sessions, of Alabama, and Congressman Mac Collins, of Georgia, early on as the sponsors of 631(b)-correcting language, to have worked with the Joint Committee on Taxation to correctly calculate the measure's cost to the U.S. Treasury as "negligible," to have successfully promoted the language added to the JCT's Tax Simplification List (the only timber/forestry item listed), to have successfully encouraged the Land Trust Alliance – a high-profile environmental group – to write the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee to request passage, to have successfully worked to have the House of Representatives pass the modification in every Congress since and including the 105th, and to have enlisted the support of numerous allied organizations in the effort.

Water Typing System Implementation on Track

by Dennis McDonald
Water Typing Project Mgr
DNR-Forest Practices Division

Implementing the new Water Typing System is on track. Elements of the Implementation Plan submitted to the Forest Practices Board last February are being addressed. The following are items that have been addressed and those that continue to be worked on. Attached is the Implementation Plan as a guide to this update.

Merge 1 was completed October 1
This is all water type updates received by DNR prior to December 31, 2003
NOTE: DNR will not create updated WRIA 'zipped' GIS data files, we are moving directly onto Merge 2 and applying Overrides to reach the deadline of the February FPB meeting with the 'fish habitat water type maps'
Merge 2 will be completed in December. This is dependent upon the volume of 2004 water type updates submitted to DNR before September 1.
Updates received after September 1 will be addressed as time allows. The regulatory database will continue to be updated until the new database catches up and can be use as the new corporate database.
Overrides approach to adjust modeled end of fish habitat points was agreed to by the Water Typing Stakeholder

Group last month (see attachment). DNR will apply the overrides as a part of Merge 2 process.
A Draft FPB Manual Section 23 is being reviewed by the stakeholder group.
DNR will provide a 'working draft' to the FPB for the November meeting.
DNR is scheduling field-testing in October and November at five locations to test and receive input on the proposed Manual.
The following is a proposed list of items that will be included with FPB Staff Report Packet as an update to the implementation of the new water typing system:
"Prototype" fish habitat water type map/Activity Map for 1-2 WRIAs
Draft FPB Manual Section 23 - a working draft for field testing
Assessment of "error" – a description of the assessment, the results and products, and sample maps
Cover memo with key themes from public comments on the Preview Maps (released July 1) with all comments/letters/reports attached
Recommended changes to the Water Type change process with Modification Form and description of how DNR proposes to address Unmapped Streams
Next steps towards the February FPB meeting and Implementation March 2005 (with a clearly defined Public Review Process)

If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 902-1849.

Family Forest Field Day Notes

With a herculean effort by a handful of volunteers, the Family Forest Field Day was a success! Thanks to those Chapters who were able to take the time to attend and represent our Association and visit with the hundreds of attendees. With the support of our sponsors, contributors, and vendors there was an array of displays, booths and educational programs to see.

Special thanks go to DNR Forest Stewardship, UW College of Forest Resources, WSU Extension, and Rural Technology Initiative.

And great appreciation goes to the crew at the **Family Forest Foundation** for providing the leadership to make this field day a reality!

Special thanks to our hosts the Falkner/Habersetzer Family whose generations of stewardship brought a National award to our State.



Membership Chair Donna Loucks (left) registers new South Sound Chapter Members Joe and Mary Gross at the Family Forest Field Day.

LARGE LANDOWNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Large landowners listed below have responded generously to President Ken Miller's letter. Their contributions are greatly appreciated, as the money is needed to maintain our presence at the negotiating table to find ways help reduce our regulatory burden and continue educational programs. A huge THANK YOU to those listed and to all who have contributed in 2004, above our general member dues structure. We will continue to work diligently to bring results from your hard earned contributions!

P.S. If you received the letter and have not yet contributed, it is not too late!

Through 10/18/04

Allingham Family Partnership
Alpine Evergreen
Mark F. Andrews
Richard and Marie Atkins
Scott Barr
George Bridgewater
Bob and Jane Brink
Benetta Buker
Charles and Margaret Chambers
Gerrit DeHaas
Gary and Brenda Dickinson
Jerrie Eaton
Joseph and Catherine Eichinger
Walter Ek
Eric and Peggy Fonkalstrud
Richard and Dolly Goodwin
Patrick and Carole Graham
Marie Hackett
Hama Hama Company
Leland and Darlene Lessig
Lester Burns Family LP
Bryon and Donna Loucks
McDonald Land Company
Pete and Margaret Paladeni
Frances Pauly
Stanley and Linda Peterson
Pursley Logging Company LLC
Peter and Jane Revesz
Susan and Tim Rogers
Carl and Vicki Ruestig
Nancy and Jerry Sheppard
Frank and Myvanwy Shirley
Al and Molly Smithson
C and Anabelle Stillman
Robert and Jane Takai
Robert Thompson
Timber Services, Inc.
E. Jane Turner
Tom and Pat Underwood
West Fork Timber Company, LLC
Maurice Williamson
Tom Wynne
George Wytko

From the Executive Director's Desk



I recently attended a "Who will own the Forest" summit at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon and was offered a glimpse by the 'experts' of the Northwest's changing forest land ownership and the impacts it may have. I would like to report to you that the many changes to our lives and tree farm business of the last 12 years are over, but I can not! And although I am afraid that we will continue to see ups and downs in the value of our forest land ownership, I still believe that it will be a viable investment and lifestyle.

My greatest concern is the growing change of ownership of these industrial lands to Investment firms (REITS and TIMOS) and the amount of acreage going into Land Conservation Programs. I can see the REITS and TIMOS operating for the highest return to their shareholders with little concern of the social impacts, and the Conservation Easements being more about protection of the environment than about "private, working forests".

Both of these will be a change from the benefits we have received from the Forest Product Industries of our state. Those benefits are of providing a social structure of good paying jobs and identity for those workers and for their communities, something I question whether the Investment firms will be willing to continue to provide. And the Forest Products Industry has always been a huge tax provider for our state and schools. The Land Conservation programs seem to be a tax user, as our states Legacy Land purchases have proved.

Of course our Forest Products Industry will not be leaving our state. Even those who are venturing overseas are doing so to remove themselves from the highly regulated urban areas of our state and to diversify their lands closer to the growing global market place.

So as we move into the 21st Century and we see the Forest land ownership change in our state, it is obvious that the Small Forest Land Owners will also need to embrace change. I have a personal belief that for those of us who desire to tree farm, if we own our land, we still have it all. The Washington Farm Forestry Association will continue to do its best to provide vision and leadership for the good of all small forest landowners and for the "generations to come."

Treefully,
Rick Dunning