

Northwest Woodlands

A Publication of the Oregon Small Woodlands, Washington Farm Forestry, Idaho Forest Owners & Montana Forest Owners Associations

THREATS TO YOUR PROPERTY

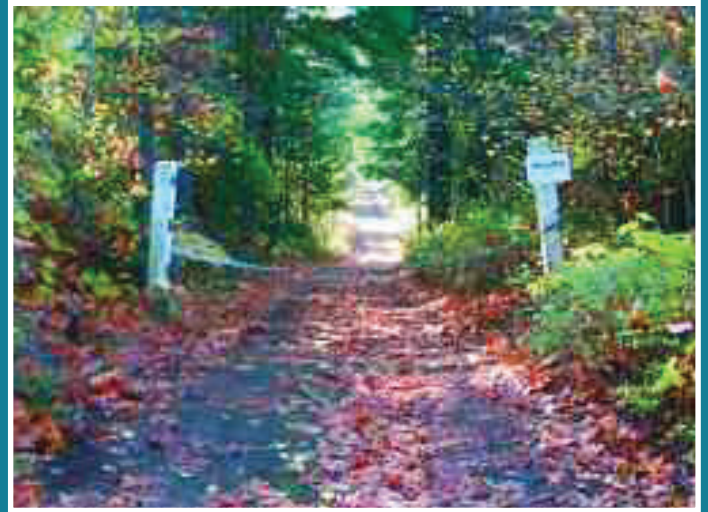
Insects and Diseases

Logging Contract Relations

Your Property? Tell it to the Judge

Why My Tree Farm is Gated

Landowner Develops Succession Plan



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Northwest Woodlands
4033 S.W. Canyon Rd.
Portland, OR 97221

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Markets**

**This magazine is a benefit of membership in
your family forestry association**

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A gated entrance closes the road to vehicles, but not to the neighbors riding their horses on the



property. The property is properly signed so law enforcement can cite trespassers for criminal trespass. Photo courtesy of Tom Ortmann

Pruning trees around your property will help create a fuel break around your home. Photo courtesy of John O'Connor

Dwarf mistletoe is a plant parasite that affects many conifer species. Photo courtesy of Dave Shaw

Limbs hanging over roads should be pruned to provide access to emergency vehicles. Photo courtesy of John O'Connor

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Northwest Woodlands is published quarterly by the World Forestry Center for the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Washington Farm Forestry Association, Idaho Forest Owners Association and Montana Forest Owners Association.

Other than general editing, the articles appearing in this publication have not been peer reviewed for technical accuracy. The individual authors are primarily responsible for the content and opinions expressed herein.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Washington

SAM COMSTOCK



Slash Burning 101

The last issue of WFFA's *Land Owner News* had a great article on burn permits and the fee increases. We had a harvest this summer, so we've burned those piles and I thought I would pass on our experiences with the process and the actual burns.

We had five major piles on two landings produced by a cut-to-length operation that brought the entire tree to the landing, so most of the limbs and tops were piled by the shovel. I visited the online DNR Piled Fuels Biomass and Emissions Calculator at <http://depts.washington.edu/nwfire/piles/>. I used the half-sphere model and estimated the height that would be the radius of the sphere. This is the only dimension input needed. Most of our piles were about 18 feet. The calculator gave a result of 44 tons. Not being sure of my height estimates, I added two feet to the height of each pile and got a result of 132 tons. Obviously, estimating tonnage is problematic.

I contacted the local DNR forest warden for a site visit after the burn ban was lifted on September 30, and in a couple of days he arrived. I related the results of the calculator and as we had two separate landings, he wrote us two separate permits, each for less than 100

tons at \$25.50 each.

The permits required that only one pile at a time be burned, that a fire break of 25 feet be established around the piles, there be a wind speed of no more than three miles per hour, no burning allowed if wind was from the north or east, a minimum of one person be at the fire while burning, a charged water hose at the burn site, that the fire must be completely extinguished after four days, and that a dozer must be on site.

We borrowed garden hoses from neighbors and ran 800 feet to one landing. We have a second well closer to the other landing. We placed blue tarps on the tops of the piles before any rains, keeping the cores dry. The largest pile went up in three hours. Lots of heat was generated. There have been instances of nearby piles being ignited. Wind conditions are a huge factor and will carry the heat to the detriment of the surrounding environment. In our case, the weather was perfect and most heat and smoke went straight up. We started the burns with some dry kindling and some really old dirty gasoline we needed to get rid of. Straight gasoline must be used sparingly and not allowed to soak into the ground. It's recommended to use three parts diesel and one part gas. The fire



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOY COMSTOCK

Sam Comstock with one of his burn piles.

quickly got into the core and burned the entire pile. We didn't use any fans or push the piles in much.

The DNR seems to worry about complaints from neighbors. We had to call the local DNR fire warden, DNR dispatch, Mason County Emergency Communications, and our local fire district before each burn, and then call all but Mason County when a pile was consumed.

There was a good bit of dirt in the piles, but that didn't seem to hinder the burn except for some of the perimeter where dirt was shoved up with the slash, which precluded trying to push the piles in. We were fortunate in that there were rain events immediately after each burn. There are many stories about the wind coming up after a fire has subsided and blowing embers, setting off nearby timber.

We were nervous about burning such large piles, but by following the DNR requirements we found it to be a warm experience. ■

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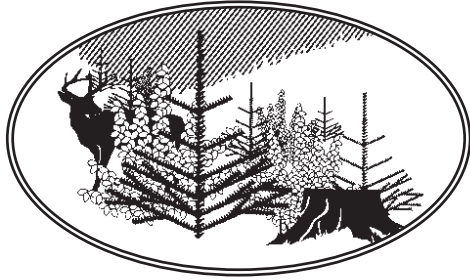
Correction

An astute reader caught an error in the Example that accompanied the "What is Basis" article on page 15 of the Fall 2011 issue of *Northwest Woodlands*.

In Step 1, the FMV of the timber is \$118,800, not \$152,900 as printed. The correct text should read:

Step 1: FMV of the timber ÷ total FMV or (b) ÷ (c) = allocation factor
 $\$118,800 \div 196,700 = 60.40\%$

We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.



DOWN ON THE TREE FARM

TIPS & TRICKS OF THE DAY: Know your neighbors and their timber harvest plans.

WHAT TO DO IN . . .

FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL

► Things to Do When the Leaves Are Off Your Hardwoods and Brush

- Walk All of Your Forest looking for time sensitive action items:
 - Invasive weeds that need to be eradicated.
 - Evidence of trespass.
 - Roadwork to be done—Culverts that need to be replaced; grading and ditching needed; new access roads needed; roads to be moved or removed.
 - Wind thrown or sick trees to salvage.
 - Precommercial stands where the density is too high and crowns are declining or a less desirable species is choking out your preferred species.
 - Animal, disease or insect damage that requires action.
- Walk the perimeter of your property to see what your neighbors have been doing next to your place or maybe on your place. Not sure where your place stops and the neighbor's place starts? Do you need a surveyor to mark your boundary? When the leaves are off the brush is a good time to survey as your surveyor will have less brush to cut to do their work. Approach your neighbor to share the costs of the survey.

► Have You Met the Tree Farmer Next Door? You Should. Possible Benefits of Knowing your Neighbor:

- Act rather than React to management decisions along your common property boundary. Knowledge is the key here, so sharing the intimate details of your forest management plan along this common boundary should be valuable to both of you. You could get your management plans in sync for significant har-

vest activities so one of you is not harvesting wind-thrown trees because you did not realize your neighbor was going to harvest.

- Share the cost to survey your common boundary line.
- Share a forest contractor and maybe save a little money.
- Share a beverage and tales of when you were younger and...you know what I mean.
- Share tools like a junior arch, wood splitter, and fire truck.
- Trade tasks like mowing your roads and controlling roadside invasive weeds. Your neighbor mows and you spray.
- Keep an eye on each other's property.

► Got Thistles? Here are some words of wisdom from Jim Merzenich, a Linn County Chapter member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, for control (management) of thistles in grasslands and forests:

- Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), slender-flowered thistle (*Carduus tenuiflorus*) and milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*) are relatively new to the Willamette Valley and are expanding their range in the Pacific Northwest. These Mediterranean thistles will quickly invade native grasslands and oak savanna displacing desirable species. For a photo of these bad boys, go to www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_milkthistle.shtml. Once you are at the ODA Oregon Department of Agriculture site you can look at other bad boys by going to Profiles: Noxious Weeds (Note there is an A and B list.) We began herbicide control on our 960-acre tree farm in 2009 with a goal of complete eradication of these noxious weeds. As a result of our spraying, the area infested has been dramatically decreased and eradication on our property now appears possible. We are treating approximately 300 acres of grassland.
- For control we use a 0.25% solution of the herbicide Transline® applied with a backpack sprayer (3/8 oz. per gallon = 1 oz. per 3 gallons of water.) The label and MSDS, Material and Safety Data Sheet, for Transline can be found by going to www.dowagro.com. This should get you to their home page. Pick Label and Safety Data Sheets, it's a smaller tab and set back on top of the main row of tabs. On the next window double click United States (the text). Scroll down the list of herbicides until you get to the one you are looking for, Transline in this case, and pick the first symbol to the right for the Label and the second for the MSDS.
- Transline is a selective herbicide that generally affects only species in the Aster (Composite) or Legume families. Indiscriminate spraying can thus kill desirable native species such as Oregon sunshine

(*Eriophyllum lanatum*), native thistles, or lupines. Transline generally does not affect grasses, conifers, or native hardwoods. See the label for a list of the tolerant tree species. Spraying is most effective early in the spring when plants are in the rosette stage and before the flowering stalks develop. Pockets of infestations are widely scattered throughout our grasslands and are often difficult to find during the period in which they are susceptible to herbicide. Our procedure is to spray all of the infestations we can find in the period from April to June. We then wait for the highly visible flowering stalks with pink flowers to appear. The flowering plants are then hand pulled, bagged, and burned before they can go to seed.

- To prepare your backpack sprayer we suggest using one ounce (1/8th cup) of Transline with 3 gallons of water (384 ounces). We also suggest using an appropriate surfactant and enough marker dye to tell where you have sprayed. We use the surfactant when we spray in our grasslands (meadows) and when we can spray around our seedlings, but not over our seedlings. (See the label and/or consult with your herbicide expert on the use of a surfactant when spraying over your seedlings.)
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are widely established in the Northwest and quickly invade forest harvest units and other disturbed areas. We also use Transline to control these and other thistles until our conifer stands are free to grow. Before using any herbicide you should determine what biological controls are present and available in your area. Information on the characteristics, distribution, and control of noxious thistles is available on the Idaho, Oregon, and Washington Agriculture Department websites.

► **Weed Control. Time for spring weed control before seedlings wake up and burst bud.** Herbaceous weeds and grasses rob your seedlings of much needed moisture for good growth and survival. You get the most bang for your buck in the year you planted. Weed control when done right is like a good insurance policy. You will

get better seedling survival and minimize the need to interplant, and/or heaven forbid, replant if summer is hotter and dryer than normal. Financial return on investment usually limits weed control to the first two years after planting. Seedlings with weed control have been shown to grow up to eight times faster than seedlings without.

- Determine which herbaceous weeds and grasses you need to control.
- Decide how you will control the weeds—mechanical, protective ground cloths, herbicides, or combinations of treatments.
- If you will apply herbicides, pick the right herbicide or cocktail of herbicides to control the target weeds and grasses. Also, decide how you will apply the herbicide, ground or air.
- Decide who will do the work, you or a contractor.
- Carefully follow label instructions for application and protecting applicators.
- If you have questions, call one of our advertisers, or your consulting forester, state forester, or Extension agent for help.

► **KNOW YOUR WOODS WORDS**

- CWA**—Clean Water Act. Federal Law.
- EPA**—Environmental Protection Agency. This is the federal agency that administers the CWA.
- NPS**—Non Point Source. Doesn't need a discharge permit under the CWA.
- Silvicultural Rule**—Classified forestry activities in general as NPS under the CWA.

Down on the Tree Farm is edited by David Bateman with help from Linn County Small Woodlands members Aaron White, Joe Holmberg, Jonathon Christie, Roy Stutzman, Steve Hohl, Neal Bell, and Jim Merzenich. This column is a project of the Linn County Small Woodlands Association and the OSU Extension Master Woodland Managers. Suggestions always welcome; send to Dave Bateman at knothead@smt-net.com.

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Whistle for the Forest



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE ALBER

By **MICKEY BELLMAN**

Whistle past the graveyard and whistle while you work—both are in order when you are a forest landowner.



The challenges of managing a forest today are more than superstition and cannot be dismissed by blowing hot air between one's lips. There are plenty of natural calamities lurking in the forest that can turn trees into trash—fire, insects, disease, weather. And then there are all the man-made calamities—government regulations, taxes, lawsuits, legalities. All are a daily threat to the forest manager and his property.

Growing a forest takes years of hard work and sweat. It takes planning and patience to transform bare ground and brush into a green, vertical ecosystem. While large plants convert sunlight into cellulose, the trees clean the air of carbon and pollutants. All sorts of wildlife returns to make the forest a home. Logs are harvested

and sold to provide income—revenue that is often reinvested in the forest.

At the end of the day, or a decade, the owner can stroll through his forest to enjoy the fruits of his efforts. The coolness can refresh him while he reminisces about all the hard work paid for with sweat and blisters. No doubt he has used a saw and a shovel to clear the brush to plant something no thicker than a pencil. He has read the periodicals, attended meetings, and learned how to nurture his forest, but the trees serenade all his efforts. He has spent himself to pursue a dream with pride to create a special place away from computers and plastics. He has overcome disappointments and setbacks, and now he can whistle with satisfaction. ■

***MICKEY BELLMAN** is a private forestry consultant and timber cruiser working throughout Oregon and Washington. He lives in Salem with his wife, two golden retrievers and 3,500 Christmas trees. He can be reached at 503-362-0842 or bellman9647@msn.com.*