

Northwest Woodlands

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

INVASIVES

**The Invaders
are Coming**



**Preventing
Weed Spread**

**Exotic Insects
Threaten our
Forests**

Plant Invaders

**Biological Control:
New Allies in
Weed Control**



**NEXT ISSUE . . .
Economics of
Forest Management**

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter 2014

DEPARTMENTS

3 PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

6 DOWN ON THE TREE FARM

28 TREESMARTS

30 TREEMAN TIPS

ON THE COVER:



The feral pig population is growing. This feral swine is released after biologists fitted it with a GPS collar to track its movements. Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Noxious weeds can become attached to vehicles and transported to new sites. Photo courtesy of Dale Whaley

Seed weevils, which are biocontrol agents, compete for a spotted knapweed seed head to lay their eggs. Photo courtesy of Nez Perce Bio-control Center

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FEATURES

8

THE INVADERS ARE COMING! AN INTRODUCTION TO INVASIVE SPECIES OF NORTHWEST FORESTS

A number of invaders are poised to threaten our forests. Get updated on what they are, how they might affect our forests, and what you can do to curb them in your woodlands.

BY WYATT WILLIAMS

12

PREVENTING WEED SPREAD IN NORTHWEST FORESTS

Did you know your ATV can pick up large amounts of seed and deposit them elsewhere on your property? This article provides information on methods to reduce weed transport and a range of technical options to deal with this issue.

BY CHRIS SCHNEPF AND TIM PRATHER

14

EXOTIC INSECTS THREATEN OUR FORESTS

Keep your eyes open and report suspicious damage and insects. Many exotic forest insects can be very destructive.

BY JAMES LABONTE

16

INVASIVE PLANTS IN WESTSIDE WOODLANDS

Highlighted in this article are the top westside invasive plant offenders. How many are in your woodlands?

BY SASHA SHAW

18

EASTSIDE INVADERS TO WATCH FOR

What common noxious weeds threaten the eastside? Find out what they are and how to control them in this article.

BY DALE K. WHALEY

20

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS: NEW ALLIES IN WEED CONTROL

This article provides a primer on the use of biocontrol agents to control invasive weeds. How does it work? What can you expect? Is it safe? These questions and more are answered.

BY PAUL BRUSVEN

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

24 SQUEAL ON PIGS

24 DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

31 WFFA ANNUAL MEETING
SLATED FOR MAY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Washington

TOM WESTERGREEN



Early Detection is Best Bet Against Invasives

Invasive species will likely impact the economics and ecology of your tree farm. Land ownership brings the responsibility to control non-native species that invade your woodlands. The kinds of invasive species that impact your tree farm vary greatly across the state. Some were introduced as an effort to improve crop productivity. For example, reed canarygrass grows well in damp pastures, but also in new plantations where it chokes out our newly planted cedar trees. We can live with some non-native species and manage them along with our crops, while others

may need to be eradicated.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to shoot or move barred owls in certain locations to help the recovery of spotted owls. Heck! There are people that view us tree farmers as “Invasive” to natural habitats. We have much more to do in telling our story of sustainable management.

As stewards of tree farms we know that early detection (monitoring articles in the spring 2013 *Northwest Woodlands* and several in this issue) and rapid response to control a small infestation will always have the best chance for suc-

cess. I remember when Japanese knotweed was fairly rare and timber company managers quickly recognized the possible widespread threat on their lands and initiated control measures. In contrast, when knotweed started appearing along streams and rivers the first reaction from agency and conservation folks was manual removal like digging and covering with cardboard; herbicide control measures were rejected. Now that the river bars of the Nooksack River are covered with knotweed and are out of control, selective use of a glyphosate herbicide is recommended under certain conditions.

A few years ago butterfly bush was recommended by nurseries and environmentally friendly gardeners as a plant to attract beneficial insects and birds to your yard. Several years afterward we started to notice butterfly bushes seeding into our extinguished burn piles and road sides. After witnessing this species take over several industrial plantations, we have monitored our plantation and quickly tried to control butterfly bush by pulling young plants and spot spraying with herbicides. We may have it under control, but not eradicated.

Part of protecting our farms from invasive species is being able to identify them and understand their life cycles. Most local, state, and federal natural resource agencies publish bulletins and have website information on invasives. Many counties have local Noxious Weed Control Boards that monitor local invasive weeds of concern and educate the public. They even have the authority to “ensure that landowners control weeds on their properties.” If you do not control priority weeds on your property, they can hire a contractor to remove the weeds and send you the bill.

Forest owners certified under the Tree Farm Program must address invasive species in their management plan and Performance Measure 5.3 states: “Forest owner should make practical efforts to prevent, eradicate, or otherwise control invasive species.”

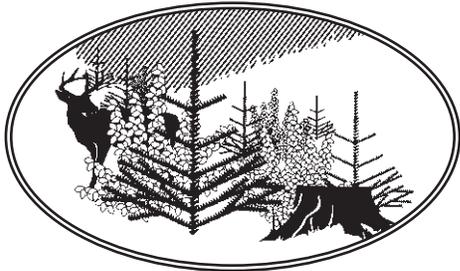
Owning forestland comes with many responsibilities and addressing invasives in one of them.

Keep 'em growing (the trees, not the invasives!). ■

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DOWN ON THE TREE FARM

TIPS & TRICKS OF THE DAY: Controlling invasive plants on your property is your responsibility.

WHAT TO DO IN . . .

FEBRUARY

► Plant a Tree

- When: January, February, and the first half of March are the best months to plant a tree on the westside. On the eastside, it is after the snow melts and the ground thaws.
- The Right Seedling for Your Site: Choosing the right seedling or waiting for the right seedling to be available is my advice. If you are unsure which seedlings are suitable for your site, get some advice from a forester, your extension forester or a knowledgeable landowner friend. Or go to www.forestseedlingnetwork.com. This website is a clearinghouse for seedlings that are for sale. You will get the seed zone for your planting site even if you don't find the seedlings you are looking for.
- Tree Planting Axioms to Hang Your Hat Upon: (or Words of Wisdom on Planting)
 - The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is to plant one now.
 - If you hit water in your planting hole, don't plant a tree.
 - If you hit bedrock and can't dig a suitable planting hole, don't plant a tree.
 - If the soil is compacted and you have trouble digging a planting hole, don't plant a tree.
 - No snow or ice in your planting hole. When melted you have an air pocket that dries out your seedling's roots and increases mortality.
 - If you plan to keep a road open, don't plant a tree in it, and plant the closest tree one half your planting interval away from the roadway. A typical logging shovel today is 12 to 14 feet wide so leaving

20 feet between seedlings is a good target.

Remember, as your trees grow in diameter the space between them gets smaller.

- Make sure your planting crew knows your intention with respect to closing or leaving roads and landing areas open. They get paid by the seedling and the edge of a road is easy planting.
- Older planters plant fewer trees per day than younger planters and the boss is normally the only older planter on a planting crew. I am thinking 30 is an old planter.
- A good planting micro-site trumps spacing.
- Avoid planting during a cold-dry spell or just before one. Your seedlings are likely to die from dehydration.
- Dry roots equal dead trees, so don't plant trees whose roots have dried out.
- Fine-rooted seedlings like cedar and hemlock are best planted on a rainy day so the roots won't dry out in your planting bag. These seedlings also don't store well in the cooler and should be planted soon after they are pulled at the nursery.
- Shade-tolerant seedlings might need a little sun protection the first year so plant on the north or west side of debris and stumps.
- On tough sites, stumps are probably the best indicator of a good place to plant a tree.
- Interplanting in established stands can be a waste of time as the established trees crowd out the interplanted trees. Planting spaces should be 20 feet or larger across and you should be interplanting the year after you established the stand. The longer you wait the less likely interplanting will be successful. Remember, when your target at final harvest is 100 trees per acre, your average spacing is 20 feet between trees.
- A green seedling growing on your tree farm is worth at least two seedlings in your planting bag.

MARCH

► 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 you or maybe even 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 the work. Approach your neighbor to share costs.

APRIL

► Who Am I?

- I am the largest of my kind in the Northwest at 2-3 lbs.
- I am a fearless, silent, deadly, nocturnal hunter.
- I am a tree farmer's friend as a rodent is a good meal for me.
- I have two tufts of feathers on my head that could be mistaken for ears or described as horns.
- You might catch my silhouette on a perch just before dark.
- My call is the closest to the storybook "who" associated with my kind.
- Who Am I?

► Protect Your Planting Investment

- Remember a live seedling in the ground is worth two in your planting bag. So protect your investment until your seedlings are free to grow. Typical seedling killers are:
 - Grasses that use up the soil moisture and desiccate your seedlings and harbor rodents.
 - Rodents that eat your tree's roots, eat their bark and girdle them, or harvest your seedlings and take them back to their den.
 - Invasive weeds and non-target species that overtop your seedlings and shade them out.
 - Browsers that eat your new leaders or needles.

NWW EDITOR SEARCH

Northwest Woodlands is starting a search for a new editor. A job description is posted on both the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and Washington Farm Forestry Association's websites at www.oswa.org and www.wafarmforestry.com, respectively. Give it a look and let us know if you know anyone who would be a good match for the job.

► Know Your Woods Words

- Shovel: 1) Also known as a spade. A blade or scoop on the end of a handle used to move soil, snow, gravel, etc. by people power. 2) Also known as a track hoe. A piece of logging equipment with a boom used to harvest timber and handle logs such as loading a truck or moving logs to the road or landing.
- Bifurcate: What knotty trees do in your woods. Fork and grow two tops. Per Mr. Webster, having two branches or peaks, forked.
- Free to Grow: Reforestation term that applies to a seedling or group of seedlings that have survived the elements for a few years and are taller than their closest competition. It is likely they will continue to thrive without being overtopped or endangered by competition from a non-target species.
- Genetically Improved Stock: These are seedlings grown from known parents with desirable traits. It would be like you choosing a mate with blonde hair and anticipating a child with blonde hair. No genes were modified so they are not a GMO, genetically modified organism.

Who Am I?

*Great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus**

Down on the Tree Farm is edited by David Bateman with help from Linn County Small Woodlands members Aaron White, Joe Holmberg, Roy Stutzman, Steve Kohl, Neal Bell, Jim Merzenich, Rick Fletcher, Tim Otis, Mike Barsotti, and Brad Withrow-Robinson. 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.



SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY.



When you consider that only 10% of the world's forests are certified, we have a long way to go. The good news is that there are a number of credible forest certification programs. And each one, including SFI, encourages responsible forestry. For more on forest certification and what you can do, visit www.sfiprogram.org.

