



Summer 2014

NATIONAL WOODLANDS



LANDOWNER LED....PURPOSE DRIVEN

Dear Friends of the Western Alliance of Landowner Associations:

Is this the first issue of *NATIONAL WOODLANDS* you have seen in a while? That is likely because you are a member of one of our state affiliates and you receive the magazine once a year as a benefit of membership in your state association (check the label on the cover to identify the mailing list we used).

We invite you to join the National Woodland Owners Association and receive the magazine four times a year, plus important additional benefits. We are

LANDOWNER LED & PURPOSE DRIVEN

Every day we promote the common sense A B Cs of Woodland Stewardship

Advocate for fair taxes, good markets, and property rights

Better knowledge of forest management

Communication with landowners and forest agencies

HOW DO WE DO IT? THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

- As an experienced and respected voice in Washington D.C.
- Through outstanding articles and updates in *NATIONAL WOODLANDS* magazine.
- In the *WEDNESDAY WOODLAND WORD*, our weekly E-newsletter.
- Offering the Top Rated Woodland Liability, Hunter Liability, and Wildfire Insurance at the lowest price.
- Networking with our 42 affiliated state landowner associations.



WE FLY ON OUR OWN WINGS



National Woodland Owners Association... Your Friendly Voice in Washington, DC

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

EMAIL _____ Number of Woodland Acres Owned _____

(not a membership requirement)

Check Enclosed Visa/MC _____ Exp. Date _____ code _____

Sustaining Membership*

1 Year 2 Year

\$45.00 \$80.00

Individual Membership

1 Year 2 Year

\$35.00 \$60.00

* A sustaining membership provides additional funding to help NWOA grow and do more for you

Please mail this application to: NWOA, 374 Maple Ave E, Suite 310, Vienna, VA 22180, or Fax it to: NWOA at 703-281-9200, or Join over the telephone: 703-255-2700



NATIONAL WOODLANDS

Volume 37, Number 3

Summer 2014



Publisher
Keith A. Argow, Ph.D.

Editor
Eric A. Johnson

Forester & Project Manager
Garin M. Peck

Business Manager
Connie Blair

Forest Tax Counsel
Linda Wang

Contributing Writers
Rita Hite
Frank Stewart
William M. Ciesla

NATIONAL WOODLANDS is published by the National Woodland Owners Association to promote the wise use of America's forest resources. Subscribers include landowners, professionals in the natural resources disciplines, companies and individuals associated with the forest products industry, libraries, government agencies, and other people who have an interest in forestry.

All rights reserved. Contents may be reproduced with proper attribution to *National Woodlands* (including the address). Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the publisher or National Woodland Owners Association.

NATIONAL WOODLANDS (ISSN 0279-9812), Summer 2014, Volume 37, No. 3. Published quarterly, in Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn by the National Woodland Owners Association, 374 Maple Ave. E., Suite 310, Vienna, VA 22180-4751; tel. (703) 255-2700. U.S. subscriptions: \$35 for one year or \$60 for two years, through membership in the National Woodland Owners Association; sustaining member rates are \$45 per year, \$80 for two years. For delivery to Canada, Europe, and most international addresses, add an additional \$10 for postage. Back issues, if available, are \$3 each, postage paid. Editorial offices: 41 Fountain St., Clinton, NY 13323.

Contents

Colorado Governor Addresses Wildland/Urban Interface	8
<i>Lyle Laverty</i>	
Catastrophic Fires: We Can Do Better	10
<i>Lyle Laverty</i>	
The Southern Fire Exchange Explained	12
<i>Alan Long and David Godwin</i>	
The Wildfire Disaster Relief Act: Questions & Answers	14
ALC and NWOA: Working Together for Common Goals	17
Annual Reports from The Western Alliance Of Landowner Associations	20
The Sustainable Forests Roundtable at 15	24
<i>Peter Gaulke.</i>	
Your Woodlands Tax Classification	26
<i>Linda Wang</i>	
Washington Woodland Watch	4
Family Private Forestry Commentary	5
Conservation News Digest	6
National Historic Lookout Register	16
Woodland Report	18
The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number	28
Forest Certification Update	30
Women Owning Woodlands Update	32
News From the Regions	33

On the Cover: The Springs Fire on the Boise National Forest in August of 2012 was started by lightning. U.S. Forest Service photo by Karl Greer.



NWOA Board of Directors

Keith Argow – President & CEO
Washington, DC/Virginia
argow@nwoa.net

Dick Courter – Chairman and NW Director
Oregon
northwest@nwoa.net

Philip Gramelspacher – Vice Chair
and Ohio Valley Director
Indiana
ohiovalley@nwoa.net

Dale Zaug – Treas. & No. Central Dir.
Wisconsin
northcentral@nwoa.net

Jim Chapin – Southwest Director
California
southwest@nwoa.net

Linda L. Finley – Mid Atlantic Director
Pennsylvania
mid-atlantic@nwoa.net

Rick Hamilton – Southeast Director
North Carolina
southeast@nwoa.net

William Hubbard – Gulf States Director
Georgia
whubbard@uga.edu

Lyle Laverty – Rocky Mtn./Great Plains Dir.
Colorado
rockymountain@nwoa.net

Craig McKinley – South Central Director
Oklahoma
southcentral@nwoa.net

Al Robertson – Northeast Director
Vermont
northeast@nwoa.net

Jim Sitts – At Large Director
North Carolina
jsitts@cfpwood.com

Washington Woodland Watch



Wildfires Are Not Just Local Problems; They Impact Woodland Owners Across the Country

These days, roughly half of the U.S. Forest Service budget is set aside for fighting wildfires. And, it is still not enough. Almost every week, we hear of a devastating wildfire in the West decimating thousands of acres and threatening homes and lives. Not fighting these wildfires is not an option, and the fires that occur close to urban areas can be extremely costly—often exceeding the amount budgeted. In fact, in the last two fiscal years, the amount needed to fight wildfires exceeded the amount budgeted by more than \$1 billion. That's not a small amount—even by Washington, D.C. standards.

You may be asking yourself, "What's the big deal? So, Washington, D.C. has another budget problem. Those fires take place far from my woodland, home and family. Is this really a top priority for folks like me?"

Unfortunately, the answer to that last question is yes. The fire suppression budget problem impacts woodland owners of all types and sizes across the country. When the money that's been budgeted for fighting fires runs out each year, the Forest Service has no choice but to take funds away from other programs and hope that Congress passes a bill to repay them. Even if the funds are repaid each year, it still disrupts the work the agency is doing through programs—often work that helps to support woodland owners across the country.

America's 22 million family woodland owners rely on the Forest Service for cutting edge research to fight invasive species threats, technical assistance for improved stewardship on their land and the assurance that their well-managed forests will be safe from future catastrophic fire threats. Often, when funds must be diverted for fighting wildfires, these programs are halted, sometimes indefinitely.

The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S. 1875/H.R. 3992) was introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Michael

Crapo (R-ID) and Representatives Mike Simpson (R-ID-2) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5) as a potential solution to the wildfire funding problem. Instead of fighting all wildfires with funds from an annual budget and appropriations process, the most costly and intense fires would be treated the same way we treat other catastrophic natural disasters, like major hurricanes and tornadoes. The bill establishes an emergency funding structure for fighting fires, which allows the Forest Service to meet its fire protection responsibilities and still do the work it has committed to in other programs to keep our woodlands healthy and productive.

Bipartisan support for the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act continues to grow, with 103 cosponsors on the House bill and 15 cosponsors on the Senate version (as of July 10). A large majority of the cosponsors are from the West, but the geographic diversity has increased, as woodland owners and other forest advocates have shared the impact of the fire funding problem on other important forestry programs with their members of Congress. There's also support for this bill in the Administration, as President Obama has been a vocal advocate of the fix and also included it in his budget proposal for FY 2015 and his 2014 supplemental funding request.

In order to get this important bill across the finish line, we need strong support from woodland owners and advocates across the country. Talk with your members of Congress about this issue, and find out if they have signed on to support S. 1875/H.R. 3992. If they have, thank them. If not, ask them to consider becoming cosponsors. The Forest Service has released a very helpful report, with examples of programs state-by-state that have been impacted by the fire funding problem in the last couple of years. This is a great tool you can use as you reach out to your members of Congress. You can find the report at <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/forest-service-fire-transfer-state-impacts.pdf>.

DID YOU RECEIVE TWO COPIES OF THIS ISSUE?

IF SO, PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND

EACH QUARTER WE MAIL AN INTRODUCTORY COPY OF *NATIONAL WOODLANDS* TO LANDOWNERS, FORESTERS AND LOGGERS WHO ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR JOINING NWOA.

WE TRY HARD TO REMOVE DUPLICATE ADDRESSES, BUT THEY DO SLIP THROUGH

SHARE YOUR ADDITIONAL COPY WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS

Rita Hite
Vice President, Public Affairs
American Forest Foundation





Family Forestry Commentary

Keith A. Argow, Publisher

Wildfires: Control Costs Have Soared Five Times in the Past 20 Years

**The damage to our woodlands and forests
Is even higher**

It is no secret that both the size and intensity of wildfires in the United States is on an upward trend. The cost of controlling these wildfires has quintupled in the past 20 years!

Even with a deduction for inflation, we are spending four times what we spent just two decades ago, see page 8.

When fire spending exceeds the fire control budget, the money is taken from other forestry accounts including watershed, wildlife, invasive species and cooperative forestry projects earmarked for family owners to improve the health and value of their woodlands. Sometimes it is repaid with a supplemental appropriation, sometimes not.

The end is nowhere in sight, but this summer Congress is considering treating these events as the national tragedies they are and paying for them with emergency funding just as hurricanes, floods and other natural catastrophes are funded. The costs are huge: \$2 billion/year plus an additional \$1 to \$2 billion for flood control and habitat restoration.

All this money does not include the loss of valuable timber standing dead on the stump with little chance of salvage—at least on federal lands. Those expenses are borne by the landowner. Fortunately, private landowners are not yet hobbled with all the ecosystem analysis requirements that federal agencies must complete.

One of the often-cited benefits of private forest stewardship is that landowners respond quickly to recover as many losses as possible. But usually the money spent on restoration comes out of our own pockets.

NWOA's New Master Policy Coverage For Wildfire Damage

NWOA members learned long ago that insuring their woodlands against damage by wildfire was prohibitively

usually the money spent on restoration comes out of our own pockets.

expensive. There are good reasons for that. Insurance underwriters know little—and understand less—about real risks of wildfire and the degree of damage that results. Accordingly, they require a high premium to cover potential losses, because they are insuring an unknown risk. Fire insurance for homes and businesses is a different matter. Insurers know the distance from fire hydrants, the training and equipment of local fire departments, and of course the burnable rating of the structure itself.

In addition, every home with a mortgage is required to carry fire insurance. With many insurance companies competing for the business, the rates are affordable. None of these factors apply very well to woodlands, except the distance to rural fire districts which are usually staffed by volunteers (including many of us). If a policy must be had to protect a loan investment, there are a handful of specialized insurance companies that can do that. Our own Outdoor Underwriters is one of them with a good record. Still, the premiums are high for the reasons above.

After three years of effort, NWOA and Outdoor Underwriters now offers a master group fire insurance to landowners in all 50 states, see page 7. Working with underwriters associated with certain Lloyds Groups in London, and spreading the risk nationwide,



these exceptionally low rates are possible. The application is straightforward and the coverage provides exactly what you pay for. The only omissions are slash burning and prescribed fire. Considering the number of requests that

NWOA receives every year for affordable woodland fire insurance, we expect this will be a popular NWOA member benefit.

Woodlands Still the Last Priority For Wildland Fire Control

Most of us are unaware that wildland firefighters are assigned three protection priorities: 1) people, 2) homes and structures, and last 3) woodlands and watersheds. The standard was set by the U.S. Forest Service many years ago, and 49 states have adopted the rule. The only state to put forest protection ahead of saving homes is Oregon. Years ago that state recognized that the construction of subdivisions within forests—the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)—was pulling its firefighting resources away to protect expensive homes built in indefensible fire space.

The disastrous Yarnell fire in Arizona is one example. As a result, both public and private woodlands are allowed to burn in order to protect structures. The damage done to timber is a loss borne by the landowner, even when our land is sacrificed to save nearby homes.

As a result of recent wildfires in Colorado and California, fire districts are reexamining the priority rule to keep their fire fighters from harm's way. NWOA is already working with some state landowner affiliates to update these outdated policies. These changes must be considered intelligently, one state at a time.

—KAA

Argow@nwoa.net

Forest Service Stuck with \$100,000 Worth of Drones

Back in 2007, the U.S. Forest Service spent \$100,000 to purchase two hand-launched Ski Seer drone aircraft with the intention of using them in law enforcement on National Forest lands infested with marijuana plantations without risking pilot safety from being shot at from the ground. It was an idea with promise, but the agency did not fully appreciate how long it would take the Federal Aviation Administration to write the rules governing the use of aircraft in American airspace without pilots on board. So far, it is eight years and counting. The recent spate of catastrophic wildfires seemed to offer an alternative use that might speed FAA approval.

Why not use the drones to map wildfire boundaries obscured by heavy smoke? Observing fire behavior and spread from the air provides firefighters with critical information, especially in remote mountain regions. It is difficult for pilots to see through the smoke and even more risky to fly under it to get a better look. Using unmanned aircraft piloted from the ground offered promise, especially in terms of safety and getting accurate information.

Drones have been used with good results on wildfires in Alaska, but that was a trial in remote airspace. Although anyone can purchase and own drones, there are still no regulations to allow their legal use. Until that happens, firefighters will have to wait and keep the Forest Service drones in the closet.

U.S. Sawn Hardwood Exports To Europe Rise 11 Percent

Exports of hardwood lumber sawn (and mostly grown) in the U.S. rose 11.4 percent in the first four months of 2014 compared to the same period last year. The value of these hardwood shipments increased by 18 percent to \$25.5 million. Trade was boosted by a 66 percent rise in exports to the United Kingdom, followed by Italy, Germany and Spain. Wood species include white oak, ash, yellow poplar and walnut, among others.

Export of American Grown Wood Pellets Doubled in 2013

Wood pellet exports from the United States nearly doubled last year, from 1.6 million short tons in 2012 to 3.2 million tons in 2013. More than 98 percent was delivered to Europe and 99 percent

of that was shipped from ports in the southern states. European countries are using pellets to replace coal for generating electricity—especially Britain, which alone received nearly two thirds of the shipments. The UK market has grown from near zero in 2009 to the Number One spot today. The country's largest energy producer, DRAX, is in the process of converting half of its six generating units to run solely on wood pellets.

Traditionally wood pellets have been manufactured from wood residue, including sawdust and wood chips. With the rapidly growing market for pellets, there has been an uptake in whole tree chipping in the woods. This timber harvesting practice is well adapted for shipping wood chips to paper mills. Trailer vans are filled with chips at the log landing, trucked to the mill, and unloaded or dumped directly onto conveyors to be processed.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, along with other major environmental organizations, is expressing concern that this practice will be widely used in producing pellet wood, especially in the Southeast. These groups' attention is focused on clearcutting of natural stands of hardwoods and pine, which are then converted to monoculture forests.

Concerns Over British Wood Energy

A group of 60 professors and scientists from across the U.S. recently co-signed a letter to the British Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, expressing concern that mounting demand for wood pellets in the United Kingdom and Europe has led to "an explosive growth in facilities across the Southern U.S., that are manufacturing wood pellets for export to supply the European electricity market."

While the U.S. at present does have the wood growing capacity, especially on private woodlands, to serve this market, the scientists expressed concern for the future of the diverse natural bottomland hardwood forests, an important component of the mid-Atlantic coastal ecoregion.

Forestry Quotes of the Quarter

Forestry Quotes is a regular feature highlighting the breadth, diversity, fervor and opposing views surrounding current forestry issues.

"America has a 'relief valve' when it comes to exporting forest products. Forest landowners now have the opportunity to sell their product to multiple markets. The variety of demand sectors is increasing with the advent of biomass, biofuels and pellets."

Richard Viosky, LSU AgCenter
KNOE 8 News. January 23, 2014

"Although we don't own forests in North America any longer, forest lands have been a part of International Paper Company's DNA for the last 115 years and we're not in business without them. Maintaining forests is important both for the economy and recreation. This \$7.5 million grant creating the Forestland Stewards Initiative is expected to generate another \$22.5 million through matches and contributions from government agencies and conservation groups."

John Faraci, Chairman and CEO, International Paper Company.
Atlanta Journal-Constitution. November 1, 2013

Wildfire Insurance Now Available Nationwide At a Very Low Price—\$15 Per Year Up to \$365/yr

**Program was three years in development by NWOA,
Outdoor Underwriters and Lloyds Groups of London**

When NWOA first offered Woodland Liability Insurance at a bargain discounted nationwide group rate ten years ago, we soon knew we had a winner. Within two years half of our membership had taken advantage of this valuable member benefit, especially those who had priced comparable individual land liability insurance coverage on their own.

Soon NWOA was getting requests for woodland fire insurance under a similar master policy concept.

With scary pictures of wildfires appearing on the evening news almost year around, NWOA members wanted to know if fire insurance could be offered at similarly low group rates.

It was not long before we had our answer: No Way! Insurance underwriters, those folks who figure the cost of the risk, were watching the same television news reports. Sometimes landowners were lucky to get woodland fire insurance at all. When they did, it was expensive.

Three years ago NWOA President Keith Argow spoke at a world timberland summit meeting in New York City and met a London based underwriter who specialized in fire insurance.

After a lengthy discussion, he agreed to work with our own experienced carrier, Outdoor Underwriters, to evaluate

the disbursed risk and determine if a reasonably priced master wildfire policy was possible.

One of the positive outcomes was that NWOA members follow good forestry practices, including common sense reduction of fuel loading and fire prevention.

Here's How the NWOA Wildfire Insurance Works

- Unlike land or hunter liability insurance, you buy fire insurance for the trees insured, not by the acre.
- You do not have to insure your whole property, because this insurance covers anywhere on your woodland where a wildfire occurs.
- Policy does not cover burning of slash or prescribed burns.
- One page application asks only type of trees, age of trees, and location.
- There are five coverage options ranging from \$15/yr for \$2,500 coverage up to \$365/yr for \$100,000 coverage. Most requested: \$110/yr for \$25,000 coverage.
- There is no deductible per occurrence, but there is a \$5 application fee.
- There are four dates for coverage to begin: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1 & Oct. 1.
- Payment can be combined with NWOA membership dues or NWOA liability coverage.
- For application: email info@nwoa.net, or call NWOA (703) 255-2700

TIMBERLAND FIRE COVERAGE NOW AVAILABLE

ARE YOUR TREES PROTECTED?

MINIMUM PREMIUMS STARTING AT \$15

INSURABLE TIMBER VALUE LIMITS
FROM \$2,500 - \$100,000
(HIGHER LIMITS AVAILABLE)



Outdoor
UNDERWRITERS, INC.

info@nwoa.net

(703) 255-2700



Colorado Governor Addresses Wildland-Urban Interface

by Lyle Laverty*

In March 2012 a prescribed burn conducted by the Colorado State Forest Service for a client experienced unexpected high winds and escaped the fire lines. Before being brought under control, the fire had burned several thousand acres, destroyed homes and resulted in the loss of two lives.

Following the aftermath of the Lower North Fork Fire, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper issued an Executive Order establishing two task forces, and reorganizing wildland fire responsibilities. The governor's order directed the task force on Wildfire Insurance and Forest Health to explore and develop recommendations on how best to protect Colorado citizens who live in the wildland-urban interface. The Lower North Fork fire brought into focus the complex problem of community development in the nexus of fire adapted ecosystems.

The task force was directed to "identify and reach agreement on ways to encourage activities, practices and policies that would reduce the risk of loss in wildland-urban interface areas, and provide greater customer choice and knowledge of insurance options." The governor framed five issues and Guiding Principles to guide the work of the task force. The five issues were:

- Environmentally sensitive ways to improve forest health and sustainably in order to limit future wildfire exposure.
- The availability of firefighting resources.
- Ways to maintain and protect water quality and watersheds in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI).
- Building and other development activities and requirements in the WUI.
- Maintaining a healthy insurance marketplace to protect against structure loss from wildfire.

Lyle Laverty is a NWOA director elected by the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Alliance of Landowner Associations (NWOA affiliates). He is a former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, as well as former Colorado States Parks Director and retired Rocky Mountain Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service.

Eight guiding principles outlined in the governor's executive order were foundational in the development of recommendations to the governor.

- Identify and support state and local activities and partnerships that would promote forest health and reduce the loss from wildland fires and protect communities, first responders and investment from wildfire.
- Protect citizens who live in the WUI.
- Protect Colorado's landscape, which is a critical element of the State's economic health.
- Increase awareness of the fire risks in the WUI.
- Identify insurance options that incentivize actions, practices, and policies that can lead to reduced losses and better understanding of coverage by policyholders.
- Identify legislation and regulatory options that promote wise planning and stewardship and reduce loss of life and property.
- Promote state and local coordination that will foster forest health and reduce wildland fire threats.
- Explore public-private partnership opportunities.

The task force deliberated extensively, sending a series of recommendations to Governor Hickenlooper on September 30, 2013. The challenges of addressing living with fire in the wildland-urban interface are challenging and complex, yet the solutions are straightforward. However, there are inherent social and political barriers preventing essential actions to reduce the risk of wildland fire impacts in the urban interface.

Several factors hold the key to reducing loss of lives, property and resources in these fire-adapted ecosystems: reducing hazardous fuel conditions, creating resilient communities, and active planning, zoning and building codes for community development in the wildland-urban interface.

The barriers are real. Funding and resources always surface as a barrier to accomplishing essential fuel treatment in the WUI. Aggressive suppression activities and a lack of active management have combined to create changes in both structure and species composition in WUI ecosystems



throughout the interior West. These changed conditions create situations leading to the dramatic images captured by national media on the evening news. Competing priorities for increasing suppression costs divert funds from active management and hazardous fuel treatment to suppression activities. Wildland resource managers have expressed concern over the unnatural and explosive fuel conditions in the interior West for decades.

Failure to take aggressive action, litigation and confliction priorities have contributed to policy gridlock within federal agencies managing public lands in the urban interface. Resource managers understand that the critical importance of reducing hazardous fuels is essential to reducing risk and the cost of suppression in the WUI. In Colorado, two of the state's most destructive wildfires occurred during the summer of 2012 and 2013. The Waldo Canyon and the Black Forest Fires in Colorado Springs resulted in insurance claims exceeding \$750 million and claimed four lives.

The U.S. Forest Service has experienced more than a five-fold increase in suppression costs since the early 1990s. Suppression costs are expected to exceed \$2 billion during the 2014 wildfire season. A significant portion of these suppression costs are associated with protecting lives, property and communities in the wildland-urban interface—air tankers, engines and firefighting crews.

The magnitude of the wildland-urban interface development is one of the underlying issues adding to the complexity of reducing the loss of life and property in the wildland-urban interface. A Colorado State University study projects that Colorado's growth of development will increase from approximately 715,000 acres in 2000 to nearly 2.2 million acres by 2030—a 300 percent increase!

Many landowners are unaware of the dynamic changes taking place with forest conditions in the WUI. One suggested recommendation by the task force was to increase the awareness of wildfire threat to property owners was to disclose the risk during closure upon the sale of the property, similar to the disclosure of purchasing property in a flood zone. Another concern is that many landowners assume that loss of trees on their property will result in the loss of property value.

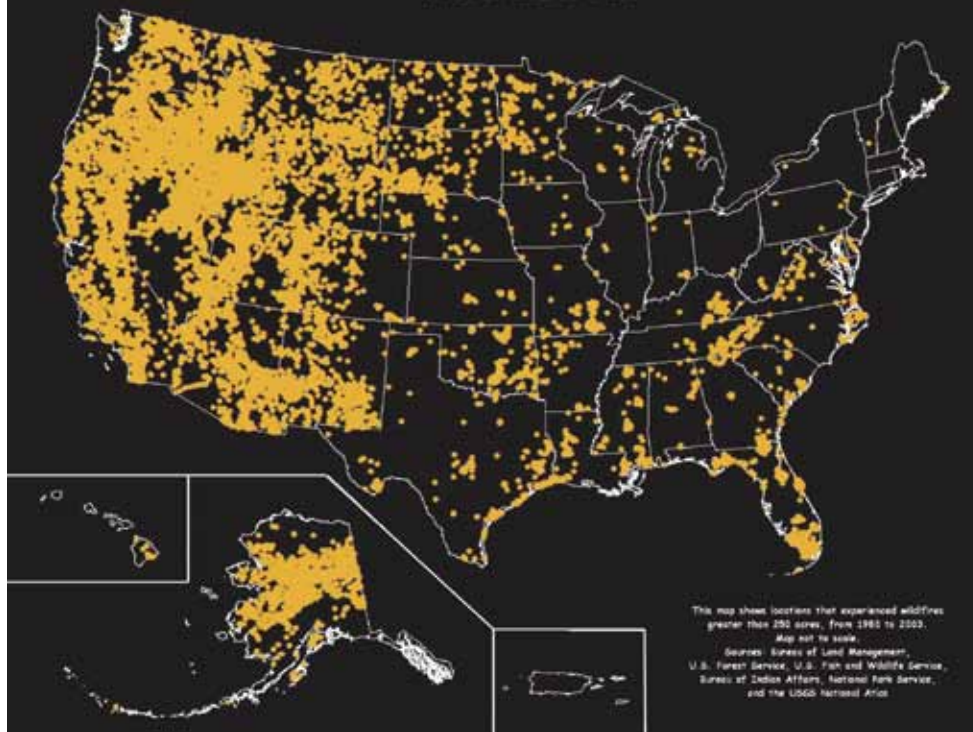
Perhaps the most significant challenge of development in the WUI is landowner responsibility. Many landowners are unaware of the cost of maintaining a residence in the WUI and have come to expect someone will protect their property from wildfire.

The task force acknowledged research reinforcing the importance of creating resilient communities through fire-wise building materials, zoning and building codes can reduce wildfire risks and reduce loss of lives and property. The complexity of consistent zoning in the wildland-urban interface becomes evident when considering the independence of over 60 counties in Colorado.

The task force presented Governor Hickenlooper with the following recommendations:

- Update the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Protocol (CO-WRAP), a Colorado State Forest Service risk assessment tool, to identify and quantify risks to specific properties in the WUI.
- Disclose CO-WRAP scores to stakeholders.
- Amend standard real-estate contract form to include disclosure of CO-WRAP scores.
- Require Wildfire Mitigation Audits for high risk homes.
- Develop and disseminate uniform BMPs.
- Prohibit inconsistent community building or land use requirements.
- Implement state-wide model ordinance.
- Create pilot program for prescribed burns.
- Assess a fee on properties in the WUI
- Continue and enhance state grant funding.
- Increase awareness of financial assistance and technical support.

Implementing these recommendations will require Colorado community leaders and citizens alike to make difficult decisions requiring complex political choices and behavioral changes. Unless bold drastic actions are taken, with the continued growth in the interface and the growing accumulation of hazardous fuel conditions, we can reasonably predict that additional large and devastating fires will occur in Colorado's urban interface in the future.



Catastrophic Fires: We Can Do Better

by Lyle Laverty

Once again major portions of western America are positioned for a potentially devastating season of catastrophic wildland fire. Predicted weather patterns with continued scorching temperatures and extending drought conditions could set the stage for more frequent and more devastating wildfire.

Across the West, fuel conditions have changed drastically over the past century with the exclusion of fire from the landscape. The results are dramatic. Natural fire cycles have been altered across large areas of the West, changing the vegetative character of many fire-adapted ecosystems, and increasing wildland fire risk and hazard. Fires today are behaving differently than perhaps at any point in our recent history. Unnaturally severe and catastrophic fires have destroyed America's natural resources and communities, at unacceptable and unnecessary loss of human lives. Other costs include restoration, lost tax and business revenues as well as costs to property and human health.

Several factors are influencing fire ignitions and fire behavior, impacting resources and communities throughout the West. Changing climate conditions are creating hotter and drier conditions, subjecting many of our western forests to explosive conditions waiting for ignition.

The Colorado State Forest Service has reported the annual number of wildfires in the state has increased from 457 fires per year in the 1960s to more than 2,700 fires per year in the 2000s—a six-fold increase. The annual number of acres burned during that same period has increased nearly twelve fold, from slightly more than 8,100 acres to an average over 97,000 in the 2000s, a twelve-fold increase.

The destructive nature of wildfire is manifest in the loss of lives and property associated with the wildland-urban interface (WUI), a term describing the complex environment created

where nature and human development merge. Continuing development of homes in the WUI reinforces the potentially devastating impacts wildland fire will have on communities in the future.

A Colorado State University study has projected that Colorado's growth in the urban interface will increase from 715,000 acres in 2000 to more than 2,100,000 acres in 2030, a 300 percent increase. The growth of neighborhoods and communities around and in fire-prone forests has resulted in huge budget challenges for land management agencies. For the U.S. Forest Service, fire suppression costs doubled between 2001 and 2010.

During the past several fire seasons in Colorado, wildfires have claimed 648 homes, burned more than 400,000 acres, taken lives and resulted in insurance claims exceeding \$750,000,000. Waldo Canyon suppression costs alone cost taxpayers approximately \$17 million.

Solutions are difficult. Yet, solutions are straightforward. In 2002 The National Academy of Public Administration, at the request of Congress, focused on two questions: Why are fire suppression costs increasing and what can be done to contain these costs? The panel concluded that the only way to significantly contain rising suppression costs is to address the controllable root causes. The two principal causes identified by the Academy, still true today, are the unnatural accumulation of hazardous fuels on the nation's wildlands and the continued urban development in and near these areas.

Unless drastic corrective actions are taken to address these root causes of devastating fires, we can predict that additional large unacceptable catastrophic fire impacts will continue throughout the West.



PAPER because

so long as this well-managed forest is used to make paper,
this will always be a forest. And never a parking lot.

This is a picture of an FSC® certified forest, which helps protect plant species and wildlife,
not to mention millions of North American jobs. Learn more at PAPERbecause.com.





Prescribed fire under longleaf pine in north Florida. David Godwin photo.



Prescribed fire under longleaf pine in north Florida. Larry Korhnek photo.

The Southern Fire Exchange: Easy Access to Fire Science Information for Forest Owners and Managers

by Alan Long and David Godwin*

Wildfire is an unwelcome guest in most forests because of its potential impact on timber, property and human safety. As unwanted as wildfire may be, fire is a natural process that can have positive effects on wildlife food sources, seedling regeneration, nutrient cycling and reduction of future wildfire risks, especially when applied properly as prescribed fire.

With the likelihood that fire will occur sooner or later in most woodlands, landowners face the daunting task of answering questions such as:

- How can we reduce the risk of severe wildfire?
- Should we use prescribed fire to achieve the positive ecological effects of fire?
- How do we use prescribed fire safely?
- What can we do if prescribed fire is not a good option for our situation?

Answers to these and many related questions would significantly

**Alan Long is Professor Emeritus with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida. David Godwin is the Program and Outreach Coordinator for the Joint Fire Science Program and the University of Florida led Southern Fire Exchange.*

help woodland owners decide how to incorporate fire in their management plans and operations.

Fortunately, information about fire is available for woodland owners from resources and organizations such as state and county fire agencies, Cooperative Extension Service offices and various websites.

However, with this diversity of available resources, landowners need to sort out what information makes most sense for them. That dilemma was a primary concern five years ago when the Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) was established as a southeastern focal point for science-based information related to prescribed fire and wildfire.

SFE's main goal is to provide landowners and natural resource managers with fire science-based information and technology that they can readily access, easily understand, and hopefully apply to their forest lands. With the task of supporting management decisions across the southern pine region, SFE has partnered with state prescribed fire councils (PFCs), the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station and federal and state fire agencies, as well as professional and non-profit organizations. The SFE is one of a national network of similar regional programs

supported by the interagency Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), all with the primary mission of translating science into information that landowners and managers can use as they work with fire.

Each of the regional consortia maintains websites and activities similar to SFE. The program most appropriate for readers outside of the South can be located by clicking on the map at https://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_consortia.cfm.

Landowners can locate information and find answers to their questions through a variety of SFE products and activities. Our online Southern Fire Exchange Resource Center (www.southernfireexchange.org) serves as a first-stop hub for those looking for fire science related information. It includes SFE fact sheets and our bimonthly Fire Lines newsletter, both of which summarize applicable, research results in easy-to-understand terms and highlights.

The website also includes information about upcoming field workshops, training opportunities, and PFC meetings. Links to many other relevant fire information resources range from online libraries to smoke and weather prediction tools. For example, the fascinating Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science

(<http://fire.forestencyclopedia.net/>) contains a wealth of well-organized basic fire science and ecology information.

For woodland owners interested in prescribed burning, the “Plan Your Burn” and “Ask an Expert” sections on the SFE Resource Center may be particularly useful. The “Ask an Expert” section is protected through a log-in process, and once you are registered, you can easily ask questions and respond to other people’s questions.

If you don’t find what you are looking for on the Resource Center, you can also contact SFE directly by email (sfe@ifas.ufl.edu) and ask for assistance. The easiest way to keep track of new SFE products and meeting opportunities is to join the SFE email list by clicking the brown envelope button in the left margin of the website. One other publication available on the SFE website was prepared specifically for landowners who eventually face the unwelcome guest: *When wildfire strikes: What do I do now?* Look for it on the SFE Publications page.

Is Prescribed Fire For You?

The success of SFE in reaching landowners is predicated on the many partnerships we have with organizations like the National Woodland Owners Association and its state affiliates: the Southern Alliance of Landowner Associations.

Although prescribed burns are most often used in the South, they may be appropriate for landowners in other states as well. Most southern state forestry agencies conduct introductory prescribed fire courses that cover the basic methods and legal issues involved in the safe use of fire. In addition, a series of introductory online courses for private landowners will be available soon from the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability Prescribed Fire Work Group.

Some states provide landowner workshops for applied learning in the field in partnership with University Extension programs. Finally, landowners may find that their state and regional PFC meetings are useful for networking with other landowners and resource managers and for learning about relevant research highlights, current policy and legal issues and long-term weather forecasts. Web links to many of these partners, resources, and activities can be found on the SFE website.

In summary, given all the chal-



Joint Fire Science Program regional network of information exchange consortia.

lenges associated with managing and implementing fire in natural areas, the Southern Fire Exchange and the other JFSP Regional Consortia encourage landowners, resource managers, and decision makers to be active learners for topics related to fire. By utilizing the

online resource centers, participating in field tours and workshops, and attending online webinars, landowners can make smarter science-based decisions in their natural resource planning and management.



Landowner workshop about prescribed fire effects. Dawn McKinstry photo.



Prescribed fire under slash pine in north Florida. Larry Korhnak photo.

The Wildfire Disaster Relief Act: Questions and Answers

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2013 (Wildfire Act; S. 1875) in early December of 2013 in an effort to stem shortfalls in wildfire funding that have forced the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior to utilize other budget accounts to cover wildfire costs.

The Forest Service alone has spent \$3 billion in seven of the past 12 years from non-fire accounts to fight increasingly large and devastating wildfires. While Congress repaid all but \$400 million, this still leaves a huge funding gap. According to a memo released by the Forest Service, most redirected funds come from forest research, reforestation efforts, and capital improvements, which may directly impact the Forest Service's efforts on behalf of wildlife and their habitats.

Senator Wyden has been encouraging House and Senate appropriators to include the Wildfire Act in the Fiscal Year 2014 spending package. This Act would move fire suppression spending in excess of 70 percent of the ten-year average to a separate disaster account, similar to procedures in place for other agencies, which deal with natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes.

The Wildfire Act is supported by the Fire Suppression Funding Solutions Partner Caucus and has been deemed especially critical in the face of global climate change. The Forest Service states that as a result of a changing climate, forest conditions are more conducive to large, severe wildfires than ever before.

Following are some common questions and answers pertaining to the proposed bill.

Does the bill include a written guarantee for more funding of hazardous fuels programs?

Section 103 requires the Forest Service/DOI to boost hazardous fuels funding at an amount equal to half the agency's suppression budget. This 2:1 ratio of suppression-to-prevention would drive budget priorities where forest thinning is used to reduce wildfire costs over time. This proactive approach to managing our forests puts the Forest Service and Interior Department on a path of fighting fires and restoring our forests in a fiscally responsible manner.

What kind of hazardous fuels programs are we talking about?

Section 103 of the bill specifies hazardous fuels programs as:

- "hazardous fuels reduction projects and other activities of the Secretary of the Interior [and the Secretary of Agriculture], as authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501) and the Tribal Forest Protec-

tion Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3114a);" and

- "Forest restoration and fuel reduction activities carried outside of the wildland urban interface that are on condition class 3 Federal land or condition class 2 Federal land located within fire regime I, fire regime II, or fire regime III."

What programs are covered under HFRA and TFPA?

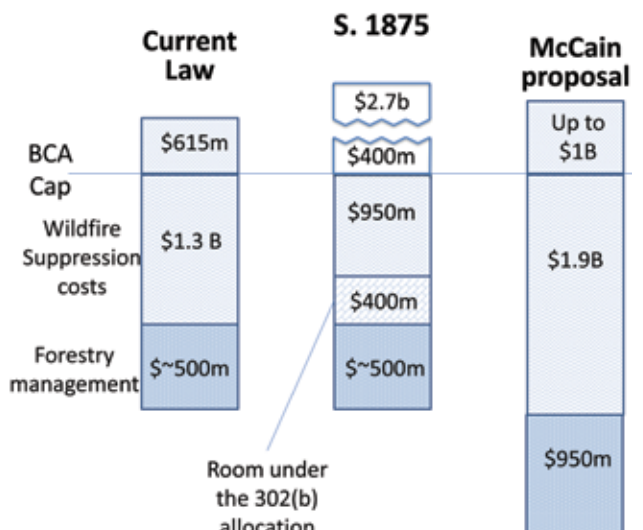
Projects authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) and the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) include:

- Forest stewardship contracting
- Insect/Disease treatment projects as amended by the 2014 Farm Bill.
- WUI work on federal lands near towns and water supplies including those threatened by erosion.
- Federal land affected by blowdown or ice storm damage.
- Tribal contract work on reservations and certain lands adjacent to reservations.

Other programs under HFRA include: biomass research, biomass commercial utilization grants, state and private forestry programs for small wood product utilization, watershed forestry assistance, tribal watershed forestry assistance, the forest reserve program, and forest inventory and monitoring programs (provided these programs remain authorized).

What are "conditional class federal lands" and "fire regimes?"

Condition classes and fire regimes include a range of



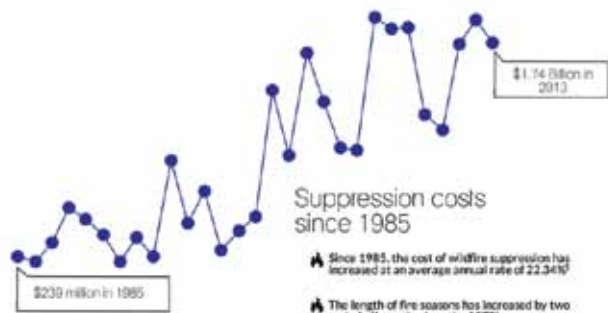
Conservation Dollars are Being Burned

The practice of fire borrowing means that the Forest Service and other land management agencies do not have the resources necessary to effectively manage existing forestry-management, wildlife conservation, and wildfire prevention programs.

Current spending levels for suppression activities are no longer sustainable, and land management agencies need a more stable budget strategy to effectively manage existing programs and resume congressionally mandated activities.

Shifting excess fire suppression costs away from the Forest Service budget would enable the agency to return to a state of budgetary stability.

These budgetary changes would restore appropriated dollars and congressional intent to programs vital to wildlife conservation and wildfire prevention.



lands that the Forest Service identifies as having a low-to-high fuel load and risk of unnatural wildfire behavior. These categories are intended to address lands outside of WUI areas and support landscape-scale projects.

How does the funding increase work?

Simply put, the bill proposes that Congress properly budget for wildfires and rebalance Forest Service spending priorities so that we aggressively pursue forest thinning.

First, S. 2593 requires Congress to abandon the bad practice of calculating suppression needs using a “10-year historic average” of past suppression spending. The 10-year average can’t keep pace with the rising cost of wildfires every year. We propose that Congress abandon the inadequate 10-year average and instead use a scientific and more accurate budget forecast models, known as the “FLAME regression forecast.”

Second, S. 2593 links rising suppression costs to increased funding for hazardous fuels projects. Under the bill, Congress must fully fund wildfire suppression in the “upper bound range” of the FLAME forecast (e.g., May 2014 FLAME forecast) and also allows another \$1 billion to be accessed under FEMA’s disaster relief fund (for hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters). If S. 2593 had been enacted for Fiscal Year 2014, the Congress would have to budget for roughly \$1.9 billion in suppression funds and would have the option of spending another \$1 billion in off-budget emergency disaster spending, provided that the Forest Service is guaranteed \$950 million in hazardous fuels spending.

This is a significant increase compared to the Forest Service budget enacted for FY2014, which currently funds the following programs at:

- \$1.3 billion for all suppression.
- \$306 million for hazardous fuels.
- \$78 million for state and fire assistance.
- \$104 million for forest health management programs under State and Private Forestry.

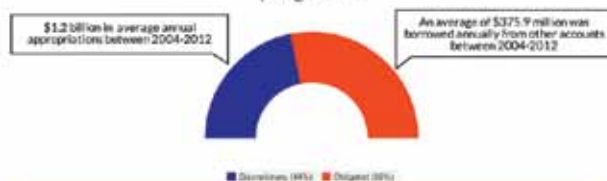
How can we address litigation and red-tape that keeps industry out of our forests?

The high cost of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, along with burdensome litigation, is draining Forest Service budgets and preventing dollars from being spent on approving certain timber sales that encourage industry-led forest thinning. The Forest Service spends more than \$356 million annually to conduct NEPA analysis and compliance requirements on forest projects including timber sales. NEPA analysis is then subject to judicial review which can delay projects for years and discourage industry investment. Currently, 44.1 million acres are designated as suitable for timber production.

S. 2593 includes legislation based on Senator John Barasso’s National Forest Jobs and Management Act of 2014 (S. 1966) that sets a target of harvesting 7.5 million acres over a 15-year period (500,000 acres/yr) in areas selected by the Forest Service, and provides county governments with an added 25 percent of the revenue from those forest projects. This bill includes a streamlined NEPA review process and a speedy arbitration process for projects that are litigated. The bill also includes legislation authored by Senator Jeff Flake (S. 1300, the Stewardship Contracting Reauthorization and Improvement Act) that gives the Forest Service greater flexibility to budget for more Forest Stewardship Contracts, which promote small timber wood utilization.



Between 2004 and 2012, the cost of fire suppression required an average of \$375.9 million above appropriated levels, forcing the Forest Service to borrow the remainder from other important programs.



Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

H.R. 3992 and S. 1875 would put an end to the practice of fire borrowing and restore budgetary stability to the U.S. Forest Service without increasing federal spending.

This legislation would:

- Classify extreme wildfires as natural disasters, enabling the use of federal emergency dollars to fund excessive suppression costs.
- Prevent disruptive funding transfers from essential non-fire programs, restoring functionality to vital forestry management, fire prevention, and conservation programs under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service.
- Introduce clear criteria on what suppression activities merit funding under the disaster cap.



This document was created by the Treasure Rowland Conservation Partnership.

1. http://www.usfs.gov/Recreation/FS_documents/2014/04/01



National Historic Lookout Register

Wilderness Management, “Let Burn” Fires and Historic Lookouts



Hells Half Acre lookout is a key fire detection point in the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the Idaho/Montana border.



Lookout Mountain and Saddle Complex 2011 (photo: Christie LeClair Biskin)

Sometimes these fires burn quietly and restore the natural diversity of the forest cover. Sometimes they don't.



Hells Half Saddle Fire, 2059, 8/17/2008

Fire is a natural part of forest ecosystems. Periodic fires within wilderness areas reduce the chances of intense and dangerous incidents. In most cases fires allowed to burn do just that (two in foreground).



Gold Fire 1952, 8/15/2001, near Salmon Mountain

When wildfires blow up and move toward the lookout...



Fire Use Fires from Hells Half Lookout, West Fork District, Bitterroot National Forest, 2012, 12 August 2008

Fire Use Fires 2005

Controlling wildfire within designated Wilderness Areas is a challenge. There are no roads, and use of chainsaws and other motorized equipment is rarely authorized. “Let Burn” decisions are made based on cause (lightning or human), fuels, weather forecasts, and the possibility of the fire spreading outside of wilderness boundaries.



.....it is time to wrap the lookout with retardant foil and evacuate.



NWOA and ALC: Working Together for Common Goals



The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) is pleased to announce that it has become an Associate Member of the American Loggers Council, a national organization representing logging contractors from around the country.

"Besides myself," said NWOA President Keith Argow, a forester, "the logger is the most important person who comes onto my woodlands. What he does—and how he does it—lasts a rotation or longer."

The American Loggers Council: Boots on-the-Ground

The American Loggers Council (ALC) exists to serve as a national organization for both state and regional logging associations. Founded in 1994 by a group of contractors from around the country whose belief was that it is "time for the loggers to have a voice of their own on the issues that impact the timber harvesting industry," the ALC continues to do just that, representing loggers in Washington, D.C. and other national

venues where people need to hear from loggers—not those who claim to represent loggers from other sectors of the supply chain.

Since its formation, the ALC has worked on issues related to transportation, labor, federal taxes, and a host of environmental regulations that impact timber supply. The organization has also continued to participate in discussions surrounding credible land management programs such as the SFI program, and the creation of markets for woody biomass for energy.

If the American Loggers Council did not take on issues of importance to the logging community, who would? The ALC's boots on-the-ground experience helps it bring a unique perspective from a logging business point of view that does not exist in other organizations.

Who Will Be Harvesting the Forests?

On May 7, 2014, Congressman Raul Labrador (R-ID) introduced the Future Logging Careers Act, H.R. 4590 in the U. S. House of Representatives. The bill would amend the Fair Labor Standard Act of 1938 to allow the 16- and 17-year-old sons and daughters of family-owned timber harvesting businesses to learn the business and train in the use and maintenance of mechanized logging equipment under parental supervision.

The American Loggers Council worked with Congressman Labrador's office to craft the bill so that all protections would remain in place for these young people entering the profession. It will also help ensure the long term health of the logging industry and a new generation of skilled loggers into this vital sector of the economy.

The Future Logging Careers Act would ensure that the next generation of mechanical timber harvesters can gain on-the-ground safety training and experience under the close supervision of their parents. This way, we will know who will be harvesting our forests in the future.

Support Our Future Workforce

Like farming and ranching, the timber harvesting profession is often a family run business where the practice and techniques of harvesting and transporting forest products to receiving mills is passed down from generation to generation. Timber harvesting operations are similar to family farms with sophisticated and expensive harvesting equipment that requires young men and women to learn how to run the business, including equipment operation and maintenance, prior to the age of eighteen.

The agriculture industry enjoys regulatory exemptions that permit family members between the ages of sixteen and seventeen to participate and learn the operations of the family business under the direct supervision of their parents. However, young men and women in families who own and operate timber harvesting companies are denied the opportunity to work and learn the family trade until the age of eighteen. This bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to allow for sixteen and seventeen year olds in mechanized logging operations to work in the business under parental supervision.

The Future Logging Careers Act (H.R. 4590) and its companion in the Senate, the Youth Careers in Logging Act (S.2335) would ensure that the next generation of mechanical timber harvesters can gain on-the-ground safety training and experience under the close supervision of their parents. The following organizations support the Future Logging Careers Act, H.R. 4590 and the Youth Careers in Logging Act, S. 2335 to ensure the long term health of the logging industry by supporting the entrance of youth into this vital economic sector of our economy:

Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Inc.; American Loggers Council; Forest Resources Association; The Hardwood Federation; National Alliance of Forest Owners; National Woodland Owners Association; Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association; Southeastern Wood Producers Association.

Danny Dructor
*Executive Vice President
American Loggers Council*



Woodland Report

Reliable, Responsive, Reporting since 1983

Volume 31, Issue 3

Late Breaking Forestry News from Washington DC and State Capitals
Published for Woodland Owners by the National Woodland Owners Association

Summer 2014

WHILE AMERICA BURNS, CONGRESS TRADES DIVISIVE BARBS WITH LITTLE AGREEMENT

THE IMPORTANT WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT COULD BREAK THE 2012 BIPARTISAN BUDGET CONTROL ACT TO LIMIT HIGHER SPENDING, DEFICITS AND DEBTS

The recent Spring issue of Woodland Report summarized the extensive overhaul of wildfire funding proposed by the Obama administration for 2015. The continuing drought, especially in the western states and the anticipated surge in catastrophic wildfire, has spawned urgent calls for action from the National Governor's Association, sportsmen, conservationists, and forestry organizations, including NWOA. Already, before mid-summer, wildfires are in the news. The appeals to Members of Congress are becoming more urgent.

In the House, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), Chairman of the Budget Committee, remains adamant that the budget deal be kept with no emergency money for wildfire unless an equal amount is taken away from other programs.

In a preemptive move, the White House asked

Congress for \$615 million in emergency fire funding and bundled that with the \$3.7 billion supplement funding request, intended to address the humanitarian crisis of Latin American children now crossing the southwest border.

PROPOSAL TO BREAK HOUSE DEADLOCK

In early July, House Democrats initiated a petition to force leaders to hold a floor vote on the Wildfire Disaster Funding bill, but neither Budget Chair Ryan, nor House Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Doc Hastings, (R-WA) have held the requisite hearings.

Two western Congressmen, Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) circulated their

own letter to colleagues, challenging Ryan's points and claiming their bill would ensure that every dollar is spent on wildfire suppression so that adjustments in the disaster relief cap are fully offset.

SENATE ACTION MAY OFFER COMPROMISE

On July 15 the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee took up the Forest Service's \$4.8 billion budget request. Senator McCain (R-AZ) along with Senators Flake (R-AZ) and Barrasso (R-WY) introduced S. 2593, which would amend the FLAME Act to allow for full funding of wildland fire budgets and dramatically increase money for forest restoration programs.

Said Senator McCain: "Congress must fully fund our fire suppression needs, but to reduce wildfire costs over time we must also thin our fire-prone forests." While there is strong agreement within forestry organizations, as well as NWOA, that this addition to reduce fuel loading on under managed public lands is desirable, it will be challenged by several national environmental associations with longstanding positions opposing logging on public lands.

HOUSE APPROVES PERMANENT TAX INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

STRONG SUPPORT IN SENATE, BUT ACT MUST BREAK A LEGISLATIVE LOGJAM

On July 17 in a show of bipartisanship, the House made permanent the enhanced tax incentive for conservation of farmland, rangeland, woodlands and other important open spaces. The bill, which includes other charity provisions passed by a vote of 277-130.

In June NWOA joined many organizations by signing on to the Independent Sector's letter in favor of these charitable incentives.

Reports From State Affiliates

“All Forestry is Local”



IDAHO'S FOREST PRACTICES ACT REVISIONS TOOK SEVERAL YEARS TO COMPLETE

The Idaho Forest Owners Association (NWOA affil.) reports that new streamside shade retention rules went into effect on July 1. They require that landowners leave 75 percent of the current tree shade over Class I streams to help keep the water cool enough for healthy fish habitat.

The new rules were developed by the state Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee on which the IFOA has two seats. This kind of active involvement by state landowner associations is very important in helping public agencies develop regulations that are fair and workable. In this instance, two tree retention options were approved, giving landowners a choice. In addition, the state agreed to hire three new private forestry specialists to help landowners understand and implement the program.

After much consideration and negotiating, the new shade rules were approved by the Idaho House and the Senate and sent to the governor for his approval in January.

U.S. SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS FROM THE SOUTH SURGE WITH PROMOTION PUSH FOREIGN SALES RISE TO HIGHEST LEVEL IN 16 YEARS

Half of that growth came in the last five years, according to North Carolina Woodlands (NWOA Affil.) and the Southern Forest Products Ass'n. Exports of pressure-treated lumber, a key value-added item, reached an all-time sales record of \$79 million in 2013. Loblolly pine, the dominant species used, is a strong wood with large pores that accepts preservative treatment and is long lasting in most applications.

SFPA has used USDA Foreign Agricultural Service grants for 30 years to promote exports. The estimated return on investment of these efforts is 42 to 1. Every federal dollar, in other words, facilitated \$42 in improved market sales.

OREGON'S TIMBER HARVEST IS THE HIGHEST IN SEVEN YEARS

HARVEST OF 4.2 BILLION BOARD FEET LAST YEAR UP FROM A RECESSION LOW OF 2.72 BILLION BOARD FEET IN 2009

The Oregon Department of Forestry said that is the first harvest above four billion feet in seven years. Although half of the state is forested, most of that (60 percent) is federal land where timber harvesting is severely restricted. The rest is industrial forest and family forests, the latter represented by the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NWOA affil.) That segment increased its production by 61 percent, taking advantage of the strong market prices.

MINNESOTA BEAR DIES AT AGE 39

OLDEST BEAR RECORDED IN STATE TAGGING STUDY MAY HAVE BEEN OLDEST IN THE WORLD

Good ole' Bear #56 is dead. First tagged in 1981 when seven years old, she raised 21 cubs to 18 months old. Some members of the Minnesota Forestry Ass'n. (NWOA affil.) will likely miss her. She might have been known as Sally, Sadie or Luella, but she was just #56 in government annals. May she rest in peace.

MARITIME CANADIAN WOODLAND OWNERS SPEAK UP TO PROTECT THEIR MARKETS

VALUE OF LANDOWNER ASSOCIATIONS SIMILAR ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER, BUT NOT REGULATIONS

For 30 years some 40,000 families in New Brunswick have produced 24 percent of the wood used by the forest industry. A new provincial administration plans to increase the harvest on Crown lands and reduce the private share.

Next door in Nova Scotia, some 14 private woodlot owner groups have joined to review programs... The Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners Ass'n said: "We fully support the work of the forum and welcome the diversity of views to get a better result than each of us can do alone."



Annual Reports from The Western Alliance Of Landowner Associations



ALASKA

Forest Owners Council

Alaska

Contact: Alaska@nwoa.net

Organized in 1997, Council membership is mostly in the Wasilla area and the Kenai Peninsula. The original focus was landowners helping other landowners get involved with forest management plans under the Forest Stewardship program. In recent years the focus has been on wildfire and wildlife mitigation.

Forest and Watershed

Arizona

Association

Arizona

Contact: Arizona@nwoa.net

In 1998 the association was organized by consulting foresters and landowners in the Flagstaff area. The group meets periodically in response to healthy forest issues, watershed management, and wildfire concerns with members service on state committees.



California

Contact: deidreb@forestlandowners.org

Since 1975, FLC has been the primary voice of the 30,000 non-industrial and family forest owners in California. The hands-on nature of its membership gives FLC a unique and respected position in advocacy positions in the most heavily forestry regulated state in the nation.

Working well with the California Forestry Association (the state forest industry organization), FLC promotes the benefits of managed forests to policy



makers, members of the public and to the environmental community. FLC joined the Western Alliance of Landowner Associations in 1986, becoming the California affiliate of the National Woodland Owners Association.

In 2012 FLC launched its "Campaign for Influence and Visibility: Sustainable Forest Management and Regulatory Common Sense." Focusing first on raising money, the group designed a successful campaign to influence forest policy. An influence they did.

Identifying and working well with key legislators, FLC came to be recognized as a source of true and reliable forestry information. Within time FLC leaders gained the respect of the governor whose commitment led to the last-minute passage in the Assembly of a new Forest Policy and Funding Act. This remarkable law was the winner of NWOA's Outstanding Forestry Law of the Year Award in 2012.

In 2014 FLC is collaborating with the California Licensed Foresters Association and the Buckeye Conservancy to enact the Working Forest Management Plan. Every year its members conduct four to five Field Days on member owned woodlands. Education programs continue to be a major strategic initiative to enable responsible legislation.



Colorado

Contact: agwest2@gmail.com

Founded in 1984 to support conservation and the management and renewal of forests through forestry legislation, public education and creation of forest reserves, CFA became the NWOA state affiliate in 1986. Well known for an informative and comprehensive website (coloradoforestry.org) the association publishes the Forestry Journal. Major advocacy issues include bark beetle devastation, support of small sawmills and timber markets, and wildfire. CFA is currently conducting a statewide membership campaign and leadership development initiative.



Hawaii

Contact: merobi@hilo.net

Land ownership in Hawaii is different than other states, with a majority in State Forest (watersheds), Home Lands, large ranches, and an emerging family forest owner class. With the encouragement of the Hawaii Forest Industries Association, the Hawaii Forest Institute was created by volunteers to promote awareness of the diversity and importance of the islands' forests. The Private Landowners Network is part of the Institute.



Idaho

Contact: info@idahoforestowners.org

Through the commitment of the Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA) to provide quality tree seedlings to forest owners in Idaho, more than 123,000 conifer seedlings were distributed to the four Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) of the Idaho panhandle on April 2, 2014.

Starting with pledges of volunteer support from IFOA Directors and members, the seedlings arrived from the nursery on March 31 to IFOA member Steve and Janet Funk's Edgecreek Farm near Coeur d'Alene.

Over the next few days, the trees were delivered throughout the Panhandle to forest owners, contractors and foresters. Only one issue caused a glitch for the project...the 1,500 Douglas fir were not delivered by the contracted nursery. Though disappointing, there were a few extra seedlings of other species available, and substitutions were made to customers. Overall, the program stayed true to its promise to provide properly seed-sourced trees at a reasonable cost to forest owners throughout the area.

In 1987 the Forest Seedling Program (FSP) started as one of many projects with the non-profit Idaho/Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council (aka RC&DC). Administration of the RC&DC program was supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), providing staff and operational funds to assist all RC&DC projects. Partnering with the regional SWCDs, the RC&DC FSP was a reliable tree seedling source for local forest owners.

After building a seed bank and contracting with a nursery to grow out the seedlings two years in advance of delivery, the ID/WA RC&DC became the wholesaler of seedlings, selling to the SWCDs, which in turn took orders and were the retail outlets to the public. All funds received by RC&DC from the sale of the seedlings went back into the program, providing a source of revenue

for more tree seed and development of tree seed orchards.

In 1993, the Washington side of RC&DC split away, and the name of the non-profit changed to Panhandle Lakes RC&DC. The RC&DC continued the FSP with the assistance of the NRCS until 2011, at which time federal dollars were removed from all RC&DCs nationwide. By 2013 the fate of Panhandle Lakes RC&DC, Inc. was uncertain, and the SWCDs were concerned about obtaining the seedlings from the nursery for the orders taken for 2014 delivery.

Seeing that the SWCDs were apprehensive about the possible loss of the seedling program, Panhandle Lakes RC&DC decided to transfer the program to another non-profit organization that could keep it on solid footing. A request for proposals to acquire the program was issued and IFOA's proposal was chosen as the non-profit organization to receive the program in its entirety.



Kansas

Contact: info@kansasforests.org

On May 2, 2014, the Kansas Forestry Association (KFA) was recognized by IRS as a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization. This recognition will enable KFA to expand its fund raising efforts and potentially increase its capacity to encourage sustainable forestry on private lands.

KFA Board and officers simultaneously serve as the Kansas Tree Farm Committee, the Board of the Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council and the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee. KFA is also an affiliate of the National Woodland Owners Association. The consolidation of the leadership of these key forest/woodland owner groups and the USFS State and Private State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has increased efficiencies, collaboration and synergy.

Hosting more than 200 people at the National Walnut Council Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas, in June and participating in an audit by the American Tree Farm System were two of the major activities undertaken by KFA so far in 2014. The Fall Forestry Field Day is scheduled for October 16 near Valley Falls, Kansas and will feature

more educational opportunities for private woodland owners interested in managing their woodlands.



Montana

Contact: debrapf@bigsky.net

Organized in 1995, MFOA is a voice for independent forest owners on many issues, including wildfire, cooperative forestry, extension forestry, land and timber taxation, among others.



Nebraska

Contact: Nebraska@nwoa.net

While known for growing corn, Nebraska has two woodland zones: the Missouri River valleys, and the pine stands of the western high plains. Most forest owners also have agriculture and range lands which are their primary interest. With twin emerging issues of forest health and wildfire, more land-owners are concentrating on their forest interest, which is the primary goal of the Council



Nevada

Contact: Nevada@nwoa.net

Most of the forest lands in Nevada are owned by public agencies, large ranches and some forest industry land. With breakup of larger holdings the number of family forest landowners is growing. The NFOC is a focus for these interests.



New Mexico

Contact: NewMexico@nwoa.net

After many years of periodic activity, the NMFOC is again getting involved in federal and state forestry issues. Membership concentrated in the northwest part of the state, but is proposed to expand statewide.

Oregon

Contact: jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com

There are several things going on in Oregon that will impact family forest owners. On the positive side, Rick and Audrey Barnes were selected 2014 Western Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System. The National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year will be announced at the American Tree Farm System Annual meeting July 17-19 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The Partnership for Forestry Education (Oregon Forest Resources Council, OSU Forestry Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, and Society of American Foresters) has developed a three year Leadership Academy program specifically to train members of volunteer organizations, in Oregon, to develop leadership skills. There was a successful event in January 2013 and February 2014. The last scheduled Leadership Academy will be in January 2015.

On the challenging side, The Oregon

Board of Forestry is evaluating the riparian protections for small and medium fish bearing streams found in Oregon's Forest Practices Act (FPA). The FPA in Oregon has always been driven by science. New Paired Watershed research demonstrates no changes are needed to protect fish and riparian functions in forest streams. However, there are those who are promoting stronger regulations. Oregon's family forest Owners are fully engaged in this issue and will not support any changes not justified by science.

Fire continues to be a huge threat to private forest owners in Oregon. Many of the federal forests in Oregon have been allowed to become catastrophic wildfires in waiting. Since wildfires do not recognize property boundaries, private landowners adjacent to federal forests have every reason to be nervous during fire season. There are several efforts in Oregon underway to encourage the federal government to do a better job of managing federal forests, but a snail would be considered a race horse when comparing it to how fast the federal government moves to improve forest conditions.



South Dakota

Contact: bwudtke@bhfra.org

Created with the support of the Black Hills Forest Resources Association, the SDFFA is an outgrowth of the state Tree Farm Committee. Most of the members are located within the Black Hills in the northwestern part of the state. Major activities include wildfire and forest health, especially pine bark beetles.

Utah

Contact: Darren.mcavoy@usu.edu

There is a growing number of family woodland owners in Utah, a state where most private forests have been



associated with ranching operations. Family forests are developing west and north of Salt Lake City, as well as the south central part of the state. They are a means of delivering forestry education through Forestry Extension and the State Forestry Division.



Wyoming

Contact: Wyoming@nwoa.net

Although there is good support from the forest industry and public agencies, the WFC still has an on-again, off-again status, responding well when issues emerge that need landowner support. Two of the most recent are the restarting of the Saratoga sawmill, and expediting harvest of dead federal timber. To be successful, primary leadership must emerge from landowners themselves.

Washington

Contact: info@wafarmforestry.com

This past year has been a year of change for the Washington Farm Forestry Association. In August 2014, Dr. Elaine Oneil took over as Executive Director, replacing Rick Dunning whom had led the organization for nine years. Dr. Oneil brought to the organization a perspective that is grounded in forest operations and science, and a goal of making visible the benefits that tree farmers bring to their communities and the region—both economically and environmentally. In practical terms this goal involves representing the small forest landowner perspective in ongoing natural resource debates, policy development, and legislative action as a major focus. In the longer term it involves expanding awareness in the rest of the community about the many benefits that small forest landowners bring to the table.

While forest management activities in most states are guided by best management practices (BMPs), Washington, like California, has a stringent Forest Practices Act (FPA) which was negotiated with the intent to protect fish habitat and water quality. The provisions of the FPA were developed to reflect the diversity of forest and climatic conditions across the state, but they result in requirements that are complicated to implement, even for trained forest



Sam and Joy Comstock are the 2014 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year.

operations personnel. Options aimed at simplifying some of the rules for small private landowners are not yet fully implemented, nor are programs that were designed to compensate small landowners for excessive "taking" of private property rights fully funded as required by the FPA.

The legislation and policies affecting forest management with the state continue to evolve and for that reason WFFA continues to direct resources toward ongoing multi-caucus science and policy efforts to ensure that small forest landowner interests are adequately considered as part of this process. This year, for the first time, we have our own vote as small forest landowners on these policy and science committees. Much of the funding for these efforts comes from participation grants which were established to ensure all affected caucuses had the opportunity to participate along with natural resource agencies in policy development.

In addition, WFFA directs resources to maintaining active connections with state and federal legislators and their staff. This proactive approach benefits all of us, as the legislators have easy access to information that helps them make more informed decisions, and we have an opportunity to articulate how proposed legislation will impact programs and activities on our forest lands.

We have provided input on federal issues such as the forestry provisions in the Farm Bill, proposed cuts to the stewardship forestry program, and most recently on the Camp tax proposal which would eliminate several key benefits to small landowners in the tax code if implemented as written.

The tax issue will continue to be a

Washington FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION



focus in 2014/15 given the interest of our members in this critical issue. At the state level we have worked closely with the Washington State large landowner caucus in support of legislation that reduced risks associated with fire liability and would have directed funds towards programs that compensate small landowners for excessive taking of property rights as set out in the current legislation.

Parallel to our policy and legislative efforts is the goal of expanding awareness within our communities about the benefits of maintaining small forest landowners as an integral part of the community and landscape. Development of these activities is a "work-in-progress" so this year we will share our vision.

In Washington State there is groundswell of interest in all things sustainable—from food and clothes to cars and build-

ings. Architects and engineers in the local design community in particular have taken great interest in the idea that "Wood is Good" because of its low environmental impact relative to other functionally equivalent products. Within that largely urban design community that are on the cutting edge of defining sustainability in the building environment, there is concern about ensuring that the wood comes from sustainably managed forests.

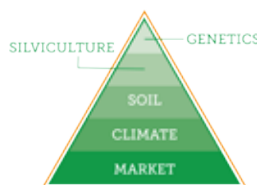
The design community tends to rely on the LEED building certification system to define its view of sustainable wood sourcing. LEED does not recognize family forests certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), or even those that have been under family management for years (or generations) without being certified, as sustainable sources of wood. However, due to pressure from a national network of wood suppliers, LEED recently added a credit to its certification scheme for local sourcing.

It is within this context that WFFA sees an opportunity to expand awareness about the small forest landowner's contribution to sustainable wood supply and sustainable communities.

Our network of people in the design community are interested in wood with a story. Washington Farm Forestry members have a rich suite of stories, some stretching back four generations or more. In this case our diversity is our strength. The variety of management styles and goals found among our membership means that the wood with a story that an urban designer is looking for is probably a lot closer than they think. Connecting the two ends of this spectrum through these stories is one method of fostering the links between urban and rural sustainability in a region that is densely wooded and where everyone is passionate about trees.



Be Smart Before You Start



The Decision Pyramid

Future markets, climate, soil conditions, silvicultural practices and genetics can all play a vital role in the success of your forestry investment. Increase your growth and decrease your risk... Be smart before you start.



INTERNATIONAL FOREST COMPANY

learn more: www.interforestry.com • (800) 633-4506



Collaborating for Sustainability: The Sustainable Forests Roundtable at 15

by Peter Gaulke*

Is your forest sustainable? How do you know if it is? This is a question that forest owners and managers have been struggling with for a long time, much longer, actually, than we've been using the term "sustainability."

More recently, the conversation can be traced back to at least 1998 when more than 30 leaders from government, non-governmental organizations and members of the forestry community opened a dialogue around sustaining *all* of America's forests. One result of this discussion was the initiation of the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, now called the Sustainable Forests Roundtable (SFR).

The SFR is an open and inclusive forum that promotes the goal of sustainable forest management on public and private lands throughout the United States. The SFR accomplishes this by bringing together the diverse interests listed above, plus representatives from the private forest ownership community, forest industry, universities, and local, state and federal governments.

The ownership and management characteristics of the nation's forest resources present challenges for adopting and reporting on sustainable forest management as a whole in the United States. Most of the forest and woodland in the East is in private ownership; most of the forest in West is in public owner-

ship. Because no national program or policy for sustainable forestry across all lands exists, the SFR fulfills a critical role by providing a venue for all stakeholders to share perspectives and work within their organizations and communities to promote sustainable forestry.

Sustainability is a term we hear and see every day, yet is hard to summarize in a few words. Fundamentally, we know that to sustain our economy and our society, we need to sustain our forests. They purify water and air; regulate water flow; maintain soil quality and limit erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. Forests also provide us with food, products, and energy, as well as recreation, spiritual and aesthetic experiences. Each of these attributes, plus others, is incorporated into a set of "sustainability" indicators, provide a useful framework to answer the sustainability question.

Determining whether your own forest or woodland—or the management of America's forests as a whole—is sustainable, even using indicators or attributes, is not an easy question to answer. It's not a yes or no question, nor is everybody likely to come up with the same answer. Sustainability is not government's responsibility alone, and hence we need everyone's participation to contribute to answering the sustainability question.

Your own forest ownership goals and actions affect your forest's health, vitality and sustainability. Whether you

realize it or not, your decisions directly or indirectly affect local communities and economies. Many forests show the impact of invasive plant species, inadequate regeneration, or poor harvesting decisions. Recognizing these conditions requires collecting information, analyzing conditions, and making tough decisions. When you plan a substantial change, such as a timber harvest, think of your forest as part of the larger landscape. Your decisions affect forests and the landscape beyond your boundaries.

As you make decisions, additional information on current and future trends is helpful. Potential sources of additional information include national and state forest reports which use a well-established set of indicators, as well as forestry professionals. The 2003, 2010, and a soon to be released 2015 edition, the National Report on Sustainable Forests examines national and regional trends. Some states offer state-level assessments of their forests.

For example, 20 states in the Northeast and Midwest, created the "Forests of the Northern United States (2012) Report." It provides the most recent regional-level forest sustainability assessment, following the 2007 Forest Sustainability Assessment for the Northern U.S. This 2012 report examines the issues, trends, threats, and opportunities facing the region's forests.

So, using these and other reports as

*NEPA, *Strategic Planning & Sustainability* USDA Forest Service, EMC.

a basis we can ask: Is progress being made toward sustaining America's Forests?

The answer depends on how you interpret the 2003 and 2010 editions of the National Report on Sustainable Forests. The 2010 report indicates America's forests are facing serious and persistent threats. Environmental threats persist including expanding insect and disease outbreaks, prolonged drought, changing climate, and more frequent or intense wildfires. In addition, housing developments are permanently eliminating forests or fragmenting larger forest blocks.

Social and economic pressures facing forest managers and the people who depend on forests for their welfare and livelihoods, while often less publicized, are also critical. After all, people are an essential piece of the sustainability puzzle, both in terms of how they affect forests and in terms of the benefits forests provide for them.

Given the importance of forests to society, the need to continue on a sustainable path is without question. Over the past 15 years the SFR has learned that incorporating sustainability into our thinking and conversations requires adapting how we communicate, from relying on meetings and printed



Your decisions can have major longterm impacts on your forest—and others.

publications to expanded use of the internet. SFR has expanded the dialog using Facebook, Twitter, and webinars in addition to the traditional face-to-face meetings to allow broad participation.

To further engage new individuals, we are currently redesigning our website (www.sustainableforests.com) to include the latest sustainable forestry news and articles. In particular, the articles are meant to invite conversations and better decisions on sustainable forest management on public and private lands throughout the United States.

We recognize that even though

societal needs change, the focus on sustaining America's forests will remain. The SFR will continue to promote a greater awareness of and support for the goal of sustainable U.S. forests.

As new information and trends become available on our website, we encourage you to discuss the results and their implications with your neighbors and colleagues. Through this process our understanding of sustainability will deepen and we can make better informed decisions about sustainable forestry at local, state, and national levels.





**Tax News
You
Can Use**



Timber and Taxes

Your Woodland's Tax Classification

by Dr. Linda Wang

How Is Woodland Classified For Federal Income Tax Purposes?

Your woodland property may be taxed under one of the three classifications: a personal property, investment (income-producing) property, or business property.

What Determines the Classification?

Whether your woodland property is a personal, investment or business property depends on your reason for owning it and your use and activities on it.

Property not used to produce income is classified as being held for personal use. For example, if your primary purpose for owning the property is personal enjoyment, such as hunting and fishing, then it's considered a "personal" holding. You do not intend to sell timber for profit.

Timberland owned primarily for making a profit, on the other hand, may be classified as either an investment or business property. A profit motive is required for each classification.

What Distinguishes An Investment Property From A Business Property?

Both investment and business property classifications for your timber require a clear demonstration of a "for-profit" motive for growing, cultivating and selling timber and/or timberland. The distinction between investment and business property is based on some specific facts and circumstances of your property. In general, a business is involved in timber production on a more regular basis than an investment enterprise.

Business or Hobby?

A business status may be denied and reclassified as "hobby" if it fails the "for-profit" requirement. Losses that are deductible for a business may be denied for a hobby activity.

To determine whether an activity is engaged to make profit, the IRS lists the following factors for taxpayers to consider:

- Does the time and effort put into the activity indicate an intention to make a profit?
- Does the taxpayer depend on income from the activity?
- If there are losses, are they due to circumstances beyond the taxpayer's control or did they occur in the start-up phase of the business?
- Has the taxpayer changed methods of operation to improve profitability?
- Does the taxpayer or his/her advisors have the knowledge needed to carry on the activity as a successful business?
- Has the taxpayer made a profit in similar activities in the past?



Is it a hobby or a business? The IRS wants to know.

- Does the activity make a profit in some years?
- Can the taxpayer expect to make a profit in the future from the appreciation of assets used in the activity?

What Is the IRS Presumption of A "For-Profit" Activity?

The IRS presumes that an activity is carried on for profit if there is a profit during at least three of the last five tax years, including the current year. Because of the long production cycle and only periodic income from a timber property, failure to meet this presumption does not mean an automatic disqualification. One factor of the "for-profit" considerations concerns "the expectation to make a profit in the future from the appreciation of asset." This is particularly relevant for woodland property, as timber generally appreciates over time (from physical growth and enhanced quality).

What Is A Passive Activity?

A passive activity only applies to a business classification.

If your timber is considered an investment property, the passive activity rules does not apply to you.

If your timber is a business and you do not “materially participate” in the business, your timber is a “passive” business. A passive loss cannot offset income from regular (non-passive) activity.

What Is “Material” Participation?

You may deduct ordinary and necessary business expenses in full if you materially participate in your timber business. To be considered “materially participating” in your business, your involvement must be “regular, continuous, and substantial.” If you meet at least one of the following six tests, you will meet the “material participation” rule:

1. You and your spouse participate in the management and operation of the activity for more than 500 hours during the tax year;
2. You and your spouse’s participation in the management and operation of the activity constitutes substantially all of the participation in the activity during the tax year;
3. You and your spouse participate for more than 100 hours in the management and operation of the activity during the tax year, and no other individual participates more;
4. You and your spouse’s participation in all of your “significant participation” businesses, including timber, exceeds 500 hours during the tax year. A “significant participation” activity is defined as a trade or business in which you participate for more than 100 hours;
5. You and your spouse materially participate in the management and operation of your timber activity for at least five of the preceding ten tax years; or
6. All the facts and circumstances of the situation indicate that you and your spouse materially participate.

How Is Personal, Investment Or Business Property Taxed?

Losses from personal property are generally not tax deductible (except casualty loss from fire or storm damages). Ordinary and necessary business expenses are deductible in full if you materially participate in your timber business; otherwise losses can only offset passive income. Expenses for investment property may be deductible but are generally subject to a reduction of two percent of your adjusted gross income for the year. Also, you must itemize deductions to deduct expenses for investment property.

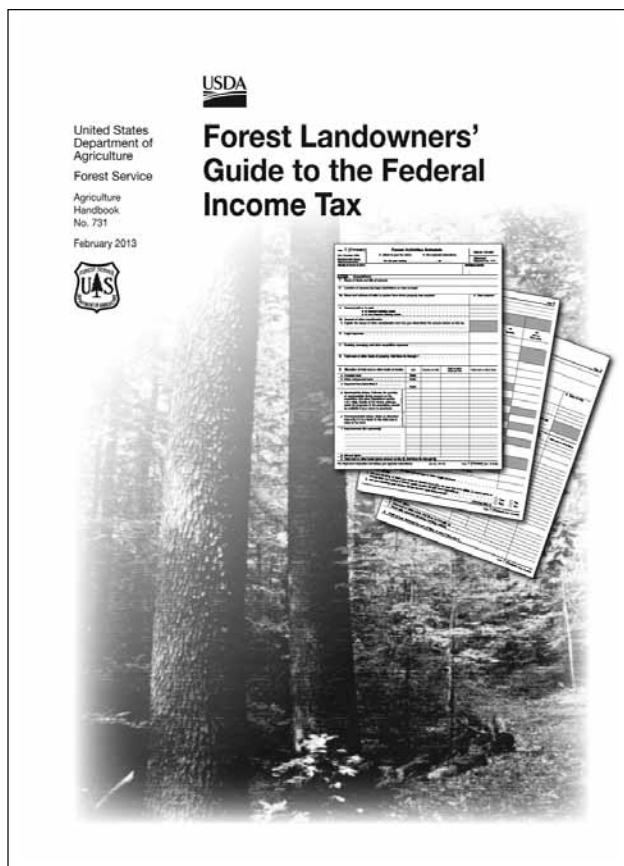
Which Classification Applies to Your Timber?

Consider whether making a profit from timber production is your main goal for owning your timber property (secondary purpose such as hunting or recreation does not jeopardize the “profit” definition). Next, consider whether your activity is regular, rising to the level of a business. Maintain consistent tax records and tax reporting unless the nature of your timber activity changes.

Getting Tax Help from the US Forest Service

Federal income tax law contains provisions to encourage stewardship and management of private woodland, which are commonly not familiar by the tax professionals. US Forest Service provides tax assistance to private woodland owners:

In time for landowners filing their federal income tax returns each year, the US Forest Service publishes a practical and updated tax bulletin, “Tax Tips for Forest Landowners.”



For a quick overview of the federal income tax on timber property, the following resources may be helpful:

- Federal Income Tax on Timber: A Quick Guide for Woodland Owners.”
- A detailed handbook: Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax. (NWOA has the only printed copies available for distribution).
- The National Timber Tax Website: (NWOA is a co-sponsor) www.timbertax.org has comprehensive information on timber tax laws and rules.
- A free tax webinar is available in the tax season.
- Forest Service estate tax publication: Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of Your Timberland?

FOREST LANDOWNERS’ GUIDE TO FEDERAL INCOME TAX . 2013. (152 pp.) available from NWOA. (See above). First published in 1953 and revised four times, this is the last word on complex timber and woodland tax law. A limited of printed copies are available on the web (the 2001 version is there too, be sure to get the latest), or by mail from NWOA. Send \$5 to cover the postage.



Linda Wang is the U.S. Forest Service national timber tax specialist, author and coauthor of numerous articles. For more information, visit the National Timber Tax website, www.timbertax.org.



The Greatest Good For...

The Greatest Number

Forest Research—State & Private Forestry—National Forests



Landowner Use of Forest Stewardship Programs Reviewed by the Family Forest Research Center

Authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, the Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance through State forestry agencies to family forest owners to help them practice responsible forest stewardship. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive management plans that give landowners the guidance they need to manage their woodlands for pleasure and profit as well as benefiting society as a whole. About 45 percent of all woodland in the U.S. is under nonindustrial private ownership, and most of that is managed by family forest landowners.

The nationwide program of written Forest Management Plans was created in 1991. In the following 15 years, 270,000 management plans for private woodlands were written with the participation of landowners for 31 million acres. Congress stipulated that such plans be prepared and approved as a requisite to receive federal cost share funding for forestry practices, watershed improvements and similar practices. A detailed study of the accomplishments of the Forest Stewardship Program for the years 2007-2011 was recently completed by the Family Forest Research Center. Located in Amherst, the Center is a joint venture between the U.S. Forest Service and the University of Massachusetts.

According to preliminary findings from the report, an average of 14,700 new or revised management plans—covering 1.9 million acres—were completed each year. Although ten percent of eligible landowners received “landowner education” and only one percent of them were completing written Forest Management Plans. Other key findings from the preliminary results of the study are: *Differences between “assisted” and “non-assisted” landowners.* Assisted landowners are more likely to have commercially harvested timber, planted trees or improved wildlife habitat. They also have higher incomes and higher levels of education. Those with more levels of assistance were also, as a rule, managing their land more intensively. *Similar*



Typically a landowner, forester and logger work together to implement a management plan.

characteristics between “assisted” and “non-assisted” landowners: These groups are similar in their intentions to sell or subdivide land; their age, primary residence location and how the land was obtained.

In conducting the review, the Center also took the opportunity to ask woodland owners how they felt the Forest Stewardship Program could be improved. This brought in a variety of practical responses. The most significant included the following:

- Maintain state-level flexibility. Woodlands and practices differ by state. Approaches need to be flexible while still providing consistent information of national analysis.
- Encourage innovation and expansion of the goals of Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Shift focus from management plans to outreach and technical assistance. Provide for more “neighbor-to-neighbor” learning.
- Use Forest Stewardship Plans as a means to “keep forests as forests.”
- Continue to focus attention on most critical areas.
- The concept of Important Forest Resource Areas should continue to ensure that the most important landscapes are targeted.
- Develop more uniform definitions for improved data collection and implement regular quality control checkups.

Such information about family forest owners is important because as a group they produce nearly half of America’s homegrown wood supply. A third of these landowners are 65 years or older. About 20 percent of them plan to sell or transfer their land (often to heirs) within the next five years, so it is important to have clear and well understood management plans in place and up to date.

The Family Forest Research Center is also looking at the potential of biomass harvesting on family forestland, the alternative options for carbon sequestration on family lands, and the landowner decision-making cycle.

Wednesday

Woodland Word

Here's what you missed in the Second Quarter:

YOUR WEEKLY "HOW TO" IN WOODLANDS

- April 2 Make a Split Log Road Drag
- April 9 Build a Chainsaw Mill to Make Planks
- April 16 Gravel Road Troubleshooting Guide
- April 30 How to Be a Backyard Forester
- May 7 Do-It-Yourself Point Sampling of Trees
- May 14 A Record Keeping Guide for Small Woodland Owners
- May 28 Managing Your Woodlot, Protecting Your Investment
- June 4 Wildfire: Things a Fire Fighter Must Know
- June 11 How to Have Good Neighbor Relations
- June 18 Control Undesirable Woodland Trees, Shrubs & Vines
- June 28 How to Make Charcoal at Home

FEATURE STORY

- April 2 Life in the Urban Forest
- April 9 Bourbon and Whiskey Bring Back the Forestry Industry
- April 16 California Board Issues Forestry Compliance Offsets
- April 23 Hybrid Willows Harvest to Heat Pennsylvania School
- April 30 The Fight to Save Hemlock Trees

- May 28 Supreme Court Ruling Favors Woody Biomass Market
- June 25 House Bill to Improve Forest Service Trail Maintenance

FORESTRY

- April 16 When is a Clear Cut Appropriate? When is it Not?
- April 30 Thieves Targeting Walnut Trees in Rural Areas
- May 7 National Wetlands Data Base and Mapping Tool
- May 14 Lessons About the Destructive Emerald Ash Borer
- May 28 Loving a Tree to Death
- June 4 USDA Northeast Climate Hub Helps Landowners
- June 4 How Tree Species Ranges are Affected by Climate
- June 18 Fire Blight Disease Strings Indiana Pear Trees

LOGGING AND LOGGERS

- April 2 A Landowner's Investment in a Person (logger).
- June 11 Primary Timber Products Harvest When Selling Trees
- June 18 Growing Worker Shortage in Logging Industry
- June 25 How BMPs Protect Water Quality

WILDLIFE

- May 14 A Practical Fish & Wildlife Guide
- June 11 Recovery Plan For Lynx Could Take Until 2018
- April 9 Wildfire Potential Outlook: April-July 2014
- May 7 Firefighting Class for Veterans

SPECIAL EVENTS

- April 23 USFS Seeks Applications for Wood to Energy Projects

To subscribe to the online Woodland Word, which is emailed to subscribers every Wednesday, email: WWW@nwoa.net



Choose SFI

There's a simple way you can ensure healthy forests for generations to come while supporting the people and communities in North America who depend on them.

Choose the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard for your working forests. It's a symbol of responsible forestry.

Learn more at sfiprogram.org

 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00001

FOREST CERTIFICATION

Update

As part of the SFI Standard Review process, the External Review Panel (ERP) spent many volunteer hours reviewing all of the public comments received during the two public comment periods. The panel's goal, according to Chair Robin Morgan, was to assure that every comment was properly received and recorded, considered fairly, and, where appropriate, addressed in the new draft of the SFI Standard. The panel identified some comments for SFI staff to review, but in general, what it found was that the public comments were very well handled, in an appropriate and credible manner.

The ERP spent a full meeting going through the progress data reported by SFI participants. Those data provide the background for SFI's most recent annual report, and it is important that they be fully representative of what is happening in the forests of North America. Panel members reviewed the methods of data gathering and analysis, and found that those methods were consistent with current professional practice. The report accurately reflects what is happening on the ground in the SFI program, they concluded.

The report illustrates another factor that is very important to the future of forests, Morgan said, explaining that it is critical to have excellent forest management practices, "and following the SFI Standard is making that a reality on a quarter of a billion acres of today's forest," she said. In addition, the attention to proper fiber sourcing from all forestlands extends good forestry practices to millions of additional acres and the people who own and manage those forests. But that's still not enough, because in addition to good forest management, it will take broad public understanding and support for sustainable forestry to succeed in assuring the future of forests.

The SFI program is effectively building that broader public support in a variety of ways, Morgan said. The 34 state, provincial and regional Implementation Committees are a critical element. They bring sustainable forestry ideas and practices to people in a direct, hands-on way. Working to train loggers and foresters in sustainable forestry, helping build a Habitat for Humanity home with certified SFI wood products, and reaching out to communities and non-profit organizations through conservation and community grants are all important ways that sustainable forestry concepts reach that broader audience. The relationships that are built through these efforts are also vital to the future of forests.

The SFI program is unique among the major forest certification programs in its attention to local involvement, support for forest research programs, and conservation outreach to the people who furnish timber to participating

mills. Among the major certification programs, it has the only grants program to promote conservation research, conservation action and community involvement. Those elements—going far beyond the forest boundary—are a major strength of the program.



New Global Paper Vision Launched



June 25, 2014

On June 17, 2014, the Environmental Paper Network launched a new [Global Paper Vision](#) of "a forest, pulp and paper industry that contributes to a clean, healthy, just and sustainable future for all life on earth."

More than 100 organizations endorsed the vision, including FSC members such as WWF, NRDC, National Wildlife Federation, Dogwood Alliance, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth Australia.

The Vision calls for eliminating waste and over-consumption, using recycled fibers and sourcing fiber responsibly. With respect to virgin fiber, the Vision calls for sourcing from "forest managers that have credible, independent, third-party certification for employing the most environmentally and socially responsible forest management and restoration practices. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is currently the only international certification programme that comes close to meeting this goal."

In [media coverage of the Vision](#), Corey Brinkema, president of FSC US applauded the new Vision for laying out a path forward that respects local communities, and balances environmental and social values with society's need for pulp and paper."



DO YOU REALLY NEED WOODLAND LIABILITY INSURANCE?

This Top Rated Insurance—A M Best Rating “A” Provides “peace of mind” at a “best buy” price.

The decision whether or not to buy additional woodland liability insurance is a personal choice. Many landowners have not given it much thought, believing that any liability that may occur on their woodlands is already covered by their homeowners or other insurance. You should think about this.

Check to be sure you are in fact covered. Get it in writing if you can. With the low cost (\$150/year for up to 535 acres) with no deductible, many agents recommend this group policy as well.

WHAT DOES THE NWOA WOODLAND LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER?

We cover the liability of the landowner(s) in whose name the land is listed for any acts of negligence for which you are found to be legally responsible, whether you knew it or not.

- NWOA is not in the insurance sales business, but we do have a national Woodland Liability insurance policy as an optional benefit. The risks covered are spread across a nationwide base, which is much cheaper than individual policies. This makes possible the low group rate.
- NWOA researched and approved this master policy because of the excellent service record of Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. and the depth of their experience in the London Insurance Market.
- Participating NWOA members receive a one year Certificate of Insurance within three weeks.
- Lawsuits for damages, real or imagined, are becoming more frequent.
- If you are sued and have this insurance, Outdoor Underwriters contracts with claim adjusters and attorneys with years of experience specific to woodland liability issues.

TWO INSURANCE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

Woodland Liability Insurance—our most popular (includes incidental hunting—trespassers or guests)

Hunt Lease Liability Insurance—the necessary option if you lease your property. Includes falling out of a tree or harm caused to other hunters or other people, even on adjacent land. A “Best Buy” at only 16 cents/acre.

Or the two policies can be combined. See www.NWOA.net and click “Land Insurance”

WOODLAND LIABILITY INSURANCE

INSURANCE APPLICATION: FOR LANDOWNERS ONLY



Woodland Liability Coverage provides legal liability coverage for woodland owners. This coverage is designed to provide general liability protection for owners of woodland who do not lease their land to a hunting club.

- ✔ Comprehensive General Liability
- ✔ Limit of Liability: \$1,000,000 each occurrence; \$2,000,000 aggregate
- ✔ Deductible: none

- ✔ Owners, Landlord & Tenant - Liability Limit to \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- ✔ Special Master policy rating basis. A certificate will be issued to each landowner
- ✔ Liability coverage for the Landowner does not provide protection for owned timber.

Did you find us through a state affiliate promotion?
If so, please staple your ad coupon to your application to ensure credit to your association.

Named Insured
NWOA member landowner named on the application

Landowner Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____ Telephone (work/mobile) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ email _____
(email will not be shared or abused)
 Woodland Location (County, city and State) _____

Please answer the following questions.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Are locations fenced or posted? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any lakes or ponds? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any leased hunting or commercial hunting?
<i>If yes, are Certificates of Insurance required?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any dams/spillways/bridges? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any watercraft or docks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any property ever used for mining? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any buildings? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any of the property leased for farming? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | If yes, do you ask for a Certificate of Insurance? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What is the property used for? _____
 Signature of Landowner _____

Premium Calculation - Woodland Liability Insurance

Number of acres to be covered _____ x .28 cents per acre = \$150 minimum
(subject to a minimum premium of \$150 for up to 535 acres)

Subtotal: _____

For your convenience, you may add your NWOA membership
(\$35/year \$45/year sustaining)

Total Payment Due: _____

Please Specify Effective Dates:

- January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015
- April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015
- July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015
- October 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015

Return this form completed and signed along with your check to:

National Woodland Owners Association
 374 Maple Ave E, Suite 310; Vienna, VA 22180

Coverage is subject to approval by Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. Applications received will be effective upon approval and expired according to policy terms.



Women Owning Woodlands Network Update

Nicole Strong, Oregon State University Extension Service

Across the country, more women are taking the reins of forest management, as owners, stewards, and family members. These women are a historically underserved demographic who are making or influencing management decisions on millions of acres of working forests. At the same time, our Extension culture is in transition from one of learning by receiving information to one of collaborative engagement and contribution. Observing these trends, a group of like-minded educators from around the United States came together to create simple and relevant tools to facilitate peer-learning education for women woodland owners.

This spring, the national team conducted multi-day training events for women woodland owners in Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Arkansas. All of these events combine technical forest management sessions, peer learning opportunities, and classes related to leadership and sharing our stories. As one participant stated:

“As a forest landowner and as someone who loves our property, stewardship for future generations is my top priority. Being with other women was important to me because I think women approach forest stewardship a little differently.”

We have also published a “Peer Learning Toolkit” that is available online: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/42036>

Mission Statement

The Women Owning Woodlands web project strives to bring topical, accessible, and current forestry information to woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, events, resources, and personal stories. We support women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands, and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests.

We recently made a presentation at the Association of Natural Resources Professionals conference in Sacramento, California, and we hosted a workshop at the National Tree Farm Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in July.

As always, you can learn about upcoming events and read stories from women woodland owners at <http://www.womenowningwoodlands.net/>



Oregon WOWnet member and retired USFS Forester Brenda Woodard shows all the tools you can use to manage your forest efficiently and safely. Credit: N. Strong



Women walking through a riparian forest learn how they might manage for complexity and stream health on their own properties. Credit: N. Strong



News from the Regions



Northeast

Conservation Easement Funding Sought in Massachusetts

The year 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the Massachusetts Town Forest Act, and to celebrate, the MA Forest Alliance teamed up with the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and Bay State Forestry Service to host a centennial celebration of town forest management.

As 2014 comes into full swing, the Forest Alliance is paying particular attention to a new proposal for federal forest involvement in a 20-town area in the northwestern part of the state. The proposal, spearheaded by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, with the assistance of local planning agencies, aims to secure funding from the U.S. Forest Service for working forest conservation easements as part of a new model for federal, state and community partnership, distinctly separate from the Forest Legacy program.

The Forest Alliance has many questions about the various strings that might come attached to such funding as part of a new federal designation area, and until the proposal is more concrete, MFA will not take a formal position.

Forest Economics, Taxes, Land Use Issues Facing Vermont

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative passed the Vermont legislature in 2012. Funded initially at \$1 million for the first year, it aims to strengthen the state's commitment to the economic viability of agricultural, forestry and forest product-based businesses. Forestry and wood products businesses are not accustomed to state government grants, but extensive outreach efforts were successful and several forest-

related businesses and organizations received significant grants funding.

There have been a number of additional legislative efforts underway this year related to forestry in Vermont that are not so positive. The Current Use program is again being considered for revision although Governor Shumlin has indicated he doesn't believe the program "needs fixing." About half of eligible forest land in Vermont is in this program due to high property tax rates in the state, but a small number of parties have used the current use program to "park" land before they develop it to save themselves taxes.

This abuse, revision supporters say, could threaten the good forest management that has occurred because of the program. The state senate is also looking at slowing forest fragmentation by including development activities in large contiguous forest parcels in the Vermont development law, Act 250. The legislation could make some legitimate forest activities subject to Act 250, thereby potentially stopping allowed forest management on the parcel.

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is reviewing harvesting guidelines in preparation for issuing voluntary guidelines. Several hearings have been held throughout the state this past winter. The legislation under consideration is actually an improvement on the original bill, which proposed mandatory harvesting guidelines for anyone in current use—seen by many as a veiled attempt to regulate biomass harvesting.

Forest Landowners Lend a Hand To Set Spruce Budworm Traps

With a spruce budworm outbreak expected in the next few years, the Maine Forest Service dramatically increased the number of traps set out for budworm moths this summer. A new outbreak already has begun in Quebec, where more than eight million acres are infested, and it is expanding south. Maine and New Brunswick already have seen a sharp increase in the number of budworm moths caught in both pheromone and light traps.

Last year there were about 100 trap sites, but in June, MFS worked with

landowners to place traps at about 400 sites, with cooperators tending from one to 100 (literally) sites, according to Charlene Donahue, MFS forest entomologist. Most have 10-20 sites. This covers most of the northern third of the state leaving out some of the farmland on the east side and running down into Washington county. The protocol is one site/township in stands of 25 acres or more of at least 50 percent pole-sized or better spruce/fir.

Spruce budworm are always present in Maine's forests, but roughly every 40 years there is a budworm population explosion, which results in serious feeding damage to Maine's balsam fir and spruce. In the most recent epidemic, between 20 and 25 million cords of spruce and fir were killed between 1975 and 1988.

The Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Forest Service and the University of Maine are leading the effort to develop a strategy for to address an infestation expected in the next few years.



North Central

Wasp Unleashed On Emerald Ash Borer

Researchers in Minnesota are the first in the nation to study how tiny stingless wasps could help win the battle against Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Animals and Natural Science (CFANS) worked on the research with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service.

The wasps are being tested by entomologists on the CFANS's St. Paul campus for cold-hardiness and for their ability to fly long distances in pursuit of the destructive ash borer, which threatens billions of trees in the eastern United States.

The female wasps are able to "hear" ash borer larvae under the bark of a tree. They then bore into the larvae and

lay their eggs there. As the eggs develop into adults, they nourish themselves on the ash borer larvae, killing them.

The strategy seeks to control EAB populations through introductions of EAB's natural enemies—stingless wasps that prey on the tree pests. And the strategy appears to be working.

In Michigan, the first state to use stingless wasps, the wasps have been spreading steadily on their own, and now kill about 25 percent of the EAB larvae in trees researchers have sampled. In China, where the wasps and ash borers live in a natural balance, the figure is about 70 percent.

Researchers are measuring the flight distance of the predatory wasps, which he said are the size of a grain of rice. They are tethered to a tiny wire and set at a pivot point between two magnets. The wasps fly in circles as a computer calculates distance. The scientists have found that some wasps can fly five miles in a day.

Scientists Pinpoint Epicenter of Ash Borer Invasion Track Early Spread in North America

Scientists have determined the emerald ash borer's origin and early spread in North America. They studied tree rings to reconstruct when and where the ash-killing invasive insect first arrived and how rapidly its population spread thereafter. U.S. Forest Service and Michigan State University scientists analyzed samples collected from EAB-killed ash, revealing a progression of dying trees in southeast Michigan dating as far back as 1997.

"Our reconstruction shows that EAB has a remarkable capacity for population growth and spread," said Nate Siegert, formerly of MSU and now a U.S. Forest Service entomologist

and lead author of the study.

Since it normally takes the invasive insect 3-5 years to kill a healthy ash, they suspect EAB was introduced and became established no later than the early to mid-1990s.

"The establishment and early spread of a biological invasion is rarely observed," added Siegert. "The distinct larval galleries, lack of host resistance and relatively rapid host mortality caused by EAB, however, provided a unique opportunity to use tree-ring analysis to reveal the historical dynamics of the EAB invasion."

"By using dendrochronology, the science of matching up wide and narrow growth rings between trees, we were able to establish the exact date of the death of each tree in the study," said Michigan State University Professor of Plant Biology Frank Telewski, a co-author of the study. "Based upon this data, we were able to determine the rate of spread for the EAB."

The newly-established EAB infestation initially spread relatively slowly from 1998 to 2001, about two miles per year in any given direction.

As its population grew, it began to spread faster. The infestation spread outward from its epicenter and combined with nearby satellite colonies, up to eight miles per year from 2001 to 2003. A satellite colony is an isolated infestation formed ahead of the original infestation. detection and the role satellite colonies can play in accelerating the spread of invasive pests," said Siegert.



ITASCA GREENHOUSE, INC.



A Leader in Containerized Tree Seedlings

Spruces, Pines, Firs, Larches, Aspen, Birches, Maples, Oaks and many more varieties

Tree Care Products

- Animal Repellents
- Treeshelters
- Tree Bark Protectors
- Bud Cap Netting
- Deer Net Fencing
- Weed Mats
- Mycorrhizal Inoculants
- Anti-Transpirants

Packaged Seedlings for Special Events and Promotions

Our experienced staff can help customize your seedlings for any special occasion or promotion.



Free Catalog: 1-800-538-8733
www.itscagreenhouse.com
info@itscagreenhouse.com

Colorado Residents Warned About Moving Firewood

With the 2013 detection of the highly destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) in the City of Boulder, and ongoing bark beetle epidemics in the state's mountain forests, the Colorado State Forest Service wants to be sure people are aware of the risks associated with moving firewood. The transportation of firewood is a common cause for the accidental introduction of harmful tree insects and diseases to new areas. Insects, fungi and diseases can hitch a ride on cut wood—from both living and dead trees—and are often hidden away under the bark.

"It has never been a good practice to transport firewood, but with the recent discovery of emerald ash borer in Boulder, it's critical that residents and visitors obtain firewood where they plan to burn it," said Keith Wood, CSFS community forestry program manager.

The CSFS offers the following firewood tips to help Coloradans protect their trees and forests:

- Always try to burn firewood at the location where you buy or cut it. Leave whatever wood you don't burn behind.
- Don't ever bring wood into Colorado from other states, or vice-versa. Also, ask firewood dealers questions about the origin of the wood prior to purchase.
- If using firewood bundles for camping, buy from a local vendor. The best option is wood labeled with the Colorado

Forest Products logo; at least 50 percent of this wood is certified to be from Colorado forests, and more than 65 vendors around the state participate in this program.

- Learn to identify the symptoms of common pests in the type of wood you plan to burn.
- Know Colorado's quarantine rules and regulations, including those related to EAB, before transporting any wood products.



Southeast

Virginia Fire Risk Web Portal Unveiled

Officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) have unveiled a new web portal that will help homeowners and communities determine their wildfire risk—and take measures to mitigate potential hazards.

The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or SouthWRAP, enables users in Virginia and 12 other southern states to identify wildfire threats based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions and terrain. It also routes users to resources that can help them implement wildfire prevention practices.

SouthWRAP is a web portal that grants public access to risk assessment data that previously hasn't been readily available, particularly in a user-friendly format. Accessible at southernwildfirerisk.com, the tools are free to use.

Professional users, such as civic planners, wildland fire managers and elected officials, can use SouthWRAP to generate a report packaging all the wildfire risk data for their community. Such a tool can be useful in defining mitigation options, allocating resources and prioritizing programs that will better protect communities.

John Miller, VDOF director of resource protection, said, "This can and should be a 'pivot point' for Virginians as they learn what their risks are and how to mitigate them. SouthWRAP is a tool that neighbor can pass on to neighbor, making every community in Virginia a safer place in which to live."

State Forester of Virginia Bettina Ring said, "My colleagues and I in the Southern Group of State Foresters are excited to open the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal to the public. This website will enable homeowners, civic leaders, community planners, elected officials and others to identify the risk wildfire poses to their communities. This tool empowers Southerners to be able to better protect their homes and property."

South Central



Voss SIGNS®

CUSTOM & STOCK SIGNS FOR LONG TERM OUTDOOR USE

Voss Signs, LLC • P.O. Box 553 • Manlius, NY 13104

Custom & Stock Signs • Trail Signs
 Posted Signs • Full Color Banners
 Sidewalk Signs • Posted Signs
 Magnetics • Custom Decals
 Vehicle Graphics • And Much More
Call Today For A FREE Catalog!

Scan this QR Code to go to our website.

Phone: 1-800-473-0698 • Fax: 315-682-7335
 Visit Our Website For A Complete Selection Of Signs
www.VossSigns.com

Market Opportunities for Louisiana Forest Landowners

The director of the Louisiana Forestry Association told attendees at a recent conference that several industries are planning to locate in Louisiana that would use wood to make biofuels and fertilizers.

"If you are in the logging business, here's great opportunity for you," said Buck Vandersteen at the LSU AgCenter Forestry Forum attended by more than 150 foresters from across the state.

He said the companies want to know if timber will be taken from sustainable forests, and they want assurances that timber companies are harvesting wood in environmentally acceptable methods.

"If you are in a certified program, it will pay dividends for you," Vandersteen said.

New facilities are being planned or considered for the town of Urania, Natchitoches, and the parishes of Morehouse, Pointe Coupee Parish and Rapides, along with another in southwest Louisiana. A closed sawmill near Coushatta may re-open, he said.

In addition to the prospect of new business, timber prices have increased slightly, he said.

Forest Survey in Oklahoma Panhandle

What type of forest is present in Cimarron, Texas and Beaver Counties? What tree species? Is our forest healthy?

These and many other questions will be answered as a Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) crew from Oklahoma Forestry Services begins collecting data on plots in these three Oklahoma counties.

Foresters began this important data collection in 2009. Each subsequent year, foresters continue gathering information about the amount of land under forest cover, the type of forests and tree species that are present, tree size, invasive species and forest health issues.

“Healthy forests and woodlands provide Oklahoma with many valuable goods and services,” said State Forester George Geissler. “We are collecting information about our forests in all 77 counties which will improve our planning and management strategies and ensure our citizens receive the greatest benefit possible.”

The analysis is conducted on randomly located plots across private, industrial, and public lands and includes both forested and non-forested areas. Private landowners are contacted directly by mail if a plot falls on their land. The information gathered from this analysis determines the status of the local forest resource and shows trends seen in the forests of Oklahoma.

“The information we collect is added to the national database to give policymakers the data they need to make informed decisions for the future of our forest resources,” said FIA Coordinator Carri Abner. “We appreciate landowners allowing us access to their land so we will have an accurate assessment of Oklahoma’s trees and forests.”

Crews will be traveling in marked Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry vehicles and will be carrying proper identification with them. Landowners and lessees can assist by granting crews access to property if an FIA plot falls on their land, as well as telling others about the program. They are also welcome to be present when the crew is conducting the measurements on their property.



Gulf South

Wild Hog Research in Mississippi Seeking Farmers and Forestry People

Mississippi State University scientists are conducting research to determine the economic impact of wild hog damage to agriculture in Mississippi.

Bronson Strickland and Jessica Tegt, Extension wildlife biologists in the university’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center, are asking farmers and foresters to participate in the study.

Participants will be interviewed on any wild hog impact on their operations. Researchers also hope to conduct field surveys on some farms to determine the physical extent of wild hog damage and to identify surrounding landscape features that may promote or hinder wild hog access to fields.

While Mississippi farmers and foresters face many challenges, wild hogs cause particularly extensive damage to the agricultural landscape. Currently, the national economic impact of wild hog control and damage on public and private property is conservatively estimated at \$1.5 billion annually.

Researchers want the outcome of this study to benefit Mississippi farmers, foresters and other agricultural producers by shedding light on the extent of damage caused by wild hogs to land, crops, equipment and, ultimately, production and profitability.

In the long run, researchers want to help lawmakers, land managers and agricultural producers develop tools to accurately evaluate wild hog damage and mitigate losses through better management practices.

MSU and the Land, Water and Timber Board of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce fund this study, which is conducted through the university’s Center for Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts.

Farmers and foresters interested in taking part in the study or those who have questions may contact Marina Denny with the MSU Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at mdenny@cfr.msstate.edu or 662-325-4722.



Ohio Valley

More Hemlock Pest Infestations Found in Ohio

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recently announced the discovery of a hemlock-killing pest in Lawrence, Monroe and Vinton counties in southeast Ohio. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is a small, aphid-like insect native to Asia that threatens the health and sustainability of eastern hemlock and Carolina hemlock in the eastern United States.

Show Your Affiliation To All Who Pass by Your Land



Available from the National Woodland Owners Assoc.

Sturdy 18"x18" metal sign, only \$15 plus \$4 postage; \$25 for two, plus \$5 postage

To order with VISA/MC call (703) 255-2700, or mail check payable to: **NWOA** National Woodlands Owners, 374 Maple Ave. E., Suite 310, Vienna VA 22180

HWA was first reported in the eastern United States in 1951 near Richmond, Virginia. By 2005, it was established in portions of 16 states from Maine to Georgia, where infestations covered about half of the range of hemlock.

The infestations were recently detected by ODA and ODNR officials in Dean State Forest in Lawrence County, Zaleski State Forest in Vinton County, and in a landscape setting in Monroe County. Officials have been conducting surveys in the newly detected areas to determine the scope of the infestations. HWA is primarily transmitted by wind and birds. Officials believe the new findings in Ohio are the result of natural spread from nearby areas where the pest is established.

There are now six counties in Ohio where HWA has been detected in a naturally occurring stand of hemlock. In 2012, infestations were found in Meigs and Washington counties, and an infestation was detected in Hocking County in 2013.

At this time, ODA will move to expand its hemlock quarantine, enforced by ODA's Plant Health division, to include Lawrence, Monroe and Vinton counties.

Ohio quarantine regulations restrict the movement of hemlock materials from counties known to be infested into non-infested Ohio counties. Ohio's quarantine law also requires hemlock materials grown in non-infested counties in quarantined states to be inspected before being shipped and have a phytosanitary certificate verifying that the plant material is free of HWA when entering Ohio.

For more information about the HWA and Ohio's quarantine, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.



Southwest

Arizona Div. of Forestry Cited for Firefighters' Deaths

The Arizona Industrial Commission unanimously approved three major workplace-safety citations against the Arizona Division of Forestry for its handling and oversight of Yarnell Hill Fire that killed 19 hotshots near Prescott last summer.

The commission, by a 4-0 vote, also approved penalties totaling \$559,000 against the agency for the citations, which noted a variety of workplace-safety infractions ranging from inadequate fire-suppression planning to poor communications during the blaze. A fifth member of the commission was not present to vote.

The findings of fault are contained in a lengthy investigative report presented to the Industrial Commission by the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health. The commission voted to accept the recommendations on citations and penalties after a 2.5-hour discussion of the investigative report in a public meeting. Investigators recommended:

- A "willful serious" citation for putting protection of "non-defensible structures and pastureland" in Yarnell ahead of firefighter safety. The citation says the forestry department "knew that suppression of extremely active chaparral fuels

was ineffective and that wind would push active fire toward non-defensible structures."

Because firefighters were not removed from harm's way promptly and in keeping with established policies, the report concludes, the 19 hotshots perished while Granite Mountain Hotshot lookout Brendan McDonough, 31 other firefighters in the Double A Bar Ranch area, and 30 firefighters elsewhere were exposed to risk of "smoke inhalation, burns and death."

Investigators recommended the forestry division pay a penalty of \$70,000, plus \$25,000 per firefighter who died, or a total of \$545,000, for this citation. The \$25,000 per firefighter would be paid directly to the firefighters' families or estates.

- Two "serious" citations for the forestry division's failure to put in place a detailed firefighting plan "during the life-threatening transition between initial attack and extended attack fire operations," and for allowing "critical incident management personnel" to be absent or late during key moments in the fire.

During the period immediately after the fire grew out of control, command of the blaze was transferred from one team to a larger, more sophisticated team. During that time, the report found, commanders did not conduct a standard complexity analysis, an operational needs assessment, or an Incident Action Plan dictating the new objectives and strategies in fighting the fire.

Investigators said key Safety Officer and Planning Section Chief positions went unfilled, and other important officers arrived late for critical planning activities, increasing the risk to firefighters in the field.

FIRE BOSS
Now Powered by a
1600 HP Pratt & Whitney Engine

Over 50 Operating Worldwide

Spain Australia Montenegro
United States Canada
Macedonia

651.209.7191 www.firebossllc.com
1700 Henry Avenue — Fleming Field South, St. Paul, MN 55075

As a result, the report said, maps were not readily available to hotshots and others when they arrived to fight the fire, a safety officer who likely “would have viewed the fire and fire line assignments from a safety viewpoint” was not available that fatal morning, and the team lacked cohesiveness and consistent communications with people on the ground and in the air.

Mid Atlantic



New York Governor Announces Wood Heat Initiative

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently launched Renewable Heat NY, a \$27 million initiative aimed at building a sustainable, high-efficiency, low-emissions wood heating sector in New York. Renewable Heat NY will also help develop more clean technology manufacturing based in New York, a skilled installer base, and sustainably harvested wood fuels from state forests supporting economic development while preserving the environment.

“The wood-fired heating industry is an important source of energy in Upstate New York, and by launching Renewable

Heat NY we are helping to shape this growing sector with a focus on clean, sustainable, and highly-efficient practices,” Governor Cuomo said. “This initiative is the most comprehensive in the nation, and I am confident that it will support the continued evolution of a vibrant wood heating sector in rural areas of the state.”

Renewable Heat NY promotes the highest efficiency class of wood-fired heating technologies in the nation, and is expected to make New York State a national leader in developing this low-emissions industry. Environmental and public health benefits, along with a reduction in fossil-fuel use, an increase in sustainable forestry, and the expansion of the wood pellet and equipment supply chains, will benefit communities across the state.

This being an election year, Governor Cuomo may be hoping to gain some elusive Upstate votes with this initiative.

Northwest



Oregon Timber Harvest Exceeds Four Billion Board Feet

In 2013, Oregon’s timber harvest rose to 4.2 billion board feet, marking four consecutive years of increase from the recession low of 2.72 billion board feet in 2009. “This was the first harvest above four billion board feet in seven years,” said ODF principal economist Brandon Kaetzel, “and represents a 12 percent increase over the 2012 harvest of 3.75 billion board feet.”

Timber harvest increases can be attributed to a strong export market for Oregon logs in 2013, coupled with a domestic market recovery, particularly in housing. Whether this trend will continue for the 2014 harvest is uncertain due to housing forecasts being revised to lower numbers and a sudden cool-down in the export market that occurred during the second quarter of 2014.

The largest increase in harvest came from non-industrial private forestlands where harvests increased 61 percent to 511 million board feet from the 2012 total of 318 million board feet. “This is most likely due to small forestland owners taking advantage of higher prices as a result of a still strong export market in 2013,” Kaetzel said. The harvest on industrial forestlands rose from 2.56 billion board feet in 2012 to 2.75 billion board feet in 2013, for an eight percent increase in harvest.

STARKER FORESTS, INC.

INVITES YOU INTO THE WOODS.

Join us for a visit to a working forest and see the many facets of forestry for yourself.

Get a free permit for hiking, biking, hunting or horse-back riding. Take the easy, self-guided walk on our Educational Trail near Blodgett.

Join us during the summer for a bus tour. Call Corvallis Tourism for more information on these trips. 757-1544

7240 SW Philomath Blvd, Corvallis 541-929-2477

www.starkerforests.com





Work with us and we'll work for your grandchildren.

For today's timberland owner, there is much to consider. Balancing short-term gains against long-term values is complicated. As North America's largest manufacturer of hardwood veneer and plywood, Columbia Forest Products believes helping timberland owners properly manage their forest is important. For this reason, we're proud of our commitment to forest certification. As FSC®-certified resource managers through Rainforest Alliance, we support forest certification by promoting and rewarding responsible forest management for generations to come.



The mark of responsible forestry



columbia
FOREST PRODUCTS™

888-737-0514 | cfpwood.com

TIMBERLAND FIRE COVERAGE NOW AVAILABLE




Protecting an investment that takes 25 years to mature,
and just 25 minutes to destroy, deserves your attention.
Give us 25 seconds.

MINIMUM PREMIUMS STARTING AT \$15

INSURABLE TIMBER VALUE LIMITS
FROM \$2,500 - \$100,000
(HIGHER LIMITS AVAILABLE)

Insurance programs also available from Outdoor Underwriters:

 Hunt Lease Liability
 Timberland Liability
 Tractor & Farm Implements

Standing Timber 
Consulting Forester 
Prescribed Burn Liability 

info@nwoa.net

(703) 255-2700



Outdoor
UNDERWRITERS, INC.

140 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 265 Columbia, SC 29210