

Oregon Women in Timber

MAY 12, 2014

Greetings Fellow OWIT's and Friends

Happy Spring! Although it is nice to get the moisture and the snowpack of winter, it is always great when the sun shines down on us with the warmth of Spring.

We are busy in Eastern Oregon getting ready for our annual Ag-Timber parade. Come honor these two amazing industries that help keep this area a viable place to live and raise your family! This year features family fun games and activities at Beeman Park in Island City prior to the parade. We will have a roping contest, hoop shoot, *Talk About Trees* activity table and other educational and fun activities for the kids. We will have several vendors on hand selling food items and Pepsi and Coke will both be there, giving away free products as well. Activities in the park begin Friday, May 16th at 6:00 pm, parade line up at 6:30 pm and the parade will kick off at 8:00 pm. Our Grand Marshal is Jamie Knight, an area forester with Oregon State Forestry.

This past weekend we had a *Talk About Trees* committee meeting to discuss TAT's involvement at the Pacific Logging Congress, September 25-27, 2014. The conference will be held at the Port Blakely Tree Farm in Molalla, Oregon. It is fortunate to have this great event so close to us. There will be a live in-the-woods show Thursday, Sept 25 and Friday, Sept 26 from 8 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm. Our *Talk About Trees* facilitators will be on hand to help with the school tours planned for Thursday and Friday. If you get an opportunity to attend, this would be an event worth going to! (More detailed information is provided later in the newsletter).

If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to join the Healthy Forest, Healthy Communities Coalition. It is a great way to get information on the most current issues in our state and country. It also provides a great way to make sure your voice is heard on "call to action" items. Find more information at: <http://www.healthyforests.org/>

Respectfully,

Melissa Fullerton, OWIT president



Inside this issue:

Auction Update	2
Talk About Trees Update	3
Pacific Logging Congress Info	4
Legislative Update	5
Summer Agriculture Institute	7

Talk About Trees Auction - A Great Success!

The auction was a great success! We brought in over \$72,000 which is dedicated to *Talk About Trees*, our statewide forest education program for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students. Since 1991, we have reached more than 2.5 Million Students. The auction clearly plays an important role in Oregon Women in Timber's ability to keep *Talk About Trees* Growing! Thank you to everyone that donated an item, purchased an item and came that night to celebrate with us and help with the event. Without you all we could not be this successful!

We had two rifles available to raffle this year. The winners were Ed Steigerwaldt from Tomahawk, Wisconsin who won the Remington Model 700 SPS 7MM and Garry Burnett from Deadwood, Oregon who won the Savage Model 16, 243 with a Nikon Scope.

Judy Nygaard with Warrenton Fiber Company won the "Partners in Education" fundraiser which raised funds for both the OLC Scholarship Foundation and the *Talk About Trees* education program. The prize was a \$1000 Visa Gift Card.

Our champion sponsor was the NW Ford Dealers Advertising Association, who donated \$5000! They have donated a total of \$81,000 to OWIT since 2002. We appreciate their continued support. Please thank your local Ford dealers next time you visit a Ford dealership!

Many thanks go out to the Oregon Logging Conference for partnering with us each year during their event. Together we can continue to do great things and make a difference by supporting forestry education and the future of our industry.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year and hope that you had a great time at our event. Thank you again for your support!

We had a grand supply of both live and silent auction items and some awesome volunteers that came to help!



***Talk About Trees* Director Report - Joan Mason Ruud**

On Tuesday, February 19th, Talk About Trees held their annual facilitator workshop in Eugene. On Wednesday, facilitators helped prep for the TAT auction and on Thursday TAT, OWIT and Forests Today and Forever collaborated on the annual Oregon Logging Conference school tours. It was a busy, fun filled educational few days and the TAT facilitators expressed much gratitude to OWIT for making it possible for us to spend this time together.

This is the time of year when we look ahead to the next school year. Three facilitators will be moving on to new horizons as this school year comes to a close. Sandy Dunn joined TAT just about one year ago and taught the program with wholehearted commitment. Teachers give her high praise for her abilities to engage students. Kathy Cvetko will be leaving us to concentrate on her own business this fall. Kathy has brought a great deal of passion and energy to the TAT program and is a very gifted teacher. Jane Holloway has been with TAT since 1998. Jane has always been so positive, enthusiastic and supportive of TAT. Lane County teachers have had only the highest praise for her teaching and professionalism. We wish Jane, Kathy and Sandy all the best in the years to come!

I'd like to welcome Mary Loftin as our new Lane county facilitator. Mary is a retired first grade teacher who has had the TAT program in her classroom. She has been working with Jane this spring and will be ready to fully take on Lane county in September. Plans are in place to replace Sandy and Kathy by the start of the new school year.

Talk About Trees Committee Meeting May 3rd

The *Talk about Trees* Committee met in Albany on May 3rd. Director, Joan Mason Ruud reported that the participation numbers will be about the same as last year. We had a quick review of the Oregon Logging Conference school tours that were held in conjunction with Forests Today and Forever in February. There were great comments and the event went well. The committee plans to have a meeting with FT & F Executive Director Beth Krisko in late June to begin planning for next year.

Joan mentioned that 3 facilitators were leaving TAT and that she has come up with good replacements for all of them.

The 2014-2015 Budget was approved. Joan reported that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute will be granting OWIT \$215,000 for the school year.

Joan is working with OFRI to develop a program that focuses on careers "Find Your Path". She is going to integrate it into the middle school and outdoor programs. It will be ready to introduce to the facilitators at the workshop during the Oregon Logging Conference, February 2015. OFRI will also provide a small grant for professional development for the workshop. Joan is working on putting together duffel bags for each facilitator that will have tools and props for each of the careers that the unit focuses on, and they will be distributed at the February 2015 meeting. Joan is working with Union County OWIT for a grant for the duffel bags kits.

TAT facilitators will be teaching at the Pacific Logging Congress - Show in the Woods, September 25 & 26th near Molalla. Joan will be attending a woods tour meeting on June 23rd to get more information on what the specific roles will be for the facilitators. She has 8 that are interested in helping. We talked about having an open house during the PLC event for TAT during that week but decided against it so we can focus on the PLC events and a possible OWIT annual meeting immediately following the PLC event. We will encourage OWIT and TAT facilitators to attend PLC's dinner & auction Friday September 26th. Diann has 7 rooms reserved for OWIT and TAT.

The meeting ended with Joan presenting a proposal to upgrade the OLC teaching materials for the school tours and to create another program for the PLC event later this fall. The proposal was tabled until the TAT committee meets again in June.



If you want to compare the latest technology in logging equipment on the market today, here is the place to do it. This show is actual logging operations on Port Blakely Tree Farm near Molalla, Oregon. You will see most of the major manufacturers operating next to each other.

Pre-register and your show tickets will be mailed to you. Simply drive to the show-parking site, get on the bus for a 20 minute ride to the demo site. Present your ticket at the main gate, you will find active, static, booth exhibits, food concessions and rest areas all in one location. Show ticket and parking site directions will be mailed to you.

Earn Pro Logger Credit! Your company will earn 1 Pro Logger credit when you attend the woods show. Earn more credits on Friday when you attend seminars presented by manufacturers and dealers. Each seminar qualifies for one Pro Logger credit—sign in at end of seminar.

Enjoy socializing with your fellow loggers at hospitality events and the Friday evening “Loggers Barbeque” and Pacific Forest Foundation Auction benefit for the forestry scholarships.

Flying in? Portland International is approximately 1 1/2 hours from Silverton, Oregon. Oregon Garden Resort is the head-quarter hotel: Call 503-874-2500 for room reservation. Visit www.pacificloggingcongress.com for more information!

Return Registration Form To: PACIFIC LOGGING CONGRESS PO BOX 1281 MAPLE VALLEY WA 98038

NAME _____ Telephone _____

Company _____ Fax _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Single Day Pass @ \$10 per person or \$ _____

_____ Full Show Pass @ \$25 per person \$ _____

_____ PFF Auction & Logger’s Barbeque @ \$50 per person \$ _____

Add 5% for credit card payment \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Payment by check is preferred, Add 5% processing fee when paying with credit card add

Credit Card Visa __ MC__ Card # _____ Expires _____

Please provide postal/zip code of mailing address credit card statement is received _____ check ____ same as above

Call 425-413-2808 for more information— Form can be faxed to 855-866-0572

Legislative Update - Anna Morrison

FARM BILL SIGNED

The farm bill that was signed on February 7th contained a number of important forestry provision. Oregon Women in Timber is very appreciative of both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees for getting those provision included.

Key forestry elements in the bill include:

- Reaffirms that projects conducted under Categorical Exclusions (CE's) should not be subject to Administrative appeals.
- Designation by prescription (D X P) and designations by description (D X D) are authorized for all Forest Service timber sale contracts.
- A limited 3000 CE for use in collaborative forest management projects treating insect and disease infestations.
- Permanent reauthorization of Stewardship Contracting authority
- Fire liability provisions in stewardship contracts will now be the same as timber sale contracts.
- EPA barred from requiring Clean Water Act permits for forest roads
- Good Neighbor Authority expanded nationwide to allow states to enter into agreements to perform work on federal forest lands.
- Expand Healthy Forest Restoration Act authorities to streamline projects in “critical areas” that have been identified as facing forest health threats.
- Gives Governors greater authority in the identification of critical areas and use of insect and disease CE's on national forest lands. The Secretary of Agriculture has until April 8 (60 days from February 7 enactment) to designate areas “experiencing an insect or disease epidemic” requested by a Governor as “treatment area”. These areas will then be eligible for all of the “streamlining” associated with HFRA authorities.

(Continued on page 6 and 7)

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, September 27th
Oregon Women in Timber
Annual Meeting
at the Oregon Garden!

Legislative Update Continued - Anna Morrison

S.1966, THE “NATIONAL FOREST JOBS AND MANAGEMENT ACT”

On January 28, Senator John Barraso introduced the above bill which is similar to H.R. 1526 which passed the House in September, 2013 and calls for treating more Forest Service acreage. Key provisions in the bill include:

- Allows the Forest Service to expedite timber harvest on 7.5 million acres over 15 years.
- Approximately 500,000 acres would receive commercial mechanical thinning treatments each year which is double what is being treated annually now. Harvest volumes would increase from today’s level of 2.7 bbf to approximately 5.5-6 bbf.
- An Additional 25% of generated revenues from the projects would go to counties.
- Project planning would only require an Environmental Analysis of 100 pages or less and would only need to study two alternatives and describe current conditions to analyze cumulative effects.
- ESA determinations could be conducted by Forest Service professionals
- There would be a streamlined objection process, and then if parties disagree, an arbitrator would make a final, binding decision regarding how the project would move forward.

We will be working aggressively to get this bill passed and signed by the Administration.

TAX CODE REFORM

A draft tax reform proposal has been introduced in the House Ways & Means Committee. Even though reform is unlikely to move forward in this Congress, forest owners would be wise to act now to prevent a potentially catastrophic change to timber policy in the tax code in the future.

The draft proposal fundamentally changes the tax policy playing field by proposing to repeal a long list of so-called tax expenditures - those sections of the tax code that analysts claim reduce federal tax revenue. This list becomes a menu for policy makers looking for revenue to offset future changes to the tax code or for other purposes.

Of concern to forest owners and allies is the potential elimination of the three existing “timber tax provisions” encompassing the long term capital gain treatment of the sale of timber, the ability to annually deduct timber growing expenses and the treatment of reforestation expenses. Another concern is the proposal wants to overturn existing rules that allow the sale of timber to qualify as income for a real estate investment trust (REIT), an investment chosen by many current forest investors.

Forest owners rely on the timber tax provisions in particular to reconcile the long growing cycles for trees with the substantial up-front and ongoing costs of tree planting and forest management, including forest health protections and the payment of taxes and interest.

The potential costs of repealing the timber tax provisions are staggering. Experts estimate that eliminating the provisions could cause a 15% annual decline in domestic forestry and timber sales totaling over \$34 billion and the loss of 140,000 jobs. This economic loss would decimate landowner investment in forest health and productivity causing a corresponding decline in environmental benefits, like clean water, wildlife habitat, removing carbon from the air and outdoor recreation. It would also hasten the conversion of forest land to other uses that are more profitable.

EPA’S BIOMASS ENERGY CARBON ACCOUNTING STILL IN LIMBO

Nearly three years ago, the EPA committed to complete by this July a final rule on biomass to address problems arising from the June 2010 “tailoring Rule,” which for the first time treated biomass carbon emissions the same as fossil fuel emissions.

Legislative Update Continued - Anna Morrison

The Tailoring rule disregarded the fact that trees and other plants recycle atmospheric carbon. After hearing concerns from people in the timber industry, science community, members of Congress and other policy makers, EPA decided to defer the Rule's treatment of biomass emissions for three years while the agency revisited the treatment of biomass.

Removing investment uncertainty. As it stands those who are interested in building, modifying or converting existing facilities as well as those who acted in good faith on the EPA deferral rule are still in limbo. The question mark hovering over investment decisions is whether federal policy will treat biomass as a low carbon energy solution, a regulated source or something in the middle that is complicated to determine.

EPA has several policy irons in the fire with respect to energy and GHG emissions. Several of these, like the Tailoring Rule and the forthcoming New Source Performance Standards for coal fired facilities, provide compliance options to energy producers to meet emissions requirements. Unless EPA adopts a clear and simple biomass accounting framework to plug into these policies, biomass will not be a compliance option. This tilts the playing field against biomass not only with respect to EPA's GHG regulations, but also with respect to its role in any "all of the above" energy strategy.

Last month, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on a petition challenging the validity of the rule. In June the Court will render its decision. The outcome is uncertain, and the future of the Tailoring Rule hangs in the balance. Either way, the bottom line is that EPA should complete its rulemaking on carbon accounting for biomass no matter what. This court decision and the EPA actions are crucial to the timber industry.

OWIT Donates to Summer Agriculture Institute

Oregon Women in Timber and the Union County OWIT chapter have each made a \$1000 contribution to the Summer Agriculture Institute. OWIT would like to congratulate the Summer Agriculture Institute, who recently won the Oregon Department of Agriculture's "2014 Excellence in Education" award.

The Union County OWIT chapter has worked with the La Grande/Union SAI sessions for many years providing support for their summer programs. They share with us the following video that was shown during the award dinner:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8UBEydqsuo&list=UUYzRwIKSe2oCET-KCrAr8ZQ>

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