



Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

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2008

Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry's First Newsletter!

For anyone who does not know our recent history, Scott Ferguson's company, Individual Tree Selection (ITS) merged with Barry Sims' company, Sims Forestry in 2006 and Mark Miller joined us shortly thereafter. We stayed so busy with all of our clients and exciting new projects that we hardly had time to unify our client base and provide you with updates now and then. Marla Pallin (introduction to follow) joined our

team in March of 2008 to help us get ORGANIZED and this is one of the fruits of her labor. We'll use the newsletter to keep in touch and let you know what's going on with us, and also to give useful woodland owner tips! Please keep in touch with us too. A good way to keep up with what's going on with Trout Mountain Forestry is to visit our website. We'll update our photoblog quarterly

so you can see recent projects on your and your neighbors' properties managed by Trout Mountain Forestry. (If you don't see your property featured, let us know and we'll send you photo updates.) Our website is www.troutmountain.com.

Of course, you can always reach us by phone (503) 445-1291. We'd love to hear from you!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome	1
Municipal Landowner Field Day	1
Featured Property	1
Markets	2
Trout Mountain Foresters	2
Office Update	3
Emerging Opportunities for Woodland Owners	3
New Office Manager	3
OWC and the Custom Cut	3
FSC Log Marketing and FSC Associate Group	3
First Annual Landowner Field Day	4

Municipal Landowners and managers!! Don't miss our municipal landowner field day on October 16th. If you haven't received information already, please contact us for details!!

FEATURED PROPERTY: CLATSOP COUNTY PARKS

On December 1-3, 2007, a coastal gale stronger than any seen since the great Columbus Day storm of 1962 hit the coastal communities of Oregon and Washington, blowing over thousands of acres of forest. One tree that had seen a few storms in its day was the Klootchey Creek giant, the Sitka Spruce that had

been in the recordbooks as the largest Sitka Spruce in North America. This giant tree sits in Klootchey Creek County Park along US Highway 26 in Clatsop County, just a few miles southeast of Seaside, Oregon. The storm managed to blow the top out of the Klootchey Creek giant, along with dozens of

smaller conifers and alders in the park.

Trout Mountain Forestry was hired by Clatsop County to recommend timber salvage procedures for this park, along with a number of other park properties in Clatsop



Klootchey Creek giant spruce after the windstorm

(Continued on page 2)

Markets, Harvests Down – Our Strategies

It's an understatement to say that markets are down. The mortgage crisis, record energy prices, and general economic decline result in some of the lowest prices we've seen in years. Oregon Department of Forestry's most recent analysis finds statewide harvests down 12 percent from 2006 to 2007. Harvests from non-industrial private lands were down an astounding 44 percent! Not surprising, since private owners often can wait to log until markets improve. Levels for 2008 may be even lower.

We're working to find solutions for owners who need to harvest. Markets for alder and cedar continued to be

strong, as well as for high quality Douglas-fir – poles, peelers, export logs, and our FSC custom cuts. Though fuel prices have increased, we've been able to lower logging costs by focusing on easy to log units – like using patch cuts and short skid distances, bidding more jobs, and shipping to nearby mills.

While the outlook for 2009 doesn't look much brighter, we're always available to talk with you about how to make the most of these challenging times. We've had several successful sales in 2008.



Above: high quality lumber produced on a custom basis for the FSC market.

Clatsop County Parks—Timber Salvage (cont'd from page 1)

County. Our recommendations ranged from intensive management to a hands-off approach. We managed an intensive salvage operation at the County Fairgrounds outside Astoria, where over half a million board feet of blown down timber was salvaged, generating revenue for the Fairgrounds Board and cleaning up the site for replanting. On other properties, including a 60 acre parcel immediately

adjacent to Astoria neighborhoods, we recommended leaving the site undisturbed as an ecological reserve area.

In Klootch Creek Park, the giant spruce is still alive, although its height was cut in half and there is only one remaining live branch. The fallen top was left intact where it fell, preserving a record of the mighty storm. The tangle of leaning and down al-

ders were cleaned up, preparing the site for replanting with native conifers this winter. Another large spruce tree, leaning over the road and deemed a safety hazard, was pushed over onto the banks of the Necanicum River and left onsite, root wad and all, providing important large wood to the stream system for fish habitat.

News from Trout Mountain Foresters

Barry Sims

In addition to helping Clatsop County, Barry has been busy with thinning projects at Camp Namanu near Sandy and Camp Mountain-dale near North Plains; this fall it will be on to Camp Arrowhead in the Gorge. His 1952 D4 Cat is in the shop getting a new electric starter, relieving him of the misery of starting the old pony motor with a pullcord!



Scott Ferguson

Scott is thrilled that Forest Grove added almost half of their annual harvest to the Custom Cut, yielding 1.1 million bd ft of FSC certified lumber! Scott managed to find time this summer to summit Mt. Hood and Shuksan Mountain in the North Cascades. This fall, Scott will be attending OSU's carbon and forests seminar. Look for a review in our next newsletter!



Mark Miller

Mark has been busy this summer with projects from Corvallis to Bandon and beyond, including a training for Land Trusts in Maine on Conservation Easements and Forestry. He kept busy on his bike as well, pursuing his goal of returning to racing (after a 25 year hiatus!), and finished 3rd at the state mountain bike championships!



OFFICE UPDATE

Come visit our newly remodeled office sometime. We are located in the Pearl District of Northwest Portland at the Jean Vollum Natural Capital Building, 721 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 228 Portland, OR 97209

In the office, we're also busily restructuring our files and records and creating an all inclusive database with contacts and time management components making it easier to keep in touch!



Emerging Opportunities for Woodland Owners

At our May Landowner Field Day we described a number of new and developing initiatives for private forestland owners:

- Stream Restoration – fish passage culvert replacement and instream log placements improve fish passage and aquatic habitat; projects often involve multiple partners and use grant funding
- Oak Restoration – fir removal to release oaks, invasive species control and native plant seeding can be self-supporting projects, or be supported by grant funds
- Conservation Easements – a gift or sale of development rights can provide long-term protection to working forests and assist with generational transfer and estate planning
- Carbon Credits – conservation-based forestry stores large amounts of carbon, which combats greenhouse gas emissions; markets for carbon offset credits are emerging

Contact us for more information! Watch for our upcoming workshop on Working Forest Conservation Easements.

NEW OFFICE MANAGER



We are happy to welcome Marla Pallin to our team. Marla has a masters in Natural Resource Management and Administration as well as 15 years of experience in the field. In the office she excels at managing complex, large scale projects and interfacing with multiple interest groups. As a manager in the forestry field, Marla's passion for ecology allows her to focus on meeting the needs of local communities and governing agencies, while promoting and maintaining important features of natural areas.

Oregon Woodlands Cooperative and the Custom Cut Marketing

The oldest landowner cooperative in Oregon is undergoing a renaissance, and Trout Mountain Forestry is playing an active role in encouraging new directions for the group. Early in 2008, we signed an agreement with the Oregon Woodlands Cooperative (OWC) to be a preferred service provider to its members. We have

also arranged to have two of our Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified group members (see story below) join the OWC and recently completed a custom cut of logs from their timber lands. The logs were delivered to Hambleton Lumber of Washougal, WA in the spring, then cut into about 240 thousand board feet of

lumber and sold into FSC markets. The strong demand, coupled with the sales and marketing expertise of lumber veteran Scott Zimmerman, resulted in a price premium of 10% over the best available markets, including export. For more information on the OWC, please visit its website at www.orwoodlandco-op.com.

FSC Log Marketing and Associate Group

Since we became the first resource managers in Oregon certified by the Forest Stewardship Council in 1997, we have worked to find log markets that recognize and reward this high level of stewardship. Initially slow to develop, demand for FSC certified lumber is increasing and log markets are expanding as public concern for sustainability grows.

FSC Certified mills in our area include Columbia Vista and Hambleton Lumber in Washougal, and specialty mills like

Kevin Kaster in Mulino, and Cedar Creek in Sherwood. We sell logs to certified markets whenever prices are favorable. We have also organized custom milling lumber orders of over 1.5 million board feet over the past 18 months (see related article.)

Many landowners we assist are part of Trout Mountain's FSC Certified Pool. To participate, landowners need a detailed forest management plan, to harvest at levels that don't exceed growth, and to involve us in harvest planning and



supervision. To expand the size of our certified pool we recently added an Associate Group for landowners who manage their own harvest operations. For a modest fee Associate Group members can participate in FSC log marketing including our Custom Cuts, while assuring that their management meets the "gold standard" of stewardship.

Trout Mountain Forestry

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A Balanced Approach

WE ARE UPDATING OUR DATABASE. PLEASE EMAIL MARLA@TROUTMOUNTAIN.COM IF YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION. ALSO, LET US KNOW IF YOU'D PREFER TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY IN THE FUTURE. THANKS.



First Annual Landowner Field Day

rare and endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

Thanks to all who joined us at Beazell Memorial Forest for our first landowner field day! For those unable to attend, here is a review of the festivities. We plan to do something like this every year (at least) so please join us next time!

In the forest we looked at creating gaps for oak regeneration. We hiked and chatted, stopping to discuss issues that face all of us as forest stewards.

We scoured the upper meadow for butterflies but alas, it looked like the day was too cold and cloudy or perhaps their short adult life span had already ended. Maybe next year!

Al Kitzman, Benton County Parks superintendent took us for a lovely tour of Beazell and described the County's efforts to restore and preserve habitat of the

Al Kitzman talked about issues with invasive plant species like false brome. He demonstrated how it can be identified by its hairy edges.

As we neared the upper meadow important checkerspot butterfly habitat, Al talked more about the butterfly's preferences.



We're on the Web!

www.troutmountain.com