



# Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 1,  
2009

## Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry's Fall Newsletter!

Please enjoy our newsletter and send questions or comments to us via  
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Or stop by the office anytime!  
[www.troutmountain.com](http://www.troutmountain.com)

### **\*\*COST SHARE OPPORTUNITY\*\***

See page 2 for cost share details and keep in mind that the **sign up deadline for NRCS cost sharing is 2-10-2010**. Take advantage of cost share funds and sign up now! Feel free to call us if you need assistance.



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## Log Market



This summer we have seen the lowest prices (adjusted for inflation) for domestic Douglas-fir logs that any of us can remember. Currently prices are in the \$300-to-\$380/MBF range. The housing market has stabilized somewhat and lumber has recently rebounded slightly from historic lows. With log inventories down at the mills, and less lumber in the supply pipeline,

we are feeling good about the chances for higher log prices early in 2010. In contrast, Douglas-fir export prices at Longview are \$600 or above. This is an unusually high premium for quality, in part due to the weak dollar.

Prices for alder and western redcedar remain below levels seen in 2007. The demand for alder lumber remains low, and log prices are at \$500 per MBF or lower.

There is good news on the market for FSC certified logs. DR Johnson, a large log mill in the Roseburg area, is buying logs from FSC certified properties for a premium. We recently sold logs from the Branscomb tract to DR Johnson for a 20% premium over the conventional market.

**COST SHARE** funds may be available for the following activities:

- Management plans
- Forest stand improvement
- Slash treatment
- Tree/shrub planting
- Site preparation
- Fire/fuel breaks
- Designated skid trails
- Road closure/erosion control
- Prescribed burning
- Oak savanna/woodland restoration

*See article on page 3 for more information.*

## FEATURED PROPERTY:

## ELKTON RESERVE



When Allan and Elbert Branscomb purchased their 400-acre property outside Elkton in 1977 it was a mix of open pasture, oak woodland, and cut over fir stands. Thanks to their 30+ years of careful stewardship it's now a productive mixed forest, with rich habitat for spotted owl, elk, and a host of other species. Pioneers in FSC Certification, Allan and Elbert are leading again

as one of the first properties in the new Healthy Forest Restoration Program (HFRP), an initiative to assist forestland owners in spotted owl habitat restoration. The pilot partnership between NRCS, ODF, and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies offers enhanced cost sharing for habitat restoration, plus a conservation easement purchase option. Allan and Elbert will use these easement funds to allow them to pass on this family heritage, and speed creation of the older forest structures they desire. Trout Mountain has helped the Branscombs with a new stewardship plan, the HFRP process, and an ongoing timber harvest

that is contributing to our first custom cut in the south Willamette Valley.

Watch for more information as HFRP becomes available statewide in 2010.

*Well done Allan and Elbert!*



## FSC Standards

### Review of FSC standards underway

Periodically the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) reviews and updates the management standards under which all FSC-certified forests are assessed. The current 11 regional standards are being simplified into one national standard. We have been following this 2-year revision process and have submitted our suggestions at several points. The new national standard will follow closely the Pacific Coast standard, with allowances for regional differences. The final public comment period has just closed; new final standards are expected soon. To follow the revision process and view the current FSC Pacific Coast standard visit

[http://www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/standards\\_revision\\_process.php](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/standards_revision_process.php).

Forests under 2,400 acres are assessed under the Family Forestland standard. The FF standard (formerly known as SLIMF-small and low impact managed forests), is also undergoing review. View the current draft at

[http://www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/family\\_forests\\_program.php](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/family_forests_program.php).

We have recently learned that FSC's international standards will also be undergoing review—we will continue to keep you posted.



## Forester Updates

**Barry Sims** was very busy this summer managing an oak savanna restoration project on Willamette University's Zena Forest near Salem. He has joined the Board of Directors for the Forest Park Conservancy and hopes to help the organization develop and imple-



ment a strategy for combating invasive plant species in Portland's 5,000 acre Forest Park.

**Scott Ferguson** has been putting our GPS enabled handhelds to work in the field and making detailed maps of client properties in the office. On a personal note, Scott's nest is only half full as his daughter started college this year at University of Oregon. His basketball loving son still has a couple years left at home.



**Mark Miller** was interviewed last month for an article in Forbes Magazine on sustainable forestry investments, as were three Trout Mountain landowners. Look for the story in the December issue. Mark continues to ride his bicycle, finishing second in his age group in this year's Oregon cross-country mountain bike race series.



# New Cost-share Opportunities

*Cost share funds assisted with this new fish-friendly culvert installation (below)*



Funding sources for these popular programs has recently shifted. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized major new funds for forestry, administered through USDA's

Program priorities include stewardship planning, soil and water conservation, erosion control, and habitat conservation for at-risk species. Sign up is ongoing, but funds will be awarded only once a year with the next awards in Fall 2010. Please contact us for more details, or visit your NRCS office.

EQIP fact sheet:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/pdfs/EQIP\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/pdfs/EQIP_factsheet.pdf)

CSP fact sheet:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/pdfs/csp\\_fact\\_sheet-080709.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/pdfs/csp_fact_sheet-080709.pdf)

Local USDA Service Centers:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Various cost-sharing programs have been available over the years to assist forestland in such areas as management planning, pre-commercial timber stand improvement, and stream restoration.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). While initial sign-up procedures are more cumbersome, a wider array of

## Second Annual Landowner Field Day at Trappist Abbey



Thanks to all of you who attended Trout Mountain Forestry's second annual Landowner Field Day. For those unable to attend, our focus was to give our family forest clients ideas for keeping forestland in the family. In many cases Working Forest Conservation Easements can be a tool to face the challenges of increasing land values in the face of declining log prices,

creeping development pressures, and an aging landowner population.

We hosted Matt Fehrenbacher and John Bernstein from Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) who did a fabulous job of fielding challenging questions about the conservation easement process from a regional perspective. Carlene McCabe represented Greenbelt Land Trust and spoke about matching up with a local land trust. Our foresters talked about the role of the forester in the easement process, planning and formulating goals, and discussed two case studies. We were fortunate enough to have Sarah Deumling and Kurt Mitchell, the

property owners from the case studies present to answer questions and present their experience with the process.

In the afternoon we had Brad Withrow-Robinson from OSU extension speaking on succession planning to keep forestland in the family.

If you missed this event and would like more information please get in touch. We'd be happy to go over the information with you.



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## FSC Custom Cuts

With Douglas-fir domestic sawlog prices at historic lows, our ability to capture more value for our client landowners through FSC custom cuts has been more important than ever this year. Because of persistent demand for FSC-certified Douglas-fir lumber products, nearly 2/3 of our total harvest volume this year will be run through our custom cut program.

*FSC logs awaiting sawing at our first South Willamette Valley Custom Cut*



This year we increased processing at an independent sawmill in the Portland metro area, and expanded to a second mill near Eugene. This has allowed landowners in the southern part of our area to participate for the first time.



**We're on the Web!**

[www.troutmountain.com](http://www.troutmountain.com)