



Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 30TH,
2010

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry's Fall Newsletter!



Ties to the Land

OSU Forestry Extension has developed a program called Ties to the Land to guide family forestland owners in succession planning. Two 2-day class sessions are scheduled for this coming October in McMinnville, and in January in Salem. We previewed the program at our Spring 2009 Field Day, which generated lively discussion. For more information and registration, visit:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/calendar-event>

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New Office

Scott Ferguson was one of the first tenants in the Ecotrust building when it opened in 2000. Barry Sims rented space in the building starting in 2003. Sims Forestry and Individual Tree Selection merged in 2006 to form Trout Mountain Forestry. In 2007, we took down the wall between Scott and Barry's office spaces and unified the company. Three years later we are proud to say that we have officially outgrown our space at Ecotrust. We'll miss the warm community of like minded professionals there but we're happy to spread out a bit in our new space. We are in a restored warehouse building in the Northwest Industrial neighborhood of Portland. We love the original wide plank wood floors, huge windows and free parking!



Come visit us in our new space and update your records if you haven't already.

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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

Please get in touch for more information!



PLEASE JOIN US for an open house celebration in our new office. Saturday, December 4th at 7pm. Food drinks and entertainment! Feel free to bring friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

FEATURED PROPERTY: Trappist Abbey and their working forest conservation easement

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We made front page news recently when the Oregonian covered our successful effort to place a working forest conservation easement on the 1,300 acre forest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey near Lafayette. The easement protects this island of peace and serenity in the fast-developing “Red Hills of Dundee”, a prime area for winemaking in Oregon. The monks have agreed never to subdivide or convert their forest into vineyards and will receive just compensation (\$\$\$) for giving up these rights. This is a “working forest” easement, however, and the Abbey will continue to productively manage their forest and farmlands as they have in the past.

The easement protects the oak woodland and Douglas-fir forest and its associated wildlife in perpetuity, for the benefit of us all. Barry and Scott have worked closely with Abbot Peter, Father Richard and Brother Chris (“Team Abbey”) for the past 15 months to guide the complicated easement process to a successful conclusion.

The easement will help “Team Abbey” to secure grants for habitat improvement, oak stand restoration and control of invasive vegetation. We have ambitious plans to restore areas that historically were high-quality oak savanna habitat. Brother Chris and several other young monks are looking forward to spending more time helping us with these projects, thanks to funds from the easement. We at Trout Mountain are delighted to have played a part in permanently protecting such a wonderful resource.

See article at http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2010/09/bonneville_power_administratio.html

FALL GUILD MEETING

This year’s meeting of the Northwest Forest Guild Chapter (Sept. 10-12) was graciously hosted by Sarah Deumling at the Zena Forest near Salem, OR. Bobby Cochran of The Willamette Partnership spoke about the emerging market for ecosystem services and Klaus Puetzman, a professor at Oregon State Univ., led a discussion about managing for complexity in silviculture. The meeting wrapped up with an energetic dialogue about expanding FSC markets as well as a taking inspiration from the local food movement to market wood products from private, non-industrial forests.

Below: Ben Deumling talks about milling at Zena Forest



Partner Updates

Barry Sims Barry has kept busy this year managing a harvest of hemlock and spruce in Clatsop County, overseeing oak woodland and savanna restoration for Willamette University’s Zena Forest, and helping move the Trappist Abbey conservation easement process along. This summer he harvested an Oregon white oak tree from the Zena



Forest that has been milled into lumber for a conference table which will grace our new office this winter.

Scott Ferguson is glad to have stayed busy in these tough economic times. So busy, that his wife Becky, an avowed Francophile, takes every chance she gets to remind him that “in Paris people take vacations” (50 days a year!) Scott moved his daughter Abby into a sorority on the U of O campus and looks forward to attending the OR/WA football game with his Dad, a dedicated husky alum.



Mark Miller Mark has just become the Pacific Northwest Coordinator for the Forest Guild, a national professional organization dedicated to stewardship and ecological forestry. He also continues mountain bike racing, where he finished a close second in the of the 2010 Oregon crosscountry series. Although ranks thin in the elder Masters category, Mark say, it doesn’t get any easier.



LOG MARKET UPDATE

This year has seen some large fluctuations in the log markets. After record low prices for Douglas-fir logs last fall and winter, the spring of 2010 found a few mills in the mood to increase their log inventories. This caused a spike in prices from the rock bottom \$250/MBF back up to an almost respectable \$450/MBF. The mood didn't last long however, and as summer and prime logging season rolled around, prices had begun a slow and steady drop. As fall begins, prices are back to \$350-\$400/MBF for domestic sawlogs. Few landowners have opted to harvest this year as a result.



The big surprise this year has been the whitewood markets. Demand for hemlock and spruce was high in the spring, and the domestic mills were paying into the \$400s/MBF for hemlock and just \$25 less for spruce. Export markets opened up to send domestic quality whitewood sawlogs to China and Korea, with prices in the \$450-\$500/MBF range.

As we go to press, the normal fall bump in export prices for Douglas-fir appears to be missing this year - demand from Japan has weakened. Prices for ring-count logs are likely to drop into the upper \$500s/MBF for the first time in memory. Utility poles remain strong however, with good pole cutters averaging \$800-\$1,000/MBF

NRCS Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

This new program provides enhanced incentives for spotted owl habitat restoration and protection. Jointly administered by USDA-NRCS, Oregon Department of Forestry, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, a conservation easement purchase option provides long-term habitat protection and compensates landowners for harvest revenues foregone in managing forests for large, older trees. Five TMF landowners are currently participating. Currently available only for SW Oregon (Lane County south) and funded only through 2011. However, landowners state-wide can take advantage of EQIP cost-sharing for many of the same restoration practices, and a new Safe Harbor Agreement that offers regulatory relief and expedited operations notification process.



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Trout Mountain officially an NRCS technical service provider!

Trout Mountain Forestry can now offer additional services to our clients with our recent certification as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). As a TSP, we are certified to provide technical assistance on behalf of the USDA, including planning and implementing conservation practices to address natural resource issues. By working with a certified TSP, our clients can also apply for cost-share assistance funding for planning and project implementation through NRCS incentive and cost-share programs. Priority activities include stewardship planning, soil and water conservation, erosion control, and habitat conservation for at-risk species. Please contact us for additional details.

Trout Mountain Forestry

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WE ARE ALWAYS 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.

Meet Mike

Trout Mountain Forestry is happy to welcome our newest forester, Mike Messier. Mike comes to us from OSU School of Forestry where he completed his masters degree in forest ecology last spring. At OSU he used tree ring data and other ecological metrics to reconstruct historical riparian forest dynamics. Mike has had diverse work experiences including invasive plant management, forestry data collection, fire management, stewardship-harvest layout, and bid proposal preparation for stewardship contracts with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. We are looking forward to the fresh perspective Mike brings and hope you enjoy working with him as much as we do.

Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry, Mike!



We're on the Web!

www.troutmountain.com