



# Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 9TH,  
2011

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## Fall at Trout Mountain Forestry

*Cool misty days are back. Are you ready? It's always a challenge around here to get the harvests completed before conditions get too muddy. We're scrambling to complete some projects and looking forward to starting others this fall.*



Above: Workers from Nick's Timber Services at Willamette University's Zena Forest chipping debris from oak woodland restoration work

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### SUMMER EVENT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for some fun hikes, discussions and snacks at the Trappist Abbey in July. We had such an amazing turnout. Thanks also to Kevin Kaster for his informative talk about milling and to the Build Local Alliance for teaming up with us to put on this event. A very special thank you to the Trappist Monks of Guadalupe for welcoming us into their peaceful and beautiful community.



Join  
BLA—connecting wood users to their  
local forests—

If you missed our summer event, we can still get together soon! We liked our winter party so much last year, we're going to do it again! Please come celebrate the holiday season with us over good food, wine, beer and live music!

**Where:** Our office—1800 NW Upshur Street, Ste 201, Portland

**When:** Saturday, December 10th at 7pm

Bring a friend and bring your dancing shoes!

RSVP [marla@troutmountain.com](mailto:marla@troutmountain.com) /503-445-0905

**JOIN US!**



**SCOTT'S CHANCE ENCOUNTERS IN THE WOODS**

How many of us have had an ordinary day in the woods transformed into something special by a chance encounter with wildlife? We often spend so much time looking at the trees, shrubs and other static parts of the forest, it's easy to miss the mobile denizens of the woods. Sometimes we just stumble onto something special--or better yet--a friendly woods citizen seeks us out.

One of my favorite chance encounters happens when I meet up with a new fawn in the spring. These newborns instinctively lie still to avoid detection. Many times I have almost stepped on the little brown bundles curled up in the forest understory. One memorable experience with fawns came when I was touring a property and emerged from the forest onto a gravel road, almost bumping into two newborn fawns. Mom must have been nearby in the brush, but she was quiet while these two looked up at me with wide-open stares, their spindly legs splayed out to provide wobbly support. I took a couple of pictures and quickly left the scene.



Another recent experience with wildlife falls under the "friendly woods citizen seeking us out" category. I was working by myself on a Coast Range property near Deadwood. A brown bundle of flapping wings flew over my shoulder and alighted on a branch 20 feet away. The fellow was a spotted owl, not the least bit shy and very curious; perhaps looking for me to offer him a mouse. I was able to get within 10 feet of him and take quite a few pictures. He was a good sport and posed with his head in all possible directions (360 degrees) and closed his eyes to nap when he became bored.

**CARBON VERIFICATION PROJECT**

Trout Mountain Forestry was selected to provide project verification services for the first pool of forest landowners who have signed on to the Woodlands Carbon Company program. The Woodlands Carbon Company Phase 1 Project is an "Improved Forest Management" project that results in greenhouse gas (GHG) removals through growth of managed forest stands beyond the baselines established by forest inventories and quantification of beginning carbon stocks. Woodlands Carbon Company has contracted with eight family forest landowners in the Willamette Valley with the goal of marketing the aggregated yearly carbon stored on the combined forest stands.

Earlier this year, Woodlands Carbon was in the process of negotiating its first sale of carbon offsets to BendBroadband. This required independent verification of the project design, forest inventories and the calculations of forest carbon stored. Scott Ferguson was lead verifier and conducted site visits to landowner forests, interviews with staff at Woodlands Carbon and the review of project documentation.



Scott was able to verify that the project met all relevant requirements in the project design document. We learned a great deal about the complexities and challenges of selling carbon offsets from family forests, and are hopeful that forest carbon initiatives such as the Woodlands Carbon Company continue to develop the market potential of carbon storage in our forests.

**Lane & Linn Counties**

A new grant opportunity for family forestland owners in Linn and Lane Counties will fund noxious weed control.



Work must be completed before the end of summer 2012. For more information contact Joe Arbow at Oregon Department of Forestry, [541-726-3588](tel:541-726-3588).



**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!***



## LOG MARKET UPDATE

Log markets are once again in flux and unpredictable as we enter the winter season. Just in case we needed a reminder that things can change quickly, the anticipated fall upswing in the China export market for Douglas-fir and hemlock flattened and then collapsed, apparently caused by recent credit tightening measures by Chinese authorities. As the housing market continues to languish, prices for domestic Douglas-fir are in the moderate-to-low range of \$525 to \$400, depending on log length. Markets for alder and red cedar continue to be strong, as well as for high quality Douglas-fir (poles and Japanese export logs).

Looking ahead, we can expect a continued slow recovery in the domestic log market as housing starts recover from historic lows. Opportunities for marketing domestic logs in the winter and spring may arise as mills pay higher prices on the spot market to fill gaps in their log inventory.

What's our prediction for this winter and spring? Camp-run prices for domestic fir may climb into the \$550-to-\$600 range, the Japanese market should remain strong, and the China export market will rebound, but the timing is anyone's guess.



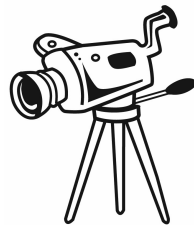
### BARRY AND MIKE'S FILM DEBUT



Barry and Mike made their film debut this summer in a 'Sustainable Forest Management' educational video, a component of a continuing education course for the American Institute of Architects and the Green Building Certification Institute. Filmed and produced by Brad Blank of Green CE, Inc.,

the video features interviews at several of our client properties and includes a snippet of Trout Mountain logging footage for good measure! Larry Baker, of Baker Logging, also makes an appearance to discuss sustainable forestry from a logger's perspective. The video provides a valuable behind-the-scenes look into the world of sustainable forest management and we had a blast helping out. Thanks Brad!

The video is available at [www.greence.com](http://www.greence.com).



### ECOSYSTEM CREDITS FOR REAL

In 2008 the Willamette Partnership, a coalition of 27 public and non-profit stakeholders, began its *Counting on the Environment* program to develop a system for quantifying impacts and benefits to ecosystems. Their Ecosystem Credit Accounting System uses rapid-assessment measures to evaluate sites and calculate credits. Protocols and "currencies" are in place for wetlands, water temperature, salmon, and upland prairie habitats, with protocols for riparian forests and oak savanna in final testing.

Credits can be marketed through established and emerging public markets, or through voluntary sales. Or the measures can be used to evaluate potential projects to better compete for increasingly scarce restoration dollars.

Willamette Partnership conducts trainings for project developers and verifiers; Mark attended the Upland Prairie training in May.

For more information contact Trout Mountain or [willamettepartnership.org](http://willamettepartnership.org)



## Partner Updates

### Barry Sims

Barry is looking forward to leading the development of a stewardship plan for the City of Cannon Beach's newly expanded 1,025 acre watershed forest, named the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve after the salmon stream that forms the heart of the property. The City recently acquired 805 acres of state land in a land swap to add to their existing 220 acres.



### Scott Ferguson

Scott recently summited Mt. Stuart in the Washington Cascades, which at over 9,000 feet, is the highest non-volcanic peak in the state. The plan was to spend the night in "bivy sacks" on the summit ridge, but thunderstorms were predicted and the thought of being exposed to lightning on the top of a narrow granite ridge was daunting enough to send Scott back down to the valley.



### Mark Miller

To say it was a busy summer is an understatement! Besides getting married in July, and getting his wife Dawn settled into Corvallis and a new job at Benton Hospice, he has nearly finished a house remodel (using FSC timbers in a new entry!), and found time for a fall vacation/honeymoon to Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula. Mark is looking forward to the quiet of fall and winter!



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*A Balanced Approach*

WE ARE ALWAYS UPDATING OUR DATABASE. PLEASE EMAIL [MARLA@TROUTMOUNTAIN.COM](mailto: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.



Mixed Sources

Supporting responsible use of forest resources

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-1724

## Locally logged, milled, and built

After moving to our new office in late spring of 2010, we realized that its restored brick and timber interior demanded an upgrade in our furniture. We needed a large cabinet for storing office supplies and books and a conference table. The cabinet was the most pressing need, so we purchased some FSC-certified western bigleaf maple lumber from Ben Deumling at Zena Forest Products, and hired Jonathan Nussbaum to design and build the cabinet, which helps divide our office into two distinct areas.

But there was something missing – the direct connection with properties we manage. Barry has been deeply involved in oak restoration work on the Willamette University portion of the Zena Forest, and at that time was using his D4 Cat to thin a mixed fir/oak stand. With Willamette's blessing, he picked a larger oak tree of declining vigor that could be removed to release a patch of natural madrone saplings. After Barry felled, bucked, and skidded this log to Ben's mill, the craftsmen went to work – Ben in recovering the best possible lumber yield from the 30 foot log, and Jonathan in designing and building an elegant yet very sturdy oak table. Both these pieces turned out beautifully, and will be with us... well, forever! Thanks to Ben and Jonathan for making it happen.



**We're on the Web!**

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