



Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 8

JANUARY 16TH
2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

Happy New Year!!



Here at Trout Mountain Forestry, we're happy to be catching our breath after a long and busy harvest season. As you'll see in our log market update, (page 3), log markets are picking up so we're getting ready for an even bigger harvest season this spring and summer.

2013 marks our 7th anniversary as a company and we're happy to be remaining steady after all these years.

A Trout Mountain Wedding Congratulations to Mike Messier who was married to Sarah Mikulak in the shadow of Mt. Hood on a perfectly sparkling sunny day this past August. Our own Mark Miller officiated, and all of us Trout Mountaineers and our families were there to share in the celebration. Near a babbling brook with lawn games, bubbly, and food catered by Porque No, it was the perfect day to celebrate with family and friends. We are happy to welcome Sarah into the ever-growing Trout Mountain family.



NRCS Program Deadline February 15th!

The deadline to sign up for cost sharing for EQIP cost sharing is approaching! While signup may occur all year, funds are allocated only once a year. Initial paperwork may be time-consuming, so don't delay! For County NRCS office locations call us or visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov>



Join BLA—connecting wood

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OFFICE SPACE!! Know anyone who's looking for a beautiful light filled inspiring office space? We have some to share. If you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch with Marla at 503-445-0905 or marla@troutmountain.com and she'll give you all the details.



TRUAX SEED SLINGER!

We have a Truax seed slinger that we don't need. (see picture to the right.) It's for broadcasting fluffy, chaffy, seed and small flowable seed on areas that are too small, too steep, or inaccessible for other types of seeding equipment. It can be used as shown in the picture or mounted on an ATV. It sells for \$445 but we'll take your best offer. For more information about the equipment you can go to http://www.agrecol.com/Truax-Seed-Slinger-Hand-Operated_p_574.html. If you're interested, call or email Marla—503-445-0905 or marla@troutmountain.com.



Alpha Farm and GP We were elated when news came of the successful application for a forest conservation easement (HFRP) on Alpha Farm’s 280 acre property. Alpha Farm Cooperative is a unique group of like-minded people who have lived and worked together on a beautiful forest and farm near Deadwood Oregon for the past 41 years. The easement was an effort to help secure their financial future and permanently conserve the forest while allowing sustainable harvest in the future. The sale of the easement would help fund the retirement years of some of the original community members. Then the unthinkable happened: The easement title search discovered that Alpha Farm did not, in fact, own the timber on their land. The timber rights had been granted to Georgia Pacific Corporation in 1960 by a previous owner and research by a title company in the 90’s did not reveal the full story . The easement process was halted and Alpha Farm considered their options given their past 20 years of sustainable thinning in the forest.

After careful consideration and consultation with Trout Mountain and their attorney, Alpha Farm decided to notify Georgia Pacific of the mistake. A call was made to the corporate offices in Atlanta, the situation was described, and the community simply asked that the company sign a “quitclaim deed” that would grant Alpha Farm all rights to the timber so that the easement process could continue. And that is exactly what Georgia Pacific did.

It is good to remind ourselves that good deeds and intentions (“karma” if you will) are not just limited to people; they can sometimes be found in large organizations run by caring people who recognize the value of forest stewardship. Bravo to Alpha Farm and Georgia Pacific!



Oregon White Oak Among the most endangered ecosystems in Western Oregon, oak forests and savannas have been lost to development, cleared for agriculture, or invaded by fast-growing Douglas-fir or invasive weeds. Fortunately, a renewed emphasis on oak restoration is bringing Agencies, funding, and landowners together to bring lasting change for these habitat-rich stands.

Trout Mountain’s expertise in matching skilled contractors, the right equipment, illusive markets, and diverse grant sources has transformed hundreds of acres of degraded oak woodlands for nearly a dozen owners in recent years. These multi-phased efforts require an ongoing commitment. Removing competing conifers — the most visible and often “easiest” part — is combined with invasive weed control and native understory enhancement. Long-term maintenance measures tailored to each individual site are monitored over time to assure lasting success.

Oak restoration efforts are rarely self-sustaining, but fortunately funding has increased in recent years, through NRCS’s Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the US Fish and Wildlife’s “Partners” program, and others.



Upland oak woodlands provide ecosystem services that could one day be traded like wetland or carbon credits, though markets and regulatory constraints aren’t yet in place. We’ll be keeping an eye out for these opportunities.



THIS YEAR’S DEADLINE FOR COST SHARE APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 15TH!!
 NRCS funds are awarded once each year, typically in fall, so now is the time plan projects and sign up.
COST SHARE funds may be available for the following activities:

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

Please call or email Mike for more information! 503-233-2131 or mike@troutmountain.com

LOG MARKET UPDATE The year has begun with a high demand for lumber leading to a marked rise in log prices. What's behind the increase? Well, first off, housing starts are up across the country and are at their highest levels since 2008. Analysts are forecasting continued modest growth through the year. Second, Pacific Northwest sawmills generally have a tight inventory of logs. As lumber orders stream in, mills are willing to pay more to secure additional log inventory. The higher prices for lumber mean the mills can actually afford to pay more for logs. This could be a good year for landowners *and* mills. Finally, demand in Asian countries for logs and lumber continues to be strong, which puts additional competitive pressure on log prices.



How long will the current trend last? No one knows. If it leads to a surge in logging activity and the markets are flooded with wood, prices are likely to drop again. But if demand continues to outstrip supply, the trend could last through the spring. Give us a call for current prices on domestic and export logs.

On the down side, pulpwood prices remain low. This is the typical pattern as mills increase production: there are more sawmill residues to send to the pulp mill, which reduces demand for pulp logs, and more pulp logs in the pipeline from increased logging activity.

Carbon As log markets rebound, interest in income from non-timber based sources has waned, but, for landowners who manage their forests for multiple resources, it's important to keep an eye on opportunities as markets and mechanisms develop for non-timber resources such as forest carbon. When considering the potential value of a forest carbon project, it is important to focus on the character and potential of your forest as well as carbon prices.



In the January 2013 issue of Journal of Forestry, Remucal et al. detail a hypothetical application of the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) forest protocol to a southern longleaf pine forest managed for ecological purposes. Although the longleaf pine ecosystem is very rare and diverse, under the CAR protocol the project was shown to be a net *source* of carbon emissions over the life of the project, thus producing no carbon benefits. This was based on site-specific conditions, such as low stand density and the influence of off-site stocks on carbon reductions. This article (co-authored by our own Matt Fehrenbacher), highlights the potential conflict between managing for climate benefits and ecological restoration on some lands, and recommends modifications to the protocol to improve its utility.

Locally, western Oregon and Washington forests have proven to be some of the best in the world for sequestering atmospheric carbon. Yet, even with current prices for forest carbon credits at \$11 per ton, it is essential to consider starting carbon stocks, regional averages, site quality, harvest levels and species composition when assessing the feasibility of a forest carbon project on your forest.

FSC Audit

To maintain our group FSC certification, we are required to have an annual audit. This year our audit went smoother than ever, thanks to some new systems we've developed for tracking and monitoring data from our clients' properties.

During the audit, we visited the Corvallis watershed, the vanEck property, the Goodmans and the Hanschus. Our roads were certainly put to the test as the audit



happened to be on one of the rainiest days of the year!

Every 5 years we need to get re-certified and next year will be time for one of those re-certification audits which ought to be pretty rigorous, but we feel prepared. Managing forests under the FSC standard is right in line with how we like to do things.

Blog! Have you checked out our website lately? We are working on restructuring the whole thing little by little so that in the near future we'll have current stories and pictures about all of the interesting clients and beautiful forested properties we get to work with. For now, take a look at our blog. Click on the "news" tab at www.troutmountain.com and it'll take you there.



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A Balanced Approach

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.



Mixed Sources

Supporting responsible use of forest resources

www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-1724

Stewardship Groups

“Stewardship” has a very particular connotation within the US Forest Service and BLM. It refers to a community-based planning process for National Forest management, as well as to the restoration activities identified by the “stakeholders” involved in this planning process. If you own forestland near federal lands where “Stewardship Areas” been established, you may have a new partner eager to help you fund certain restoration activities.

How is this? Well, if your land falls within a Stewardship Area, and your activity benefits federal lands, you may apply for grants from so-called Wyden Funds — a portion of federal harvest proceeds dedicated to fund private restoration activities that benefit federal lands. Terrestrial projects must be within 1.5 miles of federal lands, but aquatic projects can be merely downstream of federal ownership.

Stewardship Groups have been established for most areas of the Siuslaw National Forest, and are growing in popularity in many other National Forests in Oregon.



We're on the Web!

www.troutmountain.com

You can always find our newsletters at troutmountain.com!