

A Proper Rainy Season Returns to the Pacific Northwest!

It's been a real soaker this winter, which has been a mostly-welcome change (for the trees) from the previous two years of low snowfall and lack of rain. There is a lot to catch up on since our last newsletter and we're excited to share some of the highlights of our work over the past year as well as some news and updates. Don't



PHOTO CREDIT: The Sparktank

forget to check out our new website www.troutmountain.com where we are always posting our favorite pictures from the field, news, and more!

Highlights

- page 2 First Quarter 2016 Log Market Update
Featured Property: Camp Adams
- page 3 Bald Hill Farm Oak Restoration
Forest Restoration on the Elochoman River
- page 4 Announcing the Newest Trout Mountaineer

Trout Mountain-Harvested FSC Cedar from Camp Adams Featured in Landmark New Building in North Portland

Standing out among the many new buildings being constructed along the rapidly changing North Williams Ave. corridor in North Portland is an architecturally unique building dubbed "Karuna East." While most buildings of this size are clad in steel and glass, the Portland-based project architects, Holst Architecture, decided to utilize locally-sourced western redcedar instead, which was harvested at Camp Adams by Barry Sims himself and sold to Kaster's Kustom Cutting (KKC) in Mulino, OR. Looking for a certified, sustainably-sourced product, Holst went to Sustainable Northwest Wood in Portland, which specializes in FSC, locally-sourced lumber. Sustainable Northwest contracted Kevin Kaster, owner of KKC, to produce select, tight-knot cedar siding from the logs that Barry had supplied.

This may be the most prominently featured wood harvested



PHOTO CREDIT: Linda Donahue, Minor Waltz Photography

from a Trout Mountain-client property. As forest managers we form close relationships with the lands we work on and the people we work with, but once the log trucks leave the landing, we typically lose contact with the wood itself, which makes local projects like this particularly fun and rewarding for us.

First Quarter 2016 Log Market Update

Once again, we find ourselves in a rather atypical winter log market this year. Winter log prices have been in the summer range so far, with Douglas-fir sawlogs selling in the \$550-to-\$650 per MBF range up north and up to \$100 more per MBF in Lane and Douglas counties. Lumber prices began dropping at the beginning of 2015 and have yet to recover, leaving sawmills unable to pay the prices we typically see this time of year.

On the bright side, demand for Japan and Korea export logs is strong, with Japan logs selling for \$790-to-\$820 per MBF and Korea Douglas-fir logs selling for \$680 per MBF (Weyerhaeuser, Longview yard). The demand for

cedar logs continues to be quite strong, and alder prices are steady, though changes in the alder lumber export market have significantly reduced the price for 5" and 6" logs (on the scale end).

Unlike the winter of 2014/15, this winter has been quite rainy and is forecasted to remain so. This will hopefully keep the log supply at a reasonable level so mills will continue to buy logs. Many of our economic indicators here in the United States suggest we should have rising domestic demand for lumber, but it seems there is a lot of economic uncertainty around the world right now with the



plummeting price of oil and China's slowing economy.

Despite all these challenges, there are many things small woodland owners can do to better position themselves in our current, unpredictable log market. Management planning continues to be a valuable exercise, as is planning well in advance for your next harvest. This could include road improvements for shoulder-season access.

Featured Property: Camp Adams

Barry started doing thinning work for youth camps in 2004 with a project at Camp Namanu using an old D4 Cat to do the logging himself. Since that time, Trout Mountain's work for camps has expanded and we now have a long list of camps that we serve, offering forest planning and hands-on management.

The latest gem—Camp Adams. This 216-acre camp near Molalla in southern Clackamas County has been a church camp since the 1920s. It contains the confluence of Milk and Nate Creeks, and a very diverse forest with everything from Oregon white oak and ash to true old-growth Douglas-fir.

In the past two years, Barry has conducted thinnings in several stands, including 90-year-old Douglas-fir, and mixed conifer stands with cedar and Grand fir. In the fall of 2015, we partnered with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on a stream restoration project on Nate Creek.

ODFW designed a project to remove an



PHOTO CREDIT: The Sparktank

old concrete dam that was blocking fish migration, as well as the placement of large wood structures to enhance fish habitat. SWCD provided the funding and the project management. Coincidentally, Barry was in the process of planning the removal of Douglas-fir from a 2-acre area of Oregon white oak in the northern portion of the camp.

We were able to carefully tip over some of the Douglas-fir and remove them as whole trees with root wads for placement in the stream. The benefit

for the oak stand will be greatly improved vigor of the oak, as well as the potential to restore native understory plants now that the Douglas-fir is gone.

We couldn't have done it without local partners Ron Spanfellner, who used his self-loading log truck to move the root wads from the top of the hill, and Randy Stone, who used his grapple-skidder to move the material within reach of the ODFW work area.

Bald Hill Farm Oak Restoration

Corvallis residents saw the start of an exciting new oak habitat restoration project in 2015 at one of the community's most cherished landmarks and recreation areas, Bald Hill. The 587-acre Bald Hill Farm was purchased by the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) in 2013 and it abuts the popular Bald Hill Natural Area (owned by the City). Mark and Scott managed a thinning project for the previous owner over 15 years ago and were excited to work on this special property again for GLT. Management priorities for the property include open space, wildlife habitat, education, demonstration, and conservation of working lands. Trout Mountain completed a forest management plan in 2014 and managed the first of two phases of restoration in 2015, with A-1 Logging of Yamhill, OR, as the logging contractor.

Phase I included 50 acres of thinning

Douglas-fir and white oak to enhance oak woodland and savanna conditions. Specialty logging equipment was employed by A-1 for the task, capable of cutting selected trees upright to a safe location before guiding their fall, thus minimizing damage to the beautiful, widely-spreading crowns of the oak trees. The sale of 300,000 board feet of Douglas-fir logs helped fund the project and much of the oak material generated from the thinning was chipped on-site and sold for biomass or kept on-site for uses around the farm. Seven truckloads of oak sawlogs were sold to Ben Deumling, owner of Zena



Forest Products in Rickreall, OR, who specializes in sawing flooring and other premium products from responsibly-sourced oak logs. Portions of this on-going project are visible from hiking trails on the property and GLT periodically leads public tours of the off-trail portions of the project and the farm. More information may be found at <http://greenbeltlandtrust.org/conserving-land/bald-hill-farm/>.

Forest Restoration on the Elochoman River

Work is under way on Columbia Land Trust's "Upper Elochoman" property, where Trout Mountain's Mike Messier is managing a timber harvest as part of the land trust's multi-stage restoration project to convert Douglas-fir plantations to the late-successional, multi-species conifer forests that once occupied the old river terraces along the Elochoman River. Located in the lower Columbia River basin, the Elochoman River flows from its headwaters in the timber country of Wahkiakum County, WA, through the lower Elochoman Valley, to a network of sloughs in the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge before finally joining the Columbia River near the town of Cathlamet, WA. The Elochoman Valley is rich with both American Indian and European-settlement history, including Crown-Zellerbach logging camps that date back to the early twentieth-century and an old railroad grade (later converted to a mainline haul road) that carried timber from the hills down to a sort yard in Cathlamet.



Tree climber, Scott Hyde, creating wildlife snags as part of the restoration project

To steer the Douglas-fir plantations towards a more diverse, multi-age condition, Mike is applying a mosaic of different harvest prescriptions across the stands (ranging in age from 25 to 50) which will be followed this March by under-planting of shade-tolerant conifer species such as Sitka spruce, western hemlock, western red cedar, and grand fir. Though the site is currently dominated by Douglas-fir and

red alder, numerous old-growth stumps of cedar may still be found throughout the property, hinting at its prior composition. Small patch cuts (1-2 acres) with retention are being employed as part of the prescription to foster more rapid growth of the planted seedlings, while seedlings planted in thinned areas will grow up more slowly to create a multi-layered canopy as you might see in natural settings.

While most of the trees harvested by C&C Logging of Kelso, WA will be hauled to local mills, approximately 25 truckloads worth of rough-quality logs will be retained on the property for stream restoration projects, including 115 logs with the roots still attached! These projects will be implemented by the land trust over the next few years and include re-directing a channelized fish-bearing stream to its historic, meandering course as well as the construction of engineered log-jams in the Elochoman River to improve habitat and restore channel complexity.



Trout Mountain Forestry
1800 NW Upshur St., Suite 201
Portland, OR 97209

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SIPRINT



Announcing Our Newest Trout Mountaineer

In June of 2015, Mike and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a happy new addition to their family, Miles Messier! Miles is a healthy and happy little guy that has brought lots of joy to his proud parents, grandparents, and family. He already enjoys his time outdoors, so that is an encouraging sign! He is currently the shortest of the Trout Mountaineers, but given his current trajectory, he is well on his way to attaining the legendary height of Trout Mountain foresters! No hurry though, Miles!

Check out our website at www.troutmountain.com



[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trout-Mountain-Forestry/
1403487599873478](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trout-Mountain-Forestry/1403487599873478)



Instagram feed is under troutmountain