

June 26, 2013

House Votes Down Farm Bill

On June 20, the House of Representatives voted down HR 1947, its \$949 billion version of a Farm Bill reauthorization by a vote of 195-234. The vote caught leadership in the House by surprise and came after the House spent the better part of the week debating the bill on the floor and voting on amendments.

While the Farm Bill is better known for providing subsidies for agricultural crops and food stamps, there were several important forestry provisions. A number of these provisions that passed were in the base bill and several were added or improved through floor amendments. Some of these provisions included:

- An amendment by Jamie Herrera Beutler (R-WA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) to clarify that forest roads do not require NPDES permits in the wake of the *NEDC v. Brown* decision.
- A five-year reauthorization of Stewardship Contracting. This was improved by an amendment by Paul Gosar (R-AZ) to enact limitations on purchaser fire liability to Stewardship Service Contracts.
- An amendment by Tom Cotton (R-AR) to improve the bill's expanded "Good Neighbor" authority by clarifying that the Forest Service can delegate all forest management activities to states, including timber sale administration.
- An amendment by Mark Meadows (R-NC) to provide a legislative Categorical Exclusion (CE) from NEPA for restoration and recovery operations on National Forest System lands following a declared disaster.

The Farm Bill also included new authorities to deal with forest health challenges through expanded Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) authorities and a 10,000 acre CE. Fortunately, an amendment to water down these provisions by Jared Polis (D-CO) was withdrawn. Also included was a provision championed by Kurt Schrader to provide the Forest Service with explicit authority to use "designation by prescription" and "designation by description" in traditional timber sales and a provision by Dan Benishek (R-MI) directing the Forest Service to conduct a survey of wood using facilities near the National Forest System, and report to Congress on how the agency timber sale program is meeting their needs.

The Senate on the other hand passed its version of the Farm Bill by a vote of 66-27 on June 10. Several forest management authorities were in that bill as well, including permanent reauthorization of Stewardship Contracting Authority and expanded use of HFRA authorities on lands threatened by insects, disease or catastrophic fire. The Senate HFRA provisions are more limited than those included in the House bill, but may have some usefulness.

It is unclear what the next steps will be. Congress failed to reauthorize it last year and opted for a one-year extension, which ends later this year. Given its importance to so many agriculture and livestock interests it is difficult to see Congress not taking it up. However, unless the House adopts a Farm Bill its leverage for negotiations with the Senate will be severely limited, including the useful forestry provisions contained in the bill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has stated the Senate will not pass another one-year extension. */Tom Partin*

Helium, County Payments, Good Neighbors and Wilderness

If you were looking for diversity during a Senate committee markup, it certainly happened on June 18, when the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed several pieces of legislation ranging from another creative proposal for funding a one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to the addition of new wilderness areas in Oregon.

The “Helium Stewardship Act of 2013” (S.783), would increase the royalties derived from the sale of helium from the U.S. Federal Helium Reserve to provide revenue offsets for a variety of natural resource expenditures, including a one-year extension of SRS payments to counties in lieu of receipts from timber harvests. By increasing the royalties charged on the sale of helium (which by the way is a non-renewable resource) to 4 percent an additional \$495 million would be generated. The Federal Helium Reserve, which provides 30% of the world’s helium supply, would produce these revenues over the next 10 years until the reserves are used up and the U.S. Government gets out of the helium business. Of the estimated \$495 million in new funds, roughly \$300 million would go toward funding SRS payments, \$50 million would go to the National Park Service for maintenance, \$50 million to rehabilitate abandoned mines, \$50 million for rehabilitating oil and gas wells, and \$51 million would go to reduce the national debt. Of course much of the spending, including the SRS payments, would occur in the first year while the offsetting revenues will be generated over 10 years.

Providing funding for the rehabilitation of abandoned mines and gas and oil wells was particularly embraced by western Senators, including Senator John Barrasso (R-WY). Wyoming is the largest recipient of the funding and its delegation has been furious ever since the program was raided last year to offset, in part, the reauthorization of SRS and the PILT program. Now the possible repayment of some of the funding is ironically tied to yet another reauthorization of SRS. The Committee’s Ranking Member, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), was also a big winner with the passage of long-stalled legislation to convey lands in the Tongass National Forest to Sealaska, an Alaska Native corporation.

The Committee also passed the “Oregon Treasures Act” (S.353), sponsored by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) which will create new wildernesses near Cathedral Rock in central Oregon and along tributaries to the Rogue River in southern Oregon. Three river systems would also receive new wild and scenic designations, the Rogue, Chetco, and Molalla.

On April 23, AFRC, Associated Oregon Loggers, Douglas Timber Operators, and Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association wrote to Senators Wyden and Merkley requesting that S.353 not move forward separate of a comprehensive solution for the management of BLM lands in western Oregon for the benefit of local communities. Neither office responded to the letter.

Finally, the Committee passed “Good Neighbor Forestry Act” (S.327) sponsored by John Barrasso (R-WY) which authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state foresters authorizing them to provide certain forest, rangeland and watershed restoration, and protection services in the western United States.

Several other state-specific bills also passed out of the Committee. In total, the markup represented a significant burst of activity in a committee that has been stalled for years. It is unclear how the House will proceed on the legislation, particularly wilderness and wild and scenic designation. */Tom Partin*

Committee Hears Forest Management Issues

On June 25, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee conducted an oversight hearing titled “Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Forest Management on Federal Lands.” Witnesses included Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Interior, Ned Farquhar; Dr. K. Norm Johnson, Professor, Oregon State University; Chris Maisch, State Forester & Director, Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry; Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director, Federal Forest Resource Coalition; and Aaron Miles Manager, Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater Basin Collaborative.

In his opening statement Committee Chairman Ron Wyden led off by identifying several areas of possible reform, including reducing the cost of project planning and Forest Service overhead. The testimony and questions focused on how to increase timber management activities and timber harvest outputs on our federal forests. A number of familiar themes emerged, including “ecological forestry,” large scale projects, and collaboration as key approaches to increasing management. However, the focus of the hearing ultimately shifted to how the expense of doing NEPA reviews was crippling both the Forest Service and BLM’s effort to actively manage our forests. Currently about 70% of their budgets are going to finance planning and NEPA related work. Senator Jim Risch (R-ID) identified this as a key issue and Senator Wyden pledged to continue the discussion on streamlining NEPA and stated “I do not believe increasing the harvest and protecting the environment are mutually exclusive.”

Bill Imbergamo’s testimony supported the needed focus on NEPA and the resulting litigation. He brought a 1,400 page document that represented all of the background and NEPA work related to the Colt Summit project which covers 2,000 acres on the Lolo National Forest in Region 1. The project was funded under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and stakeholders had been working together for several years to bring this project forward only to see a coalition of outside environmental groups challenge and block it in court over one cumulative effects claim. The Forest Service prevailed on the other 13 claims, but now must spend more time and money bolstering the Environmental Impact Statement.

Imbergamo said “the situation is analogous to a mouse that has been dropped into a maze with a piece of cheese at the exit. Unfortunately, the cheese has now been removed, the exit has been sealed and the maze has been set on fire. We can expect a high level of activity from the mouse, but we certainly cannot expect a good outcome. Only Congress can fix the maze.”

In summary, both Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and other Committee members said they believed that status quo and current harvests on our federal forests were unacceptable and the Committee would continue to look for ways to streamline NEPA and get more

active management restored to the federal forests. We will be watching the developments in the Senate very closely. / *Tom Partin*

DNR MM Strategy Comments Due

Written comments are due by July 1 in the Phase 2 scoping process for Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy under the 1997 Washington State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (see [AFRC Newsletter May 24, 2013](#)).

Comments can be emailed to sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov or mailed to: Washington Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, P.O. Box 47001, Olympia, WA 98504-7001. A comment card that can be filled out and submitted online is available at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_sepa_nonpro_mm_scope2_comcard.pdf

AFRC has put together a [sample comment card](#) reflecting our views. To receive these sample comments in a Word format or hardcopy, contact Cindi Kaneshige at ckaneshige@amforest.org or (503) 222-9505.

DNR's [marbled murrelet conservation strategy website](#) has links to a number of useful documents, including a [graphic representation](#) of the [conceptual alternatives](#) that were presented to the Board of Natural Resources at its May 5 meeting. These are the concepts that were talked about at the four public meetings held earlier this month in Olympia, Sedro-Woolley, Forks and South Bend. It is apparent that none of the concepts, as displayed, fully meets all four of the objectives needed for a qualified alternative. AFRC [commented](#) on the Purpose, Need and Objectives for the project in May, 2012.

AFRC urges its members and friends to submit comments. The adoption of the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy has the potential for a significant impact on timber supply from DNR lands within 50 miles of saltwater. Although the 1997 State Lands HCP was supposed to have set the upper limit on what the beneficiaries had to contribute to get certainty, unless we continue to insist on that, there will be a continual erosion of the timber base. / *Ann Forest Burns*

Ninth Circuit Affirms Mudflow

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the denial of a preliminary injunction for the Mudflow Vegetation Management Project on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in *Conservation Congress v. Forest Service*. The decision is significant because it defers to the Forest Service's finding that the timber harvest will not adversely modify spotted owl critical habitat and holds that the requirements for informal consultation are not as great as those for formal consultation.

The Court held that timber harvest could "degrade" critical habitat without amounting to adverse modification, which would require formal consultation. Over 1,719 acres of foraging habitat would be degraded but no habitat would be downgraded to a lesser category or removed. The Court held that an adverse modification occurs only when there is a direct or indirect alteration that *appreciably diminishes* the value of critical habitat. Plaintiffs argued that reducing the basal area from 125 - 150 sq. ft./acre to 100-120 sq. ft./acre is adverse modification of foraging habitat. However, the Court deferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service statement that "although most studies suggest some degree of [o]wl preference for higher basal areas (160-220 square feet per acre), a substantial amount of foraging (44%) occurs within stands with basal areas ranging from 80 to 160 square feet per acre."

The Court analyzed the plain language of the consultation regulations, and held that an agency does not have to assess cumulative effects when engaging in informal consultation even though a cumulative effects assessment is required for formal consultation. This is a very helpful ruling because plaintiffs often argue that the requirements of formal consultation also apply to informal consultation. The court noted that the informal consultation regulation provides that the agency “may” consider a number of factors but is not required to do so. /*Scott Horngren*

Supreme Court Vacates Sierra Framework

On June 3, the Pacific Rivers Council filed a motion to effectively dismiss a case the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review in which the Ninth Circuit invalidated the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework on the grounds that analysis of the effects of the Framework on fish under NEPA could not be deferred to site-specific projects. Both the Solicitor General and the intervenors were looking forward to another Supreme Court reversal of the Ninth Circuit. The Pacific Rivers Council saw the writing on the wall and was worried that a Supreme Court reversal of the Ninth Circuit would set a nationwide precedent limiting environmental groups standing and possibly establishing more flexible NEPA law.

Pacific Rivers told the Supreme Court that it would not defend the Ninth Circuit decision and would accept an order from the Supreme Court to vacate the decision and dismiss Pacific River Council’s challenge to the Framework as moot. On June 17, the Supreme Court granted the motion to vacate and dismiss. The bad news is another rare opportunity to obtain another favorable decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on environmental law is lost. /*Scott Horngren*

Ninth Circuit Halts Medford BLM Sales

The Ninth Circuit has enjoined the Cottonwood and Sampson Cove timber sales in two separate cases, both entitled *Soda Mountain Wilderness v. BLM*. The sales purchased by Murphy Company and Boise Cascade Wood Products, are on Matrix land in the Medford District BLM. The rulings are not the final decision from the Ninth Circuit. The sales are stopped by orders granting appellants’ motions for injunction pending appeal which means harvest of the timber sales could be halted for over a year or more pending final resolution of the appeals.

In the Cottonwood case, the district court denied a preliminary injunction. Plaintiffs then filed an appeal and only recently filed a motion for injunction pending resolution of the appeal. The appeal is scheduled for argument before the Ninth Circuit in Portland on July 8. A ruling could be months off however, if the Ninth Circuit affirms the district court on the merits, then the injunction pending appeal will be dissolved and the Cottonwood sale can be harvested. The issues raised in the appeal are (1) whether the no action alternative and one action alternative is a sufficient range of alternatives, (2) whether the project adequately considered cumulative effects, (3) whether BLM took a hard look at the consequences of logging mistletoe infected trees which plaintiffs claim needed to be retained to provide habitat for spotted owls and raptors, and (4) whether BLM violated FLPMA by harvesting in Pacific fisher habitat when the resource management plan requires BLM to modify, relocate, or abandon proposed actions that would contribute to the need to list a federal candidate species. If the Ninth Circuit reverses the district court on the merits, the Cottonwood sale will be permanently enjoined.

In the Sampson Cove case, briefing on the merits has not begun because the appeal was only recently filed. The injunction pending appeal halting the Sampson Cove timber sale will be in place at least for a year while the merits of the appeal are briefed. The issues raised in the appeal are (1) whether BLM

must meet resource management plan (RMP) direction to retain 25 green trees per acre in disease management units where there are not 25 green trees per acre, (2) whether BLM adequately assessed cumulative effects, (3) whether in meeting the coarse wood requirements of the RMP BLM can use an average over the project area, (4) whether the BLM considered the potential for portions of the project area to be designated as wilderness and/or included in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and (5) whether an EIS should have been prepared.

These recent injunctions further highlight the need for legislation addressing the management of O & C lands. /*Scott Horngren*

Groups Challenge Thinning

The Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Klamath Forest Alliance, and Environmental Protection Information Center have filed appeals on the Little Cronan project located on the Klamath National Forest. The Klamath encompasses over 1.6 million acres, and this project proposes to commercially thin only 66 acres of the Matrix land base (.00004 % of the forest land holding). Their appeals contend that treating these acres is going to cause detrimental effects to the northern spotted owl and riparian reserves. The biggest issue in the appeal is the removal of “big” trees. There are many definitions of “big” trees, but in this case it was generally trees planned for removal over 20 inches dbh. This is another example of individuals not being able to grasp the concept that stand density can be detrimental no matter the size of trees. There is no magic tree size that becomes immune to density issues, and thinning out trees to allow others to grow is good forestry no matter the age or size of the tree. The other important point missed in these appeals is that all the trees being left are bigger than those planned for removal.

A resolution meeting was held with no resolution reached; the appeals are now being reviewed at the next higher level within the agency. /*Rick Svilich*

BLM Publishes Purpose and Need Statement

On June 14, the BLM published its [Purpose and Need Statement](#) (P&N) for the upcoming revision of their land management plans. The P&N is not part of a formal public comment period and may “evolve during the planning process.” The P&N “defines the scope or range of alternatives that will be analyzed in the planning process.” This P&N is a major departure from prior planning processes in that it significantly marginalizes the [O&C Act](#) via a faulty interpretation of how the Act requires the BLM to manage these lands.

The marginalization of the O&C Act is done by redefining the purpose of the Act in a way that emphasizes providing for a predictable sustained yield of timber rather than a certain level of timber outputs. The result is that any level of timber harvest would be acceptable no matter how low just as long as it is predictable and sustainable. This is contrary to the plain language of the Act as upheld by the Ninth Circuit which requires the BLM to sell the “annual productive capacity” of all O&C lands classified as “timberland” (i.e. capable of sustained yield management). The original purpose of designating these lands for permanent timber production was to provide revenue to the counties. A purpose that is still very much needed today. /*Ross Mickey*

Wilderness, River and Energy Bills Pass Senate

On June 19, the full Senate passed 14 bills that included new Wilderness designations in three states, added more miles to the wild and scenic waterways, an expedited permitting process for Shale Rock drilling, and gave the go-ahead for a natural gas pipeline and hydropower developments. In a somewhat rare occurrence, the bills were brought to the Senate floor and passed by unanimous consent. The package was made up of land set-aside legislation mostly for Democrats and a number of energy-related bills generally supported by Republicans.

In the west, Senator Ron Wyden's bill S.352 would designate more than 30,000 acres of wilderness in the Devil's Staircase area of southwest Oregon. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) was successful in getting S.112 passed to add more than 20,000 acres to the Alpine Lakes wilderness area, and 10 miles of the Pratt River and nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Murray was also successful in getting a wild and scenic designation on a segment of the Illabot Creek in Skagit County.

Components of the agreement that were appealing for western Republicans included S. 244 sponsored by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) to streamline an oil and gas permitting program within the BLM system in Montana and the Dakotas. Also approved was the permitting of a natural gas pipeline and hydropower development in Alaska supported by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

It is unclear which of these bills the House might take up since they have largely been opposed to additional wilderness legislation. / *Tom Partin*

Healthy Forest Caucus Formed

On June 13, Representatives Kurt Schrader, Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Kristi Noem (R-SD) sent a Dear Colleague letter to other House members encouraging them to join the Healthy Forest Caucus for the 113th Congress. The bipartisan caucus will focus on forest health, forest management practices, conservation efforts, and engagement with their communities that depend on the health of our forests.

The letter stated "Our federal and private forests are the lifeblood for many communities throughout our country. However, today the health of our forests is being overlooked. Litigation, insufficient funding, and lack of active management have made our forests susceptible to drought, insects, diseases, and wildfire. America's forests can and should be managed and conserved to provide jobs, ensure overall forest health, and allow for recreational opportunities that current and future generations can enjoy."

We applaud these four House Members for taking on the challenge of highlighting the problems facing our public and private forests, and we hope many other members of Congress will join this Caucus for our forests and surrounding communities. / *Tom Partin*

Hazardous Fuels Funding Questioned

On June 4, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on wildfire management. Chairman Ron Wyden grilled witnesses including Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell as to why the Hazardous Fuels budget line item was slashed in the FY14 Forest Service budget request. It reduced by \$116 million from the current level of \$317 million or a 37 percent decrease. This reduction

could radically change how the agency funds and deals with wildfire protection and fuels reduction projects.

Wyden blamed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the cuts in hazardous fuels reduction activities that will ultimately lead to more and larger fires. It was pointed out at the hearing that the Forest Service wildfire suppression spending now accounts for 41 percent of the Agency's budget, up from 13 percent in 1991. Meanwhile, the FY14 budget request for the Department of Interior also proposed an \$87 million reduction in hazardous fuels reduction activities at the BLM.

Wyden and the Committee members also suggested that OMB has failed to properly implement the Forest Land Assistance Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME) reserve funds that were supposed to be tapped when the Forest Service and Interior ran over the 10-year average cost for firefighting. The result was on display last year when the Forest Service had to borrow \$400 million from other programs to fight wildfires. In fact, Tidwell said that his agency has had to borrow money 6 out of the last 10 years due to severe fire seasons. Obviously something has to be done to address the skyrocketing price of fighting wildfires, and cutting back on fuels reduction and timber management projects is the wrong approach! /*Tom Partin*

ESA Revisited

On June 4, the House Natural Resources Committee Chaired by Doc Hastings (R-WA) held a hearing to review the current effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and how it is being applied. At the heart of the discussion by Hastings and other Republican members of the Committee is the so-called "sue and settle" strategy employed by environmental groups to sue the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reach favorable settlements related to ESA decisions in addition to getting more species listed.

In 2011 two environmental groups settled a lawsuit with FWS in which the agency must issue final listing decisions on several hundred species over a five year period. Members of the Committee suggested that these kinds of "sue and settle" tactics take away the ability of the public, including private landowners, to influence the process and take precautionary measures on their own to conserve species without the heavy-handedness of a forced listing.

While the witnesses disagreed on how to fix current problems with the ESA, all agreed something has to be done to improve the process. Chairman Hastings has been tenacious on highlighting problems with the ESA and this will probably not be the last hearing he conducts on the subject.

ESA Economic Impacts

Once species have been listed for recovery under ESA, an economic impact study must accompany that listing. As we have witnessed with species such as the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, lynx, grizzly bear and others—these listings can have big impacts on industries that depend on access to a consistent land base for their business, but the economic impacts are grossly understated.

A review of how the economic impacts are predicted is being conducted by the two agencies responsible for administering ESA, the FWS and NOAA Fisheries. On June 13, these agencies sent a new proposed rule to the OMB for their review. The new rule would specify that an economic analysis must accompany any new critical habitat designations, and that impacts be incremental to existing designations.

While reviewing the economics of a listing up front is good, many land owners and managers don't like the second part of the approach which just looks at the incremental impacts because it fails to examine the total implications that a listed species might have when viewed separately. More to come when the final rule is issued. / *Tom Partin*

DNR Online Timber Sale Mapping Utility

Washington DNR has released an online Timber Sale Mapping Utility that can be accessed [here](#). The utility allows the user to look up various timber sales throughout the state and then zoom in to review information and aerial photos of the sale. When an existing sale is selected, an information box will pop up providing the basic sale information and links to the sale packet. Various base maps with aerial imagery, topography with shaded, relief and some other formats can also be selected.

Most any device capable of accessing the internet can use this application to view information online. This includes cell phones and tablets that have internet access via Wi-Fi or cellular data access.

Please check out the application and provide feedback. DNR has tested this utility prior to release but wishes to continue to update it as needs and glitches are found. You can forward any comments and suggestions to me at 360-352-3910 or at mcomisky@amforest.org. / *Matt Comisky*

Joyner Takes R-3 Forester Position

On July 16, Cal Joyner will take over as Regional Forester for Region 3, the Southwest Region headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2011, Cal became the Director of Forest Management when he moved from Region 6 to the Washington Office. One year later he was named Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, the position he held prior to being named Regional Forester.

Other assignments Cal has taken on include Region 6 Deputy Regional Forester and Director of Natural Resources, District Ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest, and Associate Forest Supervisor and later Forest Supervisor and Field Manager on the San Juan-Rio Grande National Forests and San Juan BLM Field Office in Durango, Colorado. Cal is a graduate of Humboldt State University with a degree in watershed management. We wish Cal all the best in his new position.

A rundown of some of the Forest Service hierarchy include:

Washington DC Office

Chief	Washington DC	Tom Tidwell
Associate Chief	Washington DC	Mary Wagner
Chief of Staff	Washington DC	Tim DeCoster

Regional Foresters

Region 1	Northern Region	Faye Krueger
Region 2	Rocky Mountain Region	Dan Jiron
Region 3	Southwest Region	Cal Joyner
Region 4	Intermountain Region	Nora Rasure
Region 5	Pacific Southwestern Region	Randy Moore
Region 6	Pacific Northwest Region	Kent Connaughton

Region 8
Region 9
Region 10
/Tom Partin

Southern Region
Eastern Region
Alaska

Elizabeth (Liz) Agpaoa
Kathleen Atkinson
Beth Pendleton

OFRI Information

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has released a free mobile app for their [*Oregon Forest Facts & Figures 2013*](#), the indispensable source of information on Oregon’s forests. The app can be found at Apple’s App Store or at Google Play (formerly known as Android Market). To download, just type in the words “Oregon Forest Facts and Figures” and hit the install button. The app contains all the information from the booklet, plus videos and additional content such as forest-sector economic data broken down by county. It is easy to use and also includes a glossary. Users can touch a highlighted term to see a definition, picture or video. The data resides on a user’s device, so it is accessible even in areas without phone service.

Earlier this month, OFRI released a new [*special report*](#) and [*video*](#) entitled *Powered by Oregon*. It is designed to be a primer on the potential of woody biomass to increase Oregon’s energy independence, strengthen rural economies and improve forest health. According to the report, restoring forest health represents the largest potential for new sources of biomass. The Forest Service projects that as many as 6.4 million bone-dry tons of small-diameter trees too small to saw into lumber could be available annually for the next 20 years.

Thanks to OFRI for its continued work to improve public understanding of Oregon’s forests in the 21st Century. */Ann Forest Burns*