

**August 27, 2013**

## **Fire Money Runs Out**

Once again, the Forest Service has expended the funding appropriated to it for wildfire suppression before the end of the fiscal year. After expending almost \$1 billion, fighting a number of severe wildfires, the Forest Service must now start robbing money allocated to funding other activities. On August 16, Chief Tom Tidwell sent direction to each Region that would reallocate \$600 million and curtail new financial commitments; \$266 million, or 44% of the funds, would come from timber related programs. The direction stated:

“It has been another long, tragic fire season and we have several more months of intense activity ahead of us. As predicted this year’s fire season has led to costs that exceed appropriated fire suppression funds and once again we must now transfer funds from other accounts to make up the difference.

To ensure that we have the necessary funds to withdraw, the following direction is effective immediately. Regional foresters, station directors, area director and deputy chiefs are responsible for implementing this direction.”

- Defer award of any contract, grant and other procurement actions other than hazardous fuels projects and emergency needs.
- Continue to travel only to meetings and conferences that are mission critical or required for emergency situations.
- Prudently manage staffing, including hiring and overtime expenses.

It is a tragedy that the very money that could be used for preventing wildfire by proactively treating our forests is now taken away to treat the catastrophic fires burning today. While we hope Congress will step in to provide supplemental appropriations to repay these accounts, the current system for funding forest health treatments and wildfire suppression is clearly broken. */Ross Mickey*

## **Western Oregon Wildfire Update**

Three large fires have been burning in western Oregon that have significance in regards to the federal timber supply in Douglas and Josephine Counties. The Whiskey Complex is burning on approximately 18,000 acres of Matrix land on the Tiller District of the Umpqua National Forest. This complex is comprised of three individual fires, of which the smaller two have been contained while the larger 16,000 acre fire is nearing containment as of August 23. The Forest Service has indicated that they are interested in pursuing salvage activities, which could help supplement recent timber volume shortfalls on the forest. The Umpqua has already shown their concern and regard for the timber supply this month by significantly altering their fire suppression strategies in order to protect two timber sales under

contract. The crews did a great job of back burning through about 25% of these sales in order to prevent the fire from consuming them totally. The back burn operation was successful and the Forest Service is working on modifying the sales under contract to reflect the fire damaged portions.

The Douglas and Big Windy Complex Fires are burning on approximately 48,000 and 24,000 acres respectively of checkerboard ownership in Douglas and Josephine counties, including large portions of O&C land managed by the BLM Medford and Roseburg Districts. This includes lands allocated by the Northwest Forest Plan as both Matrix and Late-Successional Reserves. Potential salvage opportunities on both fires will be crucial to the BLM's timber program due to a recent court order mandating the Roseburg and Medford Districts to increase their timber cuts this year, particularly Medford who will have to increase their cut by about 35 million board feet. Volume salvaged off the Matrix lands could contribute significantly to this court ordered timber volume increase.

The court order mandating more volume was handed down on June 26, by D.C. Federal District Judge Leon who ruled that the O&C Act mandates the BLM to sell timber at the levels specified in their existing resource management plans. For the Medford and Roseburg Districts that contain the current fires, this equates to 102 million board feet (mmbf) per year, less than one quarter of what is growing on these forests. Last year these Districts only offered 62 mmbf. Rehabilitating manageable acres within the 100,000 burned acres seems to be the logical and responsible way to meet two goals. First, establish new forests that will grow to be like those on the Oxbow and Tillamook Burns and second, meet their obligation set forth by Congress in the O&C Act. */Andy Geissler and Ross Mickey*

## **N. California Fires Continue**

There are currently three large fires burning on the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests, which have burned a considerable amount of acreage and cost the agency millions of dollars.

The Salmon River Complex is located in the Salmon River drainage of the Klamath. To date it has burned approximately 14,300 acres at a cost of \$19.2 million. Most of the burn area is outside of wilderness and contains several miles of roads. It has been rumored that numerous plantations have also been affected by the fire.

The Orleans Complex is also located within the Salmon River drainage on the Six Rivers. To date it has burned approximately 20,100 acres at a cost of \$20.5 million. Most of the burn area is unroaded and there is very little access within the entire burn area.

The Corral Fire is also located on the Six Rivers, and has burned approximately 9,800 acres at a cost of \$6 million. It is burning within the Trinity Alps Wilderness and is re-burning the Megram and Backbone Fires.

The three fires have burned approximately 44,200 acres at a cost of \$45.7 million. Hopefully, the forests are doing advance scouting for salvage and restoration opportunities. It is also a tragedy that the dollars spent for suppressing these fires couldn't have been spent on responsible forest management. Active management has been proven to be an effective tool in limiting acreage and adverse resource effects from wildfires. */Rick Svlich*

## **The Slow Wheels of Justice**

On June 29, 2010 the district court in Montana enjoined the Grizzly Project on the Kootenai National Forest in *Alliance for Wild Rockies v. Bradford*. The court held that the Forest Service's EIS needed to better explain why the cumulative effects analysis was based upon a grizzly bear management unit rather than a larger area. The court also held that the Forest Service violated NEPA by relying on the Wakkinen Study to set grizzly bear habitat standards in the Recovery Zone without addressing the flaws of the study, and also violated NFMA by failing to show how the Grizzly Project was consistent with the Kootenai Forest Plan standard for Management Situation 1 lands, which requires that projects be compatible with grizzly bear needs. Since the 2010 ruling, the Forest Service has prepared a new draft supplemental EIS and a final supplemental EIS.

On September 7, 2012, the Forest Service moved to dissolve the injunction. Nearly a year later on August 20, 2013, the district court in an 11 page opinion upheld the adequacy of the analysis in the supplemental EIS and dissolved the injunction. The purchaser of the sale, Idaho Forest Group, can now resume work. Stay tuned. /*Scott Horngren*

## **Rio Climax Project Upheld**

On August 21, District Court Judge Owen Panner ruled in *Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center v. Gerritsma* that the harvest of mistletoe trees does not violate NEPA even though the BLM said in the EA that old growth trees would not be harvested and some mistletoe infected trees are old-growth. The case challenged the Rio Climax Project on the BLM Medford District and involves three timber sales purchased by Rough and Ready, Farmer Logging, and Greg Liles Logging.

The Judge also upheld BLM's analysis of the illegal Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) use in the area and BLM's consideration of environmental effects of illegal OHV use. Although not central to Panner's decision, he emphasized that "Much of the Project is on land subject to the Oregon & California Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1181a. Such land is intended primarily 'for timber production to be managed in conformity with the provision of sustained yield.' *O'Neal v. United States*, 814 F.2d 1285, 1287 (9th Cir. 1987) (per curiam)." Finally, he concluded that BLM complied with the resource management plan's soil protection requirements and the analysis did not violate FLPMA. /*Scott Horngren*

## **Lawsuit Against SPI Dismissed**

On July 29, California Superior Court Judge Leslie Nichols dismissed a lawsuit against Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and others related to liability for damages resulting from the 2007 Moonlight Fire. The state court case had been brought by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). After a three day hearing and reviewing voluminous filings, the Judge ruled that Cal Fire could not provide sufficient evidence of negligence by the defendants to justify submitting the matter to a jury. The Judge's decision is in marked contrast to a finding by a California federal district court judge last year that SPI could be held liable for damages even if its operators, logging on private land not owned by SPI, did not start the fire. Cal Fire is expected to appeal. /*Ann Forest Burns*

## Forest Management Reform Urged

AFRC was among nearly 100 signatories to a [July 26 letter](#) to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) urging bi-partisan recognition of the immediate need for legislation to reform federal forest management.

The letter points to the need to improve and maintain the health of our national forests if we are to have water, wildlife and recreational opportunities. Declining forest health due to declining growth rates, overstocking, and insect infestations is becoming an issue in the South and East as it is in the West, the letter states. The signatories call for legislation to reduce the costs of environmental review, reduce appeals and litigation, and expedite projects in order to better serve dependent communities and public users of the forests. These themes are very similar to statements made by Senators Wyden and Murkowski at a June 25 committee hearing on federal forest management.

Among those signing the letter were the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Public Lands Foundation, the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition, the Ruffed Grouse Society and Safari Club International, along with a number of forest industry and county government associations. AFRC is encouraged by the support of such a broad range of interests. /*Tom Partin*

## Counties Say Bill Falls Short

On August 9, the Eastern Oregon Regional Counties Organization (EORCO), made up of Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa counties, sent a [letter](#) to Senator Ron Wyden outlining their concerns over S. 1301, the “Oregon Eastside Forests Restoration, Old Growth Protection, and Jobs Act of 2013.” (See [AFRC Newsletter July 22, 2013](#).) The counties expressed appreciation for Wyden’s continued interest and efforts to address the problems that have plagued the national forests in eastern Oregon, but stated that they “believe S. 1301 as currently written, falls far short of the mark.” EORCO’s concerns include:

- The failure to provide any form of certainty to the remaining sawmilling infrastructure or the communities of eastern Oregon;
- The failure to address funding for counties, schools, roads;
- Limiting the designation of “Pilot Landscapes” to those forests that have Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects, the Malheur, Deschutes and Fremont-Winema, but it excludes the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, and Ochoco, which face similar management challenges;
- Continuing to prescribe forest practices from Washington D.C. by not allowing local situations to determine effective forest management strategies (for example, prohibiting removal of trees over 21 inches in diameter and adding prohibitions on harvesting trees older than 150 years);
- Permanently codifying the “interim” PACFISH/INFISH delineations for riparian management;
- Placing limitations on road construction and requiring road decommissioning without consideration of the future needs of the forest;
- Insufficient funding to achieve the targets laid out in the bill and without recognition of the burdensome cost of planning and implementing projects under the current system of laws and rules.

The letter closes by applauding Senator Wyden for his interest in resolving issues facing Oregon’s eastside forests and offers their assistance in crafting revised legislation. AFRC shares the counties’ concerns, as well as their willingness to be of service to the Senator in improving any legislation that may move forward pertaining to eastern Oregon forests. /*Tom Partin*

## **Eastside Restoration Strategy**

On July 22-23, the first meeting of the Coalition of Blue Mountains Collaboratives, which was convened by the county commissioners of eastern Oregon, was held in Baker City. Forty-five people attended, representing all five collaboratives in the Blue Mountains (Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Ochoco National Forests) as well as state and federal agencies. The collaboratives all shared their successes and challenges they have faced, working agreements, and areas of focus.

The Forest Service presented seven general projects which the coalition heard, evaluated, and provided feedback on for interdisciplinary team (IDT) work. The Forest Supervisors used this information to develop the first suite of NEPA projects for the team to undertake – based on meeting ecological, social, and economic goals, feasibility, and likelihood of success. From the list of seven projects an initial set of three will be undertaken by the Blue Mountains IDT. The team will begin analysis on all three projects soon which include:

1. Dry Forest Restoration – this is a very large scale project focusing on restoring fire-adapted forests wherever they occur across the four national forests. This project builds on the working agreements being developed (or already in place) for several of the collaboratives, and due to the scale of the project, time has been built in for data collection and analysis. A decision is planned for December 2016.
2. Strategic Fuel Treatments – this project implements a system of shaded fuel breaks along strategically located roads that could be used to contain wildfires and manage large-scale prescribed fires across all four national forests. Fuel break width, intensity and type of treatment would vary depending on fuel type, slope, and aspect and once in place the fuel breaks could result in safer, less expensive, and potentially larger, landscape fire treatments. When fully implemented it would treat 150-250,000 acres. A decision is planned for December 2015.
3. Lower Joseph Canyon – building on the work of the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC), this project would work with the NRAC to complete NEPA for a comprehensive suite of land restoration projects in the 90,000 acre Lower Joseph project area on the north end of the Wallowa-Whitman. A decision is planned for December 2014.

The three projects are deliberately prioritized in this order. The large scale “definitive” restoration project (dry forest restoration) will take the most time to complete. By staging two potentially simpler projects first, the interdisciplinary team is afforded the opportunity to build relationships with the collaboratives and the national forests, become familiar with the landscapes, ecosystems, and data sources in the Blue Mountains, and learn to work effectively as a team, while exploring NEPA innovations. */Irene Jerome*

## **Field Hearing on Collaboratives**

On August 16, Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Co-Chair of the newly reconstituted House of Representatives Healthy Forest Caucus, held an informal field hearing in Port Angeles, Washington. The purpose of the hearing was to gather information on the potential for a collaborative process to be implemented on the Olympic National Forest. The goal would be to maintain the current industry infrastructure and provide needed jobs in the Olympic Peninsula. The hearing was held in the Port

Angeles City Council chambers before an audience of stakeholders and interested parties and consisted of a five member panel moderated by Representative Kilmer.

The panel members were Reta Laford, Supervising Officer for the Olympic National Forest; Mitch Friedman, Executive Director of Conservation Northwest; Lloyd McGee, Eastern Washington Forest Program Manager of The Nature Conservancy; Phil Rigdon, Deputy Director of the Yakima Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources; Mike Anderson, Senior Resource Analyst of The Wilderness Society; and Matt Comisky, AFRC Washington State Manager.

Each panel member was given five minutes to present a prepared statement, followed by questions from Kilmer. While many of the panel members expressed positive views of the collaborative process, AFRC expressed caution. Most of the positive views focused on the agreements coming from within the collaborative but not on the actual successful outputs of volume or jobs. AFRC presented the view that collaboratives are a tool to accomplishing the needed management of the federal forests but we see three primary key points for improvement in the process. These points are:

- Establishment of specific goals/outcomes using concrete metrics of success, such as number of local jobs created, revenue to local government, and raw materials which fit the needs of local infrastructure. Metrics of success are essential to ensuring there is a focus on economic and social realities, rather than merely emotional satisfying outcomes. All too often the lowest common denominator effect results in projects that are too light touch, uneconomical, and don't meet the needs of the forest or community.
- Collaborative projects should be given some form of insulation from appeals and litigation by obstructionist individuals and groups who choose not to participate in the collaborative process, but can block a project all too easily through litigation.
- Collaborative projects should result in lower Forest Service unit costs. Unfortunately, collaboration has largely failed to reduce planning and analysis costs (in fact, the costs have typically been higher). Since approximately 70% of project costs go to environmental review and planning, the Forest Service and Congress must focus on modernizing environmental review and planning requirements so we can actually begin restoring balanced management to these forests. Unless Congress or collaboratives address this issue, Forest Service timber harvests will always be limited by the appropriations the agency receives. In these fiscal times it is highly unlikely the agency will receive additional appropriations to dump into an inefficient system.

Representative Kilmer asked a few follow up questions including a brief discussion on forest road maintenance issues and the ability of the road system to support activities on the Olympic. AFRC suggested that while not perfect, DNR's Road Abandonment and Maintenance Planning process should be looked at as a potential model. When asked by Kilmer where the funding came from Comisky stated "from the landowners, primarily through the sale of timber." Overall, AFRC's message was well received and viewed as constructive.

Public comments on the collaborative process are being taken by the Kilmer office at [Kilmer.Collaborative@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kilmer.Collaborative@mail.house.gov). This is a great opportunity for members and friends of AFRC with experience working with collaboratives to provide additional input and insight into the issue. */Matt Comisky*

## **Timber Contract Liability Creep**

The Forest Service timber sale contract as viewed by many purchasers, has a long history of trying to limit the agency's liability for failing to meet their obligations under timber sale contracts. They did this by unilaterally over several decades, adding clauses to the contract to achieve this goal. In 2004, the industry began a major initiative to address this by working with the Forest Service and other interested publics to update the contract to balance the liability between the Forest Service and the contract holder. This contract improvement culminated in 2006, although the industry felt that the liability was still biased in the Forest Service's favor, all parties agreed that the revision put the issue to rest.

However, since 2006 additional clauses have been added to the contract to further limit the Forest Service's liability defying what the industry thought was an agreed upon solution. To address this situation, Dan Buehler, Chairman of the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC), recently wrote a [letter](#) to the agency urging them to "cease and desist" the use of these clauses or at the very least limit their use to very unique situations. This will undoubtedly be one of the topics taken up during the next FTPC meeting scheduled for November 19-20 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. /Ross Mickey

## **Forest Service Money Returned**

Oregon Counties have relied on federal subsidies authorized under the Secure Rural Schools Act to offset a portion of what they were once receiving from the sale of federal timber before large cutbacks in harvest occurred in the early 1990s. The Forest Service is the conduit for these payments back to the counties. After distributing the final payments last fall, federal budgets were cut across the board under what has been termed "sequestration." The Forest Service then asked the counties to return their payments which totaled about \$4 million. The counties refused, but the government seems to have its ways to get what it wants. Last week, Chief Tom Tidwell informed Governor John Kitzhaber that they will be withholding \$4 million from the Title II funds which are supposed to pay for fish and wildlife improvement projects. /Ross Mickey

## **Pilot Thompson Decision**

The BLM Medford District recently issued a Decision Record for the Pilot Thompson Project. This project is a result of direction issued in 2010 from former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that applies the principles of ecological forestry, as outlined by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, to the BLM O&C lands. The BLM has begun planning and implementing projects that focus on these principles with the stated intent to move past the appeal and litigation gridlock and to provide economical timber sales by treating a greater percentage of the landscape with more "socially acceptable" treatments. Additionally, the District has chosen to incorporate collaboration as another facet to this project in the hopes of creating a high level of transparency and community involvement.

The collaborative process allowed public participants the ability to establish "screens" over the BLM ownership in order to identify areas where "treatment is needed." This planning and collaboration process undertaken and funded by the taxpayers has provided two public scoping periods, three multi-party transportation working group meetings, six public field trips, four public meetings, two neighborhood meetings, weekly collaborative group conference calls, an extended Environmental Assessment review period, and a webpage devoted solely to the Pilot project. Additionally, the BLM read and responded to 139 pages of written scoping comments from the public, provided a 12-page scoping report, a 54-page Late Successional Emphasis Area Methodology Report, a 245-page

Environmental Assessment with a four page reader’s guide, and received and responded to 232 pages of EA comments from the public.

The planning and collaboration effort, which has spanned 2 years, has resulted in a project that is commercially treating only 218 acres of land, which equates to 1.5% of the managed landscape within the project area. This will generate 1.3 mmbf of timber at 6 mbf/acre, which equates to 2.3% of the Districts’ annual Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for one year.

This pilot project was designed as a demonstration of how the BLM could treat their “dry forest” land to meet the intent and expectations of the Northwest Forest Plan and the O&C Act. The Medford District currently manages 498,013 acres of land that is expected to contribute toward its annual ASQ of 57.1 mmbf, of which approximately 252,182 acres are considered “dry forest.” If the Pilot Thompson Project is a demonstration of how the BLM should be managing these “dry forests” and conducting its planning process, then one could draw some conclusions about the future of its timber sale program under such a framework.

If the Pilot Thompson prototype were overlaid on the “dry forests,” the BLM could treat 3,783 acres of the available 252,182 acres (1.5% of the ownership) which would provide 6 mbf/acre to generate 22.7 mmbf of timber. And then they would be done. Let’s assume that the BLM could plan and treat this area in two years (although based on Pilot Thompson it would take them 3-4 years). Essentially they would harvest one fifth of their ASQ per year for two years on 50% of their land base, and then not have any more land on which to conduct commercial timber harvests. Since the initiation of the pilot projects by Secretary Salazar, the Medford BLM has also begun implementing projects similar to Pilot Thompson on the remaining 245,831 acres of “moist forest.”

The table below illustrates the acreage breakdown of the “screens” that the BLM used to determine stands suitable for ecological forestry treatments.

<b>Thompson Creek/Slagle Creek Subwatershed</b>	<b>23268</b>
<b>BLM Ownership</b>	<b>14419</b>
Non-forested	2554
Late Successional Emphasis Areas (LSEAs)	2632
Northern Spotted Owl cores	522
Siskiyou Salamander Conservation Areas	660
Great Grey Owl Conservation Areas	335
Riparian Reserves	1055
Stands dominated by old trees > 150	1425
Young stands-no treatment needed	1394
Access issues: >1/4 mile road construction needed	1122
	-
<b>Proposal Area</b>	<b>2720</b>
Young stands-precommercial treatment	1494



<b>Proposed Commercial Area</b>	<b>1226</b>
Riparian Reserve no treatment	105
Low volume extraction/non-economical due to "ecological forestry" prescriptions	700*
Survey & Manage species buffer	184
LSRA needed	19
	-
<hr/> <b>Commercial Harvest</b>	<hr/> <b>218</b>

*\*Potential stewardship contract*

Approximately 700 acres of land analyzed in this project are being evaluated by the BLM for inclusion into a stewardship contract. These units proved to be uneconomical as a timber sale due to low volume available for harvest. With this scenario the BLM would retain the receipts generated by what merchantable timber does get extracted to help pay for other activities such as understory reduction, slash burning, and broadcast burning rather than distribute them to the O&C beneficiaries. The community representative for the BLM Pilot Interdisciplinary Team was quoted in a local newspaper as stating “the pilot is sold as forest restoration, but it appears to be driven by industrial timber interests.” The Decision Notice noted that “Pilot Thompson is a good example of ecological forestry.” Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin stated that “the design of the Pilot Thompson appears to meet the intent of their ecological forestry principles.” /*Andy Geissler*

## **Elliott Parcels Sale Considered**

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) is taking public comment on a proposal to sell 3 parcels of land on the Elliott State Forest. The comment deadline has been extended to November 11.

On August 22, AFRC, Associated Oregon Loggers, Douglas Timber Operators and Oregon Forest Industries Council sent a [joint letter](#) emphasizing the state’s trust obligation to manage the state forest lands to produce revenue and express the belief that the risks associated with meeting the requirements of the Endangered Species Act can be overcome so that the Elliott State Forest can be a high performing trust asset. “However, so long as the Department of Forestry continues to be unsuccessful at trying to manage the Elliott State Forest as an income-producing asset, DSL and the [Land] Board have no other option but to explore the current proposal of selling the Elliott State Forest,” the letter states.

According to information on the Department’s website, the Land Board directed the DSL to review parcels within the Elliott that could be potentially offered for sale or exchange because the reduced revenues to the Common School Fund resulting from the reduction of timber harvest is anticipated to extend at least through the 2013-2015 biennium. The reduction, down from a projected 40 mmbf to 15 mmbf, is the result of litigation over marbled murrelet management on the forest.

The parcels that have been identified as meeting disposal criteria in the Real Estate Asset Management Plan total 2,714 acres. Two are in Coos County: Adams Ridge, 1,576 acres and Benson Ridge, 353 acres; and East Hakki Ridge, 785 acres in Douglas County. Further information is available on the [Department’s website](#). /*Ann Forest Burns*

## Oregon Forest Practices Revisions

Beginning September 1, a rule change under Oregon Administrative Rule 629-605-0170 will allow stewardship foresters to waive the written plan requirement for harvest and road construction operations if the operator states at the initial notification that no physical components of the riparian management area (RMA) will be directly affected. Removing this non-value added paperwork will allow stewardship foresters and administrative staff to focus on operations that will be entering the RMA or have other high resource priorities.

The process for determining if an operation is eligible for a waiver includes assessing if the operation will be completely outside the RMA and then whether the operation will have a direct effect on the RMA. In order to avoid directly affecting the RMA, vegetation, soil, or other material cannot be moved, disturbed or altered within the RMA. Operation types that are eligible for waiver consideration are timber harvesting and/or timber harvesting where cable operations will not enter the RMA, road construction/reconstruction, pre-commercial thinning, and site preparation. Other operation types, especially those involving chemical application or burning still require a statutory written plan. Any waiver of a written plan does not mean there is a waiver of the 15-day waiting period on notifications.

To find out more information about this rule change, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry stewardship forester or visit:

[www.oregon.gov/odf/PRIVATE\\_FORESTS/docs/20130816\\_Technote\\_Flowchart\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/PRIVATE_FORESTS/docs/20130816_Technote_Flowchart_Final.pdf). /Irene Jerome

## OBF Visits Eastern Oregon

The [Oregon Board of Forestry](#) held its July 25 meeting in La Grande, Oregon. On the [agenda](#) was a report from its [Subcommittee on Federal Forests](#). The Board approved a set of proposed [principles](#) related to the role, management and needed policy reforms for Oregon's federal forests and a framework for the [roles](#) of the Board, subcommittee and staff on this issue. It also reviewed a list of [suggested action items](#) related to Oregon's federal forests.

AFRC presented [testimony](#) to the Board urging it to focus on actions it can take to affect the status quo, rather than merely redefining the problems facing federal forest managers and suggested priorities for action. These include advocating for passage of federal legislation designating lands for active forest management; advocating for legislative reforms to address the management paralysis caused by appeals and litigation; advocating for accelerated forest restoration in critical areas; and exploring alternatives, such as trust management of the lands.

The subcommittee is chaired by Nils Christoffersen; other members are Tom Insko and Cindy Deacon Williams. At the direction of the Board, the subcommittee is now in the process of defining priorities and devising a plan of action. It will provide an [informational report](#) at the Board's [September 4 meeting](#).

The next day, the Board and members of the public toured the Umatilla National Forest and the Boise Cascade facility at Elgin to discuss timber utilization by existing infrastructure, regional social and economic stability, the new Forest Service Blue Mountain Restoration strategy and moist forest silviculture. /Ann Forest Burns

## **New Resources from OFRI**

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has released a new publication, [\*Wildlife in Managed Forests--Deer and Elk\*](#). This is a completely revised version of an earlier publication on elk, expanded to include information on deer. Aimed at forest land managers, the booklet contains information on preferred forage, the relative importance of thermal cover, and how federal forest management practices have affected deer and elk populations in the state. It can be downloaded from the web or [ordered from OFRI](#) free of charge.

OFRI's popular [Forest Fast Breaks](#), a series of short, cartoon style videos on such topics as clearcutting, photosynthesis and carbon capture, aimed at the YouTube crowd, have recently been updated and expanded to apply to across the country. As each clip says at the end, "Yay forests!" */Ann Forest Burns*

## **Forest Service and BLM Moving**

The Forest Service Region 6 regional office, headquarters of the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the BLM are moving to the newly remodeled Edith Green-Wendall Wyatt Federal Building, 1220 SW Third Ave., Portland, Oregon. Their mailing addresses and phone numbers will remain the same. */Ann Forest Burns*