



Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 18TH,
2010

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry's Fall Newsletter!



PLEASE JOIN US

for a celebration in our new office. Saturday, December 4th at 7pm. Food, drinks and entertainment provided.



We look forward to seeing you there! Take a moment to **RSVP by November 20** marla@troutmountain.com or 503-445-0905.

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New Office

Scott Ferguson was one of the first tenants in the Ecotrust building when it opened in 2000. Barry Sims rented space in the building starting in 2003. Sims Forestry and Individual Tree Selection merged in 2006 to form Trout Mountain Forestry. In 2007, we took down the wall between Scott and Barry's office spaces and unified the company. Three years later we are proud to say that we have officially outgrown our space at Ecotrust. We'll miss the warm community of like-minded professionals there but we're happy to spread out a bit in our new space. We are in a restored warehouse building in the Northwest Industrial neighborhood of Portland. We love the original wide plank wood floors, huge windows and free parking!



Come visit us in our new space and update your records if you haven't already.

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OSU Forestry Extension has developed a program called Ties to the Land to guide family forestland owners in succession planning. Two 2-day class sessions are scheduled for this month in McMinnville, and in January in Salem. We previewed the program at our Spring 2009 Field Day, which generated lively discussion. For more information and registration, visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/forestry> or call 503-434-7517.

FEATURED PROPERTY: Trappist Abbey and their working forest conservation easement agreement with BPA

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We made front page news recently when *The Oregonian* covered our successful effort to place a working forest conservation easement on the 1,300 acre forest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey near Lafayette. The easement protects this island of peace and serenity in the fast-developing “Red Hills of Dundee,” a prime area for winemaking in Oregon. The monks have agreed never to subdivide or convert their forest into vineyards and will receive just compensation (\$\$\$) for giving up these rights. This is a “working forest” easement, however, and the Abbey will continue to productively manage their forest and farmlands as they have in the past. The ease-

ment protects the oak woodland and Douglas-fir forest and its associated wildlife in perpetuity, for the benefit of us all. Barry and Scott have worked closely with Abbot Peter, Father Richard and Brother Chris (“Team Abbey”) for the past 15 months to guide the complicated easement process to a successful conclusion.

The easement will help “Team Abbey” to secure grants for habitat improvement, oak stand restoration, and control of invasive vegetation. We have ambitious plans to restore areas that historically were high-quality oak savanna habitat. Brother Chris and several other young monks are looking forward to spending more time helping us with these projects, thanks to funds from the easement. We are delighted to have played a part in permanently protecting such a wonderful resource. Contact us to discuss land protection options for your property.

See article at http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2010/09/bonneville_power_administratio.html

photo by Ross Hamilton/The Oregonian

FALL GUILD MEETING

Ben Deumling talks about milling at Zena Forest



The Forest Guild is a national professional organization dedicated to stewardship and ecological forestry. This year’s meeting of the Northwest Forest Guild Chapter (Sept. 10-12) was graciously hosted by Sarah Deumling at the Zena Forest near Salem, OR. Bobby Cochran of The Willamette Partnership spoke about the emerging market for ecosystem services and Klaus Puettman, a professor at Oregon State University, led a discussion about managing for complexity in silviculture. The meeting wrapped up with an energetic dialogue about expanding FSC markets as well as taking inspiration from the local food movement to market wood products from private, non-industrial forests.

Partner Updates

Barry Sims Barry has kept busy this year managing a harvest of hemlock and spruce in Clatsop County, overseeing oak woodland and savanna restoration for Willamette University’s Zena Forest, and helping move the Trappist Abbey conservation easement process along. This summer he harvested an Oregon white oak tree from the Zena



Forest that has been milled into lumber for a conference table which will grace our new office this winter.

Scott Ferguson is glad to have stayed busy in these tough economic times. So busy, that his wife Becky, an avowed Francophile, takes every chance she gets to remind him that “in Paris people take vacations” (50 days a year!) Scott moved his daughter Abby into a sorority on the U of O campus and looks forward to attending the OR/WA football game with his Dad, a dedicated Husky alum.



Mark Miller Mark has just become the Pacific Northwest Coordinator for the Forest Guild (see article above.) He also continues mountain bike racing, where he finished a close second in the 2010 Oregon crosscountry series. Although ranks thin in the elder Masters category, Mark says, it doesn’t seem to get any easier.





Markets for spruce logs were the best in years in 2010

LOG MARKET UPDATE

This year has seen some large fluctuations in the log markets. After record low prices for Douglas-fir logs last fall and winter, the spring of 2010 found a few mills in the mood to increase their log inventories. This caused a spike in prices from the rock bottom \$250/MBF back up to an almost respectable \$500/MBF. The mood didn't last long however, and as summer and prime logging season rolled around, prices had begun a slow and steady drop. As fall begins, prices are back to \$350-\$400/MBF for domestic sawlogs. Few landowners have opted to harvest this year as a result.

The big surprise this year has been the whitewood markets. Demand for hemlock and spruce was high in the spring, and the domestic mills were paying into the \$400s/MBF for hemlock and just \$25 less for spruce. Export markets opened up to send domestic quality whitewood sawlogs to China and Korea, with prices in the \$450-\$500/MBF range.

As we go to press, the normal fall bump in export prices for Douglas-fir appears to be missing this year - demand from Japan has weakened. Utility poles remain strong however, with good pole cutters averaging \$800-\$1,000/MBF on pole-quality timber.

Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) Technical Service Provider (TSP)

This new program provides enhanced incentives for spotted owl habitat restoration and protection. Jointly administered by USDA-NRCS, Oregon Department of Forestry, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, a conservation easement purchase option provides long-term habitat protection and compensates landowners for harvest revenues foregone in managing forests for large, older trees. Five Trout Mountain Forestry clients participate in HFRP. Currently, it's only available for SW Oregon and is funded through 2011. However, landowners statewide can take advantage of both EQIP cost-sharing for many of the same restoration practices, and a new Safe Harbor Agreement that offers regulatory relief and an expedited operations notification process. Contact us for more details or visit:

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp/index.html

Thanks to the persistence of our new forester, Mike Messier, Trout Mountain Forestry can now offer additional services with our recent certification as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). As a TSP, we are certified to provide technical assistance on behalf of the USDA, including planning and implementing conservation practices to address natural resource issues. By working with a certified TSP, our clients can also apply for cost-share assistance funding for planning and project implementation through NRCS incentive and cost-share programs. Priority activities include stewardship planning, soil and water conservation, erosion control, and habitat conservation for at-risk species. Please contact us for additional details.



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!

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A Balanced Approach



Mixed Sources

Supporting responsible use of forest resources

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

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.

Meet Mike

Trout Mountain Forestry is happy to welcome our newest forester, Mike Messier. Mike comes to us from OSU School of Forestry where he completed his masters degree in forest ecology last spring. At OSU he used tree ring data and other ecological metrics to reconstruct historical riparian forest dynamics. Mike has had diverse work experiences including invasive plant management, forestry data collection, fire management, stewardship-harvest layout, and bid proposal preparation for stewardship contracts with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. We are looking forward to the fresh perspective Mike brings and hope you enjoy working with him as much as we do.

Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry, Mike!



We're on the Web!

www.troutmountain.com