



# Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 5

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## Spring at Trout Mountain

*Trout Mountain Foresters (Mike, Mark, Scott, and Barry) are pictured below after doing some thinning of young alder on Scott's woodlot, the namesake of our company. (see story, page 2)*



**SUMMER EVENT** It was a long cold muddy winter but we've managed to get through it without too much damage. We hope you too are unscathed and looking forward to the summer. Speaking of summer, would you share an afternoon with us? We are teaming up with Build Local Alliance ([www.buildlocalalliance.org](http://www.buildlocalalliance.org)) to put on an event that will be fun and informative. Please join us.

**Where?** Trappist Abbey  
Lafayette, Oregon

**When?** July 23rd, 2011 2-6pm

**What?** Forest tours, hikes, demonstrations, drinks, snacks and schmoozing. Topics include silviculture, invasives, FSC, wood products, log quality, milling and working forest conservation easements.

**JOIN US!**



Join BLA—connecting wood users to their local forests—  
[www.buildlocalalliance.org](http://www.buildlocalalliance.org)

### 5th annual CORVALLIS FOREST TOUR WITH MARK MILLER

Wednesday, June 8th, 2011. The tour will start at City Hall (501 SW Madison Avenue) at 5:00 p.m., and last about 3 hours, including travel time. The tour is free and open to the public, but space is limited and **pre-registration is required. Register by 5:00 p.m. June 1, 2011**, by calling the Corvallis Public Works Department at 541-766-6916 or email [public.works@ci.corvallis.or.us](mailto:public.works@ci.corvallis.or.us).



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Trout Mountain is currently working on one of the largest, most important oak restoration projects in northwest Oregon. The site is the Dear Ranch, a 2400 acre working forest and ranch property owned by Margaret Tilbury located along Oldham Creek in central Douglas County. The ranch has been continuously owned by Margaret's family since 1867. Many of the large, open-grown oaks that remain from that era are threatened by dense regrowth of younger fir and oak. Last year we started a thinning and invasive plant control project that will restore more than 250 acres of valuable oak woodland and oak savanna habitat. We marked 50 acres of oak woodland and managed a mechanical harvest and on-site chipping operation that removed most of the trees, leaving the 30 best oak trees per acre. The site was transformed from

an impenetrable patch of oak and invasive brush to an open, grassy site where the remaining oaks will flourish. The oak chipping operation paid for the tree and brush removal while returning some net income. We will control invasive English hawthorne, scotch broom and blackberry with funding provided by a grant from the NRCS EQUIP program. The Dear Ranch is the centerpiece of this "high priority" habitat area (Oregon Conservation Plan) in Douglas County.

**TROUT MOUNTAIN** We are often asked how we came up with the name for our company. In 2006, when Trout Mountain Forestry was formed, Scott, Barry and Mark all threw in ideas for a company name. Scott had acquired a forestland property in 1994 bearing the name, Trout Mountain. He proposed this as the name for the company. (Other contenders? Birds Eye Forestry? Long View Forestry? Tomorrow's Timber Forestry?) The partners liked that Trout Mountain wasn't a "concept" name and would outlast whatever the current trends were. All agreed (eventually) that this was a name that would last.

Trout Mountain (the property) has an amazing variety of species—native alder and fir forests, some coastal redwood plantations, and mixed plantations from 5-25 years old. Among other projects, Scott has reforested 25 acres of grassland that had been used to graze angora sheep and, most recently, planted 1000 alder into a 5 year old 12 acre Douglas fir plantation. Trout Mountain is located in the coast range, 2 miles north of Eddyville.



*Trout Mountain summit marker*

## Partner Updates

**Barry Sims** Barry has been thinning a mixed Douglas-fir/Grand fir stand on the Hoyt family property near Hagg Lake, as well as conducting a wildfire risk assessment for more than two dozen Clackamas County Parks. In addition to numerous planned harvests and oak restoration projects, he is excited to be moving his Cat and recently acquired log loader to Camp Namanu, near Aims, Or, for thinning work, after a several year hiatus.



**Scott Ferguson** Scott escaped the cold and wet this winter to Zihautanejo Mexico for a week of sun and relaxation. He and Becky were accompanied by budding Spanish/English translators Abby (20) and Devin (16). The most vexing decision of each day was choosing which sauce to have on the fresh fish for dinner. Scott and Becky are taking Salsa dance lessons to prepare for Mark's summer wedding.



**Mark Miller** As if juggling the work of the Pacific Northwest Coordinator for the Forest Guild, managing multiple forest projects, and continuing to participate in his death-defying cross-country mountain bike racing isn't enough, Mark also became engaged this winter, had his fiancé move in to his Corvallis home, and is undertaking a pretty major remodel. CONGRATULATIONS DAWN AND MARK!





## LOG MARKET UPDATE

This spring has seen a resurgence in log markets, primarily driven by high demand from Asia for both logs and lumber. China’s appetite for wood has been the main driver. Japan is beginning to rebuild its coastal regions devastated by the tsunami, which not only wiped out thousands of homes, but also destroyed a number of sawmills. Our domestic sawmills are selling a significant amount of their production into those markets.

As a result, despite continued anemic conditions in domestic housing, Douglas-fir prices at local sawmills have been in the high \$500s for the first time in sev-

eral years. Domestic whitewood prices have been surprisingly strong, with prices in the high \$400s. And log exporters have brought prices back up into the mid \$600s for Douglas-fir and even just above \$600 for whitewoods going to China. As the weather has improved slightly in recent weeks, log trucks have been flooding the export yards with wood. One driver hauling for us had to wait over four hours to get unloaded!

After last year's summer drop in prices, most of us are a bit anxious about price stability. The latest we've heard is that prices are dropping for June, following falling lumber prices. This will affect both domestic and export log prices.

### NRCS—MANAGEMENT PLAN COST SHARE

Cost-share funding for forest management planning and implementation is currently available through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Funds were recently awarded for last year’s applicants and the next deadline will be sometime this fall (yet to be determined.) We encourage interested clients to begin the application process soon, as it has proven to be time consuming. As a Technical Service Provider for the NRCS, Trout Mountain Forestry is certified to develop forest management plans that can be used to apply for additional cost-share funding for plan implementation. Qualifying projects (depending on local priorities) may include pre-commercial thinning, erosion control, and habitat conservation for at-risk species. Please contact us for additional details.

**MILL CREEK CROSSING** Deep in the heart of the Coast Range, a recent timber cruising project for the City of Toledo had an extra element of adventure! Access to much of the watershed was blocked by the reservoir, necessitating a short canoe trip for Mark and Mike (canoe loaned to us by Matt Fehrenbacher.) The canoe ride was a great way to start and finish the day and it provided great wildlife sightings, including hooded mergansers, kingfishers, and a river otter!

The cruise will lead to a new Stewardship Plan and FSC Certification for Toledo's 400-acre Mill Creek Watershed ownership.



**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](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-1724

WE ARE ALWAYS UPDATING OUR DATABASE. PLEASE EMAIL [MARLA@TROUTMOUNTAIN.COM](mailto: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.

## Log shovel—Barry's new toy

In April, we bought a 1980s vintage Case/Drott log loader. Barry had been exploring the idea of having a loader to help keep landings organized, load trucks, and possibly do restoration work, such as placing logs in streams to improve fish habitat. After searching for more than 6 months, this machine became available at a very good price. It is in fine condition, and works great.

The machine weighs about 57,000 pounds, which is on the small end for a logging shovel. But it has plenty of lifting power, and a Pierce boom/Young grapple configuration. Larry Baker of Baker Logging was instrumental in advising us on the deal. Thank you Larry for so generously sharing your knowledge and time!



**We're on the Web!**

[www.troutmountain.com](http://www.troutmountain.com)