



# Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 10

APRIL 17, 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS:

FSC Re-certification	1
Association of Consulting Foresters	1
Farm Bill	1
Wildlife Encounters	2
Cannon Beach Log Placement	2
Log Market Update	3
Endangered Species Act	3
Our First Intern!	4

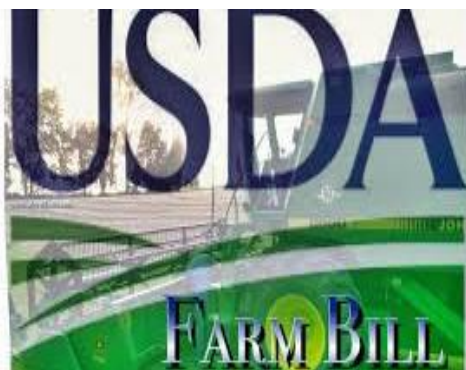
**Spring is upon us!** It's been a busy winter and we've got lots of stories and news to share with you. First, we're happy to say that we successfully completed our 5 year Forest Stewardship Council re-certification audit which gave us the opportunity to refine our certified group and procedures around it. Please get in touch if you have questions about our FSC group or FSC in general.



## Association of Consulting Foresters

When I tell someone I am a forester, the most common follow up question is "so you work for the Forest Service?" Consulting foresters work in a very different world, and most people have little idea what we do. I recently decided to join the Association of Consulting Foresters, a national group representing our field since 1948. One of the requirements of joining is attending a two-day workshop called the Practice of Consulting Forestry. Far from a remedial introduction to the field, this was jam-packed with highly relevant information. There were informative discussions of business, legal, and ethical matters perhaps unique to our field. But what was really amazing was being in a room full of people from across the country, all trying their best to practice forestry on behalf of their diverse clients' needs. Whether managing a pine plantation in east Texas, a stand of second growth redwoods near Santa Cruz, or our work in northwestern Oregon, we all wrestle with many of the same challenges, and it was heartening to feel a part of a larger community doing this important and very satisfying work.

*Barry Sims*



## FARM BILL APPROVED

The 2014 Farm Bill was passed on January 29, 2014. Of special interest to forestland owners, the bill provides continued authorization of USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) and Healthy Forest Reserve (HFRP) programs, as well as enhanced funding of conservation easements. While this signals ongoing and/or enhanced support of these popular initiatives, it may be months before funds are available. Call your county NRCS office or Trout Mountain Forestry for more information on which of these programs may be available in your area. *Mark Miller*

Come visit us anytime!

1800 NW Upshur Street, Suite 201, Portland, OR 97209

260 SW Madison Avenue, Suite 117, Corvallis, OR 97333

Phone 503-222-9772—www.troutmountain.com—marla@troutmountain.com

## Next in our series of wildlife encounters: Chicken in the Woods!

Mark was recently cruising timber for Greenbelt Land Trust on their new Bald Hill Farm acquisition outside Corvallis. Their forest is part of an active farming operation, which had recently added a free-range chicken venture. Reminiscent of a prairie schooner, mobile coops are rotated around the farm and forest edge, allowing chickens to forage on insects, seeds, and sprouts. These wire enclosures provide protection from varmints (farmers lock chickens in each night), and let manure fall to the ground, rotating around the farm every few days. Mark was curious about these mobile chicken houses, and as he approached, the chickens were curious about him. Expecting he was their farmer bringing a surprise early feeding, 200 chickens came rushing at him, and followed hopefully as he left. These chickens were coexisting quite comfortably with a flock of their wild turkey cousins who were also foraging nearby. *Mark Miller*



## Ecola Creek Large Wood Placement

This winter, over 100 large spruce logs were airlifted by a massive Chinook-style helicopter and carefully placed in Ecola Creek to help restore fish habitat diminished by historic management practices. This project took place in the Ecola Creek Forest Preserve, a 1,000+ acre property now owned by the City of Cannon Beach. Barry Sims is managing the property to protect water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

It was mesmerizing to see whole trees lifted into the air and gracefully whisked away by the Columbia Helicopters pilot. On the ground, fisheries consultant Steve Trask, and Troy Laws, of ODFW, carefully directed the log placements. Each multi-piece log structure was designed so it would lock into place during high stream flows and catch smaller woody debris, thereby creating a debris jam to slow the water and divert it into the flood plain and back-channels. This slowing of the water allows sediment and gravel suspended in the water to settle out, creating a variety of habitat and spawning ground for the entire aquatic food chain, including salmon and steelhead. The slower water and back-channel habitat is also essential for fish, particularly juveniles, as a refuge from the faster-moving main channel, which can quickly exhaust a fish's energy reserves during high flows.

Post-project monitoring will be undertaken to track both fish response and the development of



stream complexity and habitat in the years to come. We feel very fortunate to have been a part of such a great project and look forward to seeing what the future holds for this wonderful resource and its aquatic inhabitants.

*Mike Messier*

**Log Market Update** As expected, the log market gained strength over the fall and winter with the wild and mild winter weather contributing to the already volatile price trends. The traditional late winter/early spring peak in log prices came early as the appetite for logs aligned with dry winter weather that kept logs flowing from dirt roads and high elevations that would typically be shut down due to snow. Prices across all sorts were extremely high in January, and by February several mills were filled and off the market. While we've seen some slight downturn in prices, the market is still extremely strong, with prices in the upper \$700's for a decent quality sawlog. It is also expected that prices will hold strong into the summer, a good indication of the overall demand for logs.

*Matt Fehrenbacher*



## Managing Under the Endangered Species Act



We manage forests to support and enhance wildlife habitats, but sometimes this work takes special effort, as when we encounter “Listed” species. We’ve had recent experience with northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets — both protected under the Endangered Species Act, as well as osprey and blue heron — protected under Oregon’s Forest Practices Act. Restrictions can include limits on harvest levels and prohibition on disturbance during the nesting season.

Our first step is determining whether Listed species are present. We consult with Oregon Department of Forestry’s records of “protected resources”, and sometimes hire biologists to conduct bird surveys. Finding “occupied habitat” doesn’t necessarily tie our hands, but it makes our work more complex. For example, at the 400-acre Elkton Preserve, where we have active spotted owl, blue heron, and osprey nest sites, within distances of 660 or 1320 feet of nest sites operations are restricted from March through September, and harvesting must leave prescribed partial canopy cover. We adjust our tree marking and schedule operations accordingly.

In the City of Corvallis Forest near Marys Peak recent marbled murrelet surveys detected birds in three stands, much to the surprise (and delight) of all involved. We will modify our tree marking around occupied habitat, consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval of our harvest plans, and schedule logging to avoid the active nesting season.



At Alpha Farm, their 200-acre forest is affected by three northern spotted owl nests on nearby Forest Service land. We’ve been managing their forest for twenty years and recently helped them sell a conservation easement that protects owl habitat and compensates them for giving up some of their harvest rights.

Having listed species on your land doesn’t need to be viewed as a negative. For these owners it has helped them be more competitive in securing grants for habitat enhancement, and attract funding for conservation easements or other related programs, turning what many consider as “problems” into “opportunities”. These owners take pride in showing that their management not only accommodates wildlife, but actually enhances habitat.

*Mark Miller*

Trout Mountain Forestry  
1800 NW Upshur St, Suite 201  
Portland, OR 97209  
Phone: 503-222-9772  
Fax: 503-517-9990  
Email:  
marla@troutmountain.com



*A Balanced Approach*

**We're on the Web!**

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

You can always find our newsletters at  
[troutmountain.com](http://troutmountain.com)!

We are always updating our database.

Email [marla@troutmountain.com](mailto:marla@troutmountain.com) to update contact information or to let us know if you'd prefer to receive our newsletter electronically.  
Thanks.



Mixed Sources  
Supporting responsible use of forest resources  
[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-1724

## **INTRODUCING JENNIFER HANCHETT!**

This summer and fall Trout Mountain Forestry will host our first forestry intern! We were excited to be among the handful of companies asked to join in the new OSU College of Forestry Cooperative Education Program. Thanks to the City of Corvallis for their support through funded monitoring projects that Jennifer will help design.

Jennifer is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student in the College of Forestry studying Forest Management. Her interests lie in sustainable forest management and working with people from all walks of life. Jennifer says she developed her love of the outdoors through a personal affinity for nature, various outdoor work experiences with the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, and invigorating studies at Oregon State. This summer and fall she hopes to further develop her cruising skills and forest expertise with us at Trout Mountain Forestry. **WELCOME JENNIFER!!**

