



# Trout Mountain Forestry Newsletter

ISSUE 2

APRIL 10TH, 2009

## Welcome to Trout Mountain Forestry's Second Newsletter!

Please enjoy our newsletter and send questions or comments to us via *email*: marla@troutmountain.com *phone*: (503) 445-1291 or *snail mail*: 721 NW 9th Ave, Ste 228 Portland, OR 97209 Or stop by the office anytime! [www.troutmountain.com](http://www.troutmountain.com)

Don't miss our 2nd annual LANDOWNER FIELD DAY on Tuesday, May 12th. See details on page 4!!

Spring has sprung!! Flowers are blooming, trees are budding and the weather's getting a bit balmy. We hope you enjoyed the winter.



Lately we've been busy planting trees!! We traveled to multiple client properties all the way down the coast from Clatsop County to Bandon and east to the Columbia River Gorge planting almost 100,000 seedlings. ♦

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome	1
Log Market	1
FSC Custom Cuts	2
FSC Standards Review	2
Forester Updates	2
Featured Property	3
Technology Update	3
Landowner Field Day	4

## Log Market



As the housing market continues its historic implosion, our local log market continues to slide into uncharted territory. Mills are pricing Douglas-fir logs at levels that make it unprofitable to harvest for almost any purpose. We thought we would never again see Douglas-fir logs selling for under \$300 per thousand board feet. Even at these log prices, mills are

continuing to lose money cutting lumber, as evidenced by mill closures, shift curtailments and even permanent shutdowns (e.g. the Weyerhaeuser mill in Dallas.)

With low alder prices and the recent decline in export prices for Douglas-fir, the conventional log market may offer few opportunities this year. The possible exception is western redcedar. Until recently prices for cedar have been in the \$850 to \$950 per mbf range. Currently most mills are

packed with logs and not buying cedar, but we expect prices to remain at that level when the supply situation improves later this spring.

On the bright side, we are having great success with our FSC custom cut runs. The lumber we are selling from client properties to niche markets in the Northwest and California is in great demand for commercial and residential projects that need "green certified" lumber. These higher lumber prices are translating to significantly higher log prices and a substantial "green premium", as described in the custom cut article (next page.) ♦

### NEWS FLASH!!

We were just alerted that a male and female spotted owl were found in the Forest Grove Watershed. Scott Ferguson has been managing the forest there for 8 years so we are thrilled to hear about such a rare and important find as owl numbers are declining throughout the region.



## FSC Custom Cuts

This spring, we conducted our fifth custom cut for members of our Forest Stewardship Council certified landowner group. This time, John and Carol Belton teamed up with the Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington to provide 260 thousand board feet (MBF) of high quality Douglas-fir logs, which yielded more than 410 MBF of beautiful #1 grade lumber. Most of the lumber was immediately purchased by customers in Oregon and California, with only a few jags remaining to be sold. Scott Zimmerman of GRN Lumber has been very skillfully coordinating our custom

milling with Hambleton Lumber. This cut promises to return a very competitive price to the landowners, rewarding them for their commitment to forest stewardship. Scott emphasizes that "there continues to be more demand for FSC-certified lumber than there is supply in our region," which is providing a sorely needed bright spot in an otherwise bleak picture for forest products.

Since 2007, we have arranged for the custom milling of more than 2.15 million board feet of high quality Douglas-fir lumber.

Because the logs came from lands certified under the FSC standards, customers with a preference for FSC-certified lumber have been quickly snatching up the material for green building projects throughout the west coast region, including government and academic construction as well as residential building.  
(cont'd on pg 3)



## FSC Standards Review

The Forest Stewardship Council-US is in the midst of a revision process for forest management standards. Currently there are 9 sets of regional US standards, including the Pacific Coast standard we have been assessed under. These 9 individual standards are being simplified into one national standard. Revisions also attempt to clarify ambiguities and strengthen certain provisions, such as requiring invasive control strategies. We have been follow-

ing the revision process closely. A final draft is due soon and will be available for public comment for 60 days.

Concurrently, FSC-US is developing a new Family Forestland standard, which will be applicable for properties under 2,400 acres. The new FF standard will clarify how the national standard is interpreted for smaller tracts. We have been asked to provide

comments as these new standards are being developed. A date for public review has yet to be set.



You can keep up with the revision process and view draft standards at: [http://www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/standards\\_revision\\_process.php](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/standards_revision_process.php) ♦

## Forester Updates

### Barry Sims

Barry has been busy researching and setting up our new field handheld computers, and also spent two days in March at the Forest Biometrics Research Institute in Corvallis getting a refresher course on forest inventory design. He is gearing up to develop forest inventories for several clients, including Washington and Clatsop Counties.



### Scott Ferguson

Scott is thrilled with the positive results of Forest Grove's custom cut this winter. He's also been focused on learning more about carbon sequestration in forests and how this might benefit woodland owners. Scott's looking forward to our Landowner Field Day at the Trappist Abbey where he spends a good deal of time.



### Mark Miller

Mark is leading outreach efforts at Trout Mountain to students and young foresters. This spring he will host a meeting at Oregon State University introducing the Forest Guild, a national professional organization of forest stewards. In his off time, Mark can often be found on a bike, training for another season of road and mountain bike racing.



## FEATURED PROPERTY: The Trappist Abbey of Lafayette



Long before anyone dreamed of making wine in the “Red Hills of Dundee”, a group of Trappist Monks arrived by train from New Mexico to establish a monastery in 1955, which today includes a community of 32 monks, thriving industries to bind books and bake fruitcakes, and 1,300 acres of forest and farmland. Evidence of their importance to the community can be seen on signs in the area -

signs for roads, farms, bed and breakfasts, and even vineyards-- that use “Monk” or Abbey” in their names.

The rolling Willamette Valley foothills site supports 800 acres of natural and planted stands of Douglas-fir, with significant stands of Oregon white oak and maple. The managed forest provides a beautiful setting for the monks’ spiritual and recreational life, as well as yearly timber income that helps sustain the community. Trout Mountain forester Scott Ferguson works with Abbot Peter MacDonald to manage the forest and enhance its beauty and wildlife habitat. Currently the community is undergoing a review and plan-



*Trappist Abbey Chapel*

ning process for all its businesses that includes consideration of a “working forest conservation easement” on its forest property.

Please come to our workshop (see “Landowner Field Day article) if you are interested in learning more!♦

## Technology Update

Next time you see us in the woods, we will have a new tool in our cruiser's vests. These are our new global positioning system (GPS) field data recorders. After years of watching GPS technology develop (and prices drop!), we felt the time was right to deploy these devices to enhance some of our services. Our new Trimble Juno SB handhelds have built in GPS receivers and digital cameras, and we will be using them to:



- Map roads and trails
- Map stands of trees or pockets of invasive species
- Connect with our office GIS mapping system
- Identify and photo-document unique features such as old growth, wildlife habitat, etc.

We are excited about the enhanced level of accuracy and new capabilities these tools will provide. If you are interested in having us collect GPS data to improve the maps for your property, just let us know.♦

## FSC Custom Cuts

*(Cont'd from pg 2)*

This year promises an even greater opportunity for FSC custom milling projects, as the conventional log markets are at historic lows. For landowners that are capable of meeting the FSC standards, harvesting in conjunction with one of our planned custom milling projects may be an attractive option.♦





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## Second Annual Landowner Field Day

Last year we held our Landowner Field Day at the beautiful Beazell Memorial Forest and focused on restoration and preservation of endangered species habitat.

Trout Mountain Foresters will discuss

- the role of the forester
- working easement case studies
- planning, measuring and modelling

INVITATIONS AND MORE

SPECIFICS TO COME!

This year, please join us for a very special all day event. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Where:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist  
Abbey, Lafayette, OR

**When:** Tuesday, May 12th, 2009  
9:30AM-4:30PM

*Lunch and property tour will be provided*

The topic for the event will be

### PROTECTING FAMILY FORESTLANDS

Guest speakers will include representatives from Pacific Forest Trust and Greenbelt Land Trust discussing working conservation easements, as well as Brad Withrow-Robinson from OSU Extension talking about succession planning and how to keep forestland in the family.



**We're on the Web!**

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