

Board of Forestry Tour  
September 6, 2007

From Traditional Forestry to City Trees:

*Tracing the Continuum of Forest Issues and Opportunities from the Woods to the City*

**Goal:**

Develop insight into the opportunities and challenges associated with sustaining forest values and active forest management as a tool in land use settings where timber production and/or harvest is viewed by some as a conflict with their personal or community interests. The particular focus is on rural-residential emphasis forests, often at the fringe of urban areas.

**Themes:**

1. There is a range of perspectives about how current and future rural residential lands should and could contribute to sustainable forestry. Perspectives of landowners, planners, local and county elected officials, Stewardship Foresters and department staff will be provided.
2. Can we connect urban and rural-residential populations with forests in a manner that will promote sustainable forestry and recognize active management as a tool to achieve sustainability?
3. What are the Board's expectations about how rural-residential forests should contribute to sustainable forestry?
4. Explore needs and opportunities at the policy and operational level that help manage conflicts among and between different values in these areas while promoting forest sustainability.

**Objectives:**

1. Review implementation of the Forest Practices Act on private land in a timber-emphasis forest setting . Discuss current trends, issues, challenges and opportunities.
2. Visit the rural forests and rural residential forests to discuss how development, changing demographics, and shifting values are affecting these areas. Review opportunities and issues affecting Stewardship Foresters in these areas. Discuss Community Wildfire Preparedness Planning in these areas and the effort underway to review Forestland Classification.
3. Discuss coordination issues among city planners, regulators like ODF, landowners and developers operating in forest/residential transition zones. Discuss importance of "green infrastructure" in these areas, and the linkage with municipal urban forest programs.
4. Discuss development pressures facing forests and their challenges and potential ramifications, Challenges include expanding Urban Growth Boundary locations and coordination across local, county, regional and state jurisdictions.
5. Examine leadership opportunities for in these transitional areas, via land use planning, Forest Practices Act (FPA), education and outreach, and new means (as described in the Matt Donegan White Paper).

**Tour Route Overview:**

The tour bus will leave from the Mill Creek Inn Motel in Salem at 7:30 a.m. and will meet at the ODF Molalla Office at 8:30 for brief welcome, introduction of guests and orientation from Gregg Cline and Marvin Brown. Gary Lettman will provide an overview of the statewide study of changes in Land Uses. The group will then head to its first stop on private industrial forest land east of Colton. The tour will wind its way toward more developed areas, making its second stop on a recent harvest operation and land use change from forest land located northwest of Estacada that is surrounded by a rural residential neighborhood. The lunch stop will be at Barton County Park on the Clackamas River south of Boring. The group will then enter the city limits of Damascus to view how a new neighborhood has been carved from the forest. The last stop will be in a residential forest area near Beaver Creek southwest of Redland. The tour bus will then return to the Molalla office and then on to Salem, arriving by approximately 5:00 p.m.

- 7:30**            **Bus Departs Salem Best Western for Molalla Office**
- 8:30-8:40**       **Welcome and Tour Overview at Molalla Office (14995 S. HWY 211)**
- 8:40- 8:55**      **Indicators of Forest Sustainability in Oregon: Land Uses – Gary Lettman**
- 8:55 - 9:00**      **Load Bus and Vans - Depart Molalla Office**  
*9:00-9:20 Travel to Stop 1*
- 9:20-10:20**      **Stop 1—Schieffer Road (east of Colton)**  
*10:25-11:00 Travel to Stop 2*
- 11:00-11:45**     **Stop 2—Heiple Road (northwest of Estacada)**  
*11:45-12:00 Travel to Lunch Stop*
- 12:00-1:30**      **LUNCH STOP, Barton County Park**  
*1:30-1:45 Travel to Stop 3*
- 1:45-2:45**       **Stop 3— City of Damascus**  
*2:45-3:00 Travel to Stop 4—Ferguson Road*
- 3:00-3:45**       **Stop 4—Ferguson Road (southwest of Redland)**  
*3:45 to 4:10 Travel to Molalla Office*
- 4:10**            **Arrive Molalla Office**  
*4:15-5:00 Travel to Salem*
- 5:00**            **Arrive Salem Best Western Motel**

## Tour Stop Number 1: Schieffer Road (East of Colton)

**Timeframe:** One hour, 9:20-10:20

**Lead Topic:** Forest Practices Act and Stewardship Forestry  
on Industrial Timber-emphasis Forestlands

**Secondary Topics:** Riparian rules, water quality

**Overlay:** Inside the North Cascade Forest Protection District  
Land Use – Timber (TBR) – minimum lot size is 80 acres  
Outside Urban Growth Boundary

### **Key Messages:**

1. ODF role in venues like this focuses on implementation of the Forest Practices Act through education, engineering and enforcement.
2. Specific examples or circumstances of this operation that illustrate implementation of the Act, cooperative problem solving, particularly relating to riparian protection.
3. This type of setting is typically where most FPA administration takes place and anchors the end of the continuum. As we work our way toward the UGB and to developed areas today, the needs and interests of the landowners change.

### **Presenters:**

1. Keith Baldwin, Stewardship Forester, introduces the site, the players and ODF involvement
2. Gregg Cline introduces ODF role, responsibility and authority in these areas, and how that role changes if development moves into timber emphasis forestlands.
3. Tyson Losli, Weyerhaeuser, provides an industrial landowner perspective on “development” issues and role of ODF Stewardship Foresters.
4. Steve Funk, adjacent non-industrial forest landowner, discusses his land management objectives.
5. Ted Lorensen, Paul Bell and Jim Paul provide a policy perspective on how changing land use patterns affect policy, regulation and ODF operations relating to forest practices and forest land use.

## Tour Stop Number 2: Heiple Road (Northwest of Estacada)

**Timeframe:** 45 minutes, 11:00-11:45

**Lead Topic:** Administering the FPA in rural residential “areas”?

**Secondary Topics:** Forestland classification under ORS Chapter 477  
(Protection from Fire Program)

**Overlay:** Inside the North Cascade Forest Protection District  
Land Use – Rural Residential Farm/Forest 5 Acres (RRFF-5)  
Outside an Urban Growth Boundary

### **Key Messages:**

1. Implementing forest practices in areas like this often presents challenges due to conflicts among competing uses and interests. The “right to farm” and “right to forest” do not help in these areas (see attachments #1 and #2). The right to forest law limits the ability of individuals, local governments, and special districts to bring court actions or administratively declare certain aspects (noise, dust, etc.) of farm and forest practices to be nuisances or trespasses. However, this doesn’t do much good to resolve conflicts among uses. There are many other areas in Oregon much like this where urban or residential development is intermixed with forested areas.
2. The needs and concerns expressed by nearby homeowners are often at odds with the needs and interests of the landowner conducting the operation and fall into areas that are not addressed by forest practice rules. One way our stewardship foresters try to help such conflicts is to provide the concerned parties information about forest practice rules.
3. The workload that spins off of operations in locations like this is driven by a steadily growing number of “complaints” from new neighbors who are living in or moving into rural-residential forest. Coordination with County Government and other state agencies on jurisdiction and hand off from a forest activity to land use change involving residential development is essential and adds another layer of complexity.
4. The forestland classification process underway by the Protection from Fire Program is vital given the changing nature of lands here and throughout the state. This work is trying to identify when the definition of “forestland” does or does not apply under the fire program.

### **Presenters:**

1. Jeff Hepler, Stewardship Forester, introduces the site, the players and ODF involvement
2. Gregg Cline discusses ODF role, responsibility and authority in these areas, and pressures facing stewardship forester
3. John Borge, Clackamas County Planning Division, discusses rural development issues outside Urban Growth Boundaries, coordination needs with and role of Department of Forestry.
4. Dan Fink, Longview Timberlands, provides a forest landowner perspective on the issues around forestland classification.

## Tour Stop: Lunch, Barton County Park

**Timeframe:** 90 minutes, 12:00-1:30

**Lead Topic:** Lunch

**Secondary Topics:** Community Wildfire Planning

Clackamas County Agriculture, Natural Resources and Sustainability Development

### **Key Messages:**

1. Community Wildfire Planning has been an effective way to evolve partnerships and to tap into federal funding that can help address fire needs in these urban interface areas. Tie back to the increased fire risk (probability of a fire start) and hazard (condition of fuels, etc) presented by developing areas.
2. Community Wildfire Planning may serve as an excellent springboard into broader topics that affect these transitional areas including land use planning, the economic stability of local forest sector and preservation of green infrastructure.
3. Clackamas County has identified a key strategy of updating land use policies to provide long term protection of agriculture and timber lands based on the Metro's "New Look" Strategy.

### **Presenters:**

1. Gregg Cline to provide details about logistics for this stop.
2. Ann Walker, ODF; Cindy Kolomechuk, Clackamas County; and Doug Branch, Clackamas County Fire Defense Board Chief provide an overview of the Clackamas County Community Wildfire Protection Planning process.
3. Rick Gruen, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District – Chair of Clackamas County Green Ribbon Committee provides an overview of Clackamas County's work on Agriculture, Natural Resource and Sustainable Development

## Tour Stop Number 3: City of Damascus

**Timeframe:** One hour, 1:45-2:45

**Lead Topic:** Forest Operations within Urban Growth Boundaries

**Secondary Topics:** Urban Forestry, Outreach to urban publics

**Overlay:** Outside the North Cascade Forest Protection District  
Land Use – Farm/Forest 10 Acres (FF-10)  
Within Urban Growth Boundary  
Within City of Damascus

### **Key Messages:**

1. This is one environment that we find ourselves operating in, with multiple values that often conflict.
2. Our authority and role within UGB's has evolved over the years. From 1972 to 1978, the Department regulated all forest operations within any UGB. Now, forest operations in some UGB's are regulated by the local government. Damascus is in the process of developing forest practice regulations. (See attachment #3, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 letter from Department on proposed ordinances).
3. Review the toolbox of options the Department has when trying to engage landowners, developers and communities in these areas.
4. County and local officials' views on how ODF can best support their needs in areas like this.

### **Presenters:**

1. Mike Haasken, Stewardship Forester, introduces the site, the players and ODF involvement.
2. Gregg Cline discusses ODF role, responsibility and authority within UGB and city limits and in these areas, and new pressures facing stewardship forester.
3. Lowell Patton, landowner, talks about his plans/objectives and right to forest/development opportunities.
4. Anita Yap, City of Damascus, discusses city growth, development and connection with forests.
5. Paul Ries, ODF, talks about the linkage between rural forests and city trees in places like this; current trends and issues relating to urban and community forestry work in these areas.

## Tour Stop Number 4: Ferguson Road (Southwest of Redland)

**Timeframe:** 45 Minutes, 3:00-3:45

**Lead Topic:** Understanding development pressures facing forest land

**Secondary Topics:** Providing a synthesis of the day

**Overlay:** Outside the North Cascade Forest Protection District  
Land Use - Rural Residential Farm/Forest 5 Acres (RRFF-5)  
Outside an Urban Growth Boundary

### **Key Messages:**

1. Former timber emphasis forestlands like these now may be asked by their community to provide a different set of values and face a different set of pressures. (Given where these lands are, I suspect they have been zoned with other primary uses in mind for some time. We need to recognize that many lands zoned for other purposes are now filling in as intended.
2. The explosion in real estate values have led to development like this around the state (characterize trends and areas hardest hit).
3. The “Rural-residential Forestry” Initiative is now aimed specifically at areas like this and the last stop. The goals in areas like this are to conserving forest values that allow rural-residential forest to make their contribution to sustainable forestry.
4. Present the question: when operating in areas like this, what are the possible roles for ODF?

### **Presenters:**

1. Kristin Cotugno, Stewardship Forester, introduces the site, the players and ODF involvement.
2. Gregg Cline summarizes the scope of ODF role, responsibility and authority in these areas, and promotes dialogue among the Board to accomplish the BOF's desire for residential forests to contribute to sustainable forestry.
3. Christina Deffebach, Metro, discusses the relationship between the UGB, development, and protecting forest values.
4. Ted Lorensen and Jim Paul provide context on changing land values in areas like this. Development of the Rural-residential Forestry Initiative and prospects for next legislative session.
5. Marvin Brown provides closing thoughts.