



Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation & Development Council

Dear Forest Landowner,

As the manager of the Big Butte watershed area for the Medford Water Commission, I have had hands on experience with the challenges of reducing forest fuels and promoting forest health. The Southwest Oregon RC&D Council has addressed some of these challenges by exploring marketing alternatives for small diameter material.

The Forest Landowner Resource Guide is being published and distributed in Jackson and Josephine Counties in cooperation with OSU Jackson County Extension Service and USDA Forest Service to make better information available to forest landowners. The completed guide will be mailed to forest land owners (with more than 10 acres) and is available free at Oregon Department of Forestry and OSU Extension Service offices in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Southwestern Oregon is renowned for diverse and beautiful forests. Individual forest landowners contribute to this legacy through good stewardship and maintaining healthy forests. Healthy forest stands resist insects, drought and fire better than overcrowded and unhealthy forest stands. Together the efforts of many private landowners can influence the

health of neighboring public lands. The Forest Landowner Resource Guide provides basic forest management information, contractor listings and other resources for forest land owners to encourage good stewardship.

The guide has been developed through the voluntary collection of information from contractors. The listing of any contractor or business in this guide is not intended to be an endorsement or promotion of any individual or business. Landowners are strongly encouraged to read the article on how to select a forest resource contractor. Be careful to verify insurance, licensing, references, and have a signed contract in hand before you allow a contractor to bring equipment on your property and begin work.

We have attempted to provide the most accurate information possible. Please help us by reporting inaccuracies so that we may correct them in future issues of this guide. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this Resource Guide please call: 541-476-5906 or e-mail sw_oregon@fastmail.fm

Sincerely,

Bob Jones
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Small Diameter Project Committee chair

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Forest Landownership 101

You might be thinking “Why would I want to manage my property at all?” This may especially be the case if you bought it for privacy, to enjoy a rural lifestyle or enjoy a “natural” forest setting. However, investing some time, energy, and/or money into your forest can help:

- Protect your home and property from wildfire
- Keep your forest healthy and vigorous
- Improve the appearance of your woodland
- Maintain and improve wildlife habitat
- Get income from sales of forest products
- Improve property values

Many new owners are interested in taking care of their woodland but don’t know where to start. Here is a suggestion of important tasks to consider. This can help you get to know your property better and help you make well informed decisions regarding the long term stewardship of your land. To get started:

• **Locate your property boundaries and corners.** Get a survey done if needed.

• **Walk your property** – Learn how to identify the main local trees and shrubs, if you don’t know them already. Get an aerial photo. Check your soil survey. Learn about past management activity.

• **Evaluate your access** – winter/summer roads, skid trails, footpaths....Can you get where you want to go? You can’t manage or take care of your property if you can’t get there.

• **Check on tax status.** Being taxed as forestland can be advantageous with regard to property tax.

Examples of stewardship-oriented goals:

- Keeping the forest healthy and vigorous
- Reducing the risk of fire
- Protecting against trespass
- Improving habitat for wildlife
- Improving access
- Reforesting previously logged areas

Examples of production-oriented goals:

- Improving the growth rate of trees
- Timber production
- Producing posts, poles, and other small material
- Products for personal consumption (firewood, lumber)

• **Consider your goals and objectives for the property.**

• **Create a stewardship plan based on your goals and objectives.** You can work with a consulting forester to have one written, or you can write your own.

• **Get some good advice.** Information on woodland management is available through your local Small Woodlands Association and the OSU Extension Service. Technical assistance is available through the Oregon Department of Forestry.

If pro-active participation in the future of your forest is of interest to you and your family, these are some important initial management activities to consider:

• **Create a defensible space around your home** to help reduce the risk and consequences of fire.

• **Thin dense clumps of trees** to favor the healthiest and most vigorous trees. This will increase vigor and growth, improve overall forest health, and reduce fire hazard.

• **Plant trees** in old logged areas, open spaces (“holes”) in the forest, and other places where long term tree cover is desired.

• **Improve access to different sections of your property.** Trails provide ways for you to enjoy your forest and make the best possible decisions regarding management.

**Looking For
Resources For
Technical Assistance
To Help Manage
Your Property?
Turn The Page...**

Resources for Information & Technical Assistance

<p>OSU Extension Service</p> <p>Extension Forester (covers both counties)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Education programs & tours ◆ Publications ◆ Clearinghouse services for woodland management questions ◆ Technical and Financial Assistance 	<p>Jackson County Extension 569 Hanley Road Central Point, OR 97502 (541) 776-7371</p> <p>Josephine County Extension 215 Ringuette St. Grants Pass, OR 97527 (541) 476-6613</p>
<p>Oregon Department of Forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Forest practices rules administration ◆ To file notifications of operation ◆ Information about reforestation requirements ◆ Stewardship forestry program (assistance for woodland owners; cost-share programs) 	<p>Oregon Department of Forestry 5286 Table Rock Road Central Point, OR 97502 (541) 664-3328</p> <p>Oregon Department of Forestry 5375 Monument Drive Merlin, OR 97526 (541) 474-3152</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service; Farm Service Agency, Soil & Water Conservation Districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Clearinghouse for information on federal cost-share programs ◆ Potential financial assistance for tree planting and wildlife habitat improvement ◆ Conservation planning 	<p>Ja-Jo USDA Service Center 573 Parsons Drive Medford, OR 97501-3769 (541) 776-4267 (and Jackson SWCD)</p> <p>NRCS in Grants Pass (541) 476-5856</p> <p>Josephine SWCD 474-6799</p> <p>Illinois Valley SWCD 592-3731</p>
<p>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Information and technical assistance for wildlife enhancement 	<p>Medford (541) 826-8774</p>
<p>Oregon Dept. of Revenue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Timber taxation information 	<p>Salem (503) 378-4988</p>
<p>County Assessor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Timber taxation information 	<p>Jackson (541) 774-6059</p> <p>Josephine (541) 474-5260</p>
<p>County Land Use/Planning</p>		<p>Jackson (541) 774-6900</p> <p>Josephine (541) 474-5421</p>
<p>Burning information</p>		<p>Jackson (541) 776-7007</p> <p>Josephine (541) 476-9663</p>
<p>Oregon Small Woodlands Association</p>		<p>Salem (503) 588-1813</p> <p>Local (c/o OSU Extension) (541) 776-7371</p>
<p>Oregon Tree Farm System</p>		<p>Salem (800) 603-0865</p>

Choosing a Contractor and Marketing

If you're now inclined to do some work in your woods, have a particular project in mind, or just want to learn more about how to go about it in the future, read on.

You may find that you are able to tackle smaller projects yourself, but to complete bigger projects you may need the services of others. Some projects may also result in materials that you may be able to sell. Finding a good contractor and accessing good markets are important parts of stewarding your forest.

Define your reasons and goals for treatment

Before you hire someone to work in your forest, make sure you clarify what it is you want to accomplish and why. Do you want to give trees more room to grow or plant a new generation of trees? Perhaps you'd like to reduce fire risk or create a more "park-like forest environment"? Leave a natural or family legacy? Do you need to address bug kill or to realize some income from your forest? What are your goals for your forest?

If you need help understanding your options or clarifying your goals, a walk with a consulting forester is a good place to start. Foresters can help you evaluate forest health and advise you on steps to take to meet your goals. You could elect to work with a consulting forester to develop an in-depth forest management plan for your property. In any case, ask potential consultants about their educational background, certifications they may hold and references they can provide. Ask to view forests they have been involved in managing to get a feel for their approach.

To find a consulting forester check this directory or:

- Check the yellow pages;
- Contact OSU Extension or the Oregon Small Woodlands Association;
- Get a list from the Oregon Department of Forestry;

- Visit the on-line Society of American Foresters Consultant Directory [<http://www.safnet.org/certifiedforester/directory.cfm>]; or

- Ask other forest land owners and neighbors about their experiences with consulting foresters.

Selecting a contractor

Once you know what you want to accomplish, the next step is choosing someone to do the work. Before you set someone loose in your woods, it is important to ask a few questions. Make sure the contractor has experience doing the work you need to have done. A tree planter may not be equipped to remove a hazardous tree next to your house. In order to see if a contractor can accomplish on-the-ground work consistent with your vision, ask the contractor to provide you with the names of former clients. Ask to view completed projects. See if the contractor holds membership in a professional association or has affiliation with a professional group. This can help you determine if a contractor is right for the job you have in mind.

Make sure the contractor has access to the appropriate equipment needed for your job. Verify that the contractor has sufficient insurance coverage to protect their workers, you and your property. Some types of work or businesses may require a license; check with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, [see Farm/Forest Labor at www.boli.state.or.us ; or call the Bureau at 971-673-0761].

In most cases, it is wise to establish a contract between you and your contractor. It is best not to proceed without a signed contract in hand. OSU Extension Service provides examples of contracts for logging in the Woodland Workbook [see: <http://eesc.orst.edu/agcom/webfile/edmat/EC1192.pdf>], however a contract for fuels work may be more streamlined than these examples.

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Choosing a Contractor

(continued)

To find a contractor:

- Look in this publication;
- Check yellow pages or classified ads;
- Get a list from the Oregon Department of Forestry;
- Visit the Oregon Woodlands Assistance Catalog and select “Find a service provider” [www.oregonwoodlands.org] or
- Ask neighbors or other forest land owners.

Permits and Notification

Before any work begins, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry to find out if you need a “Notification of Operation” for the activities you have planned. (Be sure to check the article on notifications in this publication.) A notification can sometimes take two weeks to process before operations are allowed to begin, so allow time. If slash or surface burning is part of your operation, check with your local fire district or the Oregon Department of Forestry to learn of current fire restrictions and plan to get up to date information on weather conditions for safe and legal burning.

Explore market options before you cut

Fuels reduction and forest health treatments – like timber harvests- can generate material with economic value. Selling this material can help offset the expense of on the ground operations, but most fuels reduction work is not likely to be a money making venture. Before you start, it is important to develop an idea of what material will be generated and what the options are to either sell or dispose of that material. The basic options are to use it yourself, sell it or dispose of it.

Measuring standing timber, called cruising, is considered both an art and a science. Few lay people are enthusiastic enough to dig into the details, but landowners can make better decisions if they take a careful look at their own land. Decisions on the ultimate use of the materials will hinge on some of the following criteria.

- Species of trees to be harvested

- Diameter of the trees (measured at chest height)
- Height of the trees or length of harvested material
- Form: is it straight, does it have a strong taper?
- Total volume of material

As you get a clearer picture of what is going to come off your land, you can better evaluate your options. For detailed information consult the OSU Extension publication titled: *Managing Your Own Timber Sale: Guidelines For Success* [cost \$3.00].

Once you have an idea of the type of material to be removed you can explore possibilities of using it yourself such as firewood, poles for fences and outbuildings or rough cut lumber. Remember that some wood and lumber may have special treatment and storage requirements to prevent decay, splitting or twisting. Treatment options will depend on species of tree and type of cut material; they may include debarking, drying, or covered storage.

To use your own rough cut lumber on site contact a portable sawmill operator. They bring a portable mill to your location and cut lumber to your specification. Portable sawmills are very effective when they can mill a quantity of like material, rather than having to make multiple adjustments to machinery for dissimilar material.

To find a portable sawmill:

- Look in this publication;
- Check the yellow pages; or
- Get a list from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

If you do plan to sell material it is very important to know the purchaser specifications. The purchaser may set specifications that tie in to the criteria you considered, such as species, diameter, length, etc. The market for wood products and the specifications purchasers set change with the times. You may be able to get a higher

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Disposal & Market Options

1. Biomass One	2350 Avenue G, White City (541) 826-9422	Accepts woody debris, chipped at facility for co-generation, charges tipping fee
2. Hilton Fuel	8087 Blackwell Road Central Point (541)664-3374	Grinds clean woody debris for ships, mulch, etc. Drop off with no tipping fee
3. Jo-Gro™	1749 Merlin Road, Merlin (541) 660-1685	Accepts woody debris, charges tipping fee.
4. Kaufmann Wood Products	24126 Redwood Hwy, Kirby (541) 592-2568	Purchases primarily Douglas fir for construction and furniture, also manzanita. Uses poles from less than 3" up to 12", 8 foot minimum length
5. Northwest Pole Company	(541) 734-4790	Purchases Douglas fir, cedar, and pine poles 1" - 8" diameter for poles, furniture
6. Mac's	Grants Pass (541) 955-0103	Purchases madrone, manzanita, cedar and other small poles and wood for pet products
7. Rogue Valley Fuel	7990 11th Street White City (541) 890-0704	Purchases selected sizes and species for firewood, post and poles

Choosing a Contractor (continued)

price for material that is exactly what the purchaser wants. Be sure the information you use to make decisions is accurate and up to date. Get a contract for the sale of timber before you begin cutting. Your logging contractor or consulting forester should be able to provide market options and coordinate delivery to the buyer. A list of some current market and disposal options appears above.

Remember, if you sell material. . . .

Remember, if you sell material, you may be responsible for timber harvest taxes. To determine potential tax liabilities – or credits – as a result of your harvest or management, talk to your tax preparer. You can also consult the on-line Oregon Woodlands Assistance Catalog [[\[gonwoodlands.org\]\(http://www.oregonwoodlands.org\)\] and select "Tax Laws". The Oregon Department of Forestry can provide information on potential tax credits for establishing forests on unproductive lands. The Oregon Department of Revenue \[\[www.oregon.gov/DOR/TIMBER/index.shtml\]\(http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/TIMBER/index.shtml\)\] can also answer questions through Timber Tax Programs at 503.378.4988.](http://www.ore-</p>
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If you think you have material with commercial value coming from your operation, the best current regional markets for materials commonly generated by small forestland treatments are listed below. Also consult the on-line OSU Extension Directory with information on traditional mills and general market information, as well as contactors and service providers at: <http://www.oreforestdirectory.com/>