



PO Box 118  
Coos Bay, OR 97420



Autumn 2013

Coos Bay 541-267-2872

Forest Grove 503-357-5717

Dallas 503-623-9000

www.stuntzner.com

## Staff News at Stuntzner



**Ron Stuntzner**, founder of Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, LLC has been named *Distinguished Forester 2013* by the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. Stuntzner was presented this national award on June 24, 2013 at the annual ACF National Meeting in Keystone, Colorado. *Distinguished Foresters* are elected by the total voting membership. *Distinguished Foresters* exemplify outstanding contributions to forestry and to the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF). This encompasses their

contributions to the application of forestry on private lands, to the advancement of the profession, to private ownership of forest lands, and to the ACF.

**Ralph Dunham**, (on left) in the Stuntzner Coos Bay office, has received the **2013 President's Award** from the PEO (Professional Engineers of Oregon) for his long service. He was PEO State President in 2002 and also served as Vice President.



**Alec Rosenthal**, a new engineering intern in our Coos Bay office, graduated from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a BS in Civil Engineering. He was raised in Brookings, where he developed an interest in math, science, and structures, leading him to major in civil engineering. He is a 2-time marathon finisher, fan of all San Francisco sports teams, and is also grateful for the opportunity to be back on the coast.

## Lakeside Boat Wash Facility a First

The state's first boat wash station, Tenmile Lake Invasive Species Boat Wash Station, in Lakeside, Oregon was dedicated by state and federal officials on October 22, 2013.

According to Ashley Massey, public information officer for the Oregon State Marine Board, the station is the product of a partnership between the marine board, the Tenmile Lakes Basin Council, the Coos County Parks Department and the U.S. Forest Service.

Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, LLC was hired to do the construction staking for this project.

The facility is intended to combat the spread of invasive species in the lakes, a problem that's already taken root in recent years. It consists of two drive-through bays. After washing the boat with low-pressure, the water is filtered into an underground tank and then pumped into a settling pond away from the lake.

Invasive plant species tend to clog the waterway during low water season and as they decay can contribute to algae blooms. It is also hoped that this wash station will keep non-native invasive animal species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, from colonizing in Tenmile Lake. Those invasive species can attach themselves both inside and outside of intake and outflow pipes that are connected to many homes along the Lake, resulting in blockage.

Picture and information from October 21, 2013 article written by Thomas Moriarty for "The World" newspaper



## What's It Gonna Cost Me?

Fires in operations pose all kinds of challenges. They're generally in remote locations and involve volatile fuels such as slash, felled and bucked timber, reprod and standing timber. [The Oregon Department of Forestry estimates losses to standing timber and reproduction was almost \$370-million in the 2013 fire season.] These fires are, for the most part, difficult to control and they take a great deal of resources to get the job done.

Operation fires that result from negligent activities, such as not complying with fire prevention requirements, subjects both the landowner and operator to paying the total cost of fire suppression incurred by the forester (ODF or Association), which can run into the millions.

Fires that do not result from willful, malicious or negligent acts come with a \$300,000 cap on "extra" fire suppression costs (costs outside the district fire protection budget). The same holds true even if the cause cannot be determined. Unless proof exists otherwise, the law requires the presumption that the fire resulted from the operation activity and the landowner and the operator are equally liable for paying up to the first \$300,000 of extra fire suppression costs.

When a fire does occur within an operation area, the law requires that the landowner and operator make "every reasonable effort" to suppress the fire. This means that all available resources (including personnel and suppression equipment within a reasonable distance) must be used to fight the fire. Failing to make "every reasonable effort" voids the \$300,000 limited liability and opens the door to full fire suppression costs.

A fire in early May that may have been caused by a cigarette amounted to nearly \$200,000 in suppression costs, which shows just how fast things can add up.

*By Tom Fields, Fire Prevention Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry*

## Operational Fire Insurance

Owning timber land in Oregon can be rewarding, but carries financial risks and responsibilities. One of these areas is fire suppression. There are two types of causes of fires recognized by the State of Oregon; Non-Operational and Operational.

The Non-Operational fires are typically caused by lightning, or the public, neither which would be the landowner's fault. The remedy in this situation is your forest patrol assessment, which covers the cost of the Oregon Department of Forestry, or similar organization, to extinguish the fire.

The Operational fires occur from allowing forest operations on the property. This includes timber harvesting, or burning, activities. Within this category there can be negligent and non-negligent acts. When the act is deemed negligent, such as not complying with fires laws and rules, the landowner can be charged the total cost of the fire suppression. There is not any insurance that will pay for you to break the law, so in this instance the landowner must pay out of pocket. The non-negligent operational fires, when regulation were followed, and every reasonable effort was made to suppress the fire, can still make the landowner responsible for up to \$300,000 in fires suppression costs. As this isn't an unlawful act, there is insurance that can be purchased to cover this cost. The coverage is "Logging Operations Broad Form Property Damage", and can be endorsed on to the standard General Liability policy. (Note: without this endorsement, there is no coverage on the Standard General Liability Policy. There are just a few insurance carriers that will add this endorsement, and typically it can be very expensive. The Oregon Small Woodland Association has partnered with JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance, and Safeco insurance Company to offer an affordable group policy for members that includes the endorsement.

Being a landowner can be very rewarding, but does carry some risks. The fire suppression cost risks can be minimized by paying the forest patrol assessment, following the rules and regulations, and having the proper endorsements on your insurance policy.

*By Chris Page, Forester, JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance*

## Coquille Valley Hospital

The Daily Journal of Commerce magazine's May 2013 edition is dedicated to Top Projects 2013. Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry was the engineer of record for the reconstruction of the Coquille Valley Hospital which was named a DJC Top Projects 2013 Honoree in the Public Building division.



Stuntzner Engineering provided survey, site civil engineering, and land use planning for the \$23M Coquille Valley Hospital reconstruction which was dedicated at the end of April in 2012. Beginning in 2010, Stuntzner Engineering worked for both the Coquille Valley Hospital District and The Neenan Company (a design-build firm from Fort Collins, Colorado) to provide preliminary survey and planning documentation, site and retaining structure design, construction observation, and closeout for this project. Construction consisted of a replacement hospital structure on a relatively small, steep site (retaining walls to 34 feet in height to provide access and parking, and heli-pad). Site design was provided by the architectural arm of The Neenan Co., and Stuntzner Engineering was charged with making the design fit on the site, including necessary utilities, and to make the site ADAAG accessible throughout.

This project, as it was constructed within a short time frame, took both the ability to make minor adjustments throughout as design changed and the vision to see how each possible change affected other items of work. Sequencing of construction also required evaluation as to temporary support during construction to enable multiple trades to operate at stages as they normally would not be on-site during those stages.

*Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry staff*

## Leadership Shift at Stuntzner



A unanimous vote by the partners named Cliff Barnhart as managing partner at Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, LLC. Former managing partner, Eric Urstadt from the Forest Grove branch, resigned from that position to fully concentrate on project management for Stuntzner.

Cliff joined Stuntzner in 1992, became a member of the firm in 1998, and opened the Dallas office location in 1999. A native Oregonian, Cliff has been exposed to forestry from childhood. His knowledge in forestry management is second nature. Since starting work at Stuntzner, Cliff Barnhart has had many years of experience in project management, harvest unit and road layout, logging engineering and transportation system planning, cruising and appraisal, and has been involved in major projects in both Oregon and Alaska. In addition, he has become a highly qualified and experienced timber appraiser and currently serving as President-Elect for the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF).

*Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry staff*

## Is Your Property in a Flood Plain?

Many landowners are being affected by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. There have been several changes to the way National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run and how it rates flood insurance. One change is the requirement of an Elevation Certificate to properly rate NFIP policies.

Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, LLC has surveyors and engineers on staff that have years of experience working with clients, insurance companies and FEMA in preparing Elevation Certificates. We also prepare Letters of Map Amendments (LOMA's and E-LOMA's) to file with FEMA. These LOMA's request FEMA to change their flood maps to reflect that a particular, qualifying property is not in a previously designated flood zone.

Contact us if you could benefit from our expertise.

*John Hoshall & staff, Stuntzner Forest Grove office*



## ODFW Fish Screen Standards for Passive Screens



These screens are for agricultural water users who pump from ponds, creeks and rivers. Unless you have a written waiver from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) almost all permits require fish screening. For new permits, the language usually states that 'fish screen must be in place and approved before water is diverted'. If water is used before the screen is in place, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will now cancel the permit.

For older certificates, the OWRD, ODFW and NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) expect the user to upgrade the fish screen to current standards if the old screen is damaged or needs repair, however, the requirements for fish screen change from time to time and the specifics are not always easy to find. This is a short summary in case you are installing or repairing a 'can type' snorkel screen.

ODFW considers fish screens to be either active or passive. Active screens have functional self cleaning mechanisms. Passive screens are not self cleaning. This information addresses the passive screens...typically screened snorkel intakes as is usual with small agricultural diversions.

### Screen material:

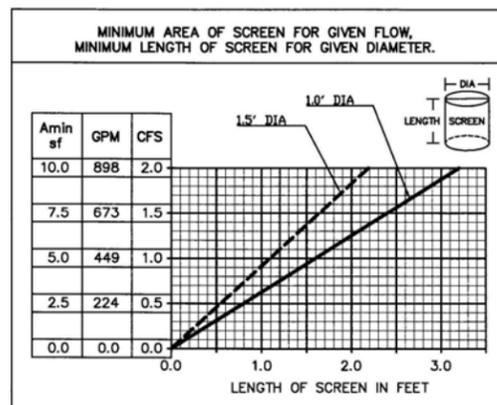
- Must be corrosion resistant and durable.
- Other components of the facility, such as seals, must not have gaps greater in size than the maximum screen opening.
- The total open area for any screen must be at least 27% of the total screen area.

### Screen openings:

- Circular - must not exceed 3/32 inch in diameter.
- Rectangular or slotted - must not exceed 1/16 inch in the narrow direction.
- Square - must not exceed 3/32 inch on a side.

### Screen size:

The size of the screen is relative to the pumping rate. For passive screens the approach velocity is limited to 0.2 feet per second. If your permit rate is 1.0 cfs you divide 1.0 by 0.2 for a minimum area of 5.0 square feet. The table on the right shows the minimum area and minimum length for rates from 0 to 2 cfs and screen diameters of 1 foot and 1.5 feet.



*Bill Flatz, PE, CWRE, Stuntzner Forest Grove office*

## Log Market Report

Log inventories are all over the place, some good and some operators with day-to-day supplies. The level 3 and 4 fire closures in mid-to-late summer slowed logging production. Then when we finally got a break from that, record levels of rain in September stopped log deliveries with dirt road access. Many wondered if they would be able to get those logs out until next spring. The weather dried out in October, allowing for logs on dirt roads to be removed. Then came the federal shutdown where the USFS suspended active timber sale harvesting. Some mills depending on that volume were impacted with lowering log inventories. As wet weather is now impacting log production in November, low log supplies are putting upward pressure on log prices. Coos Bay export is active with about two cargoes per month going to China.

Another recent boost to the demand for larger logs is the recent change in fire code for new structures. Due to the reduced time it takes to burn and weaken an I-joint, fire fighters have fallen through floors at an increased rate while fighting fires. To address this, recent code changes now require a fire barrier to be applied to the underside of manufactured floor joists. This has shifted builders to use more 2x10 and 2x12 solid wood material for floor joists. As a result, the prices for these products are very high right now and the demand for larger logs to make wide dimension lumber is high.

The Log Lines October issue reports a Douglas fir 2M from Southern Oregon/Willamette Valley down \$5/mbf from June to October at \$659/mbf. They show a 2M hemlock for the same period up \$4/mbf to \$536/mbf. China log exports from Coos Bay are currently \$690-710/mbf for 8"+DF and WH, SS, GF (whitewoods).

For Northwestern Oregon/Columbia River area, the Log Lines April issue reports an average Douglas-fir 2M price of \$650/mbf for long logs. However, these prices reflect market conditions that existed the end of September. Current log prices coming from Willamette Valley mills are in the range of \$675 to \$775 for different diameter classes of Douglas-fir logs. The China log exports are at \$720- \$735 for 8"+ DF and the same for whitewood species. Japan export sorts in Longview are now at \$780 to \$820 for 12"+ diameter logs, and \$750-\$770 for 9"-11" logs. The premium for export markets has dropped considerably with the higher domestic mill prices, especially as you headed south down the I-5 Corridor. We currently have both the domestic mills and the export buyers scrambling to meet their log demand. The word on the street is that the China market is expected to still go higher in December.

Random Lengths reports from a year ago to November 1, their Framing Lumber Composite up \$50 at \$389, Green DF 2x4's up \$67 at \$332 and K-D Coast Hem-fir up \$73 to \$388. They report their Structural Panel Composite is down \$53 at \$369 and 1/2" western sheathing down \$8 at \$377 for the same period.

Housing permits for August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 918,000, 11.0% above August 2012 starts. Source: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The National Association of Home Builders Association (NAHB) and Wells Fargo produces a Housing Market Index (HMI), which measures builder perceptions in current home sales, expectations for the next six months and rating of prospective buyer traffic. The October HMI is 55, up from 41 a year ago. An HMI of less than 50 means more builders feel sales conditions are poor than good.

Domestic	South	North
DF SM	\$750-\$790/MBF	\$750-\$800
DF Camp Run	\$650-\$710/MBF	\$700+
DF 2M"	\$640-\$730/MBF	\$725-\$775
DF 3M"	\$640-\$680/MBF	\$675-\$725
DF 5"-11"	\$640-\$660/MBF	\$700-\$725
Conifer pulp	\$25-\$27/ton	\$26-\$28/ton
Whitewood Camp Run	\$540-575/MBF	\$480-\$550
Red Cedar	\$750/MBF	\$1,000-\$1,300
Pine 6"-11"	\$375-\$400/MBF	
Incense Cedar	\$510-\$600	
Alder sawlog 6-7"	\$350-\$360/MBF	\$400-\$500
Alder sawlog 8"-9"	\$480-\$495/MBF	\$525-\$625
Alder sawlog 10"-11"	\$530-\$550/MBF	\$625-\$675
Alder sawlog 12"+	\$580-\$600/MBF	\$650-\$700
Mixed Hwd. Pulp	\$29/ton	\$28/ton
Alder Pulp 4"-7"	\$37/ton	\$30/ton
Maple 12"+	\$350	\$450
Maple 10-11"	\$325	\$400
Maple 8"+		\$375-\$425

Export-DF	Coos Bay	Longview
9-11", Japan Sort	Not Buying	\$770
12"+ Japan Sort	Not Buying	\$790-\$820
China/Korea Sorts 8"-9"	\$690/MBF	\$725-\$735
China/Korea Sorts 10"+	\$710/MBF	\$725-\$735
Export-Whitewood	Coos Bay	Longview
China/Korea 8"+	\$600-\$680	\$610-\$720
China/Korea 10"+	\$710/MBF	\$725-\$735



*Ron Stuntzner, PE, PLS, CWRE Stuntzner Coos Bay office & Cliff Barnhart, ACF Stuntzner Dallas office*