



Spring 2014

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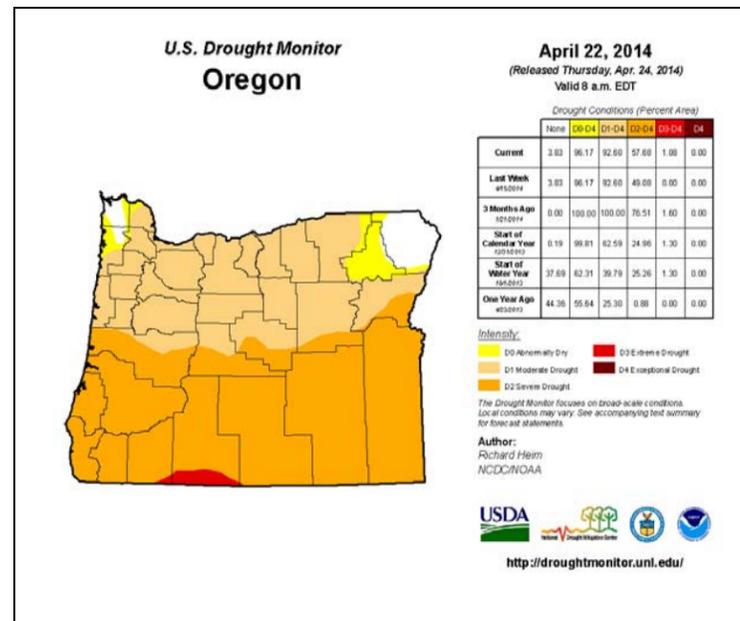
## General Drought Information and Tips

Many water wells in Oregon have been drilled to deep depths, but some landowners have installed pumps at shallow depths to save money. If groundwater levels decline as a result of the drought and increased reliance on groundwater, wells with pumps installed at shallow depths may experience reduced yields. To ensure that wells will continue to function properly and supply water throughout the drought season, well owners may want to consider lowering their pumps now and conducting any other well or pump maintenance early.

The Governor has issued drought declaration orders for several counties in southern Oregon. As of early March these include Klamath, Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties. Other counties are being considered. The state drought declaration provides the Water Resources Department with a number of additional tools to help water users get water where it is needed. For example, farmers can apply to temporarily use their water in a different location, which can enable them to apply water to their most productive lands or where it is needed most. A state drought declaration also authorizes the Department to issue temporary emergency water use permits under an expedited process to replace water not available under an existing water right. A full listing of tools is available on the Department's Drought Watch webpage (<http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/wr/drought.aspx>).

The use of groundwater from a well for the purposes of watering stock is considered an exempt use and does not require a permit. Surface water users that are unable to water stock from a surface water source may consider using groundwater to provide to stock. (Note: The Oregon Water Resources Commission has approved temporary rules granting a preference to surface water use for human consumption and stock in Klamath County for a duration of 180 days beginning April 1, 2014. The Commission will adopt similar rules for other drought-declared counties as necessary.)

Courtesy of the Oregon Water Resources Department website



## A Short History of the Clean Water Act, or

Nothing ever gets so bad that the federal government can't make it worse.

- In 1948 the first major law to address water pollution was passed: 'Federal Water Pollution Control Act'.
- In 1972 there were sweeping amendments known as the 'Clean Water Act' (CWA). The CWA provided federal jurisdiction over "navigable waters", defined as "the waters of the United States" (WOTUS).
- In 1985 in a Supreme Court case, the court upheld the regulation of wetlands adjacent to or "inseparably bound up with" navigable waters.
- In 2001 in a Supreme Court case, they rejected the regulation of "isolated waters" under the migratory bird rule because the waters lacked a "significant nexus to navigable waters". After this ruling, the agencies adopted a broad interpretation that included any water connected to navigable waters.
- In 2006 the Supreme Court rejected the EPA's "**any hydrological connection**" theory of jurisdiction as overly broad.

On **April 21<sup>st</sup>** of this year the EPA and the Corps of Engineers published their proposed new rule for Waters of the U.S. **This started a 90 day public comment period.** The new rule is 111,000 words long. The proposed rule includes the following:

1. All waters that are, were or may be used in commerce including tidal waters.
2. All interstate waters, including wetlands.
3. All territorial seas.
4. All impoundments of water otherwise defined as waters of the U.S.
5. **All tributaries of waters above.**
6. **All waters, including wetlands adjacent to 1-5 above.**
7. **On a case by case basis, other waters including wetlands, which alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters in the region, have a 'significant nexus' to water in 1-3 above.**



The proposed rule effectively removes the "navigable" from the CWA definition of "water of the United States". This new rule, if approved, would result in federal jurisdiction of roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, storm water ditches, agricultural lands that are only wet during storms, and in some cases dry land will be classified as 'waters of the U.S.'.

### Potential problems or chores that could require a federal permit:

- Ordinary field work, fence construction, planting.
- Clean, move, alter or install culvert crossing of a farm ditch.
- Clean or add an access driveway with culvert in an existing roadside ditch.
- Move cattle through a wet field.
- Apply herbicides or pesticides to a swale in a field or to a field that floods.

The EPA claims that there is an entire set of exemptions that will protect many farmers from the regulations. (If the rule is not a burden why do they need protection?). If you like your farm, you can keep your farm? But the Farm Bureau states that those exemptions will only apply to farming that was ongoing in 1970, 44 years ago. Post 1970 farms, expanded farms or new farms would not be exempt.

The Farm Bureau has started a "Ditch the Rule" initiative. Unless you feel you are under-regulated we suggest that you google "Ditch the Rule" and support the agricultural industry and others across the country to fight this rule, or call your representatives and let them hear from you before it is too late. The comment period will end on Monday, July 21, 2014.

Bill Flatz, Engineer and Certified Water Right Examiner, Stuntzner Engineering, Forest Grove

# Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Receives State Land Board

**Award** *Partners commended for community involvement and outreach*

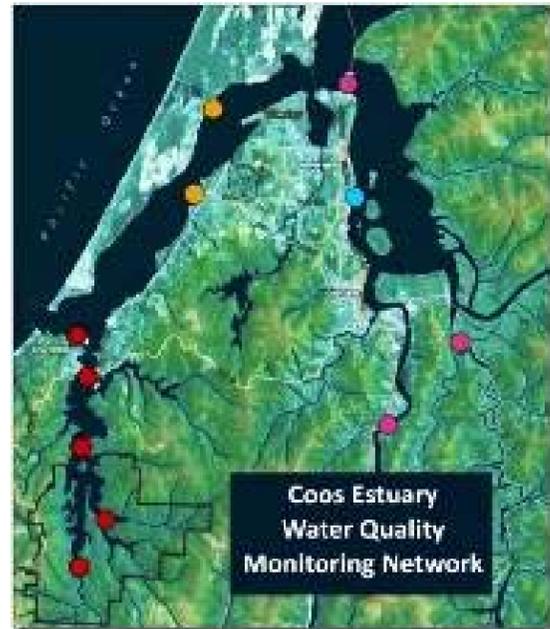
Salem – The State Land Board on April 8 honored the Coos Bay-area Partnership for Coastal Watersheds with the 2013 Land Board Partnership Award.

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, a member of the Land Board, praised the partnership for their inclusive efforts to develop a locally-driven blueprint for responsible development, and to help the Coos Bay community prepare for climate-related changes on Oregon’s south coast.

“The Coos Bay partnership is a perfect example of Oregonians doing things right,” said Wheeler. “What they’ve been able to accomplish in four years is impressive, and they did it by bringing together a cross-section of people from the private and public sectors to collaborate on far-reaching issues.”

In the first phase of the partnership, focused on Coos Bay’s Charleston and South Slough areas, members developed a 20-year Community Vision; a State of the Watersheds assessment; and an Action Plan to help chart a course for their vision. The second phase includes developing an environmental and socio-economic inventory for the Coos estuary and additional collaborative monitoring tools.

“Our goals are to provide community access to the latest data to help our community plan projects, monitor the estuary, and understand the potential effects of rising sea levels,” said Don Ivy, one of the project participants and a former cultural resource coordinator with the Coquille Tribe.



The Partnership for Coastal Watersheds has developed a community vision and expansion of the Coos Estuary water monitoring system.



The project is helping Coos Bay shipping pilots through real-time tide level station accessible online near McCullough Bridge in Coos Bay.

## *Partnership For Coastal Watersheds* continued

Chris Hood, another project participant and a planner with Stuntzner Engineering and Forestry, LLC said he’s pleased the project is making scientific information more freely available to local decision makers. “We’re compiling in one easily accessible place technical information that’s normally found only by searching through many different reports and journals. These data are too important not to make more accessible to everyone.”

The partnership was launched in 2009 by the South Slough Reserve and the Coos Watershed Association. Funds have been provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the Laird Norton Family Foundation.



The Partnership team. Chris Hood from Stuntzner Engineering is 2<sup>nd</sup> from left.

Their list of past and present collaborators includes local tribes, economic development organizations, local businesses, the local community college, and a wide variety of government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The State Land Board is marking their tenth year of giving awards for projects and efforts that promote responsible, sustainable stewardship of state resources or that benefit Department of State Lands-related programs. The Department serves as the South Slough Reserve’s administrative partner.

Since 2004, 25 projects have been honored, representing all regions of Oregon.

The State Land Board consists of Governor John Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Kate Brown and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler. The Department of State Lands administers diverse natural and fiscal resources. Many of the resources generate revenue for the Common School Fund, such as state-owned rangelands and timberlands, waterway leases, estates for which no will or heirs exist, and unclaimed property. Twice a year, the agency distributes fund investment earnings to support K-12 public schools. The agency also administers Oregon’s Removal-Fill Law, which requires people removing or filling certain amounts of material in waters of the state to obtain a permit.

*Reprinted with permission from Oregon Department of State Lands news release on April 8, 2014.*

*Partnership For Coastal Watersheds* continued on next page

## SWOCC Forestry Degree

According to Greg Stone of Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, the local community college in Coos Bay, Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC), is ramping up interest and resurrecting the previously long-standing forestry degree. This fall they will launch a new two-year associate's degree in forestry. In partnership with Oregon State University, the students will then transfer to OSU or another 4-year baccalaureate degree college.

In the 1970's and 80's SWOCC had a vigorous technical forestry program. Then the college lost a primary instructor and the downturn in the timber economy made the program less relevant. Stone says that in the past the program focused on graduating technicians ready to go to work in the woods for public and private landowners. Now, however, the focus is on producing a "transfer program" for students who intend to go on and pursue a baccalaureate degree in forestry or related natural resources field. The new SWOCC vice-president, says Stone, has been very active and successful in coordinating transfer credits with universities in the Pacific Northwest.

And this is good news to the forest industry. Companies such as Roseburg Resources Co. and Campbell-Global need young foresters with bachelor's degrees who have been educated in advancing forestry technology and who want to work in more rural areas. If students can get started in their local community college and then transfer to OSU or another four year university, they may be more likely to return to their hometown where they often grew up with firsthand knowledge of the area and industry.



Modern forestry is dependent upon advanced technology

*Greg Stone, Forester, Stuntzner, Coos Bay and Carol Taylor, Office Assistant, Stuntzner, Forest Grove*

## Oregon ACF Chapter...computer growth model workshop

Fourteen foresters, including three from Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, attended an all-day workshop in Salem on forest growth models coordinated by the Oregon ACF (Association of Consulting Foresters) Chapter. About half the attendees were non ACF foresters and a couple picked up applications to become candidate members. The other foresters were industry employees and won't qualify for ACF membership.

The program was superior, presented by ACF member Steve Fairweather, PhD. and one of his staff, Don Gagliasso, also a biometrician. The course used the readily available, and free, U. S. Forest Service FVS model as an example to show how growth models generally work. The audience had a range of professional forestry experience but primarily middle-aged foresters who wouldn't have received this level of training in college. The course was intended to show the inputs necessary to make a model work successfully and possible outputs based on the initial inventory and cultural treatments over the growth cycle.

A simulator modeling the evolution of a forest applies computational geometry to the problem of understanding forest growth. Tree development within a forest largely depends on how much space they have both on the ground and in the air, around the treetops. Trees compete to dominate the space they need to develop.

Forest simulation models or forest growth models are very useful for forest managers and forestry researchers in many respects. A forest growth model aims to describe the dynamics of the forest closely and precisely enough to meet the needs of the forester or forestry researcher.

The most common uses of these models for managers are to forecast timber production or, less often, other forestry products (cones, cork, carbon, etc.) and to simulate different forestry management alternatives with a view to decision making.

Stuntzner has been a strong supporter of ACF for many years. Our ACF foresters benefit from the continuing education, being in association with other consulting foresters, and the strong code of ethics ACF upholds. If you are interested in more information about computer growth models or future ACF Chapter meetings, you may contact Greg Stone in Stuntzner's Coos Bay office (541-267-28720) or Cliff Barnhart in Stuntzner's Dallas office (503-623-9000).

*Greg Stone, Forester, Stuntzner Engineering, Coos Bay*

### May is Wildfire Awareness Month



**Wildfire knows no season.** The Keep Oregon Green Association and Oregon Department of Forestry are asking all Oregonians to stop human-caused wildfires before they start. Plan for the approaching wildfire season. Prepare your home and landscape with wildfire safety in mind. And prevent your open fire and equipment from sparking the next wildfire.

[Learn more about Wildfire Awareness Month](#)  
[Keep Oregon Green Association website](#)

*Courtesy of Oregon Department of Forestry*



# Log Market Report

It has been a roller coaster market since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2013 (again) for most of Westside Oregon and in particular for the southern half. Prices for Douglas fir logs went above \$800/mbf and \$600/mbf for whitewoods in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and early 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014. The spiking prices were driven by low log inventories and improving lumber prices until January, when lumber and panel prices began declining. At about the same time, log supplies improved. Both events contributed to declining log market prices. Other species such as red cedar and alder held fairly steady throughout. Log exports from Coos Bay have been at a standstill in March – April due to dock repair work, which is now near completion and ships are scheduled for May. Current prices for Doug fir logs is in the \$625-\$680/mbf range and whitewoods ranging from \$500/mbf for export fall down to \$625/mbf for grand/white fir.

The *Log Lines* April issue reports a Douglas fir 2M from Southern Oregon/Willamette Valley up \$81/mbf from October to April at \$740/mbf. They show a 2M hemlock for the same period up \$98/mbf to \$634/mbf. China log exports from Coos Bay are currently \$625-650/mbf for 8"+DF.

For Northwestern Oregon/Columbia River area, the Log Lines April issue reports an average Douglas-fir 2M price of \$725/mbf for long logs. The April China log exports were at \$740-\$770 for 8"+ DF and \$770 for whitewood species. April Japan export prices in Longview were at \$815 to \$850 for 9"+ diameter logs. Log prices held in the Longview area longer than they did in the lower Willamette Valley markets for both export and domestic sawmill log markets. However, starting in late April and early May, prices started dropping \$30-\$50 with more drops forecasted between now and the start of summer.

Domestic	South \$/mbf	North \$/mbf
DF SM	\$725-\$750	
DF Camp Run	\$625-\$680	
DF 2M"	\$650-700	\$650-\$730
DF 8"-11"	\$625-650	\$650-\$730
DF 5"-7"	\$600-\$625	\$600-\$625
Conifer Pulp	\$28-\$30/ton	\$26-\$32/ton
Whitewood Camp Run	\$575-\$625	\$550-\$600
Red Cedar	\$750	\$1,100-\$1,350
Pine 6"-11"	\$375-\$425/mbf	
Incense Cedar	\$520-\$640	
Alder sawlog 6"-7"	\$345-390/mbf	\$400-\$575
Alder sawlog 8"-9"	\$470-530/mbf	\$550-\$725
Alder sawlog 10"-11"	\$555/mbf	\$650-\$760
Alder sawlog 12"+	\$605/mbf	\$675-\$800
Mixed Hwd. Pulp	\$25/ton	\$26-28/ton
Alder Pulp 4"-7"	\$37/ton	\$26-32/ton
Maple 12"+	\$365	\$450-\$500
Maple 10-11"	\$300	\$400-\$475
Maple 8"+		\$375-\$450

seasonally adjusted annual rate of 946,000, compared with 1,005,000 in March, 2013. *Source: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development*

Export-DF	Coos Bay \$/mbf	Longview \$/mbf
9-11" Japan Sort	Not Buying	\$790
12"+ Japan Sort	Not Buying	\$790-\$800
China/Korea Sorts 8"+	\$600-625	\$730
Export-Whitewood	Coos Bay	Longview
China/Korea 8"+	\$575-600	\$700

rating of prospective buyer traffic. The April HMI is 47, up from 41 a year ago. An HMI of less than 50 means more builders feel sales conditions are poor than good.

*Ronald E. Stuntzner, PE, PLS, CWRE at Stuntzner Engineering, Coos Bay & Cliff Barnhart, Forester, Stuntzner Engineering, Dallas*



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Hardwood markets in Washington are much stronger than they are in Oregon at this time. Alder sawlog prices in Longview are \$125/MBF higher than they are in Eugene. There are reports that a Chehalis Washington mill is going to start buying alder logs at a yard in Willamina again to start pulling alder volume out of Oregon to feed their Washington mill.

Random Lengths reports from a year ago to May 9, the Framing Lumber Composite down \$7 at \$376, Green DF 2x4's down \$7 at \$330 and K-D Coast Hem-fir up \$27 to \$402. They report the Structural Panel Composite is down \$76 at \$386 and 1/2" western sheathing up \$31 at \$449 for the same period.

Housing permits for August were at a

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

## Staff News at Stuntzner

Our Coos Bay office has a new accounting clerk. **Keisha Lira** is filling in admirably for Kelli Sherman while Kelli is on leave. Keisha is a recent graduate of Portland Community College with her Associates of Science degree majoring in accounting and also her Associates Degree in General Studies through Columbia Gorge Community College. She has lived all over Oregon including Portland, Burns, Hood River and The Dalles. She moved to Coos Bay two years ago when she married her husband, Daniel. In her spare time, Keisha enjoys running, hiking, backpacking, sewing and cooking culinary master pieces.

**Eric Urstadt**, Stuntzner Forest Grove office manager, has been appointed to the Planning Commission for District 4. The community appreciates his willingness to serve and anticipates that his knowledge and experience with land use issues will serve the Commission well.

We are pleased to welcome **Nick Blundon** to our Forest Grove office. Nick grew up on a family owned cattle ranch in Reedsport, OR., attended Reedsport schools and then graduated from OSU with a BS in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Structural Engineering. He worked for ODOT for a couple of years before moving to Tacoma to work as a civil engineer where he gained valuable working knowledge in his field. Nick and his wife, Liz moved back to Oregon to be closer to family, friends, and to pursue career opportunities with Stuntzner Engineering!!

*Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry hopes you all have a fun and safe summer.*