

# Northwest Woodlands

A Publication of the Oregon Small Woodlands, Washington Farm Forestry, Idaho Forest Owners & Montana Forest Owners Associations

## MANAGING FOREST CATASTROPHES

**Managing in an Economic Catastrophe**



**Recovery After the 2007 Storm**

**Are You Prepared for a Wildfire?**

**From Ashes to Trees: A Wildfire Recovery Story**



**The Hidden Threat in Firewood**

**Managing Mountain Pine Beetles**

**NEXT ISSUE . . .  
Considering Chemicals**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT NO. 1386

Northwest Woodlands  
4033 S.W. Canyon Rd.  
Portland, OR 97221

**This magazine is a benefit of membership in your family forestry association**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fall 2009

## DEPARTMENTS

**3 PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES**

**6 DOWN ON THE TREE FARM**

**29 CALENDAR**

**30 TREEMAN TIPS**

### ON THE COVER:



*Blowdown timber after the 2007 storm on Franz and Anne Schneider's property in Washington state. Photo courtesy of Michael Ahr.*

*Bottom cover photo: The day after the fire on Ron Mahoney's northern Idaho property. Photo courtesy of Ron Mahoney.*

### STAFF:

**LORI D. RASOR, Editor**

**MICHELE DOCY, Assistant**

4033 S.W. Canyon Rd.

Portland, OR 97221

503-488-2104

FAX 503-226-2515

rasor@safnwo.org

**MINTEN GRAPHICS, Graphic Design**

### Northwest Woodlands Advisory Committee Members:

Bob Brink

Rick Dunning

David Ford

Mike Heath

John Poppino

Lori Rasor

Ed Styskel

*Northwest Woodlands is published quarterly by the World Forestry Center for the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Washington Farm Forestry Association, Idaho Forest Owners Association and Montana Forest Owners Association.*

*Other than general editing, the articles appearing in this publication have not been peer reviewed for technical accuracy. The individual authors are primarily responsible for the content and opinions expressed herein.*

## FEATURES

**8**

### MANAGING A CATASTROPHE

*Tips on how to minimize a catastrophe.*

BY MICKEY BELLMAN

**10**

### MANAGING IN AN ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE

*There is more to managing low log prices than just leaving your trees to grow.*

BY NORM SCHAAF

**12**

### FAMILY FOREST OWNERS STILL RECOVERING AFTER THE 2007 STORM

*With your forest flattened by a severe storm, important decisions and choices pop up quickly.*

BY MICHAEL AHR

**14**

### ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WILDFIRE?

*Fire can quickly turn from an important part of the ecosystem to an agent of disaster.*

BY YVONNE BARKLEY

**16**

### FROM ASHES TO BUSHES AND TREES

*Back on track...six years after wildfire destroyed home, trees and 25 years of management.*

BY RON MAHONEY

**18**

### THE HIDDEN THREAT IN FIREWOOD

*Firewood is the home to a whole community of insects, fungi and rots. With the right measures, your firewood will not be their home for very long.*

BY DAVE SHAW, RAINI RIPPY AND STEVE BOWERS

**20**

### MANAGING MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC LOSSES

*Mountain pine beetles have the potential to reach epidemic proportions, but you can manage your forest to reduce the damages.*

BY PAUL OESTER AND DAVE SHAW

**24**

### A LIFE LESSON: HARLAN HAINES' STORY OF SUCCESS

*A life lesson 57 years ago still shapes this owner's approach to his forestland everyday.*

BY AUDREY BARNES

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

**22 DANGER TREES AND WOODLAND OWNERS**

**26 MANAGING WILDLIFE DAMAGE ON YOUR PROPERTY**

# Managing a Catastrophe

By **MICKEY BELLMAN**

**C**atastrophes come in all shapes and sizes, and often at the most inconvenient of times. A limb falling across a fence or a fierce winter storm can mean both trouble and economic loss to a family forest owner. A forest fire can destroy decades of hard work and careful management while a plugged culvert can lead to a road washout. Insects and disease may destroy a forest in a single season. And then there are the personal catastrophes—death, illness and injury, divorce, taxes. Woodland owners may be forced to harvest timber to pay the bills when the market



is in the “down” position. A little preparation may at least minimize some of these catastrophes.

1. **Know your property and its boundaries.** If the property lines are well marked with fences, blazed lines and solid corner monuments, there is little doubt which trees have blown over or been killed by insects. Pre-determined, well-marked lines will save weeks if survey lines must be re-established by professional surveyors. While the surveyor surveys, the dead trees will continue to stain, rot and lose value. This is time when a logger could be salvaging the trees and getting them to the mill.

2. **Have a well-planned road system in place.** Surfaced roads with good culverts and ditches provide year-round access to all parts of the prop-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

**One plugged culvert caused this extensive road damage.**

erty. Waiting for the weather to dry out and roads to be built will be avoided. Insect and disease outbreaks can be readily identified and controlled. Obviously, a forest fire requires immediate attention and a good road system provides the access for response. When tragedy does strike, the road system is already in place to speed salvage efforts.

3. **Understand the regulations and procedures.** Before a catastrophe even looms on the horizon, a landowner ought to understand the permit process and the Forest Practices Act. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) requires an approved logging permit prior to the start of any logging operation. The permit can take two weeks or longer to obtain. Maps and detailed information are required. Harvest may be prohibited in some slide-prone areas. Streamside buffers require special planning and review. When the landowner understands these regulations and procedures, it will save valuable time, extra phone calls and numerous trips to the state forestry office. Delay is not an option when it comes to salvage logging.

4. **Know the markets, mills and log-**

**DUZZLED**  
ABOUT HOW TO TURN YOUR  
TIMBERLAND INTO CASH?

Stimson Lumber Company is buying  
land and logs. We are a SFI  
(Sustainable Forestry Initiative)  
certified timberland owner and  
lumber producer. Trust us to  
take care of your valuable  
timberland assets.

Call today to learn more.  
WA & ID call:  
509-447-3686, ext. 1122  
Oregon call: 503-357-2131

**"A Tradition of Quality"**  
**STIMSON LUMBER COMPANY**  
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

gers. Be aware of the local mills and the types of logs they buy. Pay attention to news regarding log and lumber markets: Are prices rising or falling? Who are the local loggers with good reputations? Maintain a list of mills and loggers whom you may want to contact. A ready list will save time and frustration if catastrophe does come knocking.

5. **Death and taxes are a 100 percent certainty.** When these things occur unexpectedly, the consequences can be catastrophic. Estate planning can minimize the fiscal impacts during some of these most stressful times. Timber and land may be forced into sale to satisfy the inevitable inheritance taxes. A good and viable estate plan will make for an orderly transition to the heirs.

6. **Winter storms can cause disastrous floods and landslides.** Like volcanoes and earthquakes, there is little that can be done to predict and prepare for the events. A landowner can only wait for the aftermath and pick up the pieces. After Mount St. Helens leveled thousands of acres of timber, Weyerhaeuser and others mounted a huge salvage effort. Existing roads were quickly repaired and reopened in a mad rush to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

*This road was built atop old logging slash and slumped during a wet winter.*

recover the deteriorating wood. Woodland owners must react quickly to recover what they can.

Catastrophes are sudden and unexpected events that can wreak economic havoc on a family forest owner. Planning and preparation can at least minimize the disastrous consequences. Landowners should take heed of an old saying: When you are up to your butt in alligators, it is hard to remember the objective

was to drain the swamp. ■

**MICKEY BELLMAN** is a private forestry consultant working throughout Oregon and Washington. He lives in Salem with his wife, two golden retrievers and 3,500 Christmas trees. He can be reached at 503-362-0842 or [bellman9647@msn.com](mailto:bellman9647@msn.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICKEY BELLMAN

*One powerful windstorm can destroy years of careful management.*

## Growing Scotch Broom, Blackberry & Grass?

Wouldn't you rather have this?



*Healthy, growing native forest.*

### Need the Know-How and Money to Get There?

Call your local Stewardship Forester or Jim Cathcart, Oregon Department of Forestry, at 503-945-7493.

**Ask About the Forest Resource Trust!**

