

OSWA 2012 Legislative Priorities

November 15, 2011

The 2012 Legislative session will focus on tweaking state budgets due to predicted revenue shortfalls. The short 35 day session will limit new legislation. OSWA's focus in 2012 is to hold harmless any state budget reductions important to our members and to monitor high priority bills. OSWA will submit the Wildfire Reduction Act as our priority legislation in 2012.

At the State Level:

1. WILD FIRE REDUCTION ACT.

- 1.1. Changes the 50/50 split in Eastern Oregon to 60% General Fund 40% landowners;
- 1.2. Increase the dollars available to fight fires in high fire danger areas; and
- 1.3. Modify the way the 50/50 split in collecting the \$20MM deductible for Oregon's forest fire insurance policy from landowners providing the first \$10MM and the General Fund the second \$10MM to sharing 50/50 in the first dollars collected.

2. LAND USE PARITY

- 2.1. Support changes in law that allow pole buildings in Forest Use zones, similar to the criteria now applied to lands zoned in exclusive farm zones; and
- 2.2. Monitor legislation that may be re-introduced to address barriers to building homes on forested properties.

3. OREGON DEPARTMENT of FORESTRY FUNDING

- 3.1. Support the current 50% General Fund support of district fire protection budgets and the 50% cost sharing of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF) annual insurance policy;
- 3.2. Monitor OFLPF funding proposals that may change the minimum lot and improved lot assessments paid by small woodland owners that have lands under a forestland deferral program;
- 3.3. Support ODF funding for field stewardship foresters who administer the Forest Practices Act and who provide technical forest management planning advice to small woodland owners; and
- 3.4. Monitor efforts to adjust land and/or harvest taxes paid by forest landowner to fund ODF, OFRI and OSU research.

4. OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY FORESTRY EXTENSION SERVICES

- 4.1. Support OSU Forestry Extension funding that provides educational programs beneficial to small woodland owners.

5. WATERS, RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREA

- 5.1. Monitor riparian management area protection changes due to water temperature concerns in legislature and the Board of Forestry;
- 5.2. Monitor proposed laws related to domestic wells; and
- 5.3. Monitor legislation related to navigable waters and public use.

6. **FORESTLAND TAXATION.**
 - 6.1. Monitor efforts to adjust taxes on designated forestlands, administered by the Oregon Department of Revenue, which may be unfair to small woodland owners.
7. **INHERITANCE TAX LEGISLATION.**
 - 7.1. Support inheritance tax relief for small woodland owners.
8. **FARM PLATES for SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS.**
 - 8.1. Look for opportunities to attach OSWA's 2011 Farm Plate to other legislation
9. **LOG EXPORTS from PRIVATE LANDS.**
 - 9.1. Monitor possible legislation limiting any sale of logs from private lands.
10. **WOOD PRODUCTS USED in BUILDING.**
 - 10.1 Support the use of wood products related to green building or other initiatives.
11. **CLIMATE CHANGE and CARBON.**
 - 11.1. Monitor climate change legislation including carbon taxation proposals.

At the Federal Level through Partnerships with other Associations:

12. **FOREST ROADS and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits**
 - 12.1. Monitor efforts to require federal permits for forest roads
 - 12.2. Collaborate with Partners to influence federal actions
13. **THREATENED and ENDANGERED SPECIES.**
 - 13.1. Monitor federal rule making focused on threatened or endangered species.
 - 13.2. Collaborate with Partners to influence federal actions
14. **INHERITANCE TAX LEGISLATION.**
 - 14.1. Support inheritance tax relief for small woodland owners.
 - 14.2. Collaborate with Partners to influence federal actions