

OSWA 2013 Legislative Priorities

September 28, 2012

The 2013 Legislative Session is a full session that will set budgets for the 2013/2015 Biennium. The focus for 2013 will be:

- Enact key OSWA legislation
- Support, when consistent with OSWA Policies, legislation proposed by Oregon Forest Industries Council and other Natural Resource partners
- Secure adequate funding for OSU Forestry Extension and Oregon Department of Forestry
- Monitor all proposed legislation with potential to impact small woodland owners in Oregon

KEY OSWA LEGISLATION

1. WILD FIRE REDUCTION ACT

- 1.1. Support ODF's bill to increase the amount of money available to ODF for initial attack in the high fire prone areas of the state, provide some general fund dollars to reduce landowner tax assessments for basic fire protection in Eastern Oregon, and change the way Oregon's fire insurance deductible is paid from the system now where landowners pay the first \$10 MM before the general fund pays anything to a phased in true 50 – 50 split on paying the entire insurance deductible.
- 1.2. OSWA will be prepared to reintroduce OSWA's 2012 Wildfire Reduction Act (HB 4042A) if needed.

2. LAND USE PARITY

- 2.1. Propose Legislation that will change the law to allow pole buildings in Forest Use zones, similar to the criteria now applied to lands in Exclusive Farm Use zones.
- 2.2. Propose Legislation that will authorize the purchase of farm plates for vehicle used for forest management by owners of land in Forest Use zones, similar to the criteria now applied to landowners in Exclusive Farm Use zones.

3. LOG BRAND PARITY

- 3.1. Propose Legislation that would make the use of log brands optional in Western Oregon as it is in Eastern Oregon.

SUPPORT

- 4. SUPPORT FUNDING FOR OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY:**
 - 4.1. Support the current 50% General Fund support of district fire protection budgets, and the 50% cost sharing of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund's (OFLPF) annual insurance policy
 - 4.2. 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.

- 5. SUPPORT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY - FORESTRY EXTENSION SERVICES BUDGETS**
 - 5.1. Support OSU Forestry Extension funding at the state and county levels that provide educational programs beneficial to small woodland owners.

- 6. SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY OFIC**
 - 6.1. Clarify Oregon Fire Liability Laws
 - 6.1.1. Bill to protect landowners from unreasonable liability claims from the federal government should a fire travel from private land unto federal forest land.

 - 6.2. Change The Definition of "Special Forest Products"
 - 6.2.1. This bill would either expand the list of products identified as special forest products (include truffles) or change the definition to say any product from the forest is a special forest product. .

 - 6.3. Prohibiting the use of Sky Lanterns and Exploding Targets during fire season.

 - 6.4. Redefine the definition of "enclosed property" in the states recreational immunity law
 - 6.4.1. Oregon has a recreational immunity law that protects forest owners from claims of liability from a forest visitor providing the forest is open to the public and there is no fee paid by the visitor to be on the property. A better definition of "enclosed property" will clarify landowner's protection.

- 7. SUPPORT ISSUES RELATRED TO THE USE OF WOOD PROCUCTS**
 - 7.1. Look for opportunities to support the use of wood products in legislation related to green building or other initiatives.

MONITOR

8. MONITOR WATER ISSUES

8.1. Monitor all issues related to water such as well water, forested stream protections, floatability, and navigable waters.

9. MONITOR OREGON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE: FOREST LAND TAXATION

9.1. Monitor efforts to adjust taxes on designated forestlands that may be unfair to small woodland owners.

10. MONITOR “Predation Damage Management Plan” LEGISLATION

10.1. Creates a new way to fund statewide animal predation damage

11. MONITOR INHERITANCE TAX LEGISLATION

11.1. Monitor and support any inheritance tax relief

12. MONITOR OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY PROPOSALS

12.1. Monitor OFLPP 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.

12.2. Monitor efforts to adjust land and/or harvest taxes paid by forest landowners to fund ODF

13. MONITOR LAND USE PARITY

13.1. Monitor legislation that may address barriers to building homes on forested properties

14. MONITOR CLIMATE CHANGE and CARBON

14.1. Monitor legislation about climate change that may include proposals on carbon taxation.