



Douglas Woodlands Update

Douglas Small Woodlands Association Newsletter

Vol. XXVII No. 4

WINTER

2023

"Woodland Owners Who Love Their Land"
Stewardship. Advocacy. Fellowship. Education.

Neighbor to Neighbor: TFOY 2023 Kesterson Bros. Logging

By Craig Reed, Capital Press
Used with permission

ELKTON — Alvin Kesterson’s vision for the Big K Ranch was to create an operation that would continue to exist and thrive through the generations beyond his life.

His children and grandchildren, the family’s fourth and fifth generations, have made that vision a

reality through their management of the ranch’s timberlands, livestock and pastures, and with the services and hunting and fishing opportunities it offers at its guest lodge.

The forest management of the property’s 1,700 acres of timberlands by Kesterson Bros. Logging Co. was recently recognized and honored. The company was named Tree Farmers of the Year for 2023 by the Douglas County Small Woodlands Association.

The Kesterson Bros. Logging Co. was established by Alvin Kesterson and his brother, Virgil Kesterson. Their grandfather, Charles Kesterson, purchased the ranch’s original 200 to 300 acres 115 years ago. Each

Neighbor: Continued on Page 3

Have you renewed your membership?

Dues are due Jan. 31, 2024

Help DSWA stay strong and united in stewardship forestry and woodland management.

Questions or lost your renewal? Call or email Tami 541-459-1402 or

bntjbraz@gmail.com

Ask a friend or neighbor to join.

Think of all the great people you would have met no other way but through an OSWA connection. Talk with enthusiasm about people you have met and projects you were inspired to tackle. Positivity is contagious!

Let’s enlarge our stewardship community!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

See page 8 for all the details on our annual meeting, Jan. 23, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

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New member spotlight: Steve and Kris Denney

Steve and Kris Denney and their family own and manage 100 acres of forest and farm land in the Lookingglass area west of Roseburg. Four generations have been involved in the property and its management. The land was first purchased in 1989 and the Denneys have raised wine grapes, pigs, hay and timber. Steve and Kris have raised three sons on the property, all currently in the medical field. All are involved in the property management, especially when Steve needs some muscle and manpower for projects.

All three sons were heavily involved in 4-H as they were growing up and Steve was a 4-H leader for nearly 15 years. He now has a grandson who will be old enough to participate in 4-H and is looking forward to raising his first pigs.

Steve worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a wildlife biologist for 37 years and then worked for the Nature Conservancy. He has spent the last three years as the coordinator of the Umpqua Oaks Partnership.

The Denneys have a philosophy to manage their land in order to leave it in better shape than when they purchased it for future generations. Much of their effort has been to control non-native and invasive species that were present when they bought the property such as Scotch broom, blackberry, meadow knapweed and English hawthorn. They manage the property for ponderosa pine and black and white oak, as well as other native species.



Steve Denney

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Andy & Lorena Brint
Allen & Susan Cosyns
Shelly Coffey

Signs for sale!!

OSWA members! Please consider purchasing and posting one of our signature DSWA 18"x24" signs, \$35, OSWA 24"x24" signs, \$50, or you can order a customized "Planted" or "Thinned" sign for \$30. Help Douglas County raise our brand recognition of stewardship forestry. Folks will know that on the land behind the sign, somebody cares.

Behind the sign there is pride of stewardship.

Call or email Tami Jo to arrange for delivery or pick up:
541-459-1402, douglaschapteroswa@gmail.com

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The *Douglas Small Woodlands Update* is published quarterly by Douglas Small Woodlands Association in Roseburg. Comments and questions are welcome. Please contact Tami Jo at 541-733-0402 or bntjbraz@gmail.com. The articles contained in this newsletter are the views of the writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of OSWA, DSWA, its affiliates or employees.

Blog: oswa.org/douglas
Email: douglaschapteroswa@gmail.com

Neighbor to Neighbor: Why We Belong

Kesterson Bros. Logging Co.

Neighbor: Continued from Page 1

generation since has purchased adjoining acreage, bringing the ranch's total to 2,500 acres.

Alvin Kesterson died in 2013 at age 84. Virgil Kesterson died in 2016 at age 91. Of the two brothers, Alvin was the visionary in developing a succession plan for their ranch.

"The stewardship of the land has continued and this Tree Farmers of the Year award is a bonus," said Kathie Kesterson Gray, Alvin's daughter. "It's amazing to be recognized, and I believe my dad would know that. The evolution of forest management is obviously extending into the fifth generation."

The operating managers of the ranch are now brothers Seth and Gary Williamson, members of the family's fifth generation that numbers 11. Gary Williamson is the ranch manager and Seth Williamson is the timber manager.

"Those two make a lot of decisions regarding the timberland on behalf of the family heritage for the future," Gray said of her two sons. "That said, we have to give credence and credit to the entire fifth generation because everybody feels good about what is going on, the continuing of the stewardship of the ranch."

The two managers emphasize the focus is on the stewardship of the land, not just on the timberland.

The ranch borders about 9 miles of the Umpqua River, and the managers believe the marine air that comes up the river from the coast gives the bordering hillsides additional moisture that benefits growing trees.

"We want to make sure the land can provide for our family, for the natural resources, our livestock and our recreation," Gary Williamson said. "That's pretty much been the foundation for our family's outlook over the last generations and the last 115 years.

"I can only hope they (Alvin and Virgil) would be proud of the hard work, loyalty and dedication we



Kesterson Bros. Logging Co., Tree Farmer of the Year 2023, has been featured in several publications for their exemplary timber management practices.

Tree Farmer of the Year

2023

Kesterson Bros. Logging



"Woodland owners who love their land"

Douglas Small Woodlands Association

Stewardship – Advocacy – Fellowship – Education

have put back into the ranch for future generations," he added.

Seth Williamson agreed that Alvin and Virgil would be proud, "but I think they would be shocked at

Neighbor: Continued on Page 4

Neighbor: Continued from Page 3

the way the world has evolved and how we now manage timber. I think they might also be shocked at how refined the process is now for growing trees. It's come a long way over the years."

Dan Newton, a board member of the Douglas County Small Woodlands Association, said it was not a difficult decision to nominate and then select Kesterson Bros. Logging Co. for the annual award.

"The stewardship on their timberland is outstanding with exceptional forestry practices," he said. "Some of the values of the Small Woodlands Association are stewardship, advocacy, fellowship and education. Their property fits with all that."

Newton added that 115 years of successful ranching and forestry into the sixth generation also figured into the decision to honor the Kesterson family.

The ranch has Douglas fir timber stands at varying ages, from seedlings to old growth. To benefit and protect the trees, Scotch broom, berry vines and grass have been hand-sprayed and miles of fence has been built to keep the ranch's 100 mother cows and their calves out of the timber stands so they don't rub trees and compact the soil.

"Our goal is to take care of the land to the best of our ability for future generations," Seth Williamson said. "Ultimately, they will have their own thoughts and ideas on what stewardship means.


"The award is a great honor that we weren't trying to win, but the fact people recognize what we're doing speaks a lot," he added. "To me, it's a community award that represents many generations of work, not only my family, but lots of friends and partners who



Photo by Tami Jo Braz

*"This oak tree and me –
we're made of the same stuff."*

– Carl Sagan

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Private Forest Accord: in case you missed it!

Do you have fish-bearing streams, tributary streams, or riparian areas on your forestland? Would your harvest be affected by updated stream rules, road building requirements, or harvesting on steep slopes? The Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Rep. Virgle Osborne and Douglas County Commissioners held an informational meeting on Aug. 22, 2023.

What do I need to know?

Oregon Forest Practices Act changes include expanded stream protections, new forest road standards, new rules for logging on slopes, and a new adaptive management plan. These changes should allow Oregon to receive federal approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), intended to provide long-term conservation benefits.

Site-specific questions?

Oregon Department of Forestry
Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Forester
Auston Palenik
Auston.J.PALENIK@odf.oregon.gov
541-671-3653
Or call your stewardship forester

Lone Rock Timber, a Roseburg-based, family-owned company since 1951, is actively buying timberland with or without standing timber on it. We currently own timberland throughout Western Oregon and are looking to expand our ownership by being willing to pay above current log market values for standing timber. In addition to timbered properties, we are also in the market for bare land or pre-merchantable trees, and have the expertise to perform harvesting and marketing of timber for the owner with the option to purchase the bare land prior to reforestation requirements. As long-term owners, Lone Rock treats its ground at the highest levels of stewardship and is widely recognized as one of the finest land management organizations in the state.

For more information, please contact:

Mackenzie Smith
Phone: 430-1911
Email: msmith@lrtc.com



LONE ROCK
RESOURCES

ODF stewardship foresters for Douglas County

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Matt Beach (District Wide): NRCS Coordinator
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Office: (541) 440-3412
Email: Matthew.beach@odf.oregon.gov

Website: 'Find a Forester'

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/findaforester.aspx>

To email the Oregon Department of Forestry Small Forestland Owner Office:

smallforestlandowneroffice@odf.oregon.gov

More information:

[oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/sfo.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/sfo.aspx)

[Oregon.gov/odf/pages/private-forest-accord.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/private-forest-accord.aspx)

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New member spotlight:

Dan & Sara Herman

Dan and Sara Herman are ‘newer’ forestland owners near Myrtle Creek. The 320-acre property has, among the normal mix of forestland trees, many large madrone trees and so was named Madrone Acres. After retiring from 30 years in IT, they were looking for something new and settled on forestland ownership.

Their goal for this property is to create a legacy for their children and grandchildren, and to create a diversely managed property for recreation, camping, learning and stewardship. They have started a forest management plan as the first step in defining the goals for the property. Next steps will include creating and implementing a plan for wildlife habitat enhancement, oak restoration, meadow recovery and wildfire resistance. This is going to be a long journey and they are looking forward to as much assistance as they can get from DSWA, OSU Extension, NRCS and others.



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OSU Extension classes

Douglas County Introduction to Woodland Management: A Basic Forestry Shortcourse

— Wednesdays, Jan. 24–Feb. 14, 2024, 10 a.m.–noon

Field Tour, Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

— Location: Douglas County Extension Auditorium (1134 SE Douglas Ave., Roseburg)

— Cost: \$40, or \$50 for two people from the same property

— Registration deadline: Jan. 17, 2024 at 5 p.m.

This course is ideal for anyone who is just starting to care for a woodland property. Topics include: assessing your property and your site; understanding tree biology and forest ecology; tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control; and safety, timber sale logistics, and laws and regulations.

— For more information, visit <https://beav.es/qPv> or call Alicia Christiansen at 541-236-3002

Growing your own mushrooms using materials from your forest

— Saturday, March 2, 2024, 12–3 p.m.

— Location: OSU Discovery Garden (238 River Forks Park Rd., Roseburg)

— Cost: \$50 per person

Are you interested in growing your own mushrooms? This hands-on workshop will focus on the production of three edible species of mushrooms using purchased wood pellets as well as wood chips and logs from local forests.

— For more information, visit <https://beav.es/qek> or call Alicia Christiansen at 541-236-3002

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Twilight Walk features property with rich history

By Tami Jo Braz

Oregon's glory, a fall sunny evening in the woods filled with smiling faces and full tummies, capped off DSWA's tour season with our fifth annual Twilight Walk in the Woods, on Oct. 5. Longtime DSWA members Glen and Sharnie Crouch and Glen's sister, Kathy Pedersen, hosted a potluck meal and property tour on their recently purchased Scotts Valley tree farm.

Glen and Kathy's father Harold Crouch and his Elkhead tree farm was honored as DSWA's Tree Farmer of the Year in 1983. They are continuing Harold's legacy of active stewardship forestry and woodland management.

A 100-year-old cabin, barns, orchard, garden, lush pond and a historic wagon road were the highlights of our walk. Longtime nearby resident Marlo Fulbright was present to give a history of the property and changing agricultural and forestry pursuits over time. He concluded with a humorous story of how numerous rattlesnakes used to reside in the area, until commercial turkey flocks were raised, who gobbled (HA! pun intended!) them up. He was met with much (nervous) laughter, as we were just embarking on the tour.

Attendees had a choice of the long walk through the property along the wagon road led by Glen, or a shorter orchard, gardens, and homestead tour, including a bathhouse, oil shed and woodshed, complete with relics, led by Kathy. Local DSWA member and logging contractor Dave Monett, who has been helping complete restoration work on the property, came to detail some of the recent stewardship projects that have been completed.

Twilight Walk in the Woods is hosted as a casual evening event that brings like-minded people together

who are interested in stewardship. From forestry industry professionals and partners, seasoned, veteran woodland stewards, new landowners, friends and neighbors, we all have something to learn and share. These walks bring folks together who live in remote corners of Douglas County, who might not meet any other way to network, meet friendly people, and possibly encounter someone who has tried what you are thinking of doing on your own property. Most of all, these walks let folks realize they are not alone in their passions and pursuits.

Thank you, Glen, Sharnie, and Kathy for sharing your little slice of heaven tucked back in Scotts Valley. Don't miss next fall's Twilight Walk in the Woods.



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Douglas Small Woodlands Association

"Woodland owners who love their land"



Annual Dinner Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Silent Auction and Election of Board Members

Cost \$35.00 Social 5:30 Buffet Dinner 6:00

Cascade Hall – Douglas County Fairgrounds

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: ANDREW MERSCHER

Andrew is an ORISE postdoctoral fellow working with the USFS PNW Research Station and Oregon State University. Andrew uses tree rings to develop a shared understanding of how different forest ecosystems function over time. Andrew is particularly interested in how disturbances (mostly fire) and forest management have shaped and will continue to shape forest ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. Andrew lives with his family (Vanessa, Aldo, and Sawyer) in Corvallis, Oregon and they enjoy a mixture of fishing, hiking, wildlife ecology, and chainsaw repair in their spare time.



Check or cash at the door

Please register by January 17th with those attending
Colene Freadman acfread@peak.org or
Phone: 541-679-9825 or text: 541-670-7942



markets remain quiet. Currently, Douglas-fir is selling around \$750-\$800 per MBF, depending on quality. Whitewood markets continue to lag. Hemlock and white fir are selling at \$550-\$600 MBF, respectively.

Pulp prices have dropped dramatically to \$25-\$30/ton (conifer) with little to no interest in hardwood pulp.

Currently, U.S. housing starts are at 1.372 million units, up from 1.346 million units last month and down from 1.432 million units one year ago. Although modest, the nearly 2% increase in housing starts should be attributed to the shortage of available housing and not improved homebuyer confidence.

Report for Q4 2023

By Lefi Tausaga, Timber Manager
Douglas County Forest Products

November 17, 2023

After seeing a 15%-20% decrease from earlier in the year, it seems sliding lumber prices have found a bottom (for now) and are starting to firm up. The panel market remains steady with dealers and distributors cautiously making longer-term purchases. Most buyers are still operating conservatively with current inflation, high interest rates and geopolitical issues.

Many mills are planning holiday downtime, while some announce curtailments. Canadian manufacturer Canfor has announced a six-month curtailment at its Polar Sawmill due to "... a shortage of economically available fibre in the region..." It seems that log prices have stabilized as mills have reached healthy log inventory levels and lumber/panel

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt



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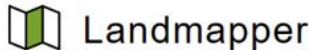
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Field day on riparian rules for timber harvests

By Tami Jo Braz

A pilot stream classification workshop for small forestland owners (SFOS) was held Oct. 12, 2023, at South Slough Estuarine Reserve, located five miles south of Charleston on the Coos River estuary.

OSU professors Steve Fitzgerald and Norma Kline, SFO forester Jacob Bergstrom, and other experts led us through an informative and in-depth half-day workshop. There were about 25 participants, including Barry and Tami Jo Braz from DSWA, and Mitch Clarke, Nancy Grayson and Rick Spring of the CCSWA board and chapter members. The feedback from this pilot workshop will help refine the program before it's rolled out across Oregon to the public.

Participants started with an orientation on definitions, diagrams and maps. We followed a chart being developed called "I Plan to Harvest: Diagram for Determining Stream Classification and Buffer Widths."

This flow chart is a series of questions designed to give landowners the tools they need to gather information to determine their classifications and buffers. We learned how to understand the process from start to finish for applying the new riparian rules on a proposed harvest unit. How to determine fish presence, perennial vs seasonal status, stream flow, determine what the RH Max is, and how to locate it on a perennial stream. We learned how to measure and apply the correct stream buffer or equipment limitation zone for each classification type.

Our workshop provided an opportunity to follow a watershed from a seep to a non-perennial, non-fish stream (Ns) to a fish-bearing stream (F) that flows to a SSBT (Salmon, Steelhead, Bull Trout) stream.

Look for a workshop here in Douglas County in 2024. The updated rules take effect Jan. 1, 2024.

For more information contact ODF-SFO Forester Auston Palenik or your stewardship forester. Auston.J.PALENIK@odf.oregon.gov, or (541) 671-3653.



Photo by Tami Jo Braz

About 25 people attended the Oct. 12 field day on the new riparian rules.

Demonstration showcases benefits of controlled burns

By Steve Denney

A demonstration controlled burn was completed on the Denney property in Lookingglass on Oct. 6. Thirty-nine people attended the burn, including landowners, agencies, Cow Creek tribal members, students and neighbors.

The burn encompassed about 20 acres, with a goal of removing thatch (dead grass) buildup in a wetland mitigation bank to promote wetland and flowering plants. The area had been burned in the past with a goal to burn every three years.

The area was partitioned into three separate areas to demonstrate three different burn techniques including perimeter, dot and diagonal burning. The burn was “sponsored” by the Denney family, Umpqua Oaks Partnership, OSU Extension Service and Lookingglass Fire Department.

Although large landowners in Douglas County do a lot of burning on livestock pastures, this burn was meant to promote controlled burning on smaller acreages to help promote fuels reductions and lessen the chances and impacts of large, uncontrolled catastrophic fires that Oregon and the West have experienced in recent years.

An orientation and safety meeting was attended by the group prior to the burning. Presentations were given by the different agencies attending the burn, including the Rogue Valley Burn Cooperative. By attending the demonstration burn, sponsors were hoping to encourage landowners to form burn cooperatives similar to the one in the Rogue Valley which is the first of its kind in Oregon.

Burn cooperatives are developed in local communities where landowners wishing to burn would share equipment, expertise, manpower and techniques to help small individual landowners or landowner groups to accomplish controlled burns on their property.

This is being done while Oregon Department of Forestry has just recently begun accepting applications for the Certified Burn Manager Program which will help with more controlled burning and lessen landowner liability which has been a major concern with landowners.

Controlled burning has the benefits of reducing fuel loads, reduced catastrophic fire danger, remove understory fuels which are usually non-native invasive plants while promoting grass production and better fire protection.



Photos by Tami Jo Braz

An orientation and safety meeting preceded the demonstration of a controlled burn on 20 acres in Lookingglass owned by the Denney family.



The high cost of weeds: You can help control invasives

According to a 2014 study, 25 of Oregon's worst invasive weeds cause an estimated annual loss of about \$83.5 million to the state's economy. Ninety-five percent of that is from Himalayan blackberries and Scotch broom alone.

*Courtesy: Shade Our Streams,
a Clackamas River Basin Council Project, 2023*

How can you help prevent and control invasive noxious weeds?

- Be careful what you plant. Many noxious weeds are escapees from gardens, ask questions before you buy plants or seeds.
- Prevent the spread of noxious weeds when traveling. Seeds ride along in wheels, stick to your shoes, boots, clothing and pets. Take care not to take invasive plant seeds with you when you go hiking.
- Clean your boat thoroughly between trips. Aquatic invaders are spread by even the smallest plant fragments.
- Volunteer to participate in weed pulls and native plant restoration projects. Many organizations sponsor these events.
- Do your part to control or eradicate invasive plants on your property. If you need help or advice, contact the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, or OSU Extension.



Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District
Cindy Bright
Conservation Technician
(541) 900-0689
cindy@dswcd.org

OSU Extension Service
Alicia Christiansen
Associate Professor (Practice)
(541) 236-3002
alicia.christiansen@oregonstate.edu

For more information about invasive and noxious weeds including identification and specific abatement recommendations, visit:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/crop-production/pastures-forages/douglas-county-noxious-weed-policy-weed-list>.



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Tree Farm Chores: January through April



- File notification for planned 2024 operations with ODF.
- December through February is the ideal time to plant trees. Pay attention to soil moisture and temperature, seedling source, zone, and quality, proper handling/ planting techniques.

techniques.

- Order seedlings for 2025 projects.
- Complete your pre-commercial thinning early in the year so the slash has time to dry before the first beetle flight.

- Finalize your fuel reduction projects before fire season.
- Install seedling protection measures before bud-break.
- Finish any pruning/ ladder fuel reduction projects before sap begins to flow to minimize bark damage and beetle activity.
- Plan your spring vegetation management. If you are planting new trees or have a young plantation, conserving moisture by controlling competing vegetation is crucial to survival and growth of your investment.
- Assemble tax documents
- Attend your DSWA board meeting the Second Thursday of the month.
- **RENEW YOUR OSWA MEMBERSHIP**



Trivia Challenge Question

Q: How many acres of Douglas County's 2,942,000 acres of forestland is owned by small woodland owners? That's us!

- a. 869,000
- b. 669,000
- c. 569,000
- d. 469,000

See page 15
for the
answer!

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FAX # 541/672-3372

Trivia Challenge Answer

How many acres of Douglas County's 2,942,000 acres of forestland is owned by small woodland owners? That's us!

- A. 869,000
- B. 669,000
- C. 569,000
- D. 469,000**

Answer: D. 469,000 acres of Douglas County's forestland belongs to small woodland owners. —
Courtesy OFRI Forest Facts, 2019

Resource Management Services, LLC

Javier Goirigolzarri
 BSF, MBA

PO Box 237
 540 SE Jackson St.
 Roseburg, OR 97470

Fax: (541) 957-9085
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 Email: RMS@rosenet.net
 (541) 957-9001



“Of all the paths in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.”

—John Muir



3171 NE Stephens St. Roseburg, OR. 97470
 124 SW Douglas Winston, OR. 97496
Open to Members and Non-members Alike
 New Winston address: 850 Abraham Ave.



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“Woodland owners who love their land”



“Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) is an influential and proactive organization united in its efforts to represent the diverse objectives of family forestland owners who practice and promote good forestland stewardship”

To join OSWA or get more information, contact your local chapter representative:

Douglas County: Tami Jo Braz, 541-549-1402

OSWA

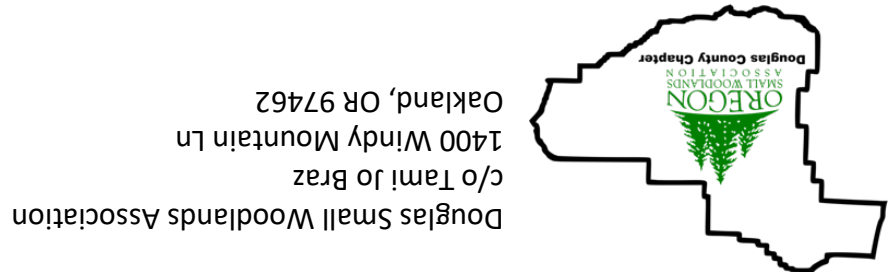
503.588.1813 • www.oswa.org
 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301

OSWA achieves its goals by:

- ◆ Advocating the interests of family forestland owners.
- ◆ Communicating with woodland owners and the public in a timely and concise manner.
- ◆ Working with natural resource agencies, organizations and other forestland owners.
- ◆ Promoting wise forestland stewardship.
- ◆ Sponsoring programs, activities and publications which inform members and the public about forestland stewardship.

Stewardship, Advocacy, Fellowship, Education
douglaschapteroswa@gmail.com
www.oswa.org/douglas

Annual Meeting
 January 23, 2024
 Details Page 8!
 RSVP NOW!



DSWA WINTER CALENDAR

Regular board meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 5 p.m. at Douglas Electric Co-op. All members are welcome.

2024 meetings: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, Jun 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Jan. 23	5:30-8:00	DSWA Annual Meeting and Dinner
Feb. 10	8:00-10:00	Lane SWA Seedling Sale -Alton Baker Park oswa.org/lane
Feb. 22-24	All Day	Oregon Loggers Conference
April 26	All Day	Arbor Day
June 20-22	All Day	Family Forest Convention