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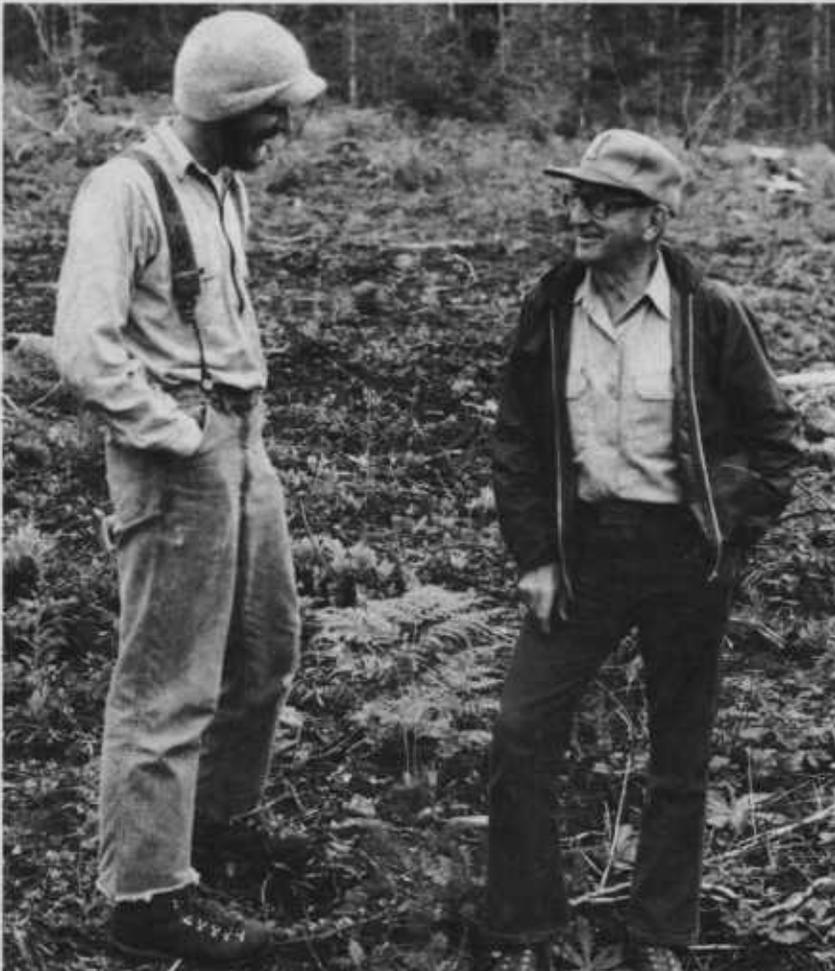
# The Woodland Workbook



## Kinds of Assistance

# Educational Assistance for Woodland Owners

R. Fletcher



Bob Mealey, left, past president of Oregon's Small Woodlands Association, and Mark Fritch, Beaverton, Oregon, discuss the success of a regeneration effort.

A joke among woodland owners is by the time you know enough to grow trees right, you are too old to do anything about it. This underscores the problem most woodland owners face—little or no technical training. This situation is complicated further because the best management for the family tree farm is not necessarily the same as that used by industry and public forest land managers.

The purpose of this publication is to describe the sources available to help you learn how to manage your woodland. A number of educational programs cover the how-to's of the trade. Each has at least one of the following objectives:

- building awareness of management opportunities;
- advancing knowledge about current technology; and
- developing the woodland owners' management skills.

These objectives are achieved by a variety of teaching methods.

Public awareness programs reach you through radio, television, and newspaper features on tree farm management opportunities.

Richard Fletcher, Extension agent (forestry), Linn and Benton counties, Oregon State University.



Howard Dew, forester with Barringer and Associates of Sweet Home, Oregon, explains the merits of genetic improvements to a group of forest landowners.

Group teaching is available in workshops, seminars, and short courses, and demonstration plots and field tours offer a firsthand look at woodland activities. In addition, brochures, books, Extension publications, and audiovisual materials—slidetapes, films, cassette tapes—are key sources of information.

The purpose of these educational efforts is to help you move toward self-sufficiency by showing you how to manage your property without actually doing it for you. Some of the programs also offer technical assistance, referral, and other services.

Table 1 lists major sources of educational assistance and the type of help they offer. You can find addresses for the programs by contacting the Oregon State University Extension agent who serves your county. An explanation of each program follows.

## Educational services

### Oregon State University Extension Service

This is the educational arm of Oregon State University, Oregon's land grant university. Extension specialists and agents are OSU faculty members. The agricultural portion of the Extension Service has been active in Oregon since 1914, but the forestry program has grown to significant proportions only in the last 10 years. The official statement from OSU reads:

"Extension's forestry program improves Oregonians' knowledge of forest resources and their options for expanding benefits from these resources. This educational program assists forest owners, managers, processors and users in understanding small woodland production and management and use of all forest lands. Priority subjects are reforestation, growth, management, harvesting, processing and use of wood, protection of soil and water, and other multiple uses and values."

The forestry staff consists of subject matter specialists at OSU in Corvallis and forestry agents in some individual Oregon counties.

Specialists are responsible for developing educational materials and delivering workshops. They also conduct research projects.

Agents identify needs of local woodland owners and adapt technical forestry information into educational programs to meet those needs. Much of their job is presenting tree farm management concepts to woodland owners.

Both agents and specialists prepare the publications (such as the "Woodland Workbook") and audiovisual materials offered by the Extension Service. Use Extension staff members as referral sources for acquiring information you need to manage your property.

### Master Woodland Managers

The OSU Extension Service also trains experienced woodland owners to become Master Woodland Managers. Each volunteer completes 80 hours of instruction and then returns the same number of volunteer hours, visiting and assisting other woodland owners.

Master Woodland Managers also conduct tours and work with a wide variety of public audiences.

### American Forest Council

A privately funded organization with headquarters in Washington D.C., AFC promotes management of our nation's forests. As part of its national Tree Farm certification program, AFC offers a national tree farm contest and a quarterly magazine, *American Tree Farmer*.

AFC encourages sound forest management through publications such as *Green America*, and *Project Learning Tree* (for school children).

Table 1.—Educational assistance available to woodland owners (1 = sporadic offerings, 2 = periodic offerings, 3 = several offerings/year)

Source of help	Public awareness	Group teaching	Demonstration plots	Publications	Audio-visual materials	Field tours
<i>Available locally:</i>						
Oregon State University Extension Service	3	3	3	3	2	3
Community colleges		2				
Small Woodland Owners Associations	1	2		1		3
Oregon Department of Forestry	2			2	1	
Private consultants		1	1			1
Soil Conservation Service	1		2	2		
<i>Available regionally:</i>						
American Forest Council	2			1	1	
World Forestry Center <sup>a</sup>	3	3	3	1	2	2
Northwest Christmas Tree Association	1	2		1		2
<i>Available nationally:</i>						
American Forestry Association	2	1		2	1	1

<sup>a</sup> Serves as a local source for landowners in the Portland metropolitan area.

### American Forestry Association

This national, nonprofit conservation association has worked since 1875 to help the public better understand our natural resources. Key offerings include *American Forests* magazine; annual conferences, tours, and meetings throughout the U.S.; and the *National Register of Big Trees*—the official list of the biggest tree of each species.

### Community colleges

Classroom courses of interest to woodland owners range from chain saw operation to mushroom identification. At least one college has offered a class on managing the family tree farm. Courses are usually taught by a local expert.

### World Forestry Center

Located in Portland, the center is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to helping people understand why and how forests are managed.

Tree farmers have access to the center's educational programs through tours and workshops offered on the Magness Memorial Tree Farm. Located on 70 acres near Wilsonville, Oregon, Magness Tree

Farm is a showcase for forest management systems used in the Pacific Northwest. Trials and demonstration areas are set up on the property (brochures are available explaining these).

The center also provides meetings, tours, and materials through its headquarters next to the Washington Park Zoo. Programs such as a reforestation short course have been offered in past years. In addition, ongoing displays highlighting forests around the world are on exhibit. A large exhibit building devoted entirely to Northwest forests is open year-round.

### Small Woodlands Associations

Oregon's Small Woodlands Association is a nonprofit organization made up of woodland owners who share their knowledge about tree farming and promote good forest management. Efforts are directed through county chapters. Each chapter operates independently and represents the interests of its members.

Chapters hold tours and meetings on such topics as tree planting, logging, marketing, and taxes. Membership dues finance the organization.

The association is headquartered in Salem and employs a part-time executive director, who coordinates lobbying and other efforts. Through its legislative committee, the state board of directors (made up of county presidents and elected officers) is active in gaining tax advantages for tree farmers. A key past accomplishment was the establishment of the Small Tract Optional Property Tax for Small Woodland Owners.

Each year, the association sponsors a 2-day meeting and summer field tour to showcase current woodland technology. It also publishes a quarterly journal of current woodland information for its members titled *Northwest Woodlands*.

### Forest Farm Association

The Forest Farm Association was formed in 1989 to serve landowners in southern Oregon's Jackson and Josephine counties.

### **Oregon State Department of Forestry (OSDF)**

The official position of OSDF towards woodland owners is that of technical advisor. It does, however, offer educational assistance in the form of brochures; a monthly magazine, *Forest Log*; and newsletters on topics such as seedling availability and forest practice tips.

Service foresters are referral sources and often cosponsor tours and meetings. A one-on-one meeting with a service forester, fire control expert, or forest practice forester is a valuable way of obtaining forest management tips.

### **Private consultants**

Most consultants offer technical services directed at specific problems. Some overlap into educational training and conduct programs like tax and estate planning workshops, and brush control tours.

Consultants most often offer their program on the same day as another event. Occasionally, they set up demonstration plots and adaptive research to illustrate forest-related practices or to test products.

### **Association of Consulting Foresters**

Some forestry consultants are members of ACF. Its purpose is to raise the professional standards of consulting foresters, and to develop and promote private-enterprise forestry.

### **Northwest Christmas Tree Association**

This organization is similar to the woodlands association, but it serves the specific interests of Christmas tree growers. It researches marketing, disease, and cultural problems and studies new genetic varieties of Christmas trees.

The association publishes a quarterly magazine—*Northwest Lookout*—and sponsors annual tours and workshops.

### **Soil Conservation Service**

Besides technical assistance, SCS provides help to woodland owners through publications, tours, and demonstrations illustrating conservation practices.

### **Final notes**

You *can* learn how to manage your woodland property through the educational services described in this publication. Commitment to begin your education today will help you achieve goals you've set for the future.



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*The Woodland Workbook* is a collection of publications prepared by the Oregon State University Extension Service specifically for owners and managers of private, nonindustrial woodlands. *The Workbook* is organized into 11 sections, containing information of long-range and day-to-day value for anyone interested in wise management, consideration, and use of woodland properties. It's available in a three-ring binder with tabbed dividers for each section.

For information on how to order, and for a current list of titles and prices, inquire at the office of the OSU Extension Service that serves your county.

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