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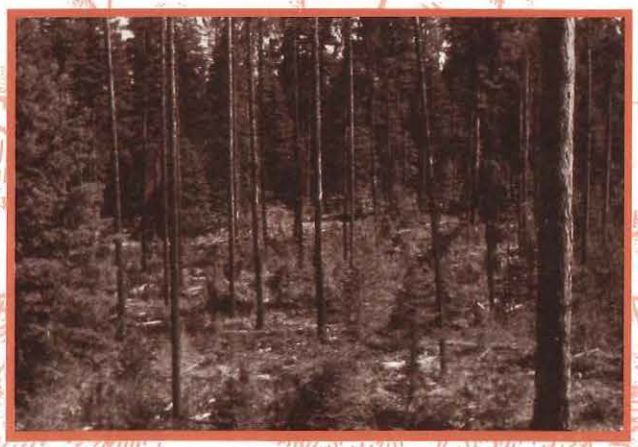

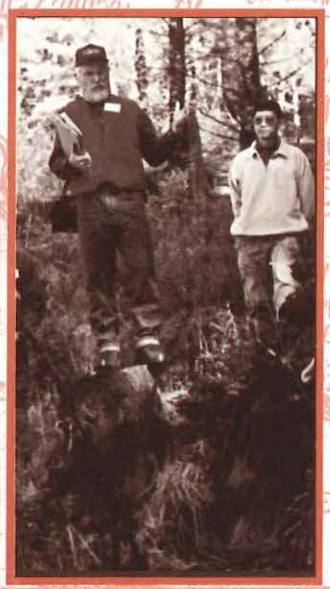

Reshaping Forest Policy

OSU research looks at active ecosystem management

from the Dean

> "No other forestry faculty in the country is more involved in forest policy than ours."

This issue of *Focus on Forestry* features important research underway in the College of Forestry and Forest Research Laboratory. A common thread running through these stories is the impact our research has on the way forestry and forest products manufacturing is done, not only in Oregon but throughout our nation and world.

Our faculty continue to be called upon to extend their knowledge and expertise to policymakers at both state and national levels. A study commissioned by Oregon governor John Kitzhaber (story on page 7) has been the foundation of a state policy and plan for the forests of eastern Oregon. The study panel was chaired by Norm Johnson of our faculty. Results were presented in hearings of U.S. House and Senate committees, and the study has received bipartisan support throughout Congress.

Other faculty have been asked to review important policy documents being prepared as part of the Governor's Salmon Plan for Oregon. In a related request, the governor asked Marv Pyles, Paul Adams, Bob Beschta, and Arne Skaugset to prepare a "white paper" reviewing our current state of knowledge about timber harvesting and landslides.

All these requests come about as a result of the outstanding research and reputation of our faculty. They also come at a significant price. Each request is an overload for the faculty member involved. The teaching, research, extension, continuing education, and student advising still go on.

I hope you will take pride, as I do, in the quality of our faculty, their willingness to shoulder these critically important national responsibilities, and the excellent job they do in responding to the needs of policymakers. I know of no other forestry faculty in this country that is more involved in helping shape forest policy than ours.

George Brown

Dean
College of Forestry
Oregon State University

Focus on forestry

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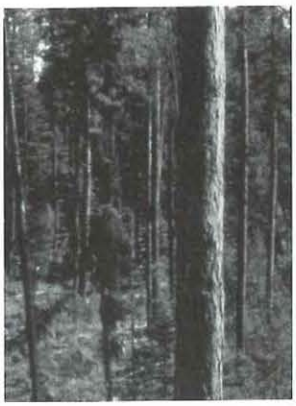

On the cover. *An east-side forest after an experimental salvage harvest (p. 4); Bill Emmingham talks about a thinning study site in the Coast Range (p. 7). Below, a riparian-zone test planting of conifers, also in the Coast Range (p. 9).*

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Focus on Forestry is published three times each year (Fall, Winter, Spring) by the College of Forestry, Oregon State University. Our goal is to keep Forestry alumni and friends informed about the College of Forestry and its many activities and programs. We welcome letters, phone calls, and e-mail comments from readers.

Active management of ecosystems

College research forces rethinking of land management policies

In a tinder-dry patch of bug-chewed forest on Deerhorn Ridge, in the Blue Mountains southwest of Pendleton, a multipurpose logging machine called a single-grip harvester snips off nine-inch-thick tree stems as precisely as a gardener prunes roses. The harvester strips the limbs off the trunk and bucks the logs into 16- and 32-foot lengths.

A small carriage suspended on a skyline drags the logs out of the unit, one end in the air. Standing on the sidelines is a man with a clipboard, taking notes.

The skyline setup is expensive—and unusual for a logging operation on relatively level ground, the kind of site where you'd more often see a skidder. The skyline and the clipboard are clues that this is more than an ordinary harvest. It's an experiment in low-impact logging to reduce forest fire hazard.

The man with the clipboard is Loren Kellogg, Forest Engineering professor at the College. This harvest, he explains, has four objectives: to reduce fire hazard by taking out some of the ground fuels and dead trees, to reduce competition and stress among the remaining green trees by thinning some of them out, to protect the soil from disturbance and compaction during logging, and to cut enough sawlogs to make a profit.

East-side forests in controversy

Before the harvest, the Deerhorn site looked like many of the forests on Oregon's east side—tall ponderosa pines and larches with a dense understory of suppressed Douglas-fir, grand fir, and lodgepole pine. The east-side forests have suffered a large-scale attack from mountain pine beetle, western spruce budworm, Douglas-fir bark beetle, and other insects over the past six or seven years. The pests feed on the weakened understory trees, the Douglas-fir and true firs that periodic, low-level wildfires used to kill back.

The forests have been damaged by the bugs and further weakened by the unusually dry weather of the past decade. The return of wetter weather seems to

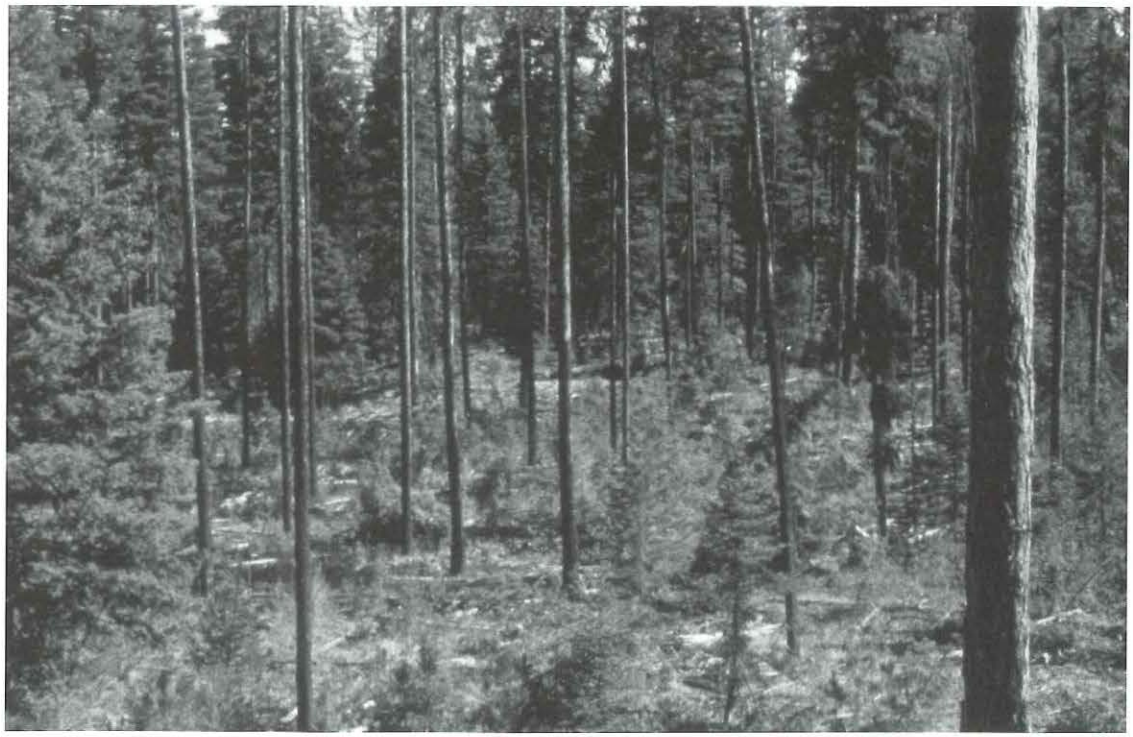
Easy on the forest floor. *A skyline for yarding (above) and a single-grip harvester (right) kept the impacts low on the Deerhorn harvest.*

have slowed the insects, but the dead wood and stressed live trees pose a tremendous fire hazard. And there's enormous controversy over just what to do.

Some people advocate thinning out the dead trees and the weaker competitors—mainly Douglas-fir and grand fir—to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. But others worry about potential damage to soils, degrading of wildlife habitat, and erosion of streambanks from logging.

Studies like the one at Deerhorn Ridge will help settle this controversy, says Kellogg. "If we're ever going to find a balance between economically viable

"The dead wood and stressed live trees pose a tremendous fire hazard. And there's enormous controversy over just what to do."



Before and after. *The harvest removed much of the dead wood (above), reducing fire hazard and producing a more open stand (below).*

and environmentally sensitive fuels reduction in these eastside forests," he says, "then we're going to need information that identifies the tradeoffs among the various management alternatives."

In January, Oregon governor John Kitzhaber announced a plan for eastside federal forests that would permit thinning of some stands to reduce fire hazard and provide raw material to mills (please see story, next page). The plan draws heavily on a 1995 report from a scientific panel that included seven OSU professors, including Kellogg.

> "Studies like this one [Deerhorn] help managers identify the tradeoffs among the various alternatives."

The Deerhorn harvest showed that it's possible to have profitable, low-impact logging in some eastside forests, given enough harvestable sawlogs in the unit and reasonably high raw-material prices (for this harvest, sawlog price was $515 a thousand board feet, pulp logs $36 a ton). Logging was profitable even though layout and equipment costs were higher than in most operations.

The logging reduced fuels by about 20 percent and took away many of the larger pieces, making the site less prone to wildfire. The site now looks more like a typical presettlement eastside pine forest, with fewer, healthier pines and larches and a more open understory.

With the low-impact harvester, the skyline yarding system, the use of predesignated corridors, and careful planning ahead of time, the operation was easy on the ground, creating only minimal soil disturbance.

"What we found in this study," says Loren Kellogg, who is now at work on a larger, replicated study, "is that you can achieve acceptable environmental results along with cost-effective harvesting if you plan carefully and do good quality control."

Old growth, but sooner

The Deerhorn study exemplifies a lot of forestry research these days. Such studies can be controversial, forcing lawmakers and the public to rethink their attitudes and policies toward land management, especially public land management. As in the Deerhorn case, these studies often (but not always) make the case for active management to achieve a variety of benefits.

Another case in point is the work of College silviculturist Bill Emmingham, who is working on ways to turn a young stand into a structurally complex forest much like old growth, only in decades rather than centuries.

Emmingham is using a variety of techniques that fall under the broad heading of uneven-aged management—generally, various thinning strategies aimed at achieving a multilayered forest condition. These techniques pick up a research thread that was spun back in the 1930s and '40s and mostly abandoned in the '40s and '50s, when the highly efficient clearcut-burn-and-plant methodology came to dominate silvicultural practice on the west side.

Since then, society's feelings about forests have undergone a tidal wave of change even as vast swaths of Douglas-fir seedlings have grown into thriving young even-aged stands. Managers, especially on public lands, must manage for many objectives—most urgently, biological diversity.

Young, even-aged stands provide good habitat for a certain community of plants and animals, while older forests are home to a different biotic community. Today's young stands are two or three centuries away from old-growth status, and given the rising global demand for forest products it's unlikely that most of them will ever get there. Existing old-growth forests are seen as the last refuge for those plants and animals that need older forest conditions. So halting old-growth logging has become the main policy tool for achieving biodiversity on westside public lands.

Emmingham's research promises workable methods for converting young

second-growth stands into biologically rich, structurally diverse forests that will yield both older-forest-type wildlife habitat and significant timber harvest over the long haul.

"What we're doing," says Emmingham, "is developing alternative

methods of forestry and identifying the tradeoffs they imply, and that's really where the silviculture profession should be going. As researchers, we were wrong in the past to focus exclusively on one thing [the even-aged, plantation approach to growing Douglas-fir] but that was the cultural priority. Now that our culture is giving us the clear message to manage for diversity, we have an opportunity to explore different approaches."

Emmingham has found models for his work in the managed, uneven-aged forests of Europe, especially Switzerland, Germany, and France. "The Europeans," he says, "have had centuries to shape their silvicultural methods to their own economic and social needs and their own tree species." Having considered the European experience in the context of the forests,

The critical components of structure. *Bill Emmingham on the stump at a study site on the Tillamook State Forest. Heavy thinning and underplanting could produce old-growth-like structure in a relatively short time, his research suggests.*

Governor's east-side plan draws on OSU science

Oregon governor John Kitzhaber in January unveiled a plan for timber harvest in eastside federal forests to reduce fire hazard, restore ecosystem health, and make timber available to local mills.

The plan draws heavily on a 1995 report to the governor on forest health in the Blue Mountains. Of the report's 10 authors, seven are OSU scientists; the panel was chaired by K. Norman Johnson of the College of Forestry.

The governor's plan is a middle-of-the-road approach to the sensitive question of whether, where, and how federal timber should be harvested on Oregon's east side.

Drought and insects have stressed the eastside forest ecosystem and left the forests vulnerable to large wildfires. At the same time, declines in federal timber sales, which once furnished about three-fourths of the total timber harvested on the east side, have left some timber-dependent communities struggling for survival.

The governor has garnered broad nonpartisan support for the plan, which works within existing laws and guidelines for timber harvest on federal lands. It's been endorsed by Rep. Bob Smith, the Republican congressman from Oregon's 2nd District. Smith has been a sharp critic of recent policies that have reduced federal timber harvest. The plan also met with kind words from Tim Lillebo of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, an environmental organization.

climate, and social conditions of the Northwest, he says, "I've come to understand that we could manage our forests in more ways than most people can imagine."

The forest's building blocks

Forest structure is the key to uneven-aged management for wildlife habitat. Wildlife biologists believe there are close links between some old-growth-dwelling wildlife species and the characteristic structures of an old-growth forest—its large trees, multilayered canopy, snags and dead logs, gappy openings, and the deep litter on the forest floor.

> "Many people believe that if you manage for timber you can't have anything else. That's not true."

It's not so much the age of the forest, recent studies suggest, but how it's put together, that makes the difference. Forest structures, in other words, seem to compose the building blocks of habitat for the various species of plants and animals that thrive in forests of different ages.

The discipline of silviculture is about creating and changing forest structure. Silviculturist Emmingham and two colleagues, ecologist Tom Spies and wildlife biologist Bill McComb (now at the University of Massachusetts) hypothesized that heavy thinning and underplanting of an even-aged stand, coupled with leaving snags and dead wood on the forest floor, could produce a forest that would mimic the critical components of old-growth structure in a relatively short time. They and other colleagues are testing this hypothesis on young, even-aged stands on OSU's McDonald Forest and on other federal, state, and private forest lands.

Results from computer models and early on-the-ground evidence are promising. Emmingham, Spies, and McComb ran a computer simulation of a thinning of a 40-year-old Douglas-fir plantation from 300 to 81 trees per acre. They found that if loggers left some snags and dead wood, and if managers created a new understory by planting Douglas-fir and grand fir immediately, the stand at age 115 should bear a 79-percent similarity to a 300-year-old unmanaged stand.

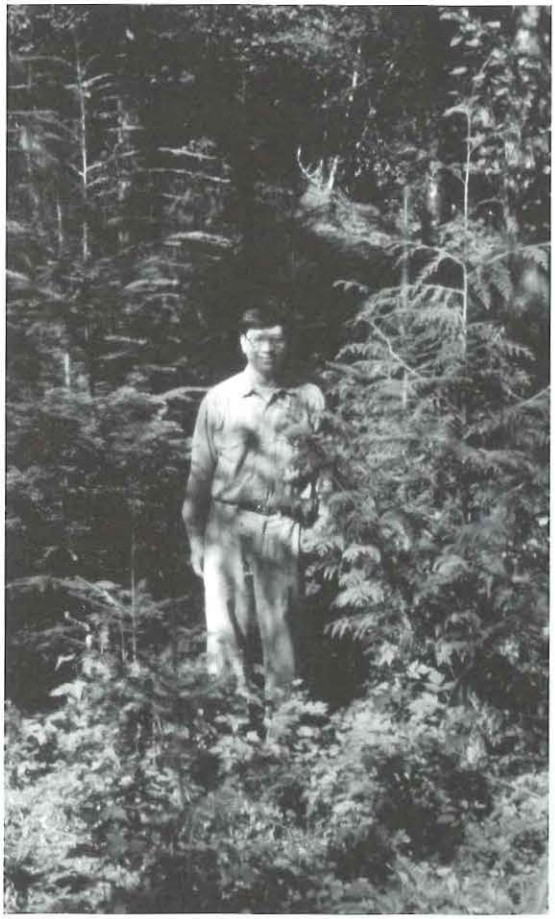
In other words, a forest very similar to old growth could be "created" in less than half the time it takes nature to do the job. And this forest should, in theory, provide almost as good-quality wildlife habitat as an older, unmanaged forest.

Biologist John Hayes, who is coordinating on-the-ground research on the response of birds to thinning, says early data show that greater numbers of birds were sighted in the stands after thinning, and more species of birds were counted in the thinned stands than in the unthinned controls. However, several of these species were observed only a few times, and some are generally associated with more open habitats anyway. It will take a few more years of monitoring, he says, to reliably document the effects of these thinning experiments.

What about timber harvest? The researchers thinned 30-year-old stands on the Siuslaw National Forest to narrow, medium, and wide spacings: 100, 60, and 30 trees to the acre. They then ran a 70-year computer simulation and found that, thinned to the narrowest spacing, the stand should yield about 177,000 board feet to the acre. The medium spacing should yield about 68 percent of that, and the wide spacing should yield about 59 percent.

In other words, creating good wildlife habitat will cost something in timber yield, but it shouldn't have to preclude harvest altogether. And each successful generation of underplanted trees will add another layer to the understory, both providing wildlife habitat and helping to offset, over time, some of the tradeoff in timber yield.

Repeated thinnings are more expensive and troublesome than clearcuts, says Elizabeth Cole, a senior research assistant who with Mike Newton and John Tappeiner is coordinating some of the on-the-ground research on OSU's McDonald



A head start for conifers. *Above, Sam Chan stands in a tangled thicket of riparian vegetation. Above right, the small Douglas-fir and cedar (left and right in the photo) got a toehold when overstory alders were thinned and understory vegetation controlled.*

Forest. "But with a long-term commitment and more intensive forest management," she says, "research indicates that diverse structure and timber production may be compatible."

This work has enormous policy implications, says Emmingham. "When the results are in, I think the policy of reserving large blocks of old growth for wildlife may change to the idea of managing forest land for all kinds of purposes, including wood production and wildlife habitat. Many people believe that if you manage for timber you can't have anything else. That's not true. A lot of compromise is possible. The important thing is to understand the tradeoffs, and we're learning about those from research like this."

Build a better buffer

Also in the Coast Range, the work of several College scientists is complicating conventional notions about what's "natural" in a forest riparian zone, and it's challenging the reigning paradigm of no-management buffer zones.

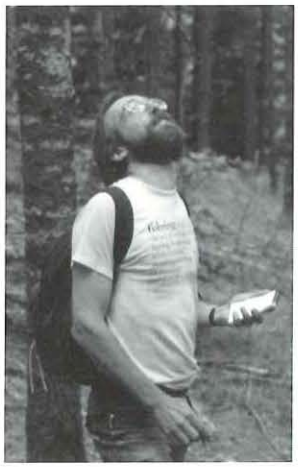
Oregon's first forest practice rules, passed in 1972, required loggers to leave untouched buffer zones on both sides of fish-bearing streams. The idea was that the buffer vegetation would shade the water, keeping it cool enough for the fish, and would provide habitat for amphibians such as frogs and salamanders. The trees, when they eventually fell into the stream, would also provide the large pieces of woody debris essential for good fish habitat.

Buffers became the central tenet of an overall strategy to protect riparian areas. But now some scientists are saying that in the Coast Range, at least, unmanaged buffers won't provide good fish habitat over the long term, because they won't always be able to furnish the big conifers that make the best, most durable woody debris.

Over the past half-century, thanks in part to historic human intervention, streamside vegetation patterns in the Coast Range have changed from a diverse composition of conifers and hardwoods to a simpler mix dominated by red alder and salmonberry. In many places there aren't enough conifers next to streams to furnish the right kind and amount of woody debris indefinitely.

What's more, the riparian vegetation is so dense that it's hard for new conifers to get established. Managers have tried planting conifers but have found it almost impossible to get them to survive and grow under the heavy shade of alders and in the face of tough—and very persistent—competition from salmonberry and other shrubs.

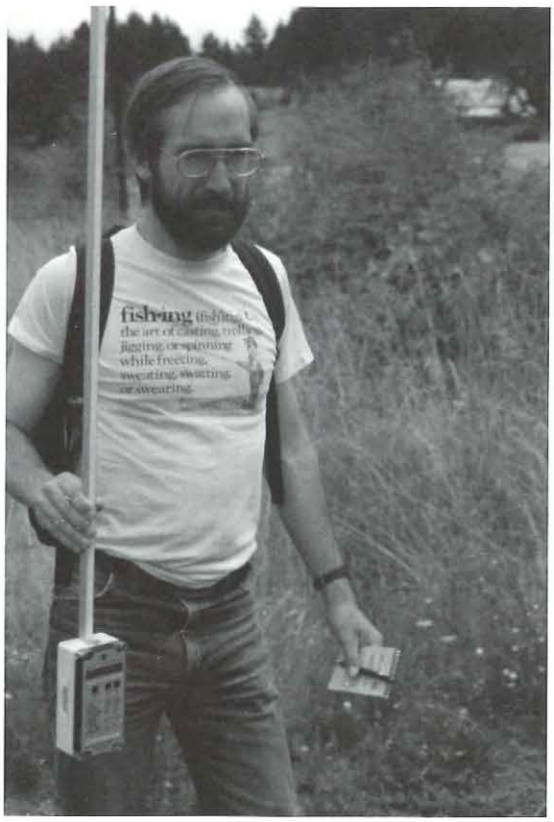
What would it take to get conifers to dominate Coast Range riparian areas? Sam Chan, a Forest Service plant physiologist, and Dave Hibbs of the OSU Forest Science department set up studies in two alder-dominated streamside areas in the central Coast Range. In the first set



Here comes the sun. *Dave Hibbs eyeballs the light in a patch of riparian trees, and then measures it with a sensor. Thinning in riparian areas significantly enhances survival and growth of planted conifers.*

of plots they logged off all the alders, and in the second they thinned out most of them, enough to let in 60 percent of the sunlight. They left the third set of plots untreated as a control. Then they planted seedlings of five conifer species in all three sets of plots.

Not surprisingly, they found that the conifers grew much better in the logged areas than in the unlogged controls. However, for the shade-tolerant species



like western redcedar and Sitka spruce, growth was almost as good in the thinned areas as in the logged areas. The sun-loving Douglas-fir did best in those plots where the alder was completely gone, but it did manage to get going in the thinned plots if the salmonberry competition was removed.

Hibbs's and Chan's project is part of a larger study sponsored by the cooperative research organization COPE (Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement; please see story, next page). The researchers are also looking at buffer strips left from past logging operations and at streamside areas in unlogged forests.

There's still much to be learned, says Dave Hibbs, about how riparian areas function over time, especially in response to natural and human-caused disturbance. A recent Forest Service study suggests that much of the large woody debris in streams right now might have come not from the immediate streambanks but from landslides originating in nearby slopes or even faraway headwalls. "This broadens the scope of the discussion on where to leave the trees," Hibbs says.

He and his colleagues also found something surprising in their own investigations. "We encountered many unlogged riparian areas that have no trees at all. No one really knows why—did they have alder that just got old and died? Are beavers responsible? We don't know. Whatever it was, this is a 'natural' condition, but it may not be desirable for productive fish habitat."

In other words, "natural" and "desirable" aren't necessarily the same thing, and Hibbs and the other scientists are invariably picky about that distinction. A recurring theme in these studies, in fact, is the wide variability of natural conditions across time and space. Biotic communities shift and change in unpredictable ways and for poorly understood reasons. Red alder, for instance, was much more common 500 to 1,000 years ago than it is today, according to pollen counts in lake-bottom core samples. Natural catastrophes—fires, floods, and windstorms—have historically played a major role in shaping the forested landscape, and their influence hasn't stopped. Last year's big floods revealed nature's tumultuous processes at work all across the Northwest.

The forest's dynamic history, in other words, offers many possible readings of what's "natural" at any given moment.

Nevertheless, says Hibbs, helping conifers to grow alongside forest streams is a definable management goal and one

News from Alumni

1931

Roland H. Ferguson, Sykesville, MD. "On February 26, 1994, a memorable day in my life, I received three awards, one from the U.S. Forest Service, one from the Maryland Forest Service, and one from the Carroll County Forest Conservancy Board. I think (I may be wrong) that I am the only forester who has ever received three governmental awards—federal, state, and county.

"In 1995-96 I made a nature trail adjacent to an elementary school in Gamber, Maryland. It took many months of hard work at two hours a day. Here is a photo of the trail sign purchased by the Carroll County Forestry Conservancy Board. The trail is 1,100 feet long and four feet wide, and encloses 1.2 acres of seedlings, saplings, and some trees over 30 inches in diameter. In October, when I was checking the condition of the trail, I met a second-grade teacher with about 20 children who were walking and enjoying the nature trail. Mission accomplished!"

Roland Ferguson

1945

Eulas "Tex" Hale, Houston, TX. "Isabel and Tex celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on Dec. 17, 1996. Happy and well in beautiful Houston (no earthquakes or blizzards here). Busy in the businesses . . . adding one new career (at 73 years of age). Keeping busy!

"Son, Scott, happy and busy on town council and heading up restoration and development in Alma, Colorado, 11,000 feet elevation, 10 months of snow and ski slopes, magnificent scenery. Not at all bad, really, for a boy whose father studied forestry at Oregon State, worked as a timber cruiser, fought forest fires with "The Red Hats," and fell in love with the mountains in Oregon.

"Daughter, Linda, a successful, happy (and beautiful, like her mother) attorney in Dallas, with her lawyer husband Mike Buchanan and our two grandchildren, Zach, 9 and Brenna, 6—great youngsters.

"Best wishes to all my old friends, classmates, Fernhoppers, and Delta Sigma Phi brothers—and to Buxton Hall."

1950

Theodore E. Gump, Corvallis, OR. "I was one of the lucky ones who were taught by "Pat and Mac" and others. Was also very lucky that "Saki missed me on patrol" during WWII. Please forgive me, Jenny.

"After the war, came home and went to OAC. Received a commission in the Corps of Engineers in 1948. Graduated with the class of 1950. Received my appointment with the U.S. Forest Service in 1951

on the Gifford Pinchot. In June was called back to active duty as a first lieutenant and served with the 1st Cavalry and 45th Infantry Division in Korea. Came home in November of 1952. Was the first district engineer on the Mapleton Ranger District of the Siuslaw. Transferred to the Siskiyou in the superintendent's office, and then to the superintendent's office of the Siuslaw in 1970. I retired from the Forest Service in 1981 and from the Army as a colonel in 1983.

"Since retirement have been working on my family tree. Found many good people in my line, such as Cordrey, Davis, Everly, Lowber, Shelby, Pindall, Coombs, Bernard, Furbee, Carns, Polhemus, Whitlatch, Stillwell, Murphy, and many others. Meet many old USFS retirees doing the same thing. Being retired military, we have the option of riding military aircraft to lots of places where you can do research and see the sights. Went to Rome last fall and up to London. While at both places bought some Hard Rock Cafe T-shirts for our daughter.

"Still doing auto restoration. Finally got the doors hung on my 1919 Willys-Knight Touring. I reprint antique motorcycle catalogues and brochures.

"If you are in my neighborhood, stop by."

Bill Keil, Portland, OR. "After 40 years in the forest industry journalism field, I continue to cover mills and write articles for *Wood Based Panels International* magazine, a worldwide trade magazine published in England. A big trend has been the growth of medium-density fiberboard and oriented strandboard. I covered a wood panel conference in Atlanta in November. Six of us who were in the Army in Manila at the end of WWII had a 50th reunion at the same time. I toured a huge G-P plywood plant outside of Atlanta. Other journeys took us to Duluth for the annual meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and a hardboard plant; to the Forest Products Society annual meeting in Minneapolis; and to a highly technical non-organic panel symposium in Spokane (I often got the feeling at this meeting that I was the only one in the room without a Ph.D. in chemistry). The low point, in temperature, was visiting two mills in the wilds of central Alberta in January with the thermometer at minus 40. Even the locals were complaining about the cold. We made a motorhome trip to the Southwest in March. Take our advice: Don't have a breakdown in Mexico.

"As we all know, the forest management situation has reached real crisis proportions, with the misguided zealots now officially calling for halting all harvesting on public lands. They had been fairly successful with that goal even before it was stated. Our nation needs that naturally renewable wood fiber. Nature isn't making oil, iron, and stone anymore. But she and we can grow trees, if the preservationists will let us. In any case, even if everyone comes to their senses, we're going to have a real hole in age-class when the present young forest comes to harvestable age. End of sermon.

"We aren't skiing quite as much as we used to, but we still have our Mt. Hood cabin. Gloria babysits the grandchildren one day a week. We have four, ages 2 to 7."

Alfeo (Al) Minato, Salem, OR. "Greetings, Fernhoppers! I have just completed my 12th year teaching forestry at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Through a grant from the National Science Foundation, Chemeketa has been chosen the Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources. This involves developing a curriculum that will eventually be adopted by community colleges that have natural resources programs.

"Highlight of the year was teaching at two Elderhostel programs back to back at Lake Tahoe. Subjects: "Trees and

Shrubs of the Sierra" and "Forest Health."

"No. 1 son, David, returned to college at age 35 and graduated last December with a bachelor's in psychology. He was hired by Multnomah County as a corrections officer. No. 2 son, Ricky, has been an engineer with Northrop Corp. (aviation division) in Los Angeles for the past 12 years. He and his wife have two chidren, Brandon, 4, and Kelsey, 2. (Only son that's married.) No. 3 son, Marco, is a software support engineer with Mentor Graphics Corp. in Wilsonville, Oregon.

"Step aerobics and cross-country skiing keep me in good shape!"

1953

Bob Baker, Bend, OR. "Helen and I have been in Bend for eight years and we love the drier climate. There are many activities here both winter and summer to keep us busy. I have been cross-country skiing for the last six years and really enjoy it. There are many areas to ski in central Oregon, and the closest one is just 20 minutes from home.

"I got zippo for elk hunting this year.

"I keep in touch with Wally Owen (FE '53)."

Left to right: Ward Armstrong, Doug Morrison, Jack Carter, Al Thompson, Jocko Burks, George Barr, Neil Zimmerman, Ed Hamilton. Photo contributed by Doug Morrison '56.

1956

Jim Fisher, Sisters, OR. "I retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry in 1990. Dorene and I relocated to our second home near Sisters. We played for a year, then I was asked to become executive director of the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce. In a little more than five years I got the Chamber organized, moved it to a new combined visitor center and business office, and more than doubled the membership. I retired again in June of 1996.

"I am staying busy writing, including a book for the 100th anniversary of the OSU Department of Microbiology, freelance writing of travel and history articles, and creative writing for my daughter's public relations-marketing firm in Bend. In our "free time," we enjoy motorhome travel and living on our three acres in the pines off the McKenzie Highway west of Sisters."

Leland D. (Doug) Morrison, Fairfield, IA. "Retired since 1988—35 years federal service—mostly with U.S. Bureau of Land Management. On Oct. 18, 1996, the "Save the Baby Tree League" had a reunion in Salem, Oregon. Eight 1956 OSU Forestry graduates got together for a very enjoyable reunion. We all recognized each other, too! We plan to meet in 1999 with the rest of the '56 Forestry graduates. See you there."

1957

Fred Gehrke, Columbus, MS. "It's been a year now since I finally decided to retire from Weyerhaeuser after 39 years of service. However, I haven't retired from work as long-put-off projects and new ventures are more than taking up my time. My wife, Joanie, and I are planning to do a lot more traveling and visiting with our as-of-now 10 grandchildren. I'm embarking on a new career in professional photography, doing a lot of weddings lately. We are at home in the warm, sunny South in Columbus, Mississippi."

1959

Richard A. Williams, Alameda, CA. "Howdy and good health to all my classmates. I am currently self-employed in building, working under the name of Aspen Construction. Keep the great timber products coming."

1962

Larry Cron, Libby, MT. "I've been almost 12 years on the Kootenai National Forest staff now, the last two years as planning staff due to a reorganization. It ain't much fun any more. Probably about time to hang it up and look for another job or do some serious golfing. Still, we keep winning appeals and in court and making sales as well as doing a lot of other good work. We're still a successful, working National Forest thanks to the great people here who understand basic economics (that all wealth comes from natural resources) and ecology (that plants grow and ecosystems change and are resilient; and that fire, insects, and disease will play a role that will vary with our management activities).

"I've learned a lot along the trail. Wish I could pass it on to many of the younger folks, but, sadly, many of them are not interested in wisdom acquired by others. Maybe a few will look in the right places and find as I did that all truth and wisdom come from God and His book; i.e., whatever is not consistent with the Bible is lies and deception. There I go, preaching again. Old Mac had it right: men, citizens, and foresters, in that order. Men (and women) in relation to God, each other, and family; citizens in relation to community and nation; and foresters in relation to natural resource management. Hang in there, everyone. The worst and the best is yet to come."

LeRoy Johnson, Bishop, CA. "Retirement is great. I'm now teaching forestry and related courses at Cerro Caso Community College. The floods that ravaged much of California did not hit the Owens Valley. We spend a lot of time in the Sierra Nevada and Death Valley. We continue our historical research in the valley and have a couple of new books out since retirement."

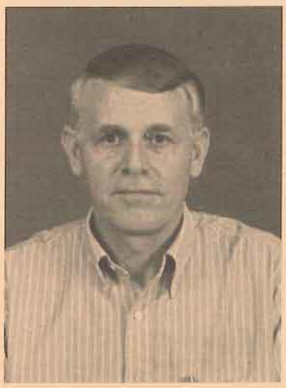
1964

Carroll D. Cropley, Keizer, OR. "Well, since being laid off by the state of Oregon in 1991, I worked as a seasonal temporary for the Division of Transportation materials laboratory in the fall of 1991. I developed inflammations of the tendons in my feet, but after five years of physical therapy I am back to my old self. I am currently taking some engineering and mathematics courses at Chemeketa Community College and actively seeking a field forestry or engineering position, but as of this date I have had no luck. Have a great 1997."

1966

Dennis P. Dykstra '66, '76 (Ph.D.), Jakarta, Indonesia. "As Deputy Director General for Research I am second in command at CIFOR, the Center for International Forestry Research, and am directly responsible for all our research activities. This includes supervisory responsibility for a total

of about 90 scientists and support staff. CIFOR has its headquarters in Bogor, Indonesia, but its mandate covers all forests worldwide. Our initial efforts focus on tropical forests in developing countries, and the research is designed to solve problems relating to the sustainability of tropical forests, with special emphasis on solutions that will benefit the rural poor and simultaneously conserve the environment. Currently we have projects underway in about 25 countries involving around 300 collaborating scientists."



Dennis Dykstra

1968

Peter Ganahl, Anaheim, CA. "The economic news from Southern California was a little better in 1996. Here at Ganahl Lumber the doors are still open, families are still being fed, and construction activity is a little better. The recession that started in 1990 is ending—finally! We are hoping for a reasonably healthy construction economy for a few years.

"Housing is still being framed with lumber, plywood, and other wood products. There continues to be a place in our society for students who want to educate themselves in how to grow trees, harvest trees, and manufacture products to build shelter for people. Wood is still good."

Joel C. Woods, Eugene, OR. "Dear Fernhopper friends, alumni, and classmates: I continue my work as an organic gardener, live Christmas tree grower, and particularly tree planter. Since my days as a student and weekend tree planter on Starker Forests, tree planting has always brought me a high degree of joy and satisfaction. Praise God for simple gifts. Blessings to all."

1969

Bill Dryden, Boise, ID. "We have just completed our second year in Boise. My job of addressing public policy and regulatory issues impacting timber supply is always interesting. Sue does some substitute work in the local schools. Rachel is a freshman at Whitman College and Seth is a sophomore at Boise High.

"We enjoy living in Boise, but our Oregon roots are very deep and we get back to Oregon several times a year. Once a Fernhopper, always a Fernhopper! Congratulations on the new FRL facility, and best wishes to all in 1997."

1971

Dennis Golik, Portland, OR. "Occasional woods work (felling, high climbing, firewood). Volunteer tree work for low-income elderly and disabled in northeast Portland. Working a couple months each summer as overmature smokejumper (training, loadmaster, saw shop). Seeking long crosscut felling saws for jumper use. Please call 503-287-5881 for details. Thanks."

1973

Roy C.A. Gilbert, Pembroke, Ont. "Retired Dec. 31, 1993, after almost 30 years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Plan to travel in an RV—winter in southern United States and summer in Canada. Best wishes to OSU—it's now 31 years since my one year in the beautiful state of Oregon."

1975

John Houk, Reno, NV. "I just signed up to the Net. Checking out the OSU/Forestry Web site. Hope to be at Fernhopper '97."

1976

Jim Murphy, Chehalis, WA. "Hey, folks. Would love to hear from any 1976 FM Fernhoppers. Gretta and Charlie, where are you? Carl

Passche? Phyllis, John Wilda, Will Koenitzer? John McDaniels? Boy, 20 years have passed already. Trish and I still running Timber Services, Inc. in Chehalis. Write us at murf@i-link-2.net, or better yet, stop by or call 360-748-8889 and I'll buy dinner. P.S. Carl and Andy, are you doing the S.T.P. this spring '97?"

1979

Andy Stahl, Eugene, OR. "I'll remember 1996 as the year Mother Nature decided, once again, to remind us Westerners that it sometimes rains really hard here. And those hard rains, up to several inches in an hour, can wreak havoc with our forest road systems and harvest units. Tragically, this year landslides from clearcut units also killed six people.

"I spent several weeks this summer with a video production crew in cooperation with the Siuslaw National Forest and the Pacific Northwest Research Station, preparing an educational documentary for forest managers on major storms. The video, called "Torrents of Change," is a 25-minute discussion about the lessons scientists and managers have learned from this year's storms. Call me if you'd like to order a copy.

"Unfortunately for me, running a nonprofit organization like Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) means too much time spent fundraising and too little time in the woods doing things like the video project. Nonetheless, this year I managed to make visits to ranger districts on the Nez Perce, Clearwater, Mt. Hood, Siuslaw, Modoc, Ottawa, Hiawatha, Superior, and Chippewa National Forests.

"My wife, Sherry (OSU Horticulture circa '86) and I are still looking for a small farm on which to semi-retire and raise sheep. I wish!"

1982

Mark Miller, Coopers Mills, ME. "Two Trees Forestry has been certified as sustainable resource managers under the SmartWood Program. It becomes the first certified resource managers in Maine, and only the third forestry firm so certified in the United States. The consulting forestry firm, based in Coopers Mills, serves nonindustrial private forest landowners. President Mark Miller holds a BS in Forest Management from Oregon State University."

1983

Charles A. Hensley, Scio, OR. "As of 1992 I have returned to Oregon and our family has moved our horse ranch to just outside Stayton on the Stayton-Scio Road. It's good to be near OSU again!"

1988

Brad Bernardy, Rutland, VT. "Sandra and I continue to enjoy Vermont and the East Coast. Both of us have worked for the Green Mountain National Forest since moving out from Oregon in 1993.

"Sandra works as a special uses administrator and also as a fire dispatcher. My duties as a forester include sale administrator and fire management officer for the northern half of the forest. Since 1995 I have been an aviation apprentice on the N.E. Incident Command Team. This and other aviation and fire duties have kept me traveling for much of the summer.

"Enjoyed visiting with old friends and alumni at the 1995 SAF convention in Portland, ME. As always, if any old friends are back our way, look us up!"

1989

Dave Anderson, Richland, WA. "Hello to those alumni from the '86-'91 period."

1992

Leslie (Powell) Batten, Portland, OR. "I graduated with my

master's in spring 1992 while working as a natural resources economist at ECONorthwest in Eugene. I remained there until the end of June 1993, and married Carl a month later, becoming a stepmom to his $2^1/_2$-year-old daughter, Sarah. I did contract work for the Emerald PUD in Eugene, and a week after completing my work with them, I gave birth to our son, Alex. Two weeks later, the four of us packed up and moved to Portland. I was a full-time mom for two years, then returned to the paying working world this past fall as Webmaster for my husband's business, an Internet provider company.

"As for forestry, I became an officer with the Portland SAF chapter in 1996, and I'm a member of the 1997 Oregon SAF Executive Committee as Web page coordinator.

"Adam is now $2^1/_2$, and Sarah just turned 6. It's been an excellent life thus far, and I wouldn't change a thing."

1995

Koshare Eagle, Tumwater, WA. "I work for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. I did stream and weather monitoring (a research technician type position) for a little over a year. Then I got hired as a Forester 1 in training. I'm four months into the 'temporary' nine-month position and absolutely love it. I work with a fantastic group of people and am still learning something new every day. Hopefully it'll become permanent.

"Even outside of my work, my life is really enjoyable. I'm getting married in August to Steve Lomnicki. Hopefully we'll both be coming to Fernhopper Day in April."

In memoriam

William Wallace Halsey, Sr. '28
Heath V. Hall '38
Neil John MacGregor '50

COPE draws to a close; major book to be out in 1998

The COPE program is a prime model at OSU for the sort of interdisciplinary, cooperative, policy-focused research that is the subject of this issue of *Focus on Forestry.*

COPE is an acronym for Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement, a 12-year, $20 million research program intended to provide information to help land managers cope with the thorny problems of resource use and allocation in the Oregon Coast Range.

This is COPE's 11th year, and its scientists are getting ready to synthesize the program's findings—a massive quantity of data—in a symposium and a comprehensive book on Oregon Coast Range forest and stream management. The book should be finished by late 1998, says Steve Hobbs, COPE program director.

The COPE program was conceived in the early 1980s, when Oregon Coast Range citizens, government officials, and business leaders began to foresee both the growing importance of the mostly young, second-growth forests that dominate the area, and the intensifying social conflicts over forest management and use.

College faculty and administrators asked the stakeholders in Oregon Coast Range forests to tell them exactly what they needed in the way of management-focused forestry science. The answers that came back pointed to two broad research avenues, riparian-zone management and reforestation. The latter was subsequently broadened to encompass silviculture of young second-growth forests.

Agencies and industries agreed to become cooperators in the research, supplying both money and study sites. The current cooperator list includes eight federal and state agencies, eight local governments, 13 forest-products companies, the Clatsop Small Woodlands Association, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Congress, led by Oregon senator Mark Hatfield and representative Les AuCoin, provided the bulk of the funding through Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets.

Since COPE's formal beginning in 1987, more than 50 scientists, mostly from OSU and the Forest Service PNW Research Station, have conducted over 60 studies covering a wide range of topics, including salmon habitat, tree-dwelling rodents, bats, landslides, tree diseases, commercial thinning, and recreation management.

that makes sense for improving fish habitat. In fact, the latest Oregon forest practice rules now allow some logging within buffers (or more accurately, riparian management areas) on private and state lands, as long as the goal is to improve fish habitat. Research like Hibbs's and Chan's is helping policymakers tailor these rules, making them more flexible, more effective in producing the kinds of forests people really want.

The "balance" of "nature"?

The idea of active ecosystem management represents a shift from a static to a dynamic view of ecosystems, and from a short-term to a long-term management perspective.

Many people assume, without thinking about it too much, that if you leave "nature" alone it will achieve and maintain some sort of equilibrium favorable to human needs and interests. "But that idea represents a lapse in reasoning," says Bill Emmingham. "All ecosystems are in a state of constant change. On top of that, the human impact on our environment has already been profound. With our highways, our wheat fields, our dams, our cities, we've shifted the presettlement disturbance regimes all around. It's unrealistic to assume that doing nothing will restore some 'natural' state of things."

Instead of appealing to an unattainable ideal of what's "natural," Emmingham says, "we need to take responsibility for identifying what's *desirable,* and then use our best science and our most careful management to change our surroundings accordingly. We need to monitor carefully, and we need to treat the forest as a long-term commitment."

Coming unglued

Wild elk are damaging some of Yellowstone Park's river systems, says hydrologist

Many land-management problems illustrate the blurriness of the boundary between natural and human-caused events. Consider the high elk numbers in the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park from Bob Beschta's perspective.

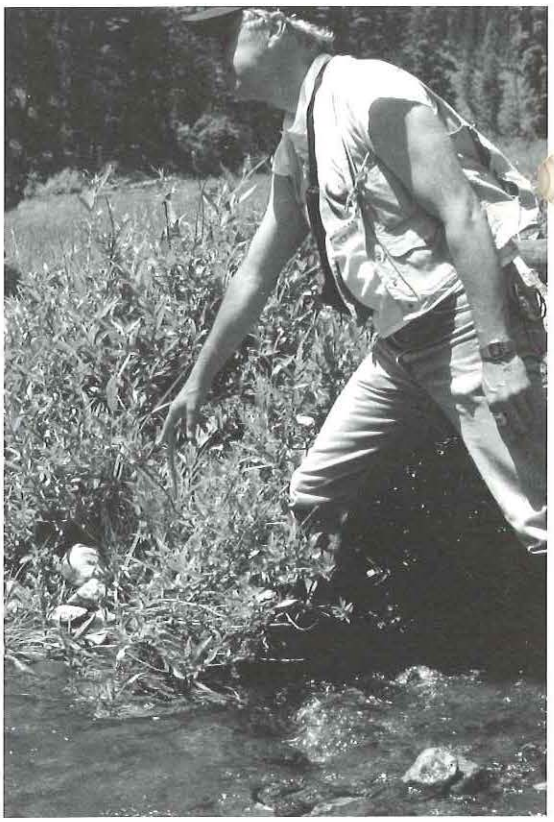
On a visit last summer to Yellowstone's Northern Range, OSU forest hydrologist Beschta saw what he calls the "unraveling" of riparian and aquatic ecosystems along the Lamar River and other streams. The cause: long-term grazing by wild ungulates, mostly elk, that are using this portion of the park for their winter range.

The persistent grazing of the elk over many decades, says Beschta, has essentially eradicated the willows, cottonwoods, aspens, and other woody riparian plants that used to line the riverbanks and wetlands.

Normally, this vegetation has the function of anchoring a stream and preventing erosion during periods of high flow. These trees, along with sedges, rushes, and grasses, help build floodplains by catching and holding silts when the water overflows its banks. With the anchor gone, the banks are eroding and the streams are beginning to wander across ancient floodplains, cutting down through soil deposited over the last 10,000 years.

The normal course of this accelerated erosion is to destroy the diversity of the preexisting stream channels and their riparian systems. As the channel cuts deeper into the floodplain deposits, the water table is lowered, making it harder for the streamside trees and shrubs to get established again. "The system," says Beschta, "is coming unglued."

The loss of the streamside vegetation means loss of habitat and food for beavers, which were plentiful 100 years ago but are now almost gone from the streams and wetlands of the park's Northern Range. The loss of the riparian shrub communities also harms birds, small mammals, bears, and other wildlife.



The people's choice—and the consequences. *Bob Beschta in eastern Oregon (right and opposite page).*

The large elk herds that now frequent

the Northern Range are the consequence of a controversial change in national-park management philosophy. Before the 1960s, park managers had a policy of reducing elk numbers along the Northern Range by several means, including shooting some of the animals each winter. This policy succeeded in keeping the elk at manageable levels, but it raised a large public outcry and prompted congressional hearings.

Since about the mid-'60s, Park Service managers have followed a hands-off approach. The Park Service defends its philosophy by saying that the elk population, now at 100,000 or more across the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, is within its normal range of fluctuation. The system's natural checks and balances, they argue, will eventually trim the herd to a smaller size.

> "It looks like what would happen if you put 10,000 Herefords out there."

Beschta says no. The evidence of archaeological records and early historical records of the park area, he says, indicate that elk numbers before European-American settlement were not significant.

Also, during last summer's tour Beschta looked at the condition of vegetation within a number of fenced plots in the park. These enclosures were established for an experiment in the 1960s. Inside them, willows, aspen, and berry-producing shrubs are dense and herbaceous plants are diverse; the brush is often too thick to walk through.

Outside the fences is a stark contrast. The mature woody plants are gone, and new sprouts get only a season's growth before they're eaten. Because aspen reproduces from suckers, Beschta says, the relentless nibbling is destroying whole groves of it. The willows, cottonwood, and other woody plants are suffering a similar fate.

"The Lamar Valley looks like what would happen if you put 10,000 Herefords out there," he says. "The American public would never stand for that. But since the elk are native to North America, public sentiment and Park Service management policy has been to leave them alone."

Beschta has spoken out before on the subject of grazing and streams. In 1987 he coauthored a landmark (and controversial) paper documenting the degradation of stream ecosystems on the high-desert rangelands east of the Oregon Cascades. He and BLM riparian specialist Wayne Elmore proposed restrictions in cattle grazing practices to restore the streams to health.

In a later study, Beschta and colleagues reviewed numerous fisheries-habitat improvement projects in eastern Oregon. They challenged the efficacy of instream structures—rip-rap, dikes, check dams, and the like—arguing instead that reducing grazing pressure and allowing riparian vegetation to recover was the best way to improve riparian and instream habitat conditions.

Similarly, if the streams of Yellowstone's Northern Range are ever to return to health, Beschta says, the Park Service will have to go back to some form of active management of elk numbers. However, he cautions that, as a general principle, active management should always be closely scrutinized. "The question managers need to consider isn't 'hands-on' versus 'hands-off,' management," he says, "but rather, if they're going to manage hands-on, what's their objective?"

He's all for active management to restore ecosystems if that's necessary, he says, "but the first thing is to stop doing whatever it is that's destabilizing the system. In the case of Yellowstone's Northern Range, that means changing how we use the land, and that means society's got to be involved in these restoration decisions. The public has to say what they want, and people have to understand the consequences of their choices."

Alumni Profile

Hard work and diversity

When Lynn Sprague looks back on his time at school, he realizes how much in the profession of forestry has changed, and how much has stayed the same.

Sprague graduated from the School of Forestry in 1963, when Walter F. "Mac" McCulloch was Dean and Robert Keniston taught dendrology. Following in the footsteps of his father, Leroy Sprague '43, he received the Kelly Axe award for student leadership.

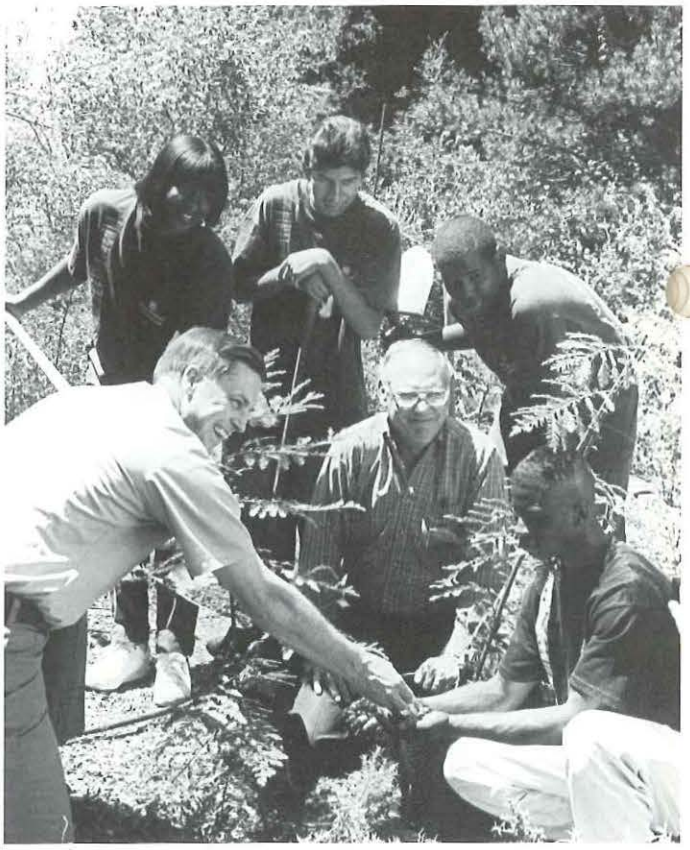
Keniston's dendrology class "was the 'make-or-break' course at the sophomore level," says Sprague, "and I was scared to death." At the same time, he was determined to make a go of it. "I got an A in the class, but I never worked so hard in my life."

That expectation of hard work was woven into the School of Forestry's culture. "It was apparent to me," says Sprague, "that unless you meant business about getting a forestry degree, you'd be better off somewhere else."

While the work ethic remains, another prominent attitude of the day has disappeared: the notion that forestry is for men only. "I remember Dean Mac saying there'd never be a woman at the forestry school as long as he was there. I respected him very much, but something about that just bothered my sense of fair play, even then. It just didn't hit me right."

Sprague stepped out of school onto a rising career path in the Forest Service, taking these two epiphanies with him. He served as district ranger in Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho, then as assistant regional recreation director in Ogden, Utah. He earned a master's at Colorado State in 1979 and went on to become supervisor on the Modoc National Forest in northern California and director of information systems in the Washington, D.C. office. He spent four years in Alaska as deputy regional forester, then returned to Washington as director of minerals and geology management.

"We're not pushing the envelope—we're getting clear into a new one."



Doing more with less, creatively. *Region 5's Lynn Sprague plants a tree with students from Merritt College in Oakland, CA.*

Since 1994 he has been Regional Forester for the sprawling Pacific Southwest region, Region 5. The region has 4,000 employees,18 national forests covering 20 million acres in California—about one-fifth of the state's land area—and responsibility for cooperative forestry and fire management in California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands.

In short, Region 5 is about as diverse as it can be, in natural history, constituency, workforce, and management challenges.

Sprague draws heavily on his ethic of hard work and fair play to help guide his part of the Forest Service through the throes of its transformation from a mostly-white-male-run, mostly-timber-focused federal agency to one with a broader constituency and a far more complicated mandate.

That mandate highlights the challenges facing Region 5 and the Forest Service as a whole: Manage forests for biological diversity along with everything else—water, soils, recreation, and timber. Manage from a landscape-level perspective. Monitor carefully and thoroughly, using the best science. Plan in a collaborative fashion, so that all stakeholders and communities of interest have a voice. Keep opening doors to women and minority employees. Find creative ways to downsize so budget cuts don't kill vital programs.

In a word, do more with less. Sprague doesn't dodge the challenge. "We're exploring a whole raft of ways to get innovative in how we conduct our business. We're not pushing the envelope—we're getting clear outside the envelope and into a new one."

He talks of leveraging federal money with private and corporate funds to take on ecosystem-monitoring projects "to allow us to achieve objectives that the public expects of us." He talks of simplifying many of the agency's internal administrative processes. "We have the approval to implement several of these in Region 5 that over the long haul will result in significant savings."

He talks of completely rethinking the agency's forest planning approach. "In the past," he says, "we've driven ourselves to create the 'perfect' forest plan, one hundred percent risk-free, unchallengeable in court. But by taking that approach, we forced ourselves into rote processes, with no flexibility and little opportunity to learn from our efforts. All of our resources were spent up front, leaving very little to implement, monitor, or evaluate the plan."

Instead, he pushes the idea of planning as cyclic and never-ending, with built-in monitoring, evaluation, and correction—what he calls "a continuous learning process." And he advocates cooperating with, and listening to, community stakeholders all along the way. Such an approach, he believes, will go a long way toward rebuilding trust for the Forest Service and breaking through the hardened positions that too often dominate the debate over federal forest management.

Right now he's waiting for the go-ahead on an environmental impact statement for the California spotted owl. The EIS, which would amend 10 forest plans in the Sierras, was crafted in an open fashion, with interested community groups taking part. It encompasses several management issues, including forest health, fire risk from heavy fuels buildup, riparian and aquatic conservation, and old-growth forests. It also includes "aggressive but realistic" monitoring plans not only for the owl but for all the management activities addressed in this effort.

The EIS is now waiting for review from the a special scientific team chosen by the secretary of agriculture.

Sprague thinks the plan will pass. "We're moving into a more meaningful engagement with the public right from the get-go, in everything we do. There are

Continued on page 16

Sprague

Continued from page 15

those who fear we are pushing the limits of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) in this effort. However,we don't think the framers of that law intended it to get in the way of meaningful public dialogue."

Collaborative forest planning is a little further ahead on the Lake Tahoe Basin, where forests are under stress from drought and insects. The Forest Service has worked with the states of Nevada and California and local communities on a plan for salvaging dead and dying trees and treating unmerchantable forest fuels. The plan is intended to reduce wildfire hazard and furnish some logs to local mills. "We've had local stakeholders involved in some of the monitoring, and even some marking of trees for removal. People are coming together behind this in a way that in previous years would have been unheard of."

> "All these workforce issues—you can boil every one of them down to the Golden Rule."

As for diversity among its workforce, the Pacific Southwest region has made great advances in recent years. The Region achieved a mandated target, stemming from a 1981 federal court order, for improving the hiring and promotion of women.

To Sprague, diversity comes down to the simple principle of fair play. "All these workforce issues—you can boil every one of them down to the Golden Rule—treating others as you would like others to treat you."

As for hard work, it's also a principle he practices every long day. Just as in school, he says, work invariably leads to learning. "My experiences on this job have taken me to deeper levels of understanding. I find it very fulfilling, although there are times when I could use more rest and more time with my family."

Fire crews save the *other* Peavy Cabin

A log cabin built around 1934 by George Wilcox Peavy, the College's first dean, was saved from incineration in the 11,000-acre Sloans Ridge Fire last August.

Fire crews covered the historic building with fire-retardant foam "and the fire just went around it," says Angelica Johnson, spokeswoman for the Baker Ranger District on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The cabin sits on the edge of the North Fork John Day Wilderness near Sumpter.

Peavy built the cabin as a seasonal dwelling and used it as a base to study the surrounding forests with his students, according to Johnson. At the time Peavy was both dean of the School of Forestry and president of Oregon Agricultural College, as OSU was then known.

The Forest Service acquired the cabin in the 1950s. Five years ago the agency restored the cabin, giving it a new foundation and a new chimney. The Forest Service now rents the rustic cabin to visitors for $40 a night during the summer.

The Club Cabin in the College's Peavy Arboretum is also known as Peavy Cabin.

Saved from the inferno. *The historic Peavy Cabin near Sumpter, Oregon.*

Research Forest begins preparing Habitat Conservation Plan

The College is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for a pair of northern spotted owls nesting on McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, as well as for other sensitive species.

If the plan is approved, McDonald-Dunn would be the first research forest in the nation to have a multi-decade, multi-resource management plan for threatened and sensitive species.

The presence of an owls' nest, confirmed during the past two summers, has halted all timber harvest on the Forest's south zone in owl nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat. According to Fish and Wildlife rules, no harvest is allowed within a circle of $1^1/_2$ miles around a spotted-owl nest, if harvesting would reduce habitat cover to below 40 percent within the circle. A habitat conservation plan would allow active management to improve long-term habitat for the owls and other species.

The Research Forest long-range plan divides the forest into three zones, each devoted to the research and demonstration of a different model of forest management. Management in the 4,485-acre south zone focuses on uneven-aged and long-rotation strategies—generally, various thinning regimes aimed at achieving a multilayered forest condition.

The south zone's first experimental thinning was conducted in the summer of 1994 on a 72-acre stand known as First Shot. The even-aged, 70- to 90-year-old Douglas-fir stand was thinned to less than half its original volume, and forest crews planted seedlings amid the remaining trees. The plan was to reharvest after about 20 years, remove more of the remaining big trees, and plant more seedlings, creating a three-storied stand.

Now that the owls are living on the south zone, that plan is halted. But the First Shot thinning is just the kind of management needed to produce the layered forest conditions that spotted owls prefer, says Dave Lysne, Research Forest director.

"As it is now, we are precluded from harvesting timber in the south zone, even though our plan is to create the right conditions for spotted-owl habitat," says Lysne. "Left to itself, the forest would eventually become suitable owl habitat, but it would take a long time. The HCP would allow us to actively manage so that the habitat improves rapidly after a few decades."

Lysne believes the owls now living on the Forest won't be harmed by the harvesting. The male owl has been tracked by radio telemetry down to the northeast corner of the Siuslaw National Forest west of Philomath, about 10 miles away. Other research has shown that northern spotted-owl fledglings routinely cover distances of 12 miles or more, Lysne says.

"The owls now on the Forest may leave us—I suspect they and their descendents will nest down on the Siuslaw for the time it takes for this area to develop a multilayered structure. Then they'll be back, and they'll have better habitat than when they left."

The habitat conservation plan would also protect other sensitive but unlisted species, possibly Kincaid's lupine, tall bugbane, and certain amphibians.

Respecting habitat. *Above, Butterfly Meadow, home to the rare Kinkaid's lupine, which might be protected under a Habitat Conservation Plan.*

forestry Currents

Kudos to faculty and staff

Greg Filip

Robin Rose

Barbara Middleton and friend

Plant pathologist **Greg Filip,** associate professor in the Forest Science department, started a three-year term as editor of *Western Journal of Applied Forestry* this January. The *Western Journal* is one of three regional journals published by the Society of American Foresters. Filip, an Extension specialist in integrated forest protection, has published in the journal since it began 10 years ago.

Also in January, **Jack Walstad,** head of the Forest Resources department, began a one-year term as chair of the Oregon Society of American Foresters. **Steve Hobbs** will serve as the program chair for the 1999 national SAF convention, to be held in Portland.

Robin Rose, associate professor in the Forest Science department, was named advisory editor to *Tree Planters' Notes,* a long-standing source of practical information on reforestation and forest nursery cultural practices in the United States. Rose leads the Nursery Technology Cooperative and the Vegetation Management Research Cooperative at the College of Forestry.

The Oregon Forestry Education Program (OFEP) has been selected as a 1996 Flagship Program by leaders of the USDA Extension base program in natural resources and environmental management. It was one of nine programs selected from 200 submitted by 23 states. The Flagship Programs represent the best efforts to help improve management of air, water, soil, forests, rangelands, fish, and wildlife. OFEP, led by **Barbara Middleton,** is a College program that delivers natural-resource-based forest and classroom workshops for educators.

Sandra Lewis, manager of the Forest Science department office, received the OSU Faculty-Staff Development Award at University Day last fall.

Steve Tesch, Forest Engineering department head, received the 1996 Aufderheide Award for excellence in teaching. The award, based on nominations from forestry students, is a significant token of student affection and respect. The award comes with a $1,000 cash prize thanks in part to an anonymous donor.

Barbara Gartner, Forest Products assistant professor, received an Emerging Scientist Award from the OSU chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She also was honored at the White House as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award gives her five years of funding to pursue her research on how plants determine how much sapwood to maintain.

OSU Forestry Extension agent **Steve Fitzgerald** was honored twice last year. From his Extension Forestry colleagues he received the annual "Awesome Force" award for exemplary leadership and program excellence. He also received the Experienced Faculty Recognition Award from the OSU Extension Association. Nominations for both awards mentioned Fitzgerald's energetic research, his innovative programs, the diversity of his publications, and his expertise at presenting workshops, short courses, and demonstrations to a wide variety of audiences, including on television and radio.

Fitzgerald serves Deschutes, Jefferson, Grant, and Wheeler Counties and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

Becky Johnson, economist in the Forest Resources department, has been reappointed to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors for a third consecutive three-year term. The appointment means Johnson has advised three governors—Neil Goldschmidt, Barbara Roberts, and now John Kitzhaber.

Roger Admiral has joined the College as director of support services and building manager for the College of Forestry and Forest Research Lab. He replaces **Terry Lorenzen,** who retires this year. Admiral spent 21 years in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps where he served in a variety of business-related positions. His last assignment was in Washington, D.C., where he was a financial and equipment manager for the Naval Reserve.

Steve Fitzgerald

Roger Admiral

Mike Newton was elected a Fellow of the Western Society of Weed Science. He was recognized at the society's annual awards luncheon in March.

One of the 1996 Dean's Awards for Outstanding Service to the College went to **Mary Scroggins,** Forest Research Lab librarian. The other, a team award, went to Forest Engineering office staff **Judy Brenneman** and **Sandi Labahn** and Dean's secretary **Tresa Stevens.**

Scroggins was honored for her unfailing competence and courtesy during many years of service. Brenneman, Labahn, and Stevens were honored for coordinating the College's 1996 fundraising drive for Linn-Benton Food Share. Inspired by their encouragement, College faculty and staff contributed 38,491 pounds of food, more than any other OSU unit.

Recipients of the Dean's Awards are nominated by faculty and staff and selected by the Dean.

Incidentally, the College has placed first again among OSU units in the 1997 food drive, collecting a total of 35,545 pounds of food. Brenneman, Labahn, and Stevens helped again with this year's effort, as did **Connie Patterson** of Student Services.

More and more alumni are discovering the Fernhopper section of the College of Forestry Web pages. Go to http://www.cof.orst.edu, click on **"Alumni & Friends"** and then on "Alumni greeting card" and you can leave a message for fellow Fernhoppers to read.

Retired: **Don Jensen,** maintenance mechanic, 15 years; **Terry Lorenzen,** College business manager, 14 years; **Dave Perry,** ecologist and professor in the Forest Science department, 19 years; **Barbara Ryan,** Forest Engineering office worker, 11 years; **Jim Trappe,** mycologist and researcher with the Forest Service PNW Research Station since 1956. Trappe held courtesy OSU appointments in Forest Science and Botany.

Weyerhaeuser makes major gift to new Lab

The Weyerhaeuser Co. Foundation has given the College the first half of a $500,000 gift toward the new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Lab.

The gift is the first private contribution toward a $14 million campaign to raise funds for the 97,000-square-foot new Laboratory. It's also one of the largest in the philanthropic history of Weyerhaeuser, according to foundation vice president Elizabeth Crossman.

"We don't make half-million-dollar grants every day," she said. "The size of this gift says something about how we view the importance of the project. This laboratory is something OSU urgently needs—up-to-date facilities and equipment to continue its leadership in forestry research."

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Weyerhaeuser gift

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Dean Brown expressed his gratitude to Weyerhaeuser "for making an investment in a forestry future that, more and more, depends on sophisticated and complex science."

Supporting research. *Weyerhaeuser's VP for research (right), Norman Johnson ('55 and '57), greets OSU president Paul Risser. He and other company executives traveled to OSU in January to present the gift.*

The $24 million new building will replace the aging Forest Research Laboratory complex, which has been unsatisfactory for some time because of cramped laboratory space and outdated equipment.

"We're at a place right now," Brown says, "where our current facilities just won't allow us to do the kinds of computer-intensive, large-scale, long-term research we need to do."

The second half of the money will be disbursed when the College has raised an additional $500,000 from another wood-products corporation. Dean Brown foresees no problem with that. "We are confident that other firms will come forward," he says. "They know how tremendous the return on this investment will be, not only to the forest industry but to the people of Oregon. It's in everybody's interest to have a long-term forest economy that is both profitable and sustainable."

The new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Laboratory has received $10 million in federal appropriations. The College plans to raise the remaining $14 million from corporate, foundation, and private donations.

Construction will begin this summer on a site just west of the current OSU forestry headquarters, Peavy Hall. Ceremonial groundbreaking will take place on Fernhopper Day, April 26, when forestry alumni gather for their annual reunion. The lab should be finished by the end of 1998.

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