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# The Woodland Workbook

## Kinds of Assistance



# Technical Assistance in Forestry

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*Technical assistance* is a broad term applied to many types of specialized information or services. In forestry, it can refer to soils, tax, and legal information, and engineering skills—as well as forest management information of all kinds. Much of this is readily available, if the landowner knows where to look. This circular will discuss the types of services available and the agencies and individuals who offer them.

### State government agencies

**Department of Forestry.** An important source of technical help is the Service Forestry program from the State Department of Forestry. Service foresters visit individual forest properties to prepare management plans, administer Federal programs, and do forest-land taxation checks.

They provide onsite information about site preparation, tree planting, thinning, insect and disease prevention, fire protection, and other forest management topics.

*Martha Shearer*, former Extension agent (forestry), Washington and Yamhill counties, and *Richard Fletcher*, Extension agent (forestry), Linn and Benton counties, Oregon State University.

Service forester Mike Barsotti, right, discusses with Don Carr, Corvallis, Oregon, the need to control animal damage to young seedlings by using protective tubes.

Probably the most important of these programs for woodland owners are the Federal "cost-share" programs, under which 50 to 75% of the cost of site preparation, planting, plantation maintenance, or precommercial thinning may be paid for from funds available through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). This program is more fully described in EC 1119.

Service foresters also supervise the Western Oregon Small Tract Optional Tax and the Oregon State Reforestation income tax credit.

State service foresters coordinate with other agencies that provide services to landowners, and they help locate equipment and contractors for landowners. They also help arrange for seedlings from the State Forest Nursery for woodland owners.

The State Department of Forestry forest practices foresters provide current information on the requirements and administration of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. They provide written materials and inspect forest operations on the ground. (You will need to obtain permits to log, burn, or apply pesticides at the State Forestry Office.)

**OSU Extension Service.** The Oregon State University Extension Service also supplies technical information useful to forest landowners through its educational programs—publications, special courses, tours, individual consultations, and newsletters. Publications on logging, thinning, tree planting, weed control, Christmas trees, and many other subjects are available from county Extension offices.

The specialist staff at Oregon State University supplies a broad technical information base for county Extension agents. The Extension Service is described more completely in the related publication, EC 1154.

Some county offices of the OSU Extension Service have trained Master Woodland Managers to help woodland owners get started managing their properties.

These volunteers are experienced woodland owners; they have all received an 85-hour forestry training program in exchange for their volunteer services. They're available to visit woodland properties and point out opportunities for management and sources of assistance.

**Other state agencies.** The Oregon Departments of Revenue and Agriculture also supply technical information. The Department of Revenue administers the timber severance tax and evaluates forest land for property taxes. The Department of Agriculture licenses and regulates pesticide applicators and conducts surveys to control the spread of undesirable imported insects.

In addition, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife offers landowners assistance in planning for the needs of fish and wildlife on their woodland property.

## Federal Government agencies

Several agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide useful technical information for woodland owners. The Forest Service, Division of State and Private Forestry, prepares various publications for private landowners. These are available on request from the di-

vision's Portland office, or you can obtain them from State forestry and county Extension offices.

ASCS administers the funds for the Federal cost-share programs described in EC 1119.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) provides written conservation plans to landowners who will join the local soil and water conservation district. These plans review property resources and outline forest management opportunities.

The SCS also supplies soil-type maps, descriptions of soil types and properties, aerial photographs, and onsite assistance. District conservationists also help with the engineering design for ponds and access roads, and with erosion control.

## Forest industry programs

Corporations in the forest industry supply a variety of technical services from both individual companies and industry organizations. One of the most widespread is the Tree Farm Program, sponsored nationally by the American Forest Council and in Oregon by the Oregon Tree Farm Committee. There is no cost to the landowner.

The purpose of the program is to recognize and promote sound land management. The landowner receives a visit from a tree farm inspector. During the visit, the inspector reviews the property's resources and makes suggestions about management opportunities.

A few forest industry companies have their own tree farm assistance programs. Industry foresters may cruise and mark timber, write management plans, locate contractors and tree seedlings, or render other services. There often is a contract between the landowner and the timber company.

Usually, the landowner gives the company "right of first refusal" on all timber products. This means that the company has the right to make the last bid on the timber and to try to match any prior bids. (Landowners don't have to accept the bid if they can do better elsewhere.)

Industry programs usually are in effect near the companies' lands or mills. Boise Cascade Corporation, Kinzua Corporation, and Stimson Lumber Company are examples of companies that have tree farm programs in certain parts of Oregon.

Foresters from local mills will also sometimes help landowners mark and administer a sale and plan the reforestation afterwards. Type and amount of assistance varies widely. The landowner usually needs to check with the company's log buyer to learn whether aid is available.

## Consultants

Consultant foresters furnish services on a fee basis. Services supplied include full tree farm management, cruising, appraisal, marketing, surveying and mapping, timber marking, and reforestation. Firms often specialize in one or two services.

The Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) is their national organization; several Oregon consultants are members. ACF is working hard to insure that services consultants provide are both ethical and professional.

Consultants supply these services at a more intensive level than most public foresters. Qualified consultants may also be the landowner's best contact with local markets and contractors.



1982 National Tree Farmers of the Year Betty and Bert Udell, of Lebanon, Oregon, are proud that their tree farm is part of the American Tree Farm system sponsored by the American Forest Council. They're also proud of their activities in the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

Lawyers, accountants and other traditionally nonforestry specialists are also essential to woodland owners, particularly with income tax preparation and estate planning.

## Cooperatives

A cooperative is a special type of corporation. A cooperative formed by woodland owners for land management and marketing timber is a type being tried in Washington County, Oregon. Other cooperative ventures include fire-fighting, tree-planting, and seed-collecting groups.

Usually a cooperative allows the landowner to acquire equipment or services that would otherwise not be available (or would be more expensive) for just one person.

## Associations

Landowner associations can provide technical assistance. Experienced land managers share their knowledge, personally and through programs offered at their meetings.

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association is the principal woodland owner group in Oregon. Some counties have chapters that meet regularly. Your county Extension agent or State service forester can help you contact association members.

Members of local small woodland associations are also helpful in recommending local operators, such as loggers, tree planters, and pesticide applicators.

## Locating assistance services

You can locate agencies, consultants, and contractors in your phone book. Look for Extension offices under "Government Offices—County," usually toward the front of the book. Look for service foresters under "Government Offices—State" and for Federal agencies under "Government Offices—United States." Consultants are usually listed in the yellow pages, under "Foresters, consulting."

County Extension agents or service foresters can guide landowners toward local operators and officers of the Oregon Small Woodland Association.

The Oregon Department of Forestry publishes a *Catalog of Woodland Assistance*, covering technical, financial, and educational assistance. It includes names, addresses, and phone numbers of banks, consulting foresters, industrial foresters and organizations, and State and Federal agencies. There's no charge for a single copy. Write Oregon Dept. of Forestry, 2600 State St., Salem, OR 97310.



Finally, it is important to recognize that not every one of the sources of assistance mentioned here is available in every area of the State. Some areas have representatives of many sources—others only a few. County Extension agents and State service foresters are knowledgeable resources for determining what sources of assistance are available, and where.

## For further reading

In July 1992 the OSU Extension Service publications warehouse was destroyed by fire. We are replacing our supplies. The publications listed below may be available in the office

of the OSU Extension Service that serves your county. Check with that office for current prices.

You also may call Agricultural Communications at Oregon State University, (503) 737-2513, to learn the availability and current price of the publications.

EC 1119, *Cost Sharing and Woodland Management*, by Richard Fletcher, Oregon State University (Corvallis, revised 1989). 25¢

EC 1154, *Educational Assistance for Woodland Owners*, by Richard Fletcher, Oregon State University (Corvallis, 1983). 25¢



*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, conservation, and use of woodland properties. It's available in a three-ring binder with tabbed dividers for each section.

For information about how to order, and for a current list of titles and prices, write Agricultural Communications, Publications Orders, Administrative Services Bldg. 422, Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331-2119, or inquire at the office of the OSU Extension Service that serves your county.

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