Ecocus on Coregon State University

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Uneven-aged management

Taking a new look

from the Dean



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We want to help people understand what works and what doesn't." he cover story of this issue of *Focus* on *Forestry* deals with uneven-aged management. Along with riparian management, fish and wildlife habitat in managed forests, and landscape-scale management schemes, uneven-aged management is one of the hottest topics being discussed in forestry today.

Recently this topic has taken on significant political dimensions. The public pressure point is clearcutting, but the scientific questions revolve around the complex ways in which forests grow and reproduce and how those functions can be altered through management. Unevenaged management is one of those subjects that is difficult for some even to discuss in an objective fashion. The very fact that College of Forestry scientists are studying it may lead some to conclude that we are advocating its widespread use.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Our role is to provide society, including managers and policymakers, with the very best scientific information possible so that they can make informed choices. We want to help people understand what works, what doesn't, and the costs and benefits of alternative silvicultural choices.

Our research on uneven-aged management is not new. Decades ago, Al Berg began some thinning trials at Hoskins which have contributed very valuable information on understory development and tree growth.

Bill Emmingham and Rick Fletcher, working with Bert Udell and other nonindustrial forest owners, began to look at uneven-aged harvesting systems on small woodland owner properties. More recently, we've devoted about one-third of our McDonald-Dunn research forest to exploring the social, biological, and operational costs and benefits of unevenaged silvicultural systems.

Also in this issue of *Focus* are stories of outstanding contributions by our faculty in teaching, research and Extension during 1997. Most notably, we have just appointed a scholar to fill our first Endowed Chair, the Starker Chair for Private and Family Forestry (please see the back cover for the story). This is for us a historic event, made possible by the generosity of Elizabeth Starker Cameron.

As you'll discover when you read these pages, it was another outstanding year for our College. I hope you'll be as proud of our College and our faculty as I am

George Brown

Dean
College of Forestry
Oregon State University



Vol 11, No. 1



On the cover:
Uneven-aged
management is the
focus of much
interest—and
controversy—among
foresters and land
managers these days.
College scientists are
conducting a variety
of experiments to gain
more knowledge
about how, when, and
why it works—or
doesn't.

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College welcomes John Bliss to fill its first endowed chair



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Sorting fact from myth. Participants at the IUFRO unevenaged management symposium visit ponderosa pine stands in central Oregon.

It's not a silver bullet, but . . .

Uneven-aged management may broaden the choices for forest managers

here was a time in forestry when the dominant logging method in western Oregon—clearcutting—seemed to be acceptable, or at least tolerable, to most members of the public.

Public opinion has changed since then, as any timber industry executive will tell you. As a result, the acres of clearcuts that used to sprawl over miles of forested back country are becoming less obvious. And the advice coming out of the forestry academy on how to manage westside Douglas-fir is becoming less, well, clear-cut.

Public and scientific concern about the fate of soils, streams, and wildlife in managed forests, and public distaste for the ugly face of clearcuts, are prompting a new look at an old topic: uneven-aged forest management.

About 150 scientists and forest managers from 15 countries came to OSU recently for a workshop on uneven-aged forestry. The symposium was sponsored by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) and OSU's Sustainable Forestry Partnership, a think tank headquartered at OSU's College of Forestry.

Forestry experts came from around

the world to share their research and experience in all aspects of uneven-aged and alternative silviculture—from tree physiology to harvesting problems to economic implications to considerations of wildlife, biodiversity, and aesthetics. Participants also toured uneven-aged study sites in OSU's McDonald Forest, in coastal and Cascade forests, in central Oregon, and on Vancouver Island.

Trends in public opinion

Forest scientists hope more research on uneven-aged techniques will help managers solve some of the forest management conflicts in the Pacific Northwest and in other parts of the world.

"Uneven-aged management is interesting now because it points up a couple of trends in public opinion," says Bill Emmingham, one of a group of College scientists working to develop a research base on uneven-aged methods. "One is that diversity is good, which is generally true. The other that clearcutting is deforestation, which is a misconception."

Clearcutting, he says, is an efficient, sustainable management system when it's carefully applied. "But uneven-aged

Unevenaged management is not 'natural' in any sense.

The layered look.
Right, students on a mensuration field trip to a several-storied stand on McDonald Forest. Below, Bill Emmingham, one of the College's research team investigating uneven-aged techniques.

management is a different approach, with a different appearance, and it might help change the public image of forestry."

College resource economist Rebecca Johnson agrees. Forestry, she says, is a very public enterprise that demands a high degree of public acceptance. "It's not enough for forest management to be biologically possible and economically feasible—it has to be socially acceptable, too."

Uneven-aged management, which aims to produce more-complex forest structure within stands and to leave some forest cover on the ground all the time, may be a way to satisfy people's desires for a pleasing-looking forest and allay some of their concerns about environmental impacts.

But much remains unknown about how uneven-aged systems will change forest structural patterns over the long term—most particularly, whether Douglas-fir can be successfully regenerated under these systems.

Moreover, contrary to popular belief, uneven-aged management is not "natural" in any sense. If anything it may turn out to be *more* intensive than clearcutting, and more expensive. It calls for more-frequent harvest entries, more manipulation of the understory shrubs and herbs, more management intervention to get new trees growing under the canopy. If it wins widespread adoption, say many scientists, practitioners of uneven-aged management will need a lot of care and skill to get it right.







Controversial

Uneven-aged methods are being written into some current management plans. For instance, the plan now being developed for the Tillamook State Forest and other western Oregon state forests calls for a wide range of management strategies including uneven-aged techniques.

Yet the move to put uneven-aged management into practice is controversial. Its core silvicultural principles have been extensively tested, but no long-term trials of uneven-aged methods have yet been conducted in west-side Douglas-fir forests.

In these forests, some of the most productive in the world, clearcutting and other even-aged methods have been reliable for getting new stands of commercially valuable Douglas-fir growing after harvest. It's not clear that unevenaged methods will be equally effective.

For that reason, some scientists caution against embracing uneven-aged management too quickly. "I suppose they ought to give it a try," says Denis Lavender, emeritus Forestry professor whose

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I'm afraid the public doesn't understand the long-term consequences. We have only the beginnings of data."

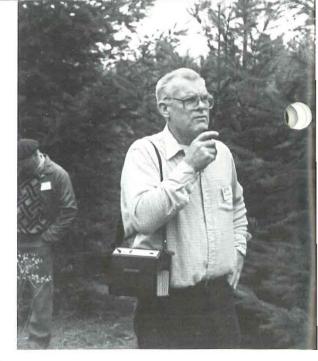
It's risky, he thinks. Above right, Mike Newton leads a field trip through his own forest land. research in the early 1950s helped refine the even-aged methods used to reforest the 355,000-acre Tillamook Burn. "But frankly I don't think it's going to work well. Douglas-fir is a not a shade-tolerant species, and the openness of the stands is the ideal condition for shade-tolerant shrubs to come in and compete with the Douglas-fir."

Mike Newton, a College silviculturist who has been studying even-aged systems on the west side for some 40 years, also has doubts about uneven-aged methods. He points to numerous potential drawbacks: lowered wood yield, poorer wood quality, challenges of managing competing vegetation, added expense, and the uncertainty of how these methods will influence forest succession over the long term.

And silvicultural challenges aside,
Newton maintains there's no logical
reason to be looking for alternatives to
even-aged methods. "I'm afraid the
motive very often is to try to mollify
people by improving the appearance of
the forest. But the public doesn't understand the long-term consequences. We
have only the beginnings of data on
uneven-aged methods, but we know
enough to make me suspect that there is a
significant risk of undesirable consequences that the public as well as foresters will find unacceptable."

The public should remember, says
Newton, "that we are in Douglas-fir
country, and if what we want is Douglasfir forests, we already know how to
achieve them." He says variants on evenaged methods—longer rotations, clearcuts
that leave green and dead trees and woody
debris behind—can achieve biodiversity
goals without sacrificing wood yield.

But other scientists are more optimistic about uneven-aged methods. Richard Hermann, a long-time colleague of Lavender and Newton at OSU, began his career as a field forester managing the uneven-aged forests of his native Bavaria. "There are places in the west-side Douglas-fir forest where fire has taken out



small groups [of trees] and left a mosaic of different age classes," says Hermann. "If nature is able to create a stand of this sort, we ought to be able to do it, too."

Says Bill Emmingham: "Because there's so much public interest in this [uneven-aged management] for whatever reason, it makes sense for researchers to learn as much about it as we can. No one is saying we should abandon even-aged systems, but it's conceivable that a little bit of uneven-aged management, applied operationally, could go a long way toward addressing problems of biological diversity and aesthetics, two of the weak points of even-aged management."

What is uneven-aged management?

Strictly speaking, uneven-aged management means maintaining three or more age classes or, more properly, *size* classes, of trees in a stand. The term, however, is often used in a much broader sense. Participants at the IUFRO conference came to talk not only about specific uneven-aged silvicultural strategies, but about all the ways to create a mosaic of forest ages and structures across a land-scape.

These may include classic even-aged treatments like clearcuts and two-storied shelterwood stands as part of an overall landscape strategy. They may also include variants on even-aged systems, such as

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It would be a mistake to employ a single silvicultural technique across the landscape."

Adding to, not replacing, even-aged methods. John Tappeiner talks to students at the site of a long-term thinning study near Hoskins, in the Oregon Coast Range foothills.

multiple thinning entries and longer rotations in two-storied stands, or clearcuts that leave green trees, snags, and dead wood on the site.

To begin a true uneven-aged pattern in an existing, even-aged stand, foresters harvest trees in small groups—half an acre or less—or one at a time. "The selection decision is made not on the basis of which trees to take," Emmingham says, "but of which trees to leave. You leave the trees that will grow to make up the desired future stand."

Every way of removing trees from a



stand creates a disturbance. Clearcutting is a large disturbance that in some ways imitates a stand-replacing wildfire. Group selection of trees imitates some of the smaller disturbances that occur in nature, such as a fire, a windstorm, or an insect infestation. Single-tree selection imitates even smaller natural disturbances, like the toppling of a single tree because of disease or a lightning strike.

These smaller disturbances leave gaps in the forest, opening the overstory and encouraging the growth of young trees, either naturally seeded or planted. At the same time, the remaining big trees make up at least two and possibly several canopy layers. Together with a mix of herbs and shrubs in the understory, these components, as they grow, should begin to approximate the structure of an oldgrowth forest.

Uneven-aged forestry adds to the scope of wildlife habitat in managed forests, says wildlife biologist John Hayes, another contributor to the unevenaged research effort at OSU. Widespread clearcutting, he says, promotes structurally simple stands. Some even-aged methods, such as two-storied or shelterwood management, add structural complexity. But generally, some forests managed under even-aged methods are not hospitable to certain wildlife species that prefer a more-complex, older-forest-like structure.

Uneven-aged methods can fill this gap. "Wildlife diversity is largely a function of habitat diversity," says Hayes. "A forest with more structural components is going to have niches for more kinds of wildlife."

Adding to the toolkit

Uneven-aged techniques can be used to encourage a forest to grow in ways that resemble natural succession and disturbance patterns, says silviculturist John Tappeiner. He and others are looking at old-growth stands in the Coast Range for clues to their origin. They're finding that these stands may not have developed, as is commonly thought, from very dense stands of seedlings that germinated together after a large wildfire and subsequently thinned themselves down.

Rather, regeneration apparently "occurred over a prolonged period, and trees grew at low density with little self-thinning," the researchers wrote in a recent paper. Uneven-aged techniques like thinning and underplanting could help recreate those conditions and thereby speed development of old-growth characteristics.

Tappeiner and his colleagues believe uneven-aged methods should add to, not replace, the even-aged methods currently in use. "We can have lots of hybridism and variation in our managed forests," he says. "It would be a mistake to employ a single silvicultural technique across the landscape." John Hayes agrees: "Wildlife will benefit most from a variety of approaches."



A checkered history

Even-aged methods have dominated the forestry of the Pacific Northwest for five decades, and managers know a lot about how they work. In contrast, what's known about uneven-aged forestry in this region is based mostly on silvicultural principles gleaned from studying and managing even-aged stands.

The first attempts at uneven-aged management in the Douglas-fir region started during the 1930s, when foresters tried "maturity selection" in old-growth Douglas-fir. The theory behind maturity selection was this: Cut the biggest, most valuable, "financially mature" trees, and the smaller ones would respond with faster growth. Eventually, the reasoning went, the whole system would assume a continuous-forest growth pattern.

But it didn't. Some of the trees left behind after partial harvests, if they survived the logging damage, tended to topple over at the first big wind. The ones left standing were too old to respond with rapid growth. The gaps in the forest quickly filled with shrubs, hardwoods, and seedlings of shade-tolerant trees like

hemlock. On a few places—mostly dry sites with well-drained soils—the method worked better, but those conditions are an exception to the rule in the Douglas-fir region.

By the mid-1950s the professional consensus was that maturity selection was a failure. The experience turned a lot of foresters off the whole idea of unevenaged management, an attitude that persists among some to this day.

Other scientists, however, now point out that these early efforts lacked the critical research support that might have helped them succeed. "If the development of both even- and uneven-aged systems had proceeded simultaneously and with the same emphasis on developing the supporting technology," wrote John Tappeiner in a recent research paper, "a more diverse range of timber management options might have been developed for the forests of coastal Oregon."

So, can it work here?

Can uneven-aged management be made to work in Douglas-fir country? Several studies by College of Forestry scientists are helping to answer that question.

 A long-term study begun in 1991 on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forests is the College's first replicated comparison of alternative silvicultural treatments. Starting with several even-aged stands of about 120 years old, researchers put in two-story shelterwood treatments and half-acre patch cuts of various shapes. Over the next several years they will be comparing the regeneration success, management costs, and wildlife habitat results from these treatments to those associated with clearcutting.

So far the researchers have found, unsurprisingly, that the alternative treatments are expensive. The cost of harvest planning for the various selection schemes was from two to six times higher than for clearcutting. The actual harvesting operations, which represent the bulk of the total expense, also cost more,

Comparing regeneration, management cost, and wildlife habitat. Above, a complex structure is beginning to develop on this site, part of the College of Forestry Integrated Research Project on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forests.

66

We're trying to determine the ecological and economic tradeoffs."

Planted seedlings at First Shot. Clockwise from top right: a stand at the First Shot study site; false brome invades the understory; a Douglas-fir seedling (foreground) struggles for a yoehold. between $2^{1}/_{2}$ percent and 32 percent. But the smaller treatment areas—the patch-cut and individual-tree-selection stands—seem more hospitable to wildlife associated with old-growth forests than the larger clear-cut and shelterwood stands, and they're more socially acceptable.

• A new 385-acre replicated study is being installed on the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest east of Eugene, in the mid-elevation Oregon Cascades. "We're trying to determine the ecological and economic tradeoffs in converting young Douglas-fir plantations to mixed-species and uneven-aged conditions," says Gabe Tucker, study team member and forest ecologist at both OSU and Evergreen State College in Washington.

He and others will track four replications of two thinning treatments and a group-selection harvest. Like the McDonald-Dunn integrated study, this is intended to be a long-term look at the multiple effects of these different treatments.

• Another study on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forests is looking at longterm economic yields and wildlife habitat effects of three different levels of thinning. These treatments are intended to make two-storied stands that will be managed over a 120-year rotation.

While this trial is not truly about

uneven-aged management, it will yield clues on how best to establish Douglas-fir and other conifers under an existing canopy. "It doesn't take much overstory to shut down Douglas-fir in the understory," says Mike Newton, who is con-



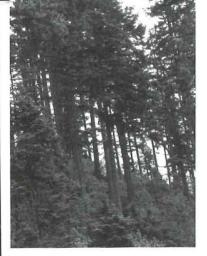
ducting this study with John Tappeiner and ecologist Elizabeth Cole. "We're trying to determine, among other things, how much timber can be grown in the overstory while still meeting the criteria for understory conifer development and overstory habitat development."

Two less-formal case studies on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forests are also yielding information about unevenaged management. These one-time, one-place trials count as research in an adaptive management sense, in that various treatments are tested and refined in a learn-by-doing approach.

The first is an "opportunistic case study," as Bill Emmingham puts it, that takes advantage of damage caused by the notorious Columbus Day Storm of 1962, which knocked down some trees in a 23-acre stand of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and white oak on Forest Peak. Subsequent salvage logging opened up more space, and an understory began to develop, creating the beginnings of a multi-storied stand. Another harvest 30 years later further encouraged understory and midstory trees.







Opportunistic case study. Above, a several-layered stand begins to develop at Forest Peak.

The second case study, on a site dubbed First Shot, is a comparison of Douglas- and grand fir seedlings planted under two thinning densities in a formerly even-aged stand of Douglas- and grand fir and bigleaf maple. The site is overrun with false brome, an invasive nonnative grass, making it a good place to study the efficacy and costs of herbicide spraying. The seedlings have also been browsed heavily by deer, and the stand suffered from extensive windthrow last winter, two years after it was opened up by a heavy thinning. All these factors, says Emmingham, will add to the usefulness of the information gleaned from First Shot.

Check out the sources

For the reader wishing to delve further into uneven-aged management issues, here are some papers of interest.

Cole, Elizabeth C., William C. McComb, Michael Newton, Carol L. Chambers, and J.P. Leeming. 1997. Response of amphibians to clearcutting, burning, and glyphosate application in the Oregon Coast Range. Journal of Wildlife Management 61(3):656-664.

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Newton, M and E.C. Cole. 1987. A sustained yield scheme for old-growth Douglas-fir. Western Journal of Applied Forestry 2:22-25.

Shindler, Bruce, and Lori Cramer. 1997. Changing public values: consequences for Pacific Northwest forestry. Proceedings for a conference on Forests and Society: Implementing Sustainability. Oregon State University. Dec. 5-6, 1997.

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Spies, Thomas A., and Jerry F. Franklin. 1991. The structure of natural young, mature, and old-growth Douglas-fir forests in Oregon and Washington. In L.F. Ruggiero et al., eds. Wildlife and Vegetation of Unmanaged Douglas-fir Forests. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. 285.

Tappeiner, John C., David Huffman, David Marshall, Thomas A. Spies, and John D. Bailey. 1997. Density, ages, and growth rates in old-growth and young-growth forests in coastal Oregon. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 27:638-648. But what does it cost? . . .

Uneven-aged management "is probably the most difficult of all silvicultural systems," says Dick Hermann. "It's a very precise technical operation, and there are many ways you can make mistakes." Partly because managers and loggers have to be so careful, uneven-aged techniques are more expensive.

Results from a study in Washington show that "biodiversity pathways" for managed forests—which include a range of treatments including long-rotation clearcuts—sacrifice the opportunity to capture all of a stand's current value at once through short-rotation clearcutting. However, thinnings provide a periodic flow of income. And later on—approaching 100 years or so—the remaining trees grow big and valuable.

"The value increase from the higher quality [of the timber] offsets part of, but not all, the landowner's loss from the longer rotations and management costs," says Bruce Lippke, director of the Center for International Trade in Forest Products at the University of Washington, who presented the study's findings at the IUFRO seminar.

However, the increased cost "becomes an economic development investment in rural communities." In other words, alternative management costs the landowner more, but the benefits go to local communities in the form of thinning, logging, and wood-processing jobs and tax revenue to local governments. Lippke proposes various economic incentives to encourage landowners to forgo their most profitable management pathway in favor of a broader social goal.

It should be noted that these "biodiversity pathways" don't call for exclusively uneven-aged treatments. "They may be thought of as even-aged within the treated area but uneven-aged and as diverse as naturally disturbed stands over a broader area," Lippke says.

He says uneven-aged and other

Continued on page 11

Volume 2 Number I January 1998 College of Forestry **Oregon State** University



A sea of concrete. Construction workers pour footings for the new Laboratory.

The new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Laboratory will help College scientists provide knowledge and technology transfer in many important areas, including advanced manufacturing systems, wood composite technology, engineered wood products, pulp and paper chemistry, wood preservation, forest genetics, silviculture, and integrated forest protection.

lotes

The Campaign for the new Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing Research Laboratory

Construction still on schedule

The new Research Lab remains on schedule as columns and walls for the basement continue to sprout skyward. Right now the workers are pouring concrete footings for a construction tower crane that will stay in place for the next few months.

They're also pouring footings for the administrative wing of the new building, which will be at the northeast corner. The west hallway in the Peavy basement has been blocked off while the connection between the two buildings is being constructed. And there will soon be lights for the new south parking lot, says Roger Admiral, the College's director of services and building manager.

"Remember," he told Peavy Hall occupants in a recent memo, "the site is a hardhat safety zone—all supervision should be done from windows."









News from Alumni

1932

Lee O. Hunt, '32 and '34, Salem, OR. "Retired from full-time job 34 years ago so am on my third 30-year career. Had to give up the five-acre home place at Winston in Douglas County. Still operate Fir Springs Tree Farm as a family partnership."

1934

Andrew C. Upham, Portland. "Have been retired for 22 years from the Oregon Highway Division. Still living in Portland. Good luck with the new research center."

1937

George E. Mickel, Canby, OR. "T.J. Starker and Dean Mason were two of the teachers I remember from the class of 1937. Gus Krause and I were selected by the Weyerhaeuser people to go to work for them as management trainees at their Longview sawmill division. After four years I was assistant sawmill foreman and did not care for shift work. My wife worked for Longview Fibre Co. and heard of a day job in the container division office. In 1951 I joined the container sales staff in Portland. Mainly traveled the Willamette Valley; our main customers were the canneries. Retired in 1978 and now enjoy golf, travel, and yard work."

1938

Gene Tower, FM, Winchester, OR. "Since retiring in 1981, I have worked as a volunteer consultant in

Honduras, Brazil, Portugal, Egypt, and Uruguay for companies producing composite products. A recent volunteer project for a sawmill in Romania was completed last year. In addition, I have done private consulting in Mexico and the United States."

1941

J. Warner Blake, Tech. Forestry, El Paso, TX. "Although I have not been involved in forestry-related employment since I left Weyerhaeuser's Springfield branch in 1948, my forestry education has provided a source of interest in many activities since then. In particular is the possible growth of Afghan pine, *Pinus eldarica*, in southwestern Oregon."

1950

Alfeo Minato, FE, Salem, OR. "Greetings, Fernhoppers! The end of 1997 marked my 13th year teaching Forest Resources Technology at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. No. 1 highlight of the year was the birth of my second granddaughter, Kyla Grace, on Sept. 5, to my son Marco and Cyndi. Second highlight: No. 1 son, David, graduated from Portland State with a degree in psychology and was sworn in as a corrections officer with the Multnomah County sheriff's department. Third highlight: Attending the 450th Bomb Group (B-24 bomber) reunion in San Antonio. I was the top turret gunner and we completed 35 missions over Germany during World War II. Five out of 10 of our

crew members attended, and three of the bombers I hadn't seen since 1945! It was quite a reunion.

"Step aerobics, cross-country skiing, and field labs with my students have replaced my former exercise as a 'brush monkey."

1953

Bill Penney, FM, Ventura, CA. "Finally retired from my contracting business in 1995 and have been enjoying doing other things I never had time for in the past. I'm pleased to be able to make a small donation that will go toward construction of the new Research Laboratory. Once a Fernhopper, always a Fernhopper."

1962

Larry Cron, FM, Missoula, MT. "After 36 years and eight months with the Forest Service, January 2 will be my last day. We have moved to Missoula, where retirement will include more golf, exercise, writing, and reading, and less yard work and job frustration. After some rest and relaxation, we'll see what the Lord brings our way for ministry, consulting, or part-time work."

1964

William L. Phillips, FS/Natural Resources, is director of planning and building inspection in Monterey County, CA.

Roy Scantlebury, Seattle, WA. "Many thanks to OSU for helping me find my way into the forestry

field. After graduating in 1964 I was a forester with the Oregon State Tax Commission for about three years. In 1968 I moved into sales work and have owned my own recreational sales company since 1988. All the best with the new research facility."

Ron Stewart '64 and '70, Washington, D.C., was appointed Forest Service deputy chief for programs and legislation. Stewart has been with the Forest Service since 1969; a few years ago he was regional forester for Region 5, which covers California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Islands trust territories. He received a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from OSU in 1964 and a doctorate in Forest Ecology and Silviculture in 1970.

1966

Carl T. Masaki, Honolulu, HI.

"I'm still employed by the state of Hawaii's Division of Forestry and Wildlife as the forestry program manager. In September of last year I retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a colonel with over 31 years of active and reserve service. I'm married with two daughters—the elder is a third-year optometry student at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR, and the younger is a sophomore at the University of Hawaii."

1967

Tod Files, FM, Boardman, OR. "I continue being a part-time contractor and serious aviation artist. I particularly like to do paintings that depict aviation applications to forestry—smokejumpers, retardant drops, and other mountain flying

"Mac" McKimmy dies

Milford D. "Mac" McKimmy, professor emeritus and long-time member of the Forest Products faculty, died Oct. 8 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 73.

Born in Beaverton, Mich., McKimmy was raised on the family farm. During World War II he served as a reconnaissance sergeant in the 6th Field Artillery in the Philippines. McKimmy received his bachelor's in wood utilization and technology from Michigan State University in 1949, a master's in forest products from Oregon State in 1951, and a doctorate in wood technology from Syracuse University in 1955. He married Margaret "Peggy" Barnard in 1954.

McKimmy served Oregon State for 33 years, first as an instructor and finally as a professor in the Forest Products department. He made many important research contributions in the area of wood structure and quality. Under his guidance a new X-ray densitrometry laboratory was developed.

During the summers of 1959 and 1960 he worked for the Warm Springs Indian tribes on a project to help develop their forest resources. In 1966-67 he was awarded the Charles Bullard Forest Research Fellowship at Harvard University and spent the year on sabbatical in Petersham, Mass. He retired from OSU as professor emeritus in 1986.

He was regarded with respect and affection for his devotion to students, having taught every course offered by the department at one time or another.

He was a member of College United Methodist Church in Philomath, the Forest Products Research Society, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society of Wood Preservers Association, the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and the West Coast Dry Kiln Association. McKimmy was a skilled mountain climber and hiker and enjoyed photography and reading.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy McKimmy of Corvallis, sons Roger of Eugene and Andrew of Ashland, daughters Janet of Corvallis and Sharon Bair of California, seven sisters, a brother, and five grandchildren. Contributions in his name may be made to the College of Forestry scholarship fund.

activities. This summer I was a Forest Service contract lookout on Madison Butte on the Umatilla National Forest. Lots of lightning and smokes to report and great photo opportunities of the fire-detection airplane as it flew past close by each afternoon. I'm working up some paintings from this reference photography.

"At 53 I thought my fire-protec-

tion days were long gone, but not so! Lookouts how have solar panels for power, cell phones and even gas refrigerators. Some things are the same: the tortuous Jeep road to the tower, the Osborne fire finder that has been swung on smokes since the 1930s, the glassinsulated stool and the need for personal courage and resourcefulness at times.



Tod Files

"I was last on a lookout in 1962. I think it is more fun the second time around. Members of my family were able to come up about half of the time. I'll be there the next two summers at least. Drop by!"

1969

Bill Dryden, FM, Boise, ID. "Sue and I are starting our fourth year in Boise. Rachel is almost 20 and a sophomore at Whitman College with a possible major in environmental politics. Seth is a junior at Boise High majoring in mountain bikes, skiing, and computers. Sue continues to do some substitute teaching and keep us all on track. My work with Boise Cascade on environmental and regulatory issues impacting our timber supply is always challenging and never dull."

Jerry V. Richardson, FP, Gresham, OR. "Although I am no longer in the forestry field, OSU College of Forestry had a big impact on my life. I graduated with a Forest Products degree and worked two years at the old Research Lab with Ray Currier. The basic laboratory technique I learned led me into the medical laboratory field, where I am now. I plan to come and see the new Laboratory."

Linda Matteson, Thetford Center, VT. "The new Lab will make a significant statement about the importance of forestry to the entire country and the planet—not just Oregon and the Northwest. Congratulations! And beyond statements—the knowledge gained at this facility by those young, responsive minds may make all the

1976

1981

difference to our planet."

Brian Brown, FE, Juneau, AK. "I'm just finishing my 12th year in southeast Alaska. I currently work for Silver Bay Logging. We are doing our best to cope with the changes in the industry. I live near Juneau with my wife and two children. Call me at 907-799-2290 or 723-4814."

1984

Dan Brett, FRR, New Orleans, LA. "I have been married for 11 years and have one child four and a half years old. I currently work for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau and have been here for seven and a half years. Since graduating with the FRR degree with a minor in Resource Economics with an emphasis on tourism, I have worked in the tourism industry in Oregon, California, and now Louisiana. However, I have missed Oregon every day since I left. I enjoy reading Focus on Forestry and keeping up-to-date on OSU and CoF activities."

Randy Sablan, FRR, Sinajana, Guam. "Since graduating in 1990, I have worked for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency as an environmental planner. Over the last six-plus years I have worked in water quality management, impact assessment, wetlands management, and environmental land use planning and policy. My career has been very challenging and rewarding. I have been married for four years and have a two-year-old daughter. Since my mother lives in Albany, I have occasion to visit Corvallis and OSU, which I enjoy a great deal.

"It's great to read about all the innovative work occurring in the College of Forestry, and all the energy projected in that work. Even though my career has had very little to do with recreation resource management or temperate forestry for that matter, the general resource management education I received has served me well these past six years.

"I'm interested to know if there have been any other folks from the Territory who studied at the College of Forestry. I would like to hear from you and any other FRR class of 1990 or '91 grads. I'm at mrsablan@ite.net."

Uneven-aged management

Continued from page 10

alternative strategies achieve biological diversity at much less cost than setting the land aside. "Reserves are quicker, but they're more expensive. Plantation forestry doesn't do the job. Biodiversity pathways take longer to achieve diversity, but they're the cheapest way."

Nonindustrial woodland owners, says Emmingham, may have another objective besides biodiversity and aesthetics: a steady flow of income. Many small woodland owners bought their land years ago and now have a standing crop of high-value timber. Uneven-aged methods promise to help these owners capture the value of their timber a little at a time and avoid a big tax bite for themselves or their heirs.

... and will the public buy it?

The interest in uneven-aged methods is prompted largely by a public that's dissatisfied with business as usual. The widespread adoption of uneven-aged methods won't necessarily change that, says College of Forestry social scientist Bruce Shindler, who has surveyed people in the Pacific Northwest and nationally about their attitudes toward forest management. "Social acceptability is not a simple thing to gauge," he says. "It depends on the location, the context, who's doing the judging, and how decisions are made."

Shindler, who also presented his work at the IUFRO seminar, has found, for one thing, that visual quality is important, but it's not everything. People are also concerned that other forest uses and values will be protected. The thinned forest may look better than a clearcut, but people need to know that traditional recreation places will be left intact, and they need to know that the logging won't drive wildlife toward extinction.

People also care about risk, Shindler says. "People need to understand the risks involved before they give their wholesale

support." They also care about cost; to be publicly acceptable, forest management needs to be sustainable and cost-effective.

Finally, people need to feel they have a legitimate role in the decisionmaking process, especially when it involves management of public lands. "People don't become activists just because they have time on their hands," says Shindler. "They do it because have a stake in the outcome, and they want to make sure important issues get talked about."

He recommends that managers engage in "upfront thinking"—giving careful consideration to the public's role before starting a harvesting project.

Organizing public forums where all views can receive a serious and respectful hearing, Shindler says, can avoid costly problems later on.

A matter of choices

Like just about everything else in life, forest management has become more complicated in the last few decades. There's a wider range of objectives and a wider range of choices for achieving them. Research conducted here at the College of Forestry will help forest managers and policymakers work out such problems as when and where to apply uneven-aged management techniques, and what the costs, benefits, and tradeoffs will be.

"It's not our job to tell managers, or the public, what they ought to prefer," says Bill Emmingham. "But our research can show people the likely outcomes of their choices."

Seth White and Ashley Roorbach contributed to this story.

"

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Faculty Profile

Labs across the water

Building educational and research capacity overseas

ike many in his profession, Bart
Thielges got into forestry because he
loved the out-of-doors. "I didn't
want to spend my entire life in an office,"
he says, "I wanted to see the world a bit."

Now that he's Associate Dean of the College and Associate Director of the Forest Research Lab, Thielges is in the

office more than he really wants to be. But his work there—the processing of research proposals, the development of projects in Mexico or Malaysia or Malawi—enhances the work of forestry teaching and research for thousands of scientists, teachers, and students around the globe. And yes, he does get to see the world, more than a bit.

Thielges, 59, grew up in Chicago, but he spent summers in the woods near his grandparents' lakeside cabin in northern Illinois. He knew he wanted a career that would take him out-

doors, but it took a while to find the right one. He enrolled in geology at Southern Illinois University, then switched to journalism for a year, but neither seemed to fit. Then he got married, quit school for a while, and drove a truck in Chicago. By the time he returned to college, he and his wife, Judy, had two young sons. He enrolled in forestry—the right choice, as it turned out—and landed an undergraduate research assistantship with botanist Margaret Kaeiser, who was to become his first mentor. With Kaeiser he studied natural variations in the wood structure of black walnut and yellow poplar, two major commercial tree species

of the Midwest.

That work put him in touch with another mentor, Forest Service scientist Steve Boyce, who encouraged Thielges to go on for a master's degree, which he received from Yale in 1964.

Building programs

After earning his doctorate in 1967, also at Yale, Thielges was hired as a geneticist for the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. In 1971 he moved to Louisiana State, where he threw himself into being a

professor—carrying a full teaching and research load and getting involved in student organizations. "It was too much," he says. "After five years I was beginning to burn out."

He was tapped by the Forest Service to organize a new research unit on hardwood genetics at the Starkville, Missis-



He does get outside once in a while. Bart Thielges consults with construction superintendent Tim Carpenter on the progress of the new Research Lab.



sippi, experiment station. However, he found a straight research job uninspiring after life at a university. Then the University of Kentucky came to call in 1977, inviting Thielges to become department chairman.

After 13 successful years at Kentucky, Thielges moved to OSU in 1990. He took the place of George Brown as Associate Dean for Research when Brown was named Dean after Carl Stoltenberg retired.

Looking to developing countries

Thielges got interested in overseas research during his time at Louisiana State. Teaching many international students, he began to see how international linkages could help developing countries build research capacity, giving them the tools to solve their own economic and natural resource problems. While at Kentucky, he participated in a USAID cooperative effort to establish forestry teaching, research, and extension programs at 2 universities in Indonesia.

When he came to OSU, he found a strong effort in international programs already in place. One of Thielges's recent accomplishments is a three-way cooperative agreement among OSU and two South African universities, the University of Natal and the University of Zululand, a formerly all-black university. Neither of these schools now has a forestry program. Thielges and Candace Buzzard at OSU's Office of International Research and Development are working on a grant to send some of OSU's forestry faculty there to help set up teaching and research programs in agroforestry and sustainable forest management.

This arrangement resulted from a visit Thielges and Buzzard made last spring to various universities in southern Africa. They also established similar linkages in Malawi and Kenya. "Our role," he says, "is not to get into proactive development kinds of things, but rather to help other countries build their own institutional capabilities."

Many hats-including a hard hat

As Associate Director of the Forest Research Lab, Thielges has a big research portfolio at home, too. He oversees research programs worth about \$17 million a year. About three-fourths of the research funding comes from competitive grants and contracts, making the College of Forestry consistently among the top grant-getting faculties at OSU.

About 80 College faculty hold research appointments. Their programs cover a wide range of forestry and forest-products-related topics, everything from tree genetics to forest fungi to timber mechanics to social attitudes toward forestry.

In yet another role, Thielges is also the point man in the construction of the new Research Laboratory, now rising out of the mud south of Peavy Hall. He wrote the proposals that secured \$10 million in USDA funds for the building, and he's been the College's representative in dealings with OSU, the architects, and the contractor.

A broad base

Thielges works at making the College of Forestry's research even better than it already is. "We cover the bases pretty well already," he says. "But if these were better times financially, there are places we could build some depth."

For example? "We may be moving into an era when public forests are managed as mostly reserves. It would help to have more research on improved operations in these forests—mechanized harvesting, small-log thinning, and so forth. And by the same token, we should also build up our research in intensive, commercial, plantation-type forestry to address the increased demand for wood from private lands.

"With more depth to these programs and some others, we could greatly improve our capability to solve problems both here and overseas."

66

Our role is to help other countries build their own institutional capabilities."



Stalking a sneaky fungus

he College's newest research cooperative is looking into causes and cures for a fungal disease that severely stunts the growth of coastal Douglas-fir.

Swiss needle cast, despite the name, is caused by a New World fungus. Its symptoms were first identified in Switzerland on Douglas-fir trees imported from the West Coast.

Right now the fungus, known to scientists as *Phaeocryptopus gaeumannii*, is most prevalent in the coastal "fog belt," a strip roughly 18 miles wide between Astoria and Newport.

It attacks Douglas-fir needles by plugging up their stomates, or pores, impairing the tree's ability to photosynthesize and grow. Infected needles turn yellow and fall off within about a year of the time they're attacked. Healthy Douglas-fir needles, in contrast, will stay on the tree for four to five years. "[Infected] trees get to looking pretty scraggly and sparse," says Doug Maguire, College silviculturist and one of the cooperative's researchers.

The fungus probably won't kill the trees, says Maguire, although no one knows for sure yet. But it's destructive

even if it doesn't.
Assuming the disease progresses at its current rate, a full-blown epidemic could result in annual growth losses of about 1.6 billion board feet in Oregon, according to early estimates.

"Even at a modest stumpage cost of \$500 per thousand board feet," Maguire says, "that's a lot of loss."

Symptoms began appearing about 10 years ago in young plantations near Tillamook. Foresters at first called it "the Tillamook decline," but about three years ago it was identified as an epidemic of Swiss needle cast. The disease has done its worst damage in younger, planted stands, but symptoms have also been spotted in older, naturally regenerated second-growth forests, Maguire says.

The fungus is present at low levels on Coast Range Douglas-fir needles all the time, Maguire says. No one knows why it's on such a rampage at the moment. Researchers are looking for clues in seasonal moisture and temperature patterns and other site characteristics. They also are investigating the possibility of a new, more-virulent strain of the fungus.

The Swiss Needle Cast Research Cooperative was organized in January of last year by Bill Atkinson, retired Forest Engineering department head, who pulled together a group of concerned forest managers from wood-products companies that own forest land in the area. The companies agreed to provide funding for a five-year research effort. The Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and Coos County are also providing funds, and in-kind support comes from the Forest Service.

The co-op is headed by Greg Filip of the Forest Science department, an expert on integrated pest management. Researchers are based at OSU Colleges of Forestry and Science, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Forest Service PNW Research Station.

Looking for clues to a fog-belt pest. Co-op leader Greg Filip (with clipboard) and student Dan Manter gather evidence at one of the Swiss needle cast research sites.





Norm Johnson



Bob Beschta

Two from CoF on national planning team

K. Norman Johnson has been chosen by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to chair a 13-member scientific panel to review national forest management planning. Bob Beschta has been selected to serve on the panel.

Johnson is a professor in the College's Forest Resources department, where he teaches forest management and policy. He has extensive experience in working on national forest planning. Johnson was the primary developer of FORPLAN, the planning model used by the Forest Service.

This is not his first high-profile assignment. Johnson served with Jack Ward Thomas in 1992 on a team that became known as the "Gang of Four," which developed a range of strategies, with calculations of their costs and consequences, for managing Pacific Northwest

national forests. Their research showed that significant logging reductions would be needed to reduce the risk that threatened wildlife would become extinct.

Johnson also was a member of the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT), which provided the research that underlay President Bill Clinton's 1993 Northwest forest plan.

Beschta is a forest hydrologist and professor in the Forest Engineering department. His work, too, has had farreaching policy implications. He coauthored a controversial 1987 report that documented the degradation of streams in high-desert rangelands in eastern Oregon and proposed restrictions on cattle grazing and instream channel alterations. In recent years he has continued research on issues important to eastern Oregon and stream systems in the upper Columbia Basin.

The new scientific team began meeting in mid-December to develop improvements in land and resource planning on the national forests.

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Alumni Profile

Getting them outside

... and then teaching 'em science

rinted across Wolftree's promotional sweatshirts are the words, "Be outside." You could say it's the company slogan. Lauri Shainsky, who got her doctorate at the College of Forestry's Forest Science department in 1988, is the cofounder and executive director of Wolftree, Inc., a Portlandbased, nonprofit science education corporation.

"Our mission is to serve people, their communities, and the earth through science education in the outdoors," says Shainsky. "We pursue our mission by designing and providing hands-on ecological learning experiences in wildland settings, supported by a broad community and focused on scientific inquiry."

Wolftree stands out among other environmental programs, she says, by concentrating on science. "We do not preach environmental ethics. We hope we give people enough unbiased information so they can make their own choices about how they use, conserve, or preserve natural resources.

"My roots are with the YMCA's camping programs. I wanted Wolftree to be more intellectual than the recreational approach of the Y—but fun is still a basic necessity."

Her Y camping experiences were fun, she says, "but we didn't probe too deeply into how the natural world really works, mostly because of lack of expertise on the staff, and that just wasn't [the program's] focus." But she camped out in "some pretty awesome places, like the Marble Mountains of northern California, and Yosemite—places I would love to lead trips to, knowing what I know now."

Wolftree's main clients are middle-school and high-school students and teachers from the Portland area. A typical day at Cascade Streamwatch, Wolftree's aquatic-ecology course, begins with students climbing off buses at the Wildwood Recreation Area

near Mount Hood. In the morning, the students are researchers. They split into "habitat teams" to work on specific research projects—using chemistry to test water quality, studying macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality, quantifying streamflow for annual records on the Salmon River. Students work with biologists and educators to develop sensory awareness and learn scientific methods of data collection.

In the afternoon, the students become teachers, getting back together with their classmates to discuss their data and what

An emphasis on science. Yet Lauri Shainsky's experience with YMCA camping convinced her that fun has to be "a basic necessity," too. Here she is with two canine friends, Siouxan and Buteo.

"

We do not preach environmental ethics. We give people enough unbiased information to make their own choices."

they mean. These field labs, says Shainsky, give students a close encounter with the workings of natural processes, and they also get a feel for how real scientists go about their work.

Shainsky's interest in science and the out-of-doors started early, when she regularly attended camp programs near her home in Santa Rosa, California. She liked the camping life and went on to become a counselor. Later she helped run programs with the YMCA in west Los Angeles.

It was in a YMCA camp where she first made a commitment to a life of service. "I was involved in a personal-growth program of the Y called the Ragger's Society. This program challenged me to set high personal goals while also accepting each challenge specific to its program of progressive spiritual growth."

The final challenge of the program, which few people attain, she says, is dedication to a life of service. "It's a promise one makes in the presence of others who have made the same commitment. It's a powerful step, a powerful program, and it lit the path of my life and sowed the seed that is now Wolftree."

Shainsky earned a bachelor's degree in biology at UCLA and a master's in plant ecology at Davis. There she met ecologist Steve Radosevich and became a part of his research group, studying the ecology and physiology of forest and agricultural systems. "We were looking at the weeds of these systems, the underdogs, while everyone else was studying glamorous crop species like Douglas-fir," says Shainsky. But these seedy characters, she says, are equally important: "We wanted to understand the whole system, to see how things really worked."

When Radosevich, her major professor, moved to the OSU College of Forestry, Shainsky followed. After completing her doctorate in forest ecology and conducting some postdoctoral research with Bill Emmingham, Shainsky moved to North Carolina State University, where

she worked on a team studying mechanisms of tree growth in response to changing ozone levels and other atmospheric impacts. But her passion for Northwest forests led her back to the West Coast, where she landed a position as a research ecologist for the Forest Service in Portland.

The vacancy she had filled at the Forest Service was left by Dale Waddell, with whom she became good friends. She shared with him her commitment to service: "I told him about the camp vision." It turned out Waddell had felt a similar calling. Together they founded Wolftree, Inc., and in December of 1994 Shainsky quit the Forest Service and devoted her full-time energies to growing the new company.

Soon after acquiring their nonprofit status, Shainsky and Waddell met Bill Adler, who was running an aquatic-ecology program for school children. "Wolftree was looking to develop education programs," says Shainsky, "and Adler's program was looking for a corporate home." They got together, and the program, now called Cascade Streamwatch, is Wolftree's biggest, serving about 1,800 students and 30 teachers thanks to effective partnerships with the Forest Service, the BLM, and the Portland Water Bureau.

"The success of Cascade
Streamwatch has more than poured over into our other two programs, Expeditions and Highland Ecology," says Shainsky.
The latter is a terrestrial-ecology program piloted in the fall of 1997. The Science Expedition Series invites students to spend a week or more studying ecology in the Pacific Northwest wilderness.

These programs are steps toward Shainsky's long-term vision: "To establish a permanent outpost for ecological learning, where students, teachers, and scientists all come together and live outside, immersed in the study of ecology."

__S.W.



forestry Currents

Kudos to faculty and staff



Ed Jensen



Katy Kavanagh

Not one but two national awards for excellence in teaching went to Ed Jensen, Forest Resources associate professor, at the end of last year. The Society of American Foresters honored him with the Carl Alwin Schenck award, the highest made by the SAF in the field of education. The award recognizes Jensen's outstanding service in forestry teaching, professional education, and the development of innovative instruction. "His development of teaching methods, techniques, and programs has been dynamic, imaginative, and unique," says the SAF. The award commemorates Carl A. Schenck, founder of the Biltmore Forestry School, an early technical forestry school on the Vanderbilt estate in North Carolina.

That was in September. In November Jensen received one of 10 teaching awards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

"Through a variety of printed and electronic publications, he has extended his knowledge and enthusiasm well beyond the university walls," says the NASULGC.

Jensen has twice been honored by OSU's Forestry students with the Aufderheide Award for excellence in teaching.

Katy Kavanagh, Forestry Extension faculty in Clatsop County, received a Newer Faculty award from the OSU Extension Association at its annual conference in September. She was honored for her work in developing educational forestry programs for youth and improving educational outreach to small woodland owners, and also for her research on the silviculture, physiology, and management of northern coastal forests. The Newer Faculty award recognizes distinguished achievement among Extension faculty who have been on the job fewer than six years.

Scott Leavengood, wood products Extension agent in Klamath County, was named Wood Products Educator of the Year by the Northwest Wood Products Association (formerly Wood Products Competitiveness Corp.). The award, the first ever given by the association, was announced in September at its 1997 annual meeting. Leavengood was honored for his efforts with the Secondary Wood Products Training System, a statewide effort coordinated and offered by Oregon's community colleges. He helped develop the curriculum and conducted training for over 100 entry-level employees for the secondary wood products industry.

He is one of six members of OSU's wood products Extension team, which helps primary and secondary manufacturers in Oregon develop efficient wood products technology and manufacturing processes and market new products.





Tom McLain



Jo Tynon

Tom McLain, professor and head of the Department of Forest Products, has been elected a Fellow in the International Academy of Wood Science. The IAWS was established in 1966 by a worldwide group of wood scientists with the purpose of promoting the highest standards of research in the science and technology of wood. McLain was one of six scientists, including two Americans, elected for membership in the Academy in 1997.

CoF welcomes new faculty

Two new faculty members joined the College of Forestry last fall. They are **Joanne F. Tynon** and **James Kiser.**

Jo Tynon is a new assistant professor in the Forest Resources department. She teaches three classes in Forest Recreation Resources, and she advises more than 60 students. Tynon received her doctorate in resource recreation and tourism from the University of Idaho. She comes to OSU from the University of Maine, where she was an assistant professor of parks, recreation, and tourism.

Jim Kiser has joined the Forest Engineering department as an instructor, teaching beginning and advanced surveying. Kiser was a senior research assistant in the College between 1986 and 1993. During that time, he began and managed the Forest Photogrammetry Research Laboratory. He received his master's in forest photogrammetry and biometrics from OSU in 1992 and plans to begin a doctoral program soon. Most recently he worked in land and timber operations for Weyerhaeuser Co.



Continued from page 20

owners that may not be open to analysis with conventional, single-method approaches. In one study, for example, he found links between the various ethnic backgrounds of forest landowners in Wisconsin and their differing management styles.

Bliss also brings a commitment to interdisciplinary, collaborative research. "I'm attracted to research that is very applied, that seeks solutions to problems that real people are having," he says. "These problems aren't usually the kind that can be solved by a narrow, disciplinary focus. And in my experience, the social issues and the conflicts inherent in natural resource management have commonality around the globe. So if you do a really good job of researching these placebased issues, collaboratively solving these very specific problems, then you can make a contribution that others can build on."

A Wisconsin native, Bliss received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Before earning his doctorate, he worked as a field forester and a forest ranger for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He and his wife, Kerry, served with the Peace Corps in Afghanistan in 1974-76.

"I thought it was intriguing that Oregon, a state dominated by public forests, is the first to give this kind of prominence to issues of private forestry," he says. Establishing the endowed chair "is a very foresighted move on the part of the Starker family and the University."



Starker Chair hired

John Bliss will create a program in family and private forestry



John Bliss

ohn C. Bliss, a forestry professor with a strong background in working with nonindustrial forest owners in the South, has been hired to launch the nation's first chaired academic program focused on family and private forestry.

Bliss, 46, comes from Auburn University in Alabama, where he teaches and conducts research on the social aspects of private forest ownership, management, and policy. He also serves as an Extension forestry specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He will arrive in April to fill the OSU College of Forestry's first endowed chair, the Starker Chair in Private and Family Forestry.

The endowment comes from a gift from Elizabeth Starker Cameron of a 260acre demonstration forest. Ongoing revenues from this tract will fund the work of the new program, which will include research and Extension outreach on issues of private forest management.

"We are pleased to see the College of Forestry moving forward with this program and bringing a person of Dr. Bliss's caliber to OSU," said Bond Starker, Cameron's son and a partner in Starker Forests, Inc. "Oregon's private lands, and in particular Oregon's family-owned small woodlands, are becoming even more important to our state's economic and social fabric now that harvests from federal lands have been so dramatically reduced. We believe Dr. Bliss has the background to work well with private owners and to understand and explain their economic and social motivations in way that will help Oregon develop good public policy."

The new Starker Professor is both a forester and a cultural anthropologist. He uses social-science research methods to probe motivations of private forest land-

Continued on page 19



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