



## Policy Scoreboard

*Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity. You are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.*

### Oregon SAF Supports Fire Salvage

OSAF sent a letter to the state's congressional delegation asking them to support the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) in their respective efforts to salvage harvest stands burned by the September 2020 wildfires. The letter highlights several key points: 1) agency salvage plans are consistent with their Resource Management Plans/Land Use Plans; 2) stands being salvaged are included in the respective Plan's harvest land base and would eventually would have been harvested as "green sales"; 3) salvage of roadside hazard trees is necessary for the protection of road users; 4) failure to salvage leaves considerable fuel loads, interferes with effective and safe future fire suppression, and endangers public and private forests, particularly in the checkerboard O&C lands; and 5) sal-

vaging captures carbon as wood products, and salvaged stands are always reforested.

Our letter also notes that the salvage harvest proposed is only a small proportion of the land base within the fire perimeter (BLM 7 percent and USFS 1 percent) and concerns about environmental impacts are greatly overstated.

### OSAF Supports the Oregon Forest Resource Institute

Several bills were introduced during the 2021 Oregon Legislative session that affects the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI is a "commodity commission" similar to the Beef Council or Wheat Commission, and is funded by a per-thousand fee on timber harvested in Oregon. The majority of OFRI's budget is dedicated to landowner, general public, and K-12 education on private forest management. OFRI also conducts studies on forest management practices. [Editor's note: OFRI is an advertiser in the *Western Forester*.]

One bill proposed to eliminate OFRI and direct its funding to other purposes. Another called for a special review and audit of OFRI. OSAF submitted written testimony, and State Chair Jeremy Felty presented oral testimony in support of OFRI.

### OSAF State Chair Ask Members to Support Oregon Board of Forestry

In an e-mail sent March 17, OSAF Chair Jeremy Felty asked OSAF members to provide oral or written testimony in opposition to Oregon Senate Bill

SB335. SB335 would reduce forestry sector representation on the seven-member Oregon Board of Forestry (BOF) from a maximum of three to two—one of which must represent small woodland owners. The bill would also eliminate the Regional Forest Practice Committees and shift the power to hire and fire the State Forester to the governor.

OSAF is greatly concerned about the prospective dilution of forestry expertise on the BOF and that the BOF would be treated differently from other state boards on which specialized expertise is welcomed. OSAF's Position Statement Forestry Professionals as Stakeholders can be found at: <http://www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/overview>.

### US Forest Service Approves Implementation of New Eastside Tree Harvest Guideline

In 2020, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region released a proposal to amend land management plans on six national forests in eastern Oregon and Washington (Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, Ochoco, Deschutes, and Fremont-Winema National Forests). The proposed amendment would revise a current provision that prohibits harvest of any trees larger than 21 inches in diameter, irrespective of species. The USFS evaluated five alternatives including the current management option and ultimately selected the "Old and Large Tree Guideline with Adaptive Management" alternative. This alternative replaces the "hard" 21-inch standard with a guideline that emphasizes retention and recruitment of old (>150 years) and large trees. If there are not enough old trees to develop structure conditions, large trees will be protected, favoring fire tolerant species such as ponderosa pine and western larch. Large trees are defined as grand fir and white fir > 30-inch dbh or trees of any other species > 21-inch dbh.

The decision was signed by Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Jim Hubbard and was effective January 15, 2021. National forests will be able to use the amendment on any projects going forward, including all projects currently in planning. *WF*



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK BUCKBEE

Along this stretch of the North Umpqua highway east of Idleyld Park, in October PPL performed powerline hazard abatement.