



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.

Fish and Wildlife Commission Reverses Earlier Decision to Uplist the Marbled Murrelet. At its June 8, 2018, meeting in Baker City, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission reversed its decision made on February 9, 2018, in Portland to “uplist” the Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) from Threatened to Endangered. MAMU will now instead remain as Threatened under Oregon’s Endangered Species Act. OSAF had presented written testimony at the February meeting asking the commission to make their decision based on the best current scientific evidence, including a finding of stable populations along most of the Oregon coast and the presence of substantial suitable but unoccupied habitat for MAMU. According to ODFW staff, the Northwest Forest Plan Monitoring Report shows populations of MAMU in Oregon stabilized between 2000 and 2015. While the reversal seems attributable to a shift among its voting members, the Commission apparently saw value in awaiting the results of an ongoing 10-year OSU study of MAMU. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Policy co-chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

OSAF Approves Updated Policy Statement on Salvage Harvesting on Public Lands. At the April 2018 OSAF Executive Committee in Bend, an updated version of our position statement entitled Salvage Logging on Federal Lands was

approved by the ExCom. Minor changes were made to the existing position. The core position states that OSAF “*supports the well planned, timely, and careful use of salvage harvesting on public forestlands after uncontrollable events have killed or damaged large numbers of trees. Salvage harvesting can mitigate economic losses due to the event, recover useful wood products, reduce fire and safety hazards and create the desired environmental conditions for successful reforestation. Application of current research and well-proven scientific principles by professional foresters and other resource experts can ensure that economically viable salvage harvesting will be conducted with proper consideration of environmental and social concerns.*” This position is particularly salient considering the numerous ongoing USFS and BLM planning efforts for post-fire treatments. Chapters and individual members are encouraged to participate in the Scoping and Comment periods for post-fire treatment plans for their local USFS and BLM District. The updated statement can be found at www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/general. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF policy co-chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

New Watershed Study Articles Address Important Water Resource Concerns. Questions and concerns about water resource impacts of timber harvest and related practices continue to arise in public discussions of the efficacy of existing policies for forestry. Among the challenges in addressing such issues is that much of the research about the effects of forest management on water resources was done many years ago and thus does not reflect the likely benefits of newer practices and policies. To help close this knowledge gap, the Watershed Research Cooperative (WRC) conducted long-term watershed studies in three different areas of western Oregon where contemporary logging and other improved practices were used. After many years of data collection and analysis, WRC

authors recently published some key findings of these important studies, which are very encouraging with regard to contemporary practices. Among the most recent reports are those that highlight effects on stream temperature (<https://bit.ly/2mrl0QN>), sediment (<https://bit.ly/2LvOuc6>), and fish (<https://bit.ly/2muDUYh>).

Two other recent publications should be especially useful to OSAF members who interact with interested citizens and public leaders as concerns are raised about regulations for private forest management. In February, the Oregon Department of Forestry updated its booklet that includes all the operational rules and statutory requirements under Oregon’s Forest Practices Act (<https://bit.ly/2LnYYNV>). Similarly, this summer the Oregon Forest Resources Institute released its 3rd edition of “Oregon’s Forest Protection Laws—An Illustrated Manual” (<https://oregonforests.org/publications>). Together, these two publications span 350+ pages of detailed requirements that forest managers and operators must follow in Oregon. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Policy co-chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com.

Herbicide Spray Issue Could Re-emerge Locally or in Salem. Although an initiative to ban aerial spraying in Lane County was kept off the May ballot by a local court ruling, it would not be surprising to see a modified version on the November ballot or other similar proposals directed at the state legislature next year. The recent update and revision of OSAF’s position statement “Using Herbicides on Forestlands in Oregon” provides an important resource as questions and concerns arise from interested citizens and public leaders. For example, as the Lane County issue arose earlier this year, OSAF leaders used the new position to help draft responses to provide Lane County citizens with a professional perspective on herbicide use in forestry. All OSAF members are invited to review the expanded discussion and environmental references in the revised position (www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/general), and similarly use this material when communicating with policy makers and the interested public about this important issue. Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Policy co-chair, buckbeefamily@msn.com. ♦

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Ron Boldenow, Ph.D., C.F., Forestry
Rebecca Franklin, Ph.D., Dendrochronology
Bret Michalski, M.S., Wildlife Science

E-mail: bmichalski@cocc.edu (541) 383-7756

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Bend, Oregon