



## 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.*

**OSAF Approves Updated Position Statement on Clearcutting.** At the September 21 OSAF Executive Committee Meeting in Corvallis, an updated version of our Position Statement entitled "Clearcutting" was approved by the ExCom. Only minor changes were made to the existing position. The core position states that OSAF "supports the careful use of clearcutting as a tool for meeting diverse management objectives, including desired conditions for the regeneration and health of important forest types. Many of the forests seen today in western Oregon were established after clearcutting, which demonstrates its effectiveness in regenerating native species such as Douglas-fir. Current laws include many measures that regulate the use of clearcutting on Oregon's private and public lands. Professional foresters and other specialists draw from a strong foundation of science and experience to further ensure that clearcutting is applied with prudent consideration of environmental, economic, and social

concerns." The updated statement can be found at [www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/general](http://www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/general). Contact: Mark Buckbee, OSAF Policy co-chair, [buckbeefamily@msn.com](mailto: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/2mrI0QN>), 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 require-

ments 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 (Available at: <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](mailto:buckbeefamily@msn.com).

**Herbicide Spray Issue Could Reemerge 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 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](http://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](mailto:buckbeefamily@msn.com). ♦



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