

OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM

Our Values: Connectivity; Collaboration; Stewardship; Inclusivity; Gratitude

Our Mission: Empowering private landowners to manage their forests sustainably

Our Purpose: Impacting the world by making Oregon a better place one acre at a time

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERY OREGON TREE FARMER

FROM YOUR OTFS CO-CHAIRS!

As 2024 begins, we are looking forward to a productive tree-farming year. We have made a list of all the tasks we wish to accomplish on our forest property, and we are thinking of all of you contemplating similar activities. Collectively we make enormous progress in creating healthy forests. It is an honor for us to be part of the Tree Farm community.

The Oregon Tree Farm System's working groups have five major goals for 2024. The Communication and Landowner Journey Groups have combined, and their goals are outreach both to existing members and potential new ones, with several strategies to accomplish these plans. Our Certification Working Group continues to work on our commitment to recertify every OTFS member's tree farm every five years. The plan is to eliminate the backlog of unvisited tree farms this year and put OTFS on a track that keeps visits up-to-date. Our Recognition Working Group plans to celebrate our 2023 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year, and announce the new 2024 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year at the Family Forest Convention on June 13-15th. The Governance Working Group will be taking a close look at our current Strategic Plan, as well as studying our current MOU with the American Forest Foundation. Finally, our Finance Working Group will be keeping a close eye on our budget and expenses. As a reminder, any tree farmer can join one of the five working groups. Most meetings are by Zoom. Let us know if you are interested.

We are happy to report Darren Goodding has accepted the position of Chair-Elect of the Oregon Tree Farm System and will be stepping into the Chair role in November of 2024. Darren is no stranger to the Tree Farm Program. He has served as



an inspector, District Chair, and Inspector Training Facilitator for almost 10 years in both Oregon and Washington. Most recently, he was the Eastern Washington Inspector Coordinator and member of the Washington State Tree Farm Committee for five years before moving back to Oregon in 2022. We are all really pleased that Darren is working with us.

Steve Vaught, one of our Board members, suggested we forward an article about applying for a grant from ODF to improve fish habitat. It is attached to the bottom of this letter.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about your certification or any other Tree-Farm related issues you can give us a call at 541-797-9734 or email us at wyldac@gmail.com.

Very best wishes.

Steve & Wylda

Steve & Wylda Cafferata, Co-Chairs, Oregon Tree Farm System

Keep scrolling down for the attached article about the S-Fish grant!

Oregon helping owners of small forestlands boost habitats for fish

Kristian Foden-Vencil
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon is offering owners of small forested property money to help improve fish habitat in rivers on their land.

The grant is for individuals, businesses and tribes that own smaller forested properties.

The goal is to help property owners replace culverts and fords in fish-bearing streams and to repair abandoned roads. Crumbling roads and broken culverts can fill salmon spawning beds with sediment.

"Our goal is to improve fish habitat and water quality, while helping small forestland owners fix their roads, which are essential for the management of their forestlands," said Josh Hanson, program coordinator for the state's Small Forestland Investment in

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Fish

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Stream Habitat program. "The grant program will provide more than \$6 million dollars to fund the replacement of culverts or fords in fish streams, repair abandoned roads, and fix roads with perched fill that

pose a significant hazard to fish-bearing streams."

Hanson said the program can also fund 100% of a project, including design and construction.

There is no deadline for applications, but the first round of funding is scheduled for spring 2024, so forest owners are being encouraged to act quickly.

The application process includes filling out an application at bit.ly/48AZaR7 and completing a road condition assessment at bit.ly/3HOzphj.

