

The Blue Mountain Forester

Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Quarterly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall 2023

New Forest Practices Rules Go into Effect January 1, 2024

New regulations under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) will go into effect for all private forestland owners starting January 1, 2024. These new rules were the result of the Private Forest Accord, an agreement between 13 conservation and fisheries groups, 11 timber companies, and OSWA, signed in 2021. Below are the key things to know, as well as a summary of some of the new rules, to help you prepare:

- All 2023 notifications must be completed by December 31, 2023. All forest operations on or after January 1, 2024, will require a new E-Notification (FERNS).
- Road Condition Assessments (RCA) are required starting January 1, 2024, for small forestland owners, and must be submitted along with harvest notifications.
- Starting in 2024, all landowners must report completion of notified activities by the end of the calendar year, or within 90 days for small forestland owners if certain conditions are met.

Forest Roads

New rules related to forest roads focus on minimizing sediment from entering streams and unimpeded fish passage. This includes minimizing hydrologic connectivity, such as a road ditch that runs directly into a stream. Further, this also includes additional rules for planning, design, and construction of new fish passages, as well as for improving existing passages. Small Forestland Owners (SFOs), or landowners who own less than 5,000 acres and have harvested no more than an average of 2 MMBF/year over the past 3 years, will also be required to submit a Road Condition Assessment (RCA).

RCAs are intended to ensure forest roads to be used are in compliance with the new Forest Practices Act standards. These assessments evaluate current road conditions as related to sediment delivery, document water crossings, and identify abandoned roads, fish passage barriers, and potential hazards to fish-bearing streams. RCAs must be completed when submitting a notification of operation that includes timber harvesting or when applying for a grant through the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) program. Assessments must be conducted on existing roads where the harvest activity will take place.

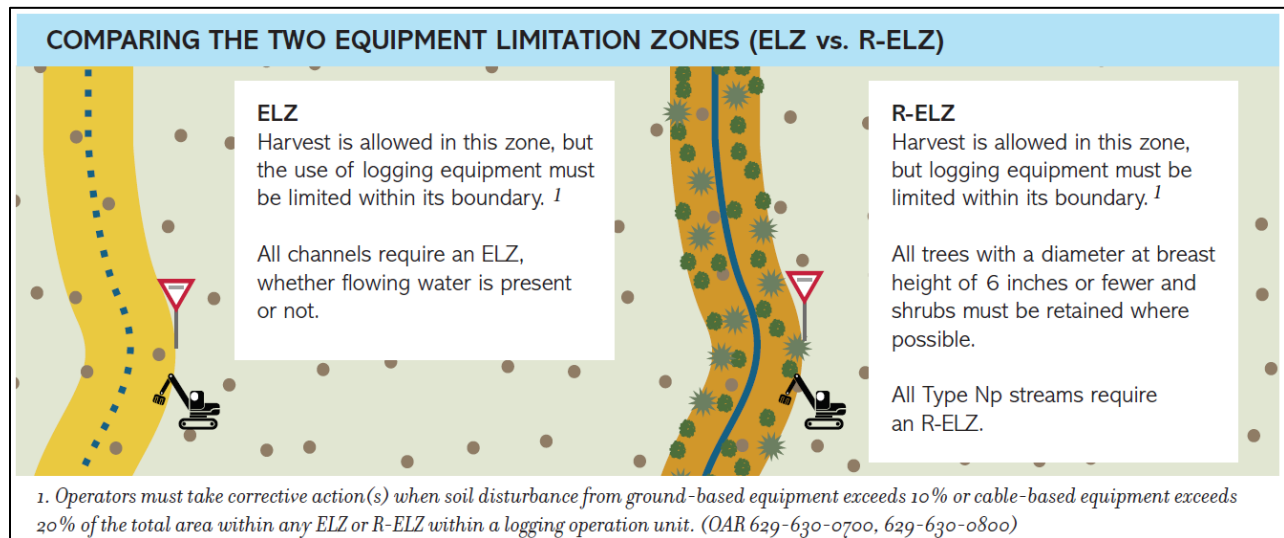
Stream Protection

Riparian Management Areas (RMA) are determined based on the stream type, which includes stream size (large, medium, small), seasonality (perennial or seasonal), fish-bearing status (fish-bearing, non-fish-bearing, and fish-bearing inhabited by salmon, steelhead, or bull trout [SSBT]), and the stream type that the respective stream flows into. The new stream vegetation retention rules are different based on two geographic regions: eastern and western Oregon. Qualified small forest landowners may choose to either follow the standard practice option, required for large forest landowners (>5,000 acres), or follow a "minimum option" which leaves narrower no-cut buffers along streams.

For eastern Oregon, RMAs generally require inner and outer protection zones that restrict or prohibit timber harvesting along all fish-bearing streams, and along large and medium non-fish-bearing streams. RMAs also include an Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ), where disturbance must be minimized within 30-feet of either

side of a stream, and a Retention Equipment Limitation Zone (R-ELZ), which includes the same 30-foot ELZ but requires all shrubs and trees less than 6 inches diameter at breast height to be retained where possible.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is currently developing a set of diagrams to help eastern Oregon private forestland owners follow these new rules. The *Eastside Forest Stream Protection Diagrams* booklet details and illustrates the required widths of no-cut buffers and equipment limitation zones along different types of streams for every possible scenario. This publication will be available soon.



OFPA Assistance & Where to Learn More

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), as well as partners such as OFRI and OSU Extension, are currently developing resources and training to assist landowners with implementing these new rules. ODF has factsheets and training videos available on their website, as well as hard copies of the new rules available at local ODF offices. For technical assistance or specific questions, contact your local ODF Stewardship Forester. To learn more, visit the websites below and stay tuned for training opportunities in 2024.

Forest Practices Act Resources: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/fpa.aspx>

Find a Forester: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/findaforester.aspx>

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Membership renewals for 2024 are now open. Memberships will expire at the end of the year, so renew today! There are a few important membership updates for 2024, including:

Forested Acres:

Regular Membership Categories are now based *only* on the number of *forested* acres your property includes.

New Rates:

The OSWA Board of Directors adopted a proposal to increase membership rates for 2024. This is the first increase in membership rates since 2015. Please see your renewal notice for the new rates.

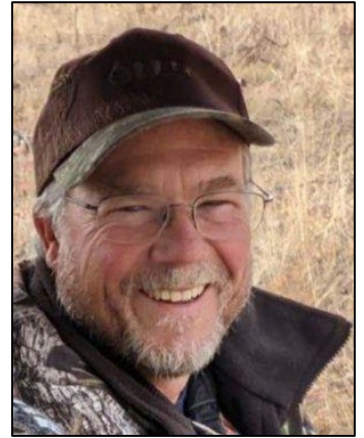
Additional Chapters:

You can now join multiple Chapters as part of your membership. When you renew, you will select a Primary Chapter, then have the option to add Additional Chapters for \$17 each.

You can renew your membership by completing the renewal form you should have recently received and mailing completed forms to the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (187 High Street NE, Room 208, Salem, OR 97301). Renewals can also be completed online at <https://www.oswa.org>. For questions or assistance, please contact OSWA at (503) 588-1813.

Welcome Brian Rabe – New NEOSWA Treasurer

I am a semi-retired consulting soil scientist. I worked for Valley Science and Engineering (formerly known as Cascade Earth Sciences, Ltd) for over 35 years based in Albany, Oregon. My wife, Dayla, and I purchased 380 acres in 2007 and added an adjacent 266 acres in 2009 located a couple miles south off Highway 7 in the Denny Creek watershed in Baker County. We have been members of OSWA since 2011 and officially became a Certified Tree Farm in 2015 just a few weeks before the Cornet-Windy Ridge fire scorched our eastern 240 acres. Led by Lane Parry and his crew, a salvage operation was conducted on about 25 acres along Denny Creek Road during the winter and about 19 acres were replanted in the spring of 2016 that included ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir. In 2021, we received a grant from ODF to conduct targeted fuel reduction thinning along selected property boundaries and roadways, managed by Lane and conducted by Josh Cobb. We purchased 5 acres east of Goodrich Creek Lane about 10 miles northwest of Baker City in 2016 and moved into our new house in July 2022. As I ease into retirement, I plan to invest more time at the Tree Farm as well as the several organizations I belong to.



New Webinar Series – Fire, Fuels, & Density Management

The OSU Extension team in northeast Oregon invites you to join us for our latest webinar series, *Fire, Fuels, & Density Management*. This series will dig deeper into some topics we've touched on during previous series, including techniques that will help you know how much thinning is enough to achieve your forest health and fire risk reduction objectives, and more details on the varied impacts of fuels reduction techniques. We'll also expand upon recommendations for rangeland management and share some interesting work on high elevation whitebark pine populations. Open to landowners, natural resource professionals, contractors, and anyone interested in learning more about forest management in central and eastern Oregon. Continuing education credits are available through both SAF and AOL.

The Webinars are **Free** – but registration is **Required**. Find more details on each of the sessions, as well as registration, by going to the course website or following the direct registration links below. You only need to register once to participate in any or all of the sessions.

When: First & Third Thursday's
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Jan. 18th – May 2nd, 2024

Website: beav.es/ffdm

Registration: beav.es/ffdm-reg

QR Code:



Eastern Oregon Log Market Report (As of: December 15, 2023)

Pendleton									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
Price (\$/MBF):	380				320	280	280		
La Grande									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
		6-7"	8"+						
Price (\$/MBF):	260-400	270	280		150	150	150		
Elgin (Only Purchasing Douglas-fir & Larch)									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
		6-11"	12"+						
Price (\$/MBF):	470								
Pilot Rock									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
		10-11"	12-15"	16"+					
Price (\$/MBF):		300	400	420					
Burns/John Day									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine				Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)
		6-7"	8-11"	12-17"	18"+				
Price (\$/MBF):	120-360	120	250	290	375	120-240			
Redmond/Bend/Gilchrist									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
		17"+							
Price (\$/MBF):		400							
Lakeview/Klamath Falls									
Species/Sort:	Douglas-fir/Larch	Ponderosa Pine			Grand/White Fir 8"+	Lodgepole Pine	E. Spruce	Pulp/Chip (Ton)	
		6-11"	12-16"	17"+		8"+			
Price (\$/MBF):			315	315		315			

Data Courtesy of John Lindberg (Oregon Log Market Report)

Event Calendar

Date & Time	Event	Details & Location
January 4 th , 2024 6:00pm	Board & Member Meeting NEOSWA	Small Meeting Room, Baker Co. Fairgrounds (In-Person or Virtual) Agenda: <i>Will be Announced Soon</i>
Jan. – Apr. 2024	Fuels, Fire, & Density Management Webinar Series OSU Extension	Join us for OSU Extension's latest Managing Eastern Oregon Forests series – <i>Fire, Fuels, and Density Management</i> . This series will dive deeper into management topics, revisiting some topics, and expanding on others related to fire risk and fuels reduction, as well as density management. Sessions will be held the first & third Thursdays, starting at 6:00 PM <u>Website:</u> https://beav.es/ffdm <u>Registration:</u> https://beav.es/ffdm-reg
March 7 th , 2024 6:00pm	Board & Member Meeting NEOSWA	Location, Program, and Agenda: TBA
March 23 rd , 2024 All-Day	Tree School Clackamas OSU Extension	The next Tree School East won't be held again until 2025, however there are still opportunities to attend a Tree School in 2024! Tree School Clackamas, the first and largest of the Tree Schools, will be held on Saturday, March 23 rd , at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, OR. Visit the Tree School Website for more details as they become available: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/tree-school/tree-school-clackamas
May 2 nd , 2024 6:00pm	Board & Member Meeting NEOSWA	Location, Program, and Agenda: TBA
June 13-15 th , 2024	Oregon Family Forest Convention OSWA & OTFS	Save the Date! The 2024 Oregon Family Forest Convention (OFFC) will be hosted by the Linn Chapter on June 13-15 th in Lebanon, Oregon. OFFC is a joint meeting between the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS), combining each organization's annual meetings, as well as the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Tour. The 2024 tour will take place at the Merzenich Family Tree Farm. Stay tuned for more details.
July 11 th , 2024 6:00pm	Board & Member Meeting NEOSWA	Location, Program, and Agenda: TBA

Notes from the Board

From: July 6th, Board & Member Meeting

- Recap of Recent Events
 - NEOSWA & Pine Valley Firewise Tour/Annual Meeting
 - Auburn Tour & Log Cabin Building
 - Woodlands & Watersheds Festival
 - Tree School East 2023
- Discussed Upcoming Events & Opportunities
 - County Fairs
 - Planning underway for an event in Wallowa County – “Living in the Woods”
- Election – Treasurer
 - Brian Rabe was nominated, and accepted the nomination, to take over for Randy Guyer as the NEOSWA Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Brian will work with Randy over the next several months and officially take over as the new Treasurer starting January 1, 2024

From: September 7th, Board & Member Meeting

- Presentation – Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map
 - Revision of original Oregon Wildfire Risk Map, reducing number of risk levels to three
 - Intended to be more of an educational tool
 - Public comment sessions will be held later this year
- Discussed Upcoming Events & Opportunities
 - *Living in the Woods: What's the Risk?*
 - Saturday, September 23rd, Wallowa County, Hosted by Paul Harlan
 - A Humungous Forestry Tour: Forest Health in the Blue Mountains
 - Friday, October 6th, Grant County, OSU Extension Event

From: November 9th, Board & Member Meeting

- Treasurer Position & Bank Account Transition – Need to update Chapter name and match new EIN number on our bank account. A discussion and vote were held on the following decisions:
 - Close current account, open a new account, and transfer all funds through Umpqua Bank
 - Three signatories for this new account will be: Paul Harlan, Brian Rabe, & Jack Kleinhoff
- NEOSWA & Firewise Partnership
 - Debi Lorence proposed an informal partnership with Firewise Communities in NE Oregon to combine our efforts and provide support in terms of events, resources, and educational opportunities.
 - Discussion was held, noting this would be a great opportunity to connect with and potentially recruit new members. Suggested to invite local Firewise Community based on event location and where appropriate.
- Other Business
 - Blue Mountain Forest Cooperative to be officially dissolved and liquidated as of November 30, 2023. Need to discuss what will be done with the remaining funds.

Next NEOSWA Meeting: Thursday, January 4th, 2024, 6:00 PM (In-Person or Virtual)

Small Conference Room, Baker County Fairgrounds/OSU Extension Office

Agenda TBA

NEOSWA Leadership

Paul Harlan, *President*

County: Wallowa

paulmharlan@gmail.com



Jack Kleinhoff, *Vice-President*

County: Baker

jrkleinhoff@gmail.com



Randy Guyer, *Treasurer*

County: Baker

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Brian Rabe, *Treasurer-Elect*

County: Baker

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Jacob Putney, *Secretary*

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Debi Lorence, *Board Member*

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Alyssa Cudmore, *Board Member*

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Irene Jerome, *Board Member*

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Maurizio Valerio, *Board Member*

Counties: Union, Baker

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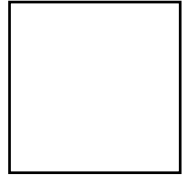


Classifieds

Do you have something to sell or rent? We invite members to submit appropriate items to be listed in this section of the newsletter. If you are interested in listing an item, please submit a photo and description to Jacob Putney (jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu) and it will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Distribution

The Blue Mountain Forester will be distributed either by email or mail, depending on what information we have on file. Additionally, the newsletter will be posted on our website (neoswa.com). If you would like to change how you receive this newsletter, please send your preference to Jacob Putney (jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu). Note, email is the quickest way to receive information from the Chapter.



The Blue Mountain Forester

Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Baker, Grant, Harney, Union, and Wallowa Counties

A Newsletter for Small Woodland Owners in Northeast Oregon

At a Glance

- New Forest Practices Rules – Effective January 1, 2024
- Time to Renew Your Membership
- Welcome Brian Rabe – New NEOSWA Treasurer
- New OSU Extension Webinar Series
- Eastern Oregon Log Market Prices
- Upcoming Meetings and Events

Resources to Explore

- New Forest Practices Rules Factsheet – **NEW**
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/documents/forest-practices-new-rules.pdf>
- Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscape – **NEW (Revised Edition)**
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes>
- Before Wildfire Strikes: A Guide to Wildfire Risk Reduction in Wallowa County - **NEW**
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9405-wildfire-strikes>
- Life on the Dry Side Newsletter
extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/life-dry-side-forestry-newsletter