



COMMUNITIES FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

Mission: To realize the prompt restoration and recovery of the conifer forest in the aftermath of fire and other catastrophic events ensuring the presence and vitality of forest lands for future generations.

www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org

Communities for Healthy Forests is proposing new educational materials that include information on how forests capture and store atmospheric carbon, a greenhouse gas, and reduce its presence in the atmosphere. The new educational materials will show the effects on carbon cycles of burned forests, dead burned trees and soils compared to restored forests with young growing stands of trees. There is good information about this from a February Oregon Forest Resources Institute conference at OSU in Corvallis, titled Forests, Carbon and Climate Change. The work of the Oregon Climate Change Integration Group will be helpful, also. The CHF goal is to visually describe the phenomenon in terms the general public can understand. CHF is applying for grants to complete a new DVD and collateral materials that capture the issue, much as the first DVD with Patrick Moore achieved. The goal is to continue to educate the public about what happens in our federal forests after a catastrophic event, and how the management actions affect climate change. Volunteers and staff will continue to make presentations to community, state and federal leaders about this very critical issue.

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James Caswell, formerly in charge of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho, was nominated by President Bush in early June, to be the next director of the Bureau of Land Management replacing Kathleen Clarke. Caswell is known for bold opposition to former President Clinton's plan for wilderness, because it ignored what the local residents thought. Caswell earned respect from both ends of the spectrum with his public hearings statewide, in Idaho, crafting a response to the state's plans for managing wolves and road-less wilderness. "We shouldn't just walk away from developing those resources," Caswell said, "If the objective is to develop the resource, most of the time we can find ways to solve any problems that may be created."

June 1, Margin Goebel, President of Sustainable Northwest, published an editorial in the Oregonian titled Getting Beyond our fire-prone forests. In this editorial, Goebel said that last year's wildfire season was one of the worst on record and that experts have told us that fires will keep getting bigger and hotter. "We should all be deeply concerned....First we must understand the problem. Our forests are unhealthy and prone to unnaturally large fires because we have mismanaged them.Second we must adopt an ecological approach to forest management. We must invest in the restoration of our forests and improve their health using mechanical thinning, selective harvesting, small controlled burns and longer harvest rotations. This will help them recover their natural ability to store and release water, capture carbon and produce soil and abundant and diverse wildlife---natural functions that are ever more vital. In the process we can harvest some wood locally, and responsibly create jobs that help sustain the health of our rural communities." His third point is about collaboration and building trust and finally he says that scale matters and that we have to address the 9 million acres of forest at risk.

Martin Goebel is correct in saying that it is urgent that we address the restoration of forests. He stopped short of saying that we should also restore forests that have experienced catastrophic events, but did address conversion of forests. Taking out dead burned trees and planting seedlings, active timely restoration is also a part of the equation so we don't convert conifer forests to brush-fields, noxious weeds and erosion for decades and possibly centuries, as is happening on hundreds of thousands of burned forested acres in Oregon. We applaud the efforts of Sustainable Northwest to bring together diverse interests around restoration.

The BLM is in the final phases of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. Six BLM districts will be affected including Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Medford, and Klamath Falls Districts. The planning area includes approximately 2,557,700 acres of public land. The plan revisions are the result of a negotiated settlement of a lawsuit between AFRC and BLM regarding management of O & C lands under the 1937 O & C Act requirements. An agreement was reached in 2003. The new revised plan EIS' will be out early August with a 90 day public comment period following. Anyone wishing to be involved with input into this process log on to the website www.citizensforforests.org.

Melinda Fleming, Executive Director of TuCARE, Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment, sent a copy of their current publication. She reports that TuCARE has been active with forestry education taking a leadership role in the upcoming Forestry Institute for Teachers. Over 50 teachers (many from the Bay Area and Los Angeles,) will attend the week long program to learn how the Sierra Nevada forests are managed. TuCARE will host a natural resource tour which will allow teachers to get into the field, see active management in operation and also learn how the timber industry produces products our nation needs. TuCARE, along with fundraising events, is working on position papers covering four prominent resource issues; The Emigrant Wilderness check dams, oak woodland management, the Hetch Hetchy water and power system and the Clavey River Wild and Scenic status. The TuCARE board is made up of community members representing CA Highway Patrol, grazing permittee's business owners, media, Farm Bureau, and forestry related businesses. They have endorsed Communities for Healthy Forests and have helped distribute materials throughout the Tuolumne County and mid California area. We appreciate their efforts to educate Californians about forestry issues, and we appreciate their support.

**Any questions or comments should be directed to
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