



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

September 2005

Starting this month see the newsletter on the website www.communitiesforhealthyforests.org and please direct anyone you come in contact with to see it there if they are not receiving it via email.

Davis, Hibbitts and Mighall, (a polling organization held in high esteem by the Oregonian) were hired to conduct a poll about Oregonian's views on restoring forests. Over six hundred people were polled in three geographic areas in the state including the Portland, Tri-county area, the Willamette Valley and the rest of the state. There was little variation in opinion about values and top priorities for the state. The most revealing questions asked about whether forests that have gone through catastrophic events, such as fire should be restored, that is the dead trees removed and new ones planted. 77% of respondents said that they either strongly supported or supported restoration involving those actions. 75% supported changes in federal regulation to achieve restoration. These two key questions led us to believe most Oregonians support the mission of Communities for Healthy Forests which is restoration after catastrophic events.

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Michael Milstein, natural resource writer for the Oregonian wrote the article for the Oregonian about the poll. The Oregonian then wrote an editorial agreeing with the poll. This story hit the AP wire that day and the following media did their own editorials or copied the AP wire story: The Eugene, Register Guard, The Medford Mail Tribune, The Albany, Democrat Herald, The Bend Bulletin, KGW TV and KATU, The Society of American Foresters reported the poll, as well as several other groups in other states. The stories were sent to top level officials in Washington D.C. and our Oregon Delegation.

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Call to action. Many members of The Communities for Healthy Forests board of directors has chosen to call the Governor's office informing them of the polling information, (503-378-4582) The Governor has a recording so a caller may leave a message. If this message is important, our Oregon Delegation in Congress should also hear from any interested parties. Many times phone calls reinforce and encourage meaningful changes.

In August, thanks to John Lowe and Fred Cooper, CHF had a table at the NAFSR conference in Portland. CHF has just received a letter of endorsement from NAFSR. The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) has over three hundred active retirees including retired Forest Service Chiefs, regional foresters, regional and national program directors, forest supervisors, district rangers, natural resource specialists and research scientists. To quote: "We concur with your member's observations that rehabilitation of damaged lands is often slowed if not stopped, by a procedural and analytical morass of legislative political and judicial requirement. In our view, many of these requirements are barriers more detrimental than helpful to forest recovery and ecosystem protection. We encourage the use of peer reviewed science in restoration efforts, on the ground use of professional knowledge and wisdom by people who understand the forest resources." * * * *

Any questions or comments should be directed to Sue Kupillas, Executive Director ask@opusnet.com

USDA Forest Service reports significant damage done by Hurricane Katrina. Scientists from USDA reported Katrina damaged or destroyed approximately 19 billion board feet of timber estimated at a value of \$5 billion in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. If removed quickly, wood can be salvaged for products. The damaged trees can be sufficient to build 800,000 single family homes and produce 25 million tons of paper and paperboard. The early assessment indicated damage across five million acres on public and private lands in three states. Nearly 90% of the damage is within 60 miles of the coast and mostly in Mississippi. (From USDA release 0376.05)