

A Day in the Woods (continued)

This past year Vernonia became famous (for more than winter flooding) when the History Channel featured local Vernonia loggers from Mike Pihl Logging on their series *AX Men*. The show is a look at the dangerous job of logging and the brave men who work at it everyday. To be honest, I have only watched a little of the show, and I found it somewhat contrived and a little exaggerated. I am sure this was not the fault of the loggers involved but of television producers looking for ratings. And it's worked, as people throughout the country find it fascinating (including my mother back in Pennsylvania), making the show a big hit.



As I have grown older and hopefully a little bit wiser, I have learned that there are usually two sides to every story, and the actual truth lies somewhere in the middle. I'm sure logging is like that, too. I don't like when I see clearcuts along the highway or near streams and rivers. I am concerned about the numbers of salmon that return to local waters each year and the impact that logging can have on riparian environments. But I am also happy that I can get materials to replace a deck and paper on which to print invoices for my advertising customers. And everyone's favorite - that my bathroom is always well stocked with toilet paper.

I decided it was time to take my neighbor up on his offer to try to learn more about the logging industry, to see what it's like out in the woods with a real working outfit. And go with an open mind.

Bruce McNair works for Paulson Logging. The owner, Greg Paulson, is a real good guy according to Bruce. An owner who cares about the guys on his crew, treats them fairly and honestly, is a good businessman, and is a straight shooter. Paulson's outfit is working on state lands under the direction of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in the Tillamook Forest. Bruce explained to me that logging practices on state lands differed somewhat from what happens on private industry lands. He explained the areas where Paulson is logging are public lands, owned by all Oregon citizens. ODF has a responsibility to manage the lands for multiple usage, taking into consideration users who hike, camp or ride ATV's, while also managing it for wildlife habitat, fire suppression, fish and stream protection, historic value, and, of course, logging.

This well-rounded approach to land management is due to the creation of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA), by the Oregon State Legislature in 1971. The Act encourages economically efficient forest management and calls for the continuous growing and harvesting of trees. It also helps preserve scenic resources. This

vision and strategic plan have led to public forests that benefit many sectors of the population. More importantly, Oregon created the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (NW FMP), developed after a five-year



study, that takes a big-picture, comprehensive approach and guides activities in the state-owned northwest forests. It takes into account the varied resources of the forest, going beyond the past plan.

Greg Paulson explained the business side of logging. ODF puts areas up for bid to be logged. Local mills purchase the rights to log those areas. The mill hires a logging company to cut the trees and extract them, getting them to the mill where they are turned into products to be sold to you and me. That's the short version. It is obviously more complicated than that. There are strict requirements about what can and can't be done on each

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BUY WITH KNOWLEDGE

SELL WITH CONFIDENCE



13580 Keasey Road, Vernonia \$624,900
Elegant Craftsman - 11.4 pristine acres, private pasture with views of mtns. beyond. Quality throughout, 2828sq.ft. - 3BR, 3BA, study & family room, cherry cabinets, marble & granite counters, hickory & slate floors. Shop, large barn, expansive deck overlooking 1000' Rock Creek frontage. A Must See!



13579 Keasey Road, Vernonia \$397,000
Vintage Farmhouse, nicely remodeled. 14.91 acres. This has it all! 1896 sq.ft., 3BR, 2BA, wraparound deck. 24x40 shop w/eves. 12x30 Tool shed, sweeping pasture with mature trees as backdrop, creek frontage, serene natural setting, nature & wildlife abound.



64505 Nehalem Hwy., Vernonia \$380,000
One of a kind - 1.74 acres on Nehalem River custom 2600 sq.ft. 3BR, 3BA. All rooms wih access to wrap around deck looking over river. Great Bed and Breakfast potential. Master bedroo with jetted tub, tile shower & bidet. Gourmet kitchen, cherry cabinets, library, study, sport court, covered patio with brick BBQ. 3-car carport. Private setting. Won't last long.



2324 North Mist Drive, Vernonia \$344,900
Serene setting - 2 acres convenience of city services in a country setting. Vistas beyond. 3BR, 2BA nicely remodeled home. Detached 600SF guest house. 4 bay 35x50 shop. Hot tub with gazebo, kennel, detached 500 sq.ft. rec room & much more.



1336 Keasy, Vernonia \$339,000
Open and bright 2.67 acres. Private setting with pasture & view. 1880 sq.ft. 3BR, 2BA MFG home. Enjoy the warmth of cozy soapstone wood stove in living room. Family room with pool table. Roomy kitchen with island, pantry, new appliances, 24x36 garage/shop. Make this your move to the country.



1234 Nehalem Highway, Vernonia \$229,000
Total Remodel - 3BR, 2BA. Large kitchen with plenty of storage. High ceilings, 1632 sq.ft. - additional 1344 sq.ft. in basement. Use for storage or rec. room. Over-sized lot.



1211 Heather Lane, Vernonia \$215,000
Won't last long! 3BR, 2.5BA. New carpet & paint. Cozy fireplace insert. Private covered patio. Large 90x170 fenced yard. Room for the RV. Ready to move in.



182-184 Bridge, Vernonia \$204,900
Duplex - extensive remodel. New roof, carpet, cabinets, appliances. Each unit 2BR, 1BA Detached garage. Live in one, rent the other. Great investment property.



851 Cougar Street, Vernonia \$149,000
New on market - Nicely remodeled 3BR, 1BA 1156 sq.ft. home. New carpet and kitchen appliances. Large living room with cozy fireplace. French doors open to expansive deck.



1205 State Street, Vernonia \$143,000
3BR, 1BA - detached garage. Extensive remodel - carpets, appliances, paint. Squeaky clean & ready to move in. Seller will pay \$3,500 of buyer's loan cost.



1136 Birch Street, Vernonia \$134,500
3BR, 2BA, 1596 sq.ft. MFG home. Garden tub and separate shower in master bath. Large 83x110 lot. Affordable home!



Fishhawk Lake Lot, Birkenfeld \$35,000
Services to property, private setting, backs to forest land. Access to lake, club house, tennis. Vacation or live year-round.