

Two Local Companies Receive Commendation *continued from front page*

channel with natural sediment. “That’s why it’s a bigger pipe than you might think needs to be there,” explains Dennis. He says the pipe is placed at less than a 2% grade to help slow the water flow. Dennis said the project required working around a natural spring, and during the installation of the pipe there was some unexpected rain and his crew had to spend some overtime doing back fill to make sure the stream bed wasn’t damaged. “Instead of a normal fish pipe installation, on this job we did have to go above and beyond what we normally would do. All these streams all connect down to fish-bearing streams at some point, so we’re always conscious about what we’re doing.” Dennis started West Coast Road Construction in 2008 and employs three truck drivers and two excavators.

of environmentally sensitive work,” said Jim Crawford, a Forest Engineer with Olympic. “We started that culvert install in the morning while it was still dark, and we had some unexpected safety issues throughout the day that slowed us up, and we ended up not completing the job until 9:30 at night. They coordinated with other local landowners to source rock to prevent erosion. It was a Friday and they worked 16 hours to make sure there were no environmental issues when they left for the day. It was incredibly evident that this wasn’t their first rodeo. And I just think that’s phenomenal and shows their willingness to go above and beyond.”

Gwin & Sons Logging were already working in the area where the BDAs were to be constructed. They donated time, labor, and machinery to the



Above & right: West Coast Road Construction removed a culvert on Kauppi Lake Crossing and replaced it with this 11 foot fish passable culvert.

“At the time of this project, West Coast Road Construction was a pretty new contractor to me, but I ended up selecting them because they had a reputation in the local industry for high quality work and seemed like the kind of outfit that we wanted to do this type

project. BDAs are structures that are built to simulate beaver dams with the intention of encouraging beaver to colonize a specific area. “When we were told what this project was for, we asked what we could do to help enhance it,” explained Rick Gwin. “We felled the trees,

moved them to the landing, where they were processed to the right specifications, and set them where the contractor could get them when they were needed. It took us a few days to do the work.”

“One thing that stands out to me about Gwin & Sons is, if you go into their office and look at what’s on the wall, you see multiple awards that they’ve won over the past decades from the Oregon Department of Forestry recognizing high quality work and stewardship of the environment,” said Crawford. “The primary drivers of all the work we do in the woods are, can it be done safely, can it be done in an environmentally sensitive manner, and can the job get done. Those are the lenses we look at contrac-

tors through and Gwin & Sons Logging hits all three of those – no doubt about it.”

“On this specific project, we had some pretty tight specs from the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council on which kind of logs we were targeting for the Beaver Dam Analogs, and it wasn’t just any tree or any log – it was very specific logs with very specific characteristics,” said Crawford. “Gwin & Sons had absolutely no problem finding those logs and delivering the product that the Watershed Council was looking for. I tried to get Gwin & Sons to send us a bill for the work, and they said no – that they were just happy to be able to contribute in a meaningful way.”



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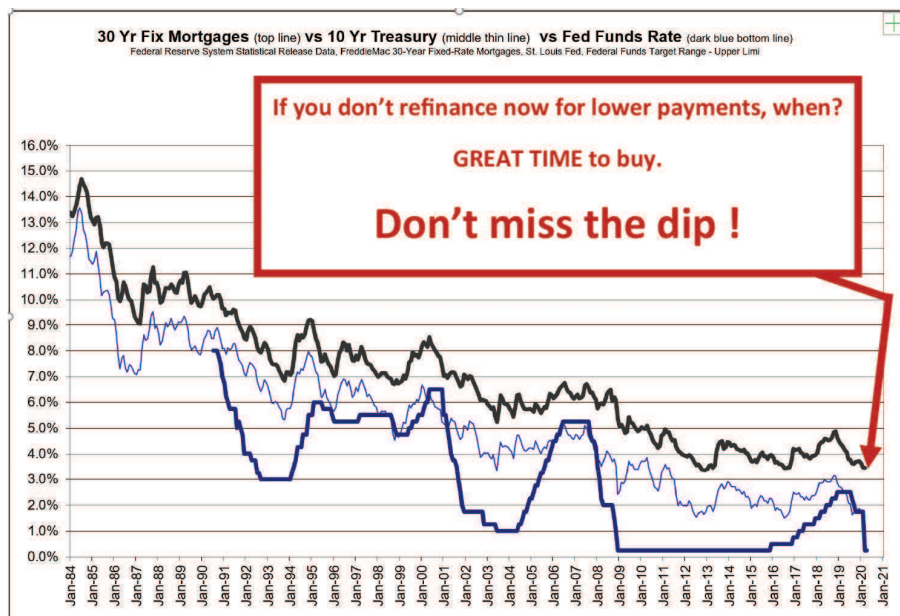
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