

# The Timber Industry of Today

## Part 4: The State of Our State Forests *continued from front page*

acre. Just 5% of the timber harvest comes from state and other public lands.

But in neighboring Clatsop County it's a different story. The Clatsop State Forest borders almost the entire boundary between the two counties. Compared to Columbia County 26% of the harvest comes from state and other public lands, while a lower percentage comes from privately held lands. (See table, right.)

In other words, while almost all timber revenue in Columbia County comes from privately held and managed property, in Clatsop County a large portion comes from state managed lands. This state harvest from our neighboring county provides local jobs and does have an economic impact here, adding to the conservation versus timber revenue debate.

Oregon's state forests are classified based on the resources they contain (streams, recreation sites, unique wildlife habitat, and timber production) and have management plans developed by ODF. The "Forestland Management Classification System" was adopted by the Board of Forestry in 1998 to ensure a range of benefits would result from the state's public lands, (some of the classification areas overlap and have more than one use) and include:

- High value conservation areas – managed specifically for conservation, emphasizing protection of old growth trees, endangered species and habitat, rare plants, and water quality; approximately 120,000 acres

- Special use areas – managed for heritage sites and cultural resources, utility rights of way, and rock quarries, among others; nearly 80,000 acres
- Focused stewardship – managed for a specific purpose or resource, includ-

four-year term and then replaced. Three members of the Board are scheduled to be replaced this year, and as *Oregonian* journalist Ted Sickenger wrote on September 20, the Governor's new appointments have been held up because of

ing a conservation perspective, and one non-partisan or moderate member.

Senator Johnson weighed in on the problems facing the Board of Forestry during our interview. "The problem is the Board has failed to manage the agency. The Board has not been adequately inquisitive and demanding of information and been way too passive as far as the financial difficulties of the agency."

According to Sickenger, Brown had put forward three nominees: Karla Chambers, the co-owner of Stahlbush Family Farms in Corvallis and a Board member of Hampton Lumber who Brown appointed to the state wildfire preparedness council in 2019; Chandra Ferrari, an environmental lawyer, recently with Trout Unlimited; and Sidney Cooper, a financial services executive and recent transplant from California now living in Ashland with no public policy or forestry experience. Sickenger wrote that the nominations were opposed by three democratic senators, including Johnson, and said senators have expressed a need for a voice that represents small woodland property owners.

This issue came to the forefront during the week of September 21 when the nominees were withdrawn from consideration prior to being brought forward to the entire Senate for a vote. Sickenger reported that following the withdrawal, Senator Jeff Golden, a democrat from Ashland, gave a floor speech criticizing what he claimed was "backroom dealing" "It's no secret that there's a grow-

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Comparing Timberland Ownership and Harvests

|                       | Columbia County    | Clatsop County     | Oregon                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Total Land Area       | 420,000 acres      | 529,000 acres      | 63 million acres       |
| Total Forestland      | 355,000 acres, 85% | 461,000 acres, 87% | 29.7 million acres     |
| Large private owned   | 215,000 acres, 61% | 259,000 acres, 56% | 6.6 million acres, 22% |
| Large private harvest | 142,338 MBF, 80%   | 166,123 MBF, 57%   | 66%                    |
| Small private owned   | 122,000 acres, 34% | 78,000 acres, 17%  | 3.6 million acres, 12% |
| Small private harvest | 22,178 MBF, 13%    | 7,103 MBF, 2%      | 12%                    |
| State, public owned   | 10,000 acres, 3%   | 122,000 acres, 26% | 1.1 million acres, 4%  |
| State, public harvest | 9,040 MBF, 5%      | 118,164 MBF, 41%   | 9%                     |

Source: Oregon Forest Resources Institute, 2019

Federal lands make up 60% of Oregon forestland and 13% of timber harvest

ing recreation, streams and rivers, steep slope areas, and timber production; approximately 510,000 acres

- General stewardship – does not fit into one of the other three categories and can be managed for a variety of emphases; over 150,000 acres

### The State Forest Issues

As noted earlier in this article and detailed in Part 3 of this series, the Oregon Board of Forestry is made up of seven members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate to fill a four-year term; appointees are generally asked to serve a second

politics.

"The challenge is finding a slate that can be confirmed," said Governor Brown in an interview with Sickenger. "I'm concerned that we are at an impasse at this point. Unfortunately, there are too many special interests invested in the outcomes and that's made it difficult when we bring forward qualified nominees."

State statute puts a limit on the number of board members who have financial ties to the timber industry, and the Board has recently been balanced while made up of three members representing timber interests, three represent-



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