

# Rural Report

The entire watershed of the Umpqua River lies in Douglas County. The heavily timbered county contains nearly 1.8 million acres of commercial forest lands and one of the oldest stands of old growth timber in the world. The forest products industry continues to play a significant economic role in the county.

## NASA Imagery Maps Loss of Forest in Coastal Watershed Communities

*Aerial mapping from 1997 to 2022 shows 31% loss of Forest, impacting water quality*

Story by Scooter Brown

Oregon's coastal communities rely on drinking water from forested rivers and creeks, which have lost substantial tree cover during the last 20 years. Over 30% of the forested land in 80 of Oregon's coastal watersheds, nearly 600 square miles, has been logged during the last 20 years. That logging impacts many communities who rely on streams and creeks for their water supply.

Forests not only improve the quality, but also the quantity of surface waters. They prevent erosion, and filter, direct and store rain and snow that passes into streams. More than 80% of Oregonians, including most who live on the coasts, get some or all of their drinking water from surface water sources such as streams, rivers and creeks, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Young trees planted to replace logged mature trees also end up sucking up more water, further depleting surface water supply. Planting new tree stands requires spraying herbicides and pesticides, often from the air and that can harm water sources.

There's really literally hundreds of protections that are put in place when anything is harvested in the state of Oregon. Stream buffers and harvest practices that are very specific and nuanced with reforestation requirements and steep slopes protections."

Using data and satellite imagery from NASA collected between 1997 and 2023, four researchers from the agency's Oregon Coast Range Ecological Conservation Team were able to look at logging impacts in forests within 80 Oregon Coast watersheds identified by Oregon Wild.

It's safe to say that logging in the Coast Range wasn't done carefully and the aerial photos mapped by NASA clearly shows that.

Logging operations across the Oregon Coast Range and conventional logging practices pose a risk of contamination to surface water quality. According to NASA DEVELOP and Oregon Coast Ecological Conservation team, who partnered with nonprofit Oregon Wild to map the extent of clearcutting and commercial thinning in 80 Coast Range drinking watersheds between 2000 and 2022. This project used all available Landsat data from 1997 through June 2023 in Google Earth Engine. Sensors used include Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper, Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus, Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager, and Landsat 9 Operational Land Imager-2. The Continuous Change Detection and Classification (CCDC) algorithm was used with Landsat observations to identify clearcutting patches. Percent change in summer median Landsat Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

(NDVI) images were used to identify areas of forest disturbance including commercial thinning. The team concluded that logging, including both clearcutting and commercial thinning, impacted 31% of forested area in drinking watersheds and the intensity of logging remained consistent from year to year. Clearcutting occurred primarily on private land while commercial thinning occurred primarily on state and federal lands.

The bulk of logging in watershed forests during this time was on land owned by industrial logging companies, followed by state and federal agencies, tribes and local municipalities. Those companies, including Weyerhaeuser, Stimson Lumber and Roseburg Forest Products, use a method called clearcutting, defined by the NASA researchers as the removal of all trees in an area exceeding 2 acres.

Hopefully, the NASA analysis can spur efforts by some Oregon cities to buy and manage the forestland around their drinking watersheds. The state recently passed legislation to create a Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund with \$5 million available for communities hoping to own or improve land around their source drinking water.

## FEMA Grants \$2.2 Million to 4 Fire Departments for Recruitment - Including 2 in Douglas County

Salem, September 6, 2023

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced that four rural Oregon Fire Departments, including two in Douglas County, will receive a combined nearly \$2.2 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for firefighter recruitment and retention.

Wyden said, "Firefighters have been working hard this past summer and year-round to protect lives and livelihoods throughout Oregon and they deserve quality pay and time-off". Wyden said the federal investment in Oregon is especially timely given firefighter's heroic work this summer battling blazes.

Merkley said, "As fires and emergencies can break out at any time, it's essential that we have enough firefighters available to meet the moment". Merkley said the funding will help protect Oregon communities by ensuring rural districts have the staffing and resources needed when disaster strikes.

A release said the grants come from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program, which awards grants to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies.

- The following funds will be allocated:**
- Over \$492,000 for North Douglas County Fire and EMS in Drain
  - Over \$611,000 to Tenmile Rural Fire District, northwest of Winston
  - Over \$309,000 to Siletz Rural Fire Protection District
  - Nearly \$770,000 to Stayton Fire District

# DOUGLAS COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 1-3 • End of Summer Celebration  
www.DiamondLake.net
- 1-4 • The Vineyard Tour - Cycling Event  
facebook.com/TheVineyardTour
- 2,3 • Fort Umpqua Days  
Elkton Community Education Center  
www.ElktonButterflies.com
- 7-24 • Imagination is More Important Than Knowledge  
UACT Thur, Fri & Sat 7pm & Sun at 2pm  
Ticketed Event www.uact-theatre.com
- 8,9 • Camas Valley Fun Days  
Mud Drags, Bike-ATV Races,  
Camping, Vendors 541-430-4254  
Facebook.com/CamasValleyFunDays
- 9 • Harvest Dinner at Henry Estate Winery  
541-459-5120
- 9,10 • Umpqua Valley Home Builders Assoc  
Showcase of Homes  
CANCELLED - Will reschedule for 2024
- 10 • Comedy Night at Henry Estate Winery  
541-459-5120 www.HenryEstate.com
- 15-17 • Winston Dillard Melon Festival  
Riverbend Park 541-530-7862  
243 SE Thompson St, Winston  
Facebook/WinstonDillardMelonFestival
- 16,17 • Roseburg Gun & Knife Show  
Douglas County Fairgrounds  
541-957-7010
- 21 • Real Art & Faux Cocktails Class  
Stockyard Social Hall, 127 NE 1st St, Oakland  
from 5p-7p - Over 21 - Alcohol Free Event
- 22 • Paws for a Cause - Saving Grace Fundraiser  
Melrose Vineyards  
SavingGraceAdoptionCenter.org
- 22 • Millennium Magic Fundraiser  
For Camp Millennium  
UV Arts Center - 6-10pm - Ticketed Event  
Facebook.com/CampMillennium 541-677-0600
- 23,24 • Oktoberfest Tournament 2023  
Veteran Suicide Prevention Fundraiser  
Winstoncity.org/events/oktoberfest-tournament/


### September continued

- 29 • Roseburg German Band  
Myrtle Creek Elks Lodge 7-9pm  
RSVP Ted: 541-860-2037

### October

- 7 • Roseburg Blocktober Fest - Downtown  
Art, music, makers, food, drink & family fun  
facebook.com/roseburgblocktoberfest  
RoseburgBlocktoberFest.com
- 7 • Elks Scholarship Golf Tournament  
Myrtle Creek Golf Course  
Contact Ted Romas 541-860-2037
- 8 • 22nd Annual Tea & Fashion Show  
Douglas County Cancer Services 541-440-9409  
Seven Feathers Casino and Resort  
facebook.com/DouglasCountyCancerServices
- 12-22 • A Brothers Grimm Adventure  
UACT - A Ticketed Event  
uact-theatre.com for tickets & times
- 14 • Oktoberfest Elkton  
Elkton Community Education Center  
541-584-2692 • ElktonButterflies.com
- 14 • Woolstock Howl-O-Ween Dog Carnival  
and Discount Vaccine Clinic  
Central Park, Sutherlin 541-315-5865  
Facebook.com/UmpquaWoolstock
- 21 • Drain Oktoberfest  
Facebook.com/DrainChamberOfCommerce
- 26 • Sutherlin Downtown Halloween Trunk or Treat  
www.VisitSutherlin.com
- 26 • Halloween Spooktacular at Seven Feathers  
www.SevenFeathers.com
- 26 • Fall Costume Carnival  
Elkton Highschool Gymnasium 5-8pm  
Facebook.com/elktonEEAR
- 31 • Halloween Street Fair and Carnival  
Downtown and at Myrtle Creek Elks Lodge
- 31 • Trick or Treat Yoncalla  
NDBetterment.org
- 31 • Haunted City Hall Trick-or-Treat  
Downtown Oakland

### November

- 11 • VETERAN'S DAY  

- 11 • 68th Annual Veteran's Day Parade  
Downtown Roseburg Time TBD
- 18 • Annual Sip and Stroll Wine Walk  
Downtown Oakland
- 23 • Happy Thanksgiving
- 23 • Myrtle Creek Lions FREE Thanksgiving Dinner  
Myrtle Creek Lions from 11am-3pm
- 24,25 • ODPW Free Fishing Weekend  
Douglas County 115
- 24-26 • Art & Wine Weekend  
Elkton Community Education Center  
541-584-2692
- 24,25 • Thanksgiving Open House  
Henry Estate Winery • 541-459-5120  
www.HenryEstate.com
- 25 • Shop Small Business Saturday  
Support your favorite, local small business
- 26 • Douglas County Tree Lighting  
In front of the Roseburg Courthouse - 6pm
- Nov 30-Dec 3 • Festival of Trees 2023  
Sponsored by Mercy Foundation  
Ticket info: mercygiving.org or call 541-677-4818
- Nov 30-Dec 27 • Miracle on 34th Street  
UACT - A Ticketed Event  
uact-theatre.com for tickets & times

**AD DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE IS  
OCTOBER 25, 2023**  
pamela@umpquamarketing.com  
Call 541-622-9943

### December

- 1,2 • Reedsport Holiday Arts Festival  
cityofreedsport.org
- 1-3 • Christmas Craft Fair  
Douglas County Fairgrounds 541-957-7010
- 2 • Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade  
Riverbend Park, Winston  
wdfassociation.org
- 2 • Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling with Santa  
Downtown Oakland, OR
- 2 • Sutherlin Tree Lighting - Central Park  
www.visitsutherlin.com
- 2 • Grand Illumination Christmas Tree Lighting  
Myrtle Creek facebook.com/97457NWE
- 2-16 • Winter Festival - Drain  
facebook/DrainChamberOfCommerce
- 3 • Christmas Tree Lighting in Drain  
facebook/DrainChamberOfCommerce
- 9 • Winston Christmas Ball  
facebook/DrainChamberOfCommerce
- 9 • DR Johnson Memorial Timber Truckers Parade  
Riddle to Myrtle Creek 6-8pm  
facebook.com/97457NWE
- 16 • Holiday Celebration Tea  
Historic Washington School, Oakland
- 16 • Sutherlin Timber Town Toyland Electric Light Parade  
Central Avenue, Sutherlin www.visitsutherlin.com


**More December events in our Winter Issue!**

**ART & Faux Cocktails Class**


September 21, 2023  
5:00 - 7:00PM  
Mini art classes every 20 minutes

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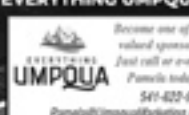
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