

The Blue Mountain Forester



Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2021

A Fresh Start

Welcome to the Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA), a Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). Born out of the Baker Chapter (formerly the Baker County Private Woodlands Association), NEOSWA is a newly reformed Chapter, which will now include Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties. By broadening our reach, we hope to engage small woodland owners from across the region and provide information, resources, and camaraderie.

As we all share the Blue Mountains as our home, *The Blue Mountain Forester* will be the quarterly newsletter for our Chapter. Each quarter, look for upcoming events, the latest updates from the State, happenings from across Northeast Oregon, and information and resources you can use around the tree farm or in your community. This is only volume 1, issue 1, so send us your thoughts and ideas on how to grow this newsletter over time. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have anything to contribute!

We recognize these four Counties span a considerable distance across NE Oregon. However, we are working to ensure meetings are accessible both virtually and in-person, and hope to offer opportunities across each County as the Chapter grows. We encourage you to reach out and get involved. Together we can support all small woodland owners and communities in our region.

NEOSWA Board
Debi, Maurizio, Randy, & Jacob

Seedlings

Do you need seedlings for next spring? There may be some available! Contact Jamie Knight if you are interested in submitting an order for Ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir seedlings.

Jamie Knight

Oregon Department of Forestry

Office Phone: (541) 963-0195

Work Cell: (541) 786-2039

Email: Jamie.knight@oregon.gov



Photo: Dave Powell, USDA FS (Retired)

NEWS You Can USE: Fire and Firewise

Mid-August already. The heat of summer has heightened all land- and home-owners to the possibility of fire, and thinking about how to prepare homes and property for this potentially devastating event. The West has been exceptionally dry this year, and fire season has been a busy one. With fire season far from over, there are still things you can do to prepare.

Across Oregon, many communities are working together to create their own plans, becoming more fire prepared, and even towards recognition as a formal "Firewise Community." This is an opportunity to be proactive! Check out the resources below to learn more.

Fire and Firewise Information:

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - Firewise:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

County Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP):

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/CWPP.aspx>

Need a fire app for your phone? Download WeatherBug:

WeatherBug App (<https://www.weatherbug.com/>)

Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center (BMIDC):

<http://bmidc.org/index.shtml>

Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC):

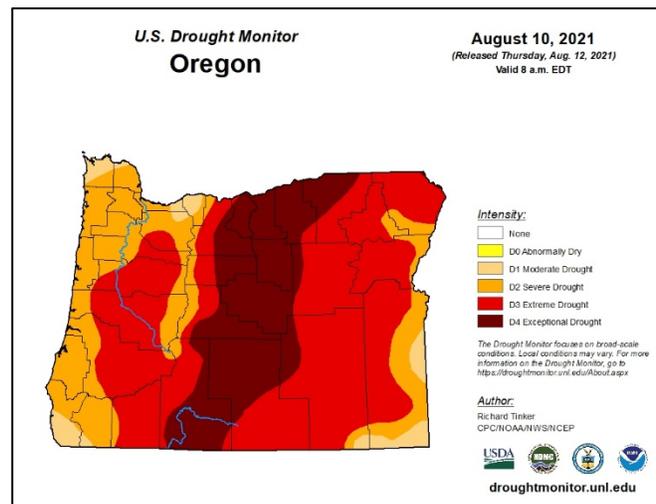
<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>

Drought Update and Implications

Author: Jacob Putney (Adapted from Life on the Dry Side)

This year has been a dry one and has created drought conditions throughout the West. But what does that mean for our trees and forests? Unfortunately, only time will tell. Drought is characterized as a prolonged period of low precipitation and is often combined with periods of elevated temperatures. This combination leads to moisture stress in trees and has the potential to directly induce mortality. Additionally, periods of extended drought can make trees more susceptible to insect or pathogen outbreaks and increase fire risk.

Common symptoms are reduced root and stem growth, premature leaf loss, producing an abnormally high number of cones/seeds (or “stress crop”), and branch- and top-dieback. Dead branches and tops, thin crowns, and red foliage, particularly in irregular patterns, are common indicators. Most often, damage isn’t observed until one or more years after the drought occurred.



Management Options

Maintaining adequate stocking levels, tree health and vigor, and controlling competing vegetation are all good steps to minimize drought stress-related damage. Within mixed-conifer forest types (multiple tree species present), favoring drought-tolerant species while removing less drought-tolerant species, can help improve resilience.

Drought Stress Mitigation Summary

1. Select native/local species appropriate site and soil conditions
2. Thin stands to appropriate stocking levels based on forest type, site productivity, and tree size(s)
3. Avoid mechanical damage and soil compaction around tree root zones
4. Control competing vegetation in young, planted stands
5. Remove dying trees when and where appropriate
6. Favor drought-tolerant species

Source: Oregon Department of Forestry

Baker Resource Coalition

2021 Summer Intern Program

For the past three summers, the Baker Resources Coalition (BRC) has organized a summer internship program for high school students with the goal of providing career technical experience related to natural resources. These paid interns complete projects on local landowner's property, as well as assist with programs like Baker Summer Academy and a monitoring project on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The summer intern program is organized through partnerships involving several Coalition members. This summer, the program was organized and implemented with the help of the Baker Technical Institute, Baker 5J School District, Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, Oregon Trail Preservation Trust, Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC), Whitman District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and several landowners. The project hosts are the backbone of the program overseeing the day-to-day work on the property they manage, while sharing their knowledge and experience. The 2021 interns were recruited from Eastern Oregon University (Sustainable Rural Systems Major), Baker High School, and North Powder High School. Benjen Lilly, EOU Student, served as the Field Project Manager and high school interns were: Brooke Allen, Keanna Bingham, Silas Carter, and Jordan Mills.

For more information: <https://www.bakerresources.com/future-generations>

NEOSWA Recognition

At the first annual Oregon Family Forest Convention, a joint conference between the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS), several of our members were recognized. Congratulations to our members!!!

Outstanding Chapter Volunteer – Steve Edwards

Union Country Tree Farmer of the Year – Allison & Maurizio Valerio

Event Calendar

Date & Time	Event	Details & Location
Sept. 2 6:00 PM	NEOSWA Board Meeting	Baker Co. Fairgrounds, Small Meeting Room, Baker City Board Meeting. All members are welcome.
Sept. 2 7:00 PM	NEOSWA Member Meeting	Baker Co. Fairgrounds, Small Meeting Room, Baker City All member meeting. An invited guest speaker will provide an overview of fire preparedness and an introduction to the Firewise program.
Oct. 23 All Day	Mapping and Compass Course Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNet)	<p>Location TBD</p> <p>All Women Invited! Women Owning Woodlands Network is an OSU Extension Program...</p> <div data-bbox="751 748 1864 943" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>POSTPONED</p> <p>Unfortunately, this event has been postponed until Spring 2022.</p> </div> <p>...calculate distance/area, monitor issues/changes, and integrate data you collect into a land management plan. This class is for landowners of all skill levels, with or without smartphones/tablets or cell service at their property.</p>
Spring	2022 NEOSWA Annual Meeting and Tour	Location TBD Plans are currently underway to begin hosting a Chapter Annual Meeting and Tour. Stay tuned for more details.
Spring	Tree School East OSU Extension	Tentatively planned to be held at Baker City High School, Baker City One-day mini-college hosted by OSU Extension. More details to come.

Notes from the Board

Board Elections - June 10th, 2021

Debi Lorence, President
Maurizio Valerio, Vice-President
Randy Guyer, Treasurer
Jacob Putney, Secretary

Business Items

- The Baker County Chapter (formerly Baker County Private Woodlands Association) was expanded and renamed to include other counties in Northeast Oregon without formal Chapters. The newly reformed Chapter is now called the Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA) and includes Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties.
- The Board drafted and adopted Bylaws for this new Chapter.
- NEOSWA plans to begin hosting monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month starting September 2nd at 7:00 PM. Board meetings will be held the first Thursday of every-other month starting September 2nd, with the Board meeting to be held just prior to the member meeting at 6:00 PM.
- We do have two vacant positions on our Board. It would be great to have some folks join from each County we represent. For instance, we currently have Baker (Debi, Jacob, and Randy) and Union (Maurizio) Counties, but would like to invite interested members from Grant and Wallowa Counties.

NEOSWA Leadership

Debi Lorence, President
debilorence@gmail.com



Maurizio Valerio, Vice-President
maurizio.valerio@gmail.com



Randy Guyer, Treasurer
randy@guyercpa.net



VACANT, Membership Chair

Jacob Putney, Secretary
jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu



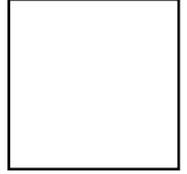
VACANT, Newsletter Editor(s)

Classifieds

Do you have something to sell or rent? We invite members to submit appropriate items to be listed in this section of the newsletter. If you are interested in listing an item, please submit a photo and description to Jacob Putney (jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu) and it will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Distribution

The Blue Mountain Forester will be distributed either by email or mail, depending on what information we have on file. Additionally, the newsletter will be posted on our website (coming soon). If you would like to change how you receive this newsletter, please send your preference to Jacob Putney (jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu). Note, email is the quickest (and cheapest!) way to receive information from the Chapter.



The Blue Mountain Forester

Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties

A Newsletter for Small Woodland Owners in Northeast Oregon

At a Glance

- Introducing the new Northeast Oregon Chapter and quarterly newsletter
- Seedling, fire, and drought information and resources
- NEOSWA Members recognized at Oregon Family Forest Convention
- Upcoming meetings and events

Resources to Explore

- Life on the Dry Side Newsletter
extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/life-dry-side-forestry-newsletter
- Fire Aware. Fire Prepared. Webinar Series
extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide
- After the Fire Storymap
osugisci.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6629651002db435d9df188003d790847
- Managing Eastern Oregon Forests. Webinar Series
blogs.oregonstate.edu/managingeoforests/