



# PACIFIC FORESTS

PRIVATE FOREST ISSUES IN CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON

## First Conservation Easements Granted to Combat Global Warming

Last December, two conservation easements granted to the Pacific Forest Trust included the unique purpose of “protecting and enhancing the forest’s ability to store atmospheric carbon” as a means to mitigate global warming. The terms of these easements protect the forest from conversion to other uses and set forest management to restore and maintain older age stands. In so doing, significant additional tonnage of carbon dioxide, the major global warming gas, will be removed from the atmosphere. Thanks to these easements, that carbon will be stored forever, reducing the build-up that threatens world climate.

This is the first time that conservation easements have been used to legally secure carbon emissions reductions. Conservation easements are excellent tools for this purpose because they provide for permanent gains in reducing global warming gases; they are legally well-grounded and enforceable; and they provide clear, practical terms to ensure that forest management goals are



*When managed for older ages and with care for soil biomass, forests such as this stand of redwoods in Arcata, CA, can store significantly more CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere than under short-rotation, conventional forestry. Conservation easements can make sure those gains are not lost, permanently storing greenhouse gases.*

understood and implemented through time. They can also provide tax benefits to landowner-grantors, based on the additional public benefits of the easement.

### Carbon Credits from Carbon “Sinks”

In the next steps, PFT will use its proprietary Forest Stewardship Carbon Model to inventory the forest carbon on the site and prepare projections of additional carbon storage under the terms of the easement as compared to the “baseline” unrestricted forest management. The resulting “carbon credits” can be sold to carbon producers that are endeavoring to meet the emissions reduction goals of the Kyoto Protocol of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The emerging market for such forest-based carbon credits could provide a means for forest landowners to

derive revenue from the conservation and sustainable management of forestland for activities above and beyond the requirements of prevailing laws.

Greenhouse gases have built up in the atmosphere since the beginning of the industrial revolution 150 years ago. It will take quite a while to reduce those levels, through cutting emissions and through enhancing carbon “sinks.” Forests are the best such sinks, as they remove atmospheric carbon by photosynthesis and store it as biomass and organic soil carbon. The forests of the U.S. Pacific Northwest, especially redwood and Douglas-fir forests, can store more tons of carbon per acre than other known forest types anywhere. By preventing conversion of forests to other uses—such as housing or agriculture—and by growing older forests, with larger trees and less dis-

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## Warming to the Issue

By LAURIE A. WAYBURN, *President*

Last November, Senators Mack, Chaffee and Leibermann introduced a bill that would ensure “early emissions reduction credit” for actions taken before 2008 to reduce levels of greenhouse gases. Now known as Senate Bill 547, the measure is being considered by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Both industry and environmental groups are calling for substantial changes.

The legislation would create a voluntary, incentives-based program—not a set of regulations—for reducing carbon emissions. PFT supports the bill but with a few key changes. We believe it is a good first step towards encouraging actions to reduce atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, and for its inclusion of forests as a sector for action.

Forests worldwide are the second-largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because of poor management practices and conversion to other uses. In the U.S., we are annually increasing our emissions from forests. While U.S. forests are still a net “sink” overall, some areas of our forests have become net sources. Preventing conversion of forests and growing older forests under sustainable management would reverse this trend and increase total carbon sequestration by forests. Thus, forests are an important area for action, both nationally and internationally. They are also a very cost-effective means to both achieve permanent reductions and meet U.S. goals.

### Creating a Meaningful, Credible Policy

PFT is working with the Senate committee to draft changes to the bill in three areas to achieve real, additional and permanent CO<sub>2</sub> reductions.

#### 1. Ensure real reductions, not business as usual.

The definition of an incentive is to “encourage an action that would not otherwise occur.” Hence, the very nature of an

incentive is to promote actions *additional* to those that occur anyway. The current bill does not restrict credits to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from actions above and beyond those taken in the normal course of business or in compliance with existing legal requirements. We don’t pay people to stop at stop signs, rather we offer reduced insurance rates for good traffic records and not breaking the law. The same principle should hold here.

*With a few key changes, Senate Bill 547 could spur credible “early action” for real reductions to U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.*

#### 2. Set high quality scientific standards and measurements.

The present bill does not encourage or recognize any differences in the *quality* of actions undertaken to reduce emissions: a ton of carbon reduced from the atmosphere for a hundred years counts the same as a ton reduced for one month. But it is clearly more valuable to get rid of a ton of excess CO<sub>2</sub> once and for all than to have to do it again and again. While we should encourage any and all additional actions, we should encourage lasting actions even more. The bill should set a standard that any ton be reduced for at least a hundred years (the cycling time of carbon and the duration of recommended actions under the Kyoto Protocol). Shorter-term actions should be credited at a discounted rate.

Further, the current language does not establish consistent standards by which carbon emissions are measured: each participant uses their own methods. A similarly open approach under the EPA Act 1605 program has been criticized by the GAO for allowing projects that do not

meet scientific standards and for which actual carbon reductions are unverifiable.

The current bill should call for the appropriate federal agency to set objective, scientific and measurable standards. We all need to know the rules of a new game in order to play fairly. Without them, we will effectively encourage lower quality, short-term actions, as they receive the same credit as long-term, high-quality changes. The “currency” of carbon credits will otherwise be debased by this “easy money” policy even as the new market system is being created.

#### 3. Provide clear definitions and few, clear exceptions.

The current bill has overly broad definitions with often debatable meanings, and provides large exceptions for participation within an *already* voluntary system. For example, it allows a participating entity to choose portions of its ownership to enter or not. This effectively allows for within-company displacement of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, putting the entire proposal at risk of ineffectiveness. In addition, the bill does not clearly define the key term “reservoir,” usually called “sink.” Reservoirs should be defined as managed natural systems, so we don’t later discover someone claiming their landfill is a carbon “reservoir.”

We are working with the committee to create a meaningful domestic U.S. program to reduce levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Since it addresses U.S. sources, the bill should focus on domestic U.S. solutions.

The principles that make for a credible program in forest-based carbon hold for any sector of carbon reductions: additionality, permanence, clarity of definition, scientific credibility, quality, transparent and accurate accounting. The U.S. has the opportunity and the means to demonstrate that emissions reductions through management of natural “reservoirs” can occur in a cost-effective and scientifically credible way. In so doing, it will create an important incentive for forest conservation and sustainable management. 🌲

## Family Forestlands Protected with Conservation Easements in 1998

Last year the Pacific Forest Trust was privileged to work with many forestland owners considering their conservation options. Here we briefly profile four owners who granted PFT conservation easements to protect their properties in perpetuity. These lands will stay in family ownership and sustainable management, ensuring long-term ecosystem protection.

**Big Creek Timber’s Butano Creek Forest** (San Mateo County, CA): This 370-acre property contains rare old-growth and mature second-growth coastal redwoods.



*Bud McCrary and his family have managed the Big Creek timberlands as a model of sustainable forestry.*

Situated near Butano State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, Big Basin Redwoods State Park and the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness Area, this forest is an integral part of an important network of protected habitat in San Mateo County. Butano Creek, home to steelhead, is protected through restrictions on timber harvest to reduce sedimentation. Forest management is focused on maintaining and enhancing old-growth characteristics, important to threatened and endangered species such as the marbled murrelet. Big Creek Timber, family-owned since 1946, has long been recognized as an excellent forest steward. Their sustainable management is certified under the Forest Stewardship Council. “This is a priceless forest stand with important old-growth habitat

that we’re pleased to be able to protect and manage for the long term,” Big Creek’s vice-president Homer “Bud” McCrary remarked.

**Phillips Forest at Oak Run** (Shasta County, CA): First homesteaded in the 1860s, this rare 920-acre tract of mature ponderosa pine forest includes a historic steam-powered mill that still produces lumber from selectively logged pine for the family’s custom box business. With the passing of the elder generation, the family decided to embody their vision of forestry in a conservation easement. “It was very important to both the older and younger family members to make sure the property wasn’t broken up in the estate settlement,” Gary Hendrix, trustee of the Phillips Family Trust, explained. His cousin and co-trustee Ed Smith added, “We all agreed that the easement was the best way to perpetuate the kind of forest management that was practiced by our uncles.”

**Valley View Angus Ranch** (Sierra Valley, CA): Arthur Strang’s grandparents were among the first settlers of this high, wide valley. At 95, Arthur wanted to be sure that the 1840-acre ranch they homesteaded would pass on to his heirs without estate taxes forcing the breakup of the property. He and his ranch manager, Linda Sanford, crafted a conservation easement that maintains the ranch’s historic cattle ranching and timber management while protecting the valley bottom and upslope forests. The mixed conifer forests will continue to be managed to restore a more fire-resilient old-growth structure. Commented Linda, “The conservation easement will help me



*Steve Wilson explains his restoration forestry to PFT forest ecologist Susan Prichard, while designing the conservation easement for his 1100-acre mixed conifer forest near Spokane, WA.*

keep up Artie’s good work and keep the ranch going the way he wanted.”

**Wilson Ranch** (Pend Oreille County, WA): Retired fireman Steve Wilson is using a conservation easement to help him realize his dream of restoring and protecting almost 1100 acres of native mixed conifer forest. Pieced together from properties he has assembled over 25 years, Wilson’s ranch is rich in diversity and wildlife value, providing important habitat for waterfowl and moose and foraging for the threatened Northern goshawk as well as the great blue heron. His conservation easement embodies the intensive forest management needed to restore native species composition, reducing the overstocking of fire-prone lodgepole pine and favoring the growth of larch and western white pine hard hit by earlier logging. This is the first conservation easement created for a working forest in Washington state. In granting the easement, Steve commented, “When you think how long it takes a forest to grow back, you need to take a long term view of things. The easement will help ensure this forest is here and thriving long after I’m gone, and that others will benefit from all the work I’ve done.” 🌲

### The Land Is Their Legacy

Pacific Forest Trust extends its sympathy to the families of Arthur Phillips and Arthur Strang, both of whom recently passed away. These two easement donors made extraordinary commitments to land conservation. PFT was honored to help them perpetuate their vision of stewardship and achieve lasting protection of their lands.

## Great Opportunities are Emerging from Changing Climate, Changing Markets, and Changing Forestry

By JERRY F. FRANKLIN, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Ecosystem Science  
 University of Washington College of Forest Resources*

*The following article is derived from Professor Franklin's presentation at a dinner held by the Pacific Forest Trust in Seattle last September.*

The popular term “paradigm shift” doesn't begin to do justice to the changes that are in process in forestry and natural resources management. Change is the name of the game in all sectors—from our basic knowledge of forest ecosystems and how they work to the structure of the forest products industry and the nature of the marketplace. Furthermore, the major shifts are far from over and the ultimate form that the future will take in forests and forestry are far from clear. Of course, change always brings with it opportunities!

This discussion provides a brief commentary on some aspects of “flux” in forests and forestry.

### The Forest's Role in Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

We can begin by realizing that a new physical environment is also being created. There is consensus in the scientific community and new data to indicate that climate change is a reality. Along the Pacific Coast from northern California to southern British Columbia the best predictions are for warmer temperatures—by as much as 2 to 2½ degrees Centigrade by the middle of the next century. Winter precipitation is expected to increase but summer rainfall will not and may actually decrease. This means more intense summer drought periods, greater summer moisture stress on trees, and higher potential for wildfire. Our Mediterranean climate is going to get more Mediterranean! The winter snow zone is going to retreat upward in elevation and eventually “pop right off the top” of all but our tallest mountains. Significant change, indeed.

Greenhouse gases are the major factor in global warming and herein lies one of the new opportunities in forestry: the marketing of sequestered carbon. The basis for this is emerging from the Kyoto Protocol. The concept is a simple one—taking or keeping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere by sequestering (storing) it in organic matter (wood): growing trees where they have not been for a long time (“reforestation”) or agreeing to leave forests or portions of forest ecosystems (even individual trees and logs) in place rather than removing them for manufacture of forest products. The Pacific Forest Trust is very active in the development of the legal and scientific basis for the carbon market.

It is important to understand that the central issue is *total volume* of carbon sequestration and not rate of carbon uptake. Many foresters and politicians have focused on the fact that young forests take up carbon at a very fast rate. But if there is very little carbon (biomass) stored in a forest high rates of uptake are of little consequence. On the other hand, old forests, and large, old trees have stored immense amounts of carbon, and will continue to store it if they are left unharvested. Another carbon-related myth is the notion that harvesting and converting such forests into forest products will result in continued long-term storage of the incorporated carbon. Unfortunately, only a tiny percentage of a harvested log actually ends up in products with a long (e.g., 100-year) life span; most of the carbon in the log actually becomes a short- or mid-term source of carbon for the atmosphere.

Our knowledge of carbon flux in forests is continuing to develop, and our efforts to learn more will doubtless be stimulated by creation of a marketplace. At the Wind River Canopy Crane facility in the southern Washington Cascade Range major new insights are developing as part of a cooperative research program among the USDA

Forest Service, University of Washington, and US Department of Energy's Western Global Environmental Change Program.

Results are just emerging, with new insights into carbon dynamics and the productivity of both old (500-year-old) and young (40-year-old) forests. Among the surprising and not-so-surprising results is the fact that the old forest is still—at 500 years of age—a net annual sink for carbon; that is, the old forest continues to take up more carbon each year than it is releasing through respiration and decomposition. The young forest does appear to be taking up carbon through photosynthesis at a faster rate but, of course, contains almost no sequestered carbon—in contrast to the tons of carbon stored in the trees, snags, logs, and forest floor of the old-growth stand.

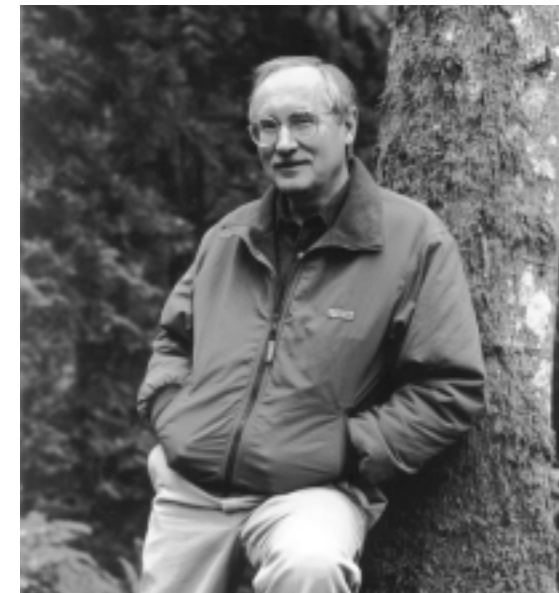
### Forest Practices Respond to Societal Goals, Marketplace Realities

Forest practices are changing radically in response to new societal goals of integrating more environmental objectives (e.g., maintenance of biological diversity and well-regulated hydrologic regimes) with economic objectives. And these changes are not confined to public lands, which have, of course, undergone a drastic redirection in terms of priorities from timber harvest to maintaining biota. MacMillan-Bloedel, the largest forest products firm in western Canada, has made a major and public commitment to end clearcutting in the next five years. It is being replaced by the “variable retention harvest system,” in which portions of the harvested forest stands are retained in place through the next rotation to provide for forest organisms and functions that would have been lost through clearcutting. Other corporations are using similar approaches, although none of the larger firms have been prepared to publicly declare that they are ending clearcutting for fear of breaking with their industrial colleagues. [With the World Resources Institute, PFT is advising MacMillan-Bloedel on the potential carbon credits that could accrue

to them from these changes in forest management. -Ed.]

Endangered fish stocks have become a major element in the future of forestry. Foresters and the forest products industry have regularly failed to acknowledge their major responsibilities to the streams and rivers that are a part of our forest landscapes. I am reminded of a special issue of the *Journal of Forestry* several years ago on “forest sustainability,” which incorporated not one word (let alone contained one article) about aquatic ecosystems, hydrologic regimes, or fish! That is clearly changing and private forest lands are going to have significant obligations in the form of meaningful stream buffers and improved roads. The hypothesis—regularly pushed by the timber industry—that timber harvest has no major or permanent impacts on hydrologic regimes, including flood flows and landslides, is proving false as more and more empirical data and model simulations emerge.

Major restrictions on forest practices in North America are going to be important in the context of another major change in forestry: the globalization of the forest products industry. Major trends in forest production and investment have been identified by many analysts. One of my favorite sources is *Logging the Globe* by Dr. M. Patricia Marchak of the University of British Columbia (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995). The southern hemisphere is emerging as a region for plantation-based cultivation of very high productivity, exotic conifers (e.g., radiata or Monterey pine) and hardwoods (e.g., Eucalyptus). It is going to be very difficult for traditional forest regions to compete with such locales (and with potential agricultural sources) in the global marketplace for bulk, low-value fiber and products (such as paper) based upon such fiber. Forest landowners in less productive regions are going to have to think much more seriously about their future markets. Solutions may come from production of high-value wood products and marketing of other products—such as sequestered carbon.



*Jerry Franklin, a member of PFT's Advisory Board, is widely recognized as the leading forest ecologist in the Pacific Northwest. An advisor to governments and landowners, he has pioneered the application of forest ecosystem science on managed forests.*

Yet another element of change in the global marketplace is the desire of many consumers and societies for green marketplaces and certified forest products. Certified forest products are those that are identified, preferably by some third party, as having been grown, harvested and manufactured in environmentally and socially acceptable ways—truly the product of a sustainable forestry program. The ultimate dimensions of both the certification process and the

## Combatting Global Warming

*Continued from page 1*

turbed soil, more CO<sub>2</sub> can be removed from the atmosphere than would be the case under “business as usual.” Given the long-term commitment required, a conservation easement is the logical legal mechanism to secure forest-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions or carbon credits.

### Two California Easements

One of the conservation easements, from Big Creek Timber in San Mateo County, protects 370 acres of existing old-growth and mature second-growth redwood stands from conversion to residential use, as has occurred around it, and ensures that the forest will not be reduced to the

markets themselves are still unclear but not the fact that these things are going to happen. Furthermore, it is only necessary for green markets to reach a threshold—well below 50% of the market—before essentially all producers with a regional market (such as Europe or North America) will be forced to follow suit.

All of these changes are interacting and bringing to the forest and the forest landowner both uncertainty and opportunity. Approaches that are most likely to succeed are those that provide for better integration of environmental and economic objectives and more diversified and environmentally positive markets, and that incorporate the newest and most complete information on forest ecosystems and how they work.

Players who assert that the forest world should be as it once was or deny that our traditional forest practices have caused significant negative environmental impacts (the equivalent of the tobacco industry's claims regarding smoking and cancer) are not going to survive. Players who decide to profit from new market opportunities in certification, carbon sequestration and management for diversity will emerge from this time of change more competitive in a global marketplace. 🌲

younger, smaller-sized trees characteristic of most commercial redwood land. A similar easement on 3850 acres in Mendocino County both protects remaining old-growth redwood and Douglas-fir stands and ensures cut-over stands will be restored to a complex, mature forest.

The Pacific Forest Trust has taken a leading role in developing the policy framework for the inclusion of credible, scientific and verifiable forest-based carbon emissions reduction projects under the Kyoto Protocol. Projects such as these “carbon easements” in the U.S. help demonstrate how effective forests can be in mitigating global warming. 🌲

## Saving the Forest for the Next Generation

### Conservation Easements Can be an Antidote to Estate Taxes

By CONSTANCE BEST, *Managing Director*

Estate taxes can shape the forest landscape more powerfully than many people realize. If not properly planned for, a death in the family can trigger such burdensome estate taxes that unintended or excessive timber harvest and even the break-up of the family forestland become the only way to fund the bill from the IRS. This does not need to be the case: estate taxes can be minimized—or even eliminated—through timely planning. As forest landowners in the Pacific Northwest age—and most are already over 65 years old—the transfer of millions of acres of forestland looms. Will the forest remain intact and productive? Or will estate taxes force heirs to liquidate, leaving the future of the land in doubt?

The Pacific Forest Trust’s workshop on “Estate Planning for Family Forestlands” presents several tools that can prevent forest loss in the estate process. One of the most important of these is the conservation easement. A conservation easement places permanent restrictions on non-forest uses of the property and restricts timber harvesting to protect the land’s natural and

environmental values. The family retains ownership and control, while restricting the liquidation value of the property to conform to their desired uses, including long-term timber management. The terms of the conservation easement are determined by the donor to meet specified conservation goals described in Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. Fee title and all rights not specifically restricted are retained by the grantor. The property can still be sold or transferred, subject to the conservation easement. Conservation easements can be used effectively with other estate planning mechanisms, such as family limited partnerships, lifetime gifting and by-pass trusts.

The gift of a perpetual conservation easement to a qualified charitable land trust is deductible for both income and estate tax purposes. A landowner can significantly decrease the value of the forestland in the gross estate by establishing a conservation easement while also potentially realizing a major income tax savings by making the gift in their lifetime.

#### Foggy Hills Tree Farm

To better understand the potential financial impact of utilizing a conservation easement in the context of estate planning, let’s look at the hypothetical example of Mary and Marty Merriweather, a 65-year-old couple who own and live on 1500 acres of commercial forestland known as the Foggy Hills Tree Farm. The value of the Merriweather’s gross estate, and their potential estate tax due upon the death of the surviving spouse are illustrated in the box at left. These figures are calculated as if there were no prudent estate plan created. Taking into consideration changes to the tax code in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, the unified credit is increased in these examples to eliminate taxes on the first \$1 million in estate value.

To better keep their carefully stewarded—and well-stocked—forest in the family,

the Merriweathers decide to create a conservation easement. They select an appropriate non-profit land trust, such as the Pacific Forest Trust, as the grantee. Together they design an easement that prohibits subdivision of the Tree Farm, permits no more than three residences, allows timber harvesting up to approximately 20% of inventory per decade, protects the old growth picnic grove the family loves, and creates a riparian habitat corridor along their year-round creek. All of these restrictions reflect the Merriweathers’ desired continued uses of the property. In addition to the conservation easement, the Merriweathers establish a “credit shelter” or “marital by-pass” trust, which is highly recommended to ensure the maximum benefit of the marital tax deduction for both spouses.

With these two measures in place, their estate taxes might look like this:

Conservation Valuation	
Original Estate Total	\$5,295,000
Less Value of Conservation Easement	(1,875,000)
Less Credit Shelter Trust Assets	(1,000,000)
Reduced Estate Total	\$2,420,000
Less Liabilities:	
Estate Administration @ 5% ( 121,000)	
Taxable Estate Total	\$2,299,000
Gross Estate Taxes	\$ 927,310
Less Unified Credit	( 345,800)
Net Estate Taxes Payable	\$ 581,510
<b>Savings Over the “No Plan” Approach:</b>	<b>\$1,480,128</b>

By establishing the conservation easement, the Merriweathers dramatically reduce the impact of estate taxes on their heirs. The remaining tax could readily be paid out of the proceeds of a timber harvest or use of other assets. This allows the next generation of Merriweathers to benefit from the hard work and careful stewardship Mary and Marty invested in Foggy Hills, sheltering the forest assets as they pass through the estate process.

For information on The Pacific Forest Trust’s workshop on “Estate Planning for Family Forestlands,” call or e-mail us for the latest schedule. 📧

## Seattle Office Works with Landowners, Land Trusts and King County

By DON DUPREY

*Oregon-Washington Field Director*

The Washington/Oregon office of the Pacific Forest Trust is now in its second year of operations in Seattle, where I have been joined by our new forest ecologist, Bill Richards.

One highlight of our first year was the first conservation easement placed on private working forestlands in the state of Washington. Working with forestland owner Steve Wilson in Pend Oreille County, PFT accepted an easement that will permanently protect nearly 1100 acres of mixed conifer forest and keep it in forest use (see page 3 for details of this easement). Steve was introduced to the Pacific Forest Trust through attending our “Estate Planning for Family Forestlands” workshop in Spokane.

Throughout 1998 we focused on educating forestland owners in Washington and Oregon about how conservation easements can enhance their forest management and estate planning. In addition to visiting with forestland owners and resource professionals around the region, we made presentations at the invitation of the Washington Farm Forestry Association, the Coos Watershed Associations, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and King County, among others, traveling from Maple Valley, Washington, to Coos Bay, Oregon. In November, I spoke at 1000 Friends of Oregon’s annual Citizens’ Land Use Conference.

We also provided assistance to other Northwest land trusts in their own forest conservation efforts. Last year we made presentations on forest conservation strategies to staff of some 35 land trusts at the Land Trust Alliance/Northwest’s annual meeting, and presented a workshop at the national Land Trust Rally in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition we assisted a number of land trusts in the region concerning

particular easement projects.

I was recently appointed to the King County Rural Forest Commission, which advises the County Council on ways to conserve the county’s rural forest land. I am hard put to think of an area in the Pacific Northwest where the threat of forestland conversion is greater. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with landowners, agencies and other concerned citizens in finding effective conservation solutions for these highly productive, highly threatened lands.

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## New Redwood Forest Owners Consider Conservation Forestry

As the winter rains began in earnest last November, a van full of people rumbled along the back roads of forested Mendocino County, California, to look at some of the forest practice issues facing the recently formed Mendocino Redwood Company, new owners of 235,000 acres of prime redwood lands. At the invitation of the company’s partners—Sandy Dean, John Fisher and Mark Slavonia—Jerry Franklin (University of Washington Professor of Ecosystem Science) and Dale Thornburgh, RPF (PFT’s Senior Forester and silviculture professor at Humboldt State University), and PFT’s Laurie Wayburn and Connie Best spent the day discussing alternatives to clearcutting and herbicides, along with old-growth protection and management for biological diversity on a working landscape.

### Suspending Clearcutting

The most immediate result of the field trip was the company’s decision to cease clearcutting for the coming year in an effort to understand and implement “variable retention” silviculture. Such harvest systems seek to retain significant portions of the pre-harvest forest stand as refugia for certain species impacted by the harvest and as “biological legacies” to enrich the regenerated post-harvest stand. With reduced opening sizes and retained clumps of trees or individuals that repre-

sent the suite of species and age classes of the pre-harvest stand, the new stand can regain a degree of biological diversity more quickly. These more diverse stands, with older trees remaining in them, can provide habitat complexity required for many threatened species.

For more information on variable retention silviculture, we recommend reading *Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century*, edited by Kathryn A. Kohm and Jerry F. Franklin (Island Press 1997).

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## New Staff Add Expertise Indoors and Out

We have welcomed several new staff people to the Pacific Forest Trust:

**Kathie Parker Brown** is PFT’s Director of Administration and Finance. She has a strong business background, working as an administrator or financial analyst with a telecommunications consulting firm, the Federal Home Loan Bank and Chevron USA, as well as running her own business. With an MBA from Pepperdine, Kathie works out of our Boonville, CA, office to oversee PFT’s administrative and financial systems as we continue to grow. Kathie is being supported by Administrative Manager Debbie Jackson and our able new Bookkeeper and Office Assistant, **Lance Vannorsdel**.

**Bill Richards** is PFT’s Forest Ecologist. An experienced wildlife biologist, Bill has worked with Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Seattle Water Department, Watershed Management Division, and the private consulting firm, Resources Northwest, Inc., where he supervised research surveys for endangered species such as the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl. With an M.S. in Environmental Studies from Western Washington University, Bill is responsible for PFT’s Stewardship Program, overseeing the monitoring and management of our conservation easements. In addition Bill does our forest carbon modeling for the *Forests Forever Fund*. 🌲

## Ensuring Future Forests

By working with the Pacific Forest Trust you can ensure that your family forest remains a forest for the future—and continues to provide the benefits you value so highly.

Gifts made to the Pacific Forest Trust of conservation easements—or even the forest itself—are fully tax deductible. Whether gifting an easement or the land, Pacific Forest Trust will guarantee your forest legacy endures and that the land continues to be managed sustainably.

Another option is to create a charitable remainder trust for your forestland that provides you with an income-tax deduction and on-going income generated by sustainable forestry.

For further information, contact Laurie Wayburn at (707) 895-2090 or Don Duprey at (206) 292-4747.

### The Pacific Forest Trust

is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to enhance, restore and preserve the private, productive forests of the Pacific Northwest, with a primary focus on California, Oregon and Washington.

The Pacific Forest Trust is:

- a specialized land trust for working forestlands;
- an information, education and research center for stewardship forestry;
- a policy institute promoting incentives for long-term forest stewardship.

A collaborative, problem-solving organization, PFT works with landowners, forest managers, public agencies, and others to sustain private forestlands for the wealth of goods and services they provide.

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**Pacific Forests** is published twice a year by the Pacific Forest Trust.

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#### Graphic Design

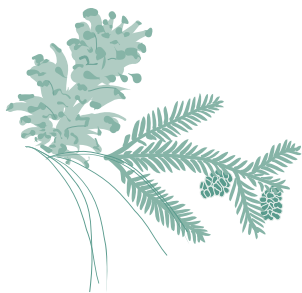
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