

OREGON'S NEW FORESTRY DISASTER

Tom Bender * 12.21.14 * <tbender@nehalem.tel.net>

Recent events have put Oregon's regulation of forestry practices suddenly in the spotlight. It is being shown to be in total disarray - robbing local jurisdictions of millions of dollars of revenue every year, poisoning citizens and communities with dangerously harmful chemicals, allowing corporations to poison our citizens while depriving us of our constitutional rights, ignoring the vast financial risk of logging-activated landslides, losing most of our forests' value through short-term profiteering, and exposing local and state jurisdictions to immense potential for class-action lawsuits.

Here's a short summary:

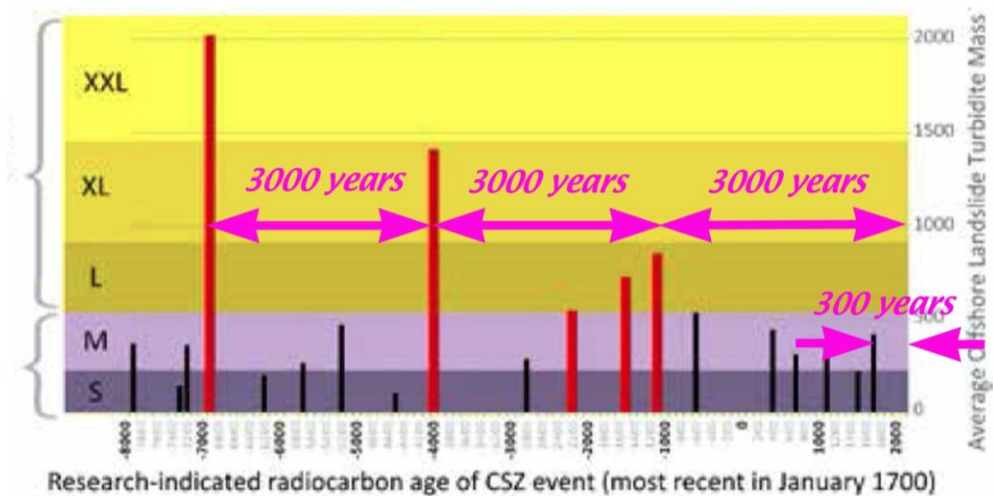
- **Recent research shows that health impacts of forestry pesticide use are gigantic, extend to future generations, and are totally unjustifiable.**
 - New research shows that adverse respiratory, neurological and endocrinological effects INCREASE at extremely small doses, affect future generations, and cause sexual changes, but are totally ignored in Oregon forestry regulation.
 - ["Five Myths of "Safe" Pesticides"](#) Sept 10, 2014.
 - ["A Generation in Jeopardy"](#) Excellent summary, reviewing dozens of recent scientific studies on pesticide impacts on children's health and intelligence.
 - ["Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database"](#) Beyond Pesticides. This database facilitates access to epidemiologic and laboratory studies based on real world exposure scenarios that link public health effects to pesticides. The scientific literature documents elevated rates of chronic diseases among people exposed to pesticides, with increasing numbers of studies associated with both specific illnesses and a range of illnesses. With some of these diseases at very high and, perhaps, epidemic proportions, there is an urgent need for public policy at all levels –local, state, and national—to end dependency on toxic pesticides.
 - [2014 Univ. of Oregon Herbicides and Health Conference - Tyrone Hayes](#)
 - ["Environmental Toxicants and Developmental Disabilities"](#)
 - [POISON SPRING](#), E. G. Vallianatos, 2014.
 - For more information, contact Dr. David and Meg Thompson, Oceanside: <rosedalerocker@mac.com> <megthompson@me.com> 971-270-9689
 - Salmon are already similarly affected:
 - "Pesticides have multiple effects on salmon," explains Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA <<http://www.pcffa.org>>). Chemicals that run off of agricultural fields and end up in streams and rivers can harm salmon neurologically, disrupting the navigation and homing instincts crucial for species that migrate to the ocean and return to their home rivers years later to spawn. Pe-

sticides can also impair the fish's development and reproduction, in ways that reduce their survival.

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced new restrictions on pesticide use in California affecting salmon, and more restrictions are expected affecting Oregon.
<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/fe046d2a2c205a7185257d96005a3273%21OpenDocument>>
- Oregon Forestry permits the unregulated use of mixes of pesticides. Health impacts of **MIXES** of pesticides are far greater than individual chemicals, and have not been tested or addressed by OFPA.
- Oregon has by far the worst standards of neighboring states for protection of homes, schools, water systems and waterways, and permits use of herbicides banned in other states. It has eliminated spray setbacks from homes that once existed.
 - "Comparison of Pacific NW Protections for Drinking Water" available from BEYOND TOXICS, (541) 465-8860 <larkin@beyondtoxics.org>
- Oregonians and our communities are being poisoned, with total failure of agency oversight and response across the board.
 - [Video interview of 45 people poisoned in Curry County, 2013.](#)
 - [High Country News - Nov 10, 2014 - Forestry Herbicide Spraying Sickens a Community](#)
 - [Oregonian Oct 21, 2014: Gold Beach: Oregon Agencies Blew Off Complaints](#)
 - [Oregonian Oct. 23, 2014: Oregon Sprays Weed Killers Near People under West Coast's Weakest Protections](#)
 - [Oregonian Oct. 27, 2014: 8 Things You Should Know About Helicopter Spraying of Weed Killers on Oregon Timberlands](#)
 - [OPB Tony Schick coverage](#)
 - For more information, contact Lisa Arkins, BEYOND TOXICS, (541) 465-8860 <larkin@beyondtoxics.org>
- OFPA permits the burning of logging slash-debris. The effects of burning pesticide mixes, producing potentially even more toxic chemicals has not been addressed by OFPA. The state of Washington banned most slashburns in 1991, reducing its use to less than 5% of forestlands. Why has Oregon not acted? Wind requirements for slashburns send that contaminated smoke with mutagens, carcinogens, etc. causing respiratory illness, asthma, pneumonia, etc. directly through our coastal communities.
 - "CleanAirWashington Act, 1991" WA Dept of Ecology '98.

- "Health Effects of Wood Smoke" WA Dept of Ecology '92/'04.
 - The use of fuel oil or bunker oil to initiate burns in slashpiles creates numerous other harmful allergenic substances.
- Impacts in *reducing* growth of newly planted trees through herbicide application are ignored, as well as the *value* of the "competing" alders. Similarly, impacts on mycological function of forests/soil, on other forest products and on other life forms are ignored.
- Negative benefits of slashburns and related herbicide use were decisively analyzed way back in 1984 by Roger Hart in NCAP News - Fall and Winter 1984 issues:
 - Nitrogen loss from slashburns = 6% decrease in timber yield.
 - Trees in 7% organic soil grew 2 to 3 times faster than in burned soil.
 - After 15 years, Douglas Fir trees on slashburns = 2.2' high, .5" diameter. On unburned soil, 13.9' high, 4.4" diameter.
 - Sedimentation from clearcuts reduced salmon egg hatching in streams from 90% down to 40%.
 - In 1984, slashburns resulted in \$5 - \$30/acre reduction in replanting costs. But slashburning itself *cost* \$584/acre.
- Impacts of pesticide concentration up the food chain are ignored.
- Community outrage at being exposed to these poisons is building throughout the state:
 - Arch Cape to Netarts - North Coast Basin Coalition - Michael Manzuli <manzulli@gmail.com> (503) 436-1981
 - Wheeler - Coastal Concerns - Maia Holliday - <maiadegaia@gmail.com> (503) 801-8573
 - Rockaway - Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection - Nancy Webster - <nancywebster@gtcinternet.com> (503) 355-2516
 - Gold Beach - John Burns - johnbarb1@frontier.com (541) 247-6452
 - Triangle Lake - contact Lisa Arkins, Beyond Toxics (541)465-8860 - <larkin@beyondtoxics.org>
- **Even more interestingly, NO NEED has ever been shown for routine herbicide use.**
 - Pesticide use is BANNED in national forests, and does not impact forestry sales or ability to regenerate after cutting.
 - Alternatives such as manual release, selective cutting, and cut-squirt are available and workable.
 - Increased rotation length from current 40 years up to 200-300 years reduces the frequency of replanting and the cumulative cost of alternatives. Even if pesticide use is continued, such longer rotations reduce their use by 75% to almost 90%.

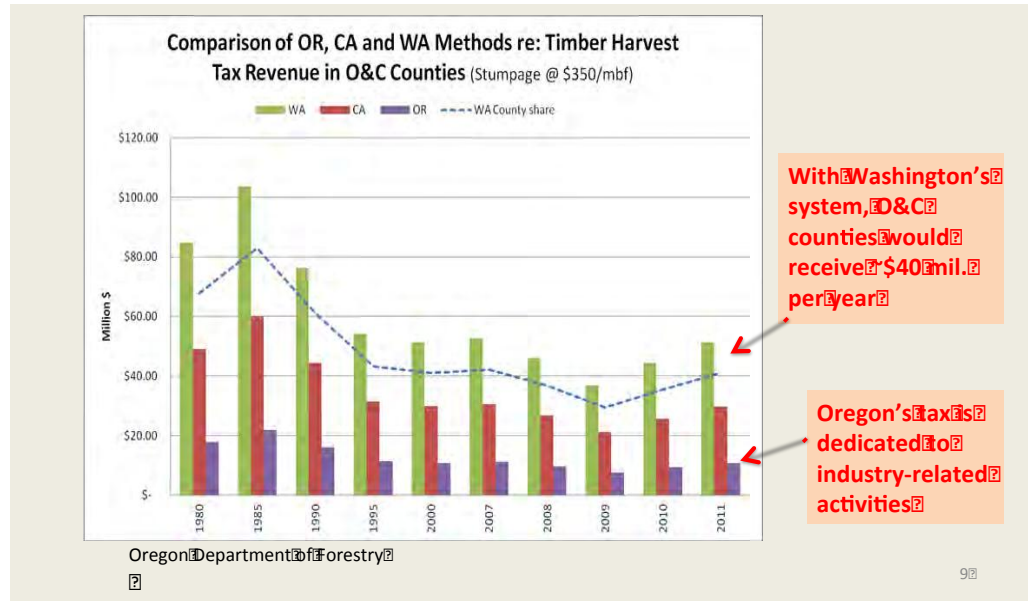
- **The massive costs of clearcut-caused landslides impacting our communities and transportation systems are ignored in Oregon forestry and land-use planning practices.**
 - Class-action lawsuits related to the Washington Oso landslide are showing the financial risks of ignoring such issues.
 - [Oct. 27, 2014 Seattle Times Oso Landslide Lawsuit](#)
 - ["Landslide in Oso - Don't Blame Nature"](#)
 - New mega-quake R9.5 landslides with five times the lateral movement of R-9 earthquakes are now expected, with far greater risk and need for change in practices:



- There has been no update of data, zoning restrictions, or development of policies informing communities, residents, or property purchasers of potential impacts and risks. Even existing geological hazard maps show the ubiquity of hazards tied with Oregon's geology.
 - Wheeler Citizens for Responsible Development's reports on issues of logging, landslides, and community development are valuable:
 - "Ross Report and Wheeler Landslides" 5/17/14
 - "Oso Landslide, Logging, and Geer Report" 8/19/14
 - "Wheeler Landslides Photo Essay" 10/29/14
 - "Supplement to October 2014 Newsletter" (GeoReports) 10/29/14
- The Oso Report is an outstanding analysis of a long technical report showing the long-term issues with groundwater and landslides lasting 20+ years after logging. Scary, and well worth reading.
- For copies and more information, contact: Ralph Thomas <wheelercitizens@comcast.net>

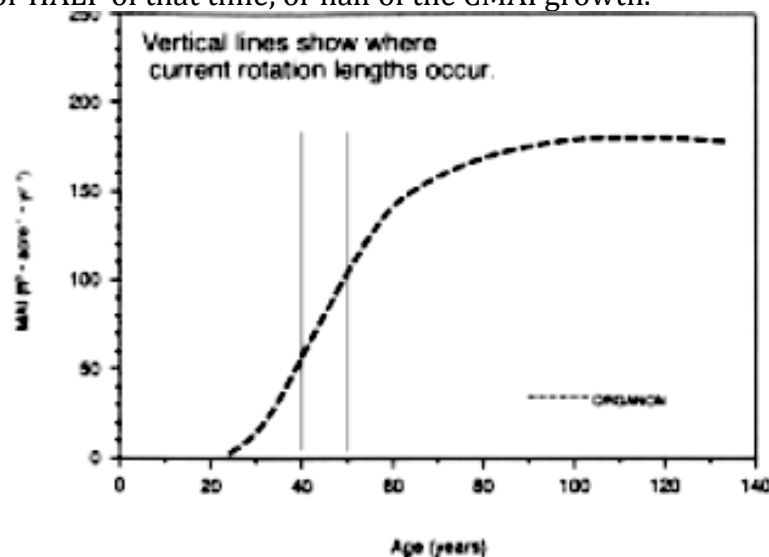
- Oregon's "forestry taxes" shortchange Oregon counties more than \$40 million/year compared to Washington. There are "no-brainer" alternatives to counties' "strip-mining" our forests for immediate revenue needs:

REVENUE OPTION TO LOGGING: HARVEST TAXES



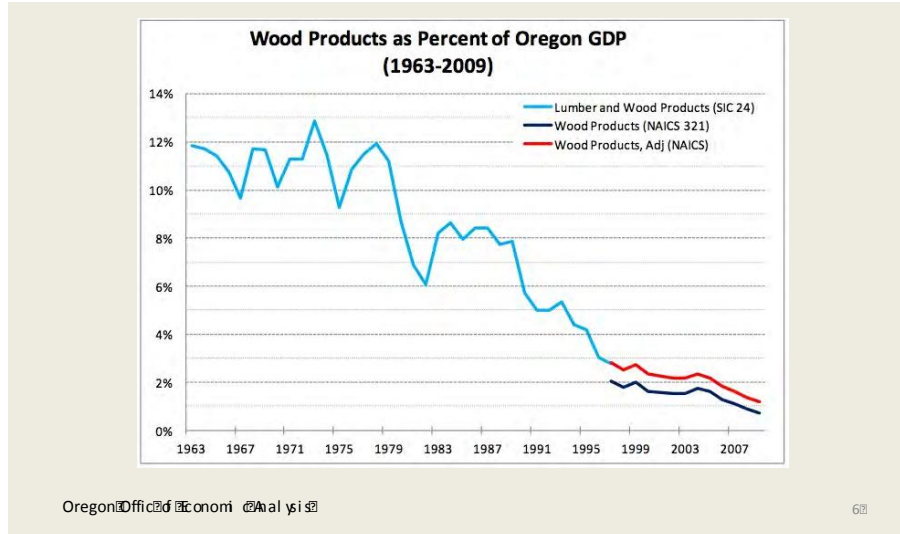
Ernest Niemi, Natural Resource Economics

- ODF's "mismanagement" in the 1960s, allowing planting of "fast-growing" non-disease-resistant trees, has resulted in huge losses of timber production in Tillamook and other counties. Those counties should receive a share of ODF revenues from other counties until replanting produces harvestable growth.
- The economics used to "support" current Oregon forestry practices is fraudulent. It ignores externalized costs, examines only revenue and not costs, and fails to evaluate alternatives. It loses Oregonians 80-90% of the value of our forests:
 - Current 40-year rotations DO NOT EVEN CAPTURE FULL SOLAR INPUT for HALF of that time, or half of the CMAI growth.



- Longer 200-year rotations can INCREASE value received from our forest lands by 20 to 30 times present value.
 - ["Fixing Failed Forests", Tom Bender, 2002.](#)
- Recurrent EXPENSES of logging are large, are ignored in current forestry economics, and are greatly reduced in longer rotations.
- "View Corridors" are unworkable, and best replaced by long rotations that reduce potential cuts along scenic roads by 80%.
 - [Daily Astorian: "Scenic Buffer Strips Harm Highways"](#) See also Daily Astorian, Feb. 9, 2009.
- ALL forestry benefits need to be addressed, not just logging. Timber harvest is only a small fraction of the productive value of our forests.
 - [THE ECONOMICS OF TRUE SUSTAINABILITY, Tom Bender 2013](#)
 - Forest Service studies in 1989 and 1990 showed tourism, hunting, and recreation producing \$122 billion vs logging revenues of \$13 billion - **TEN TIMES AS GREAT!**
 - A 1990 Forest Service study showed that recreation fees could be **three times as great** as revenues from timber.
 - Salmon from the Smith River in California, even heavily damaged by logging, produced \$7.8 million/year - **more than the entire logging revenues** from the basin.
 - A Forest Service study on the Salmon River in Idaho showed that a \$14 million logging operation resulted in a \$100 million salmon revenue loss.
- Soil loss, and subsequent costs of siltation of estuaries and hydroelectric reservoirs is not evaluated. 116,000 TONS of silt flow into just the Nehalem River estuary EVERY YEAR, virtually all from clearcuts.
- **Oregon's "Right To Farm And Forest Act" unconstitutionally gives forestry corporations the freedom to poison our communities, friends, and water with no rights to redress.**
 - [Beyond Toxics Aug. 13, 2014: Gold Beach Residents File Lawsuit](#)
 - [Fox Business Aug. 13, 2014: Curry Couy Victis Challenge Constitutionality of Right to Farm Act](#)
 - For more information, contact Chris Winter, CRAG Law Center, 503-525-2724.
- Even the customary income and employment benefits from logging have dwindled to near-zero. Its value compared to other uses of forests is hardly worth consideration. Automation and wage reductions in forestry industry have reduced timber benefits to less than 1% of Oregon GDP:

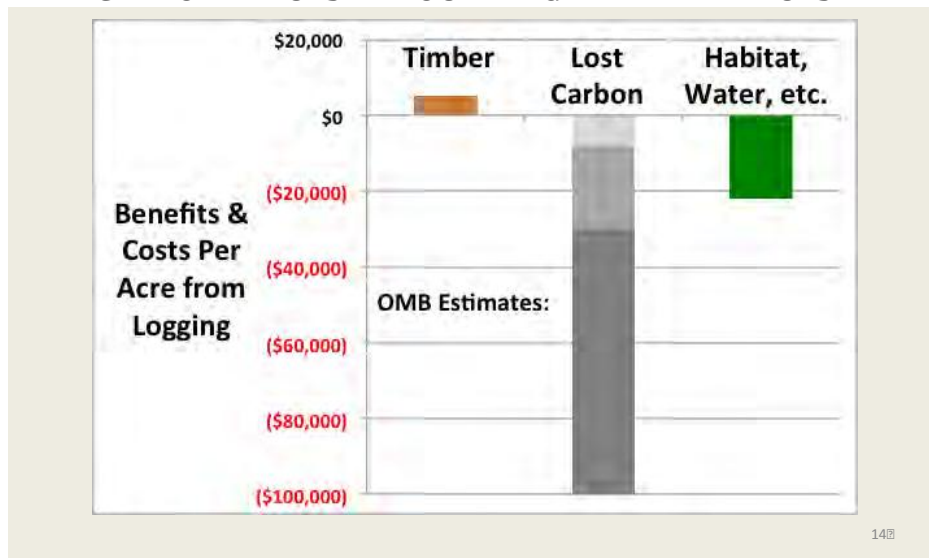
TIMBER'S ECONOMIC ROLE DECLINES AS OTHER SECTORS GROW



Ernest Niemi, Natural Resource Economics

- Carbon sequestering value far exceeds all other economic dimensions. It alone amounts to 20 times the income gained from logging:

CARBON VALUES FAR OUTWEIGH TIMBER VALUES



Ernest Niemi, Natural Resource Economics

- Tourism has replaced forestry in contribution to economics and employment:

THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY IS A LARGER ENGINE OF GROWTH

Existing Jobs	
Timber Industry	25-30,000
Outdoor Recreation Industry	140,000
Oregon	1,700,000
New Jobs	
Timber Industry (Wyden Bill)	1,600 (?) Total
Outdoor Recreation Industry	7,000/Year
Oregon, Total	4,000/Month

12

Ernest Niemi, Natural Resource Economics

It's time NOW for major reform, and bringing our state into the 21st century with a positive legacy for our children. The magnitude and clarity of "new" science regarding these issues is already bringing strong class-action risk to all of our jurisdictions and agencies if we fail to act. And the benefit to all Oregon of making major improvements in management of our forests is huge.