

## AFRC 2010 Accomplishments

### National

- Continued to employ services of contract lobbyist to advise staff and members and to carry AFRC's message to Washington, D.C.
- Arranged and lead three visits by AFRC members to Washington, D.C. to meet with key members of Congress, members and staff of key Congressional Committees, Interior Secretary, Bureau of Land Management D.C. staff, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Chief of Forest Service, Forest Service Washington Office staff to influence legislative and policy decisions concerning federal timber supply and increase the budget allocations to timber management programs.
- As a member of the Federal Forests Resource Coalition
  - employed contract lobbyist closely identified with current Administration to seek to increase annual Forest Service timber output to 3 billion board feet by 2013;
  - worked to improve and maintain the overall budget and accountability of the Forest Service;
  - participated in three visits to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress, key committee staff, White House Office of Management and Budget, Agriculture Secretary and Undersecretaries, Chief of Forest Service and key Forest Service Washington Office personnel.
- Worked with the co-chairs of the Congressional Healthy Forests Caucus to build national support in the Congress for active, sustainable forest management.
- Initiated and coordinated several Congressional letters to the Administration on providing funding for Forest Service and BLM forest management programs.
- Worked with members of the Northwest Congressional delegation to question the process employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a draft Northern Spotted Owl Revised Recovery Plan.
- Worked with members of Oregon's Congressional delegation to focus attention of gridlock on BLM districts in southern Oregon; participated in two stakeholder meetings with Interior Secretary Salazar; sought and obtained commitment to three pilot projects and one agency review to determine causes and solutions.
- Worked with Congressional offices to influence the EPA concerning Tailoring Rule and Boiler-MACT Rule to preserve the ability of members to operate cogeneration facilities and seek new markets for woody biomass.
- Participated in Congressman Kurt Schrader's biomass forum.
- Worked with members on an administrative and legislative effort aimed at preserving Oregon Eastside infrastructure through increased availability of timber, including legislation that was introduced in 111th Congress by Senator Ron Wyden.
- Attended, with members, lunch forum with Secretary of Agriculture and Oregon Congressional delegation to focus attention on federal forest management.
- Annual meeting featured members of Oregon Congressional delegation and Under Secretary of Agriculture as key speakers.

- Conducted field investigations of lands proposed for Wilderness designation on the Rogue River and Olympic Peninsula; provided information to members of Congress in those districts.
- Provided input to Forest Service Planning Rule and attended local and national workshops; coordinated input with other associations and interest groups.
- Continued to work with district office staff of members of Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho Congressional delegations.
- Participated in reorganization and new funding structure for Federal Timber Purchasers Committee formerly sponsored by American Forest and Paper Association to be part of work of Federal Forests Resource Coalition.

### **Federal Timber Program**

- Conducted monitoring meetings on all national forests in Regions 5, 6, southwest Idaho and Oregon BLM Districts to assure communication of member concerns and emerging issues.
- Reviewed proposed Forest Service and BLM timber sales and provided input to agency field staff on ways to make projects more economically viable.
- Continued to track forest timber sale targets and accomplishments.
- Lead effort to maximize timber targets for all Region 5 and 6 forests based on expected budgets.
- Worked with forests to prepare and sell fire salvage sales in a timely manner.
- Coordinated monthly telephone conferences of eastside members, Congressional staff and Region 6 natural resources personnel to discuss issues of concern and formulate solutions.
- Sought and secured species fixed rate for Ponderosa pine for eastside timber sale contracts and a more flexible log piece and top sizes.
- Reviewed and commented on National Environmental Policy Act documents for projects and timber sales; filed objections or appeals on those projects and sales where member concerns dictated.
- Worked to highlight and seek solutions to gridlock on timber sales on BLM lands in southwest Oregon; participated in field tours and symposiums with university faculty, members of Congress and their staff and agency personnel.
- Conducted annual meeting of members and Region 6 forest supervisors and regional staff to review Fiscal Year 2010 harvest accomplishments and issues of concern to members.
- Participated in annual industry meeting with BLM timber staff.
- Hosted Region 1, 5 and 6 Regional Foresters at AFRC annual meeting to discuss issues unique to each region and common problems of infrastructure retention.
- Met frequently with Oregon BLM executive personnel.
- Filed Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to Northern Spotted Owl Estimation Methodology and sought changes in how consultation on spotted owls is conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Reviewed and commented on Northern Spotted Owl Draft Revised Recovery Plan.
- Participated with four other trade associations in regular meetings to assure coordination of efforts regarding Northern Spotted Owl Draft Revised Recovery Plan.

- Monitored progress on Blue Mountain Forest Plan and participated in meetings with staff.
- Intervened in appeal of Boise National Forest Plan revision to wildlife standards; participated in mediation.
- Participated in Federal Timber Purchasers Committee; attended national meetings with Forest Service timber staff.
- Served as member of National Council for Air and Stream Improvement Western Wildlife Committee.
- Participated in quarterly meetings of the Sustainable Forest Action Coalition (SFAC), with members from seventeen counties in northern and central California. One key objective of SFAC is to add a unified voice to state and federal legislation that impacts existing mill and biomass facilities.
- Participated and coordinated with the California Forestry Association (CFA) on issues that impact the federal timber program in Region 5, including participation in CFA's resource meetings.
- Commented on draft Sequoia National Monument Plan.
- Continued involvement as an intervener in the Sierra Nevada Framework.
- Participated in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Initiative development and implementation through efforts with the Sustainable Forest Action Coalition.
- Conducted a northern California member's field review of the Moonlight fire salvage operations. The Moonlight fire involved AFRC legal and support staff participation in the litigation effort to allow salvage logging on the approximate 60,000 acres of federal land that burned.

### **Washington DNR Program**

- Worked to preserve continued sustainable 650 million board foot annual harvest from DNR managed timber lands. In Fiscal Year 2010, DNR sold 742 million board feet, completing the sale of the arrearage of timber not sold in prior years of the Sustained Yield Decade.
- Held five regular meetings of DNR timber purchasers and DNR timber staff.
- Commissioned a study by DR systems Northwest, Inc. of the likely impacts on annual harvest and revenues of expanding Forest Stewardship Council certification to all DNR managed timber trust lands. Presented study results to Commissioner of Public Lands.
- Attended meetings of Washington Board of Natural Resources; testified on issues of concern to members; provided briefings to members of the Board.
- Tracked legislation potentially impacting state timberland management introduced in State House and Senate; provided testimony when appropriate; worked with allied associations to support or oppose legislation impacting member interests.
- Held member field trip in Northeast Region to discuss member issues and concerns in the region with DNR Regional and Olympia staff.
- Reviewed proposed DNR timber sales as needed to provide input to field staff on ways to make projects more economically viable.
- Sponsored meeting of industry, DNR proprietary and regulatory personnel, and state Department of Ecology concerning forest road sedimentation issues.

- Members and staff met frequently with Commissioner of Public Lands and key staff to assure mutual communication of concerns and issues and foster understanding.
- At direction of AFRC Broad, organized AFRC DNR Policy Committee to provide direction to staff and assure member input.
- Commented on Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Participated with other stakeholders in monthly and quarterly meetings to discuss and monitor progress on drafting of OESF Plan.
- Worked with allied associations to assure members' voice in matters concerning Washington timber trust lands.
- Monitored and provided input to DNR staff on marbled murrelet long term strategy; assured members were informed of immediate and long range impacts on timber sale and overall timber sale program.

## **Legal Program**

- WA State timber program:
  - Trust mandate: Obtained state Court of Appeals ruling affirming DNR's trust obligation in management of timber lands.
  - Olympic Experimental State Forest Plan: Commented on OESF draft plan; worked to assure agency compliance with State Environmental Policy Act and settlement agreement related to sustainable harvest calculation.
  - Marbled murrelet long term strategy: Monitored short-term and long-term impacts on state timber program and sustainable harvest calculation; worked to assure agency compliance with HCP and settlement agreement.
- Federal timber supply:
  - Intervened in administrative appeals and lawsuits on behalf of purchasers to defend timber sales challenged by environmental groups. These cases included sales on national forests in Regions 1, 5, and 6.
  - Encouraged Forest Service attorneys and staff to award timber sales challenged in litigation so that during preliminary injunction deliberations courts will consider the adverse effects on timber purchasers in the balance of harm.
  - Supported favorable interpretation of Forest Service Handbook and regulations to provide flexibility to modify utilization standards for Eastside Ponderosa pine
- Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and Critical Habitat Designation:
  - Successfully challenged Secretary of Interior's attempt to withdraw 2008 spotted owl critical habitat designation, which would have returned management to earlier, more restrictive provisions
  - Sent 60 day notice of intent to sue FWS challenging use of modeling teams in violation of Federal Advisory Committee Act.
  - Sent 60 day notice of intent to sue FWS challenging failure to perform 5 year status review of northern spotted owl; FWS responded by initiating 5 year review
  - Sent series of FOIA requests to FWS, BLM and FS to gather documents relating to recovery planning process and decisions

- WOPR: Supported Carpenters' Union and Douglas Timber Operators' challenge of the Secretary of Interior's withdrawal of the final plans through filing of all papers in support of summary judgment; awaiting oral argument with court.
- Owl Estimation Methodology: Filed a case in DC District Court challenging the legality of the OEM which is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and the Forest Service.
- Survey and Manage: Represented industry interests in environmental lawsuit challenging the Forest Service and BLM use of "survey and manage" protocols under the Northwest Forest Plan.
- Intervention in NEPA cases: Filed an amicus brief in Ninth Circuit *en banc* review of whether companies and resource user groups should be allowed to intervene in the main part of cases challenging sufficiency of agency actions under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Northwest Forest Plan: Participated in successful appeal of Judge Hogan's decision that late successional reserves cannot be actively managed to benefit spotted owl habitat.
- Mission Brush case: Sided with Forest Service in further appeal of case supporting a workable interpretation of the NFMA wildlife viability rule and recognizing that agency decision-making is due substantial deference by Courts.
- Clean Water Act: Filed amicus brief supporting *en banc* review of the adverse opinion making forest roads and culverts subject to the Clean Water Act NPDES permits.
- Equal Access to Justice Act: Continued to participate in efforts aimed at reform legislation.
- Roadless cases. Continued to track cases in two different circuit courts to defend the State's Petition Rule and fight reinstatement of Clinton-era rule.