

Utah Forest News

Utah Forest Landowner
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Landowner Profile: Wallace Ott, Active at 87



Wallace Ott: "Planting the trees is the easy part".

When you are 87, it's time to retire and take life easy, right? Not so for Wallace Ott. Wallace worked for the US Forest Service for 20 years addressing forest insect and disease problems. After retiring, Wallace spent his time doing timber-stand improvement on a 265 acre parcel he owns near the Tropic reservoir. Then, deciding there was room for additional trees, he enlisted help from his 9 children, 30 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren to help plant a legacy forest for his family.

Planting the trees was the easy part. Wallace keeps a close eye on his trees and hand-waters the seedlings during dry periods. With his tender care, Wallace says he has nearly a 99% survival rate with the seedlings he gets from the state's Lone Peak Nursery.

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Wallace prunes the lower limbs from many of the trees on his property, which will help increase the trees' value at harvest time. He uses the limbs to control erosion. The limbs are placed in gullies and help slow the speed and erosive force of water as it flows over the area.

In his spare time, Wallace has become the "resident expert" on Butch Cassidy and has been written up in the National Geographic, Wild West Magazine, and others. If there are any questions on these topics, Wallace Ott sure appreciates a listening ear.

Highlighting the activities of forest landowners who are committed to the careful management of their property will be a regular feature of *Utah Forest News*. If you are a landowner or know of one who is actively involved in the management of their forestland and who's experiences might provide insight for other forest owners, please contact Lisa Dennis-Perez at 435-797-0560.

Source: Ron Larsen, Southwest Area Manager, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands



Young seedlings require special care.



Limbs from Wallace's pruning efforts are used to control erosion.

Fire Season Requires Extra Caution

Recreationists, especially off-road-vehicle enthusiasts, are cautioned to avoid Utah's tinder dry grasslands. A wildfire in Tooele County, which has burned more than 20,000 acres, is believed to have been started by a vehicle's catalytic converter.

"We want to let people know that the intense heat developed by catalytic converters will easily ignite dry grass," said State Forester Art DuFault. "It's also important to note that a single spark from an exhaust or a rock striking an undercarriage may also cause a fire."

As temperatures continue to rise throughout Utah the danger

of wildland fire is also increasing. The greatest danger lies in cheat grass, a thin and highly flammable grass in abundant supply throughout the state. "We'd advise people to stay on pavement or well-traveled dirt roads," added DuFault. "A person who is responsible for starting a fire, even accidentally, may be held liable for the cost of suppressing the fire."

Source: Jim Springer, Public Information Specialist, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Stewardship Incentives Program: Cost-Share Opportunities

Established as part of the 1990 “Farm Bill”, the Stewardship Incentive Program or SIP was established to promote the management of nonindustrial private forest lands through cost-sharing of certain forestry practices. Cost-sharing is the sharing of expenses, and with SIP, the program may pay up to 75% of the cost of implementing forestry practices. The cost share money available for SIP practices is federal money administered at the state level by the State Forester. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has administered a Stewardship Incentives Program since 1991.

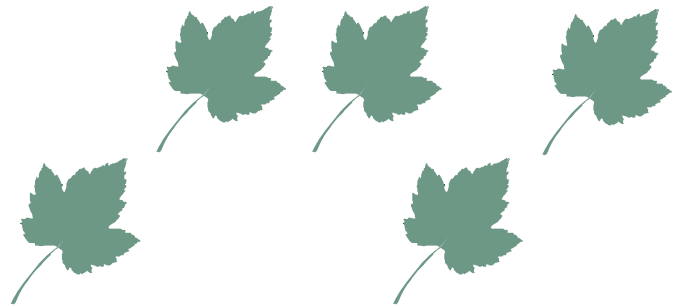
To qualify for SIP a landowner must own between 10 and 1,000 acres of land. In some instances, landowners who own up to 5,000 acres of forest land may be eligible for SIP assistance if granted a waiver to the acreage requirements. Additionally, a landowner must be a private individual, group, private corporation, native American group or tribe, or other private legal entity. A landowner must then have a forest stewardship plan prepared.

A forest stewardship plan is based on a comprehensive field inventory of the forest resources on the property, a summary of those resources in a report and recommendations of how to manage those resources according to the landowner’s goals and objectives. Additionally, the plan includes maps and a schedule of practices for the forested property. A forest stewardship plan (FSP) can be prepared by a Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FF&SL) forester or a consulting forester. A consulting forester will charge for their services, but preparation of a forest stewardship plan is a cost-shareable practice. If a landowner owns agricultural or range land they would have an agro-forestry plan prepared by FF&SL personnel or a conservation plan prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Once a landowner has a plan, any qualified practices recommended in that plan are eligible for cost share. Practices that generate income, such as a commercial timber harvest where the landowner sells trees, are not eligible for cost share. However, if a pre-commercial thinning (removing smaller, unhealthy trees to make more space, moisture, and nutrients available to the remaining trees) is recommended in the

stewardship plan and no income will be generated, then the SIP program could pay up to 75% of the cost of the thinning. There are a wide range of practices available for cost-sharing through the SIP program, including reforestation, installation of windbreaks, and improvement of stream corridors or recreational trails. The first step in obtaining SIP assistance is to contact your FF&SL service forester and have a stewardship plan written. Call 801-538-5555 to locate the FF&SL forester for your area.

Source: Scott Burroughs, former Stewardship Forester with Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands



Small Wood Conference Set for October

This conference will address profit opportunities in value-added wood products, focusing on innovative uses for small diameter timber. The conference includes presentations, tour opportunities, and a product and equipment exposition.

The conference will be held October 14-17, 1998 at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston, Idaho. For a program and registration materials, call 541-962-6574 or e-mail your request to dfraztke@grh.org.

Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Utilization and marketing of small diameter and previously under-utilized timber is a forest health challenge facing natural resource managers, the forest products industry and community/tribal leaders across the Four Corners area (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona). The Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a cooperative effort among federal, state and local government agencies, non-profit groups, and forest industry representatives to address forest health and economic development issues.

In June 1998, a field trip was hosted by Initiative participants to promote the Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative and provide for the interchange of ideas and experiences among field trip participants. The purpose of the field trip was to show how under-utilized timber species and small diameter material can be used to make value-added wood products. Manufacture of such products add to the economic vitality of rural communities and enable landowners and agencies to manage forest lands on a sustainable basis. The field trip also was intended to provide a forum for the development of relationships between business, local government, land management agencies, and entrepreneurs.

Tour participants included congressional staff and members of state legislatures, US Forest Service staff, representatives of



Fred Stocks, Timber Products Inc., discusses concerns over timber supply issues.

local governments and associations, economic development planners, extension personnel, mill owners and other industry representatives, and state forestry agency staff from Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado. The tour included several mill and processing facilities, a community effort to restore forest health, and a presentation on efforts to establish a wood products/industry association. Each stop included a tour of the operation and a question and answer period. Discussions addressed material and supply issues, involvement in niche or specialty markets, and product marketing strategies. Much valuable dialogue was shared and participants had ample opportunity to discuss ideas for addressing the needs of the forest ecosystems, rural communities, and the forest industries in their states.

During the tour there were a number of recurring issues and important points raised. While adequate timber supplies exist, primarily on National Forest lands, timber is not available to the forest industry in predictable quantities or in a timely manner. Current USFS policy is not conducive to partnerships that would allow for the treatment of forest health issues while providing a predictable supply for the forest products industry.

Utilization strategies, value-added products, and niche markets need to be reexamined and developed because small diameter growing stock and underutilized species are a prominent component of the inventory available to the forest products industry. Small businesses need assistance obtaining loans for capital investments and preparing business plans and grant applications in order to adapt to changes in the timber supply. Stable, sustainable industry which is scaled to area resources is key to managing natural resources long term and providing benefits and stability to rural communities.

Long-term goals of the Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative include a detailed evaluation of the forest resource, forest management issues, industry supply issues, trends in the forest products industry, and the connection between the industry and local communities. The Initiative hopes to raise funds to help the forest industry evaluate new processes and technologies, set up demonstration projects and training opportunities, and develop a clearing house of information and technical support for entrepreneurs.

State Foresters from Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado hope this field trip and future Initiative efforts stimulate and provide a basis for ongoing dialogue, cooperation, and support among stakeholders in the four corners area. For more information on the Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative or to receive a copy of the field trip report, please contact the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands at 801-538-5555.

Source: Dave Schen, Ecosystem Management Coordinator, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands



Carla Garrison explains Montezuma County's role in developing the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership in southwest Colorado.

Mountain Crest High School Team Wins 1998 Utah Envirothon

A team of Mountain Crest High School students from Cache County won the 1998 Utah Envirothon on Saturday, May 2, at Hyrum State Park. The Envirothon is a natural resource competition for high school students. As a team, students are tested on their knowledge of the state's natural resources including soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue, this year watersheds. Students visit five in-the-field stations where written and hands-on problem solving is required.

Mountain Crest High School team members Merrilyne Lundahl, Devon Twedt, Christie Heers, Tyler Bingham, Mike DeGassor and Dustin Campbell represented Utah at the National Envirothon. The high school students, accompanied by their team advisor and science teacher Randy Stacey, competed against approximately 40 other teams from around the United States and Canada at the National Envirothon on July 27-Aug. 1 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. They enjoyed competing at the National Envirothon and learned a lot, but were no match for another rookie team from Arizona, who won first place in the competition.

“Natural resource education programs like the Envirothon help teach our children that they must become informed citizens and take an active role in wise use of our resource base on which we depend for all our food and fiber,” said Blacksmith Fork Soil Conservation District Chairman Gordon Zilles. Six teams competed in the 1998 Utah Envirothon. They are: Mountain Crest, Logan High, South Cache Freshman Center, Park Valley School, Union High School in Roosevelt and New Tyme School in Salt Lake City. The Utah Envirothon is sponsored by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Campbell Scientific, Inc., and the Bridgerland Audubon Society.

Source: Jennifer Hines, Information Specialist, Utah Association of Conservation Districts

Weekend Warrior Logging – Are You Being Safe?

One of the satisfactions of owning forest property is working outdoors to improve the health and value of your forest. The more you learn about forestry, the more things you will see in your woods that need work. Many of these forest improvements involve cutting trees.

Some landowners want to do their own logging because they prefer a hands-on approach to culturing their forest. Also, it is increasingly difficult for landowners to find or afford good loggers to do small jobs – especially those with little immediate economic return, such as thinning poor quality stands.

Unfortunately, most people who are not full-time loggers or forestry contractors have had little, if any, training related to logging safety. Falling a tree, bucking it into logs, skidding it to a landing, then loading it onto a truck and hauling it to a mill may look simple and straightforward. Unfortunately, the reality is that logging is one of the most dangerous activities in the world. Life and limb threatening accidents lurk at every corner. Here are a few of the types of questions you should be asking yourself to avoid accidents when cutting or moving trees on your property:

- *Protective clothing* – Are you wearing the appropriate types of safety clothing for the activity (hard hat, eye protection, chaps, earplugs, gloves, appropriate clothing and shoes, etc.)?
- *Safety devices* – Do you have appropriate safety devices on your equipment (chain breaks on saws, roll-bars and other guards on equipment used for skidding)?
- *First aid* – Have you had basic first aid training? How long has it been? Do you have a fully stocked first aid kit where you are working?
- *Equipment* – Are you familiar with the range of tools available for a given woods task? Are you using the right tool for the job? Have you checked your equipment for wear? Have you maintained it properly (sharpened your saw chain)?
- *Fire* – Are you prepared to prevent fires while working? What is the condition of your saw's spark arrester? Do you have appropriate equipment to fight a small fire if one gets started?

- *Communication* – Are you working alone in the woods? Do you have a convenient means to contact someone in case of an emergency (radio or cell phone)? If you are working with someone, do you discuss safety procedures regularly? Have you established hand signals or other forms of communication for times when it is difficult to hear each other?

- *Skills* – It is one thing to cut 2-3 inch diameter saplings in a pre-commercial thinning. It is another to fall a lopsided tree, 30 inches in diameter, on a 50% slope. Be realistic about your skill level and consider hiring a professional for jobs that are beyond your skills.

There are several sources for more information on the topic of logging safety. One place to start is the literature that came with the equipment you are using to do the work. If you no longer have that literature, check with a local store that sells the same or similar products. Some manufacturers even provide instructional videos and pamphlets to help people use their equipment safely. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands also offers information on this topic through periodic workshops on chainsaw safety (call 801-538-5555 for information).

Whenever forest landowners do their own woods work, safety is a major concern. Use proper equipment in good condition and appropriate safety gear. Have a plan for communicating effectively with others you are working with and a plan for what to do in case of an emergency. Don't take on a job that exceeds your level of experience and above all, BE CAREFUL.

Source: Chris Schnepf, Area Extension Educator – Forestry, University of Idaho



Classifieds

This classified section is intended as a service for forest landowners. Listing of these services, companies, and individuals here in no way implies endorsement by Utah State University Extension. We suggest that you use the same precautions you would use in the purchase or sale of any goods and services, including asking for and checking references and using a written agreement to clarify the obligations and responsibilities involved in a sale or service contract.

Wasatch Timber Products – looking for raw logs 2 - 40 inches in diameter in Douglas-fir, spruce, and pine. Prefer dead standing, will take green. Also looking to purchase land with timber on property. Call 435-654-6688 or e-mail at LL133@aol.com or contact us at 2045 S Hwy 40, Heber City, UT 84032.

Stoltze Aspen Mills – looking for aspen saw logs to buy by the ton. Call 435-896-6402.

Triangle E Consulting / Merlin Esplin – provides timber inventories and cruising, land and timber management prescriptions, timber marking, road layout, boundary identification and marking, timber sale administration, and other natural resource analysis and implementation services. Call 435-648-2109, fax 435-648-2509, or contact us at P.O. Box 48, Orderville, UT 84758.

Standard Wood Supply / Don Gansen – firewood supplier in Salt Lake City looking to purchase large amounts of pinyon, cedar, and lodge-pole; preferable cut to firewood length (16”-18” long); could possibly haul wood if necessary. Call Don at 801-485-WOOD (9663).

Buying Property – looking to buy mountain property; large acreage; aspen, pine, or sage covered. Please contact Mike at 801-367-2999.

Do you have forest resources you are looking to sell? Are there specific timber resources you are looking to buy? Do you offer services useful to forest landowners? This is the place to advertise your needs! Advertisement is free. If you would like to place an ad, call Lisa Dennis-Perez at 435-797-0560 or e-mail lisadp@ext.usu.edu.

New Extension Publications

Utah Forest Facts is a new series of forestry-related fact sheets from Utah State University Extension. These four-page fact sheets are full of information addressing rural/conservation forestry, urban forestry, and forestry at the wildland/urban interface. Copies are available from your county extension office or the USU Extension Bulletin Room, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-8960 (435-797-2251) for 25¢ each.

New titles include:

NR/FF/001 Species Ratings for Landscape Tree Appraisal in Utah – covers aspects of landscape tree valuation, mainly for arborists and other tree professionals.

NR/FF/002 Firewise Plants for Utah Landscapes – details firewise plant characteristics and a list of plants appropriate for firewise landscaping.

NR/FF/003 Forest Management Planning – describes the process of planning the management of forestland and why the practice is beneficial for private landowners.

NR/FF/004 Pruning Landscape Trees: An Overview – explains the basics of pruning.

NR/FF/005 Windbreak Benefits and Design – describes the benefits of windbreaks and presents various windbreak designs.

*NR/FF/006 Tips for Planning a Successful Timber Sale – presents important points to consider when planning a timber sale and various steps to follow.

ALSO: “A Guide to the Trees of Utah and the Intermountain West” by Dr. Michael Kuhns is available from USU Press for \$14.95 (call 1-800-239-9974). This book contains 341 pages of tree descriptions, identification keys, selection guides, and hardiness zone tables for all Utah native trees and many introduced species.

* *Due out September 1998.*

Upcoming Events

Small Wood Conference:

-October 14-17, 1998 at the Red Lion
Hotel in Lewiston, Idaho

*Call 541-962-6574 or see page 3 for more
information.*

Utah Farm Bureau Annual Conference:

-November 16-20, 1998 at the Marriott
Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah

Call 801-233-3000 for more information.

Forest Taxation and Estate Planning Conference:

-January 26-27, 1999 at the Comfort
Suites Hotel in Ogden, Utah

*Call 435-797-0560 or 801-538-5504 for more
information.*

For More Information:

On upcoming events or any of the information presented
in this newsletter, please call Lisa Dennis-Perez at Utah
State University at 435-797-0560.

State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
(FF&SL) service foresters for your area can be con-
tacted by calling the main office in Salt Lake City at
801-538-5555.

Ideas and written contributions to this
newsletter are encouraged. Send your com-
ments to the return address below or call 435-
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