



Jerry Franklin, a professor at the University of Washington, tells timber managers visiting the H.J. Andrews Experimental

Forest east of Eugene about "New Forestry," a harvesting method designed to solve the Northwest's logging problems.

David Grubbs/Gazette-Times

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## 'New Forestry' offers harvest alternatives

By Joyce De Monnin  
Gazette-Times reporter

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There isn't much point in arguing with a speeding train rushing down a track. About all you can do is make plans for its arrival.

That's what Forest Service chief ecologist Jerry Franklin told a group of public and private timber managers during a tour of an experimental forest last week.

He said the watershed issues right now are simple: how to save the threatened northern spotted owl and still cut trees.

With traditional forestry practices, those goals conflict. Franklin believes a concept called "New Forestry" offers an alternative.

Franklin is one of the chief proponents of it, which he describes as a way of achieving both wood production and "ecological values."

His views aren't universally shared. Foresters on the tour also heard an opposing view from Oregon State University professor Bill Atkinson, who touted plantation tree farming — something familiar with many of the tour participants.

Most of them are timberlands managers or those tied to the logging industry, and thus have a

stake in maintaining a high volume of timber production.

Franklin, who's taught for more than 30 years, said privately about the tour, "This is going to be the toughest group of students I've ever had."

He's come up with alternatives to traditional forestry practices as a result of his and other research at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest east of Eugene. OSU, the U.S. Forest Service and the Willamette National Forest have conducted cooperative research there since the mid-50s.

Early experiments were about the effect of timber cutting on floods. That led to later studies on water, energy and nutrient cycles.

As the studies continued, it became clear that scientists had not taken into account the effect of large organic debris lying on the ground and standing dead trees, or snags, Franklin said.

Traditionally, leaving woody debris behind was viewed as a fire hazard and an impediment to travel. A lot of money was spent cleaning up debris from logging

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sites and removing it from streams.

Today, Franklin says, some foresters are changing their minds. In streams, debris helps create shade and pools that improve fish runs. In forests, Franklin believes it's also of substantial value for long-term site productivity and erosion prevention.

Franklin believes that forest tracts can be partially cut and still preserve habitat for the spotted owl and other species. To do that, several living and dead trees would remain standing to provide varied tree sizes, which is one feature of an old-growth forest. Woody debris would be left on the ground.

But Atkinson, who has worked in both the timber industry and academia, said New Forestry has

its problems. He believes it doesn't take into account disease control, insect control, fire danger or other economic impacts.

"Plantation forestry has evolved over three to four decades," he said, "and it continues to change. It involves the work of hundreds of scientists."

In the early years of plantation farming, many seedlings died. Now, through fertilization, brush control, thinning and site selection, "plantation forests outpace natural forests in wood production by 30 percent," Atkinson said.

"Young plantations are the backbone of the industry. It galls me to see it getting knocked around."

New Forestry practices of leaving behind snags and growing trees make it difficult to control brush with herbicides sprayed from a helicopter. Snags act like "torches" when hit by lightning, Atkinson said, and have been major causes of fires, such as the Tillamook Burn.

He acknowledged that tree plantations haven't taken wildlife habitat, water quality or riparian zones into account in the past. But "we're getting a handle on that stuff," he said.

Even tree farmers are adapting some of the principles of New Forestry, he said.

It's true that plantation forestry has yielded high wood production, Franklin said. But on a grand scale, the debate is "do we preserve habitat for threatened species such as the spotted owl, or can we convince people that we can grow habitat?"

"If we want to practice traditional forestry, the only alternative is to preserve (some of the) forests," he said.

Franklin also admits New Forestry may not be the answer.

"Will it work?" he said. "The proof is off in the future. However, we hope in 15 to 20 years to come up with some pretty definitive kinds of answers."

### Megabucks

SALEM (AP) — Nobody won the \$1 million jackpot Saturday night in the Oregon Lottery's Megabucks lotto game, pushing the estimated jackpot to \$1.25 million for Wednesday's drawing.

Spokeswoman Leslie Hale said 24 tickets bearing five of the six winning numbers were sold, worth \$707.60 apiece when redeemed at the lottery's office in Salem in person or by mail.

She said 1,007 tickets bearing four winning numbers were sold, good for \$27 each at any Megabucks dealer.

The winning numbers in the drawing were: 11-13-27-37-40-43  
Sales were \$339,661.

### Lotto America

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The winning numbers drawn Saturday night in "Lotto America" are: 2-10-19-36-39-45

Estimated jackpot: \$35 million

### Daily 4

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