

NEWS

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-7422



For immediate release
April 23, 2008
08-23

Major media distribution
Contact: Rod Nichols, 503-945-7425

Eastside mills, loggers come to aid of coastal flood victims

Vernonia residents stricken by the December floods in coastal Oregon received a helping hand from east of the Cascades last weekend in the form of much-needed firewood to heat their homes. Don Bodewig of DR Johnson Lumber, Prairie City, donated an entire truck load of dry pine logs. Russ Young and Iron Triangle Logging of John Day delivered the logs to Pendleton, where Richard Dodge and Blue Mountain Lumber Co. completed the relay by hauling them to Vernonia.

A team of volunteers made up of foresters and local residents will cut, split and deliver the firewood – estimated at eight cords – to local residents on April 26.

Project organizer Bob Alverts of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and a former Bureau of Land Management area manager for Grant County in the 1970s, cited a long list of businesses and individuals on both sides of the Cascades for making the donation possible.

“Thanks to these generous rural colleagues from Grant and Umatilla counties, helping their friends in need in Columbia County,” the retired forester said. “And, thanks to Darren Mahr of the Oregon Department of Forestry for arranging for the load of logs.”

The unusually cool spring has extended the heating season in Vernonia, he noted, further adding to the need for firewood.

To date, the Woodcut Project, sponsored by Oregon SAF, has cut, split and delivered 28 cords of firewood to the flood victims. But Alverts and his team of volunteers don’t plan to put up their chainsaws anytime soon.

There is more work to do,” he said. “We will continue to find additional sources of logs and we’ll plan at least several more days cutting wood.”

Forest products companies Weyerhaeuser, Longview Timber and Green Diamond Resources, along with the Bureau of Land Management, have all provided logs or wood for cutting.

Stihl Northwest of Chehalis, Washington and Precision Pump and Power Equipment of Banks, Oregon have provided chainsaws and other equipment and supplies for the volunteer woodcutters.

Alverts encouraged eastside residents who have logs or wood that they would like to donate to the Vernonia storm victims to contact him - 503-639-0405, balverts@teleport.com.

“In a town of only about 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded,” he said, “and many residents are living temporarily in FEMA trailers.”

###

PHOTO CAPTION: A truck load of logs donated and hauled to Vernonia by eastside mill and timber operators will be cut into firewood on April 26 and delivered to residents stricken by the December flooding.

NEWS

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-7422



For immediate release
June 11, 2008
08-27

Local media distribution
Contact: Rod Nichols, 503-945-7425

Loggers, foresters crank out firewood for December storm victims

In the aftermath of the storms that raked coastal Oregon and Washington last December, retired forester Bob Alverts was touched by the plight of local residents struggling to recover from the heavy flooding. He knew that area forest landowners also faced a challenge: cleaning up thousands of wind-toppled trees. Capitalizing on the connection, he launched a project through the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) that would benefit both groups.

Since then, the Woodcut Project has marshaled dozens of volunteers, along with loaned trucks and equipment, to convert downed timber and donated logs into nearly 83 cords of firewood for the homeowners of Vernonia, Oregon and other storm-afflicted communities. Additional donated wood from timber companies will push the total well into triple digits. [A cord of firewood is a stack approximately four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long.]

“We have at least another 30 cords equivalent promised from Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests,” Alverts said. “So when it all comes in we will have well over our 100-cord goal.”

Earlier, Longview Timber Company (formerly Longview Fibre) donated the equivalent of 40 cords that was cut up by local residents.

The back-to-back storms late last year hit the Oregon and Washington coasts with hurricane-force winds, mowing down thousands of acres of trees. Farther inland where wind damage was less, torrential rains erased forest roads, swept bridges off their pilings and left thousands without power. The SAF and other volunteers focused their early efforts on providing relief to those hardest hit, among them the residents of Vernonia, Oregon. In the town of only 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded.

Using loaned chainsaws and other gear from Stihl Northwest, the workers cut and split the downed and donated logs into firewood, then hauled it to the beleaguered community. The timing was right, Alverts said, as the unusually cool spring had extended the heating season, depleting many homeowners' wood supplies.

While it is customary to hold the credit roll to the end, in the case of the Woodcut Project the corporations, individuals, small businesses and organizations that stepped up to help the storm victims is a story in itself. Saw shops loaned the volunteers new chainsaws, log splitters and other equipment to process the downed wood, while others offered trucks to transport logs to

work areas and pickups to haul the firewood to distribution sites. Cash donations from SAF members and a \$1,200 SAF Forester's Fund grant helped reimburse some of the volunteers and supporters for expenses.

Local news media helped solicit helpers for the weekend "woodcut" days, while others furnished food and refreshments for the woodcutters themselves, who put in several long days turning logs into fireplace fuel.

The Society of American Foresters' plea for help reached others far beyond the storm area. DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Landowners donating wind-thrown timber to the Woodcut Project ranged from industrial forest products companies to federal resource agencies.

Alverts offered special thanks to a list of contributors including: Oregon Society of American Foresters; Weyerhaeuser Company; Longview Timber Company; Bureau of Land Management Tillamook Field Office; Oregon Department of Forestry; DR Johnson Lumber Company; Iron Triangle Logging; Blue Mountain Lumber company; Mike Pihl Logging; Stihl Northwest; Precision Outdoor Power Equipment; Mason, Bruce and Girard Consulting Foresters; Jennie Cornell; Jim Rombach; Beaverton Krispy Kreme; Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 459; Boring Fire District; Green Diamond Resources Company; Smallwood News; Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde; Columbia County Disaster Relief Coordinators Susan Wagner and Robb Wilson; The Independent Newspaper; Bob Williams; Oregon State University Extension; Associated Oregon Loggers; local Vernonia resident volunteers; church group volunteers; AmeriCorps volunteers; Multnomah County work crews; and Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests.

In a recent email to this host of volunteers and donors, the SAF member thanked them for their efforts to date and left the door open for follow-up.

"This fall we may do some additional woodcutting for these folks, so stay tuned!" Alverts said.

Local residents in the storm-afflicted areas will have opportunity to cut their own firewood this summer. The Oregon Department of Forestry's Astoria office is making wood available in recently logged areas under permit on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be obtained by calling the office's information line, 503-325-7215.

Anyone who has logs or wood that they would like to donate to the SAF Woodcut Project for the storm victims is encourage to contact Bob Alverts, 503-639-0405, balverts@teleport.com.

###

NEWS

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-7422



For immediate release
January 5, 2009
09-01

Major media distribution
Contact: Rod Nichols, 503-945-7425

Project Woodcut relief effort nets national award

A project conceived by professional foresters in 2008 as a way to clean up winter storm damage to northwestern Oregon forests and help afflicted local residents heat their homes has garnered a national honor. This fall, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) bestowed the House of Society Delegates National Recognition Award on the Portland SAF chapter for the outstanding public service benefits achieved by "Project Woodcut."

When SAF member Bob Alverts learned of the extensive blowdown of trees from back-to-back storms last December, he pondered how to solve two pressing concerns: the millions of board feet of downed timber that would soon become a wildfire hazard, and the roughly 800 Vernonia homeowners without heat due to storm-caused power outages. His solution, dubbed Project Woodcut, helped address both problems.

The retired Bureau of Land Management natural resource manager took his idea to the SAF leadership, and soon they were working the phones to recruit woods-savvy volunteers to cut up the dead trees into fuel and deliver it to the remote community. He set the project goal at an ambitious 100 cords of firewood.

Public response was gratifying: Stihl Northwest and Precision Power Equipment loaned power saws and other gear to the crew, volunteers provided wood splitters, and lumber mills sent trucks to haul the wood to the stricken homeowners. Cash donations flowed in to help with fuel and other expenses. All told, the generous gifts of services, equipment and supplies, and money by Oregon businesses, organizations and individuals exceeded \$50,000.

In several weekends the foresters, working with Columbia County Disaster Relief coordinators and local volunteers, cut and split more than 50 cords of firewood from Weyerhaeuser Company and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as Banks and Vernonia landowner properties, and delivered the fuel to Vernonia residents.

Initially, much of the toppled timber proved unreachable due to forest road blockages. To keep the firewood deliveries on track, DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Longview Timber Company, Green Diamond Company and Roseburg Forest Products also donated several log truck loads of wood to help exceed the 100-cord goal.

A final forest outing of Alverts' band of volunteers on Nov. 15 closed out the nearly year-long relief effort. He reflected on the multiple benefits of the project:

“It has helped connect rural and urban people and provided for the basic needs of several hundred flood victims,” he said. “Also, it has clearly helped the Society of American Foresters get back to its roots and develop relationships with a number of agencies, companies and volunteer organizations.”

###

Community project sparks award for public service

The Daily Astorian, 01-08-09

VERNONIA - The Society of American Foresters bestowed the House of Society Delegates National Recognition Award on the Portland SAF chapter for the outstanding public service benefits achieved by "Project Woodcut."

When SAF member Bob Alverts learned of the extensive blowdown of trees from back-to-back storms last December, he wanted to solve two problems: The millions of board feet of downed timber that would soon become a wildfire hazard and the roughly 800 Vernonia homeowners without heat because of storm-caused power outages. His solution, dubbed "Project Woodcut," helped address both problems.

The retired Bureau of Land Management natural resource manager took his idea to the SAF leadership. They recruited volunteers to cut up the dead trees into fuel and deliver them to the remote community. He set the project goal at 100 cords of firewood.

Stihl Northwest and Precision Power Equipment loaned power saws and other gear to the crew, volunteers provided wood splitters and lumber mills sent trucks to haul the wood to the stricken homeowners. Cash donations helped with fuel and other expenses. The gifts of services, equipment, supplies and money by Oregon businesses, organizations and individuals exceeded \$50,000.

In several weekends the foresters, working with Columbia County Disaster Relief coordinators and local volunteers, cut and split more than 50 cords of firewood from Weyerhaeuser Company and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as Banks and Vernonia landowner properties, and delivered the fuel to Vernonia residents.

Initially, much of the toppled timber proved unreachable due to forest road blockages. To keep the firewood deliveries on track, DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Longview Timber Co., Green Diamond Co. and Roseburg Forest Products also donated several log truck loads of wood to help exceed the 100-cord goal.

A final forest outing of Alverts' band of volunteers Nov. 15 closed out the nearly year-long relief effort

###

'Project Woodcut' Cleans Up After Winter Storms

BY KRISTIAN FODEN-VENCIL, Oregon Public Broadcasting, January 5, 2009

A project to clean up thousands of trees blown over in Oregon's storms has won a national honor from the Society of American Foresters. Kristian Foden-Vencil reports.

This time last year Vernonia was hit by massive winds and inundated by floods -- leaving 800 families without power or heat.

Portland forester, Bob Alverts, put the problem of cold people and downed trees together and came up with 'Project Woodcut.'

Rod Nichols of the Oregon Department of Forestry says Alverts organized dozens of timber workers and got permission from [Bureau of Land Management](#), Weyerhaeuser and other landowners, to turn fallen trees into firewood.

Rod Nichols: "It really did help some people who were hard hit by the flooding in Vernonia because here they were without electricity and compounding it all, their firewood for the winter had floated away."

Nichols says so many trees were knocked down in the storm that wildfire was a concern. Clearing the fallen trees helped alleviate the problem.

###

Vernonia firewood effort garners award

The Hillsboro Argus, January 6, 2009

A project conceived by professional foresters in 2008 as a way to clean up winter storm damage to northwestern Oregon forests and help afflicted local residents heat their homes has garnered a national honor. This fall, the Society of American Foresters bestowed the House of Society Delegates National Recognition Award on the Portland Society of American Foresters chapter for the outstanding public service benefits achieved by Project Woodcut.

When Society of American Foresters member Bob Alverts learned of the extensive blowdown of trees from back-to-back storms last December, he pondered how to solve two pressing concerns: the millions of board feet of downed timber that would soon become a wildfire hazard, and the roughly 800 Vernonia homeowners without heat due to storm-caused power outages. His solution, dubbed Project Woodcut, helped address both problems.

The retired Bureau of Land Management natural resource manager took his idea to the Society of American Foresters leadership, and soon they were working the phones to recruit woods-savvy volunteers to cut up the dead trees into fuel and deliver it to the remote community. He set the project goal at an ambitious 100 cords of firewood.

Public response was gratifying: Stihl Northwest and Precision Power Equipment loaned power saws and other gear to the crew, volunteers provided wood splitters, and lumber mills sent trucks to haul the wood to the stricken homeowners. Cash donations flowed in to help with fuel and other expenses. All told, the generous gifts of services, equipment and supplies, and money by Oregon businesses, organizations and individuals exceeded \$50,000.

In several weekends the foresters, working with Columbia County Disaster Relief coordinators and local volunteers, cut and split more than 50 cords of firewood from Weyerhaeuser Company and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as Banks and Vernonia landowner properties, and delivered the fuel to Vernonia residents.

Initially, much of the toppled timber proved unreachable due to forest road blockages. To keep the firewood deliveries on track, DR Johnson Lumber, of Prairie City, donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging, of John Day, hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Longview Timber Company, Green Diamond Company and Roseburg Forest Products also donated several log truck loads of wood to help exceed the 100-cord goal.

A final forest outing of Alverts' band of volunteers on Nov. 15 closed out the nearly year-long relief effort. He reflected on the multiple benefits of the project:

"It has helped connect rural and urban people and provided for the basic needs of several hundred flood victims," he said. "Also, it has clearly helped the Society of American Foresters get back to its roots and develop relationships with a number of agencies, companies and volunteer organizations."

###

Community project sparks award for public service

'Project Woodcut' helped keep Vernonia residents warm after back-to-back storms in December 2007

The Daily Astorian, 1/8/2009

VERNONIA - The Society of American Foresters bestowed the House of Society Delegates National Recognition Award on the Portland SAF chapter for the outstanding public service benefits achieved by "Project Woodcut."

When SAF member Bob Alverts learned of the extensive blowdown of trees from back-to-back storms last December, he wanted to solve two problems: The millions of board feet of downed timber that would soon become a wildfire hazard and the roughly 800 Vernonia homeowners without heat because of storm-caused power outages. His solution, dubbed "Project Woodcut," helped address both problems.

The retired Bureau of Land Management natural resource manager took his idea to the SAF leadership. They recruited volunteers to cut up the dead trees into fuel and deliver them to the remote community. He set the project goal at 100 cords of firewood.

Stihl Northwest and Precision Power Equipment loaned power saws and other gear to the crew, volunteers provided wood splitters and lumber mills sent trucks to haul the wood to the stricken homeowners. Cash donations helped with fuel and other expenses. The gifts of services, equipment, supplies and money by Oregon businesses, organizations and individuals exceeded \$50,000.

In several weekends the foresters, working with Columbia County Disaster Relief coordinators and local volunteers, cut and split more than 50 cords of firewood from Weyerhaeuser Company and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as Banks and Vernonia landowner properties, and delivered the fuel to Vernonia residents.

Initially, much of the toppled timber proved unreachable due to forest road blockages. To keep the firewood deliveries on track, DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Longview Timber Co., Green Diamond Co. and Roseburg Forest Products also donated several log truck loads of wood to help exceed the 100-cord goal.

A final forest outing of Alverts' band of volunteers Nov. 15 closed out the nearly year-long relief effort.

###

[Loggers, foresters crank out firewood for December storm victims](#)

KWVR Radio, June 12, 2008

In the aftermath of the storms that raked coastal Oregon and Washington last December, retired forester Bob Alverts was touched by the plight of local residents struggling to recover from the heavy flooding. He knew that area forest landowners also faced a challenge: cleaning up thousands of wind-toppled trees. Capitalizing on the connection, he launched a project through the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) that would benefit both groups.

Since then, the Woodcut Project has marshaled dozens of volunteers, along with loaned trucks and equipment, to convert downed timber and donated logs into nearly 83 cords of firewood for the homeowners of Vernonia, Oregon and other storm-afflicted communities. Additional donated wood from timber companies will push the total well into triple digits. [A cord of firewood is a stack approximately four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long.]

“We have at least another 30 cords equivalent promised from Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests,” Alverts said. “So when it all comes in we will have well over our 100-cord goal.

Earlier, Longview Timber Company (formerly Longview Fibre) donated the equivalent of 40 cords that was cut up by local residents.

The back-to-back storms late last year hit the Oregon and Washington coasts with hurricane-force winds, mowing down thousands of acres of trees. Farther inland where wind damage was less, torrential rains erased forest roads, swept bridges off their pilings and left thousands without power. The SAF and other volunteers focused their early efforts on providing relief to those hardest hit, among them the residents of Vernonia, Oregon. In the town of only 2,500 people, more than 800 homes were flooded.

Using loaned chainsaws and other gear from Stihl Northwest, the workers cut and split the downed and donated logs into firewood, then hauled it to the beleaguered community. The timing was right, Alverts said, as the unusually cool spring had extended the heating season, depleting many homeowners’ wood supplies.

While it is customary to hold the credit roll to the end, in the case of the Woodcut Project the corporations, individuals, small businesses and organizations that stepped up to help the storm victims is a story in itself. Saw shops loaned the volunteers new chainsaws, log splitters and other equipment to process the downed wood, while others offered trucks to transport logs to work areas and pickups to haul the firewood to distribution sites. Cash donations from SAF members and a \$1,200 SAF Forester’s Fund grant helped reimburse some of the volunteers and supporters for expenses.

Local news media helped solicit helpers for the weekend “woodcut” days, while others furnished food and refreshments for the woodcutters themselves, who put in several long days turning logs into fireplace fuel.

The Society of American Foresters’ plea for help reached others far beyond the storm area. DR Johnson Lumber of Prairie City donated an entire truckload of dry pine logs. Iron Triangle Logging of John Day hauled the logs to Pendleton, and local mill Blue Mountain Lumber completed the relay by delivering them to Vernonia.

Landowners donating wind-thrown timber to the Woodcut Project ranged from industrial forest products companies to federal resource agencies.

Alverts offered special thanks to a list of contributors including: Oregon Society of American Foresters; Weyerhaeuser Company; Longview Timber Company; Bureau of Land Management Tillamook Field Office; Oregon Department of Forestry; DR Johnson Lumber Company; Iron Triangle Logging; Blue Mountain Lumber company; Mike Pihl Logging; Stihl Northwest; Precision Outdoor Power Equipment; Mason, Bruce and Girard Consulting Foresters; Jennie Cornell; Jim Rombach; Beaverton Krispy Kreme; Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 459; Boring Fire District; Green Diamond Resources Company; Smallwood News; Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde; Columbia County Disaster Relief Coordinators Susan Wagner and Robb Wilson; The Independent Newspaper; Bob Williams; Oregon State University Extension; Associated Oregon Loggers; local Vernonia resident volunteers; church group volunteers; AmeriCorps volunteers; Multnomah County work crews; and Plum Creek, Roseburg Forest Products and Starker Forests.

In a recent email to this host of volunteers and donors, the SAF member thanked them for their efforts to date and left the door open for follow-up.

“This fall we may do some additional woodcutting for these folks, so stay tuned!” Alverts said.

Local residents in the storm-afflicted areas will have opportunity to cut their own firewood this summer. The Oregon Department of Forestry’s Astoria office is making wood available in recently logged areas under permit on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be obtained by calling the office’s information line, 503-325-7215.

Anyone who has logs or wood that they would like to donate to the SAF Woodcut Project for the storm victims is encourage to contact Bob Alverts, 503-639-0405, balverts@teleport.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

###