forest WISDOM

newsletter number two of the forest guild / june 2005

Charlie Moreno
A consulting forester in Center Strafford, New Hampshire. He also serves on the Guild's Membership and Policy Council.

IN THE FOREST

The Common Thread

By Charlie Moreno

A common thread amongst us, and perhaps amongst most persons entering the forestry profession, is a passion for the forest. For some, the passion borders on spirituality, by which I simply mean something that enriches the soul. Forestry – working with nature in the forest – is one of the few professions which offers this dimension.

Education at the university level teaches us the nuts and bolts – the science – of forestry. Though fascinating and of central importance in its own right, the science of forestry is largely presented as in a void outside the context of art and philosophy. The fundamental question of humanity's relationship to nature is hardly addressed, while guidance in personal ethics is largely absent.

Once enmeshed in traditional schooling and job opportunities, one's youthful passion for the forest is largely ignored and, for many, lost. This corresponds with the "shock," or uncomfortable revelation, many feel in college or upon entering the work force, that forestry is **not** about caring for forests, but rather, about the scientific and economic means to exploit them.

However, for some of the risk-takers, rebels, and spirited thinkers, this youthful passion was not lost – or was recovered – by entering into work situations where the individual was able to express itself. Consulting forestry is potentially a great vehicle for this passion. Many consultants work without an employer dictating the brand of

The Common Thread, continued on page 2

Save the Date
Forest Guild Annual Meeting
Santa Fe, NM
December 1-3

in this issue:

The Creator Put Fire On the Mountain 3

Building a Community of Interest - A Collaborative Movement 5

ForestERA Brings Citizens and Science Together to Guide Forest Management Priorities 7

The Guild Undertakes Strategic Planning 10

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Mission

The Forest Guild promotes forestry that sustains the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild provides training, policy analysis, and research to foster excellence in stewardship, to support practicing foresters and allied professionals, and to engage a broader community in the challenges of forest conservation and management.

The Common Thread by Charlie Moreno, continued from page 1

forestry they must practice. Forestry consultants are effective to the degree of their ethics, knowledge, skill, and creativity. However, private landowners who are the market for their services and are therefore ultimately, their "boss," often share a touch of passion for nature. Landowners are apt, particularly if they've been educated about their options, to request that their forest be handled in a gentle manner, not at odds with the course of nature.

We continue to discover foresters out there quietly practicing or advocating non-exploitative forestry –"soft silviculture," as nicely termed by Fred White. In addition to private consultants, these foresters work for conservation organizations, service forestry departments, in research and at times for timber corporations. They are in positions that enable them to express their personal ethics and respect for the forest through their sustainable forestry efforts.

The Guild is working to evolve and expand the custodial role forestry and foresters should embody – assuming responsibility for maintaining healthy and productive forest ecosystems. This requires foresters to have an intrinsic respect and alliance with nature.

The forestry profession benefits from the location and organization of these individuals as a unified voice. Since the original Guild conference on sustainable forestry in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1995, this group has provided an affirmation of my passion for the forest, and a great intellectual and soulful exchange with others of the same mind. ■

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

How Community Forestry Contributes to the Guild's Mission

By Laura Falk McCarthy

The mission of the Forest Guild's community forestry program is to create economic opportunities that are environmentally and culturally acceptable and to develop the business infrastructure and human resources necessary to capture the opportunities. Activities of the community forestry program currently include research, training, and one-on-one technical assistance.

The community forestry program can be thought of as creating the vehicle to carry out the Forest Guild's vision of sustainable forestry. History has shown that when forestry is practiced on an industrial scale, the result is mechanized forestry that treats broad areas of forest uniformly. By contrast, the Guild's vision of ecologically-responsible forestry includes careful silviculture that imitates nature's dynamic processes and accommodates natural variation in forest ecosystems when harvesting trees. The practice of effective sustainable forestry requires more than just committed foresters – it also takes forest workers and loggers who are equally concerned with the condition of the land after the harvest or treatment.

The Forest Guild's community forestry program reaches out to forest workers who are based in rural communities to engage them in sustainable forestry. The program's overarching goal is to promote a viable small-scale timber economy that can meet the product needs of private and government landowners. Small businesses that provide forestry services and manufacture value-added products have a stake in sustainable forestry – the people are connected to the land and they know that if the forest is healthy it will sustain them indefinitely.

The model of community forestry as an agent for ecologically-responsible forestry can translate into Guild programs across the country. In the Southwest, as previously described, the program's focus is to build a viable, small-scale timber economy that can keep forest industry out of the region. In the East the program focuses on the use of low-impact logging equipment by loggers and in community forestry projects. In California and the Pacific Northwest, the program addresses value-added production that keeps economic benefits of harvesting in the community. ■

PreTreatment. *Katimmin Thinning Project was intended to re-create diversity and reduce potential fire behavior in a plantation. Although the photos are not actual before and after, they represent pre- and post-treatment of the portion of the project the Tribe completed.*

IN THE FOREST

The Creator Put Fire on the Mountain

By Bill Tipp

Bill Tipp
works for the Karuk Tribe, Department of Natural Resources in California.

Long ago, when people lived in harmony with their surrounding environment, fire was deeply entwined with the native societies of the Pacific Northwest. During this time, people had learned to use fire for many reasons. One of these reasons was to enhance the quality and quantity of basketry materials. There was an abundance of fire dependent plants that were used not only for baskets but as critical food sources and ingredients of medical remedies. Another use of forest was to maintain mid-slope grasslands for deer and forage for other wildlife.

In the early 1900s strict fire suppression policies were introduced. During this era, fire was seen as a negative influence on the landscape, harming the young conifer trees that were the primary management focus of the US Forest Service. After nearly a century of effective fire suppression, we are faced with a whole new set of dilemmas, issues and problems. The National Fire Plan will take well more than a century to implement. There are many more aspects to achieving the long-term goal of restoring natural fire regimes than people currently realize. We must steer away from the norm of managing "through a tunnel" (narrow focus). Many management agencies can complete project level planning and associated tasks, but have been doing things the same way for so long that it is hard for them to change their focus, see the big picture, and work in a new direction.

In many cases, the prescriptions that are being developed in the interest of fuels reductions are not sufficient to maintain the long-term restoration of natural fire regimes. Prescriptions seem to be on the heavy side in the interest of a single entry to save time and money. Cutting too much at once creates a small shade component and a large brush component. Projects tend to be scattered across the map, with no correlation or cumulative benefit. When implemented in this fashion, maintenance schedules cannot be maintained, and natural fire cannot serve its purpose across broader landscapes.

The Karuk Tribe sees the management strategy that is needed as managing "into the mirror," working backwards with a widening view. When

Fire on the Mountain, continued on page 4

> *"The Karuk Tribe sees the strategy that is needed as managing "into the mirror," – working backwards with a widening view."*

Post-Treatment.
Offield Mountain is the mother mountain and was burned every year in September when Tribal management practices were allowed. The burning of this mountain was part of Pikyaviish, our world renewal ceremony. The purpose was to singe the old woman's hair so she could mourn for all the death in the world over the past year. You can see the brushy area that used to be grass and medicinal herbs.

you look into a mirror, the first thing you see is yourself. Then you widen your view to see what you need to do to enhance the ever expanding multitude of resources and ecological processes. The further you look back in time, you see the steps needed to re-establish the well balanced ecological systems that were once in place throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"Tribally implemented cultural burns are not included in the analytical matrix."

Federal guidelines show the need to maintain or restore the condition class of a "natural" system These condition classes are based on fire return intervals and the risk of losing critical ecosystem components. The Karuk Tribe sees this as a good place to start, but believes the focus is still too narrow. The only fire return intervals that are being considered are those within the historical range of the fire suppression era. Tribally implemented cultural burns are not included in the analytical matrix, nor are the burn frequencies and intensities that would have taken place if fire suppression was not a contributing factor. As for the risk of losing critical ecosystem components, there is no apparent consideration of the critical elements that have already been lost.

There have been many projects completed to date in the Karuk Ancestral Territory. With the Fire Safe Council performing treatments on and around private property, the Forest Service managing the NEPA process, and the Tribe filling in the gaps, we can establish partnership and build local capacity to handle local problems as outlined in the National Fire Plan.

The Karuk Tribe believes that these partnerships are critical to completing the overwhelming task at hand. Our partnerships are getting stronger and collaboration is getting better, but we need to get away from small-scale project implementation. It is time for the acquisition of program-based funding. In order to implement the national fire strategies we now need to build local capacities. Having local crews work year-round completing fuels treatments and maintenance of treated areas, there will be a specialized workforce with intimate knowledge of the geographic area. This specialized knowledge will enable crews to respond quickly to wildland fires as they occur. They will know where to put fires out and where to let them burn.

In utilizing this strategy to complete the reintroduction of natural fire regimes while protecting our homes, supporting wildlife habitat, enhancing our forest resources, reducing global air quality impacts and lowering fire suppression costs, we can help honor the original reasons for which the creator put fire on the mountain.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Building a Community of Interest - A Collaborative Movement

By Eric Holst

Foresters bringing collaboration to the bargaining table.

Eric Holst
is a private consultant in Sacramento, California. He also serves as the Pacific West representative for the Guild.

> *"Community forestry practitioners share a general desire to encourage the growth of vibrant rural communities full of economic opportunities; healthy, biodiverse forested landscapes where natural ecosystem dynamics are largely intact; and local multi-stakeholder collaboration."*

Humans are a tribal species and the forestry community is a particularly tribal subspecies. Conflict among tribes, represented by a wide variety of forestry interest groups, has marked the history of forest policy and practice in North America leading to conflicting outcomes for both human and natural communities. Certainly, conflict has been a necessary tool in driving good ecological outcomes in many places. But in many places, conflict has birthed intense polarization and stagnation leaving forests in limbo, suffering from ecological dynamics that result from historically poor forest practices.

In these places, many are asking whether a less conflictive and more collaborative approach to forest management might result in better outcomes for both human and natural communities. Can tribal warfare, so characteristic of forestry debates, be halted and replaced with cooperative effort at the local level? Even if possible, will collaboration and cooperation result in better outcomes for the forest?

Certainly it would be naïve to believe that cooperation will automatically result in good forestry. Cooperation is, after all, a strategy dependent on the cooperators and the values they bring to the bargaining table. And where the health and integrity of forest ecosystems is critically threatened by powerful forces, conflict over forest management is unavoidable. So perhaps the more relevant question is: how many places exist where a more collaborative approach would improve forest management?

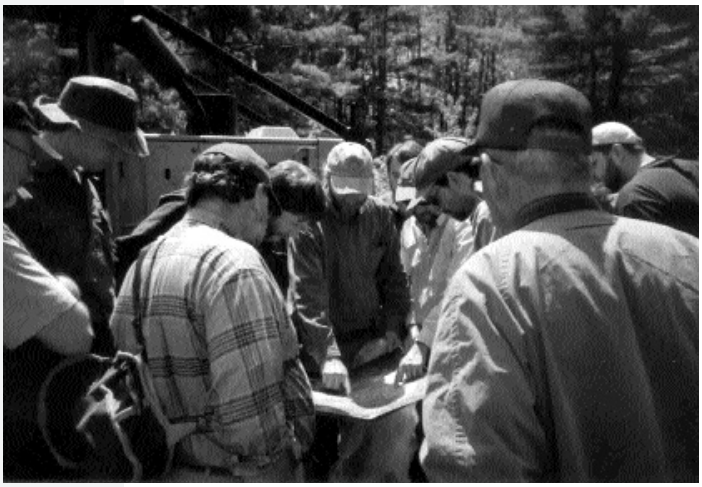
The community forestry movement is responsible for catalyzing some of the most promising collaborative forest management efforts across North America. Like any movement, community forestry is hard to define but its individual practitioners and organizations share a general desire to encourage the growth of vibrant rural communities full of economic opportunities; healthy, biodiverse forested landscapes where natural ecosystem dynamics are largely intact; and local multi-stakeholder collaboration based on the belief that it is a better way of achieving consensus and driving good forest management. The growth of a self-identified movement has occurred over the last 15 years

A Collective Movement, continued on page 6

A Collaborative Movement, continued from page 5

and is characterized by the appearance of hundreds of new community groups, new but still inadequate sources of funding, formation of networks to share learning and best practices, academic analysis, and glimpses of supportive policy.

Skeptics of community forestry are not uncommon and are perhaps most abundant in the environmental community. Many in this tribe, having fought hard to protect forests using the tools of grassroots organizing, litigation and protest, look askance at what they view as compromise. But just as many are looking for new approaches. After the smoke has cleared on many timber battles with



Forest activists have awakened to a recognition that protected forests are not necessarily healthy forests.

victory seemingly in hand, many forest activists have awakened to a recognition that protected forests are not necessarily healthy forests. A growing awareness exists that many forests are in need of restoration and that the levers that drive a restoration agenda look very different than those used to stop bad practices. Coupled with a general angst about the declining influence of environmentalism on policy and practice, more and more environmental activists are testing the collaborative waters and becoming active in local community forestry efforts.

The Forest Guild held a session at its last annual meeting to discuss the growth of the community forestry field and to dialogue about whether and how the organization and its members might engage in community forestry both locally and nationally to advance the Guild's mission. The session reflected a growing sense

The Forest Guild held a session at its last annual meeting to discuss the growth of the community forestry field.

that the Guild must find ways of not only enriching the forestry practice of individual members but also enriching the lives of people living in the forests. It also highlighted a role that ecologically minded foresters might uniquely fill - as brokers and translators between those interested principally in social outcomes (e.g., rural jobs, access to forest wealth) and those interested principally in ecological outcomes (e.g., biodiversity, old growth).

The restoration of fire dependent ecosystems in the West provides abundant examples of the emerging collaborative dynamic and the distinctive contribution of the Forest Guild and its members. Reducing fuels and preventing catastrophic wildfire has become a mantra throughout western states leading to policy and management prescriptions that may threaten forest ecosystem integrity. Yet a consensus exists that many western forests, particularly those that historically experienced frequent low intensity fires, have suffered from nearly a century of near complete fire suppression and that action is needed to restore healthy forest conditions. Hundreds of thousands of acres are currently undergoing "hazardous fuel reduction" in the form of prescribed fire, brush removal, thinning, and commercial logging. Rhetoric abounds regarding the wisdom of various approaches to fuels reduction and restoration so while consensus exists on the need to act, conflict persists with regard to the appropriate mechanisms for action.

A Collaborative Movement, continued on page 11

IN THE FOREST

ForestERA Brings Citizens and Science Together to Guide Forest Management Priorities

By Martha Schumann, Laura McCarthy and John Grahame

Martha Schumann is the Forest Guild's collaborator's liaison for the ForestERA project.
Laura McCarthy is the Director of the Guild's Southwest Region.
John Grahame is the communications coordinator on the ForestERA team at Northern Arizona University.
Dr. Tom Sisk, director of ForestERA, serves on the Forest Guild board of directors.

Most foresters face the challenge of managing land in isolated tracts with little ability to influence the management of forests in a landscape context. Natural processes that operate on large scales, such as wildfire, make it necessary for forest managers to think more broadly than the properties they manage. The Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in New Mexico operates in one such landscape. The BLM manages numerous parcels of forest and woodlands in a landscape setting that includes six counties, three cities, numerous villages, three Native American tribes, six Hispanic Land Grants, and two national forests. The forests vary widely too, from pinyon-juniper woodlands, to ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, and high-elevation spruce-fir and aspen forests. The increasing frequency and severity of high-intensity crown fire in the Southwest in the fire seasons of 2000, 2001 and 2003 prompted BLM managers to think about how, given the isolation of their forest parcels and the multiplicity of other jurisdictions, they could accomplish forest management planning to address fire risks.

Luckily, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis (ForestERA) project at Northern Arizona University had just completed testing a decision support tool for land managers that met the needs of the BLM managers perfectly. The ForestERA project was in the final stages of a 2 million acre analysis of forest and fire risk management on the Mogollon Plateau of Arizona. The area included contiguous ponderosa pine forests in the Coconino, Apache-Sitgreaves, Tonto, and Kaibab National Forests, as well as private lands, the City of Flagstaff, and numerous small communities and subdivisions. The ForestERA method proved to be sound, and with some fine tuning to account for different forest patterns in New Mexico, the NAU team determined it could be replicated in a 3 million acre landscape that includes the Taos BLM Field Office.

ForestERA got its start in 2003 when, in response to repeated and dramatic catastrophic wildfires, Congress provided emergency appropriations that included funding to the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at Northern Arizona University (NAU) to address forest restoration and protection of communities from wildfire. ERI in turn provided support to Dr. Tom Sisk and his Landscape Ecology Lab at NAU's Center for Environmental Science and Education to develop the ForestERA Project.

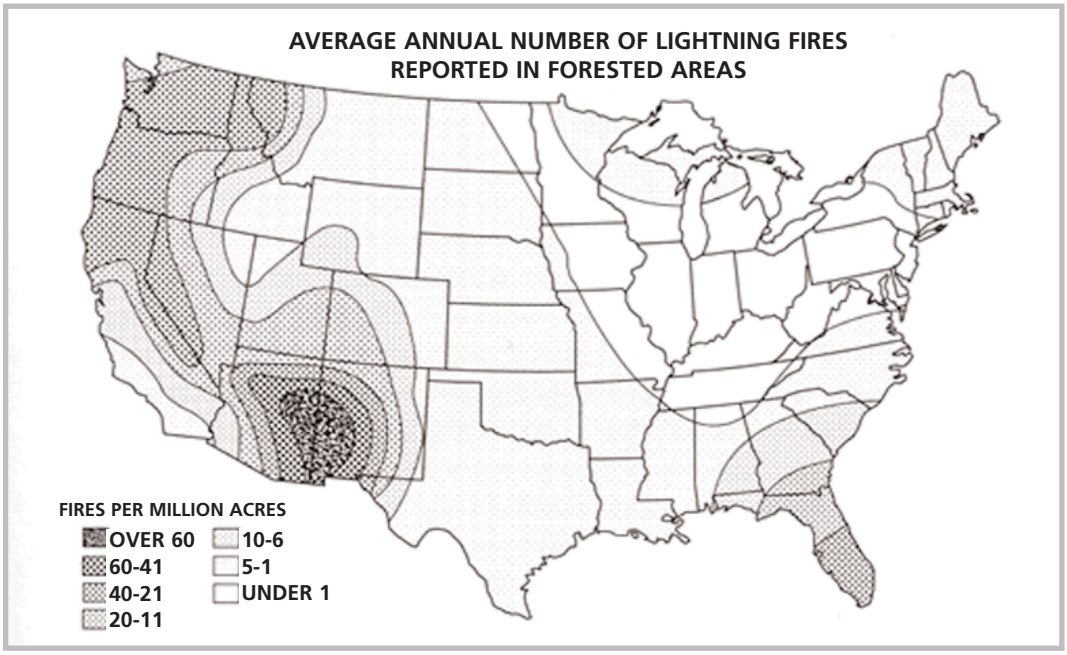
ForestERA began with the premise that complex scientific analysis is necessary and useful to manage forest ecosystems across large landscapes, but that the using complex technology can overwhelm people and also diminish public participation. Dr. Sisk assembled a team of researchers that developed and collected data, tools, and an analytical framework for assessing the impacts and implications management scenarios at the landscape-level. Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and interactive computer modeling programs, ForestERA drew upon a range of data sets that were available for forests in the Mogollon Rim and incorporated scientific insights and methodological advances from landscape and restoration ecology, as well as conservation biology.

Three types of data were developed for the first ForestERA project, the Western Mogollon Plateau Adaptive Landscape Assessment (WMPALA). "Foundational" data, including

ForestERA, continued on page 8

> *"Natural processes that operate on large scales, such as wildfire, make it necessary for forest managers to think more broadly than the properties they manage."*

ForestERA, continued from page 7



vegetation composition and structure, topography, soils, and other basic information, served as inputs to ForestERA models and tools. "Derived" data consisted of outputs from models and analyses that described conditions such as fire risk and hazard, wildlife habitat quality, and watershed conditions. Finally, "supplemental" data, such as private lands, designated roadless areas and culturally important areas, were compiled to support collaborator-driven analyses and to meet the needs of particular decision makers and interest groups.

What made ForestERA unique, however, was not the scientific analysis itself, but the fact that the science was made accessible through a user interface that allowed the data to be used for complex social decisions. In the WMPALA project, ForestERA lead a collaborative process with many stakeholders – citizens, scientists, forest professionals and decision-makers – who were provided an opportunity to use the science in a process that incorporated their different skills, experiences, and values. In this way, the diverse parties who managed, owned, or lived in forests had a tangible way to "take ownership" of the science and could use it to explore and articulate alternative approaches to forest management.

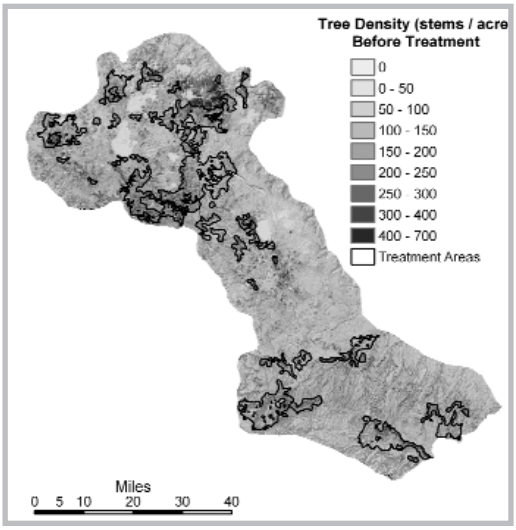
In the summer of 2003 staff from the Forest Guild introduced the ForestERA tool to BLM managers. The Taos Field Office manager, Sam DesGeorges, was intrigued and asked his staff to pull together all of the neighboring federal, state, local and tribal agencies to meet with the Northern Arizona University scientists who developed ForestERA. A consensus emerged at this gathering to apply to the Joint Fire Sciences Program for a grant to fund the effort and to ask the Forest Guild to serve as the collaborator's liaison between the ForestERA team and all of the partners.

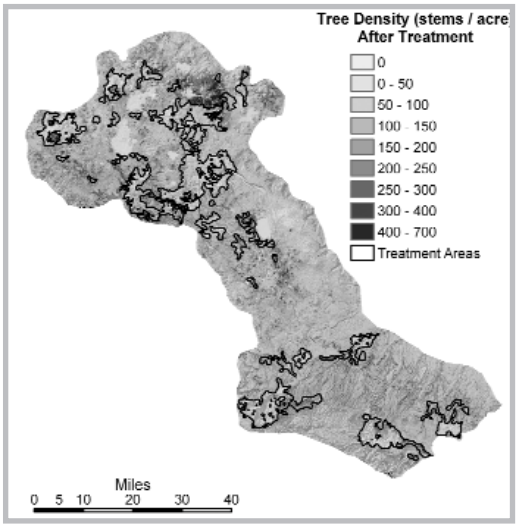
In the application to the Joint Fire Sciences Program, Mr. DesGeorges wrote, "from our perspective, a landscape-scale analysis of fire risks and management scenarios will address the most serious problem we face – uncoordinated, ineffective action by multiple agencies and the possibility of a catastrophic fire that could have been stopped by strategic forest treatments." Now that the project is underway all of the partners are excited about the participating in the inter-jurisdictional planning.

The ForestERA project has made clear that landscape-level analysis does not by necessity belong to the "techies." Instead, ForestERA has shown that the development of public processes that draw on scientific understanding and incorporate information into a more transparent and inclusive planning effort can shift perspectives on forest management. This "civic" science is one way to develop greater trust in the policy development process and sustain society's commitment to restoring forest ecosystems. ■

"In this way, the diverse parties who managed, owned, or lived in forests had a tangible way to "take ownership" of the science and could use it to explore and articulate approaches to forest management."

"The most serious problem we face – uncoordinated, ineffective action by multiple agencies and the possibility of a catastrophic fire that could have been stopped by strategic forest treatments."





ForestERA provides resource managers and stakeholders the opportunity to evaluate the benefits and consequences of alternative management scenarios.

On Fire and Ponderosa Pine

Ponderosa pine ecosystems of the American Southwest are adapted to lightning-caused wildfire. Nationwide, humans cause almost 80% of wildfires, but in the American Southwest, 60% to 70% of forest fires are ignited by lightning. The region leads the nation in the average number of forest fires due to lightning strikes and the number of acres burned by these fires each year.

A mature ponderosa pine tree is supremely adapted to survive fire. Its thick bark can withstand fire-excavated cavities in its bole. Lower branches prune away as it matures, not only enhancing the efficiency of needle exposure to sunlight but removing flammable needles and twigs from the reach of surface burns. Ponderosa pine forests of the American Southwest not only endure frequent fire—they thrive on it.

A century of resource exploitation and fire suppression has altered the composition and structure of the region's ponderosa pine ecosystems. Dramatic disturbances such as catastrophic fire were rare in the evolutionary history of ponderosa pine and associated species. [The result was] lower productivity, decreasing habitat, and declining watershed values.

Moreover, increasingly destructive fires, coupled with the increasing extension of human communities and infrastructure into forested regions, have generated high risks of catastrophic wildfire that cannot be addressed through traditional fire suppression and forest management approaches. Over much of the West, public concern about wildfire and the increasing awareness of important values supplied by healthy forests have highlighted the call for ecosystem restoration.

Adapted from Pyne, Stephen J. 2001. Fire: A Brief History. University of Washington Press. 204 p.

Photo by Laura McCarthy

A highlight of the strategic planning process occurred when a group of board and membership and policy council members held a 2-day retreat in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Standing in front of the legendary Aldo Leopold "shack" are (left to right) Tom Enders, Orlando Romero, Ross Morgan, Mike Dombeck, Fred Clark, Robert Hrubes, Eric Holst, Henry Carey, Thomas Sisk and Martha Schumann.

SAVING THE WORLD A DAY AT A TIME

The Guild Undertakes Strategic Planning

By Henry H. Carey

Henry Carey
is Executive Director of the Forest Guild.

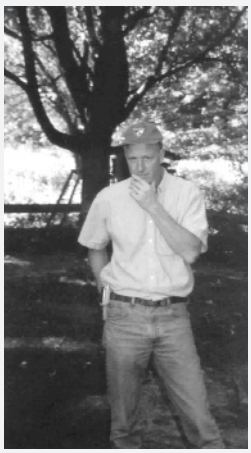
Most organizations have the ambition of saving the world – or some part of it – within a near term framework. In our early enthusiasm, it is easy to forget that the world's problems have evolved from an intractable set of forces and that our resources may be more limited than the situation demands. Strategic planning is a way of matching our resources with our ambitions to produce effective change.

Following the Forest Guild's reorganization last year, the board decided to undertake a strategic planning process to refine its understanding of key issues the organization wants to address, its approach and methods and, finally, the measures it will use to evaluate success. The board and staff have been assisted by the Guild's Membership and Policy Council and by the Social Enterprise Strategies Group (SESG) represented by former USDA Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck and Francis Pandolfi, former CFO of the Forest Service and CEO with the Times Mirror Organization.

The work began in November 2003 and work on a business plan is still continuing.

A highlight of the strategic planning process occurred in September, 2004 when a group of board and membership and policy council members held a 2-day retreat with the staff and SESG in Baraboo, Wisconsin. We met at the offices of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, enjoyed several field trips to lands managed by the Foundation and wrapped up the session with a visit to the "shack" where Leopold wrote a significant part of Sand County Almanac.

The planning effort has been supported by grants from the Surdna, Moriah, Sacharuna and SB Foundations as well as donations from individual Guild members. We are grateful to these foundations and individuals as well as to the members of the staff, board and Council for their help. With the new business plan nearly complete, the board and staff are confident that the Guild's vision and evolving role in the world of forestry are relevant and effective. ■



***Fred Clark** contemplates the wisdom of Aldo Leopold while standing in front of a good old oak.*

"Strategic planning is a way of matching our resources with our ambitions to produce effective change."

The Forest Guild's strategic planning process was designed to provide answers to the following questions:

- *What are the pressing social, economic and ecological issues related to forests that the Guild seeks to address?*
- *Can the Guild be effective in tackling these issues?*
- *What additional resources are necessary for the Guild to achieve success in this endeavor?*
- *What metrics are necessary for the Guild to know that it has successfully addressed these problems?*

***Board Member Tom Sisk** poses in front of the Aldo Leopold "shack" with a family photo of his grandfather and Leopold in front of the same building.*

A Collaborative Movement, continued from page6

The Forest Guild has launched a major evaluation of fuel treatment projects throughout the West in an effort to shed light on this debate. The Guild will conduct a survey of hundreds of projects and assess them against a set of indicators related to ecological integrity and human community well-being and safety. The results, coupled with a growing body of forest and fire science, will contribute to the development of guidelines for fuel reduction projects that are specific to regions and forest types. Experience in the Southwest has demonstrated that collaborative decision making is greatly facilitated when stakeholders embrace a common set of restoration guidelines that can then be translated to a watershed scale by skilled and trusted forestry professionals.

This latter role is being filled by Guild members in several western watersheds. Richard Hart in southern Oregon is on-call to several community forestry collaboratives where he helps stakeholders wade through the often confusing information about fire ecology and behavior. Working with local youth, he created the Chewaucan Biophysical Monitoring Project which provides detailed information on the status of ecosystems to the Lakeview Stewardship Group, a community collaborative working to restore healthy forests and enhance economic opportunities in Lake County.

Kenneth Baldwin in northern California collaborates with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and local communities to encourage forest health and fuel reduction projects on private land. The RCD has organized a local working group to identify priority watersheds and properties. Baldwin then helps landowners and communities prepare fuel management plans and seek cost share funding in an effort to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire while restoring forest health. He has also served a valuable role in synthesizing recent fire science research for members of the Post Mountain Collaborative Project, an effort to reduce hazardous fuels and create defensible space for an unincorporated rural community in Trinity County.

Collaborative forest management will certainly not work in all places. But in many communities, exhausted by perpetual conflict, communities of interest are forming around a vision of forest restoration. These visions will be brought to ground by practitioners of the art and science of forestry suggesting a major role for the Forest Guild and its members across North America's forested landscapes. ■

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The Good Oak