



Clackamas County
Farm Forestry Association, Inc.

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Editorial Musings...

Sometimes I Don't Get It...

I must be different than all of you. I have a terrible time figuring this all out and managing my woodlot.

I *know* it needs thinned, but I can see a potential in each tree that makes it too valuable to cut. So I spend time in the periphery of that area, improving wildlife habitat or brush control, constantly pondering the question of the elephant in the room. I have good, flat access to that unit, I can think about it for a while longer, because I can do the work in the winter; the log prices will be up a little then anyway. I don't look forward to the clean-up. And what will I do with the slash? Can I afford to 'treat' it?

Okay, those are NOT Christmas trees anymore. That's a mess of impermeable dead grey branches with little green caps. You could get lost in there. Boy, would I like to get that back to what it could be.

Yeah, I probably need more eyes on this land now to really be objective about what to do. But the place isn't even 'presentable' to the *pros* right now. I would be embarrassed to ask for help, even though I know it is free and available. And, I haven't updated that management plan in eons, and that's one of the first things they'll ask about. I've only got a few acres, a drop in the bucket compared to the hundreds-plus acre farms I read

about in the newsletters.

Is my forest really important? I mean, to any one else? My logs sell for the same price as they did 25 years ago. The few remaining mills don't even like my big stuff; they've all tooled down. Carbon credits? Is that a joke? In my lifetime? Tree ordinances... really???

All this talk about "legacy forests"? I couldn't *drag* any of my kids out here to hack at blackberries or pile limbs. I put them through enough of that as children. And I haven't figured out the road through capital gains taxes for them (I don't want them to be kicked when they're down). So, why all this work? I don't know what's going to happen to it anyway.

If you can 'identify' with any of the above, then please feel at home with the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. Share what you know in this newsletter, attend a program or two, drop us a line.

We're in the same boat, might as well paddle in the same direction. Or maybe I really am different than you? ■

-interim editor Tim Dahl