

New Board Member Interview—Barry Sims

In order to provide our chapter membership with information regarding the people representing them on the Board of Directors of CCFFA, we asked Barry Sims to provide some insight of his interests in woodland stewardship by responding to the following questions. This information is being shared with members through the *Forest Tree Leader*.

What first sparked your interest in managing woodland, and what keeps you at it?

Growing up in Idaho, I spent a lot of time camping and backpacking in the vast Idaho backcountry. The idea of sustained yield forestry is to me a very compelling concept, and when I think about all of the other benefits that forests provide in addition to wood products, it keeps me inspired. As a forester, I am lucky to get to work with a wide variety of landowners and loggers. About ten years ago, I decided to try my hand at small scale logging for my youth camp clients. I log about 100 MBF per year myself with a small cat. I think this gives me a practical perspective on forestry.

What message about forests and their management do you usually try to leave with folks and what has been your most successful method of doing this?

I am really interested in long rotation and uneven-age management, and I think seeing examples of this kind of forestry is really the best way to learn about it. The older trees produce logs of exceptional quality, and can be manufactured into a very wide range of products.

Which of our many forest policy issues in Oregon (like taxes, certification, regulations, etc) do you think is most important to your own operation, or to the future of the state?

I think we have a pretty favorable policy and regulatory environment for forest landowners in Oregon. We've chosen to emphasize certification in our operations, because it is a voluntary, market-based system for rewarding forestry that goes above and beyond the bare minimum required by law. In our case we've opted for FSC certi-

fication. The market still isn't quite where it needs to be to create the necessary incentives. But at least we have Kevin Kaster, our local sawyer!

How has the CCFFA helped you and what is one good reason you might give as to why others, too, should get involved?

It is just really nice to be part of a group of such dedicated woodland owners and managers, all interested in sharing their perspective and helping others. ■