

Department of Forestry's 2014 Operators of the Year

What: ODF Operators of the Year
When: Thursday, Feb. 19, 1:30 p.m.
Where: Wheeler Pavilion

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will recognize the 2014 Operators of the Year and Merit Award winners on Thursday, February 19, at 1:30, at the Oregon Logging Conference.

Oregon's Board of Forestry established the awards program to recognize people and companies that consistently meet or exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act requirements, which include: responsible harvesting; replanting after harvest; protecting streamside areas; building and maintaining roads to protect streams; protecting and providing wildlife and fish habitat, and preserving and protecting our water quality.

The three Regional Forest Practices Committees each select an Operator of the Year and may also give Merit Awards. Private Forests Division Chief Peter Daugherty said, "These are the best of the many operators in Oregon who regularly go beyond the letter of the law to protect natural resources. We're pleased to honor this exemplary work."

Todd Hueckman Contracting Eastern Operator of the Year

Todd Hueckman (Burns) earned the Eastern Oregon Operator of the year award for his work on a roughly seventy-acre harvest

with the primary purpose of stopping dwarf mistletoe from infecting the property owners' remaining acres. Mr. Hueckman's techniques using equipment to decrease the impact on the land, like using the boom of his tracked equipment as a pivot rather than just skidding on the tracks to turn, show his ongoing commitment to protecting the land. Mr. Hueckman also found a way to make the harvest work, despite the nearest mill being over two hours away. (Watch video at <http://youtu.be/prxqawWIutfI>)

Robert Howell Logging, LLC Northwest Operator of the Year

Robert Howell Logging, LLC (Cottage Grove) earned the Northwest Operator of the Year Award for work done in the Triangle Lake area. Mr. Howell skillfully executed a small harvest on difficult terrain with neighbors close by. The Howell team's work with the neighbors and considerate planning allowed a successful harvest while protecting two domestic water sources, homes, and power lines. Their work not only protected natural resources but also satisfied neighbors.

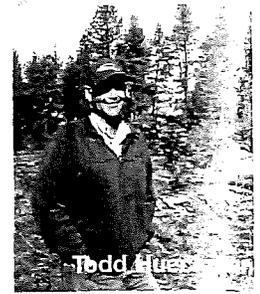
Bewley Investments Southwest Operator of the Year

Bewley Investments, owned by Brian Bewley, (Central Point) earned the Southwest Operator of the Year for their sustained commitment to protecting natural resources. The particular harvest considered when choosing Mr. Bewley's company had three streams to protect and a neighbor whose view could have been impacted by the harvest. Mr. Bewley took extra precautions, beyond the Forest Practices Act requirements, to prevent debris and dirt from entering the streams and to retain more trees throughout the harvest area for habitat purposes and aesthetics. (Watch video at <http://youtu.be/QD2QjUFRD-Q>)

Merit Awards

All nominees exceeded the Forest Practices requirements and improved Oregon's forests, fish and wildlife habitat, fire safety needs, and water quality. The Committees gave Merit Awards for excellent work to:

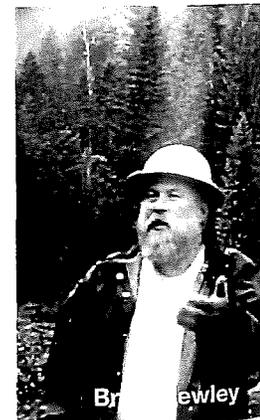
- WyEast Forestry Management – Hood River (Watch video at <http://youtu.be/eYibb6Ue3w8>)
- Huffman and Wright Logging Co. – Canyonville (Watch video at http://youtu.be/RleyKnaI_d0)



Todd Hueckman



Robert Howell Logging

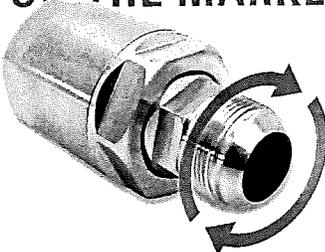


Brian Bewley



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