



Rural Development • Rural Business and Cooperative Service • Value Added Producer Grant Program

Oregon Woodland Cooperative Highlighted at International Community Development Conference

Adding value to Oregon forestland through innovative new product lines

Forest landowners in Northwestern Oregon are tapping new income opportunities through the harvest and sale of high quality, sustainable, local products, and they were recently noted for their innovative efforts by the international community. The Oregon Woodland Cooperative (OWC), a group of more than 60 private forest landowners who own more than 10,000 forested acres in Northwest Oregon, was featured at the 10th Annual Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, which brings together world leaders and policy officials from 34 countries to discuss how modern policies can help rural regions reach their full economic potential, support national growth, and be globally competitive.



Value-added bundled firewood produced by the Oregon Woodland Cooperative.

In 2009, OWC received a Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) from USDA Rural Development to identify and add value to the non-timber products available on private forestlands. A second VAPG award in 2011 provided OWC with the working capital to evaluate the quality and processing needs of the identified new products and to develop strategies to sell online and through niche retail markets. The product lines successfully developed and brought to market by cooperative members through this project include value-added bundled firewood, truffles, specialty wood for carvers and wood turners, finished wood artwork, hardwood flooring, essential oils, floral products, and medicinal plants. In all, OWC members have developed a number of new revenue streams and have created 2 new full-time and 35 part-time jobs for rural Oregonians.

Obligation Amount: \$150,000 grant (2009) and \$150,000 grant (2011)

Date of Obligation: 2009 and 2011

Demographics: 60 private forest landowners and 10,000 forested acres in Northwest Oregon

Impact: New value-added product lines and revenue streams created; 2 new full-time and 35 part-time jobs created for rural Oregonians.