

# Vegetation Management Research Cooperative

BY SCOTT KETCHUM

The Vegetation Management Research Cooperative (VMRC) is a group of timber industry companies, state government resource management agencies, and forestry products suppliers that are interested in enhancing early reforestation success. VMRC research covers a large geographical range and active research sites are maintained as far north as Forks, Wash., and as far south as Fortuna, Calif. The focus of the coop is to evaluate applied early silvicultural techniques relative to early plantation vigor. Much of this focus has centered on weed control and fertilization techniques. The VMRC is an output-oriented coop and participates in short- and long-term studies as dictated by research needs.

Several short-term projects have been initiated and completed in recent years. Recently, a study evaluating spring and summer weed control effectiveness resulting from fall herbicide site preparation techniques was completed. A second example is the evaluation of several spray adjuvants for use with common forestry herbicides. Our most current projects are the evaluation of phytotoxic effects of several herbicides on eight common conifer crop species. This is an especially important project in light of recent Swiss needle cast spread. Many landowners are now

planting several conifer species instead of only Douglas-fir in areas most impacted by the fungus.

The VMRC currently has several long-term projects underway. Our longest study, now eight years old, evaluates the response of Douglas-fir to varying areas of spot weed control. This study also examines the relative competitive influence of herbaceous versus woody weeds. Additionally, valuable data is being gathered on the long-term impact of early competition on sapling growth.

Another study, initiated four years ago and replicated across six sites, evaluates Douglas-fir and western hemlock response to initial stock size, weed control and fertilization. Our newest long-term study, established just this spring, is designed to determine the critical period threshold of competition across a range of geocli-

matic zones for Douglas-fir, grand fir, western hemlock and western red-cedar. This study will continue for at least 15 years.

One of the goals of the VMRC is to provide a mechanism for information exchange. An annual report is published each year detailing current results and new research directions. Additionally, presentations are given by the staff. The VMRC group meets once or twice a year to discuss recent results and future directions. In recent years, the cooperative's membership has grown, and with increased membership, is positioned well to increase the scope of its current research. ♦

*Scott Ketchum is associate director of the Vegetation Management Research Cooperative, Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis.*

## Oregon's South Coast Offers Workshop

*Science in Forestry* will be the focus of the Coos Chapter Annual Spring Workshop. The workshop is intended to get back to basics addressing today's topics of selective thinning, intensive forest management, insects and disease, soil compaction and erosion, nursery practices, seedling fertilization, and landscape management plans. The program will conclude with a look at

Oregon's forest regulations and how to incorporate today's science with today's policy making.

The workshop is scheduled for April 27 at the Red Lion Inn in Coos Bay, Ore. For additional information call Micki Bailey at (541) 751-4439. This workshop has been pre-approved for 5.5 CFE contact hours in Category 1. ♦

### CORRECTION

An inaccurate listing occurred in the list of officers for the Cook Inlet Chapter in Alaska on page 16 in the January/February 2000 issue of the *Western Forester*.

Roger Burnside is listed as chair for 2000; he is actually the chair-elect. The chair for the Cook Inlet Chapter in 2000 is Vernon J. (Jim) LaBau, Forest Resources Consultants, 2951 Admiralty Bay Drive, Anchorage, AK 99515; (907) 344-1018; fax 907-344-0915; jim\_labau2@cs.com. Roger Burnside's email address is rogerb@dnr.state.ak.us.

We apologize for any inconvenience this error caused.

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