



Forestry

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EXTENSION

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Forester's Notes

I love forest ecology because it is a study of relationships. Nothing exists in isolation, but rather everything influences or is influenced by everything else. As John Muir famously stated, "When we try to pick

out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” Sometimes these influences are direct and obvious. In other cases, a change in one part of the system may cascade through a web of interconnections, causing a change in something seemingly unrelated. A great example is how a disruption of predator-prey relationships in Yellowstone altered the course of the rivers (see my notes way back in the late October 2014 newsletter for more of that discussion).

We are still learning about and discovering relationships that we did not know existed, especially when it comes to the complex and mysterious below-ground networks of roots and mycorrhizae that network seemingly independent organisms together. Some suggest that trees “talk” to each other through these networks. Suddenly the forests of Tolkien’s Middle Earth don’t seem quite as fantastical (the Lord of the Rings is without a doubt my favorite set of both books and movies). I hesitate to apply anthropomorphic characteristics to nature, so I do not think in terms of trees “talking” to one another, but rather I recognize that they connect with and influence one another (as well as other organisms) in ways we have only begun to understand. There is still so much to learn and discover, which is part of what makes being in the learning business so exciting and rewarding.

Nature is not the only place that I find important relationships and connections in this job. Fostering relationships between people is a big part of what Extension is about. My desire is not to shuffle people through classes and then send them on their way while I focus on the next group. Rather, my desire is to build long-term relationships between me and you and also among yourselves through peer learning and social connections. I do not view you as customers, clients, or even students. If you are learning and studying the ways of the woods, then we are colleagues and, in my mind, friends.

With this in mind, I want to remind you that you are always welcome to email, call, or visit me with your questions, discoveries, success stories, lessons learned, photos, updates, and ideas, or even just to say hi. You can even put me on your Christmas card list if you like—that way I'll at least get an update once a year. It's nice to get "real" mail once in a while, and your cards, letters, and photos are treasured and kept. It grieves me when people contact me and the first thing said is "I'm sorry to bother you," or "You probably don't remember me." You are not a bother, and of course I remember! You are the reason I'm here doing this. And if you have taken Coached Planning, you know how I try to learn and remember everyone's name. Extension is not just the learning business or the forestry business, but the relationship business, and this is the aspect that I value the most.

While we are on the subject of relationships and connections, I want to take a moment here at the end of the year to recognize the relationships with other agencies and organizations that make this program possible. I want to recognize and thank the six local counties that this program reaches (Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom). We are county-based programs, so we only exist where counties have given their support. I want to thank the county councilmembers, commissioners, executives, and budget directors that have arranged the funds to make this program happen, as well as the WSU County Directors, including Curt Moulton, Jana Ferris, Kevin Wright, Don McMoran, Tim Lawrence, Brook Brouwer, and Drew Betz. Local Conservation Districts are also key partners and collaborators, and I want to thank the Districts in each of these counties for your partnership and support, with a special shout-out to the King, San Juan Islands, and Snohomish Conservation Districts for providing funding as well. The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Snohomish County Surface Water Management are also key funding partners who make this program possible

There is no way we could do this program if not for the DNR, so my sincere thanks to stewardship foresters Boyd Norton, Julie Sackett, and their eastside counterparts. I also want to thank the SFLO crew, including Steve Gibbs, Tami Miketa, Josh Meek, Ken Bevis, and others, and also the forest health folks, including Amy Ramsey, Dan Omdal, and Glenn Kohler. King County foresters Kristi McClelland (who is retiring in a just a few days!) and Bill Loeber, and King Conservation District Forester Mike Lasecki also belong on this list. These are the folks who provide site visits for Coached Planning participants and also serve as instructors for Coached Planning, field days, and other events where their expertise is needed.

We are supported by several nonprofit organizations. This year we received generous donations from the Washington Tree Farm Program, the Society of American Foresters (including support from the national office, WA State Society, and the South Puget Sound chapter), and the Washington Farm Forestry Association (Pierce and Upper Puget Sound chapters). The generosity of these groups has helped us reach new people we would not have otherwise reached and helped us keep event registration costs low so that more people could participate.

There are countless other program partners to recognize—including county noxious weed programs, Northwest Natural Resources Group, and USDA-NRCS folks. I know that I am missing many more here, so for those I didn't name specifically—please know that you are no less valued and appreciated.

I want to thank all of the WSU folks who make my job possible through their leadership and administrative support, including Jim Kropf, Todd Murray, Rich Koenig, Andy Perleberg, Kathy Stilwell, Kimberly Dudley, Lisa Bruce, Esther Tate, Karie Christensen, Jean Canonica, Maureen Stephens, and all the folks in travel, purchasing, communications, and publications. Again—I know I am missing folks here but my appreciation

is no less. And of course, I can't forget my two intrepid program coordinators, Ian Fawley and Kelsey Ketcheson, who do the majority of the work around here. These two put in a lot of long hours, nights, and weekends for the sake of the cause, and I can't say enough great things about their work and their dedication.

Special thanks goes to all of the folks who opened up their homes and properties to host field trips, field days, workshops, and twilight tours—your hospitality and generosity is incredible. Finally, my thanks to all of you for your participation in this program and for stewarding your land and helping others steward theirs. Just by being yourselves and caring for your land you provide tremendous value to your community, because we are all connected. Peace, blessings, and good health to you in the new year.

Kevin W. Zobrist
Associate Professor, Extension Forestry
Serving the North Puget Sound Area

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2017 Coached Planning

Is your forest a recognized Stewardship Forest? Do you have the sign and the matching hats? Do you want to know why people say this is the best class they've ever taken? Would you like to walk through your woods with a service forester and learn about everything that is going on in your forest? Now is your chance—fall Coached Planning classes are coming up in September.



Coached Planning is our flagship program. This comprehensive, university-based forestry class will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few acres of woods or a large forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this class is for you.

Topics covered include:

- How do you know if your trees are healthy? What should you do if they aren't?
- What types of trees do you have? Does your forest look like a "mess"?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- When should you worry about trees being hazards?
- How do you know if your trees need to be thinned, and how do you go about it?

- Are invasive and noxious weeds taking over your underbrush? What are the risks and what can you do about it?
- What kind of soil do you have and how does that affect what grows?
- What is the risk of wildfire on your property?

Save money, too:

As part of this class we will "coach" you in the writing of your own simple forestry plan that may qualify you for property tax reductions or conservation cost-share grants.

Online – Winter 2017: Tuesday evenings starting January 24th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/>. *Registration is open—and **we are already about 3/4 full.***

Friday Harbor – Spring 2017: Saturdays starting March 11th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpsanjuan/>. *Registration is now open.*

Enumclaw – Spring 2017: *Details pending.*

Preston – Fall 2017: Tuesdays starting September 12th. *Details Pending.*

Sedro Woolley – Fall 2017: Thursdays starting October 5th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpskagit/>. *Registration is coming soon.*

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Resources to Remember

This is a quick reminder of four key resources we have available for you:

1. **Forestry Job Announcement List** – Looking for a forestry-related job? I have a special email list that I post numerous job announcements to. Announcements include everything from seasonal work and graduate assistantships to faculty and executive director positions (and everything in between). To get on this list, sending a blank email to join-forestjobs@lyris.cahnrs.wsu.edu
2. **Washington State Consulting Forester and Silvicultural Contractor Directory** – Looking for professional help? This comprehensive directory, launched earlier this year, will help you find the consultant or contractor you need to get your timber sale, thinning, or other forest project done.
<http://forestry.wsu.edu/consultingdirectory/>
3. **Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWNet)** – We have a local chapter of this nationwide network of women forest owners and forest practitioners. This informal peer-learning network is an opportunity for women to learn from other women and share resources and experiences. Our local chapter is based on an email list where members can ask questions, share stories, and arrange get-togethers. To join, please visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/wownet/> and sign up for the email list.
4. **Native Trees of Western Washington** – My book is available directly from WSU Press at

<https://wsupress.wsu.edu/shop/showbook.asp?id=393>, or you can get it on Amazon or at many local bookstores.

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Returning to Island County

Good news for folks in Island County – the Extension Forestry program is returning in 2017 after a one-year hiatus. To celebrate, this summer we are going to do the Whidbey Island Forest Owners Field Day, which hasn't been done since 2011. We will also have programs on Camano. Watch this newsletter and our website for information as it becomes available. This was made possible by the Island County Commissioners and WSU Extension Island County Director Tim Lawrence. If you would like to send a quick note to these folks, their contact information can be found at:

- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Commissioners/Pages/commissioners.aspx>
- <http://extension.wsu.edu/island/staff/>

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2017 Country Living Expo

The 2017 Country Living Expo is coming up on January 28th at Stanwood High School. The expo offers 180 different classes on livestock, gardening, food preservation, bees, spinning, quilting, cooking, baking, welding, building, cider making, leather crafting,

business planning, weaving, furniture, pest control, and more. Registration is now open. Classes are first come, first served and fill up fast, so register early to get your first choice of classes. **I'll be there doing classes on native trees and growing edible mushrooms.** For information and registration visit:
<http://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/countrylivingexpo/>.

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2017 Conservation District Plant Sales

The conservation district plant sales are just around the corner. This is an excellent opportunity to stock up on native trees and plants. Take special note of the pre-order deadlines to make sure you're able to get what you want. Here are the local districts that have announced their 2017 sale dates:

King Conservation District

- Currently accepting pre-orders
- Pre-order pickup and walk-up sale: March 11th
- More information: <http://www.kingcd.org/programs-native-walk-up-sale.htm>

Pierce Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 20th
- Pre-order pickup: March 3rd or 4th
- Walk-up sale: March 4th
- More information: <http://piercenativeplantsale.com/>

Skagit Conservation District

- Currently accepting pre-orders
- Pre-order pickup: March 24th
- Walk-up sale: March 25th
- More information: http://skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales

Snohomish Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 31st
- Pre-order pickup and walk-up sale: February 11th
- More information: <http://www.theplantsale.org/>

Whatcom Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: March 13th
- Pre-order pickup: March 24th and 25th
- Walk-up sale: March 25th
- More information: <http://www.whatcomcd.org/plant-sale>

Whidbey Island Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 31st
- Pre-order pickup: February 25th
- Ordering information:
http://www.whidbeycd.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

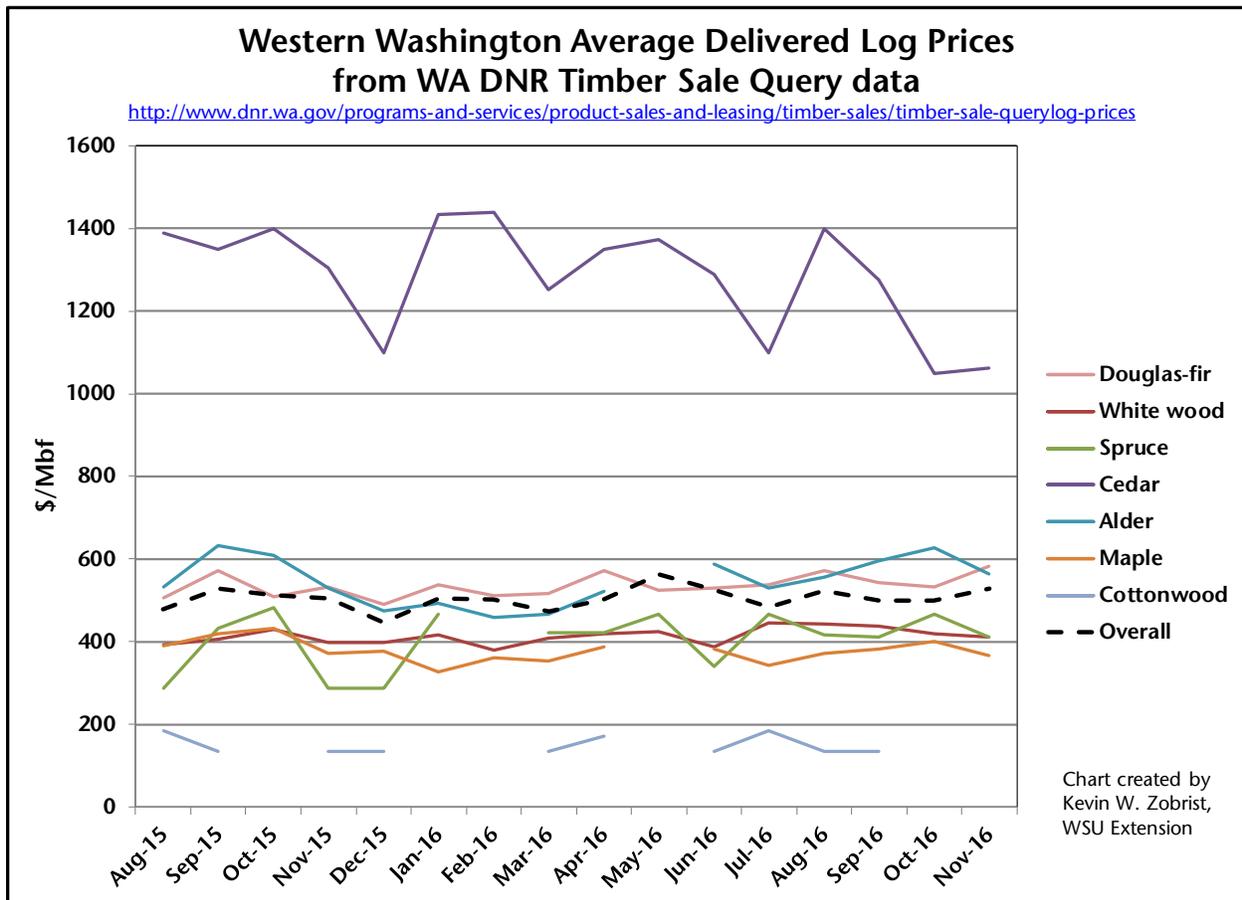
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Market Update

Here is the latest news on log prices in Western Washington based on data provided by our friends at DNR in their monthly Timber Sale Query reports.

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/timber-sale-querylog-prices>

As of November, prices for Douglas-fir were the best they've been in two years. Alder peaked earlier in the fall, as it did last year, but has now declined a bit, though it is still decent relative to the last few years. Cedar prices are lower than they have been over the past two years. White woods are pretty much where they were a year ago.



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Tidbits

- The winter edition of Forest Stewardship Notes is now available at: <https://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2016/12/>
- The USDA-NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program now offers financial incentives for forestry activities. The 2017 application deadline is February 3rd. For information, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/programs/financial/csp/>
- There will be a tree-planting party at David and Darlina New's property in the Bryant area from 9 AM to noon on Saturday January 14th (this is rescheduled from a December date due to frozen ground). The News are working on this with the Snohomish Conservation District as part of a CREP project. For more information or to volunteer, contact Carson Moscoso at cmoscoso@snohomishcd.org.

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Subscription and Contact Info:

You are currently subscribed to the WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship mailing list. This newsletter is also available in a standard print format. To subscribe, unsubscribe, change your subscription options, or to access newsletter archives, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/> or call 425-357-6017.

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Also join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wsuforestry>

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Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Reasonable accommodations for the events described above will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact us at the address above at least two weeks prior to the event.