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Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

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The Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter is sent out periodically as news and announcements become available. Please feel free to forward and share this information with others who may be interested.

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Kev's Notes

October has been a very busy month for the WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program. We have several new workshops going on, including the Fall Education Series and the first ever Advanced Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class. It is exciting to explore some new topics and meet new folks at these workshops. There is still room in the Wildfire Risk Reduction workshop on October 20th, which is the last workshop of the Fall Education Series. We will also be offering the award-winning Ties to the Land succession planning seminar in November and December.

The Advanced Forest Stewardship class has been a lot of fun. I have enjoyed the engaged group of participants as we have explored some new and more advanced topics in the classroom, the computer lab, and out in the field. This class will be repeated in the spring, and we have opened up some additional spaces to accommodate more people. If you are a Coached Planning graduate who is interested in taking your forest stewardship knowledge to the next level, this is worth checking out.

Even with all of the success of the advanced class, I am anxious to get our next regular Coached Planning class underway in early 2009. This class is scheduled to begin in February 2009 in Everett. Registration is already open for this class, and it is already beginning to fill.

There are lots of other things happening, as well as some new resources for forest landowners. Read on for details!

Kevin Zobrist
WSU Extension forester

Wildfire Risk Reduction Workshop

There is still room available in the Wildfire Risk Reduction workshop, the second and last work shop of our fall education series. The workshop will be held 6 – 9 PM at the Snohomish County Extension facility in South Everett. Registration information is available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/FallEd08.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. Cost is \$30 per family/ownership.

Ties to the Land

Will your forest or farmland become a lasting legacy or source of a family squabble? Learn how to guide the discussion and keep family forests and farms in the family. This fall, Washington State University Extension will present **Ties to the Land**, a seminar to help landowners plan for the future of their land and legacy. Landowners often dream of having their children inherit their land and manage it with the same care that they always have. Unfortunately, this rarely happens without thoughtful planning. Those who fail to plan risk a final outcome they may not like—loss of the land and loss of a legacy.

Originally developed by landowners, extension agents, and business experts from Oregon State University, Ties to the Land explores succession planning—the “human side” of estate planning. The award-winning program stresses the importance of formulating a plan with the entire family, involving all generations in management decisions early on, and holding family meetings to understand everyone’s goals.

This two-part workshop will be held at locations around the state. **For north sound landowners, the workshop will be in Everett; 6-9 PM on Thursday, November 20 and Thursday, December 11.** To see when workshops are scheduled for other parts of the state, visit <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/TTL.htm>. For more information on the Everett

class or to register, contact me at (425) 357-6017 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/Ties08Fall.htm>, The cost for the two-part workshop is \$75 per family and **pre-registration is required.**

Next Regular Forest Stewardship Class

Registration is now open for the next regular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class in the Northwest Washington area. The class will be Tuesday evenings February 24 – April 21st, 2009 at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. This 10-session practical, hands-on course will enable forest landowners to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. Open to all, this program is designed to help forest landowners develop customized management solutions to meet their own unique ownership objectives. Whether you own 5, 50, or 500 acres of forest, if you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this course is for you. The cost per household/ownership is \$150 before February 1st, and \$175 after February 1st. **Enrollment is limited to the first 30 ownerships—register early as this class is already starting to fill.** For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Everett.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

2009 Advanced Forest Stewardship Class

Registration is also open for the next *Advanced* Forest Stewardship class. This class is offered exclusively to folks who have already completed the regular Coached Planning class. This 6-week shortcourse is scheduled for Monday evenings, April 27th – June 1st, 2009, at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. The class will include 6 Monday evening class sessions, 3 Wednesday evening computer lab sessions, and a Saturday field day. Topics will include advanced wildlife and biodiversity, advanced silviculture, hardwood management, managing a timber sale, controlling invasive species, forest inventory, using the Landscape Management System, forest finance, taxes, and more. Cost is \$100 per household/ownership. For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/advancedCP09.htm> or call 425-357-6017. There are only 6 spaces left in this class, so register soon to reserve your spot.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Managing Climate Change Risk in Forests** – This 1-day seminar will be held in **Portland, OR on November 12th.** For details and registration information, contact Michele at the Western Forestry and Conservation Association at 888-722-9416 or visit <http://www.westernforestry.org/climatechange/climatechange.htm>.

- The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation has a couple upcoming events at the Northwest Stream Center, which is in McCollum Park right behind the WSU Extension building.
 - **October 17th: Bat Night** – A little different than bat night at Mariners games, this event lets you see live bats up close and personal. Cost: \$7.
 - **October 22nd: Fall Forest Walk** – Explore the forest around McCollum Park with an ecologist and naturalist. Cost: \$7.
 For more information, contact the foundation at 425-316-8592 or visit <http://www.streamkeeper.org>.
- **Climate Change: Global Connections and Sustainable Solutions** - This 5 clock-hour workshop is designed for 6-10th grade educators (but others are welcome) who are interested in building science, social studies, math, and governance lessons about climate change into their classrooms. The workshop will be held **February 7, 2009 in Everett**. For more information visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/4h/NR/FTFclimate0209.htm>.
- **Snohomish Conservation District 2009 Plant Sale – March 6-7, 2009**. Visit <http://www.snohomishcd.org/> or call 425-335-5634 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

- The Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force is sponsoring several **tree planting events** in Snohomish County:
 - **Saturday October 25th:** North Fork Stillaguamish (Cloverdale County Park)
 - **Saturday November 8th:** Jim Creek (near Arlington)
 - **Saturday November 22nd:** Pilchuck River (near Lake Stevens)
 Volunteers are needed! For more information or to RSVP, contact Kristin Marshall at 425-252-6686 or visit <http://www.stillysnofish.org/index.html>
- Washington State University Extension and Snohomish County 4-H are seeking volunteers interested in becoming **Tour Guides for the annual Salmon Tours at the Wallace River Hatchery in Goldbar**. Volunteers will receive training to learn the life story of salmon, their habitat, the role of hatcheries, how to help restore salmon populations and how to share this information with youth and adults.

Volunteers must be 15 years of age or older. For more information or to sign up, please contact Gabrielle Roesch at 425-357-6011 or gabrielle90@wsu.edu. **The training will be on Saturday, November 1st and the Public Tour day will be on Saturday, November 8th.** Raingear, warm dress and rubber boots are required. Please bring your layers as you never know if it will be rain or shine out there!

Forestry in the News

- With the topic of forest security fresh in the minds of many of you following our workshop earlier this month, the Seattle PI reports on the environmental cost of illicit drug operations in the forest:
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110ap_pot_environment.html
- The Everett Herald reports on a controversial plan to allow developers to use Forest Service roads for access to new subdivisions on adjacent land:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20081012/NEWS02/710129882>
- For those of you interested in special forest products, the Everett Herald reports on Northwest mushroom festivals:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20081004/LIVING/710049970>
- Here is an Everett Herald article on a thinning project being undertaken by the Tulalip Tribe to improve stand quality:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080919/NEWS01/709199820>
- The Skagit Valley Herald reports on the Nature Conservancy's recent purchase of forestland near:
http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/nature_conservancys_purchase_protects_9_2_acres_near_river/
- Speaking of the Nature Conservancy, here's an interesting article, also from the Skagit Valley Herald, about goats being used to deal with invasive blackberries:
http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/invasive_blackberries_are_no_match_for_the_chomping_goats/
- Here is an article from the Oregonian regarding litigation over plans to thin forests in central Oregon to reduce wildfire risk to spotted owl habitat:
http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2008/09/judge_shuts_down_central_orego.html
- Finally, here is an article all the way from the Philadelphia Inquirer about foresters helping family forest owners. While the article focuses on the Northeast, the situation is much the same here in the Northwest:
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world_us/20080928_Helping_landowners_manage_family_forests.html

New Forest Tax Resources

There are a couple of new forest tax technical resources available:

- The Forest Service has published their **2008 Tax Tips for forest landowners**. It is available online at <http://www.timbertax.org/publications/FS/taxtips/TaxTips08.pdf>. If you do not have internet access, you can call me at 425-357-6017 and I can send you a hard copy.
- Oregon State University Extension has developed a new resource called **Forestland Taxes: The Importance of Establishing BASIS**. This multimedia guide comes on a CD-ROM and guides you through the steps of establishing "basis," which is an important but often confusing part of determining federal income taxes on timber sale revenue. The CD is available for purchase for \$19.95 from <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/abstract.php?seriesno=EM+8941> or by calling 800-561-6719.

New Web Soil Survey Reports for Forest Productivity

The Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) is an online tool that has replaced the old printed county soil survey books. This is a fun tool that can give you a lot of good information about your property. If you have not worked with this tool before, now is a great time to try it out.

Both new and existing users of the Web Soil Survey will be interested in updates made to the forest productivity information to give you more detailed information about site index (a measure of forest productivity). The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided the following instructions for accessing this information in the Web Soil Survey:

1. Create an Area of Interest
2. Click on the Soil Data Explorer tab
3. Click on the Soil Reports tab
4. Open the Vegetative Productivity soil reports category
5. Select the report and click the "View Soil Report" button
6. PDF files of the reports can be created for printing or saving by clicking on the "Printable Version" button in the upper right corner of the screen

EQIP Information

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides cost share funds to help forest landowners improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Examples of activities that may be eligible include:

- Pre-commercial thinning
- Road closure/abandonment
- Wildlife habitat development
- Road erosion control
- Fuel breaks
- Reforestation
- Stand release
- Slash treatment
- Site preparation
- Pruning

For more information or to apply, contact your local NRCS office. To locate the closest NRCS office, call 509-323-2900 or visit <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov>.

DNR Seedling Availability for 2009

DNR's Webster Forest Nursery now has its list of seedlings available for 2009 planting.

You can browse the list online at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/HowTo/LandownersIndustryContractors/Pages/lm_seedling_order.aspx or you can call nursery customer service at 1-877-890-2626. The nursery began taking orders on September 2nd. Orders will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

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