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WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

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Forester's Notes

According to the forecast, "summer" should be arriving more or less on schedule on Tuesday, with maybe even a partial preview over the holiday weekend. Whether it will stay with us for any length of time is another matter, but nonetheless we have a number of workshops and field days coming to tell you about. We'll be having outdoor events throughout the summer, and registration is also already open for several fall and winter class sessions. We've got these spread out throughout the area, so wherever you are in Snohomish, Skagit, King, and Island counties, we've got something coming up in your area.

We have so much coming up, in fact, that this edition of the newsletter is almost exclusively devoted to events. We'll get back to my usual columns and features next

month, and I am also expecting that over the next couple of months I'll have some exciting new Extension Forestry initiatives to share with you. In the meantime, I invite you to get signed up for our upcoming events and to work some continuing forestry education (and fun) into your family's summer plans.

I look forward to seeing you out in the woods this summer, and I hope our cool, moist pattern doesn't get you down. Just think: years from now you can pull an increment core out of one of your trees and show your kids the big, fat growth ring for that rainy "summer" of 2011!

Kevin W. Zobrist
WSU Area Extension Educator, Forest Stewardship
Serving Snohomish, Skagit, King, and Island Counties

Summer Forest Twilight Tours

We had so much success with this last summer, that we're doing even more tours this summer. Join us as we take advantage of long summer evenings to enjoy "twilight tour" of local family-owned forests. Tours are scheduled in all four counties (Snohomish, Skagit, King, and Island) and everyone from around the region is warmly invited and encouraged to attend any or all of these tours. These free out-in-the-woods events are a chance to share ideas, see what others are doing, look at real examples of challenges and solutions, and enjoy a potluck dessert and social time. Our first tour starts next week, so sign up now!

Tour 1: Thursday July 7th in Island County at Kristoferson Farm on Camano. Here we'll look at a successful meadow restoration, talk about young plantation management, look at streamside plantings and a hardened crossing installation, and talk about cost share opportunities. We'll also take a look at some historic buildings and a budding zip-line recreation course.

Tour 2: Thursday July 14th in Snohomish County at the Wilson property in Snohomish (Three Lakes area). Here we'll take a look at one of the techniques for dealing with an aging alder stand, which is to underplant shade-tolerant conifers to avoid clear-cutting.

Tour 3: Monday July 18th in King County at the Hsi property in Snoqualmie. Here we'll look at commercial thinning and invasive species control work, and we'll talk about cost share programs and silvicultural contracting.

Tour 4: Thursday July 21st in Skagit County at the Owens property in Mount Vernon (Big Lake area). Here we'll look at the other technique to dealing with an aging alder stand, which is to do a small patch cut. We'll also talk about riparian management and look at a beaver pond.

All tours will be from 7 – 9 PM and will end with a potluck dessert (so please bring something sweet to share).

Important: Please RSVP for these tours so that we know if we have enough people coming and can contact you if there are any changes or cancellations. Driving directions will be provided as we get closer to the event. RSVP at

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/twilight2011.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

Forest and Wildlife Fun Day

We have a special event coming up for the younger foresters in your family. This is a chance for kids (and their parents/grandparents/etc.) to explore the forest and learn about the natural world in a fun environment where touching things and getting dirty are encouraged. This kids field day will be from 4 – 8 PM on Wednesday July 27th right here at the WSU Extension facility at McCollum Park (600 128th St SE Everett). We'll have arts and crafts, food, geocaching excursions, guided walks, opportunities for kids to make origami cups to grow their own salad greens, and other cool stuff to look at like animal skulls and bugs.

We need your help! You can help two ways:

1. If there's a youngster in your life (child, grandchild, niece/nephew, neighbor, etc.) whom you think would benefit from some outdoor fun and building a greater connection and appreciation for the forest and nature, please consider bringing him or her to the Fun Day here at the park. For details and RSVP (so we can get a head count for food, etc.), please visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/naturalresources/FW2011.htm>
2. We are seeking donations to support this event and help provide materials and snacks for the kids. This is an important outreach to the community and a younger generation where so many kids (especially here in the urban area) don't have these opportunities to connect with the natural world. If you would like to contribute to this event, please send your tax-deductible donation (with checks made out to WSU Extension) to: WSU Extension, Attn: Forest and Wildlife Fun Day, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA 98208. Also, if you have any connections with a local grocery outlet that might be willing to donate some food, please let me know.

Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day

The annual Westside summer field day will be over in Jefferson County this year near Chimacum on **Saturday August 20th**. Whether you own a "home in the woods" or many acres of land, this "out in the woods" educational event is packed with practical "how-to" information that you need to know. This event will include classes and

activities lead by experts in forest health, wildlife habitat, soils, fire protection, and timber and non-timber forest products. Presenters will be available to answer questions specific to your needs and situation. Youth activities are available throughout the day!

Register now by visiting <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/ForestOFD.pdf> or calling Andy Perleberg at 509-667-6658.

Whidbey Island Forest Field Day

If you can't attend (or can't get enough of!) the Chimacum field day, we'll be reprising our most popular field day sessions at a special field day on central Whidbey Island on **Saturday September 10th**. Topics will include forest insects and diseases, wildlife habitat, thinning and pruning, special forest products, planting trees, hardwood management, and small-scale sawmill and equipment demos. The state's top forestry experts will be leading these hands-on field sessions that will help you to better understand, protect, enhance, and enjoy your forest.

Register now by visiting http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/whidbey_fieldday.htm or calling 425-357-6017.

Shiitake Mushroom Culture Workshop

This is quite possibly our most popular workshop. Our last two offerings sold out and left more than 60 people on the waiting list. We're offering this again, though, and it will be on **Saturday November 19th** up at the WSU Northwest Research and Extension Center in Mount Vernon.

WSU Extension specialist Jim Freed and the experts from Fungi Perfecti will be offering this hands-on workshop where you will learn how to cultivate your own edible shiitake mushrooms. You will learn proper inoculation techniques and growing conditions, and you will receive a set of plugs to inoculate your own mushroom log.

The workshop is already starting to fill up. **Register now** to reserve your spot by visiting <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/mushroom11.htm> or calling 425-357-6017.

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

We have TWO offerings of our flagship and most popular and powerful program coming up. This 10-session practical, hands-on course will guide you through the development of your own stewardship plan with "coaching" from the top natural resource professionals in the state. In the process of creating a forest plan unique to your property and objectives, you'll go in depth with us both in the classroom and in the field covering a wide range of forestry topics. Things we'll cover in detail include

ecology, silvics, soils, wildlife, forest health, fire, applied silviculture, water resources, aesthetics, regulations, special forest products, working with contractors, and more. The class includes nine evening classroom sessions, a Saturday field trip, a personal site visit to your property from a professional forester and/or wildlife biologist, and a forest stewardship notebook packed with information.

Your completed forest stewardship plan may qualify you for significant property tax reductions, as well as qualify you for a whole range of cost share and other assistance programs. It will also provide you with a road map for maximizing your enjoyment of your land and minimizing the costs of ownership. The class is open to all, regardless of how many acres you own or what your ownership objectives are. Space is limited, and registration is open for both classes:

1. **Fall 2011 in Preston**, on Tuesday nights starting September 20th. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP11Preston.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. This class is made possible in part by a grant from the King Conservation District in partnership with the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum.
2. **Winter 2012 in Coupeville** (returning to Whidbey after many years!), on Wednesday evenings starting January 18th. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Coupeville.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. This class is made possible in part by a grant from the Whidbey Island Conservation District.

Fall Potluck Social

We had a particularly good social last month, and we're looking to pull off another one this fall. Join us from 6:30 – 9:00 PM on **Friday October 28th** at our usual location at the Snohomish County Extension building in south Everett. Come and enjoy great food, see old friends, meet new friends, and enjoy an after-dinner education program (details forthcoming). **Details and RSVP** at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/social2011Oct.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

Market Update

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

Conifer prices have sagged slightly since March but are still stronger than 2010. Douglas-fir averaged \$517 last month, with hemlock and whitewoods averaging \$411. Redcedar was down a bit for the year at \$814. Hardwood prices, on the other hand, have gone up a little, especially alder which checked in at a \$545 average (with higher grades fetching over \$700).

For an updated price graph, please visit
<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/LogPrices.pdf>

Tidbits

- This year's sign-up deadline for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is August 12, 2011. EQIP offers funding to help non-industrial private forest landowners implement conservation projects on their forest land, such as pre-commercial thinning, stand release, culvert replacements for fish passage, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area. contact your local NRCS office or visit <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov> for more information.
- Are you interested in selling small quantities of wood from your property, especially a specialty type of wood that may have high value for furniture, cabinetry, and such? You may find an outlet for your product through a local small-scale sawmill. WSU Extension maintains a statewide directory of small-scale sawmills at <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/forestryext/sawmill/index.htm>
- Looking for a job in forestry or natural resources? Whether you're seeking employment as a professional forester or a summer intern, I see a lot of job announcements, so I've created a new list serve to pass these along. You can join the list by sending a blank email to join-forestjobs@lyris.cahnrs.wsu.edu
- Check out our latest YouTube video demonstrating the use of a Stihl auger to pre-dig tree planting holes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lomHH2-VALE>
- Help needed: Do you have a grand fir or pacific yew on your property? If you spot any cones on your grand fir or flowers or arils on your pacific yew this summer please let me know!
- The latest edition of Forest Stewardship Notes, our free statewide newsletter for small forest landowner, is now available. This newsletter is packed with good stuff. Check out the latest issue at <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs009/1103464106731/archive/1105258560190.html>, and be sure to follow the link to subscribe.

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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.

Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in any of the programs described above should call WSU Extension at 425-357-6017 to request accommodation at least two weeks in advance.