

WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

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Forester's Notes

Despite our continued warm days, nights are becoming cool and crisp, announcing the arrival of fall. As the kids go back to school, it's a good time for adults to also be thinking about education. With this in mind, this is sort of a special edition of this newsletter, as it focuses mostly on the forest stewardship education opportunities we have lined up for you over the next two months.

The first of our full slate of fall events is coming up is this Saturday the 15th. We'll be doing a forestry and wildlife workshop in Carnation. DNR stewardship biologist Jim Bottorff will be the speaker, talking about habitat, management, and also preventing damage to your trees. For most people who take Coached Planning, Jim is their favorite speaker. If you have never heard Jim's presentation, this is your opportunity (and it may be the last, as Jim retires at the end of this month!). And if you've heard Jim before, this is a chance for a longer, more in-depth presentation with lots of time for discussion and Q&A. I still have a few seats I'd like to fill, so you can still sign up for this workshop (up until 6 AM Saturday morning) at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/wildlife12.htm>. Read on for information about the other classes we have lined up for you.

In the meantime, despite all the signs of fall, we continue to have red flag warnings over much of Western Washington (including King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties). This means there is pretty extreme fire danger, and any fire that starts can have explosive growth and quickly burn out of control. There is also quite a bit of smoke blowing through the mountain passes from all the fires still burning in Eastern Washington.

Overall, it has been a particular bad year for fire conditions on both sides of the state. There are a few important things that I think we can learn from the events of this summer:

1. Bad fire conditions can develop very quickly, even here in Western Washington. We can go from a cold, wet spring and early summer with no concern for fire to a record dry spell with red flag warnings all the way into the metro area in just a matter of weeks.
2. There are numerous ignition possibilities, including lightning, construction work, shooting, fireworks, carelessly discarded cigarettes, etc.
3. Fires can explode out of control amazingly fast, leaving residents little time to prepare before evacuating.
4. With tight budgets and local fire crews often helping out on fire lines in other states, we can't always count on adequate firefighting resources to be immediately available.
5. The death of livestock can be a particularly hard loss in a wildfire situation.

I think these lessons reiterate the need to be Firewise and have an emergency plan (including for pets and livestock) laid out well in advance.

One more thing to note is that with our longest dry spell in 60 years, trees are very stressed right now. This may exacerbate forest health problems by making trees more vulnerable to things like root rot. I also think that the trees are turning earlier this year because of the extreme dryness (i.e. our deciduous trees are basically just giving up for the year), and I expect "flagging" (inner foliage turning bright yellow or orange) in the conifers (especially cedar and pine) will be particularly bad this year (I'm already seeing it). For more information on this flagging phenomenon, check out our fairly new fact sheet on the subject at <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15444>

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Serving Snohomish, Skagit, King, and Island Counties

Fall Workshops

We have three great workshops coming up for you this fall.

Last Call for Forestry and Wildlife Workshop

September 15th, Carnation

Registration deadline is 6 AM on the 15th

Join WA Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Wildlife Biologist Jim Bottorff for an in-depth workshop on forestry and wildlife. Topics covered will include understanding forest wildlife habitat, protecting and enhancing habitat during forest management activities, providing supplemental habitat (e.g. nest boxes), and controlling wildlife damage to trees. Registration is open and space is limited. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/wildlife12.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. *Jim is retiring at the end of the month, so this may be the last opportunity to hear his outstanding presentations.*

Forest Health Workshop

October 6th, Everett

Join WA Department of Natural Resources forest health specialists for an in-depth workshop on forest health. Topics covered will include forest health concepts and issues, Western Washington forest insects, Western Washington forest diseases, and abiotic impacts (e.g. drought, pollution, storm damage). Registration is open and space is limited. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/foresthealth12.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017. **Early registration discount ends September 15th.**

Wind Damage Workshop

November 6th, Preston

Join us this fall as we get into our windy season to learn about how to properly care for your trees and your forest before (prevention) and after (clean-up) a windstorm. This is a reprise of the popular workshop we did last year. Registration is open and space is limited. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/wind12.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

Our flagship course teaches forest landowners how to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. A written stewardship plan may qualify you for property tax reductions and cost share assistance. You will also learn how to keep your forest healthy and productive, attract more wildlife, and achieve your specific ownership objectives.

Usually we offer this series once or twice a year, but for 2012 we have a total of four classes on tap. The Whidbey Island class is complete, we're midway through the online class (which has been a huge success), and we've got two classes coming up in the fall in Bellevue and also on Vashon (rescheduled from this spring). **Registration is open** for both the Bellevue and Vashon classes

- **Vashon: October 3rd – November 28th.** After a several-year absence, we are happy to be returning to Vashon Island this fall. Classes will be on Wednesday evenings at the Vashon Land Trust Building, and there will be two Saturday field trips. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Vashon.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.
- **Bellevue: October 4th – December 6th.** Our fall class will be on Thursday evenings in southeast Bellevue this year at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center. This is a smaller facility, so space is more limited this year than usual. Since we've always sold out in the past (with more space), be sure to reserve your spot early for this class. Also, special discounted rates are available for City of Bellevue residents. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Bellevue.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

Partner Events

Note: partner events are not WSU events. Partner events are listed for informational purposes only and do not imply any endorsement by WSU.

- **Logging Your Timber: Options, Opportunities and Precautions** – October 6th in Chehalis. Sponsored by the Washington Tree Farm Program. Registration forms and further information can be obtained at www.watreefarm.org/2012RegForm.pdf or by calling Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147.

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.

Pretty much everything has dropped off a bit since spring, except for Douglas-fir, which, after a couple ups and downs, is close to where it was in April.

For an updated price graph, please visit

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/LogPrices.pdf>

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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 21 days in advance.