



# Forestry

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

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### **Forester's Notes**

I've been thinking about my experience this past spring when I presented a paper at a forestry conference in Hungary. The conference included tours of family forest properties in both Hungary and Austria, and we had the opportunity to meet landowners and learn about how they manage and what their challenges were. It was interesting to note that they have the same priority concerns that landowners have here in the U.S., including Washington.

What really struck me as different, though, was the relationship that forest owners have with the general public. Forests, farms, and communities are intermixed throughout the landscape. Most of the forests are harvested with regularity, and in full view of the public (not hidden away in the back country. The public seems to be very accepting of this and take a matter-of-fact view that this is where their fiber comes from, just like the farms are where their food comes from. They viewed timber harvest just like the harvest of any other necessary crop.

This is not to say that there is no concern for environmental impacts. On the contrary, there are very stringent forest regulations in Europe and sensitive areas are often off-limits. Just like the public is accepting of landowners harvesting their timber, landowners seemed to be very accepting of regulatory restrictions. The broad public support they have seems to make the imposition of regulatory restrictions more palatable.

Overall, my observation was that landowners and the general public seem to be very much in tune with each other such that there are a lot fewer resource management conflicts. This does not necessarily mean they are doing things better in Europe than in the U.S. There are key differences in culture, ecology, ownership patterns, and so forth that provide different contexts for forestry in different parts of the world. Also, the situation in Europe is probably not as rosy in reality as the brief impressions that I got. Nonetheless, I think it is good food for thought about how social relationships relative to forestry work in different parts of the world, and it highlights the importance of sharing knowledge and culture with other regions and countries.

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

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## Remaining Fall Pizza Seminars

Our “pizza seminars” are a chance to enjoy some pizza while listening to an educational presentation. We have three remaining seminars coming up. Each seminar costs \$8/person and includes pizza and soft drinks. Pre-registration is required. For additional details and registration information, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/pizzaseminar/> or call 425-357-6023.

### 1. Specialty Wood Markets Seminar

For this seminar we will be focusing on specialty wood markets and how small-scale landowners can sell to them. Specialty wood markets are niche markets that use trees to make materials other than lumber. These markets pay a premium if you have what they are looking for. We have several speakers lined up for this seminar. Steve Tanaka from Evergreen Hardwoods will be talking about alder veneer; and Larry Putnam from McFarland Cascade will be talking about Douglas-fir and western redcedar utility poles. Each speaker will be talking about what they buy, what they use it for, and how small-scale woodland owners can take advantage of these specialty markets.

**When:** Thursday October 2nd 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

[Registration Information](#)

## 2. Wetlands, Ponds, and Amphibians Seminar

This seminar will feature several speakers talking about the importance of wetlands, regulatory issues around wetlands and ponds, controlling reed canary grass and other invasive plants around ponds and wetlands, and amphibian species found in western Washington woodlands.

**When:** Thursday November 13th 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** WSU Snohomish County Extension, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA 98204

[Registration Information](#)

## 3. Native Trees Seminar and Book Signing

In this seminar, WSU Extension Forestry Specialist Kevin Zobrist will present a slide show of native trees in western Washington and discuss their silvical characteristics. Afterward he will be on hand to sign copies of his new book, Native Trees of Western Washington (available in bookstores in late October). Books are sold separately; you can purchase a copy in advance and bring it with you, or purchase a copy at the event. Copies at the event will be sold for the list price of \$18.95 (plus tax). All book proceeds go to support the WSU Extension Forestry program.

**When:** Thursday December 4th 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** WSU Snohomish County Extension, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA 98204

[Registration Information](#)

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## Vashon Field Tour

This field tour is an opportunity for woodland owners, architects and builders to see how woodland stewardship can keep your woods healthy and help to build healthy homes. We will start out with a tour of Chautauqua and Island Center forests, led by Drs. Jerry Franklin and Derek Churchill, to look at how different harvesting techniques are completed to promote woodland health. We will then take a tour of the locally milled wood that was used in the new Vashon Island High School, led by David Wilke. Then, we will end with a demonstration by David Warren at the Joel Kuperberg Memorial Mill Yard.

The tour will be Saturday October 25th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., meeting at Vashon Island High School. This event is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. For additional details and registration information, call 425-357-6023 or visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/vashon/>.

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## Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

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?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- Are there certain trees you should always keep or remove? How do you remove trees without damaging your land?
- When selling logs, are you getting a fair deal or getting ripped off?
- How do you find or grow edible berries or mushrooms? How do you cut holiday greens without hurting the tree?
- 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?

### 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.

### What's included:

- Seven classroom sessions taught by forestry experts
- A Saturday field trip
- A large notebook full of reference materials and how-to guides
- A one-on-one consultation at your property with a professional forester.

Our next class will be online on Thursday nights starting February 19, 2015. Registration is open. For details and registration information, call 425-357-6023 or visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/>.

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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/BusinessPermits/Topics/TimberSaleAuction/Pages/psl\\_ts\\_query.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/TimberSaleAuction/Pages/psl_ts_query.aspx))

Cedar prices dipped a little in September, but everything else, including Douglas-fir and alder, ticked up a bit. For an updated price graph, please visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/LogPrices.pdf>

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## Research Update

**Effect of whole-tree harvesting on site productivity** – With conventional harvesting, the bole of the tree is removed (to go to the sawmill) and the logging residuals (tops, branches, etc.) are left behind. With the growing demand for biomass as a renewable fuel source, there is interest in removing logging residuals to use for fuel. Removing everything is called whole-tree harvesting. A lot of a tree's nutrients are in its leaves/needles. Thus there is concern that removing the residuals could over time deplete the nutrients on the site. This study compared the growth of 10- to 14-year-old regeneration between sites with conventional logging vs. whole tree harvesting in northern hardwood forests in New England. The study found no difference in growth performance at that point of development. The study notes that prior studies looking show mixed results, with many showing no difference and some showing lower productivity following whole tree harvesting. Study notes that it cannot inform longer term impacts (e.g. productivity depletion resulting from multiple rotations of whole tree removal) and also notes that impacts may be mitigated for this specific forest type (northern hardwoods) because whole-tree harvests are general done in the winter after the nutrient-rich leaves have fallen.

Kevin's note: Results may be different with northwest conifers, since the needles will still be on the branches. Longer-term research is needed. This is an emerging area of study, so more information will be revealed over time.

Reference: Roxby, G.E., and T.E. Howard. 2013. Whole-tree harvesting and site productivity: Twenty-nine northern hardwood sites in central New Hampshire and western Maine. *Forest Ecology and Management* 293:114-121.

**Effectiveness of stump removal to control root disease** – Planting alternative species that are resistant or immune to a disease is a key strategy for dealing with root disease areas. For landowners who want to continue to grow the same susceptible species, a possible mitigation strategy is to remove the stumps after harvesting the infected area. While this does not completely sanitize the area, does remove a good chunk of the infected material that would otherwise be left in the ground and could infect newly planted trees. This study looked at the effectiveness of stump removal on root disease sites in Denmark, Sweden, and Vancouver Island (a little closer to home). The study looked 21-50 years after treatment and looked at mortality and infection from *Armillaria*, *annosus*, and laminated root disease (the primary three diseases here in western Washington). The study found that stump removal significantly reduced root rot damage in regenerating stand. Some trials did additional root removal (in addition to the stumps), but that did not make a large difference. Western redcedar showed the lowest conifer susceptibility to *Armillaria*, and paper birch showed resistance to *Armillaria* and laminated root rot. The study estimates the average cost of stump removal is \$405/acre.

Reference: Cleary, M.R., N. Arhipova, D.J. Morrison, I.M. Thomsen, R.N. Sturrock, R. Vasaitis, T. Gaitnieks, and J. Stenlid. 2013. Stump removal to control root disease in Canada and Scandinavia: A synthesis of results from long-term trials. *Forest Ecology and Management* 290:5-14.

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## Tidbits

- If you are interested in how wood can be turned into oil, WSU has a new fact sheet, written for a lay audience, on bio-oil and fast pyrolysis: <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=FS140E>
- The Woodland Fish and Wildlife series of landowner publications has a new website, with some new and updated publications: <http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/>
- We always emphasize “right tree, right place.” This can be especially important around homes and power lines where large trees can eventually cause problems. The Snohomish County PUD has some good information and suggestions of plants and trees that are compatible with power lines: <http://www.snopud.com/?p=1219>. Proper species selection can eliminate the temptation to do tree-topping, a poor practice described in this WSU fact sheet: <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15446>
- The 2013 Washington Forest Health Highlights Report is available from DNR at [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/ForestHealthEcology/Pages/rp\\_forest\\_health.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/ForestHealthEcology/Pages/rp_forest_health.aspx)
- DNR stewardship biologist wrote an amazing article on how his home almost burned in this summer’s wildfires in eastern WA. It is a thoughtful and exciting read: <https://sflonews.wordpress.com/2014/09/03/our-house-almost-burned-down/>
- Have you noticed deciduous trees turning color really early this year, including mid-summer? I have been seeing it a lot around the area, including my own yard where my native dogwood tree turned red in July and, despite my best efforts, promptly died thereafter. Here is a good article from our friends over at the DNR Urban Forestry program that explains what's going on: <https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2014/09/08/timely-tree-tips-fall-color-or-distress-signal/>
- The new Washington chapter of the Women Owning Woodlands network (WOWnet) has some events and get-togethers in the works. Sign up for the email list to get plugged in to these: <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/wownet/>

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## Non-WSU Education Events:

Disclaimer – these non-WSU events and are listed for informational purposes only and do not imply any vetting or endorsement by WSU.

- Citizen Action Training School – This free 12-week education program, hosted by Sound Salmon Solutions, will cover the ecology and current legal regulations about Puget Sound and local watersheds, as well as focus on human impacts on the environment. The training begins October 2nd in Everett. For details and registration information, visit <http://pugetsoundcats.org/> or call 425-252-6686.
- Northwest Natural Resource Group has partnered with WA Department of Natural Resources and the Skagit Conservation District to host a series of workshops in Skagit County about ecological forest management, fish passage barrier removal, forest impacts on streams, and cost-share opportunities for forest owners to get work done. The first workshop will be Saturday November 8th. For details, visit <https://ecologicalforestry.eventbrite.com/> or call Megan Nuss at 503-545-8685

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## Focus On: Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)

By guest columnist Ryan Campbell, communications intern with WA DNR

Small forest landowners own 3.2 million acres of Washington’s forests—about half the private forestland in the state. These family forests are important to fish and include thousands of miles of fish-bearing streams. A major key to restoring fish populations in these streams is removing barriers to fish passage. A single man-made barrier – such as a damaged or undersized culvert - can keep fish from reaching many miles of upstream habitat. To help protect and restore fish populations, Forest Practices Rules require that forest landowners address these fish barriers by 2016. Repairing these barriers can be costly, especially for a small forest landowner, so the Washington Legislature established the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP).

The goal of the FFFPP is to help landowners improve fish passage by eliminating fish passage barriers, such as undersized or damaged culverts. The program ensures small forest landowners enrolling in the program are required to fix their barriers only if financial assistance is available from the state. There is no cost for landowner’s who have not harvested timber within three years previous to project selection.

A number of landowners have benefitted from the program. Participants Holy Koon and Max Duncan commented: "It's a win win: the landowner gets a great structure that they never could afford otherwise, and the fish get a better stream." Another participant, Ron Roberts, notes: "All parties involved in this project were excellent to work with. We have a quality bridge that will last forever."

### **Program Steps**

1. Landowner applies for a barrier evaluation. Apply online: at [www.surveymonkey.com/FFFPP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/FFFPP) or 360-902-1404 or email [laurie.cox@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.cox@dnr.wa.gov)
2. The barrier is evaluated and prioritized. Fish barrier corrections providing the greatest benefit to public resources are funded first.
3. The project is funded when it becomes a high priority.
4. The project sponsor manages the project. FFFPP handles all aspects of project management including engineering, permitting and contracting.

### **Removing YOUR Fish Barrier**

If you are interested in enrolling in the program, please submit an application by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/FFFPP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/FFFPP) or contacting us (step 1 above) to fill out an application form. Submitting this form begins the process of evaluating your eligibility. It does not obligate you to participate in the program. We will contact you to set up a field visit to evaluate your crossings and answer any questions. For more information, please visit: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp> or call (360) 360-902-1404.

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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.