



Forestry

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter – Large Print Edition

December 2017

Volume 10, No. 3

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Editor's note: This is the first of two December newsletters. There hasn't been much to report for a few months, but now there is a lot to tell you about and it won't all fit in one issue. Watch for the second issue in a couple weeks.

Forester's Notes

It seems to be the time of year for nostalgia. I find myself exploring Christmas memories of both long and not so long ago. I fondly remember many things that were, and I grieve some things that no longer are. I think of family, friends, and colleagues who have passed, many of whom passed in the month of December, including this December. December seems to be a month of disproportionate loss, and holidays are difficult for many people.

While my greatest nostalgia is for people, I also have quite a bit for places. Being involved in forests and forestry builds a profound sense of place. I recognize it in myself as I think of the forests of my boyhood and how they are now high-end homes and office parks. I think of my grandparents' farm. I think of a variety of forested places I used to go and forestry views that I used to love that have disappeared from the landscape. I think of how fragmented the forested landscape has become.

I also recognize this sense of place in many of you. It is clear from the stories you share with me about your properties that you have a passion for and a deep sense of belonging with these special places that you steward. For some of you, your relationship with your forested property goes back decades or even generations of your family before you. Others of you were introduced to your forest in more recent years, but you still have a firmly-established relationship with it. For still others of you, your forested property is brand new to you and all you know so far is that when you found it you were enveloped by the presence of the trees and somehow you knew you were home. In all cases, you get to know these forested places a little better each day, and they always have something new to teach you.

The landscape around us continues to change and always will. Even within your own forest, things are changing every day. Trees germinate, trees grow, and trees die. Light levels change, gaps open and close, and the understory ebbs and flows. The wildlife populations are always in flux, reacting fluidly as habitats change and evolve. The forest you saw yesterday is not the same as the forest you see today, and the forest you will see in the future will also be different. The only constant is change, whether it's alterations by man or simply natural processes running their course.

Change is not necessarily a bad thing, but when it involves loss it often evokes memory and grief, which are the sweet and the bitter that are inextricably linked. The fonder the memories, the greater the grief over people, places, and even trees lost. Our ties to the past are important, but they should not bind us. I am thankful for the people and places that have been part of my life. I am also thankful for those that are still yet to come, as the best is not necessarily behind us. We may no longer have our parents, but we have our children. Our children will grow, and our trees will too.

These are some of the darkest times in my lifetime, but there is always hope for the future. Even the dark times and profound losses provide wisdom and direction in the days and years to come. We cannot recreate the past, and building on the past rather than trying to recreate it is what takes us forward. New adventures and new discoveries await, but only if we move forward.

Cherishing and building on the past while moving toward the future is the essence of forest stewardship. It's the recognition that the land was there long before us and will remain long after we're gone. It's here for us to enjoy and benefit from today, but the next generation should also have that privilege.

There are practical ways that you can be part of the change that happens in your forest. You can simply observe, such as establishing photo spots in the forest and taking the same photos twice a year (summer and winter) over time to watch and wonder at the cumulative change that you did not perceive in its daily increments. You can do management interventions that help direct the course of change over time such that it follows a trajectory toward what you would like to see in the future (more on this in my next column). You can also do something like set up a conservation easement to ensure that the forest is kept as such beyond your lifetime and never developed. Even in this case, though, you are not preserving the past so much as providing a future.

Change in our lives and in our forests is constant and inevitable, and it's not always bad. What's nostalgia to us now may have been something new to our parents, and what's new to us now may one day be nostalgia for our children. The better the land, trees, and memories are that we leave for the next generation, the better foundation they have to build on for their next generation. This is our legacy.

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

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2018 Winter and Spring Coached Planning Online, Whidbey, and Vashon



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 new eyes and learn about everything that is going on in your forest? Join one of our 2018 Coached Planning classes coming up this winter and spring.

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.

Registration is now open for these upcoming 2018 Classes:

- **Online – Winter 2018:** Thursdays starting February 1st. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/>.
- **Whidbey Island – Spring 2018:** Tuesdays starting March 6th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpwhidbey/>.
- **Vashon – Spring 2018:** Mondays starting March 26th. For details and registration, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpvashon/>.

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2018 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: Saturday February 24th
- More information: <http://www.kingcd.org/programs-native-walk-up-sale.htm>

Snohomish Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 29th
- Pre-order pickup and walk-up sale: Saturday February 10th
- More information: <http://www.theplantsale.org/>

Whatcom Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: March 12th
- Pre-order pickup: Friday March 23rd
- Walk-up sale: Saturday March 24th
- More information: <http://www.whatcomcd.org/plant-sale>

Whidbey Island Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 31st
- Pre-order pickup: Saturday February 24th
- More information: <https://www.whidbeycd.org/plant-sale.html>

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Other Educational Opportunities

Please note: any non-WSU events are listed for informational purposes with no implied endorsement by WSU.

Wondering About Wildlife – December 28th in North Bend.

Seattle Public Utilities is hosting this “free fun day for all ages” at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center.

http://www.seattle.gov/util/cs/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/1_068394.pdf

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course

Skagit Conservation District’s free class series will be held Wednesday evenings starting March 21st at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve.

<http://www.skagitcd.org/sites/default/files/Backyard%20Conservation%20Promotion%202018%20jpeg.jpg>

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Market Update

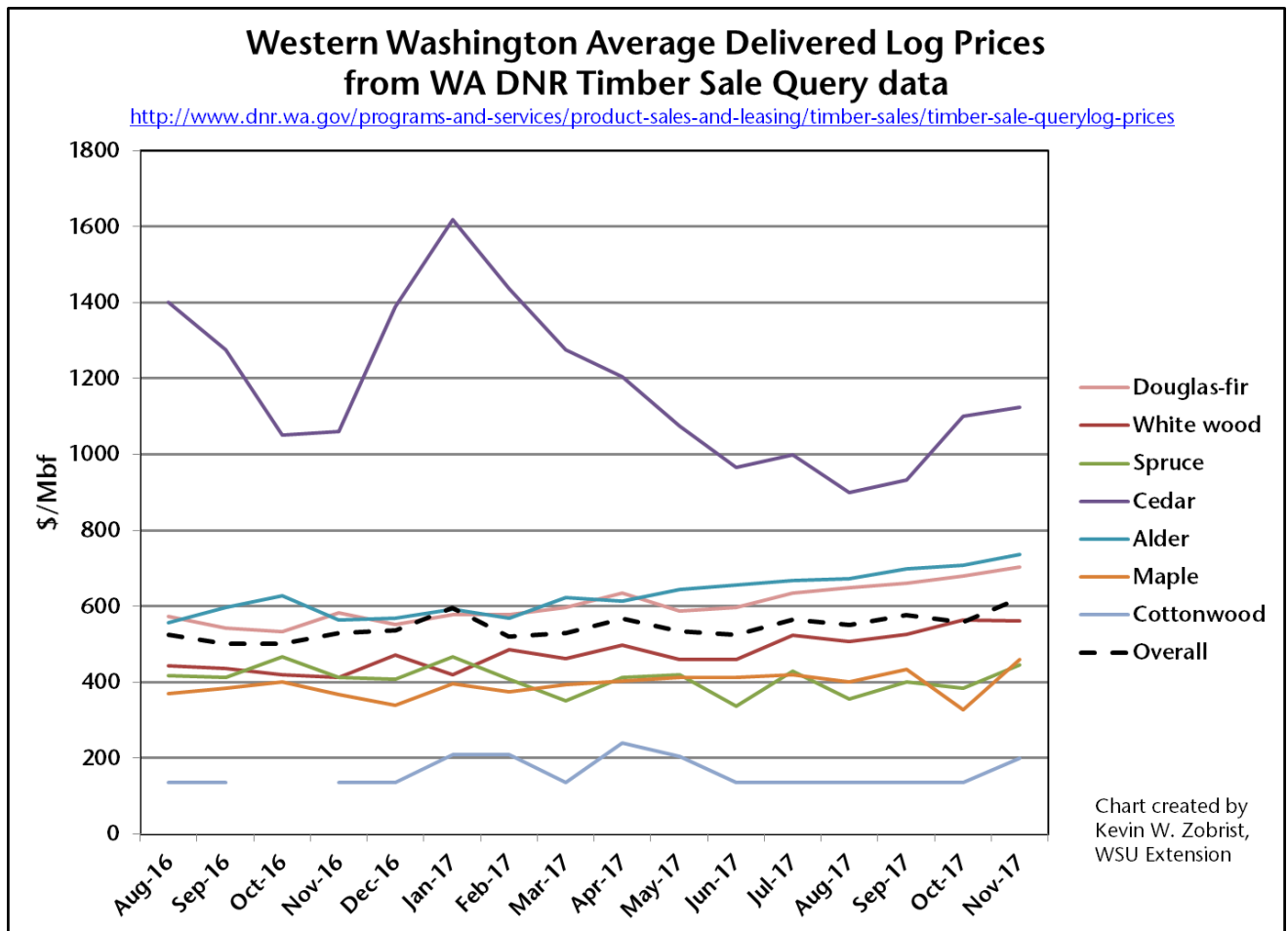
Here is the latest news on log prices in Western Washington based on data provided by our friends at DNR in their monthly Timber Sale Query reports.

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

Log prices continue to be strong this fall for Douglas-fir, hemlock, and red alder. High grade Douglas-fir fetched \$816/Mbf last month, and

high grade alder fetched \$879/Mbf. Cedar has ticked up a bit too, and still fetches the highest price of \$1,125/Mbf.

For a more in-depth analysis of current and forecasted log prices, you can subscribe to DNR's "SFLO News" e-newsletter at <http://dnr.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=686976a400749d61e09522350&id=c8cf71d34a>.



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Recent Publications

- Check out these recent Woodland Fish and Wildlife Publications:
 - **Westside Douglas-fir Forests and Wildlife – Management Tools for Family Forest Owners -**
<http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/WestsideDouglasFirForestsAndWildlife2017.pdf>
 - **Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest -**
<http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/WildlifeAndFuelsPNW2016Final.pdf>
 - **Managing Small Woodlands for Raptors: Oregon & Washington -** <http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Raptors-final.pdf>
- The 2017 tax year edition of **Tax Tips for Forest Landowners** is now available:
<https://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/taxtips2017.pdf>
- Here's an article on **symptoms of drought stress**:
<https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2017/08/10/timely-tree-tips-symptoms-of-drought-stress/>
- A new and improved 2017 edition of **Forest Practices Illustrated** is now available from DNR: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/node/1268>

- **Got a septic system?** Check out this great article on septic system care and maintenance from the WSU Extension Island County Shore Stewards program: <http://extension.wsu.edu/island/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2017/10/September-October-2017-Septic.pdf>

- For those of you in eastern WA, here are articles about current:
 - **Western pine beetle activity**
(<https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2017/09/08/ponderosa-pines-killed-by-western-pine-beetle-on-the-rise/>)

 - **Douglas-fir tussock moth activity**
(<https://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2017/09/07/blue-spruce-damage-indicates-elevated-risk-of-douglas-fir-tussock-moth-outbreak/>)

- Check out the September 2017 edition of our statewide Forest Stewardship Notes newsletter, featuring articles on burning slash piles, habitat logs, and citizen science for forest landowners: <https://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2017/09/>

- Check out the December 2017 edition of our statewide Forest Stewardship Notes newsletter, featuring articles on stink bugs, fishers, wildfire preparedness, and more: <https://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2017/12/>

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<http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/> or call 425-357-6017.

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The WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry program is made possible in part by funding from Island County, King County, King Conservation District, San Juan County, San Juan Islands Conservation District, Skagit County, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Snohomish Conservation District, and Whatcom County.

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.