

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.

Note to Readers: We don't normally issue a newsletter more than once a month, but there is enough "late-breaking news" to warrant a second, "mini-newsletter" for this month.

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Location change for spring forest stewardship class

There has been a change of venue for the spring Forest Stewardship Coached Planning shortcourse. The class will not be held at the WSU facility in Burlington as originally planned, but rather will be held at the DNR facility in Sedro Woolley. Space is still available in this class. This will be the last Coached Planning class in the north sound area until 2009 and we don't expect the class to return to the Skagit County area until at least 2010 (the 2009 classes will most likely be in Snohomish County).

This shortcourse continues to be the flagship forest stewardship program offered by Washington State University (WSU) Extension and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The class is designed to help forest landowners "help themselves" by equipping them with tools and resources to manage for a broad variety of objectives, from timber production to wildlife habitat, to aesthetics and conservation.. Each class includes nine evening presentations, a Saturday field day, a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Notebook and other educational reference

materials, maps and aerial photos of your property, and an individual on-site consultation from a professional forester or wildlife biologist.

The class is called “Coached Planning” because a major part of this training involves “coaching” participants as they develop personalized stewardship plans for their forests. Many participants use their plans for consideration for significantly reduced “current use” property taxes. With an approved stewardship plan also comes recognition as a Stewardship Forest, eligibility for state cost-share assistance, and qualification to become a Certified Forest under the American Tree Farm System.

For up-to-date details and information about this class and a link to a registration brochure, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/cpsedrospr08.htm> or contact me directly at 425-357-6017 or kzobrist@wsu.edu.

Storm Damage and EQIP Funding

For those impacted by the December windstorm in southwest Washington, there is some very good news from NRCS (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service). Site preparation, reforestation, and related expenses following a salvage harvest necessitated by a catastrophic event (e.g. windstorm) are potentially eligible for cost-share approval under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Applicants must be approved and have a signed written contract with NRCS BEFORE any work begins. Note: EQIP applications are only ranked and approved for funding once a year. Landowners who anticipate planting in Spring 2009 should contact NRCS NOW).

Some broader reminders about the EQIP program:

1. All EQIP funds for federal FY 2008 (October 1, 2007 thru September 30, 2008) have already been allocated (to applicants who applied in 2007 or before).
2. Applications are now being accepted for funds to be allocated for federal FY 2009 (beginning October 1, 2008).
3. Deadline for FY 2009 apps is JULY 15, 2008.
4. NRCS has clarified their policy re: eligibility of reforestation following salvage logging: Site preparation and reforestation are eligible for potential EQIP funding following salvage harvesting when the salvage is necessitated by a catastrophic event (e.g. windstorm, forest fire).

5. Applicants must have a signed written contract with NRCS before any work begins.

Large Print Newsletters Now Available

For those who would prefer receiving a large print version of this newsletter, please let me know. You can contact me directly at kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017. You can also change your subscription preferences online at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/change.htm>.

Other Resources of Interest

- **Economagic: Demystifying forest finance:** Have you ever wondered about the financial health of your forest? Can some simple decision-making tools lead to big cost savings? Find out in a new online learning module developed by cooperative effort between WSU Extension and the Rural Technology Initiative at the University of Washington. This is part of larger network of free online learning modules sponsored by the National Learning Center for Forest and Range Landowners. With Economagic you'll find easy-to-use tools to help you with not only the finances of your forest, but your personal finances as well. Learn more at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/Economagic/>

Forestry in the News

Below are a few recent examples of some of the forestry issues both locally and around the world that are being talked about in the media:

- **Burn Ban Proposal in Snohomish County** – There have been some recent news articles about a proposed burn ban in Snohomish County. This is an important issue to follow, both for rural property owners who rely on burning as a means of woody debris disposal and for those concerned about air quality:
 - <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080221/NEWS01/903221834>
 - <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080219/NEWS01/315900173>
- **Wood as a source of energy independence** – Speaking of burning woody debris, wood is being looked at all over the nation as a potential source of renewable energy. Here is an article from Colorado:
<http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=101716>

Other Upcoming Events

- **Snohomish Conservation District Plant Sale:** This 23rd annual sale will be held March 7th and 8th at the Monroe Fairgrounds, from 10 am – 4:30 pm on Friday, and 10 am – 3 pm on Saturday. This popular sale includes conifers of all types, 2 year old transplants, deciduous trees, shrubs and small trees, evergreen shrubs, “whips” & erosion control, groundcovers, perennials and wildflowers. Erosion Control tips are given, as well as suggested plants for Hummingbirds, Shady Areas, Wet Areas, Sunny Dry Sites, Sunny Wet Sites, and Deer Resistant Plants. For more information visit <http://www.snohomishcd.org/plant-sale> or call 425-335-5634, ext. 4.
- **Christmas tree shortcourse scheduled for March 7th in Vancouver, WA:** The Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association will be holding a Christmas tree shortcourse at the Vancouver Hilton. This is a great opportunity for those interested in growing Christmas trees. Pre-registration deadline is February 29th. For details and registration information go to <http://www.nwtrees.com/shortcourse08.pdf>.
- **Weyerhaeuser seedling sale at Rochester Nursery:** Weyerhaeuser will be having a seedling sale at their Rochester nursery on Saturday March 15th from 8 AM to 12 PM. For more information visit <http://www.myseedlings.com> or call Janet Wendt at 800-732-4769, option 0.
- **Spring Forestry Education Seminar scheduled for March 29th in Olympia:** WSU Extension’s traditional “Fall Education Seminar” has now become the “Spring Education Seminar.” This year’s seminar will be held in Olympia and will be a facilitated workshop on succession planning using the new **Ties to the Land** curriculum from OSU. For more details and registration information visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestryevents.htm>
- **Upcoming Beach Watcher Training in Snohomish County:** Do you love beaches and Want to learn a ton? Join the WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers! Beach Watchers are university caliber-trained volunteers dedicated to protecting Puget Sound’s fragile environment through education, research and personal example. The annual 100-hour WSU Beach Watcher Training is being offered in Snohomish County March 17 – May 8, Mondays and Thursdays, 9AM – 3:30 PM in Marysville. The whole course includes expert presentations, field trips and hands-on practice on many topics including:
 - coastal processes;
 - marine organism identification,
 - marine birds,
 - public education,
 - scientific monitoring,

- salmon and forage fish,
- local natural resource condition.

In return, Beach Watchers continue learning while volunteering at least 100 hours over two years as citizen scientists, educators, restorationists and project planners. A few examples of WSU Beach Watchers projects are designing and launching a crab harvester education program, doing interpretation at public parks and monitoring beaches for rouge creosote logs, establishing baseline beach surveys and educating shoreline landowners. Class size is limited so there is an application process. You don't need to be an expert to participate – just be interested in Puget Sound issues and be willing and able to participate in projects after the training is over. For an application or more information, contact Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension / Snohomish County at (425) 357-6020 or chrys@wsu.edu.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.