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Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter – Large Print Edition

**August/September 2009
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The Puget Sound Forest Stewardship 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.

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Forester's Notes

This newsletter has been a long time coming. It has been over two months since I sent out the last installment. I am making up for that now with what amounts to a double-issue. I believe this is the longest newsletter I've written yet. While it is long, I think there is some particularly good information (and something for just about everyone) in this edition, so I hope you will be patient and take some time to scroll through all of the material below.

The reason for the long delay with the newsletter is that I took much of the summer off for family leave, as there have been multiple serious injuries, illnesses, and several deaths in the family happening simultaneously over the course of the past year (it is amazing what can happen all at once!). It was challenging to stay properly focused and organized while trying to complete all of the workshops during the year since these family issues began last fall (and I did drop the ball a few times in the process), so I was grateful for a chance to take much of the summer off so that my attention was not so divided. My thanks to all of you who were so patient with me over the summer when there were long delays in returning emails and phone calls and several site visits had to be rescheduled at the last minute.

There still may be longer than usual delays as some of these issues are still playing out (and I have quite a backlog to work through at this point), but I am grateful to be back at work full time again doing something I love, which is working with all of you and helping you get the most out of your forestland ownership experience.

Meanwhile, fall is arriving. Mornings are getting crisp, and the vine maples are starting to show off their glorious reds. With kids going back to school, it is the time of year that we think about education. We have a number of education offerings for you this fall, as do our partner agencies. I especially want to highlight the upcoming Coached Planning class and the Ties to the Land class. I believe these are the two most important workshops we offer – the ones I think are appropriate and valuable for *every* landowner. If you have not had a chance to experience either of these workshops, I hope you will give our fall offerings some consideration.

You will find much more to read about below, including new resources to check out, policy changes to be aware of, opportunities to support this program, and lots of stuff in the news.

As always, if you have forestry questions (or just want to visit and talk about trees), you know where to find me. I am always happy to consult by phone, email, or you can make an appointment to stop by in person – I'd love to visit with you.

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

Fall Coached Planning Class

Coached Planning returns this fall! We will be offering our flagship series again starting next month in the Issaquah/Preston area. **We are approximately 2/3 full so we still have room but space is limited.**

Coached Planning is by far our most popular class, and it is the one class that all forest owners should take. Over the course 10 practical, hands-on, indoor and outdoor sessions, you will learn the basics of forest stewardship, including ecology, silviculture, soils, wildlife, forest health, and more. You will spend time with the top forestry and natural resource experts from around the state, who will “coach” you in the preparation of your own customized forest stewardship plan. Your plan is your road map to getting the most out your forest ownership experience and may qualify you for significant tax savings and enrollment in other cost-saving programs. Whether you own 5, 50, or 500 acres of forest, if you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this course is for you.

The class will be Tuesday evenings September 22 – November 17th, 2009 at the Preston Community Center, 8625 310th Ave SE, Issaquah, WA. The cost per household is \$175 and includes all class materials and a site visit. For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Preston.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

Ties to the Land

Our forestry, agriculture, and family living programs are teaming up to offer the award-winning Ties to the Land estate/succession planning workshop again this year. This two-part class will be

held October 1st and 8th* from 6 – 9:30 PM at Hadley Hall (Arlington Boys and Girls Club) in Arlington. *It is never too early to develop a succession plan – planning the long-term future of your land is perhaps the single most important thing you can do as a land steward*, whether of forestland, farmland, or ranchland. Your land will outlast you, but you can take steps now to ensure that it has a positive future. “failing to plan is planning to fail.” This class will give you practical tools for communicating with family members, identifying goals and options, and putting together a team of professionals to help you. **New this year:** we will include a panel of local estate planning professionals for a Q&A discussion.

Registration for this workshop is open – for registration information visit

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/TTL2009.htm> or call 425-357-6017. **Registration deadline is September 25, 2009.**

Other WSU Extension Forestry Workshops

- **Restoration Planning Workshop** - Join us for a free two-part Restoration Planning Workshop **September 17th and 19th in Carnation**. Hear from experts on topics including controlling pesky weeds, planting the right plants and creating a plan of action. Visit local sites to see work in progress on properties similar to yours. For details or to register, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/restorationworkshop.htm> or call Ginny Ballard at 206-205-3171.
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle Survey Project** - USDA-APHIS and Washington State Department of Agriculture are collaborating with the Cascade Land Conservancy and other organizations on a pilot project to survey for trees with signs

of beetle damage that may be due to exotic invasive pests such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle. We are targeting Asian Longhorned Beetle specifically but we expect that will get us good information about other exotic woodboring insect pests. A packet of materials will be given to interested participants consisting of an information sheet with pictures of Asian Longhorned Beetle and the damage it causes in trees and instruction for the survey. Participants will be asked to locate 10 host trees of Asian Longhorned Beetle either on their property or anywhere else they may spend time, then take a minute or two to examine the trees for signs of beetle damage. There is a postage paid post card for the participants to fill out and mail back. No identifying information will be put on the post card, no names or addresses, only the address or location of the trees that are being observed. There will be a brief training session which will cover information such as host tree identification, how to look for beetle damage, how to record the information gathered and how to preserve and submit any specimens you might find, although handling of specimens is not required to participate in the survey. If you are interested in participating, training sessions will be held at the Snohomish County Extension building in Everett:

- 11 AM – 12 PM Sept. 8
- 7 PM – 8 PM Sept. 8
- 6 PM – 7 PM Sept. 15

If you are interested, contact Sharon Collman at 425-357-6025

Other WSU Extension Events (non-forestry)

WSU Extension offers a wide variety of programs beyond just forestry. Since you also likely have a wide variety of interests, you may be interested in one or more of the following upcoming Extension programs:

- **Garden Tools Workshops – September 15, 22, and 29 in Everett.** WSU Master Gardeners will share their tool tips and guide you through repair and sharpening techniques. For more information call 425-338-2400 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/garden/workshops/gardentools09.pdf>
- **Livestock Advisor Training begins September 9 in Burlington.** Anyone with an interest in livestock and the desire and enthusiasm to learn, and then share their knowledge with the community, can apply to become a certified WSU Extension Livestock Advisor. For more information visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/Agriculture/volunteer.htm> or call 360-428-4270.
- **Master Beekeeping Apprentice Level Course – Starts October 27 in Everett,** with subsequent offerings in Winter 2010. For information and registration visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/Ag/workshops/beekeeping10.pdf> or call 425-338-2400.
- **The Power of Process: Facilitation for Challenging Times – October 15, 16, 22, and 23 in Burlington.** Improve your skills in managing meetings, learn to lead groups through challenging situations, and design and lead processes for collaborative decision making. For more information call 360-428-4270 ext. 235 or visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/community/facilitation.htm>.
- **Rain Garden Workshop – September 23 in Everett.** Learn all about rain gardens, what they are, how to build your own and the benefits of having one in your own landscape. For more information call 425-338-2400 or visit

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/garden/workshops/RainGardenflyer0809.pdf>

- **Sustainable Small-Acreage Farming & Ranching course starts September 15th in Bothell.** Learn how smaller farms use the advantage of their size to grow and become profitable in this award-winning 12-week course. For more information visit <http://www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/SSAFR.htm> or call Drew Corbin at 425-357-6012.
- **Tools for Resourceful Living – A free fall workshop series in Seatac.** For information visit <http://www.king.wsu.edu/enviro/events.htm> or call 206-205-3184.
 - Productive Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces: Planning Raised Beds and Containers – September 9th
 - Local Food Year-Round: Simple Methods for Preserving Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – October 14th
 - Composting 101: Turning Waste into a Resource – November 4th

Upcoming Non-WSU Forestry Events of Interest

Note: the events below are not WSU or WSU Extension events. Some WSU Extension newsletters provide links to external sites for the convenience of users. These external sites are not managed by the WSU Extension. Furthermore, WSU Extension does not review, control or take responsibility for the content of these sites, nor do these sites implicitly or explicitly represent official positions and policies of WSU Extension.

- **Invasive Plant Removal and Tree Planting Volunteer Opportunity: September 18th in Arlington.** Join the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force as they work to improve salmon habitat along Whitehorse Creek by

removing Himalayan blackberry and planting native species. No training is required, and this is a great opportunity to practice removing blackberries and restoring areas for future projects on your own land while also giving to the community. For details visit <http://www.stillysnofish.org> or call Claire Atkins-Davis at 425-252-6686.

- **Best Management Practices for Maintaining Soil Productivity in the Douglas-fir Region: September 22nd in Shelton.** Sponsored by the Northwest Forest Soils Council and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association. For information visit <http://www.westernforestry.org> or call 888-722-9416.
- **Measuring Western Forests for Carbon Credits: September 26th in Chehalis.** Woodlands Carbon will be presenting this workshop for forest owners interested in income from carbon credits. Topics will include the differences between various voluntary markets available to forest owners; the new standards of carbon inventory needed to sell on the Chicago Climate Exchange via Woodlands Carbon; about assistance funds for use in completing carbon inventories. For more information visit <http://www.watreefarm.org/CarbonWorkshop.pdf> or call 503-588-8356.
- **Game of Logging: ATV & Tractor Small-scale Yarding Course: September 26th in Oakville.** NW Certified Forestry is sponsoring this training workshop. The course emphasizes efficiency and technique that will markedly improve productivity, help to reduce chainsaw-related accidents, and increase overall safety awareness. The program is appropriate for a wide range of saw users and skill levels, from novice to expert. This two-day program will primarily focus on felling 12" - 20" doug-fir in a dense, overstocked

stand, and time will also be spent in a 20"+ alder stand. For details and registration information contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.

- **Game of Logging: Precision Tree Felling Course: September 28th and 29th in Oakville.** NW Certified Forestry has opened up a second offering of the September tree felling course. for woodland owners and workers who want to extract trees from their property safely and without the use of expensive professional logging equipment. With the use of an ATV, small tractor, arch, and other low-cost equipment, logs can be extracted in a low impact manner, with minimal damage to residual trees, understory vegetation and soils. For details and registration information contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.
- **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition Field Day: October 10th in Leavenworth.** This hands-on field day will focus on fuels reduction and other fire prevention topics. For details visit <http://www.chumstickcoalition.org> or call Ross Frank at 509-548-4512.
- **Understanding and Managing Tree Growth Workshop: October 31st in Chehalis.** The Washington Tree Farm Program is sponsoring this workshop, with topics including tree physiology, tree growth at different spacing, wood quality, and management effects on productivity and sustainability. For details and registration information visit <http://www.watreefarm.org/ForestrySeminar.pdf> or call Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147.
- **Streamkeeper Academy Events:** The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation (located behind the WSU Extension building) in cooperation with Snohomish County Parks will be offering a number of wildlife-related educational workshops this fall,

with topics including cougars, wetland insects, urban wildlife, eagles, bats, plant pressing, and more. For dates, details, and registration information visit <http://www.streamkeeper.org/opportun/calendar.htm> or call 425-316-8592.

Forest Owners Field Day Recap

The Forest Owners Field Day on July 31st – August 1st in Skagit County was a huge success. The weather was excellent – two beautiful days that weren't too hot. The turnout was also excellent – I am estimating that about 500 people attended over the course of the two-day event. There were 70 total sessions covering 28 different topics. I heard nothing but positive feedback from the participants, speakers, and volunteers.

My sincere thanks to all the DNR staff, my WSU colleagues, the WFFA volunteers, and all of the generous financial supporters that made this event possible. I also want to thank the elected officials who lent their support to this event. Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen was in attendance, and State Representative Dan Kristiansen from the 39th District provided a wonderful statement for participants (you can read a copy of Rep. Kristiansen's statement at

http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/Kristiansen_FieldDay.pdf)

The Field Day made the front page of the Skagit Valley Herald – you can read the article

http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/field_days_educate_landowners_with_forested_property/ Also, I was busy taking photos for much of the field day – I've posted all of those on Flickr and you can see them at:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_stewardship/sets/72157622072162236/

If you missed this year's Field Day, don't worry – we are already thinking about next summer. It will be Central Puget Sound's "turn" this time. Look for announcements in early 2010.

Updated Puget Sound Forest Stewardship Quick Reference Guide

This quick reference guide is your "cheat sheet" of key contacts and websites for family forest owners in the Puget Sound area, and suggestions of whom to call for what issue. This updated version reflects the changing resources that are available following the DNR and other state and county budget cuts. You can download the updated resource guide at

http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/FS_QuickRef.pdf

Virtual Cruiser Vest: Online Learning Module for Forest Inventory

WSU Extension has teamed up again with RTI and the National Learning Center for Private Forest and Range Owners to create another web-based learning module for forest owners, this time on forest inventory. This project has been in the works for several years, and many of you have patiently awaited its completion.

I am pleased to announce that a fully-functional draft is complete and now posted. You can access the module at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/projects.htm>. While it is technically in draft stage because it is still in review and we may be making some changes/updates, you are free to try it out. I hope some of you will try it out and send me your feedback so that we

have some review input from landowner perspectives (as opposed to purely academic perspectives).

The Virtual Cruiser Vest module teaches the basic principles of taking a forest inventory and measuring trees. Learn at your own pace over the course of ten lessons, which include video clips, diagrams, and exercises to help you get started. Things you will learn include how to identify individual stands on your property, the basics of plot sampling, how to establish an inventory plot, and how to measure individual trees. There are also optional lessons on how to work with your inventory data in a computer program called the Landscape Management System (LMS).

I believe that an inventory is a cornerstone of forest stewardship planning and ensures that your forest is healthy, productive, and meets your objectives as a landowner for years to come. After all, in order to assess the needs of your forest and plan for the future, you have to know what you have! A forest inventory will help you quantify what you have and identify needs and opportunities for forest health, wildlife habitat, timber production, aesthetics, and carbon storage.

Inventory relative to carbon storage is being talked about more and more, as a good forest inventory will be necessary to apply for carbon credits (see the non-WSU workshop listings above for a forest carbon/inventory workshop coming up in Chehalis on September 26th). The summer issue of *Northwest Woodlands* also featured forest inventory, and I highly recommend reading it: <http://www.oswa.org/NWW-Summer2009.pdf>

Support the Forest Stewardship Program

If you have been following along with this newsletter, you know that much of the focus for almost a year has been on budget cuts.

The cuts were implemented July 1st, and now the dust is settling and we are figuring out how to operate with new constraints. Funds that supported basic operational tasks, such as printing and postage, are now severely restricted or gone altogether.

The drying up of public funds means that we are increasingly relying on donations from program users and supporters to fill some of the gaps in basic operations, support special projects (like developing new Extension Bulletins and web resources), and also to start building scholarship funds as more people are struggling to come up with workshop fees (which are rising because we can no longer subsidize certain costs).

If you have benefitted from this program and the many free services it provides (consultations, site visits, web resources, Extension Bulletins, newsletters, etc.), or if you would like to help someone attend one of our workshops (like Coached Planning) by supporting our scholarship fund, please consider making a donation to the WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship Program. We welcome gifts of any size, whether it be \$5 for a book of stamps, \$50 to provide a partial scholarship to someone, or something greater or in between.

To make a gift, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestrygiving.htm> for links and instructions. You can give online, or send a gift by mail. All gifts are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by the university. For those of you who already give to WSU, you can designate those gifts be used to support the Forest Stewardship Program. And to my fellow Husky fans who can't imagine donating to that "other" university – just remember that your Extension Forester is himself a product of the UW School of Forest Resources and works hard to use the Extension model as a conduit to bring you the latest research and expertise not only from Pullman but also from our close partners in Seattle.

Forestry in the News

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- The NRCS Conservation Showcase featured former Northwest WA DNR Stewardship Forester John Keller's family tree farm: <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/news/Showcases/showcase34.html>.
- *The Seattle Times* reports on cooperative efforts between environmentalists and loggers to protect private forests in Western WA from development: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009588406_forest03m.html.
- *The Seattle Times* ran an editorial by Brian Boyle (UW School of Forest Resources and former WA State Lands Commissioner) about conserving working forests in Washington: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2009664868_guest17boyle.html.
- *The Olympian* reports on problems facing the DNR and new lands commissioner Peter Goldmark: <http://www.theolympian.com/environment/story/945086.html>.
- *The Daily Herald* (Everett) reports on the forestry vision of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090815/NEWS03/708159905>

- *The Daily Herald* (Everett) reports on the importance of a local tree farm to recreation users:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090810/NEWS01/708109884>
- The *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* reports on King County's achievement of FSC certification for Island Center Forest:
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/vashon/vib/news/54803427.html>
- *The Seattle Times* featured a forest management experiment in southwest WA to try to restore more old-growth function:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009525854_apwaoldgrowthexperiment1stldwritethru.html. (Kevin's note – the concepts here have similarities to research I was involved in at UW several years ago:
<http://www.ruraltech.org/pubs/working/ncssf/index.asp>, and also some more recent UW research:
<http://www.ruraltech.org/pubs/working/10/index.asp>.)
- *The Seattle Times* reports on plans to tighten tree-cutting rules in the City of Seattle:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009593793_trees04m.html
- The *Skagit Valley Herald* reports on efforts to have Illabot Creek designated as a wild and scenic river:
http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/saving_a_creek_for_the_fish/

- The *Skagit Valley Herald* reports on concerns by agriculture and forestry interests over Skagit County planning code changes:
[http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/forest and agriculture groups claim to be kept in dark on code changes/](http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/forest_and_agriculture_groups_claim_to_be_kept_in_dark_on_code_changes/).
- *The Olympian* reports on an agreement between Port Blakely Tree Farms federal and state agencies regarding timber harvest and endangered species protection:
<http://www.theolympian.com/southsound/story/904422.html>.
- *Reuters* reports that Seattle Steam will begin utilizing woody biomass:
<http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=106481>.
- Speaking of woody biomass, *The Seattle Times* reports on the potential for Washington forests to contribute to green energy:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009701511_apwawoodtoenergy.html. This is based on a recent report by RTI:
[http://www.ruraltech.org/pubs/reports/2009/wood to energy/index.asp](http://www.ruraltech.org/pubs/reports/2009/wood_to_energy/index.asp)
- *The Washington Post* ran a story on the nationwide issue of those in the forestry sector who are out of work:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/12/AR2009081203423.html>.
- The *Leavenworth Echo* ran an article about the importance of having defensible space around your home:
<http://www.leavenworthecho.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=2486&SectionID=21&SubSectionID=95&S=1>

- And finally, the LA Times ran a tribute to our favorite bear, Smokey:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-smokeybear24-2009jul24,0,7259761.story>

Fall Forest Activities for Families

Fall is a great time to be out in the woods, and it's an especially great time to be out in the woods with kids. Here are some activities you can do outside with your kids:

<http://treefarmssystem.org/familyactivities/> I especially recommend the "Signs of Fall" activity for this time of year. I encourage you to spend some time out in woods this fall with the young people in your life. I can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon, and you will be building life-long memories and strong family connections to your land.

Time to Order Seedlings

It is already time to start thinking about next year's planting season. On September 1st, the DNR's Webster Nursery began taking orders for next year. For information on ordering, call 1-877-890-2626 or visit

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/HowTo/LandownersIndustryContractors/Pages/lm_seedling_order.aspx

Similarly, it is time to start reserving your native plants and trees from the WACD Plant Materials Center up in Bow. For information and availability, call 360-757-1094 or visit

<http://www.wadistricts.org/plant-materials-center/how-to-order-plants.html>

Cost Share Opportunities

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began accepting sign-ups for the revamped Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in early August, with the first sign-up period cutoff on September 30, 2009. **Forest landowners are eligible for this program.**

From the NRCS press release: “CSP encourages agricultural and **forestry** producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations... Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie, improved pastureland, rangeland, **non-industrial private forestland—a new land use for the program.**”

For more information, visit

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html or contact your local NRCS office (a list of local NRCS contacts is included in the Forest Stewardship Quick Reference Guide at http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/FS_QuickRef.pdf)

Also, I recently came across a website that lists by state the different cost share and financial incentive programs available for family forest owners:

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/econ/data/forestincentives/>

Policy Update

The Washington Forest Practices Board is expanding the riparian buffer requirements, including additional leave trees and wider buffers. I am not sure yet what the specifics are or when the new requirements will take effect, but I will keep you posted as I learn details. The press release from DNR is available at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/News/Pages/nr09_139.as

[px](#). The phone number for the forest practices board is 360-902-1400, and you may also be able to get information by contacting the forest practices folks at your local DNR regional office (a list of DNR regional office contacts is included in the Forest Stewardship Quick Reference Guide at http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/FS_QuickRef.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.