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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.

In this issue:

- Future Forest Stewardship Classes
- Other Upcoming Events
- Forestry in the News
- Recent Publications of Interest
- Tree Farm Program Update
- Forest Landowner Survey Results
- Rising Pulp Markets
- Restoration Opportunities for Forest Landowners

Future Forest Stewardship Classes

Between the recent news articles and audits being done by county assessors, the most frequently asked question recently is when the next forest stewardship class will be offered. The next regular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class will be Tuesday evenings February 24 – April 21st, 2009 at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. Watch for details and registration information this fall. There will also be a second class offered in the fall of 2009, but the dates and location are still to be determined.

There will also be an advanced Coached Planning class coming up this fall from September 23rd – October 28th, 2008, also at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. This 6-week advanced class will include Tuesday and Wednesday evening sessions and a Saturday field day. Topics will include advanced forest health (with emphasis on abiotic disturbances such as fire and wind), advanced wildlife, advanced silviculture, managing a timber sale, controlling invasive species, forest inventory, using the Landscape Management System, and ethnobotany (cultural uses of forest resources), forest finance and taxes, and forest safety and security. Watch for details, including costs and registration information, this summer. Note that this advanced class is ONLY available to folks who have already completed the regular Coached Planning class.

For questions about either class, please contact me at kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Game of Logging Courses offered in Oakville (starts this week!!).** Back by popular demand, Northwest Certified Forestry is hosting The Game of Logging training for the fourth spring in a row. This year the popular Level 1&2 chainsaw safety and precision tree felling course will be offered, plus a new course on small-scale, low-impact log yarding using an ATV or small tractor. The courses will take place from May 22nd through 24th at High Grove Forest and Wild Thyme Farm in Oakville, WA. The first two days will cover the Level 1&2 chainsaw safety and precision tree felling course, while the third day will be dedicated to the low-impact logging course. Participants can choose to take both courses, or just one. For more information visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/5-22-24-game-of-logging-levels-1-2-and-gentle-logging/> or call 360-379-9421 x 1.
- **Plastics Recycling Event coming to Stanwood and Monroe.** This popular event is being offered again the last weekend in May. You can recycle your dry, relatively clean baling twine, nursery pots and trays, and hay bale covers to these free collection events:
 - **Saturday, May 31, 2008, 10 AM - 3 PM,** at the Skagit Farmers Supply, 8815 272nd St in **Stanwood**
 - **Sunday, June 1, 2008, 10 AM - 3 PM** at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE in **Monroe**.

For more information visit

http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/County_Services/Focus_on_Farming/

- **Upcoming conference: Timberland and Neighbors: Sooner or Later There Will be Issues.** This conference has two sessions, the first on **June 6th** in Grand Mound, WA and the second on **September 23rd** in Cottage Grove, OR. The conference will cover issues such as easements, rights-of-way, access, trespass, and others. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.westernforestry.org/timberlandandneighbors/timberlandandneighbors.htm> or call 888-722-9416.
- **King County “Twilight Tours” offered in June.** Those of you in the King County area may be interested in these free evening field tours highlighting opportunities for cost-share assistance. The scheduled tours include Reforestation, Conifer Release, and Site Maintenance (June 3rd in the Enumclaw area); Fish Habitat Enhancement (June 10th in the Snoqualmie area); and Timber Stand Improvement (June 17th in the Auburn-Black Diamond area). RSVP is required. For details visit <http://king.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/June08costsharetourspromo.pdf> or contact Amy Grotta at amy.grotta@kingcounty.gov or 206-205-3132.
- **How to Inventory & Monitor Small Woodlands.** This two-day Intensive Training Course for Small Forest Landowners will be offered June 14th and 15th at Northwest Trek in Eatonville. Participants of this two-day intensive course will learn how to use basic forestry tools and data collection methods to create an inventory of their forest resources and implement a monitoring program. A special segment will also address how to monitor carbon dynamics in the forest and prepare for emerging carbon offset markets. For more information visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/6-14-15-inventorying-monitoring-small-woodlands/> or call Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.
- **Dates have been set for the 2008 Forest Owner Field Days:**
 - The Blue Mountain Forest and Range Owners Field Day will be held **Saturday, June 14th in Dayton, WA.**
 - The Western WA Forest Owners Field Day will be held Saturday, **August 23rd in Naselle, WA.**

More details will follow as they become available.

Forestry in the News

Forestry has been in the news a lot this month, both locally and internationally. Here are a few highlights:

- The Everett Herald reports on WSU's proposal to eliminate forestry as an undergraduate major:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080428/NEWS03/494211838&SearchID=73317756034301>
- Meanwhile, the Seattle Times reports on a UW plan to merge the College of Forest Resources along with other programs into a new College of the Environment:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004415558_uwenvironm ent15m.html
- The Seattle Times also reports on the driving factor behind these proposed changes to forestry education in Washington, which is declining student enrollments:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/education/2004379853_forestry29m.html
- Snohomish County is home to a new Wilderness Area as the Wild Sky bill was signed into law. Read two articles about the Wild Sky Wilderness Area from the Everett Herald:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080508/NEWS01/858455640&SearchID=73317756132177> and
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080509/NEWS01/107999686&SearchID=73317756199038>
- Meanwhile, the Seattle Times reports on other forest land use changes happening in Snohomish County, as the state has purchased approximately 1,000 acres of private forestland at risk of development:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004399976_bearcreek08 m.html
- Further efforts to preserve local forestland are reported in the Seattle PI, as Boeing and Weyerhaeuser make donations to the Cascade Land Conservancy: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/361281_cascade01.html
- An article in the Victoria Times Colonist talks about the ramifications of decreased sawmill production—a shortage of sawdust and other residuals:
<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/business/story.html?id=e02a300e-5585-4601-8248-439fc305765c>

- The Vancouver Sun reports on U.S. legislation that would further restrict lumber imports from Canada:
<http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/business/story.html?id=526cce35-5d40-4443-b128-103ebb84d5cf>
- The UK Telegraph reports that the worlds oldest tree has been discovered in Sweden—a 9,500-year-old spruce. That’s a lot of rings to count!
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2008/04/17/eatree117.xml>

Recent Publications of Interest:

- WSU Extension has released a new Extension Bulletin titled “Keeping Your Forest Soils Healthy and Productive” by Ole Helgerson and Richard Miller. This new, 40-page, illustrated bulletin, written for Washington forest landowners, includes background on the fundamentals of good forest soil stewardship to maintain productive forests, including forest soil development and characteristics (e.g., nutrients, texture, organic matter), fire effects, management practices that enhance soil and water quality, and how to obtain and use USDA soil survey data. You can download a free PDF copy at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2019/eb2019.pdf> or purchase a printed copy for \$6.00 at <http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/EB2019.html> or by contacting WSU Extension Publishing at 800-723-1763.
- The Spring issue of Northwest Woodlands featured an excellent article on Silviculture by DNR Stewardship Forester John Keller. This article is available online at <http://www.oswa.org/NWW-Spring2008.pdf>
- Dovetail Partners has produced a report calling for more inclusive carbon credits when it comes to carbon stored in wood products:
<http://www.dovetailinc.org/reports/pdf/DovetailCarbon0408hz.pdf>

EQIP Deadline

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a July 15 cutoff for EQIP applications. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary, cost-share assistance program that helps fund conservation practices for both farmers and forest landowners. On forest land, funding has helped landowners to maintain roads, provide wildlife habitat, improve fish passage, and several other management practices. In most instances, producers who participate in the program pay for roughly half of the costs of the conservation measures or

practices. In 2006 and 2007, Washington agricultural producers qualified for more than \$30 million in financial assistance through the program, according to the NRCS.

The new application ranking cut-off date represents an on-going agency effort to provide landowners and conservation planners additional time to develop more comprehensive conservation plans for implementing the various practices and activities funded through the program. Landowners can apply for EQIP at any time, but to be considered for fiscal year 2009 funding, they need to have their applications complete by July 15. A list of local NRCS offices can be found at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/CountyMap&state=WA&stateName=Washington&stateCode=53>.

You can also call me at 425-357-6017 and I can provide you with additional literature on EQIP and connect you with your local NRCS office.

Tree Farm Program Update

At the Washington Farm Forestry Association's annual meeting in Mount Vernon in April, the Hama Hama Tree Farm in Mason County was named the 2008 Washington Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year. Congratulations to Dave Robbins and his family, managers of this tree farm that also played host to last year's Western Washington Family Forest Field Day.

Also awarded was the 2008 Washington Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, which was none other than Northwest Washington's own DNR Stewardship Forester, John Keller. Congratulations John!

If you own 10 or more forested acres and are interested in becoming a Certified Family Forest through this FREE program, please contact me at kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017.

Forest Landowner Survey Results

Many of you were introduced to the Forest Stewardship Program and this newsletter through a survey that was conducted last fall. With over 1,000 responses (36% response rate) from Snohomish and Skagit County forest owners, we have developed a very robust dataset of forest landowner values and interests that is helping us improve our program content and delivery. If you are interested in the results of this survey and how the data is being used, there is a new streaming video presentation available at http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2008/WSU_Ext/Zobrist_20080331/Default.htm#autostart=0&nopreload=1&profile=0

Rising Pulp Markets

The housing market downturn has meant bad news for lumber markets, resulting in decreased sawmill production. This has in turn decreased the supply of residual chips used by pulp and paper mills, causing a significant increase in the price of roundwood pulp logs. This may create economic opportunities for landowners who are interested in pursuing small-diameter thinning projects. If you are thinking about doing a pre-commercial or early commercial thin in the near future, it may be worth contacting a professional consulting forester to see if there are market opportunities for your small diameter wood. If you need contact information for local consulting foresters, you can contact me at kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017.

Restoration Opportunities for Forest Landowners

Is your property adjacent to a stream or river? Do you have restoration needs or invasive species problems? If so, there may be organizations and volunteer groups available to do restoration work on your property at no cost to you. There is often funding and manpower available for this sort of work, but it is difficult to identify willing landowners with restoration needs. If you are interested, contact me (kzobrist@wsu.edu or 425-357-6017) and I will try to connect you with the appropriate resources.

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