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Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter – Large Print Edition

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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.

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New Forest Stewardship Website Unveiled

Those of you who have visited the Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forest Stewardship website recently may have noticed that it has a new look. We also have a lot of new content up as well. There is still some “virtual construction dust” as the resources page (which will be the largest part of the new site) is still under construction, but the rest of the site is open for business! Check it out at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>.

Cost-Share Funding Deadlines Fast Approaching

Application deadlines for some key cost-share programs are coming up in the next few weeks:

- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** - WHIP is a national program administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) that provides technical and financial assistance to non-federal landowners and tribes for developing, restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Last year, Washington’s landowners qualified for nearly \$600,000 in cost-share assistance through the program. This years emphasis for WHIP funds in Washington will be land where fish and wildlife habitat has been affected by agricultural activities, urban development or invasive species. Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office. For the location of your local NRCS office, visit the NRCS website at <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov> or call 509-323-2900. (Note: the phone number is 425-334-2828 for the Snohomish

County office and 360-428-7684 for the Skagit County office). **Application Deadline: June 27th.**

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)** – This program is administered by the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) in the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The program helps Washington's small forest landowners with the repair, removal, or correction of barriers associated with stream crossings on their land. As a state standard, stream crossings must be free of barriers that prevent fish from being able to swim upstream to additional habitat during certain seasons of the year. A fish barrier is a structure in a stream, such as a small culvert under a forest road. Under the FFFPP, the state provides 75 to 100 percent of the cost of removing and correcting barriers. For more information about this program visit http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_fffpp.aspx or call the SFLO at 360-902-1849. **Application Deadline: June 30th.**
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - EQIP is another national program administered by NRCS. This voluntary, cost-share assistance program 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 such as thinning, pruning and planting. Management activities that you are planning to do anyway may qualify for this program, and several recent Coached Planning participants have been awarded EQIP

funds. As with WHIP, Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office. For the location of your local NRCS office, visit the NRCS website at <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov> or call 509-323-2900. (Note: the phone number is 425-334-2828 for the Snohomish County office and 360-428-7684 for the Skagit County office). **Application Deadline: July 15th.**

Upcoming 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 in the Northwest Washington area 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.
- For landowners further south in the King County area, there will be a class on Mercer Island on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 17th through Nov. 5th. For more information contact Amy Grotta at 206-205-3132 or Amy.Grotta@kingcounty.gov.
- There will also be a first ever **Advanced Coached Planning class** coming up this fall from September 23rd – October 28th, 2008, 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, forest finance, taxes, and more. Watch for details, including costs and registration information, to be announced soon. Note that this advanced class is **ONLY** available to folks who have already completed the regular Coached Planning class.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Natural Resources Field Day for Kids and Families** - Washington State University Snohomish County Extension, in partnership with the Snohomish County Parks Department, Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, and the Stillaguamish Tribe, is hosting a Natural Resources Field Day for kids and their parents to learn about exploring, enjoying, and protecting natural resources for future generations. Kids will have the opportunity to visit different stations to learn about forest ecology, watersheds, bugs, native plants, and how to be a Junior Stream-Keeper. Each resource station will allow kids to learn about specific natural resources in a fun, hands-on way. This free event is open to kids of all ages and their families. It will be held from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16th at McCollum Park, 600 - 128th St SE** in south Everett. For additional details and

registration information, contact Gabrielle Roesch at (425) 357-6011 or gabrielle90@wsu.edu.

- **2008 Western WA Forest Owner Field Day** – This year's Field Day will be held Saturday, **August 23rd in Naselle, WA**. More details will follow as they become available.

Forestry in the News

- The Seattle Times reports on broad impacts of development on Puget Sound area forests and streams:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004405985_growth_stormwater20m0.html
- The Seattle Times also reports on the controversy over developing a specific local, urban forest:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004442304_citytrees28m.html
- The Seattle Times reports on the state Department of Natural Resources' recent achievement of FSC Certification on 145,000 acres of state forestland:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004433574_trees23m.html
- Some news out of Oregon State University on the implications of the changing ownership of industrial timberlands:
<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ncs/newsarch/2008/May08/timber.html>

- As a result of these changes in industrial forest ownerships, Weyerhaeuser is the nation's last major integrated timber company. There are policy efforts underway to create tax breaks to help the company remain as such:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businesstechnology/2004442259_weyco28.html
- Another article, this one from the Columbian, on the tax incentives aimed at encouraging integrated forest products companies:
http://www.columbian.com/business/businessNews/2008/06/06102008_Washington-View-New-tax-law-gives-timber-owners-a-chance.cfm
- The Everett Herald reports on declining log exports at the Port of Everett:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080609/BIZ/632723491&SearchID=73320261425310>
- The University of Idaho has a good article on forests and carbon:
http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/extforest/Woodland%20NOTES.htm#Forests_and_Carbon

Seedlings Available (Cheap!) From DNR

The Department of Natural Resources office in Sedro Woolley has extra Douglas-fir seedlings left over from this spring's planting season in the cooler that are looking for a home. They are offering these 1-1 seedlings for \$0.40 each or \$0.34 each for a purchase 1,000 or more. The trees are suitable for 0

– 2,000 foot elevations on the west slopes of the Cascades north of King County. If you are interested, contact Chris Hankey (360-854-2811 or Chris.hankey@dnr.wa.gov) or Joy Fleenor (360-856-3500) ASAP before they have to pull the plug on the cooler for the year!

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