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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:

- Upcoming Forest Stewardship Classes
- Other Upcoming Events
- Natural Resources Youth Field Day a Success
- Forestry in the News
- NRCS Landowner Survey

Upcoming Forest Stewardship Classes

We have several forest stewardship classes happening this fall:

- **Registration is now open for the first ever Advanced Coached Planning class**, scheduled Tuesday evenings, September 23rd – October 28th, 2008, at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. This 6-week advanced class will include Tuesday evening class sessions, 3 optional Wednesday evening computer lab sessions, and a Saturday field day. Topics will include advanced forest health, advanced wildlife, advanced silviculture, managing a timber sale, controlling invasive species, forest inventory, using the Landscape Management System, forest finance, taxes, and more. Cost is \$100 per household/ownership. For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/advancedCP08.htm> or call 425-357-6017. Note that this advanced class is **ONLY** available to folks who have

already completed the regular Coached Planning class and is **limited to the first 15 ownerships**.

- **Registration is also open for the next regular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class in the Northwest Washington area.** The class will be Tuesday evenings February 24 – April 21st, 2009 at the Snohomish County Extension building in South Everett. For details and registration information, visit. This 10-session practical, hands-on course will enable forest landowners to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. Open to all, this program is designed to help forest landowners develop customized management solutions to meet their own unique ownership objectives. 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 cost per household/ownership is \$150 before February 1st, and \$175 after February 1st. Enrollment is **limited to the first 30 ownerships**. For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Everett.htm> or call 425-357-6017.
- There will also be a second Coached Planning class offered in the fall of 2009 in either Snohomish or Skagit County, but the specific dates and location are still to be determined.
- For landowners further south in the King County area, there will be a Coached Planning 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.
- Save the dates for the **Fall Education Series in October**, featuring two workshops for family forest owners:
 - **October 6th – Forestland Security Workshop.** We will have forest security experts from the Washington Department of Agriculture and the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office speaking about how to address and prevent security issues such as illegal dumping, meth labs, timber theft, trespass, and other issues of concern.
 - **October 20th – Fire Workshop.** We will have fire experts from the US Forest Service and the WA Department of Natural Resources speaking about fire ecology and how you can protect your home and your forest from wildland fire.

Both workshops will be held at the Snohomish County Extension Building in Everett. The workshops will be open to everyone and you can register for one workshop or get a discounted rate by registering for both. Stay tuned for additional details, including costs and registration information, which will be available soon.

Other Upcoming Events

- **2008 Western WA Forest Owner Field Day** – This year's Field Day will be held Saturday, **August 23rd in Naselle, WA**. For details and registration information, visit <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship/events.htm> or call Andy Perleberg at (509) 667-6658.
- **Sustaining Living Rivers: The Role of Biological Monitoring**. The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation is hosting this workshop, featuring premier stream ecologist Dr. James Karr from the University of Washington. He will provide you with a thorough introduction to the use of underwater insects as a biological monitoring tool. At the end of this event, you will understand how to gather field samples and evaluate the biological health of your stream -- a very valuable tool! This workshop costs \$50 and will be held 8:30-4:30 on **Friday, August 15th** at the NW Stream Center at McCollum Park in Everett (right behind the Snohomish County Extension building). For details and registration information call 425-316-8592 or email aasf@streamkeeper.org.
- **The Game of Logging: Precision Tree Falling Course** - Northwest Certified Forestry invites you to attend The Game of Logging, Soren Eriksson's world famous course on safe, efficient, and precise tree removal. Based around the concept of 'open face felling', this course will change your approach to working in the woods. This two-day program will focus on falling alder. As a hardwood, alder has a much different wood quality than Douglas-fir or other softwoods. Alder's growth habitat also can lead to unique challenges for falling trees. The course will be held **September 18th and 19th in Oakville, WA**. For details visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/game-of-logging/> or call Shelley French at 360-379-9421
- **The Game of Logging: Small-scale Yarding Course** - This training program is 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, or something that can pull a tree behind, the wood can be pulled out in a low impact manner, with little or no residual damage to the property. The course will be held **September 20th in Oakville, WA**. For details visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/9-20-game-of-logging-small-scale-yarding/> or call Shelley French at 360-379-9421

Natural Resources Youth Field Day A Success

On July 16th, dozens of school-age youth and their parents visited McCollum Park to learn about exploring, enjoying, and protecting natural resources. The field day

was sponsored by Washington State University Snohomish County Extension, in partnership with the Snohomish County Parks Department, Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, and the Stillaguamish Tribe. The kids had the opportunity to visit different stations and learn about forest stewardship, watersheds, bugs, native plants, and salmon. This was a rare opportunity for many of the kids to have a hands-on learning experience about forests and the natural world. The kids had a great time learning about how to be natural resource stewards (and getting dirty, too!).

Forestry in the News

A lot of interesting forestry-related news this month:

- Capitol Press reports on a new working group that has been established as part of a lawsuit settlement that brings industry, small forest landowners, and conservationists together to work toward solutions to spotted owl issues on private lands:
<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=618&ArticleID=42854&TM=13958.92>
- The Everett Herald reports that there are a number of fish barriers that need to be addressed in Snohomish County:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080629/NEWS01/790304974&SearchID=73322682375631>
- Here's another Herald article that many of you may relate to, detailing a local family's long fight to eradicate invasive blackberries on their property:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080703/LIVING03/877424264&SearchID=73322682497180>
- KOMO News reports on an appeals court ruling that judges should not act as scientists when dealing with Forest Service disputes:
<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/23095519.html>
- Here's another article on that same ruling from the Oregonian:
<http://www.oregonlive.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/121514735090910.xml&coll=7>
- An article in Wildfire Magazine, co-written by Coached Planning alumni Roger and Kathy Mitchell, talks about the partnership between Chuckanut Ridge area landowners and the DNR Forest Stewardship Program to reduce wildfire risks: http://wildfiremag.com/pub-ed/perfect_partners_0501/
- Speaking of the DNR Forest Stewardship Program, the Sedro Woolley Courier Times ran a nice article about the DNR NW Region's own John Keller earning statewide recognition as Tree Farm Inspector of the year.

Congratulations, John! (and you'll never guess who took the photo of John talking to a tree...)

http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/sedro_woolley_forester_earns_statewide_recognition/

- It seems a poor tree can sometimes find itself in the middle of controversy, such as this Douglas-fir near Alki Beach that the Seattle Times reports on: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008043226_tree10m.html
- Speaking of controversy, the Skagit Valley Herald reports on more legal wrangling regarding the DNR's Blanchard Mountain Plan: http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/judge_orders_full_eis_for_blanchard_mountain_plan/
- An article from the Globe and Mail (Canada) about the role of forests and wood products in addressing climate change: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/Page/document/v5/content/subscribe?user_URL=http://www.theglobeandmail.com%2Fservlet%2Fstory%2FLAC.20080708.BCFORESTRY08%2FTPStory%2FNational&ord=58830771&brand=theglobeandmail&force_login=true
- As most of you are aware, there are some significant wildfires burning in Washington right now. Snohomish County firefighters are helping with the firefighting efforts: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080712/NEWS01/660320145&SearchID=73323852343469>
- Snohomish County firefighters are also helping with the firefighting efforts in California: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20071024/NEWS01/71024006&SearchID=73323852371641>
- The Everett Herald reports on a local family that has sold their tree farm to the DNR in order to protect it from development and maintain it as a working forest: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080712/NEWS01/667315824&SearchID=73323852448626>
- The Skagit Valley Herald reports on a burn ban that has taken effect in Skagit County. The burn ban applies to other areas as well, including unincorporated Snohomish County, so check with local officials before you burn: http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/outdoor_burning_ban_takes_effect_tuesday/

- Speaking of burn bans, the Everett Herald reports on a new permanent ban on burning slash to make way for development. A permanent ban on burning residential yard debris may also be reconsidered in the near future: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080630/NEWS01/350046094&SearchID=73323956683419>
- This is an interesting article from the Oregonian about the impact on rural counties from the loss of federal timber payments. While places like Snohomish County do not rely heavily on these funds for critical services like the Oregon county examples, the loss of these funds do have a local impact for us as well, as several programs, including the WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program, have been funded by these payments: <http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1215827707265720.xml&coll=7&thispage=1>
- USA Today reports on the growing bark beetle epidemic in the inland west: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2008-07-15-beetle-threat_N.htm?csp=34
- Finally, an interesting article from Reuters about Israeli researchers growing a tree from a 2,000-year-old date seed: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSL12315791>

NRCS Landowner Survey

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted an opinion survey of family forest owners in Washington. The survey is intended to help them better communicate with landowners and to deliver services regarding programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The survey is very brief and will only take a couple of minutes to complete. To participate, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=pyiC6o4of1GG7TNU530hNg_3d_3d

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