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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:

- Fall Education Series
- Advanced Forest Stewardship Class
- Next Regular Forest Stewardship Class
- Other Upcoming Events
- Forestry in the News
- Skagit County Forestry Update
- Forestry and Climate Change Video
- Backyard Wildlife

Fall Education Series

Registration is now open for the fall education series. In this series we are featuring two different workshops that will give you practical steps to protect your forested property from two major threats: crime and wildfire. Both workshops will be held 6 – 9 PM at the Snohomish County Extension facility in South Everett. Registration information is available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/FallEd08.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

- **Safety and Security for Forest Landowners: Monday October 6th.**
Do you have issues with trespass, theft, or vandalism on your forested property? Do you understand your liabilities and responsibilities as a landowner if an illegal activity occurs on your property? Do you want to learn practical steps you can take to prevent these crimes and what you can

do in advance to help law enforcement investigate if such a crime occurs?
Then our Forest Safety and Security Workshop is for you!

Forest security experts from the Washington Department of Agriculture and the Snohomish County Sheriffs Office will cover topics such as:

- Trespassing
 - Timber theft
 - Other property theft
 - Illegal dumping
 - Illicit drug operations
 - Vandalism
- **Western Washington Fire Ecology and Prevention: Monday October 20th.**
Wildfire is a natural part of the ecology of our forests in western Washington. Events in California and elsewhere are a continual reminder of the natural hazard of living in a forested environment. Are you prepared in case of a wildfire? Will your forest survive? Will your home be protected? Will firefighters be able to defend your property? Attend our fire workshop to learn practical steps you can take to minimize fire risks to your property.

Fire experts from the US Forest Service, University of Washington, and Washington Department of Natural Resources will cover topics such as:

- Fire ecology
- Minimizing risks to your forest
- Creating defensible space around your home
- Ensuring firefighter access
- Steps you can take in and around your home

Advanced Forest Stewardship Class

The first ever Advanced Coached Planning class that is scheduled this fall sold out quickly and is now full. We have started a waiting list for a spring class, which is tentatively scheduled for Monday nights April 27th – June 1st, 2009. This class, which is exclusively for graduates of the regular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning program, includes 6 evening class sessions, 3 optional 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. **To get on the waiting list for the spring class (which is already half full!), email me at kzobrist@wsu.edu or call 425-357-6017.**

Next Regular Forest Stewardship Class

Registration is now 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. 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—register early as this class is already starting to fill.** For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Everett.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Stillaguamish Festival of the River** – This fun annual festival will be held **August 9-10th in Arlington**. This free, family-friendly festival features music, food, a Pow-Wow, numerous educational exhibits (including several WSU Extension exhibits), and much more. For more information visit <http://www.stillaguamish.nsn.us/festival.htm> or contact Franchesca Perez at 360-435-2755, ext. 22.
- **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.
- **Wonderful Woodlands and Wetlands**. The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation is offering this week-long experience for kids entering grades 3-5. The kids will spend a week with Ecologist Sarah Wilkins exploring North Creek and the surrounding woods, peering into salmon pools, hunting for aquatic insects, learning about native plants, and uncovering signs of wildlife. This event will be held **9 AM to noon August 25 – 29th at the NW Stream Center at McCollum Park** (right behind the WSU Extension building). Cost is \$125, and advance registration is required. For more information visit <http://www.streamkeeper.org> or call 425-316-8592.
- **Forestry and Watersheds workshop: 6 – 9 PM September 11, 2008 in Concrete, WA**. This workshop is a collaborative effort between the DNR Forest Stewardship Program & SFLO, the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, the Skagit Conservation District, and the WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program. The workshop will address forest and watershed issues for landowners in or near the Finney Watershed. Watch for details and an agenda to be available soon.
- **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

Forestry in the News

- While we're getting ready to talk about forest security in the Fall Education Series, KOMO TV reports on a sentence handed down in a Washington case of timber theft: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/25621064.html>
- Also along the security thread, the Everett Herald reports on indictment of a Washington man for vandalizing Forest Service property: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080729/NEWS02/383520005>
- The Everett Herald also reports on sentencing of a participant in an arson attack on the UW College of Forest Resources' Center for Urban Horticulture in 2001: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080719/NEWS03/820025007>
- The Skagit Valley Herald reports on more legal wrangling over the Chuckanut Park District: http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/chuckanut_park_district_petitions_declared_invalid/
- The Tacoma News Tribune talks about the role of bugs and climate change in recent western Washington wildfires: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/424228.html>
- The Seattle Times reports on the return of wolves to Washington: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008047693_wolves12m.html
- An update from Capital Press on the Rural Timber Payments being considered by Congress (Note: The Forest Stewardship Program is partially funded by these payments): <http://capitalpress.com/main.asp?SectionID=67&subsectionID=618&articleID=43411&Q=45712.78>

- There was both an article and an editorial in the Everett Herald about an effort to preserve Heybrook Ridge near Index:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080731/NEWS01/360099674> and
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080731/OPINION01/849518982>
- The Seattle PI reports that Smokey the Bear is in trouble over ads about ATV use and forest fires:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1155ap_off_road_forests_smokey.html
- Here is a recent editorial in the Seattle Times about forest management:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2008069363_treeop24.html
- Speaking of forest management, here is an Everett Herald article on a thinning project being undertaken by the Tulalips to improve their forestlands:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080727/NEWS01/693849343>
- 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/
- Finally, an article in the Seattle Times about the new Wild Sky Wilderness Area. What actually caught my eye about this is the photo gallery that is included—at the end there are several photos of Redmond High School environmental science teacher Mike Town. I am a Redmond High graduate (go Mustangs!) and took a forestry class from Mr. Town when I was in high school many years ago. That is where I first got interested in forestry:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/travel/2008088723_onlywa03wildint.html

Skagit County Forestry Update

On July 29th, I and several Coached Planning graduates had the opportunity to share the Forest Stewardship Program with the Skagit County Commissioners. This brief presentation was part of a broader set of information that was provided to the Commissioners about the benefits and accomplishments of the Forest Stewardship Program in Skagit County and the productive partnership between WSU, DNR, and the Skagit Conservation District. You can watch a video of the presentation at http://skagit.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=287&meta_id=21752. Fast forward on the slider to approximately 50:28 to get to the forestry presentation.

Forestry and Climate Change Video

The UK Forestry Commission produced a video titled "Forests and climate change: A convenient truth?" While the focus is on forests in the UK, I thought this video

did an excellent job presenting forestry issues and opportunities relating to climate change. The video can be viewed by visiting http://www.affoundation.org/ccs_carbon.html and scrolling to the embedded video at the bottom of the page.

Backyard Wildlife

Does your property attract wildlife? Do you enjoy seeing wildlife in your backyard? Consider having your yard certified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary. The application fee is \$5 and the whole family can get involved with documenting how wildlife use your property. This is a great opportunity, especially for smaller ownerships. I recently had my own yard in Everett certified and it was very eye-opening to document wildlife use, even in a highly urbanized area. WDFW also has a number of great educational resources on backyard wildlife. For information visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/> or include your \$5 application fee and write to WDFW at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012

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