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## Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

**January, 2009**  
**Volume 2, No. 1**

*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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### **Forester's Notes**

Happy New Year! With a new year ramping up, there are a lot of upcoming programs to tell you about. Most notable is our flagship Forest Stewardship Coached Planning shortcourse. If you want learn more about what makes your forest tick, this class is for you! This will also help you develop you own forest stewardship plan, which you may need to maintain your lower county property tax rate (or get a lower property tax rate, if your forestland qualifies). The early-bird registration ends at the end of the month. At this time, this is the only Coached Planning class scheduled for the North Sound area in 2009.

There are other events to watch for as well, including a habitat restoration field day, a free workshop on conservation easements and transfer of development rights ("TDR's"), the 2009 Country Living Expo, annual Conservation District Plant Sales, and more—see below for all the details.

This is also a good time to remind everyone of the services available to you throughout the year from WSU Extension. I am available throughout the year to help you find answers to whatever forestry-related questions you might have. You can call me at 425-357-6017, email me at [kzobrist@wsu.edu](mailto:kzobrist@wsu.edu), or make an appointment to stop by the extension office in person. Even if I cannot answer all of your questions myself, chances are I can connect you with someone who can. I am also available for site visits for property in either Snohomish or Skagit County—this service is available at no charge to Snohomish and Skagit County forestland owners.

Kevin Zobrist  
WSU Extension forester

## Forest Stewardship Class Coming Up

**Early-bird registration deadline is February 1st for the upcoming Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class.** This is the only regular Coached Planning class scheduled for the North Sound area in 2009, so if you are thinking about taking this class, now is the time to sign up!

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, and we are already half full.** For details, a syllabus, and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Everett.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

## Other Upcoming Events

- **Forest Practices Board Hearing on changing leave tree requirements in riparian buffers – January 8, 2009 in Mount Vernon.** 6 PM at the Mt. Vernon Fire Department, Station 3, 4701 E. Division St. For more information on the hearing or the proposed rule changes, contact the Forest Practices Board at 360-902-1400 or visit [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp\\_rulemkg\\_dfc\\_hearings.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp_rulemkg_dfc_hearings.pdf).
- **Ecological Forestry: Restoring Habitat Complexity in Managed Forests – 1:00 – 5:30 PM, January 10, 2009 at Northwest Trek in Eatonville, WA.** This

afternoon seminar and tour will introduce forest owners to the principles of ecological forestry as well as strategies for successful implementation on their own lands. Following an indoor presentation, participants will join several seasoned practitioners for a tour of various stands at Northwest Trek that are currently being thinned using a variety of innovative harvesting and post-harvest restoration strategies. For more info visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/01-10-ecological-forestry-restoring-habitat-complexity-in-managed-forests/> or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.

- **Vashon Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Class – January 13 – March 3, 2009 on Vashon Island.** For those of you in the Vashon vicinity, here's another opportunity to take Coached Planning. For more information visit <http://king.wsu.edu/forestry/stewardship.htm> or contact Amy Grotta at 206-205-3132.
- **Conservation Easements and TDR informational session – January 15, 2009** in Renton, WA. Join WSU King County Extension for this free workshop about voluntary conservation tools that landowners can use to permanently protect their forest land, while allowing active forest management and reducing landowner tax liability. The workshop will be held at the WSU King County Extension Office, 200 Mill Avenue South, Renton. A brochure is available at <http://king.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/ConservationWorkshopFlier.pdf>. RSVP to Amy Grotta at 206-205-3132.
- **Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival – January 24-25, 2009 in Concrete, WA.** This annual festival includes a 4-hour bus tour to various eagle viewing sites, and educational seminars and entertainment, which will be held at Concrete High School. For more information visit <http://www.skagiteagle.org/BEF/BEF-index.htm> or call 360-853-7626.
- **Country Living Expo – Saturday January 31, 2009.** The Expo will be held at Stanwood High School from 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Over 100 classes will be offered on raising beef, milking sheep, fruit tree maintenance, fibers, organic farming, parasites, forest maintenance, home food preservation & cheese making, honey bees, cider making, weaving, spinning, and lots more, including an in-the-woods forest management class taught by yours truly. For more information or to register, visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/countrylivingexpo/> or call WSU Skagit County Extension at 360-428-4270, ext 0.
- **Sound Waters: a “one day university for all” – Saturday February 7, 2009 in Coupeville, WA.** Registration is now open! Come learn about a variety of topics relating to environmental stewardship and marine resources at this 14th annual event organized by the WSU Extension Beach Watchers. The event will be held at the Coupeville Middle/High School. Registration is \$35/person. For more information or to register visit <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/island/soundwaters/> or contact WSU Island County Beach Watchers at 360-679-7327 or 360-679-7391.

## Forestry in the News

- The Oregonian reports on why environmental groups are concerned about the timber industry falling on hard times:  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/fall\\_in\\_wood\\_products\\_market\\_r.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/fall_in_wood_products_market_r.html)
- The Los Angeles Times reports on the decline of the spotted owl in relation to the barred owl: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-na-spotted-owl1-2008dec01,0,4174955.story>
- Another spotted owl article from the Seattle Times:  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008528249\\_apwaowllogging.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008528249_apwaowllogging.html)
- The Seattle Times reports on the impact to native birds of suburban development on former forestland:  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008480937\\_bird08m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008480937_bird08m.html)
- The Seattle PI reports on a forest land swap deal intended to counter urban sprawl: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/391582\\_plumcreek11.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/391582_plumcreek11.html)
- The New York Times reports on a coalition to save the timber industry in Montana: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/09/us/09timber.html>
- Capital Press reports on an upcoming small log summit and how private forests are working to stay viable in the current economy:  
<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=782&ArticleID=47027&TM=9073.899>
- Another Capital Press article on the growing economic impact of wildlife watching:  
<http://www.capitalpress.com/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=959&ArticleID=46381&TM=6848.829>
- USA Today reports on the economy's impact on wood products in the west:  
[http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/2008-12-11-timber\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/2008-12-11-timber_N.htm)
- The Centralia Chronicle reports on new Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark's intention to maintain state harvest levels:  
[http://www.chronline.com/story.php?subaction=showfull&id=1230920505&archive=&start\\_from=&ucat=1&](http://www.chronline.com/story.php?subaction=showfull&id=1230920505&archive=&start_from=&ucat=1&)

## Resources Added to Forest Stewardship Website

The WSU Snohomish/Skagit Extension Forest Stewardship website has a new feature: a list of available resources (websites, publications, videos, etc.) by topic. We have resources listed for over 40 different forest stewardship topics, with lots of information about wildlife, forest health, and other favorite topics. The resources page is available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/resources.htm>. Check it out—you will likely find something of interest.

## Native Tree/Plant Availability in 2009

There are several opportunities to procure native trees and plants in 2009. One of the best options the annual plant sale held by your local Conservation District. These are coming up in March for Snohomish and Skagit:

- **Snohomish Conservation District 2009 Plant Sale – March 6-7, 2009.** Visit <http://www.snohomishcd.org/> or call 425-335-5634 for more information.
- **Skagit Conservation District 2009 Plant Sale – March 20-21, 2009.** Visit <http://www.skagitcd.org/> or call 360-428-4313 for more information.

Native plants are also available throughout the year from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts Plant Materials Center in Bow, WA. For more information about the Plant Materials Center or for pricing lists, contact Jacquie Gauthier, Sales Manager, at 360-757-1094 or [pmcsales@clearwire.net](mailto:pmcsales@clearwire.net). Or visit <http://www.wacd.org/PMC>.

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