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Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

March 2009
Volume 2, No. 3

The Puget Sound 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

You may have noticed that this newsletter has been re-titled the Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter. This new name is in recognition of some major changes that this program has undergone in the past month. Amy Grotta, who has been my counterpart in King County, has left WSU for a position in Oregon (see below for more details). For at least the short term (2009), I will be covering King County in addition to Snohomish and Skagit.

My goal is to continue to provide a high level of service in all three counties. This is no small task—covering any one of these counties is a full-time job in itself! Things are in a bit of an upheaval state right now with the transition, especially with multiple classes and workshops going on. I appreciate your patience as I am a little slower to respond to

emails and phone calls than normal. For the many new folks from King County and beyond who are receiving this newsletter for the first time, I want to extend a warm welcome to the program and to this newsletter list – I hope you find it to be a useful resource. You can check out past issues in the archive at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestrymailing.htm#archives>.

There are a number of upcoming workshops to tell you about this month. For all of the Coached Planning alumni out there, please note that the registration deadline for the Advanced Forest Stewardship series is April 1, 2009, which is just a couple of days away. Also note that registration is now open for the Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance workshop, which I expect to fill quickly so be sure to get your registration in early if you are interested in this class. The next Coached Planning class will be in Fall City starting in September. A formal announcement is still forthcoming, but there are some preliminary details below.

Kevin W. Zobrist
WSU Extension Forester

Upcoming Workshops

- **Advanced Forest Stewardship class - Spring 2009 in Everett, WA.** The Advanced Series is for all of you who have already taken Coached Planning and are looking to further expand your forestry knowledge. The goal of the class is to build on the knowledge you gained in Coached Planning and help you prepare to successfully implement on-the-ground operations as you carry-out your forest stewardship plan. We will be talking about things like forest inventory, equipment use, working with contractors, financial considerations, advanced silviculture techniques, log markets, taxes, road building and maintenance, and so forth.

This will be the second offering of this class (a pilot was offered this past fall). The series includes 9 evening sessions and 2 field days. The class will be held Monday evenings April 13th – June 8th at the Snohomish County Extension building in Everett. Cost is \$100 per family/ownership. For more information contact me at 425-357-6017 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/advancedCP09.htm>. **Registration deadline is April 1, 2009.**

- **Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance Workshop - June 13, 2009 in Everett, WA** Join us for a hands-on Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance workshop. Learn how to properly sharpen your saw, maintain peak performance, and avoid serious injuries. This workshop will be led by an expert safety educator from Stihl Northwest. Bring your saw (with no fuel in it). The workshop will be held from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Snohomish County Extension building at McCollum Park in South Everett. Cost is \$10 per person. **Space is limited and pre-registration is required.** For more information visit

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/chainsaw09.htm> or contact me at 425-357-6017.

- **Healthy Forests for Fish and Wildlife – June 4, 2009 in Arlington, WA.** Got critters? If habitat for fish and wildlife is one of your forest ownership objectives, join us for this free workshop for family forest owners. Speakers from WSU Extension, DNR, WDFW, the Snohomish Conservation District, and the Sno-Stilly Task Force will be teaching about how to enhance wildlife habitat on your property, fish and aquatic habitat, and wildlife resources and funding opportunities for family forest owners. The workshop will be held on Thursday June 4, 2009 from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Loyal Heights Community Club just north of Arlington (Bryant neighborhood). There is no cost for this workshop, but please pre-register so we can get a head-count. For more information or to register, call 425-357-6017 or register online at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/wildlifeworkshop.htm>.
- **Western Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day – July 31 – August 1, 2009 in Birdsvew, WA (Skagit County).** Save the date! After several years in Southwest Washington, the annual Western Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day returns to the North Sound area for 2009. The 2009 Field Day will be held in the Birdsvew area just west of Concrete in Skagit County. Landowners from around western Washington are warmly invited to attend, especially the King/Snohomish/Skagit/Whatcom area, the islands, and surrounding communities. This expanded 2-day event will feature dozens of hands-on sessions on a variety of forestry topics from beginner to advanced. There is something for all ages and all skill levels at the field day. More details and registration information will be available soon. Visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2009FieldDay.htm> for more information and watch this newsletter for more details as they become available.
- **Save the Date - The next Coached Planning class will be Tuesday evenings September 22 – November 17, 2009 in Fall City.** This 10-session practical, hands-on course is our flagship program and 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. **Watch this newsletter for more details.**

Other Upcoming Events

- **Introduction to the Community Firewise Program and Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Safety: Monday, March 30th in Bow.** See the results of cooperation, coordination, and pre-planning in Skagit County Fire District #5.

This community outreach evening will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about how properties can be protected against fire, particularly wildfire. Check out this event if you live in Skagit Fire District #5 or are interested in a case study of a community that is reducing its wildfire risk. The event will be held at 7 PM on Monday March 30th at the Edison Fire Station – 14364 West Bow Hill Road. For more information call John Leander, Edison Station Chief, at 360-661-1154.

- **How to Manage a Timber Sale on Small Woodlands: Saturday April 4th in Yelm.** Northwest Certified Forestry is hosting a day long workshop, taught by a diverse range of experts, will introduce landowners to each of the steps of setting up and managing a timber sale. At the completion of this seminar, woodland owners should know everything they need to manage a timber sale and who to turn to for assistance. Information will be relevant to all types of landowners, including family forest owners, conservation organizations, small businesses, government agencies, and others. For information visit http://www.nnrg.org/files/timber_sale_workshop2.pdf or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.
- **East King County Native Plant Stewardship Program: Application deadline is April 15th.** The Washington Native Plant Society is now seeking applications for the Native Plant Stewardship Program in East King County. Participating cities include Issaquah, Sammamish, Bellevue and Kirkland. The 10-week training is held on Fridays from April 24 - June 26, 2009 in Bellevue. This training is taught by top professionals on various topics such as native plants, habitat restoration and northwest ecology. In exchange for this free training, stewards will commit to 100 hours of volunteer service implementing the skills learned in these classes. For more information regarding the Native Plant Stewardship Program visit <http://www.wnps.org/npsp/king/program.html> or contact Dangelei Fox at 206-660-3968.
- **Diversifying Income Opportunities on Small Woodlands: Saturday April 18th in Elma.** one-day workshop will introduce landowners to a series of strategies and tools for maximizing the economic potential of conservation-based forest management. Speakers from organizations and agencies in the Northwest that specialize in small woodland management will provide thorough overviews of each strategy. Topics will include FSC certification, carbon credits, current use taxation, transfer of development rights, conservation easements, and more. For information visit http://www.nnrg.org/files/satsop_income_workshop.pdf or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.
- **'A "Run of the Mill" Life'** photography exhibit opens **April 11th** at 7 PM at All City Coffee in Georgetown, 1205 S Vale, **Seattle**. The exhibit gives an artist's view of the history of Fritch Mill in Snohomish, featuring photographs by Rick Carroll from his 34-year career at the sawmill.

- **Swinomish Earth Enhancement Day: Saturday April 25th in La Conner.** This event features a variety of activities, including community enhancement projects, a traditional salmon lunch, and educational and cultural sessions. Free bus service to the event from selected Skagit County locations. For more information visit <http://www.pugetsound.org/connect/events/042509swinomish/> or contact Britta Eschete at (360) 336-1931.
- **Pilchuck River Tree Planting: Saturday May 2nd in Lake Stevens.** Volunteers are needed for this tree planting event. For information or to sign up, visit <http://www.stillysnofish.org> or call Kristin at 425-252-6686.
- **Temperate Forest Foundation Teacher Forestry Tour: July 14 – 17 in Corvallis, OR.** Each summer the Temperate Forest Foundation organizes intensive three-day woods and mill tours for K-12 science teachers in various regions. These environmental professional development tours provide a unique hands-on intensive experience concerning responsible stewardship of natural resources. The three-day tours highlight local private and public forests, mills nurseries and various learning centers. Teachers are sponsored by a local business, which pays for registration (US\$700) and travel expenses. At this time there are several Washington sponsors seeking Washington teachers. For more information or to apply visit <http://www.forestinfo.org/Teachers/teachers.htm> or call 503- 445-9472.

Forestry in the News

- *The Seattle Times* reports on an increase in WA and OR lumber exports: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2008806785_weblumber03.html
- The *Newport News Times* (OR) reports on OSU study that found that older trees grow slower: <http://www.newportnewstimes.com/articles/2009/02/20/news/news13.txt>
- The Western Wood Products Association predicts that lumber markets will bottom out in 2009 and begin a slow recovery in 2010: <http://www2.wvpa.org/Portals/9/docs/r-09-10%20forecast.doc>
- DNR announces Commissioner Goldmark's new biomass initiative: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/News/Pages/nr09_024.aspx
- DNR also announces the first round of layoffs. Additional layoffs are expected, and it is not yet known how this will impact the DNR stewardship foresters such as John Keller and Mike Nystrom: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/News/Pages/nr09_042.aspx

- The *Marysville Globe* reports on a Tualip thinning project:
http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/north_sound/mar/lifestyle/41757217.html
- The *Journal of the San Juans* reports on efforts by the San Juan Preservation Trust and Skagit Land Trust to purchase land on Guemes Island.
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/41390964.html>
- *The Seattle Times* reported twice earlier this month on the overturning of a companion law to the King County CAO:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008814562_rural05m.html
and
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008812783_webcritical05m.html
- Here's an article from *The Seattle Times* about a logger in trouble with state regulators over salvage logging featured on the popular *Ax Men* TV show:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008857779_axmen14m.html
- Here's a fun article from the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* on foraging for lichens in local forests:
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/vashon/vib/opinion/41046419.html>
- The *Skagit Valley Herald* reports on a state purchase of 80 acres of forestland near Blanchard:
http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/state_buys_80_acres_of_forest_near_blanhard/

Welcome, King County

As most of you King County folks are probably aware of at this point, King County Extension Forester Amy Grotta has accepted a position with the Oregon State University Extension program. Her departure is not the result of any program cuts by King County or WSU, but rather it is a wonderful new opportunity for her to pursue. In the meantime, because of hiring freezes at the state and county level, filling her position would be challenging right now, and we want to continue to provide services to King County forest owners without interruption.

The solution that made the most sense, at least in the short term (2009), was to expand my coverage (which was formerly just Snohomish and Skagit Counties) southward to also include King County. How this will play out in the long term (2010 and beyond) remains to be seen. With budgets the way they are, I think regionalization of programs (as opposed to county-specific) is going to be the wave of the future.

Please be assured that these changes do not mean the end of, or even the interruption of, the King County Forest Stewardship Program. I will be working to provide the same

programming that Amy was providing, including a Coached Planning class in Fall City this fall, and other forestry workshops. Ginny Ballard, program coordinator for WSU King County Extension, will be providing much needed and appreciated assistance with these workshops. Both Ginny and I are available as resources to King County forest owners, just as Amy has been.

Seedlings and native plants still available

We're getting near the end of planting season, but there are still plants and seedlings available for last-minute projects. Here are some upcoming tree and plant sales:

- **The Whatcom Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association** will be having a seedling sale 3 – 5 PM **Friday, April 3, 2009** at Com-Steel, 2321 East Bakerview Rd, **Bellingham**. Species available for sale include: Douglas-fir, western redcedar, noble fir, Ponderosa pine, Colorado blue spruce, and more. These two-year-old seedlings are being sold for \$0.80 each. For more information call Maralee at 360-671-6988 or Tom at 360-966-3605
- The **Skagit Conservation District** will have one more plant sale date on **April 18th in Bow**. For information call 360-428-4313 or visit http://www.skagitcd.org/plant_sale_info.htm.
- **Snohomish County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale – May 2nd** at the Snohomish County Extension building in **south Everett**. Includes a free gardening clinic to answer your questions. For more information call the Master Gardener hotline at 425-357-6010 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/MG/plantsale09.pdf>.
- **Skagit County Master Gardener Annual Plant Faire – May 9th** at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in **Mount Vernon**. For more information visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/MG/plantfaire.htm> or contact Britt Shellenberger at 360-428-4270, ext. 227.
- The **Washington Native Plant Society** has two plant sales coming up:
 - **Mount Vernon:** Saturday **April 25th** from 10 AM to 2 PM at the WSU NWREC.
 - **Bellevue:** Saturday **May 9th** from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Also, rumor has it that Fourth Corner Nursery in Bellingham suddenly has many thousands of bare root trees and shrubs available due to a large planting project that got put on hold this spring. The plants need to be planted this spring and include red alder, black cottonwood, paper birch, Douglas-fir, western redcedar, western hemlock,

shore pine, grand fir, Sitka spruce, red-osier dogwood, and others. Contact Julie at 360-592-2250 or sales@fourthcornernurseries.com for more information.

The DNR's Webster Nursery is another good source for seedlings – call 1-877-890-2626.

Funding Opportunities

There are several current funding opportunities available for family forest owners:

- **Pioneers in Conservation grants** – “Pioneers in Conservation grants are intended to help farmers and foresters protect and restore salmon habitat in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable for fish and economically sustainable for farm or forest businesses.” Eligible projects must solve a discreet salmon habitat issue and forestry or agriculture issue. Matching funds are required. **Application Deadline is Tuesday March 31, 2009.** For application details visit <http://www.nfwf.org/pioneers> or call 503-417-8700.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** – “WHIP is a national program administered by the NRCS that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes for developing, restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Landowners receive technical and financial assistance through five- to ten-year contracts.” **Application deadline is April 15, 2009.** Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office (see phone numbers below).
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** – This program is likely to be relevant to many of you. The program provides landowners with funding to carry out stewardship activities such as tree planting, vegetation control, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, road maintenance, and more. If you have been wanting to undertake some projects to keep your forest healthy and vigorous but have not been able to cover the costs, please consider this program! We would love to see some of these funds utilized locally. **Application deadline for 2010 funds is July 15, 2009.** For more information visit <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/forestry/index.html> or contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office (see phone numbers below).

Here are some phone numbers for local NRCS offices; if you don't find your area listed you can contact me and I will help you find the right contact.

- King (Renton) – 425-277-5580
- Skagit (Mount Vernon) – 360-428-7758 ext. 132
- Snohomish (Lake Stevens) – 425-335-5634 ext. 105

WSU Budget Update

The news coverage of the WSU budget shortfalls continue, including an editorial in *The Seattle Times*

(http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/editorialsopinion/2008808126_editb04exten.html) and an article in the *Bremerton Patriot* (<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/pat/community/41175424.html>).

At this point, the budget is in the hands of the Legislature. Yesterday's budget announcement from the state senate included a \$500 million cut to universities statewide. More specific information about what will be cut should be coming soon. In the meantime, for more information on what's going on in the Legislature and how that might impact Extension, check out WSU's Olympia Update:

http://www.olympia.wsu.edu/News/2009_News_Three.aspx.

WSU Extension is already making big changes in efforts to use resources more efficiently, including an administrative reorganization announced earlier this week that is reintegrating Extension back into the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources:

<http://wsunews.wsu.edu/pages/publications.asp?Action=Detail&PublicationID=14118>.

What this all means for the future of the Forest Stewardship Program is still unknown; I will share more information as I get it.

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