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Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter – Large Print Edition

**April/May 2009
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The Puget Sound Forest Stewardship 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

Spring is definitely here, though perhaps a tad late this year. It is a fun time of year to enjoy the seasonal changes in the woods, as I'm sure many of you have been. It is also a busy time of year for workshops, and we have several offerings coming up.

Our 'Healthy Forests for Fish and Wildlife' workshop is scheduled for June 4th in Arlington. Jim Bottorff will be speaking, along with several other fish and wildlife oriented speakers. There is no cost to attend this workshop. We don't get many opportunities to offer freebies (and they will likely become even more rare in the future as "fee-for-service" becomes the new post-budget cut buzzword) so I hope you will take advantage of this. It should be a fun workshop. We also have our chainsaw maintenance and safety workshop coming up. There are still a few spots left, but only a few so register quick before we are full. There are many other WSU and non-WSU events coming up – read on for details.

I'm also pleased to announce several long-awaited publications, including our latest WSU Extension publication: Management Options for Declining Red Alder Forests.

As you have likely heard, the Legislature has passed the budget, which includes significant cuts to WSU. We are still not sure what this will mean for Extension or the Forest Stewardship Program. We should know more soon; possibly even in the next few days. I will pass on any significant program news as I learn of it.

Finally, you may notice a few changes to the format of this newsletter, including several disclaimers regarding links to external sites (especially non government/university sites). These changes reflect new WSU policies regarding external content.

Enjoy the warmer weather, and I hope to see you at a workshop or two or maybe on site visit.

Kevin W. Zobrist
WSU Area Extension Educator
Serving King, Snohomish, and Skagit Counties

Upcoming WSU Extension Forestry Workshops

- **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. Popular speakers such as Jim Bottorff from the DNR and others from 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>.
- **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.

- **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.**

- **Coming up – The next Ties to the Land succession planning workshop is tentatively planned for October in Arlington.** Watch this newsletter for more details.

Other Upcoming WSU Extension Events

- **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.
- **Beach Monitoring Training – June 13th in Stanwood.** If you enjoy the forest, chances are you enjoy the beach, too. Here's an opportunity to get involved with WSU's Beach Watcher program without having to make a huge commitment of time WSU Beach Watchers invite you to join us in monitoring elevation, biological community composition, substrate diversity and algal coverage during exceptionally low-tides. All volunteers will be asked to sign up for at least two sampling dates later in the summer. For information about this and other WSU beach programs, contact Chrys Bertolotto at 425-357-6020.

Upcoming Non-WSU Events of Interest

Note: the events below are not WSU or WSU Extension events. Some WSU Extension newsletters provide links to external sites for the convenience of users. These external sites are not managed by the WSU Extension. Furthermore, WSU Extension does not review, control or take responsibility for the content of these sites, nor do these sites implicitly or explicitly represent official positions and policies of WSU Extension.

- **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.
- **Eagles – On Saturday May 2nd in Everett** the NW Stream Center (behind the WSU Extension building in McCollum Park) will feature an eagle program with an eagle from the Sarvey Wildlife Center. For information or tickets visit <http://www.streamkeeper.org/opportun/calendar.htm> or call 425-316-8592.
- **Skagit River Rafting Trip and Birding Adventure –** The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation is hosting a rafting/birding trip on the Lower Skagit near La Conner on **Saturday May 9th**. Tickets are \$60 and pre-registration is required. For information or tickets visit <http://www.streamkeeper.org/opportun/calendar.htm> or call 425-316-8592.
- **Denman Forestry Series: Future of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest.** 1 – 5 PM May 14th at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle. For more information visit http://www.cfr.washington.edu/Outreach/denman/denman_spr2009.pdf or call 206-685-0953.

- **Small-Scale Milling and Drying Workshop: Saturday May 30th in Oakville.** For information visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/5-30-small-scale-milling-drying/> or contact Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317.
- **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

Some WSU Extension newsletters provide links to external sites for the convenience of users. These external sites are not managed by the WSU Extension. Furthermore, WSU Extension does not review, control or take responsibility for the content of these sites, nor do these sites implicitly or explicitly represent official positions and policies of WSU Extension.

- *The Seattle Times* shares the story of a Whidbey Island family forest owner and his lasting legacy:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009009986_forest09m0.html

- Here's a fun article in *The Seattle Times* on alders, which have been waking up from their winter naps:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009017113_alder10m.html
- Interested in a forestry career? Take a look at this article in *The Daily World* (Aberdeen) about Grays Harbor College's new 2-year forestry program:
http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/04/13/local_news/doc49e37d7dafbfd610058313.txt
- Here's an article from the *Covington Reporter* on damage that "topping" trees can do. This is not a good idea unless you are trying to create a snag (which is usually not the intention...):
http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/cmvlifestyle/42856167.html
- *The Seattle Times* reports on the spotted owl recovery plan:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008969301_owls02m.html
- *The Seattle Times* reports on a plan to preserve forest in the Raging River area near Snoqualmie:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009091975_landagreement21.html
- *The Seattle Times* also published an editorial on the Raging River plan:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/editorialsopinion/2009139536_editb29green.html
- *The Seattle Times* reports on contemplation by Weyerhaeuser on becoming a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT):
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businessstechnology/2009072872_weyco17.html

- *The New York Times* reports on northwest loggers looking to reposition themselves in a changing economy:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/29/business/energy-environment/29forests.html>
- *The Oregonian* reports on small woodland owners in Oregon looking at selling carbon credits:
<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/04/oregon-woodland-owners-consider.html>
- *The Seattle Times* reports on sentencing for timber theft in Olympic National Forest:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009020137_weboldgrowth10m.html
- The Seattle Times reports on layoffs at the Hamilton sawmill in Darrington:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/2009015835_webtimbercuts09.html
- *The Daily Herald* (Everett) reports on recreation opportunities at a new Snohomish County conservation area near Maltby:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090422/NEWS01/704229871>
- Also on a recreation note, here's a fun article from the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* on foraging for edibles:
<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/vashon/vib/opinion/43901602.html>

New Publications of Interest

There are several new publications available of interest to forest owners:

- **Management Options for Declining Red Alder Forests** – Our latest WSU Extension Forestry publication focuses on an issue many of you are facing, which is how to manage declining alder stands. This brand new publication is available for free download from <http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/EM003.html>. You can also order a hard copy for a nominal fee by contacting WSU publications at 800-723-1763 (or just give me a call at 425-357-6017).
- **Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of Your Timberland?** – A new edition of this publication is now available for free download from the Forest Service at http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs112.pdf.
- **Retention of High-Valued Forest Lands at Risk of Conversion to Non-Forest Uses in Washington State** – This new report is available from the Northwest Environmental Forum at the UW College of Forest Resources: <http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org/>
- **2007 Washington State Forestland Database Final Report** – This is now available from the Rural Technology Initiative at http://www.ruraltech.org/projects/wrl/fldb/pdf/The_2007_Washington_State_Forestland_Database.pdf. For additional information contact Luke Rogers at 206.543.7418

Forest Owner Blogs

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Take a look at what your fellow landowners are up to by visiting their websites and blogs. Do you have a website or blog about your forestland? Let me know!

- <http://smallforestowner.blogspot.com/>
- <http://ecozome.com/?p=101>
- <http://www.valhallatreefarm.com/>

Funding Opportunities

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

- **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. 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
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- **King County Forestry Grants** – King County's Forestry Program is accepting applications for forest opportunity grants. Grants are awarded to projects that help conserve forestry in King County by strengthening infrastructure, promoting forest products, expanding markets, and promoting forest management. For more information visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/grants-and-awards/grant-exchange/forest.aspx> or contact Linda Vane at 206-296-8042.

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Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.