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## **Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter – Large Print Edition**

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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

Even though the 4th of July is still a few days away, it appears that summer has arrived in western Washington. This is an exciting time for the WSU Forest Stewardship Program, with lots of fun, outdoor events and activities coming up.

However, this also marks a sad time of transition. Effective July 1st, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has eliminated all of their Westside stewardship and SFLO field forester positions. This means that folks like John Keller, Mike Nystrom, Boyd Norton, and many others have either been laid off or reassigned to other divisions.

There has been a lot of confusion about this, as these announcements came right on the heels of the announcements that the WSU Forest Stewardship Program was not cut. WSU and the DNR are two separate agencies that have worked as close partners with each other and many other agencies to bring you forest stewardship programs and assistance. While WSU has maintained their forest stewardship positions, DNR has cut theirs for western Washington. More complete details are described later in this newsletter.

These changes at DNR are a huge loss for me, both professionally and personally. Over the years in my capacity at both UW and WSU Extension, I have had the privilege of working with just about all of the DNR stewardship and SFLO foresters. All of these folks, and especially John Keller, are not only colleagues, but dear friends and mentors to me. I will miss them greatly, and I know you will, too.

In the meantime, we must adjust and move forward. The preservation of positions and programs on the WSU side of things is a tremendous blessing, and I want to make the most of it. With

this in mind, I have several upcoming programs to tell you about, including our fall Coached Planning class and, of course, the Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day. The Field Day is just a month away, so now is the time to register. Much of the field day was planned by John Keller and Boyd Norton at DNR, before they were reassigned. I hope that you will join us to make this a hugely successful event that celebrates their efforts not only for the field day, but across many years of stewardship service.

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

## **Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day**

### **Registration now for the Westside field day!**

The annual Western Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day is Washington's premier forestry education and outreach event. The Field Day returns to the North Sound area for 2009 - it will be held July 31st – August 1st in the Birdsvie area just west of Concrete in Skagit County. The field day site is less than two hours from Seattle and just over an hour from either Everett or Bellingham. Highway 20 also offers easy access from Whidbey Island and the Anacortes ferry from the San Juan Islands.

Stewarding forestland is both rewarding and challenging. Your successful management is due to the decisions you make and the actions you take. Attending the Family Forest Owners Field Day will prepare you to plan and execute sound practices which will enable you to protect and enhance those features you value from your land. Come learn how to recognize potential problems, what to do, and how to do it.

During the day and a half event, you may participate in educational programs instructed by the state's recognized experts in forest health, silviculture, wildlife and fish habitat, special forest products, and soils. Presenters will also be available to answer questions specific to your needs and property situation. There is something for everyone at the field day. A full activity schedule is available at [http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/WWA\\_FD\\_2009\\_Event\\_Schedule.pdf](http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/WWA_FD_2009_Event_Schedule.pdf).

This event is open to the public. Landowners from around the region are warmly invited to attend, as well as anyone interested in having fun and learning more about forestry and natural resources.

**Registration now to attend the field day. For more information or to register, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2009FieldDay.htm> or call me at 425-357-6017.**

## **Fall Coached Planning Class**

Coached Planning returns! We will be offering our flagship series again this fall in the Issaquah/Preston area. **Register soon for this class – space is limited and the early-bird registration deadline is September 1st.**

The class will be Tuesday evenings September 22 – November 17th, 2009 at the Preston Community Center, 8625 310th Ave SE, Issaquah, WA. 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 September 1st, and \$175 after September 1st. **Enrollment is limited to the first 30 ownerships.** For details and registration information, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP09Preston.htm> or call 425-357-6017.

## **Other Upcoming WSU Extension Forestry Workshops**

- **Natural Resources Field Day – 10 AM to 4 PM July 28th at McCollum Park in South Everett.** Bring your kids to our second annual natural resources field day. Youth, adults and all family members will be given the chance to engage in a wide range of activities that include: bug catching, identifying (and maybe eating) native plants, taking forest measurements and learning how to keep our local watersheds healthy. This free event is hosted to inspire awareness and interest in our local natural resources and what we can do to protect them. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers will implement hands-on activities designed to create a day of learning and fun for the entire family. This is a whole family event and all youth should come accompanied by an adult chaperone. For registration information and more details, please contact Gabrielle Roesch at (425) 357-6011 or [gabrielle90@wsu.edu](mailto:gabrielle90@wsu.edu). Early registration is encouraged, but not required. The field day will be at the WSU Snohomish County Extension facility in McCollum Park, 600 128th St SE, Everett, WA.
- **Restoration Planning Workshop – September 17th and 19th in Carnation.** Join us for a free two-part Restoration

Planning Workshop. Hear from experts on topics including controlling pesky weeds, planting the right plants and creating a plan of action. Visit local sites to see work in progress on properties similar to yours. For details or to register, visit

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/restorationworkshop.htm>

or call Ginny Ballard at 206-205-3171.

- **Ties to the Land succession planning workshop – October 1st and 22nd in Arlington.** We will be offering the popular Ties to the Land workshop again this fall, this time in Arlington. Registration will be open soon – watch this newsletter for more details as they become available.

## 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 *Arlington Times* ran an article featuring Coached Planning alumni Earl and Dave Ingebright and the Valhalla Tree Farm, and their experience with the WSU Forest Stewardship Program:  
[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/north\\_sound/ar/entertainment/46740427.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/north_sound/ar/entertainment/46740427.html)
- *The Daily Herald* in Everett reports on potential incentives for forest owners in the federal climate change bill:  
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090626/NEWS02/706269849>.

- *The Daily Herald* also reports on efforts to continue federal protection for the marbled murrelet:  
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090619/NEWS03/706199854>
- *The Daily Herald* ran an article about a family forest owner in Cle Elum:  
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090525/NEWS03/705259926>.
- *The Daily Herald* reports on the decline in local timber sales:  
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090515/NEWS01/705159906>.
- The *Seattle PI* reports on climate change and fire in Washington forests:  
[http://www.seattlepi.com/connelly/406468\\_joel22.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/connelly/406468_joel22.html).
- Several local news outlets have reported on the problem of “fawn-napping.” Here is an excerpt from The Seattle Times:  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009392356\\_apidfawnnapping.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009392356_apidfawnnapping.html). Note: you can also read about this issue in greater depth in WDFW’s “Crossing Paths” newsletter:  
[http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/crossing\\_paths/spring2009/cross\\_02.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/crossing_paths/spring2009/cross_02.html).
- The Enumclaw Courier-Herald featured a review of a book about the wood products we use everyday:  
[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/ech/community/46057722.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/ech/community/46057722.html)
- The *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* reports on a conservation easement sale from the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust to King County:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/vashon/vib/news/45443202.html>

- The New York Times did a feature on the Harvard Forest, highlighting some universal forest management issues: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/magazine/19Forest-t.html>

## **DNR Forest Stewardship Program Cut**

Forest stewardship programs in Washington are a multi-agency effort, with many different partners involved at the federal, state, and local level. Two of the key agencies that provide stewardship assistance to forest landowners and work in close partnership to offer many of the stewardship classes, workshops, and field days are WSU Extension and WA DNR. A couple of months ago, we celebrated the fact that the WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Program was not cut. However, shortly thereafter, it was announced that the DNR Forest Stewardship Program would be cut in western Washington.

The loss of the DNR Stewardship Program has significant ramifications for WSU Extension. DNR has been a full partner in our most popular and successful programs, including Coached Planning and the annual Forest Owner Field Days. DNR has provided most of the forest landowner site visit services in western Washington, as well as technical expertise for workshops, and numerous other functions.

Effective July 1st, the DNR positions eliminated include all of the Westside stewardship foresters, including John Keller, Mike Nystrom, and Tony Sachet. It also includes the SFLO stewardship foresters, such as Boyd Norton. Most of these talented people found placement elsewhere in DNR. John Keller, for instance, will

be managing the DNR's silviculture program on the Olympic Peninsula and will be moving to Port Angeles. Other folks, such as Michael Ahr at the SFLO, no longer have jobs with the DNR.

Most of the stewardship positions in Eastern Washington are still intact. Also, for King County forest owners, the county has its own internal DNR that will continue to provide the services that WA DNR provided in the rest of the counties in Western Washington. Also, certain Olympia-based specialist positions (such as Jim Bottorff, wildlife biologist) are still intact. DNR has provided a fact sheet outlining the limited services that will still be available to landowners:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp\\_sflo\\_assistance\\_programs\\_20090701.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp_sflo_assistance_programs_20090701.pdf)

All of the DNR stewardship personnel who were either laid off or reassigned were of the highest quality and caliber. Their commitment to service was unparalleled, as many of you can attest to. This is a tremendous loss for the forest owners and the broader public in Washington State.

WSU Extension is still committed to providing high quality forestry education and outreach programs. Without our closest partner, though, things will likely look very different in the future. We will fill as many gaps as we can, but we cannot replace all the functions that the DNR stewardship and SFLO foresters provided. Your patience and understanding is appreciated during this difficult time of transition.

Many of you may have questions or concerns about the DNR program cuts described above. Communication and dialog with your elected representatives may help resolve any questions or concerns you might have. You can find contact information for your state legislators at

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx> or by calling

the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-8000. You can also find contact information for Washington's elected Commissioner of Public Lands, who oversees DNR, at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/Divisions/CPL/Pages/home.aspx> or by calling 360-902-1004.

## Updated Extension Resources

Here are a couple of new/updated WSU Extension resources of interest to forest owners:

- **Silviculture for Washington's Family Forests** – This fundamental forestry Extension Bulletin has been revised and updated. Download a free copy at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2000/eb2000.pdf>. You can also order a hard copy for a nominal fee by contacting WSU publications at 800-723-1763.
- **Backyard Forest Stewardship** – WSU Extension has rolled out a new online guide for backyard forest stewardship. Check it out:
  - **Western WA Version:**  
<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/BackyardForestryWesternWA.htm>
  - **Eastern WA Version:**  
<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/BackyardForestStewardshipinEasternWashington.htm>

## EQIP Deadline Extended

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** 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. **The application deadline for 2010 funds has been extended to August 14, 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. 101

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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.***