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WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship E-Newsletter

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Forester's Notes

The past few weeks have been very eventful, as we've finally been able to launch some new initiatives that have been in the works for a long time. First of all, I am very pleased to announce Forest Stewardship University, which offers a whole suite of online mini-courses on a variety of different forest stewardship topics. We had originally hoped to launch this almost two years ago, but we quickly realized that, to do it right and really offer a high-quality educational experience, much more time and effort was needed. I think this was a worthwhile investment. I am really pleased with the results, and I hope you will be as well.

Using similar technology, we are also offering our flagship Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class online this spring. Whereas Forest Stewardship University features on-demand, self-paced courses, the online Coached Planning class will be delivered via live, interactive

webinars. This will be much more similar to our regular in-person classes, except that you will be able to participate from the comfort of your own home rather than having to commute to one of our regional class locations.

These new online offerings greatly expand the reach of our programs, bringing forest stewardship education to people who otherwise would not be able to participate because of time and distance. This is all new territory for us, so I expect we will be learning a lot about online delivery as we discover issues we could never anticipate. I am ready to learn and adapt, though, and glad that we are finally able to dig in and get started. I think having a robust online program is essential to the future of WSU Extension Forestry, as we are continually tasked with reaching more people with fewer resources.

I want to be clear, though, that these online programs are in addition to our regular in-person classes and field days, not instead of. In fact, this year I will be doing three in-person Coached Planning classes, which is more than I have ever done in one year. We're also planning our usual topical workshops for later in the year, field tours for summer, etc. It is going to be an exciting year with lots of educational opportunities, and I hope that all of you will participate in person and/or online.

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

Forest Stewardship University

Online forestry workshops are finally here! The same high-quality content (or, in some cases, even higher) from our regular in-person Extension Forestry workshops (including Coached Planning sessions) is now available from the comfort of your own home with no driving required and at lower cost than attending a regular live workshop. These online workshops are available on demand at any time and from anywhere, so now you can learn whenever it's convenient for you (not just when it's convenient for us!).

Right now there are 21 different online workshops available. They range in length from approximately 15 minutes to an hour long, and they cover a whole suite of topics from tree identification to forest health to weed control (and lots of other topics in between). We will also be continuing to add workshops to this online library. You can register for workshops individually to fully customize what you learn, or sign up for discounted packages of workshops around similar topics.

To see what's available and to access these new online workshops, visit <http://extension.wsu.edu/forestry/FSU/Pages/default.aspx>.

New Publication

These last few months we have released a number of new WSU Extension Forestry publications. I have one more to announce:

EM044 – Diversifying Forest Structure to Promote Wildlife Biodiversity in Western Washington Forests.

If wildlife biodiversity is one of your goals for your forest, you may enjoy this publication. It is available for free download at <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15459>, and you can also order hard copies for a nominal printing fee.

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

Our flagship course teaches forest landowners how to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. A written stewardship plan may qualify you for property tax reductions and cost share assistance. You will also learn how to keep your forest healthy and productive, attract more wildlife, and achieve your specific ownership objectives.

Usually we offer this series once or twice a year, but for 2012 we have a total of four classes on tap. We're already midway through our Whidbey Island class, and we've got three more classes coming up. **Registration is now open** for all three classes, and is first-come, first served.

- **Online: April 24th – June 5th.** We are offering Coached Planning online for the first time. This class is open to anyone with forestland in Western Washington (there will be future classes that cover Eastern Washington). This class will be delivered by live webinars offered weekly on Tuesday evenings. The course fee includes the usual giant white notebook of materials, which will be shipped to you. The course also includes a family admission to the annual Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day in lieu of a class field trip. **Important:** You *must* have a high-speed internet connection to participate (e.g. DSL, cable). The webinars will not work over dial-up (and may not work with slower satellite connections). **Space is very limited in this pilot offering**, so register early to reserve your spot. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Online.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.
- **Vashon: April 25th – June 13th.** After a several-year absence, we are happy to be returning to Vashon Island this spring. Classes will be on Wednesday evenings at the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust Building, and there will be two Saturday field trips. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Vashon.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

- **Bellevue: October 4th – December 6th.** Our fall class will be on Thursday evenings in southeast Bellevue this year at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center. This is a smaller facility, so space is more limited this year than usual. Since we've always sold out in the past (with more space), be sure to reserve your spot early for this class. Also, special discounted rates are available for City of Bellevue residents. Details and registration information are available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP12Bellevue.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

Forest Stewardship Winter Social

Don't forget that our next Forest Stewardship Social is less than a month away, on Friday March 16th. In addition to a great potluck dinner, WSU Extension Forester Emeritus Don Hanley will be there to give some demonstrations out of his new homemade forestry tools manual (see above), and I'll be talking about the big new biofuels project.

Please RSVP so that I know we'll have enough people (and food) to make this happen. Details and RSVP info available at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/social2012Mar.htm> or by calling 425-357-6017.

2012 Native Plant Sales

The 2012 native tree and plant sales offered by local conservation districts are coming up fast. This is one of the best sources of native trees and understory plants. Pre-order deadlines are mostly past at this point, but there are still walk-up sale opportunities.

Snohomish/Camano:

March 2 & 3, 2012

<http://snohomishcd.org/plant-sale>

425-335-5634, ext 110

Skagit:

March 23 & 34 and April 14, 2012

Pre-Order by 3/2/2012

<http://www.skagitcd.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Brochure%20in%20MS%20Word.pdf>

360-428-4313

King:

March 2 & 3, 2012

http://www.kingcd.org/pro_native.htm

425-282-1912

Whidbey Island:
March 2 and 3, 2012
<http://whidbeycd.org/plantsale.aspx>
360-678-4708

Market Update

Here is the latest news on log prices in the Puget Sound area based on data provided by our friends at DNR in their monthly Timber Sale Query reports.

Log prices have started out the year pretty stable relative to the end of 2011. Douglas-fir ticked down a bit from December (but I think December was an anomaly, so January looks much more realistic) Meanwhile, alder, cedar, and maple have ticked up a bit.

For an updated price graph, please visit
<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/documents/LogPrices.pdf>

Forestry in the News

- *The Daily Herald* (Everett) reports on the closure of yet another Snohomish County Mill, Northwest Hardwoods in Arlington:
<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20120208/NEWS01/702089883>
- *The Seattle Times* ran an article on federal funding for forest restoration projects:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017408346_aporforestrestoration.html
- *The Islands' Sounder* reports on issues with laminated root rot in a popular state park (though this issue is actually impacting a number of state parks):
<http://www.islandssounder.com/news/139575943.html>
- *The Issaquah Reporter* reports on the potential for the Raging River Forest as a recreation site: <http://www.issaquahreporter.com/news/139466883.html>
- *The Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* reports on a plan to utilize local lumber for a new high school: <http://www.vashonbeachcomber.com/news/138871704.html>

Tidbits

- Save the date—the annual Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day will be Saturday August 18th near Olympia.
- The 2011 forest insect and disease aerial survey maps are now available at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/fhp/ads.

- Forest Management Plan Writing Competency Trainings will be held around the state this spring for NRCS Technical Service Providers (or those who wish to become a TSP). For details and registration, visit <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/> or contact Andy Perleberg at 509-667-6658.
- The US Forest Service has released the 2011 edition of Federal Income Tax on Timber: A Key to Your Most Frequently Asked Questions, a quick-reference guide to timber tax laws impacting woodland owners. Complete with the new tax law updates, this publication provides a timely tax reporting information for the 2011 return filing season. This publication is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxpubfaqs.pdf>.
- The WA DNR Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee is conducting a survey to find out about the awareness, perceptions, and utilization of the Small Forest Landowner Long Term Application. This survey will take approximately ten minutes to complete. The data you provide will be aggregated and will not be individually identifiable. To take the survey, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VF8J7RN>.

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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. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in any of the programs described above should call WSU Extension at 425-357-6017 to request accommodation at least 21 days in advance.