



Forestry

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

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Forester's Notes

What a year it has been. We did more classes, workshops, field days, field tours, and seminars than we ever have before (the operation seems to get bigger every year). That's a big part of the reason why you haven't heard from me since September. I will make it up to you in these last days of the year, though, with two newsletters – one now and a second one in about a week with different content and different things to learn about.

I want to start with a bit of reflection on what all we did this year. Here's a rundown of the locations where we held or participated in events:

- Anacortes
- Arlington
- Auburn
- Black Diamond
- Bothell
- Camano Island
- Concrete
- Conway
- Cumberland
- Deming
- Eastsound
- Enumclaw
- Everett
- Freeland
- Greenbank
- Issaquah
- Langley
- Monroe
- Mount Vernon
- Preston
- Seattle
- Stanwood
- Vashon
- Woodinville

And here are some of the topics we covered, either as individual programs or together as multi-session programs:

- Animal damage control
- Chainsaw felling and bucking
- Current use tax programs
- Firewise
- Forest ecology
- Forest edibles
- Forest owner legal issues
- Forest safety and security
- Growing mushrooms
- Insects and diseases
- Invasive weed removal
- Management plan writing
- Measurements
- Native trees
- Native understory plant uses
- Pruning
- Regulations
- Riparian management and water quality
- Selling timber
- Silviculture
- Soils
- Thinning
- Tree planting
- Wildlife

Did we make it to your neighborhood? A question that I get a lot, especially lately, is what determines where we go and what specific programs we offer. I would like to take the opportunity here to explain how the system works, as I think it will answer a lot of questions.

Extension programs like this one are county-based. That means that the local counties provide a significant portion of the funding for the program. Extension is a partnership between the county and the land grant university, with each putting up some funds to serve a particular location. The USDA is also part of this partnership, as they provide WSU with some of the funds that go to local Extension programming. This is part of why Extension is such an effective system—it is a working partnership between the county, state, and federal levels of government. This partnership starts at the county level, though, as there has to be a willing, local partner with some “skin in the game” to be able to bring in some state and federal matching funds.

Because these programs are funded first and foremost by the counties, the programs offered are hosted locally in those counties. Thus, if the Extension forestry program is not operating in your county, it means that the county is not including forestry in the suite of Extension programs that they fund (which may include agriculture, Master Gardeners, 4-H, and others).

This year we were able to operate in six counties: Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom. The funds came from a variety of different local sources, including county general funds, county agency funds, and county partnerships with local conservation districts. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of local

partners in these six counties for making this year's programs possible: Island County, Island County Extension, King County, King Conservation District, San Juan County, San Juan County Assessor's Office, San Juan Islands Conservation District, Skagit County, Snohomish Conservation District, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, Whatcom County, and Whidbey Island Conservation District.

We did not start out in all of these counties. We used to just be in Snohomish, Skagit, and King. We were able to expand into three more counties when citizens from those counties, together with local organizations like Farm Forestry, and Conservation Districts, went to their county council or commissioners to express a need and desire for Forestry Extension. Again I want to express my thanks to all six counties and their funding partners for being responsive to that and prioritizing resources to make it happen despite the lean times.

The counties that fund us provide funds at different levels depending on what they are able to do. Programs are geographically distributed proportional to how much funding each county provides. So the counties that provide higher levels of funding will have larger and/or more programs located within their borders. Counties also have a say in what specific programs they would like (e.g. Coached Planning, field day, topical workshops, field tours, etc.). Each year we work with each county to establish a mutually-agreeable slate of activities based on the level of funding they are able to provide. So the general scope of where and what we offer will be based on the conversations we have with the counties in December and January. The programs we did this year were scoped out a year ago, and we are scoping out 2016 programs right now based on what the counties are saying they would like and how much funding they are able to offer.

Things change from year to year depending on what's going on at the county level. Going into 2016, funding levels are stable in King, San Juan, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties. Island County is not able to fund us anymore, so we won't be doing any activities on Camano or Whidbey. Skagit, on the other hand, is increasing their funding for forestry, so watch for more activities in Skagit County next year (thank you Skagit County Commissioners!). Regardless of where the programs are offered, people from any county are welcome and encouraged to come and attend. We also have our online programs that are open to people anywhere.

The major elements of the 2016 schedule are coming together. We will offer five Coached Planning classes: Online (starts January 26th!), Everett (spring), Vashon (spring), Deming (fall), and Preston (fall). Read below for all the details. The Puget Sound Forest Owners Field Day will be in South King County this year, and the San Juan Islands Forest Owners Field Day will be on Lopez Island. There will also be a variety of topical workshops, field practicums, twilight tours, seminars, etc. throughout the area. Watch this newsletter for details on all of these programs as they are announced throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you in class and in the woods in 2016!

Kevin W. Zobrist
Associate Professor, Extension Forestry
Serving the North Puget Sound Area

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Save the Date: Selling Logs from Your Property - A comprehensive educational symposium for landowners

March 11-12 – Auburn, WA

This is the second and final offering of this program

Selling logs is one of the most important decisions you face as a landowner. Landowners log their property for a number of reasons. For some it's the culmination of decades of planning and hard work to produce a valuable crop. For others it might be a liquidation of an asset to meet a sudden financial need. Still others might be undertaking a thinning operation to improve forest health and habitat.

Whatever your reason or goal, selling logs is a high-stakes endeavor, and mistakes can be costly—this is not a time to cut corners! Timber is a valuable financial asset, YOUR asset, that took decades to produce—don't lose out on thousands of dollars by not getting a fair deal for your logs. Don't expose yourself to unnecessary liability or be left "on the hook" for someone else's mistake. Make sure your property looks how you want it to when the job is done and don't risk unnecessary damage to your property that could take decades to restore.

Topics we'll address include:

- Timber sale fundamentals
- Selling methods (sealed bid vs. negotiation)
- Types of sales (stumpage, lump sum, etc.)
- Types of buyers (mill, broker, logger)
- Getting fair value for your logs
- Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a landowner
- What a forestry consultant can offer you
- Protecting yourself from liability
- Minimum harvest amount to be economically viable
- Inventory and marketing for different forest products
- How to select a logger
- Permitting requirements and harvest regulations
- Excise taxes, current use taxation, and cost share programs
- Logging roads and operational logistics
- Silvicultural alternatives
- Portable sawmilling

Speakers will include:

Consulting foresters, log buyers, loggers, experienced landowners, and representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Format:

Classroom sessions on Friday evening and Saturday morning, followed by a field trip Saturday afternoon

More information:

Additional details on cost, registration, and exact location and times will be available soon. For now, please save the date.

Funding for this project was provided by the **Washington State University Western Extension Risk Management Education Center**, the **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**, and the **Whatcom Farm Forestry Association**. This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2012-49200-20030.



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2016 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

Coached Planning is our flagship program. This comprehensive, university-based forestry class will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few acres of woods or a large forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this class is for you.

Topics covered include:

- How do you know if your trees are healthy? What should you do if they aren't?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- Are there certain trees you should always keep or remove? How do you cut trees without damaging your land?
- What types of trees do you have? Does your forest look like a "mess"?
- How do you know if your trees need to be thinned, and how do you go about it?
- How do you identify and mitigate fire risks?
- Are invasive and noxious weeds taking over your underbrush? What are the risks and what can you do about it?
- What kind of soil do you have and how does that affect what grows?
- What is the risk of wildfire on your property?



Save money, too!

As part of this class we will "coach" you in the writing of your own simple forestry plan that may qualify you for property tax reductions or conservation cost-share grants.

What's included:

- 8 classroom sessions taught by forestry experts
- A Saturday field trip
- A large notebook full of reference materials and how-to guides
- A copy of the book Native Trees of Western Washington
- A tree-measuring tool
- A one-on-one consultation at your property with a professional forester.

Five offerings for 2016:

1. **Online** - Tuesday nights starting January 26th. For details and registration for this class visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cppreston/> or call 425-357-6023
2. **Vashon** - Wednesday nights starting March 2nd. For details and registration for this class visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpvashon/> or call 425-357-6023
3. **Everett** - Tuesday nights starting March 29th. For details and registration for this class visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpsnoco/> or call 425-357-6023
4. **Deming** - Thursday nights starting September 15th. For details and registration for this class visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cpwhatcom/> or call 425-357-6023
5. **Preston** - Tuesday nights starting September 27th. For details and registration for this class visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cppreston/> or call 425-357-6023

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Native Tree Talks

I'll be doing several free native tree talks and book signings at the beginning of the year:

1. January 9th –12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Molbak's Nursery, 13625 NE 175th St, Woodinville
2. January 16th – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Federal Way Library, 34200 1st Way S, Federal Way
3. January 23rd – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Vashon Library, 17210 Vashon Highway SW, Vashon

4. January 28th – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Auburn Library, 1102 Auburn Way S, Auburn

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2016 Conservation District Plant Sales

The conservation district plant sales are just around the corner. This is an excellent opportunity to stock up on native trees and plants. Take special note of the pre-order deadlines to make sure you're able to get what you want. Here are the local districts that have announced their 2016 sale dates:

King Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: February 5th
- Pre-order pickup and walk-up sale: March 5th
- More information: http://kingcd.org/pro_native.htm

Pierce Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 22nd
- Pre-order pickup: February 26th and 27th
- Walk-up sale: February 27th
- More information: <http://piercenativeplantsale.com/>

Skagit Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: TBA
- Pre-order pickup: March 25th
- Walk-up sale: March 26th
- More information: http://skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales

Snohomish Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: February 17th
- Pre-order pickup and walk-up sale: February 27th
- More information: <http://www.theplantsale.org/>

Whidbey Island Conservation District

- Pre-order deadline: January 31st
- Pre-order pickup: February 27th
- Ordering information: http://www.whidbeycd.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

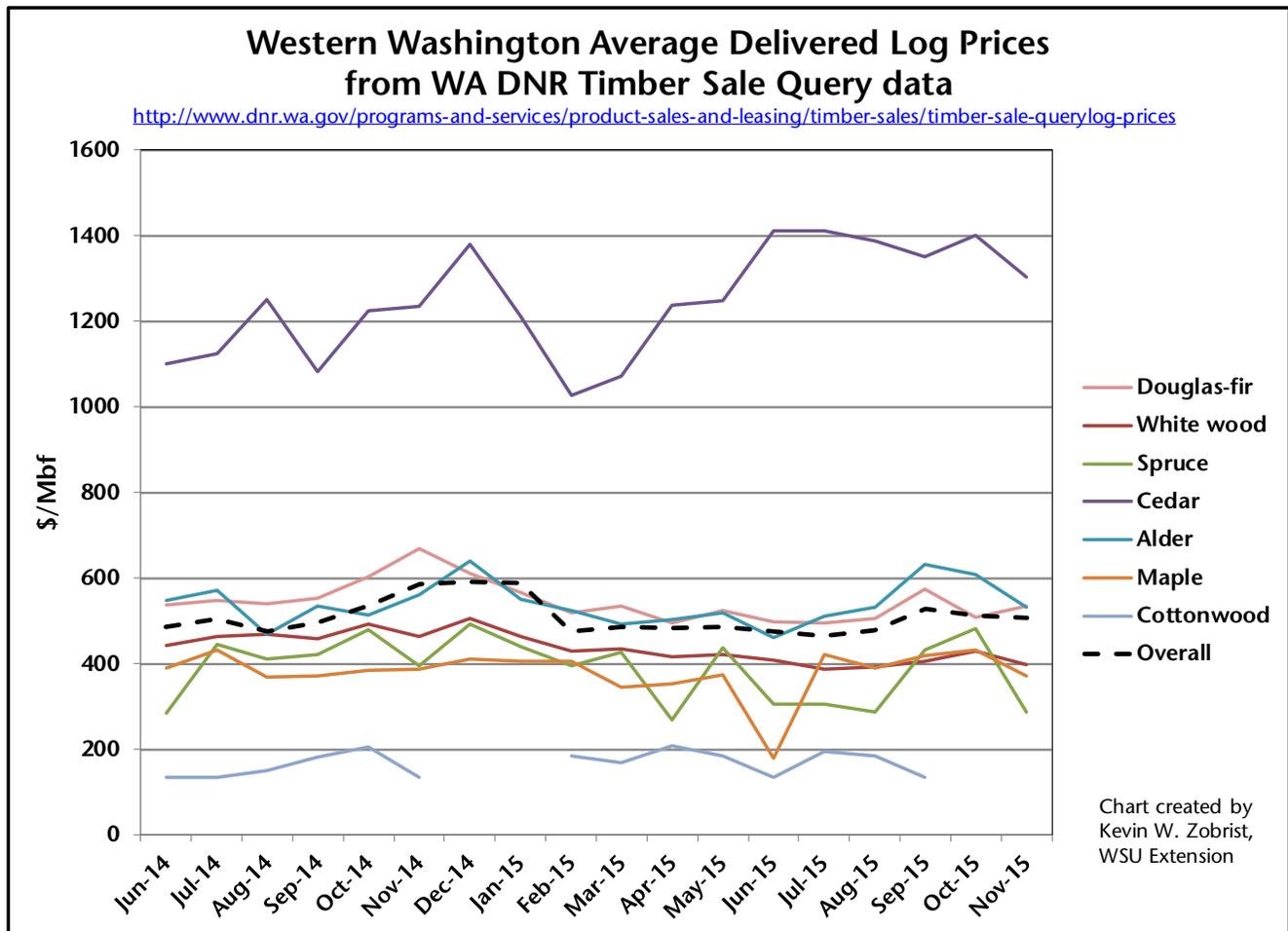
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Market Update

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

(<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/timber-sale-querylog-prices>)

Prices were relatively weak for the first half of this year, coming off of a peak at the end of last year. Prices improved a bit in early fall, but have tapered a bit since then.



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Forestry in the News

The Seattle Times reports on congressional wrangling over funding wildland firefighting and fire prevention: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/cantwell-balks-at-method-for-fixing-forest-service-budget/>

The Seattle Times reports that the Yakama Nation is seeking compensation from the Klickitat PUD for wildfire losses: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/yakama-nation-seeks-655m-in-fire-damages-from-local-utility/>

The Seattle Times reports on reintroducing fishers in the Cascades: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/relocated-fishers-steal-show-in-cascade-forest-homecoming/>

The Seattle Times reports on Microsoft's purchase of carbon credits from a forest near Mount Rainier: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/microsoft-buys-carbon-credits-in-forest-near-rainier-to-offset-pollution/>

The Seattle Times reports on a local mill that knowingly bought poached bigleaf maple: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mill-owner-admits-to-buying-maples-illegally-harvested-from-national-forest/>

The Seattle Times reports on new research results on the Oso mudslide: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/new-analysis-shows-oso-landslide-was-no-fluke/>

The Daily Herald in Everett reports on an agreement for timber harvesting around Lake Chaplain: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20151219/NEWS01/151218926>

The *Skagit Valley Herald* reports on drought on local Christmas tree farms: http://www.goskagit.com/all_access/drought-higher-temperatures-hurt-christmas-tree-farms/article_ad752064-7db3-5927-a3fe-4f1d73815904.html

Here's a *National Geographic* article on the megafires we've been facing across the west: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/150809-wildfires-forest-fires-climate-change-science/>

Seattle Business Magazine reports on how cross-laminated timbers could reshape the wood and building industry: <http://www.seattlebusinessmag.com/article/cross-laminated-timber-future-building>

Finally, some interesting news out of Utah, where the *Herald Journal* in Logan reports on flexible sidewalks to mitigate conflicts with tree roots: http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/new-flexible-sidewalk-could-save-trees/article_88f37352-a779-5ec7-83c1-296c57c410e6.html

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Tidbits

- Gypsy moths detected: Gypsy moths are invasive insects that could cause immense destruction of our trees and forests if they become established. WSDA has worked hard for decades to keep them at bay, and sets traps every year for early detection of their presence. Bad news—this year had the highest number of Asian gypsy moths ever detected in our state, and it's the first time they have been detected since 1999. This is very concerning news, and treatments will likely need to be done in 2016. This usually involves aerial spraying of naturally-occurring bacteria that are parasitic on gypsy moths. The bacterial spray is organic and is not harmful to humans or animals. More information: <https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2015/12/09/gypsy-moth-2015-trappings-may-lead-to-2016-treatments/>
- The winter edition of Forest Stewardship Notes is now available: <https://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2015/12/21/>
- The 2015 Tax Tips for Forest Landowners is now available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxtips2015.pdf>
- A new Woodland Fish & Wildlife publication is available: Family Forests and Wildlife – Vigorous Forests and Healthy Wildlife. <http://westernforestry.org/WoodlandFishAndWildlife/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Keystone-pub-v6.pdf>

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