

# NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON FORESTRY FORUM

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the NCW Forestry Forum. Thank you members! You have shown your faith in WFFA by renewing your membership for 2009 (all but six of 46 chapter members).

In Washington State there are about 215,000 family forest owners (owning 2 or more acres of forest land); About 150,000 of these own more than 5 acres (70%); about 90,000 of these own more than 10 acres (42%); about 55,000 of these own more than 20 acres (26%).

Representing these forestland owners, WFFA membership is less than one percent of this total or about 1,300 forestland owners. WFFA, with your support, has done a lot to represent small forest landowners. Through the efforts of our dedicated staff at the state level (combined with efforts of other organizations) we now have: 1) Alternative Harvest Plans, 2) Fifteen Year Harvest Permits, 3) Harvest Permits issued without paying a Moratorium Fee (\$33), 4) Riparian Easements Payments for required stream buffers, 5) Cost-sharing for fish passage culverts and bridges, 6) a Small Forest Landowner Forester in each DNR Office and in Olympia, etc. Our state officers are truly a strong voice in Olympia and for family forest owners. Unfortunately, like other state institutions, the DNR has had some severe budget cuts and the small landowner forester cadre have been reduced significantly.

Good news for forest landowners! In April Governor Gregoire signed Bill 5562 that amends the definition of "forest practice" in the nuisance law and shielding forest landowners from litigation in the future. This change strengthens the existing "Right to Forestry Law".

Our chapter has not had any field days lately, mainly because there have been so many other field day opportunities. The WFFA Annual Meeting, held in Ellensburg on May 29<sup>th</sup>, was attended by John Malone, Andy Perleberg, Chris Mallon, and Don and Gerry McClure. At the Tree Farmer of the Year Awards Luncheon held every year at the annual meeting, The McClure Family was honored along with two other families for being Certified Tree Farmers for 50 years (with the American Tree Farm System). Congratulations Don and Gerry and

family. The requirements for this certification are a forest management plan, ten or more acres of forestland, and evidence of good forest stewardship.

Other local opportunities to learn more about managing your forestland were the Forest and Range Owners Field Day held at the K Diamond Guest Ranch near Republic on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and the Chain Saw Clinic conducted by a Stihl Company Representative, held in the fire hall at Leavenworth on February 27<sup>th</sup>. This same workshop was held at the Chelan High School two years ago. Andy Perleberg organized both sessions. John Malone and Mike Salisbury attended both, learning a great deal about chains saws at both events. If you would like to have clinic in the Okanogan area, contact Andy Perleberg.

Kids Corner: This spring chapter members participated in the following forestry-related youth training events: NCW Envirothon at Daroga Park near Chelan, Wenatchee High FFA State-wide Forestry Contest also near Chelan, and several Natural Resource Horseback Tours in the Colockum Watershed. Our chapter donates \$100 to \$150 a year to the Wenatchee Highschool FFA Forestry Program to support its contest.

The recent University of Idaho extension publication "Woodland Notes" has three excellent articles:

- 1) **Payments for Forest Carbon Sequestration** by Jay O'Laughlin & Ron Mahoney
- 2) **Ten tips for burning slash piles** by Chris Schnepf
- 3) **A Primer on Pre-Commercial Thinning** by Randy Brooks

For Newsletter go to: [http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/extforest/Vol.%202020 No.%202021.pdf](http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/extforest/Vol.%202020%20No.%202021.pdf)

Or you can request a paper copy from the following:  
Extension Forestry, University of Idaho  
P.O. Box 441140  
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1140

Your chapter officers and other members would very much like to hear from you about your adventures managing a family forest. These can include any concerns or questions you have. We have experts all over the state to help – these people live more than 50 miles away (i.e. the definition of an expert). How about having a field day this fall in Okanogan County, at one of our member's forest? Any volunteers?

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Publicity and Programs, Andy Perleberg (509-667-6658)  
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