



# Northeast Chapter Washington Farm Forestry Association

WINTER MEETING January 23, 2010

The winter meeting of the Northeast Washington Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association was well-attended (104) and, for the second consecutive year, was held at the Kalispel Tribe of Indians' Camas Center for Community Wellness in Usk, Washington.

To bolster youth attendance, the chapter waived fees for high school students enrolled in natural resource-focus programs. Seven students took part, shuttled to the event from Hunters, Washington, and Metaline, Washington by instructors. Follow-up questionnaires sent to the students and teachers were returned to the chapter with enthusiastic remarks.

The meeting began at 8:30 AM with a continental breakfast, followed by a welcome by Matt Hobbs NEWFFA Chapter President. Market Reports were given by NE chapter member - foresters Bill Berrigan & Steve Gibson and by Chuck Gades of Stimson Lumber Company. Agency Updates were provided by Steve Harris of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Misty Seboldt of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Carol Mack and Emily Burt of the Washington State University (WSU) Extension, and Rod Hamilton of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

DNR Wildlife Biologist Jim Bottorff gave a wonderful presentation on identifying differences between wolves and coyotes and on the potential for marketable remains from hunting (ex. antlers, feathers, scent glands). Bottorff's 45 minutes was very much enjoyed.

Monica McMackin of the Stevens County Conservation District informed attendees of the Specialty Forest Products Co-Op and talked briefly about carbon sequestration and carbon trading.

A hearty catered lunch was followed by Kate Wilson of the Pend Oreille Basin Commission who spoke to the group about the Invasive Zebra Mussel, and the value of boat inspection. Jack Nisbet, author & historian, gave a presentation on Explorers David Thompson and David Douglas. For those unfamiliar with Douglas, he was the Scotland born botanist for whom the Douglas Fir was named. Nisbet's subject matter was catered specifically to our group and was well-received.

At 3:00 PM the program concluded and, shortly after, the chapter business meeting was held. Officer elections found the board little changed with the exception of Jan Fisher stepping down as secretary, and Steve Gibson taking that position.