

# Landowner News

Washington  
**FARM FORESTRY**  
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

Summer 2007

Landowner News is the official newsletter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

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Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

Edited by Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.,  
Olympia, Washington.

## Message From the President



Managing our tree farm and following the Seattle Mariners are two of the interests that Florence and I share.

Recently while conducting regional tree farm inspections in the southeast U.S. I was reminded that we aren't the only folks with these same interests. In Georgia, we judged an outstanding tree farm owned by two professional baseball players: Ryan Klesko (1B, San Francisco Giants) and John Smoltz (RHP, Atlanta Braves) who own and manage a large (1,500 acre plus) and properly managed tree farm. Although they had an excellent tree farm they were not selected as the regional tree farmers for the year because they are professional ball players who could not be present during the site visit. They were represented by their consulting forester who did an excellent job, but our guidelines require us to meet and interview the owners. It goes without saying where they make their money!

Sawmilling & Woodlot Management (July 2007) magazine contains an article, "A Wood Products Company that Hit a Home Run", describing how hard maples now produce over "... 50% of all bats used in the major leagues ...". Why the switch from ash to maple? The author reports that "... hard maple is a better wood than the traditional ash for baseball bats. Maple is harder and is more resistant to breakage. Because maple is a ring diffuse wood, the number of growth rings per inch is not as critical as it is with ash - a ring porous wood." (By the way, our bigleaf maple is a hard maple - who knows maybe we have a market waiting to be discovered?) Another factor to consider is that ash is currently being threatened by the spread of emerald ash borer, an exotic insect which is killing many eastern ash trees.

Pennsylvania and New York are the primary sources for the maple used by the company mentioned in the article. In the major leagues the teams each purchase approximately 100 bats for each player at a value of approximately \$65 per bat, or about \$6,500 in bats for each player. I keep thinking about those broken bats I see every day on TV during the baseball season.

Don Theoe

P.O. Box 1010, Chehalis, WA 98532  
Phone: (360) 736-5750 Fax: (360) 736-2704.  
Visit us on the Web at: [www.wafarmforestry.com](http://www.wafarmforestry.com)

# Calendar

## 15-Year Forest Practices Applications

One step closer

The state Forest Practices Board will hold three public hearings to receive comments on proposed forest practices rules affecting chapters 222-12, 222-16, and 222-20 WAC. The rules would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to grant approvals of small forest landowners' forest practices applications for terms of up to 15 years.

The rule proposal, preliminary economic analysis, and SEPA analysis, may be viewed by accessing the Department of Natural Resources' website at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/rules/activity/>, under "Current Rule Making Activity" and "Long-term applications for small forest landowners."

Hearing dates, times, locations are:

August 7, 2007 6:00 p.m.  
Ramada Spokane Airport  
8909 West Airport Drive, Spokane

August 9, 2007 6:00 p.m.  
Grays Harbor Community College  
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive, Aberdeen

August 14, 2007 6:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
3105 Pine Street, Everett, W

The Board will hear oral testimony at the hearings; hard copies of testimonies are appreciated. Comment deadline is August 15, 2007.

Send written comments to:  
Patricia Anderson, FPB Rules Coordinator  
Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Practices Division  
PO Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012  
or E-mail:  
[forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov)  
Fax: 360.902.1428

## WFFA ALERT

It is important for the WFFA to have good membership turnout at these public hearings and to provide written or public testimony on this rule proposal. We need every WFFA member, who is able to attend one of these meetings nearest their home, to do so.

Write or speak a write a short and respectful message, in your own words, on how a 15-year permit would be helpful to you. Include your name and mailing address.

Things to consider are:

- A 15 year permit could allow a simple notification at time of harvest, maximizing the flexibility of timing your harvest to changing log markets.
- A 15 year permit could include all or part of our ownership.
- A 15 year permit would save you from applying for 7 other two year permits. This would save many hours of filling out paper work for you and DNR as well as save money for both the landowner and DNR.
- A management plan filed with the 15 year permit would help show a tree farmer's long term commitment to good forest management and stewardship.
- A 15-year permit would benefit any tree farmer who voluntarily wanted to submit one, making it accessible to even the smallest tree farms of our state.
- 15-year permits would allow tree farmers to feel more secure in their ability to harvest tomorrow, the crop that they are planting today.
- 15-year permits would signify DNR's willingness to try new thinking when dealing with family forest land owners.
- 15-year permits encourage tree farmers to consider generational transfer plans.

Please consider taking these actions:

1. Write down one of the above dates on your calendar.
2. Send written testimony.
3. Attend a hearing.

## 'WFFA Update' Now Available

Farm Forestry has begun a new service to members who have provided the association with their e-mail address.

The new "WFFA Update" is an easy-to-read format available with just a click of a mouse.

Nearly 50% of our members have provided the WFFA with their e-mail addresses. This update feature will allow you to add, change or delete your e-mail address from our system.

Membership Chair Donna Loucks was instrumental in developing the template for this new system. Her work demonstrates once again the tremendous value our association receives from those who volunteer their time and expertise to our team.

The central location of and equipment available in WFFA's new Centralia office has also made it easier to tap that energy.

If you would like to add your name to the WFFA membership email list, please send the email address along with your name and phone number to [info@wafarmforestry.com](mailto:info@wafarmforestry.com).

## Family Forest Owners Field Day

This year's Western Washington Forest Owners Field Day is scheduled for September 15 at the Hamma Hamma Tree Farm just south of the Mason/Jefferson County line on Hood Canal. 4000-acre Tree Farm, and accompanying commercial shell fish operation, in the same family since before statehood! Program specifics being developed. Save the date – start "the buzz" – and stay tuned!

Steve Gibbs  
Forest Stewardship Program Manager  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
(360) 902-1706  
[steve.gibbs@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:steve.gibbs@dnr.wa.gov)

## June Field Day A Success

by Andy Perleberg  
Extension Educator, Forest Stewardship  
Washington State University

The June 23 field day was a spectacular event. Good participation, agreeable weather, excellence in instruction, and ease with access and site complexity made the event run superb.

Our hosts, the Hundley Family, deserve a huge applause, as they rolled out the welcome carpet and treated us like family. They are special people with a special piece of land, and we are lucky to have them as Cougar Alums and Forest Stewards.

This field day was an example of effective collaboration from every aspect. I wish to thank you all.

Event organizers included: WSU Extension, DNR, Family Forest Foundation, and the WA Farm Forestry Association.

Event contributors included: DNR, Family Forest Foundation, Kittitas Conservation District, Chelan Conservation District, WA Farm Forestry Association, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, American Tree Farm System, USDA Forest Service, Cascade Land Conservancy, and the Society of American Foresters (Kittitas and Mid-Columbia Chapters, and the SAF Forester's Fund).

Event Instructors represented: WSU Extension, WA Dept. Natural Resources, WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. of Agriculture, WA Dept. of Revenue, Yakama Tribe, Silvicultural Solutions, Williamson Consulting, Northwest Management, Stihl Northwest, Future Forestry Products, and Tom Brannon (WSU Colockum Unit).

Participation and cooperation by agencies and experts around the state always make these events possible of world-class quality.



**Bill and Maryellen Hundley open the gates to their family tree farm for the June 23 Field Day.**

## WFFA ENGAGED IN GOVERNOR'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

On February 7, 2007 Governor Christine Gregoire signed an executive order outlining the Washington Climate Change Challenge (WCCC) which acknowledges the impacts of climate change in our state. **Steve Stinson** was appointed by the governor to represent family forest land owners. Steve is a member of the WFFA and Executive Director of the Family Forest Foundation.

The WCCC outlines a series of tasks aimed at reducing the States impact on climate change including:

- \* Adopting the 2005 Clean Car Act requiring certain automobiles to meet tougher emissions standards beginning with 2009 models.
- \* Retrofitting 50% of school buses and 20% of local government diesel engine vehicles to reduce highly toxic diesel emissions;
- \* Leading the nation in requiring fuel suppliers to ensure that 2% of the fuel they sell is biodiesel or ethanol.
- \* Leading the nation in adopting high performance green building standards and having one of the most energy efficient building codes in the nation.

The Executive order also declares the state's commitment to address climate change by establishing greenhouse gas emissions reduction and clean energy economy goals for Washington State:

To achieve at least the remaining 40% toward the 2020 goal for Washington State the order directs the Washington Climate Change Challenge to consider the full range of policies and strategies including policy options including market-based systems, allowance trading, and incentives.

In order to achieve these goals, the Executive Order established a Climate Advisory Team (CAT) on which forestry is represented by the Weyerhaeuser Company. Advising them are the Technical Working Groups (TWG's) and the Preparation Adaptation Working Groups (PAWG's). Steve Stinson is representing family forests on each of these working groups. Both groups have been working on a series of forestry related policy recommendations for the CAT and are on a fast track to have recommendations completed by this fall.

Public participation in the CAT process is welcomed and information on how to participate and what has currently been accomplished can be found on the Department of Ecology website at <http://ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat>



### Book Review

The White Cascade: The Great Northern Railway Disaster and America's Deadliest Avalanche.  
by Gary Krist

"It is always a great gift when someone tells a long forgotten story, but it is especially so when the drama is this astonishing and the writer this talented. Gary Krist weaves a spider web of a tale, drawing his readers in until they feel as though they too are passengers on the Seattle 25, trapped in one of the world's most dangerous places, in one of history's most savage storms". Susan Casey, Author.

This book is not only a great story told about a true event, here in Washington State, it is also a great look into our states founding. Gary Krist affords us a look at how our state developed, from Spokane to Seattle, and how this extraordinary natural event helped form state and national policy..."it was the railroad. after all, that had made the transformation of the Northwest possible, serving as the essential catalyst for turning a fallow wilderness into the colossal wealth-producing machine they saw..."

A very good read!

## American Tree Farm System Honor



### Playfair is Western Region Winner

Former WFFA President Bob Playfair and the Rafter Seven Ranch Tree Farm has won the 2007 Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year Contest. Bob and family came out on top of the three final candidates representing the states of

Montana, Oregon and Washington and now will be competing with the other three regional winners for the National Title this fall.

Please join us in congratulating Bob Playfair on being an outstanding regional tree farmer of the year and wish him the best of success in the 2007 National Tree Farmer of the Year contest.

## Moratorium Filing Removal Date

July 22, 2007 was the magic date

On April 18, 2007, Governor Gregoire signed Senate Bill 5883 into law, thereby removing the requirement for forest landowners to file a 6-year moratorium of development with a Forest Practices Application.

After July 22, 2007, DNR no longer requires a forestland owner to file the six year development moratorium or pay the accompanying \$33 county recording fee and recording against your property title.

This legislation changes the way DNR and your county handle this moratorium/ reforestation issue. If you plan to change land uses after a harvest, be sure to file the proper Class VI Forest Practice Application and be knowledgeable of your counties requirements for public resource protection.

For more information call DNR Olympia office at (360) 902-1400 or go to [www.drn.wa.gov](http://www.drn.wa.gov) and find the contact for your regional DNR office.

## Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Position Filled

In the May issue of 'Landowner News' we sought member candidates for the position opened on the Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLOAC), a position appointed by Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland. We are thankful for those who contacted the WFFA for consideration of this position.

The WFFA submitted the name of Ken Miller, past WFFA president, to Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland, and Commission Sutherland appointed Ken, thanking him "for his willingness to serve on this important committee".

The current WFFA members now on the SFLOAC are:

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Chair: Dennis Dart | Upper Puget Sound Chapter |
| Phil Hess          | Kittitas Chapter          |
| Maurice Williamson | NE Chapter                |
| Ken Miller         | South Sound Chapter       |

# Corporate Patrons

## **Platinum Patrons**

Family Forest Foundation  
Port Blakely Tree Farms  
RSG Forest Products, Inc.  
Stimson Lumber Company  
West Fork Timber Company, LLC

## **Gold Patrons**

Goodyear Nelson Hardwood Lumber Co.  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
Tree Management Plus Inc.  
Washington Contract Loggers Association  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Dev. Co.

## **Silver Patrons**

A.L.R.T.  
Bloedel Timberlands Development, Inc.  
Boise Cascade L.L.C. - NE Washington  
Buse Timber and Sales  
Cascade Land Conservancy  
Columbia Cedar, Inc.  
Forest Systems, Inc.  
Great Western Lumber Co.  
M&R Services Co.  
Riley Creek Lumber Co.  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Simpson Investment Company  
Washington Alder LLC  
Welco Lumber Co.  
Weyerhaeuser Hardwoods

## **Bronze Patrons**

Allen Bros. Forest Mgmt. Inc.  
American Forest Resource Council  
Bridgewater Logging, Inc.  
Forest Capital Partners LLC  
Forestpark Lands LLC  
Fritch Mill  
Giustina Resources  
Goldstein Law Office  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
IFA Nurseries, Inc.  
J.D. Lumber Inc.  
Ken's Kutting Inc.  
Landerholm & Associates, Inc.  
Longview Fibre  
Menasha Forest Products Corporation  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Northwest Management, Inc.  
O'Neill Pine Company  
Port of Olympia  
SDS Lumber Company  
Sheehan & Co. P.S.  
Silvaseed Co.  
Vaagen Brothers  
Washington Forest Protection Assoc.  
Wirrkala & Sons Logging

## **Annual Meeting Supporters**

4S Tree/NW, Inc.  
Forest Marketing Enterprises Inc.  
Hampton Tree Farms, Inc.  
Helena Chemical Co.  
Inland Empire Paper Company  
Mueller Sack LLC  
Plas Newydd LLC  
Pursley Logging Co. Inc.  
Stimson Lumber Company

## Welcome New WFFA Members!

CLARK  
Ron Anderson  
Jo Ann Baker & David  
McFarland  
Ron & Kathy Berkheiser  
David Boitoms  
Don Clifford  
David & Linda Combey  
Connie Dees  
Lorri & Troy Dunn  
Crystal & Richard Harris  
Jared Larwick  
Katrina Natalie  
John Pummell  
Tony Ruestig  
John Schroeder  
Mary & Eric Shutz  
Jeff & Jeri Stewart  
Jared & Laina Wright

KITTITAS  
Patty O'Healm  
Mary Scott

LEWIS  
Lee Grose  
Bruce & Mary McDonald

NE WASHINGTON  
Eric & Tina Boos

NORTH CENTRAL  
Larry, Pamela & Keith Black

OLYMPIC  
Ryan & Ann Dicks

SOUTH SOUND  
Mark Erickson

UPS  
Mike & Sharon Blais  
Constance Gillespie

## From the Executive Director's Desk



Having now spent the last four years working full time with the WFFA staff, officers, and committees, in an effort to bring value to our membership, I am guilty of neglecting my own tree farm. And while I report regularly in this column of my optimism for our association, once in awhile it takes a personal experience to give a reality check on how things really are. I had my reality check this week as I prepared to file my first Forest Practice Application (FPA) in 4 years.

In the 15 years prior to taking this position I had always maintained an FPA so I could legally harvest three or four loads of logs annually while maintaining the vigor and health of our tree farm. With either thinning, converting brush to a working forest or removing some root rot or blow down, there was a continuing need (thankfully) to sell a few logs.

So as I prepare for this FPA, to clean up a load of last winters blow down, convert some under performing alder to conifer, and try to take a few, sleek and healthy, 60 year old Doug Fir stems from a riparian "outer zone" which lies between 140'-200' from a stream, I panicked when I realized the need for an alternate plan to achieve the above.

I have since calmed down and I am mentally preparing myself to try to utilize DNR Foresters to receive an FPA and an Alternate Plan. And this has brought me to the point of this message. Washington State needs a process by which small business forestry (tree farms) can easily and affordably remove those trees allowed by Forest and Fish Rules.

Long Term (15 year) applications (now with an AP and some day with a template) seem to me to offer the best opportunity to accomplish this while allowing our state agencies to have regulations in place to help recognize the protection of public resources that come from our private forests.

In August there are three state wide public hearings to receive comments on these proposed 15 year applications (see article on page 3). It is important for our membership to provide attendance as well as written and spoken testimony at these hearings. I am hoping that you will agree and find the time out of your busy schedules to do so.

Treefully,



## Washington Farm Forestry Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member

If this is a family membership:

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Level (Please check One)

- General \$50  
 Sustaining \$100  
 Benefactor \$250  
 Lifetime \$1200 (onetime payment)  
 Associate \$50 (non-land owning)  
 Additional Chapter(s) @ \$10  
Name of Additional Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Voluntary Contribution to Support WFFA .  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut off this form and mail with a check made payable to "WFFA" to:

Washington Farm Forestry Association  
P.O. Box 7663  
Olympia, WA 98507

Please use this form to encourage new members to join.  
Current members are invoiced annually in December.