

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

December 2004

Message From the President

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.



The first six months of my term as President of Washington Farm Forestry has flown by.

I have learned much about our membership, your needs, aspirations and hopes for the future as dedicated “stewards of the land.” I have learned that while we have many differences, we are united by our love of the land and the trees entrusted to us.

I have been working to bring that sense of stewardship forward in every arena where I get the chance – from formal meetings with state and federal regulators to informal meetings with the timber industry, farmers, environmental groups and others.

My goal is to keep moving this association forward – to help keep family forest owners on the land, doing what we do best – enhancing the environment, contributing to a strong state economy, and maintaining an important way of life.

We face many challenges in the years ahead, not the least of which is the continuing challenge of telling our story to the general public so that they recognize the unique importance of family forest landowners and the family forests they manage.

I appreciate all the letters, phone calls and e-mails I have received from members over the last half year and encourage you to keep these lines of communication open.

Bonnie and I wish you the very best for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ken Miller

kenmiller@olywa.net

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Visit us on the Web at:
www.wafarmforestry.com

Small Forest Landowner Office Can Help

Farm Forestry members often ask whom to contact with questions regarding forest practices applications or other state programs. Below is a list of contacts by region in the small forest landowner office of the Department of Natural Resources whose mission is to "promote the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners." Staff members at the small landowner office welcome your questions and concerns.

Web address:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo>

Division Office E-mail: sflo@wadnr.gov

Northeast Region

Steve DeCook
225 S Silke Rd
Colville, WA 99114-0190
509-684-7474
steve.decook@wadnr.gov

Northwest Region

Boyd Norton
919 N Township St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9333
360-856-3500
boyd.norton@wadnr.gov

Olympic Region

Ritch Wood
411 Tillicum Ln
Forks, WA 98331-9797
360-374-6131
richard.wood@wadnr.gov

Pacific Cascade Region

South:

Terry Lysak
601 Bond Rd
Castle Rock, WA 98611-0280
360-431-1388
teresa.lysak@wadnr.gov

North:

Rick Kuykendall
1405 Rush Rd
Chehalis, WA 98532-8763
360-748-2383
rick.kuykendall@wadnr.gov

Southeast Region

Joe Weeks
713 E Bowers Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341
509-925-8510
joe.weeks@wadnr.gov

Mary McDonald - SFLO Program Director

Mary McDonald graduated from the University of Montana in Forestry. She has been working with DNR for 12 years with experience in forest practices, stewardship and timber sale layout and administration. Prior to working in the Northwest, Mary worked in the urban forestry program for four years.

Kirk Hanson - SFLO Program Specialist

Kirk Hanson is a small forest landowner with a 40-acre tree farm in Grays Harbor County where he manages a regenerating forest and is experimenting with high-value agroforestry crops. Kirk has worked for the Small Forest Landowner Office since 2000 as the public relations specialist for the office and more recently as the program manager for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Prior to working for DNR, Kirk was involved in a variety of projects including: managed riparian buffers for farmlands, agroforestry plantations for farms and forests, fruit and nut orchards and non-timber forest products. In his spare time Kirk works with several non-profit organizations developing market-based strategies for improving the economic viability of family forests. Kirk graduated from the Evergreen State College in 1995 with a degree in sustainable resource management and currently lives in Olympia with his wife and cat.

Dan Pomerenk - SFLO Program Specialist

Dan Pomerenk is a forester that has been with the Department of Natural Resources for the past 13 years working in a variety of programs. He has worked on State lands in programs such as timber sales, road design, recreation, and silviculture. He has also worked in the Forest Practices and Fire programs. Dan graduated from Centralia College with a Forest Technology degree in 1986 and just recently went

back to school to complete a Bachelor of Science degree from Evergreen State College.

Larry Dominguez - Natural Resource Scientist

Larry is the SFLO Aquatic Riparian Ecologist and has spent the majority of his career involved with watershed assessment, restoration, monitoring, studies on fish life history, effects of logging, forest landscape planning and watershed analysis. He was a regional biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a research assistant at the University of Washington's Center for Streamside Studies and has taught aquaculture in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. He graduated from The Evergreen State College in 1987 with a degree in Environmental Studies. He is near completion of his graduate degree from Evergreen where he is applying a complex salmon life history and productivity model to a coastal Washington watershed. This work will contribute to his past efforts at DNR where he served as the fish biologist in the State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan program.

Scott Potter - SFLO Program Specialist

Scott Potter was recently hired to work in the small forest landowner office with the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Prior to working for the DNR, Scott was the Quinault Indian Nation's Timber, Fish, and Wildlife Biologist, working with agencies and landowners on fish habitat issues in relation to forest practices. Scott graduated from Grays Harbor College with a degree in Fish and Wildlife and completed his bachelor degree in environmental studies at The Evergreen State College. Scott lives in Montesano with his wife Kari and their two daughters Sydney and Kylee.

Legislative and Regulatory Review

The 2005 legislative session will be busy for WFFA. The state departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife are requesting budgets that will continue to facilitate the forest riparian easement program, family forest fish passage program, and return to full staffing in the Small Forest Landowner Office. Members are encouraged to support these requests. WFFA may also work for changes that will allow a landscape approach for long-term planning on small landowners' property.

At the November Forest Practices Board meeting, the overstocked stand template for Westside was approved and will now be referred to in Board manual as Section 21. The manual should be on the DNR website for your review and/or for you to consider submitting as your forest practice application. The template allows for thinning in the riparian management zone to a minimum of a 14 foot no cut with a maximum of 30 feet based on half of the average tree diameter in the riparian zone. WFFA encourages its members to consider the template if you are planning a thinning operation.

The small forest landowner working group is currently developing an Eastside overstocked stand template and hopes to get a product available this upcoming year. Much time and energy from volunteers within the organization make these templates projects succeed. WFFA also has an opportunity to participate in the Hardwood Conversion Study Plan. This research or study of hardwood conversion by CMER (Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research) was a Forest and Fish policy directed study of the effects of reestablishing conifers on stream temperature, vegetation inventory, and economic impact. WFFA has been asked to find 10 sites of small landowners in the state that would like to participate. As the landowner you will be asked to allow temperature readings on the stream

before harvest and after harvest, allow CMER scientists to do vegetation inventory, and supply some economic costs associated with the conversion. It is estimated that this will occur over a five year period. The current rule is very restrictive and most small landowner doesn't even qualify to use it. If you are planning a hardwood conversion for harvest next fall of 2005 and would like more information on the prescriptions involved with this research email Sherry Fox at tmp@myhome.net.

The Forest Practices Board manual for water typing (Section 23) will be available for public review Dec. 17- Jan. 5th. These comments will be used to finish development of Section 23 that will be presented at the February meeting of the Forest Practices Board. If the modeled maps are accepted as the permanent rule, the current interim rule of "physical characteristics" will be replaced.

Permanent rule making for Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans will also be coming to the Forest Practices Board in 2005. Stakeholder review is underway and the process is moving in the right direction. WFFA made a commitment to encourage our membership to be the example of the state and submit their checklist RMAP even if they weren't planning a harvest. It's a simple one page question and answer sheet that can be obtained from your regional DNR office or off the DNR/SFLO website at www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo. This is an easy way to show support for the program.

For more information contact:

Sherry Fox, Forests and Fish Policy Coordinator: tmp@myhome.net

Martin Flynn, Contract Lobbyist: martinflynn@qwest.net

Environmental Regulations Streamlined on Non-fish Bearing Streams

Timber harvesters working in or across non-fish bearing streams will no longer need to obtain a hydraulic permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved a measure that exempts timber harvesters from obtaining a hydraulic permit for non-fish bearing streams if a forest practices application with appropriate fish protection measures is approved by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Commission's action becomes effective June 1. The action follows changes made in recent years to state forest practices rules that expanded protections for riparian and aquatic resources on state and private forestland as part of the Forest and Fish Report.

Under an agreement between WDFW and DNR, WDFW fisheries and habitat biologists will provide training over the next seven months to DNR staff and landowners. The training will focus on stream-type identification and protective measures for fish and fish habitat resource priorities.

In addition, a compliance-monitoring program will be initiated. The program will be administered by WDFW, DNR, landowners and the tribes. Reports from the monitoring program will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission after one year, and every two years thereafter.

Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

continue to own their forestland. It may be especially difficult to pass forestland onto the next generation if land values are substantially inflated by development potential. A conservation easement that insures sound forest management practices but precludes residential and commercial development may reduce federal taxes enough to keep forestland in the family.

Following are some of the features of a conservation easement:

1. Each conservation easement is specifically tailored to address the needs and desires of the landowner.
2. The easement is recorded with the title to the property, ensuring it stays in forestland forever.
3. The title of the property remains in the landowners name, and it can be used as before: harvested, leased, sold, or passed on to heirs within the conditions of the easement.
4. A conservation easement does not grant public access to the property unless so desired by the landowner. Landowners and land trusts in the New England States have been executing working forest conservation easements for many years, but they are fairly new in the State of Washington. There is a steep learning curve as land trusts work with landowners to develop conservation easements. The Washington Farm Forestry Association could play a vital role in developing model conservation easements that

perpetuate family ownership of working forests and healthy ecosystems for future generations.

Ralph Heft
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

2005 WFFA ANNUAL MEETING

Grays Harbor and Pacific chapters of WFFA will host the 2005 Annual Meeting at Ocean Shores on April 21, 22 and 23, 2005. The meeting will be held at the Shilo Inn, which offers an ocean view from every room for \$99 a day for this convention. Theme for this meeting is Forests, Fish and Our Future, with speakers commenting on the results of the first five years of Forest & Fish rules, with projections for future direction. Other speakers will discuss tree spacing, blowdown and other tree health issues. Washington State's Tree Farmer of the Year will be honored. The colorful history of logging in Grays Harbor will be presented by the Polson Museum. A field trip to the Pattillo and Edwards tree farms in Pacific County on Saturday will include a hot meal.

Be sure to save these dates to attend the Annual Meeting. Contact Grays Harbor Chairman Dick Atkins at (360) 437-2166 or atkins@waypt.com for more information.

State Funds Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage

For years, a culvert on a private road near Lake Isabella in Mason County blocked about two miles of salmon spawning habitat on Goat Hill Creek.

Instead of watching chum and coho salmon milling around with no place to go, Rick and Linda Burns can now watch salmon head upstream through and beyond their 50-acre ranch near Lake Isabella, thanks to a state-funded culvert replacement project.

Rick Burns told the Olympian newspaper that he knew the old culvert was a problem, both for the road and for the fish, but as a retired person he didn't have the resources to deal with it on his own.

As it turned out, the Burnses didn't have to fix the culvert by themselves. They qualified for \$44,000 in assistance from the Family Forest Fish Passage Program created by the 2003 state Legislature and funded for two years to the tune of \$2 million.

The money is directed at small timberland owners with fish barriers on their property. To qualify for funding, landowners must have harvested no more than 2 million board feet of timber per year in the past three years.

They also must certify that they won't exceed the limit in the next 10 years.

For landowners who qualify the program will provide 75 to 100 percent of the cost of removing or replacing culverts, earthen dams and other obstructions to fish caused by human activity on fish-bearing streams.

"First priority goes to those projects with the biggest benefit to fish passage at the least cost," said Brett DeMond, a state Department of Fish and Wildlife program administrator.

Green Diamond Resource Co., a Shelton-based timber company that has an easement on the private road, chipped in \$19,000 in services, including a work crew and some heavy equipment.

A similar project was undertaken on Sherman and Dorothy Esses' property where an old pipe under an access road was a major barrier to juvenile coho salmon and cutthroat trout trying to move up Winkleman Creek.

A new culvert was installed with financial assistance from the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The culvert has opened up more than a mile of prime fish-rearing habitat above the Esses' access road. The Esses' project qualified for \$14,450 in assistance.

Information for this story comes from the *Daily Olympian* and the Montesano *Vidette*.

Letters to the Editor

With this edition of “**Landowner News**” we inaugurate a “Letters to the Editor” section. Please feel free to submit letters on topics you read about in Landowner News to Rick Dunning, Executive Director, P.O. Box 7663, Olympia, WA 98507 or rdunning@wafarmforestry.com. We reserve the right to not print letters submitted. Letters printed will be edited for space.

Dear Editor:

Nina Carter of Audubon Washington spoke at our October 15 Executive Committee. I think the purpose for inviting her was to expose us to a moderate environmental group with which we could work on some common political goals.

If the welfare of birds and other wildlife is one of Audubon’s objectives, our tree farms should be looked upon favorably. On our 835-acre property, we have one-half mile of shoreline on the Humptulips River, four additional miles of stream considered to be fish-bearing, and four miles of smaller non-fish-bearing streams. One Type A wetland is over 100 acres and there are two smaller Type A wetlands as well as forested wetlands adding up to another 70 acres. None of these streams or wetlands has been or will be damaged by our forest management activities. They are, for all

practical purposes, set aside and preserved. Swans, geese, ducks, heron, kingfishers and all the other aquatic birds enjoy this virtually undisturbed habitat.

I don’t attempt to keep track of the different species and can only identify a couple dozen. I am interested in birds, fish and wildlife in general, but my main interest is trees and earning a fair return on my financial investment.

I read through the packet of material provided by Ms Carter. I was particularly interested in the status report for wetlands:

Overall more than 33 % lost with more in some areas

And for forests:97% of western and 85% of eastern old-growth forest lost. Western old-growth now mostly in higher elevations with less productivity. Statewide, most forest lands lost to suburban sprawl; *most lowland forest converted to industrial tree farms unsuitable for many birds*. Pine, oak forests fragmented by logging, overrun by nonnative plants, vulnerable to fire due to invasion of dense fir undergrowth.

This seems like a pretty pessimistic report when compared to my rosy one on the status of our tree farm for birds. It may be an example of my view of Audubon Washington, that it is unwilling to compromise

unless the environment is returned to the status it had 100 years ago. My opinion originated from the 1990s TFW negotiations, which finally resulted in the Forests and Fish law. Audubon and a couple other environmental groups participated in the original negotiations, proposing 300-foot buffers along streams, among other things. When the other associations, government agencies, tribes, etc. agreed on smaller buffers, all the environmental groups walked out and threatened to sue because they didn’t get their way. Some say Audubon was the last to walk, but that doesn’t matter to me. They did not sue, probably only because it’s pretty hard to overturn a law passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

While we should keep our eyes open for people or groups that could help us even once in a while, we should be cautious about some of them, including Audubon Washington.

I think steps could be taken to educate people in both organizations and build trust. That would include joint meetings and trips to local tree farms. Some positive recognition of the role Washington Farm Forestry members play from Audubon Washington would be welcome.

Dick Atkins
President
Grays Harbor Chapter

Dear Editor:

I just read your article in the October, WFFA Landowner News that expressed your reservations about conservation easement restrictions on forestland management. After working as a volunteer with the Skagit Land Trust for several years, I see ways conservation easements can help insure future forest products, continue family forestland ownership, and sustain healthy forest ecosystems into the future. Traditionally, conservation easements were donated or purchased to preserve targeted conservation values, and often have precluded timber harvest. Land trusts have recognized that working forestlands are not only important for their natural values but they also provide a buffer from unplanned development and help stem uncontrolled sprawl that is cutting into many of our nation’s forests. Forestland buffers provide important ecological value but they often cannot be sustained without some way for the landowners to make a living from the land. Conservation easements can be used as a tool to help insure that healthy working forests continue in family ownership. Although forestland property tax classification means families can usually afford the associated property taxes, the federal income taxes and federal estate taxes may make it difficult or impossible for families to

Welcome New WFFA Members!

- Clark**
Courtney & Jason Bodily
- Cowlitz**
Gil Harkey
Clayton & Judith Peterson
- Grays Harbor**
Jim & Connie Gold
- Kittitas**
Julie Brenden
- Lewis**
Thomas Bradley
Charles & Susan Coddington
Margaret Cole
Dave & Pam Doyle
Earl Emerson
Tom & Rebecca Paulin
Devon Powell
Brandt & Julie Powell
- NE Washington**
Harvey & Alex Greenberg
Paul & Lynn Logman
Lois & Donald Patterson
- Olympic**
Dick Aleccio
- Pierce**
C. Nicholas Abednour
Bill Beason
Edward & Barbara Bickford
Amy DeCuir
Raymond & Mary Mautz
Tony R. Miller
Steve & Kristine Pareira
Gary & Michelle Payne
John & Danielle Sawyer
Gary & Linda Spry
Michael Theoe
Aleta Thompson
Hiro Tsuji & James Knodel
Thomas Tungsvik & Mary Conner
W. Keith Woodmansee
Zak Family Trust
- South Sound**
Adam James
Peter & Beverly York
- Spokane**
Thomas Salisbury & Ramona Zarelli

From the Executive Director's Desk



I recently attended a meeting of the Northwest Environmental Forum, hosted by the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. The meeting titled "Saving Washington's Working Forest Land Base," was held at Alderbrook on the Hood Canal and facilitated by former Commissioner of Public Lands Brian Boyle.

I was one of the first speakers at this Forum which was attended by representatives of the forest products industry, the leading conservation and environmental groups of our State and members of the University faculty. My speech detailed a case study of a tree farm on a transaction to development. My message was the importance of working together to respect the human aspect of Washington's working forests.

I was impressed that all participants – from every side of the natural resources debate – seemed to agree that family forest landowners are the "canary in the coal mine" of Washington's timber future. As more and more of us are forced off the land and pushed into converting our land to other uses, the future of our state's private forests are at risk.

I sensed a new willingness on the part of the conservation groups to engage in dialogue that will help us maintain our working forests and maintain the many environmental benefits we bring to the land.

I believe this new recognition is the result of the hard work of your state association and individual WFFA members who are getting the word out about family forest owners and what we do.

It is my sincere hope that each member of the WFFA will return the membership renewals, now in your mailbox, to keep this important work moving forward. We need your renewed membership to continue the hard work we have begun and to tackle new challenges.

And if you renew your membership at the higher "sustaining" level of \$100 you will be making an important contribution to the future of our organization – and to the future of the generations to come.

Best wishes for a happy New Year.

Treefully,

Rick Dunning

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 Chapters(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