

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

February 2005

Message From the President

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

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Public Affairs

Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

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



Progress is being made on at least two fronts to attain some regulatory certainty and help family forest landowners continue in forestry. Of particular immediate importance is passage of SB 5761 which is one more step toward fulfilling the promise to family forest landowners of the Forests and Fish law. (Read more about SB 5761 inside).

A long last it appears we are moving towards the regulatory certainty from the federal government that was a key part of Forests and Fish.. The statewide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is now in the hands of the federal regulators. I urge you to mail, email, or phone your comments of support promptly (see inside). To be clear, this is not about your views of Forest and Fish, it's about your belief that Forest and Fish is more than sufficient protections for all the critters dependent on forestland. In other words, through Forest and Fish **we've already bought the cow** (some will say we paid too much), **it's time we started getting some milk** (federal assurances)! I remain optimistic about Forest and Fish, although we have a long way to go towards “economic viability”.

There will be a workshop on small landowner issues with the Forest Practices Board later this summer. In addition to our previously adopted Resolutions we are planning a brainstorming session at the annual meeting to capture all the idea's out there that would answer the question: What are the key changes that family forest landowners need to remain in forestry (and out of the legislative and regulatory halls of Olympia)? We have to be realistic, we aren't going to reverse Forest and Fish and we aren't going back to the old rules but we believe there is enough good will within the agencies & other stakeholders to work towards things that will help keep us on the landscape (economic viability). Give WFFA leadership your idea's on what you need or what you think will help get WFFA out of Olympia so we can focus 100% on education and fellowship.

The longer I serve as President, the more I appreciate the efforts of our paid and (especially) volunteer leaders in WFFA (past, present, and future). Many of you increased your level of financial support this year; our Corporate Patrons are continuing their support (we need more names to contact!); collectively we are a great bunch of down to earth folks that I'm proud to serve.

Ken Miller
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Shared Strategy Summit

January 26-27, 2005

Shared Strategy For Puget Sound is charged with the responsibility to develop a Salmon Recovery plan for all of Puget Sound and all the watersheds draining to Puget Sound. This plan is required by the Endangered Species Act to avoid Federal Agencies dictating what steps must be taken to recover listed Salmon Species. Everyone agrees it will be best if an acceptable recovery plan can be developed collaboratively with all the stakeholders in Puget Sound.

Ken Miller and Sherry Fox attended to represent Farm Forestry at this Summit of most of the key stakeholders in Washington's Salmon restoration efforts. Sherry was on a panel that reviewed the role of Forest and Fish in the recovery effort. Ken worked with the Agriculture stakeholders and the convention at large to raise the level of awareness about who we are & why we matter. The Agriculture folks are pushing real hard for incentives to manage and enhance riparian areas and Ken pushed to include Farm Forestry in all their definitions.

This was a very broad based and high-level Summit with Bill Ruckelshaus who set the right tone as Keynote speaker. Other speakers included Governor Gregoire, Senator Murray, former Secretary of State (& WFFA member) Ralph Munro, Representative Dicks, State and Federal Agencies heads, County & City officials, Tribal representatives, Washington Forest Protection Association, and all the other groups having an interest in Salmon recovery. It was positive and upbeat regarding the possibilities of completing an acceptable recovery plan later this year after 5 years of collaborative work by the participating stakeholders.

Although Washington Forest Protection Association and several of the larger timber companies were co-sponsors of the Summit their role was low key. Forest and Fish legislation has achieved one of its goals of keeping us out of individual recovery plans, although it's clear stakeholders in individual watersheds still want more contributions/ "protections". It's anticipated that Forest and Fish will remain on a separate but coordinated track towards Federal approval of this Salmon Recovery Plan and Federal Assurances promised in Forest and Fish later this year.

For those of you in watersheds that drain into Puget Sound, I'd suggest getting acquainted with what's going on in your watershed by going to www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org where you can see current drafts &/or contact info to get involved. Alternately call 206-447-8667 for Jagoda Perich-Anderson and tell her you are a local tree farmer that wants to know more. She will eagerly welcome you with whatever you wish and point you in the right direction to get more involved.

If you chose to get involved/informed you can help your fellow tree farmers by reminding your watershed group that incentives developed for other farmers should also be available for you, assuming you are one of those feeling entitled to the same benefits (such as C.R.E.P.) that your Ag neighbors receive for providing public benefits that you already provide. Ken and Sherry were convinced that this collaborative process intends to treat landowners fairly - funding for all the incentives will be a challenge but a lot of big shots sure sounded like they were making strong commitments.

Ken Miller & Sherry Fox

Washington State Leads Nation in Acres Under HCPs

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are a vital part of the Endangered Species Act which encourages development of creative public-private sector partnerships. The Forests and Fish law amended Washington's forest practices rules and has become the basis for a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan. Covering 9.1 million acres of non-federal forest land, this is the largest multi-party, multi-species HCP in the nation. The Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Governor's office, is submitting an application to the federal government for approval of the Forests and Fish HCP, under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The conservation plan will cover currently federally ESA-listed species of salmon, steelhead and bull trout and include 54 currently unlisted fish and 7 unlisted stream-associated amphibian species. With final approval of the HCP, Washington State leads the nation with nearly 11.5 million acres of state and private land operating under federally approved Habitat Conservation Plans.

To add your comments to the record on the statewide HCP.

Phone: 1-888-927-4427

(1-888-WASHHCP)

Email:

ForestPracticesHCP.nwr@noaa.gov

Faxes:

Sally Butts

USF&WS-360-753-9518, or

Steve Keller, National Marine Fisheries,
360-753-9517

Legislative and Regulatory Review

Legislature Off to Quick Start

By Martin Flynn

Martin Flynn Public Affairs, Inc.

The 2005 session of the Washington Legislature got off to a quick start on January 10th. Democrats control both Houses of the Legislature for the first time since 2002. Natural resource issues will be primarily heard in two reconstituted and renamed committees: Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation and House Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks (see committee rosters below).

High on the WFFA Legislative Agenda is **SB 5761** Sponsored by **Senators Mark Doumit, Bob Oke, Dan Swecker, Bob Morton and Marilyn Rasmussen**. SB 5761 requires the state Forest Practices Board, when adopting rules, to consider how to **encourage** continued family forest land ownership and management. The legislation also requires the Forest practices Board to work with DNR, the small forest landowner advisory committee, and other stakeholders to expeditiously authorize approval of long-term plans for family forest landowners. It requires the Board to explore other family forest issues, such as a reasonable use exception, continued conversion pressures, and regulatory incentives and report to the commissioner of public lands, the governor, and the legislature on its progress.

Finally, SB 5761 defines "family forest landowner," which takes the place of "small forest landowner" and excludes any publicly held corporation, governmental entity, nonprofit organization, or public utility from the definition to prohibit these entities from receiving cost-share and other funds intended for family forest landowners.

WFFA is lobbying for continued funding for the **Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP)** administered by the Small Forest Landowner Office at DNR. The projected need for landowners is at least \$10 million for the upcoming biennium. **Senators Mark Doumit and Joseph Zarelli and Representatives Ed Orcutt and Brian Blake** have been champions for family forest owners on this issue.

Other important or controversial bills include:

HB 1272 (Rep. Hans Dunshee) this highly controversial bill seeks to establish high performance **green building standards** for all state building construction projects.

SB 5179 (Senator Morton) extends the life of the **Forest Health Strategy Working Group** and requires statewide public hearings prior to development and submission of recommendations for the 2006 session.

SB 5319 (Senator Oke) repeals much of the **animal trapping** ban imposed by citizen initiative in 2000 but faces an uncertain future since a similar measure in 2003 was vetoed by the Governor after acrimonious debate in both houses and a frenzied lobby blitz from both proponents and opponents.

SB 5345 (Senator Jacobsen) creating the timber land revitalization board. Declares an intent to provide greater state financial assistance to revitalize and maintain forest lands in the state, through creation of a funding board to make grants on a competitive basis that support protection of the forest land base and that assist in developing innovative strategies for supporting economically and environmentally healthy forests and forest-dependent communities.

SB 5234 (Senator Jacobsen) could open up hunting opportunities through a voluntary program whereby private landowners are compensated for allowing access to their lands. The bill also attempts to limit landowner liability when enrolled in the program

Committee Rosters

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation

Ken Jacobsen, Chair; Mark Doumit, Vice Chair; *Bob Oke; Karen Fraser; Jim Hargrove; Bob Morton; Harriet Spanel; Val Stevens; Dan Swecker

House Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks

Brian Sullivan, Chair (D); David Uptegrove, Vice Chair (D); *Jim Buck; ** Joel Kretz; Brian Blake; Richard DeBolt; Mary Lou Dickerson; Wm. Eickmeyer; Sam Hunt; Ed Orcutt; Brendan Williams.

* Ranking Minority Member

** Assistant Ranking Minority Member

Congressional Trip Planned

Leaders of the WFFA and the Family Forest Foundation (based in Lewis County) have scheduled joint meetings with our state's Congressional delegation March 7-10.

The joint trip is designed to keep family forest issues in front of our members of Congress. It is one more step in our struggle to gain recognition on the state AND federal level for family forest landowners as the linchpin for healthy forests and habitat.

Calendar

2005 WFFA ANNUAL MEETING

Grays Harbor and Pacific chapters of WFFA will host the 2005 **Annual Meeting at Ocean Shores on April 22 and 23, 2005.**

On Friday, April 22, there will be an all day event of speakers and programs, including lunch and dinner. On Saturday, April 23, there will be a membership business meeting first thing in the morning followed by tree farm tours.

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.

2005 WFFA Slate of Officers

The WFFA will vote on a Slate of officers at the Saturday general membership business meeting at our Annual meeting, on April 23, 2005 in Ocean Shores, WA.

President Ken Miller appointed a membership committee of Past President: **Bob Playfair**, Clark Chapter President: **Carl Ruestig**, and Olympic Chapter President: **Sam Comstock**. Our current state officers have agreed to a second term, and are listed below. Other nominations can be sent to the committee or offered from the floor, at the business meeting.

President: Ken Miller
1st VP: Don Theoe
2nd VP: Norma Green
Secretary: Bonnie Miller
Treasurer: Bill Scheer

Coached Stewardship Shortcourse

The WSU-DNR-WFFA "Coached" Forest Stewardship Planning Shortcourse, to be held in Pt. Hadlock this spring. The 9-session program will run every Thursday evening from 6:00 – 8:30, April 7 through May 26 in the WSU/ Jefferson County Extension Spruce Room. The course is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For alumni of the course, this will be a great opportunity to "sharpen the saw" and to update your Forest Stewardship Plans.

For Further Information
Contact:

Andrew B. Perleberg
Extension Educator, Forest Stewardship
Washington State University
306 S. 1st St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
tel: 360-428-4270
fax: 360-428-4263
email: andyp@wsu.edu
web: <http://skagit.wsu.edu/forestry/>

GPS Workshop

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) Workshop
Monday, June 13 -
Wednesday, June 15
Pack Forest
Eatonville, WA
Details and Registration Information:
www.ruraltech.org/training/gps/index.asp

American Tree Farmer Cookbook

PICNIC IN THE WOODS is a cookbook with recipes by American Tree Farmers from all over our state and the nation. Recipes range from appealing appetizers and beverages to delicious desserts and everything in between. They were collected by **Dardean Wheaton** and other members of the **Clark County Farm Forestry Association**. The recipe book is truly a masterpiece, complete with cover photo of a deer sampling food from a plate on a picnic table in the Wheaton's back yard!

Picnic in the Woods is an excellent recipe book for a gift, as well as for your own kitchen, and is available for \$10 per copy. After expenses, the money earned will be distributed to the American Tree Farm System and the Clark County Farm Forestry Association for educational projects to further the understanding of the role of small forest landowners. Books are available now from:

Dardean Wheaton
3249 Cheyenne Ct. NW
Salem OR 97304
Phone: 503-362-8465, or;

Norma Green
3220 Crosby Blvd SW
Tumwater WA 98512 Phone:
360-753-1487

Copies will also be available for purchase at the Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting April 21-23 in Ocean Shores.

Welcome New WFFA Members!

Membership Chair **Donna Loucks** reports the following new members. Best wishes that joining WFFA makes your tree farm an enjoyable part of your life.

CLARK COUNTY

Russ & Patty Hannon
Kevin Lloyd & Debba Brown
Kim Schaeffer
John Straub

LEWIS COUNTY

Joe & Donna Balmelli
Greg & JoAnne Booth
Christine & Bill Hill
Scott & Carmen Vermillion



From the Executive Director's Desk



If you have not already received it, your invitation to the Washington Farm Forestry Association's Annual meeting should arrive in your mailbox soon.

This annual event is one of the few opportunities we have to bring members together from all across the state. These meetings have been a place to join others interested in tree farming and much more, keeping alive the fellowship and education that gives our association its roots and branches.

Our annual meetings are hosted by Chapters around the state. This year the Grays Harbor and Pacific Chapters will co-host and next year we will travel to the Northeast Chapter. This reflects the fact that we are a Chapter- and membership-based association. While some chapters have been initially hesitant to accept the work load of hosting an annual meeting, each has found the experience to be worthwhile. After receiving some organizational assistance and encouragement from state officers, the chapters are able to highlight interests and issues that are important to their region

and members. This puts the focus on what makes a membership-based association thrive – you its members!

And each year a group of dedicated tree farmers step forward and give of their time and effort to put together truly enjoyable and entertaining annual meetings. This year along with an energetic committee, annual meeting chair Dick Atkins has taken the lead in putting together a Coastal Region annual meeting in Ocean Shores with the theme "Forests, Fish and Our Future."

An association like ours is nothing more than a reflection of its active members. This is a good opportunity to bring your heirs and enjoy some time at the beach. It is also a great opportunity for new members to come and see our association in a greater perspective than just their chapter.

I sincerely hope that you can join us this year for our annual meeting to show appreciation to the Grays Harbor and Pacific Chapters, to add to our diversity and help keep this valuable process alive.

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

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