

Landowner News

Washington
FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

January 2008

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.



In my first letter to you as the new president of the Washington Farm Forestry Association, I wrote that while your association fights legislative and regulatory fights we must always remember that WFFA members are first and foremost small forest landowners. I noted that you belong to our association because you love the land and trees that you steward. I promised to do my best to highlight our roles as “stewards of the land.”

In the months that followed I have worked with Executive Director Rick Dunning to do just that. The result has been an emphasis on communicating information that you can use to improve your skills, your knowledge of tree farming, and your ability to get the help you need to manage your timber land.

As my term of office nears its conclusion I want to thank everyone who has stepped forward to give of their time and talent to make this association a model for the entire nation. We are a growing and vibrant group and I am confident that we will be able to preserve our way of life “for generations to come.”

I encourage all of you to join us Friday, April 25, 2008 for our Annual Meeting in Mt. Vernon. Let’s keep moving ahead into a brighter future for our children, their children and future generations.

Sincerely,

Don Theoe

Calendar

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses

Maple Valley, Jan 15 - Mar 4, \$100. For information, contact Amy Grotta, WSU Extension, Amy.Grotta@kingcounty.gov, 206-205-3132

Republic, Jan 22 - Mar 11. For information, contact Janean Creighton, WSU Extension, 509-477-2199, JCREIGHTON@spokanecounty.org.

Colville, Jan 23 - Mar 12. For information, contact Janean Creighton, WSU Extension, 509-477-2199, JCREIGHTON@spokanecounty.org.

Deer Park, Jan 24 - Mar 13. For information, contact Janean Creighton, WSU Extension, 509-477-2199, JCREIGHTON@spokanecounty.org.

Silvana, 1/28/08 - 3/24/08. For information, contact Kevin Zobrist, WSU Extension, 425-357-6017, kzobrist@wsu.edu, <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>. \$150

Leavenworth, February 4 - March 31. For information, contact Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension, 509-667-6658, andyp@wsu.edu, <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship>. \$150

Burlington, 3/13/08 - 5/8/08. For information, contact Kevin Zobrist, WSU Extension, 425-357-6017, kzobrist@wsu.edu, <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>. \$150.

Cle Elum, April 7 - May 26. For information, contact Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension, 509-667-6658, andyp@wsu.edu, <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship>. \$150

E WA Forest Owners Field Day, June 21, Columbia County. For information, contact Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension, 509-667-6658, andyp@wsu.edu, <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship>.

W WA Forest Owners Field Day, August 30, Wahkiakum County. For information, contact Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension, 509-667-6658, andyp@wsu.edu, <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/foreststewardship>.

WFFA 2008 Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the WFFA, where tree farmers come from around the state to meet and greet old friends and make new ones, will be held in Mt. Vernon, WA at the Cottontree Inn on **Friday, April 25, 2008**. This year the event will be put on by the staff of the WFFA and, at the direction of the WFFA board of directors, will be a one-day event. The program will include a General membership business meeting in the morning, a keynote speaker for mid-morning, the Washington Tree Farm Program luncheon, a panel of speakers in the afternoon, and a dinner awards banquet with guest speaker. The Upper Puget Sound Chapter is considering a Saturday tour. As a member of the WFFA you will be mailed a registration packet. Mark your calendars and join us if you can. If you have questions contact the WFFA at 360-736-5750.

WFFA Slate of Officers for 2008

The WFFA will accept nominations for state officers now through the election at the Friday morning business meeting. Current candidates are: President-Bob Brink, 1st Vice President-vacant, 2nd Vice President-Sam Comstock, Secretary-Michelle Blake, Treasurer- Bill Scheer.

Annual Meeting Bylaw Changes

The WFFA board of directors has approved a change of our bylaws subject to a vote of the membership. The vote will be taken at the Friday morning business meeting. The change is found in Article 3 (Membership), Section 6 (Life Membership). The board has approved the removal of the wording, "Life membership shall be available to active members upon submission of a single life membership dues payment". The board is requesting that Sec. 6 then read, "Lifetime membership shall be available to a member and spouse only, and not carry on beyond their lives, upon submission of a single life membership dues payment".

15-Year Permits Unveiled

The Washington Farm Forestry Association has been working with DNR on a forest management and harvest permitting system that is more suitable for small tree farmers than the current 2-year Forest Practice Application. With the support of state agencies, tribes, industry, environmental groups and legislators, the Forest Practice Board passed a new rule allowing for permits of up to 15 years for small forest landowners (less than 2 million board foot of harvest annually). This new Long-term application with a single \$50 application fee, can last for 15 years instead of 2 years. The Department of Natural Resources, through the Small Forest Landowner Office is unveiling a program aimed at supporting tree farmers interested in obtaining a Long-Term Application.

This new opportunity is expected to ease the paperwork burden and allow more flexibility in timing harvests, but the process of filing a long-term permit will be much different than the standard 2-year permit. The Small Forest Landowner Office will hold several outreach events to notify the public of this new program, and to educate the forestry community about the process of filing a Long-Term Application. The standard application is still available.

Currently 12 people have started the filing process for Long Term permitting. One of those, Bryon Loucks of Lewis County, has stated that this will greatly reduce the time he needs to spend at his desk in the evenings preparing the ongoing, 2 year permits needed for his tree farms. Bryon is optimistic that Long Term Permits are a needed answer for tree farmers who want to stay in this business.

The Small Forest Landowner Office at Washington DNR has scheduled several landowner meetings to talk about our newest program, the Long-Term Application.

January 26: 9 a.m. at Clayton Grange, 4478 Railroad Avenue, Clayton, WA (north of Deer Park).

February 5: 1:30 p.m. at Island Lake County Park, WA, 1087 NW Island Lake Road.

Use this link for more information: www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/ta/ta_landowner_training.pdf

If you'd like to find out more about any of these events, please contact Michael Ahr at 360-902-1849 or michael.ahr@dnr.wa.gov

EQIP Program Offers Opportunities for Forestland Owners

Washington's forest land owners shouldn't think they're barking up the wrong tree if they apply for assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The voluntary program, administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. That includes private forests.

EQIP may be a perfect fit for forestland owners seeking technical and financial assistance for a wide range of conservation activities. From pre-commercial thinning, tree pruning, and slash treatment to post-plant weed control, and forest road maintenance, EQIP can provide significant assistance to landowners on a broad range of practices.

In addition to complying with a few Farm Bill income and conservation provisions, program applicants must provide a forest management or stewardship plan, have a prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales, or proof of past capital investment for forestry practices.

Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office or visit the NRCS web site at www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov under the "Programs" tab for more information about EQIP.

Contact: Dave Brown,
Asst. State Conservationist for Programs,
509/323-2971

2008 National Tree Farm Convention

Join family forestland owners from around the U.S. when they come to the Pacific Northwest for the 2008 National Tree Farm Convention. Held by the American Tree Farm System and hosted by the Oregon and Washington Tree Farm Programs, the convention titled, "Where Tall Trees Grow," will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon, October 16-18, 2008. For more information on attending, contributing to the silent auction, or volunteering to help contact Tom Fox at 360-978-6448.

Free Forestland Certification Available

American Forest Foundation

In 2004, the American Forest Foundation developed and implemented new Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. These new standards were developed in a collaborative, Montreal-based process and have taken the Tree Farm program to a new level. The Tree Farm System has been working to achieve international recognition for the new certification system through PEFC, the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems. The audit was just completed and it is expected that the entire program will be recognized as a credible, third-party certification system by the end of this year. This recognition will allow all Certified Tree Farmers access to international certified wood markets.

Washington Tree Farm Program

The Washington Tree Farm Program (WTFP) is one of 48 state Tree Farm committees in the U.S. Recently the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) has taken over as a co-sponsor of this program. A new committee of volunteers has been formed and it is actively rebuilding this program that will assist you in acquiring FREE tree farm certification. In order to qualify, you must have 10 acres or more of forestland and have a written management plan. If you do not have a written management plan, information on how to obtain one can be provided. WTFP inspectors completed 43 inspections in November and December 2007 and more inspectors are being trained in 2008.

The Washington Tree Farm Program sponsors the Outstanding Washington Tree Farmer of the Year Award, and each State winner can enter into competition for Outstanding Regional and National Tree Farmer of the Year.

If you are interested in having your tree farm certified, email WTFP Chair Bryon Loucks at treefarm@wafarmforestry.com or call the WFFA office at 360-736-5750.

Forest Fire Prevention and Protection Workgroup

Lands
Commissioner
Doug
Sutherland
has
appointed
the
members
of the
Forest Fire



Prevention & Protection Workgroup (FFPPWG). The workgroup includes a broad range of organizations interested in fire prevention, including representatives of professional firefighting and emergency response associations, the building industry, agriculture, the environmental community, landowners, state agencies, and the Office of the Governor.

Maurice Williamson, Washington Farm Forestry Association Eastside Policy advisor, has been appointed to represent small forest landowners on the Workgroup.

This group has been asked to explore and make recommendations on the following issues in regard to forest fire prevention and protection:

Appropriate methods and restrictions on funding forest fire protection.

The definition of "forestland" and the scope of lands protected by DNR.

Whether there is a need to increase authority beyond protection of natural resources.

Impacts of increasing population and development on forest fire prevention and protection.

Examination of other states' fire programs.

Improvements and efficiencies to the DNR fire program.

Forest Health Issues Associated with Windthrown and Flood Damaged Timber in Western Washington

Karen Ripley, DNR Forest Health Program Manager.
January, 2008

When trees are wounded, broken, or blown down by severe winds and flooding, landowners worry about additional impacts from insects and disease organisms. Will insects and diseases degrade the wood? Will pest populations rise and affect surviving trees? What can be done to reduce the long term vulnerability to future storms? This paper is intended to briefly discuss each of these issues. Landowners may seek the assistance of trained forest professionals to answer more species-, site-, and damage-specific questions.

Degradation of Wood

Wood degradation includes color changes, tunnels or holes, and strength changes associated with chemical, insect, and fungal activity. The impact of degraded wood to the timber owner often depends on the product that will be manufactured. Appearance-grade products may be devalued merely by discoloration. Wood products sold for pulp or wood strength can endure more significant effects without devaluation.

Factors that affect the occurrence, nature, and expansion rate of wood degradation include the tree species, the season of the storm, exposure to oxygen, exposure to insects and fungi, and temperature. In western Washington, red alder tends to degrade faster than softwood/conifer trees. Western hemlock and true fir degrade more rapidly than Douglas-fir or redcedar.

When initially cut or killed, where the bark is removed, wood surfaces of red alder develop a reddish discoloration. This staining can be reduced by using appropriate kiln-drying procedures and does not affect wood strength. A more intense orange stain that cannot be effectively removed during drying is caused by the penetration and expansion of wood decay fungi. These fungi grow slowly at normal winter temperature and moisture conditions. In tests on Vancouver Island, alder bolts cut in November had virtually no stain development from cut ends within 4 months. When stored in cool, moist field conditions, bolts had less than 10 cm of stain penetration after 6 months. But stain developed rapidly (up to 55 cm of stain

penetration in April-May) in bolts stored on warmer, drier sites. Fungal stain can also grow, albeit more slowly, in wood adjacent to exposed surfaces. Note: when bolts were cut during spring or early summer, fungal growth and stain progression was rapid. So, in summary, alder trees which fell or were broken in December should be processed by April or May. At this time, I do not have specific information about decay rates in other tree species, but it would generally be a less serious case than alder because conifers decay more slowly than alder, and particularly if the wood is not destined for export or appearance-grade products.

Insects tend to be dormant or inactive during winter months, but can move into wood in early spring. Ambrosia beetles tend to be the earliest active wood borers. They infest the outer rings (sapwood) of virtually any species of log, so the amount of potential damage to an attacked log is primarily related to log diameter. Damage consists of narrow pinhole size tunnels with black stain penetrating the surrounding wood.



Ambrosia beetles emerge from their overwintering sites when the temperature exceeds about 16 °C or 61° F. Logs in the forest

generally are safe until March. Logs either heavily soaked with water or quite dry are not suitable for attack. In general, the control of these beetles is very difficult and the prompt utilization of wood (milling and drying or at least debarking) is recommended. Ambrosia beetles only infest dead or nearly dead wood/tree parts in a specific moisture range. They do not threaten living trees that survive the storm.

Deep wood boring beetles such as Cerambycid ("long-horned wood borers") and Buprestid ("metallic wood borers") beetles can make extensive tunnels into recently cut, blowdown or killed wood. Adults tend to fly and lay eggs on log surfaces in early summer. Tunneling is initiated that season. Eggs hatch, larvae begin feeding on the inner bark, and the larvae then turn and tunnel into the wood. Larval growth and penetration rates into the wood depend on moisture and temperature conditions. The worst damage I have observed was to trees in eastern Washington killed by mid-July wildfires and attacked immediately. Larval tunnels penetrated logs up to four inches deep by late October. In western Washington, logs damaged by

floods and windthrow won't be attacked until adult beetles fly in early summer. Tunnel penetration will likely occur more slowly because of moderate temperatures.

Death or Damage to Injured trees

Trees injured and broken by wind and flooding are susceptible to secondary bark beetles and wood rotting fungi that infest wound sites where bark is removed and wood is exposed. When a live tree is invaded by wood decay fungi, the tree can often produce substances that compartmentalize the decay within and interior to those annual rings that are exposed. Vertical compartmentalization is much slower. The most severe example of wood decay in a living tree would likely parallel that of red alder (the example above).

However, conifers decay more slowly than hardwoods. The eventual vertical extent of decay depends on the surface area exposed, the tree species, the nature of the tree recovery, and some luck. When Douglas-fir trees that had been top-broken at about 6 inches diameter by ice and snow were dissected 20-30 years later, the decay extended from about 6 inches to 3 feet. Decay was mostly confined to the area also affected by resulting tree growth abnormalities such as crooks and forks.

Injured trees can be subsequently killed by the effects of their injuries (such as root breakage, bark removal, and live crown loss) or by bark beetles. Susceptibility may depend on the tree's vigor and stored nutrients present before the tree was injured and the population of bark beetles in the area. In western Washington, secondary bark beetles generally put an injured tree out of its misery; they don't kill trees that would otherwise survive.

When landowners assess whether their trees are likely to live or die as a result of storm damage, they should evaluate how much of the tree's height remains in live crown (consider removing trees with less than 20 to 40% of the height left in live crown); the percentage of a tree's circumference that is de-barked (consider removing trees whose circumference has been girdled more than 50%), and the extent of other injuries. Decisions whether to remove injured trees can also be affected by questions associated with the landowner's management goals, such as whether the height of a stem injury will affect a future product from the tree (can you still get a 12- or a 16- foot log from below what probably will be a scarred or crooked segment?); whether there are benefits to leaving trees of this size and structure for wildlife habitat; and whether a target exists that would be threatened by the development of defective danger trees over time.

Death to Trees That Would Otherwise Survive

In western Washington, there are two important bark beetles that breed in injured or windthrown timber that have the potential to rise to epidemic levels that subsequently could kill healthy or moderately injured trees. They are the Douglas-fir beetle (spruce beetle follows the same model) and the alder bark beetle.

Douglas-fir beetle adults lay their eggs under the bark of freshly windthrown or storm broken logs in early spring (April to June). They prefer pieces greater than 12 inches diameter that are lying in the shade. The larvae require one year to mature before they emerge as adult beetles. So, the following spring this second generation will seek additional windthrown or damaged Douglas-fir. If they succeed in entering those damaged trees and quickly attracting enough beetles to overwhelm them, the trees will be killed. If they can not find damaged trees, some beetles will try to attack standing green trees. The vigor of the green trees that are attacked affects how many beetles die trying to kill them and how many larvae are produced. When events cause huge accumulations of large diameter Douglas-fir blowdown, the tree killing epidemics that follow usually last three years. Landowners who wish to avert such an epidemic can salvage the blowdown and infested material before the second spring after the initial event. Currently infested logs and any nearby standing trees that also are infested should be removed and milled before the beetles mature and fly away.

Pheromone chemicals can also be used to affect insect communication and reduce tree damage. They can be deployed before the first spring beetle flight (before April 1) to reduce the initial population build-up or can be deployed a year later to protect individual surviving trees and stands from attack. Alder bark beetles breed in logs and severely injured trees the first spring after the storm. They have two generations per year so salvage of infested trees and logs must be employed more rapidly, no later than the first June after a winter storm. There are no commercially available pheromones for managing alder bark beetle.

Examine the Nature of Tree Failures

Did the trunks snap off (stem failure)? Did the roots break (root failure)? Did the entire intact root plate or ball lift or pivot (soil failure)? If root or stem failure occurred, what contributed to these weaknesses (large height-to-diameter ratio? Decay fungi from old wounds? Root disease?). Take this opportunity to learn how the trees in your forest responded to high winds and heavy rains. Adapting your management to reduce future impacts from winter storms will be important as you make decisions about salvage, recovery, and replanting strategies.

Storm Damage Summit Results in Offers of Support

At a "Storm Damage Summit" held in December after the the "big blow" a number of companies came forward to offer their services of support to WFFA members impacted by the December storm blowdown. These companies have markets or services that they feel are specific to the blowdown region. Since we do not accept advertising in our Newsletter, we are including the names of those who offered their services or markets to our members at the meeting and **we are not endorsing them.**

LOG PURCHASE:

SIMPSON

Terry Pelt 360.790.9609 (m) or 360.427.4954

PACIFIC LUMBER & SHIPPING

Dan Bowden 360.561.2708 (m) or 360.425.5861

SW WA and Longview

John McDougall 253.370.7068 (m) or 360.425.5861

SW WA and Longview

Mark Demeear 360.561.2708 (m) or 360.495.0011

Puget Sound North

MERRILL & RING

Myron Metcalf 360.520.6898

Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz

Dave Stroble 360.790.5108

Thurston, Grays Harbor

Kyle Stutesman 360.701.1468

Thurston, Grays Harbor

Rich Runyon 360.430.4975

Cowlitz, Wahkiakum

FORESTRY SERVICES:

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Jim Wick 503.936.5364 (m) or (503.654.2221)

ANDERSON MIDDLETON COMPANY

Douglas Hockett 360.580.0037 or 360.533.2410

COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS:

We offer customers a turnkey operation: cut, fly, load and haul if that's what they want. We would also be interested in just the flying if they want to perform the other functions. We can move 100 M per day or more under the right conditions and would be willing to bid on just about any amount of volume through the winter months.

David Horrax: 503-678-1222

Forester: 503-880-1146

email: daveh@colheli.com

web site: www.colheli.com

Expedited Forest Practice Applications:

Olympic Region - 360.374.6131

Pacific Cascade Region - 360.577.2025

**"Catastrophic Loss" for Federal Income Tax at
www.timbertax.org**

Are There Trees in Ireland and Scotland?

The answer is YES! There are state forests, nurseries, plantations, research stations, and wood and paper processing plants; and you have an opportunity to see them. A forestry tour of Ireland and Scotland is offered for May 3-16, 2008, by Anglatin, Ltd. The host is Dr. Fred Smith who is a professor emeritus of Natural Resource Economics at Oregon State University. He has previously led forestry trips to Chile, Central Europe, Brazil, and New Zealand and Australia, all of which have been excellent. His trip itineraries also include local sights and some free time for exploring. The deadline for signing up is coming in early February. To learn more contact: fred@anglatin.com or visit the website at www.anglatin.com or contact Norma Green at nfgreen@reachone.com.

Welcome New WFFA Members!

Membership Chair
Donna Loucks
reports the following new members. We hope that joining the WFFA brings support in making your tree farm an enjoyable and profitable part of your life.

CLARK
Michael Blake
Jim & Alice Burnett
Maria & Jim Campbell
Kenneth & Barbara Fuller
Jeff Hellem

LEWIS
Nixon Enterprises
Tim Saylor

NE WASHINGTON
Steve Zender

OLYMPIC
Sarah Parrington

UPS
Daniel, Pamela, Sean
& Kris Benson

From the Executive Director's Desk



As we head into 2008 and are bombarded with "reports" by the media on political polls, primaries and elections, it seems a good time to explain the decision of our Association to be nonpartisan. When I became director of the WFFA in 2003, past director Nels Hanson, passed on to me the importance for our association to be nonpartisan. The reason was two fold. First, our staff, officers, and volunteers needed to work with whoever was in elected office. To chose one of our two party system would hamper our ability to work with legislation, make recommendations and to find solutions when "our" side was not the majority. Second, was the fact that our association has a diverse membership. To pick one party would alienate a percentage of "ourselves".

Partisanship does not advance the mission of our association. We need to build bridges, rather than fences. Much is made in the media about an urban-rural split. I work with both urban and rural folks and have not seen it. I have seen many who live in both communities that care about the other and our common future. I have become discouraged by the media portraying America as being divided between red and blue. I KNOW that many of us are purple. America is not about two divided parties but rather about one UNITED country. We use two parties to maintain our liberty. If we allow others to convince us we are divided, rather than united, it will be our downfall.

So for 2008 I ask that you engage in our system and place an informed vote in our elections. I also ask that you join Purple America and focus on what we all have in common. Let our goal be to stay the "United" States of America.

Treefully,
Rick Dunning

Washington Farm Forestry Membership Application

Name _____

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 1-40 acres \$65
 General 41-200 acres \$125
 General 201 and up \$175
 Lifetime \$1700 (onetime payment)
 Associate \$65 (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 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532

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