

Landowner News



“Stewards of the Land for Generations to Come”

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.

January 2004

Message From the President



I am offering anyone who receives this to become a member of the “Presidents Sounding Board”. One of the members posed a question to me after reading last months LO news “do you have a scientific basis for your observation that our largest membership group is made up of those owning 20 acres or less?” Truthfully it was a “seat of the pants” statement. In thinking back it has been a long time since we have polled our membership on just whom we represent and how well our 2-way feed back system is working. With that in mind I want to solicit feedback from the membership to build a basis for providing you general information on the general membership.

One of the problems we have always had is how to best categorize the membership. By acreage ownership such as less than 20 acres, 21 to 500, 501 to 2000 and over 2001 or how often do you harvest, annually, every 3-15 years or whenever. Another area of interest is the type of information we are not covering in the LO news, NW Woodlands and WSU Extension programs. Please send me the following information if you feel comfortable with becoming a statistic.

1. Forest acres and date of first purchase
2. Past harvest frequency and type i.e. under-story thinning, regeneration cut (clear cut, seed tree) or uneven age selection and planned next harvest(s)
3. Number and type of educational activities attended in past 5 years
4. Topics that have not been adequately covered in publications, training sessions and field days
5. Do you want to remain in my email loop?
6. Other areas or subjects your Officers and directors should move up on our list of considerations.

With that I will close and look forward to your feed back and suggest you schedule attending the Annual Meeting in Chelan April 30-May 1.

Bob Playfair upthecreektreefarm@inwi.net

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Legislative Report

by Martin Flynn Public Affairs

The 2004 session got off to a fast start on Jan. 12, 2004. Three committee chairs scheduled hearings during the first week on bills of interest to WFFA. Sen. Bob Morton (R – Orient) heard testimony on SB 6144 (Promoting Forest Health) in his Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee. Senator Morton's bill, which urges more aggressive forest health management techniques and a controversial funding mechanism to defray the costs, drew comments from DNR, WFFA, SAF and USFS. WFFA lobbyist Martin Flynn and Maurice Williamson, chair of the state's small landowner advisory committee, testified on the legislation.

Rep. Kelli Linville (D – Bellingham), Chair of the House Ag and Natural Resources Committee held a work session on Forest Certification which included presentations by forest industry representatives who provided elaborate explanation of the Sustained Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification System. Their presentation was preceded by a panel presentation from FSC proponents. Chair Linville has indicated an unwillingness to move any bill favoring one certification system over any other this session, but may schedule further hearings on the subject and consider an interim study.

Rep. Mike Cooper (D – Lynwood), Chair of the House Fisheries, Ecology and Parks Committee, held a hearing on his

bill which authorized limited use of body-gripping traps. WFFA President Bob Playfair testified against this legislation saying it didn't go far enough to address the concerns of small forest landowners.

The Senate is considering another measure, backed by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, that would restore some commercial sale of trapped fur, a key element for opponents of the ban because it drives down the cost of removing animals that threaten livestock and other property.

Rep. Cooper has said it is unlikely the two proposals can be reconciled.

The issue has captured the attention of WFFA and others since the passage of I-613 in 2000 which outlawed the use of traps. Last year a controversial trapping bill narrowly passed the Legislature only to be vetoed by the Governor. Cooper and the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife may each push separate versions on this volatile issue.

Rep. Ed Orcutt is sponsoring legislation (HB 2318) which is intended to give small landowners an increased degree of privacy in their interaction with the state. The legislation says that, when establishing a forest riparian easement program applicant's status as a qualifying small forest landowner, DNR shall not review the applicant's timber harvest records, or any other tax-related documents, on file with the department of revenue.

Funding for Forest Riparian Easements remains a priority for WFFA. The Small Forest Landowner Office in DNR reports that currently a total of 41 landowners have granted the State a Forest Riparian Easement. The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) is currently processing Easement contracts for 30 additional landowners. The SFLO has full funding for these easements and anticipates acquiring them in 4 to 6 months to bring the total to 71 easements.

There are 19 landowners who have completed their forest practice (timber harvest) and wish to grant an easement to the State, however the SFLO does not have the funding to purchase their easements at this time. In addition there are 74 landowners who have expressed an interest in granting an easement but have not completed their forest practice. Only after the landowner has completed their harvest can the State purchase their easement so some of them may not be ready to grant an easement for another year or so.

In order to meet the need for acquiring easements from the 93 landowners (19 ready plus 74 anticipated) the SFLO will need approximately \$4.3 million.

The SFLO gets anywhere from 2 to 5 additional landowners per month interested in granting an easement even with the current uncertainty in future funding

For more information about legislative issues, e-mail Martin Flynn at martinflynn@qwest.net.

Certified Tree Farms

Landowners who are implementing active management practices based on a written forest management plan may qualify to have their properties enrolled as a "Certified Tree Farm." Certified Tree Farmers receive a "Tree Farm" sign and certificate. A minimum of 10 forested acres is required. Management should be compatible with wood fiber production, but this need not be the owner's primary objective. The program is sponsored nationally by the American Forest Foundation, and in Washington by the Washington Forest Protection Association
www.washingtonforests.com

Members receive the national Tree Farmer magazine. Outstanding Tree Farmers are recognized annually with county, area, state, regional, and national "Tree Farmer of the Year" awards. For more information or to request certification of your property, contact:
Washington Tree Farm Program
Washington Forest Protection Association
724 Columbia Street, Suite 250
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 352-1500

Electronic Version of Landowner News Available

If you would rather receive your copy of "Landowner News" via e-mail, please let us know.

E-mail subscribers will receive a PDF file with all of the graphics and text of the printed version.

E-mail copies will save the WFFA printing and postage costs.

If you would prefer an electronic copy, please send an e-mail to Membership Chair Donna Loucks at loucksd@localaccess.com You will ONLY receive an electronic copy and no printed copy will be sent.



Fox
Re-
Appointed
to Forest
Practices
Board

Congratulations to Former WFFA President Sherry Fox on her re-appointment by Governor Locke to serve as the Contract Logger Representative to the Forest Practices Board.

Teacher Tours Looking for Sponsors

The Temperate Forest Foundation will produce four Teachers' Tours in the summer of 2004. The Foundation is now soliciting sponsors and teachers to help fill them. The locations and dates of these tours are:

South Central
Hot Springs, Arkansas
June 16-17

Intermountain
Lewiston, Idaho
July 14-17

Lake States
Grand Rapids, Minnesota
August 4-7

Northeastern
Lake Placid, New York
August 18-21

The cost to send a teacher is a \$300 registration fee plus the teacher's round trip travel (air fare or auto). All tour expenses are covered once the teacher arrives on site. Teachers attending the tour qualify for full college graduate credit which must be paid by the teacher or sponsor.

Teachers leave the tours with dramatically improved perceptions of forestry, forest products and the forest products industry. The Temperate Forest Foundation hopes to have all slots filled by the end of April. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the life of a teacher and the hundreds of students they reach.

If you are interested in sending a teacher, contact Rick Dunning via e-mail at rdunning@starband.net or 360/459-0984.

Summary of Events Leading to New Water-Type Maps

By Maurice Williamson
Chair, State Small Forest
Landowner Advisory Committee

Until November of 1996 we had used the old stream typing system which is still on the activity maps to determine whether fish are present and what prescription should be used for those streams. Note that it has always been the landowner's responsibility if fish were determined to be present in streams to treat them accordingly. The old rules, however, were specific only to game fish.

The Forest Practices Board was petitioned and presented with data by one of the Western Washington tribes who had contracted with an environmental firm demonstrating that the water-type maps had serious deficiencies with regard to fish presence. Subsequently, under Jennifer Belcher's leadership, an emergency rule was passed in November of 1996 specifying that stream typing was the landowner's responsibility based on gradient and channel width. Between the passage of that emergency rule and the Forest and Fish rules, landowners were allowed to prove or disprove fish presence through electroshocking by the State's protocol. Landowners asserted that this specification caused over-protection by assuming fish presence and expansive buffers where there were no fish. Some small landowners and many large

landowners took advantage of that opportunity. Their streams may or may not have been re-classified on the water-type maps depending on whether the landowner chose to go through that process or the landowner may have received relief if fish were not present for that specific Forest Practice Application. During the Forest and Fish negotiations which started in 1998, stream typing was a major negotiated issue. The Tribal and Agency proposal was to use geomorphic stream-typing on an individual stream basis to determine whether a stream had potential fish habitat. The landowners rejected this proposal as it would have been too time consuming and would require technical knowledge that was not available without significant costs, particularly to the small landowner. We negotiated a map-based system to be specified by the Forests and Fish legislation which would have been based on data



collected under a protocol approved by Forests and Fish stakeholders. Additional data has been collected and a model developed which is largely in compliance with the stated objective of being 95% sure that the risk of fish being protected is shared equally.

The model for Western Washington has been analyzed and, as previously stated, generally found to accomplish the goals provided by the Forests and Fish negotiators. However, there are other areas that the model does not identify as accurately as the negotiators had settled upon.

We have agreed to present the Forest Practices Board with a proposal that would utilize the modeled maps unless the landowner chooses to continue to survey for fish based on the agreed-to protocol.

An issue for small landowners remains the cost of hiring technical expertise to override the model. Suggestions have been made for that function to be accomplished at no cost or reduced cost to the landowner by agency personnel or to devise some type of cost share program to acquire contract technical expertise to accomplish the surveys.

WFFA leadership feels that this proposal would be acceptable to our members provided they receive some sort of assistance in overriding the model at our discretion.

NEW: FAMILY FOREST FISH PASSAGE PROGRAM

The Small Forest Landowner Office is now accepting applications for a new financial assistance program aimed at helping family forest landowners improve fish-passage across their forestlands. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program will pay for 75% - 100% of the cost of fixing a fish passage barrier such as a culvert, weir, dam, spillway, bridge or other road crossing that prevents the free migration of fish to habitat upstream.

A landowner can enroll in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program in one of four ways:

- 1) an application to the program is included with a Forest Practices Application,
- 2) an application is included with a Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan,
- 3) a landowner can contact the SFLO directly, and
- 4) the SFLO may contact a landowner if a watershed inventory indicates a blockage may exist on the landowner's property.

Once a landowner submits an application to the Program, a field technician will conduct a site visit to confirm that the in-stream structure is a blockage. If it is determined that a structure is not a blockage, the landowner will not be enrolled in the program and will not be obligated to fix the structure. If it is determined that the structure is a blockage, the project will be placed on a prioritized list and will be funded when it becomes a high priority in the watershed. A structure will be prioritized based on the amount of habitat made available, the cost of the project, whether there are other blockages downstream and other relevant factors.

If a fish-blocking culvert was originally installed under a state permit (e.g. an HPA), the state will provide 100% of the repair costs. If a fish-blocking culvert was not originally installed under a permit, the landowner is responsible for providing approximately 25% of the repair costs. The 25% match can be in the form of cash or in-kind services (equipment, time, materials, etc.).

Applications are currently being accepted to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. If you are not currently submitting an FPA or a RMAP, please contact either your regional SFLO forester or the state Small Forest Landowner Office in Olympia for guidelines for the program and an application.

For more information on the Program or to receive the guidelines or an application, please also contact Kirk Hanson at: 360-902-1391, kirk.hanson@wadnr.gov

FORESTRY TRIP TO SPAIN

Take a 10 day trip to Spain April 15-25, 2004, to learn about forestry, national politics, history, and culture, as well as visit historic cities and see great art and architecture! If interested, contact: Norma Green at 360-753-1487 or Anglatin, Ltd., at anglatin@anglatin.com or FAX at 541-344-7119.

Forest Certification Impacts Study

WFFA members are invited to participate in graduate research on forest certification and its impact on forest practices. The study will be performed by Anna Tikina, who is a PhD student at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Larson. She will send out a survey to a sample of WFFA members in winter or early spring. WFFA encourages your participation in the study and anticipates getting the project summary. For questions e-mail Anna (tikina@interchange.ubc.ca) or call her at (604) 822-5523.



Calendar

Managing Your Timber Sale Forestry Workshop Helps Landowners "Do Their Homework."

Owners of small, forested parcels and residential lots frequently receive enticing offers to log their trees. "To accept or not accept" is the dilemma of many family forest landowners. Other questions facing landowners are: How can I harvest timber, make money, and not trash my woods? Can I log and still protect wildlife habitat on my property? What permits do I need to stay out of trouble?

A one-day introductory workshop to help landowners consider all aspects of timber harvest - from hiring a consultant to tax implications to dealing with left-over debris - will be held on January 31 in Mt. Vernon. Presenters include forest landowners, contract loggers, consulting foresters and public agency foresters. The speakers will address the complex and often difficult process of managing and logging private forest lands and small properties. The goal of the workshop is to prepare landowners to make educated decisions regarding the management of their timber sale. Workshop coordinators expect the participants will learn the tools they need to get what they want from and for their forested land.

The workshop will be held at the Skagit PUD Aqua Room, located at 1415 Freeway Drive. The workshop will run from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Registration fee is \$25 per ownership, and is limited to 100 people on a first-come, first-served basis. The event will fill up, so register early.

The workshop is sponsored by WSU/ Skagit County Extension, Washington

State Department of Natural Resources — Forest Stewardship Program, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service Cooperative Programs, Skagit Conservation District, Upper Puget Sound chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association, and North Puget Sound Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. For additional information about the workshop or registration, call Andy Perleberg at WSU Extension in Mt. Vernon at (360) 428-4270, or John Keller at the Department of Natural Resources in Sedro-Woolley at (360) 856-3491.

Coached Forest Stewardship Planning Shortcourse

Conducted by WSU Extension and DNR

Major part of this training involves "coaching" participants as they develop simple stewardship management plans for their parcels.

**When : Tuesday evenings
February 3 through March 23**

**Where: WSU/Whatcom County
Extension Office, Bellingham**

**Cost: \$150 per person, family or
land parcel.**

Limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. To register call the WSU/Whatcom County Extension Office at 360/676-6736. For more information call Andy Perleberg: 360/428-4270 or John Keller 360/856-3491. To download a registration form go to <http://skagit.wsu.edu/forestry/>.

WFFA Annual Meeting

April 29 - May 1, 2004
Campbell's Resort
Chelan

Hosted by

North Central Chapter
John Malone, President
(509) 884-6349

jpmalone@crcwnet.com

UW Forest Resources
Lecture Series

When: Thursdays, February 12, 26,
March 11, 2004

Where: Kane Hall Room 220, UW
Seattle Campus

Time: 7 p.m.

Price: Free. Register early [online, at
website] - space is limited

Note: An open reception with
refreshments will follow each lecture.

They will take place in the Walker-
Ames Room in Kane hall.

Register online using our secure
system.

[http://www.washington.edu/alumni/clubs/
cfraa/2004cfrlectures_main.html](http://www.washington.edu/alumni/clubs/cfraa/2004cfrlectures_main.html)

February 12, 2004

"A Fork in the Road: The Challenges of
Forest Stewardship in the 21st
Century"; Professor Jerry F. Franklin,
Professor of Ecosystem Science,
college of Forest Resources

February 26, 2004

"Still Batty After All These Years?
Contemplating the Future of Bats in
the Managed Forests of the Pacific
Northwest"; Professor Stephen D.
West, Associate Dean and Professor of
Wildlife Ecology, College of Forest
Resources

March 11, 2004

"Are Cities for the Birds? Balancing Our
Needs and Desires with Ecological
Function in Urbanizing Regions";
Professor John M. Marzluff, Professor
of Wildlife Science, College of Forest
Resources.

Executive Board Report

Since the adoption in 1999 of House Bill 2091, the so-called Forests and Fish Law, the Department of Natural Resources has implemented all but one of the promises made to small forest landowners in that legislation.

That one promise was to provide workable alternate plans for small landowners.

In response, the Forests and Fish Policy Group has introduced a 4-point plan to help meet the alternate plan needs of small landowners.

We would like to thank the FFR Policy Group for their commitment to working to help solve the Small Forest Landowner issues and especially to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for the concept of the Four Point Plan. We feel that this plan has the potential to recognize the unique contributions that Small Forest Landowners provide to public resources, while allowing them to manage their forestland.

The Four Point Plan as proposed:

1. Continue emphasis funding of FRE's
2. Continue Alternate Plan development to include implementation of Overstocked Stands and Hardwood Conversion templates.
3. A SFLO Farm Plan. A long term permit (15 yr or longer) recognizing the owners commitment to the practice of continued tree farming.
4. A "Reasonable Use Exemption" (for unreasonable impact like the Pattillo's Farm) to be used for regulatory relief.

WFFA Proposed Amendments to the Four Point Plan:

1. WFFA and Agencies jointly seek a commitment from legislature in the 2004 session for supplemental funding of the FRE program.
2. Adoption of Templates for Overstocked stands and Hardwood Conversions and their adoption for Board Manual approval at the February, 2004 Forest Practice Board meeting. Develop the timeline to produce templates for Variances, LWD placement, and Intermittent Fish Streams.
3. Develop a Family Forest Management plan (Farm Plan) that recognizes smaller harvest size and longer rotations. A long term permit (15 year or longer) recognizing the SFLO commitment to continued timber management.
4. Develop a "Reasonable Use Rule" that will allow landowners like the Patillo's to continue to manage their tree farm for economics while providing protection of water quality and riparian habitat.

WFFA needs a commitment by all caucuses for monthly meetings to complete #3 and #4 by November 1, 2004 allowing time for development of legislation if needed.

Who Are the Members of the Forests and Fish Policy Committee?

The Forests and Fish Policy Committee was created by the Forests and Fish Law, HB 2091 of 1999, to work through proposed changes to the law and make recommendations to the Legislature and/or the Forest Practices Board. The Policy Committee includes representatives from:

Native American Tribes
DNR
State Fish and Wildlife
Federal Fish and Wildlife
State Dept. of Ecology
NOAA
WFFA and WFFPA

Welcome New WFFA Members!

Membership Chair DONNA LOUCKS (loucksd@localaccess.com) reports the following new members. Best wishes that joining WFFA makes your tree farm an enjoyable part of your life.

Ernest & Arlene Dunning - At Large
Kale & Kelly Dunning - Clark
David A. Morgan - Clark
Bart, Tony & Chris Ruestig - Clark
Jim & Julie Vandling - Clark
John & Christine Gardner - Cowlitz
R. H. McRoberts - Cowlitz
Gene & Alice Coakley - Lewis
Corinne & David FitzPatrick - Lewis
Darrell & Melanie Saxton - Lewis
Doug & Elizabeth Powell - Northeast
Sally Saxton - North Central
Patrick Raymond - Olympic
Darrell & Maria Theresa Brown - Pierce
Darrol Iverson - Pierce
Jeffrey & Yumi Vaught - Pierce
Steve Olson - South Sound
Tom Rieger - Spokane

From the Executive Director's Desk

The start of a new year is an appropriate time to consider the past, present and future of our association. A review of materials for the Legacy Project, the recording of our association's history, shows that from our beginning we had the same strong commitment to educating people about family forests and our way of life, of potlucks and tours.

But one important element has changed since our association was founded – the public perception of the family forest landowner. This perception has been shaped by many forces and has unfairly defined us over the last 12 years. The result has been public policy that has kept us and our hard-working officers and members on the defensive.

Today the WFFA continues to work hard to change back public perception so that our communities will recognize the unique contributions that small landowners make to our state's economy and environment. All of us must reach out to our neighbors and community leaders to help change the public perception of small forest landowners.

The New Year is also a time for predictions and I predict 2004 will bring many changes for our association including:

1. Our membership will grow for the first time in years as we invite our heirs, neighbors and new small forest land owners to join our association.
2. We will achieve a package of family forest plans and templates from the policy makers of our state, who will give us an *Incentive of Trust*.
3. We will increase the value of belonging to our association with a commitment to education through tours and meetings; increased communication with our newsletter and website; chapter growth and development; and by working with partners, new and old.
4. And finally I predict that our diverse association will remain a trusted voice of small forest landowners, allowing our membership to be:

“Stewards of the land...for Generations to Come”

Treefully, Rick Dunning
dunning@starband.net

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



Share this
with a
friend!