

## **Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association 2017 Tree Farm Tours**

Our Whatcom County Chapter is planning **two tree farm visits on Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>** in the Nooksack River South Fork Valley area. These two very different farms will give you some interesting insights on two of our members.

**At 10:00 am the first part of the tour will be Alpine Meadows Christmas Tree Farm located just south of Van Zandt at 3585 Highway 9, Deming.** You will see the large Alpine Meadows sign on the west side of Highway 9 just south of the Nelson Road. Turn in the driveway and go back to the barn where there will be ample parking. Alpine Meadows owner, Ken Stremmer, will be our host and explain the Christmas Tree business he has had for many years. Along with Ken will be his farm foreman, Joe Mendoza. Both will talk about all the preparation needed to produce high quality Christmas trees. This should be a very interesting visit and maybe you can find that perfect tree for next Christmas.

**Lunch at Alpine Meadows.** Bring your own lunch and we will gather at the barn for lunch together. If the weather does not cooperate we can eat inside, otherwise we will gather outside in the scenic South Fork Valley. Outhouse facilities are also available at the farm.

**At 12:45 we will car pool to the Hollowarrow Tree Farm, located at 5975 Schornbush Road.** Because of limited parking space, we will need to carpool from Alpine Meadows to Hollowarrow Tree Farm, which is about a 5 minute drive. The plan will be to **return to your car at Alpine Meadows about 3:00.**

**Hollowarrow Tree Farm is owned by WCFFA Board Members Jan and Dick Vollmer.** The Vollmers now own a total of 60 acres that was purchased at three separate times. The first parcel, with their home, was purchased in 1986, then another 20 acres in 1990 and the final 20 acres just last year. The 2016 parcel had been recently selective logged and now the Vollmers have hired Joe Zender & Sons Logging to finishing harvesting the remaining merchantable trees (mostly large Maple) so they can replant the area into a productive conifer stand. This site will be a very interesting discussion comparing the use of selective harvesting versus even-aged harvesting (clear-cut). We will talk about the pros and cons of each method and Jan and Dick's objectives for this parcel. You can also see the current harvesting in progress. They will also show us a silvopasture unit and some of their beautiful older second growth stands of mixed Douglas fir, Cedar, Alder and Maple. This will be a very interesting tour and may give you ideas for your own tree farm management.

We hope to see a good turn out for these two very different tree farm tours. Invite your friends and possible new WFFA members to these interesting tours. You can choose to attend only one, but hope you will take the time to visit both families. Bring your own lunch and dress for the day's weather. We will be doing some walking on dirt roads, so wear your good hiking boots and you might also be prepared for the mosquitoes.

Thanks for supporting the Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association and your fellow tree farmers.