Annual Meeting & Potluck – September 6, 2025 1-4pm
WFFA – Upper Puget Sound Chapter
Location: Mountain Tree Farm, Arlington, WA – Host, Teresa Weldon

Meeting Attendees:
Teresa Weldon, Pat McCarthy, Ken Osborn, Mike Blais, Jon Wilson, Shira McDonald, Tim McDonald, Jared Busen, Nick Kunz, Rich Weiss, Dean Van Vleet, Joanie K Firnstahl Koorn.

Open Meeting – Teresa Weldon. About 12 in attendance. Acceptance of the January 2025 meeting minutes was moved by Ken Osborn, seconded by Jon Wilson. Ken & Teresa took current meeting minutes.

Membership Report: The chapter gained 2 members (Jason Gaber and Ron Nilsson) but lost about 7. Discussion revolved around methods to access new members and liaising with Whatcom Chapter on programs.

Recapping the year for UPS participation: The January 2025 meeting was effective in laying out a schedule for 2025 and planning to hold a January 2026 meeting.
April 18: UPS participated in the Landowners Assistance Program Conference
April 27-29: UPS members participated in the WFFA State Annual Meeting
May 31: Biochar and forest tour on Nick Bright's property east of Arlington
July 18: Fritch mill and forest tour
August 16: Mike Blais's forest tour situated between Lake Roesiger and Lake Chaplain
Two more tours scheduled: Oct 11th on the Wilson Tree Farm (Jon Wilson), near Snohomish and Nov 13th, Tour of MacKenzie Castings Inc., near Arlington.

Treasurer's Report – Jon Wilson. Account total: $8607.22. In 2025, $500 was spent on the April 18 Landowner's Assistance Program for lunch, and $414 was used to purchase a chainsaw raffled at the state's April 27-29 Annual meeting. Mike Blais mentioned that the raffle is done in memory of UPS member, Keith Graves. About $657 added for membership dues.

Statewide: Proposed changes to Np stream buffers is dominant subject.

Ideas for Next Year: 1. Maple syrup tour – Rich Weiss as possible host 2. DNR guest to summarize rules, new and old. 3. Tour of Buse mill. 4. Carnation Forest tour. 5. An fyi from Dean VanVleet on Skagit Wood Expo – volunteer/table in March/April 2026. 6. Meeting local political reps.

Other:
Ann Stinson short film on her tree farm was filmed - will soon be available.
Tim McDonald stressed need to reach out to environmental community.
Nick Kunz spoke of the very successful Skagit Teacher's Tour this summer. Lots of positive feedback and teachers' perspectives changed for the better on understanding forest farming. Ken Osborn hosted and helped, and he received a big thanks from Nick Kunz.
A delightful guest and forester from Australia's natural resource government, Pat McCarthy, contributed to the discussion. He mentioned noticing similar trends between our membership

and grassroot forestry organizations in Australia. Pat is being sponsored by a program through his employer to tour through parts of the United States and Canada investigating timber production in small-scale private forests.

Meeting Adjourned around 3:45pm.

After the Meeting: Joanie Firnstahl Koorn read a few tree farm poems. Sisters, Teresa and Joanie, talked about their farm's history, the historic 1929 barn, visited a big rock in the forest (a glacial erratic as one member pointed out), toured a small portion of a 20-acre stand, discussed thinning, rock crushing for roads, and other forestry topics.