



Small Forest Landowner Office

Newsletter

January, 2010

Welcome

The Legislative session is in full swing and members of the SFL community have been out in force letting our Legislature know how important small forest landowners are to Washington State. Thank you to all that participate and support small forest landowners. This months feature article is on red alder milling by Thijs Jacobson, Washington Alder.

If you know of individuals or group that would like to receive the newsletter please direct them to the [SFLO Overview](#) page and use the e-subscribe feature under related links. If you would like to have additional topics, your story, event, or update covered please feel free to email the SFLO at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov. You can also find us at the [SFLO Overview](#) page on our website.

SFLO Program updates

SFLO We have added a couple additions to the [SFLO legislative page](#). On the web page you will find the draft weekly legislative calendar with all the hearings and committees that will be reviewing bills that may affect small forest landowners. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can live stream all hearings and committee meetings via [TVW](#). TVW also has an extensive archive so if you miss the live stream you can search by bill number and listen at home. Not sure of the bill number. Use the [Washington State Legislature bill information](#) page link as published on the SFLO page. As always the most up to date information regarding Legislative work is found at www.leg.wa.gov. If you have other suggestions for the SFLO legislative page please let us know.

FFPPP The fish team held its annual review with the contract engineers for the FFPPP. All the projects completed for the 2009 construction season were reviewed and “lessons learned” shared. For 2009 over 40 miles of habitat were opened and 29 barriers were corrected. With the economic downturn, material and labor rates were down allowing projects final cost to be less than estimates. The remaining funds will be used for additional projects in the 2010 construction season.

If you have a potential barrier on your property or know of a landowner that may, please forward the information to Rick Kuykendall, rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov, or call 360.902.1404.

Outreach The outreach group in the SFLO has established an online survey for you, our customers. Please take the 3 minutes needed to complete the survey and tell us what you want to see from the office in 2010 and beyond. This brief survey will help set the priorities for information sharing and technical publications developed by the SFLO and with our colleagues at WSU cooperative extension. [Take the Survey Now!](#)

Eastern Washington stewardship cost share work has new rates and a new application starting October 1st, 2009. This program provides 50% reimbursement to family forest landowners for Forest Stewardship Plans prepared by a private consulting forester and for thinning, pruning, and slash disposal work to reduce wildfire and bark beetle risk. The program is funded by annual competitive grant funds from the USDA Forest Service.

Current funds availability: Funds exhausted in Spokane, Stevens, Lincoln, and Pend Oreille counties – new applications being accepted for the waiting list. Limited funds remain in Ferry and Okanogan counties. Funding currently is adequate in all other Eastern WA counties.

2010 application is available on the DNR website or call 1-888-783-9548 to have one mailed to you. The new form is available online at [cost share application](#). If you have questions please email foreststewardship@dnr.wa.gov

Feature Article

Washington Alder, Thijs Jacobson, SFI/FSC certification coordinator, Washington Alder, Mt. Vernon, Washington, www.buyalder.com

Washington Alder in Mt. Vernon, Washington is a primary mill for red alder, birch and maple logs in NW Washington. The mill was built in 1997/1998 with production beginning in late 1998. The Skagit County mill currently employe's 122 people. The mill is located off Highway 20 on Farm to Market road behind the large Sierra Pacific softwood mill. A neat way to do a virtual walk through of the mill is to visit our website and tour the mill <http://www.washington-alder.com> (the link is on the left side). You can watch all the elements of the mill from getting logs to shipping the final board. There are pictures and short videos showing each break down component.



Our log supply comes from a variety of sources but generally private landowners supply most of our logs. Since we do not own our own timber lands, the private forest industry (small and large) is a critical component to keep the mill and Washington Alder operating. We need all landowners especially small forest owners to continue to grow alder. In years past the general forest management theme was to remove alder through spraying or slashing. This was to encourage valuable Douglas-fir to become the dominant tree more rapidly. There was also not a large market for alder and hardwood logs in the Pacific Northwest. **Today the story is much different** and we produced 27 million board feet of hardwood lumber in 2009. The primary hardwood milled at our facility is red alder (91%) with the remainder birch (2%) and maple (7%). We want to remind and encourage landowners to keep growing hardwood species on their forestlands, and that there is a market for logs and lumber.

If a landowner has hardwood on their property and is looking to sell the trees they can contact Mark Feiro, our log buyer at 360-428-8583 in Mt. Vernon or to learn more about the company visit www.buyalder.com. The mill has

no minimum requirements; in fact some of our suppliers deliver logs in their pickup trucks. We always remind people to make sure they have the appropriate permits from DNR before cutting anything. Also, landowners should remember that not all hardwood logs are top grade. Hardwood in the Northwest is very susceptible to rot and freeze/ice damage. Alder begins to rapidly deteriorate around age 65. We are currently certified by both SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). We are committed to be an industry leader in sustainable forestry practices and our management philosophy is consistent to that goal.

The economic downturn has affected all of the forest industry. We are surviving the tough times by having solid leadership with our management team as well as some of the hardest working employees in the state. Skagit County and Washington State has experienced unemployment escalating to 9.2%. Washington Alder has maintained less than a 2% turnover. The bottom line for us in being successful is having dedicated employees and getting good quality logs from forest owners who manage responsibly in this great state.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Winter Twig Identification Workshop Will be happening **January 24th**. Kick the winter blues and brighten your winter outings when you learn the secrets to identifying 25 species of native trees and shrubs in their leafless winter glory. Once your eyes are opened to the subtle beauty of our winter landscape, you'll never see winter as endless gray again! Winter-twig identification skills are also practical for gardeners and those doing revegetation projects.

The Native Plant Salvage Foundation will sponsor walking workshops on a local nature trail on Sunday, January 24. Participants can choose from two sessions: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 to 3:30 p.m. The class is \$5, or \$10 with the "Winter in the Woods" book. Advanced registration is required. Contact NPSF at 360-867-2166 or email nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com for details.

Family Foresters Workshop sponsored by WSU and U of I extensions will be held **January 22, 2010** in Spokane. Family forests (also known as non-industrial private forests or "NIPF" lands) are vital to the economy and quality of life in the Inland Northwest. These lands are critical for wildlife habitat, timber production, scenic quality, and many other values. Unique skills are required of individuals who help family forest owners manage their property. This program is designed to: Strengthen the skills of consulting foresters, state-employed service foresters, and other natural resource professionals who work with family forest owners; and to serve as a forum to provide updates on emerging technology and knowledge applicable to family forestry. www.regonline.com/2010_Family_Foresters_Workshop

Ties to the Land courses are offered by WSU extension. The class is now back on for **March 11th and April 1st**. To register, or for updates visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/TTL2010.htm> .

Washington 5th graders invited to enter 2010 Arbor Day contest

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), National Arbor Day Foundation, and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) are calling on all fifth-graders across the state to participate in the annual Arbor Day poster contest.

An inter-disciplinary curriculum guidebook has been designed to correlate with all state and federal educational standards. The "*Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!*" guidebook provides all the necessary information, classroom exercises, and assessment guidelines needed to educate students about the benefits of trees and their inherent value in the production and conservation of energy. Fifth-grade students from Washington are eligible to participate in a statewide competition, with the winner advancing to the national level. State contest entries are due by **March 5, 2010**. Arbor Day is celebrated in Washington the second Wednesday of April, which, in 2010, is April 14. Check locally for information about events in your community, or visit

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp_urban_commandurbanforestry.aspx

Natural Resources Law for Foresters will be offered by West Forestry and Conservation Association March 11-12, 2010 at Heathman Lodge in Vancouver. The seminar will cover various topics regarding local and federal law regarding working forests. If you are interested visit www.westernforestry.org or call 1.888.722.9416

Pacific Northwest Timberlands, presented by The Seminar Group The Seminar Group will hold the 2nd Pacific Northwest Timberlands Seminar in Portland, at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, on **February 25-26, 2010**. This highly anticipated event provides continuing legal education within the broader context of market conditions, management issues, and emerging opportunities for owners and managers of timberlands. Participants can expect to learn about the latest legal issues and authorities affecting timberlands, but with a strong dose of information on business and social issues that will be of interest to attorneys, foresters, municipal representatives, conservationists, tribal members, and anyone concerned with the forestry industry -- one of the oldest industries in the Pacific Northwest, yet one that continues to offer new issues and opportunities for learning in law, business and policy.

The seminar will be February 25-26th, 2010 at the Hilton Portland Executive Tower. Register online at www.theseminargroup.net or email info@theseminargroup.net or call 1-800-574-4852

Tree School as presented by OSU extension service will be **Saturday March 20, 2010** in Oregon City, Oregon. Tree School is celebrating 20 years of the popular event that will have 68 classes this year and more than 50 businesses and vendors sharing information on forest management. Classes start at 815 am and will continue till 515pm. Fees for the event are \$45 dollars for Clackamas County residence and \$55 dollars for all others.

For more information visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry/treeschool> or call 503-655-8631

How to Grow your own Old Growth Many forest owners in the Pacific Northwest are interested in managing their forests for a broad range of ecological, economic, and social values. Older forests provide many opportunities for increased forest health, wildlife habitat, ecosystem services, aesthetic value, and revenue generation. The challenge is how to shift plantation stands that were created to maximize wood production towards the development old growth characteristics.

This **February 20th, 2010** afternoon seminar will introduce forest owners to the theories, principles and applications of managing 2nd growth forests for late successional characteristics and functions. For more information visit <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/events/2-20-how-to-grow-your-own-old-growth/> .

New climate change short course is convenient, cost-effective, and carbon-

emissions free USDA Forest Service Research and Development has released an interactive short course that presents current scientific knowledge on adapting to climate variability in wildland management. Titled “Adapting to Climate Change: A Short Course for Land Managers,” the course is available as a DVD or online at the Climate Change Resource Center (<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc>).

News

Forest Seedling Sales at Webster Webster Forest Nursery has plenty of seedlings for sale this year for all Westside stock types and many of the eastside species. Seedling prices start at \$100 for 100 trees or as low as \$250 for 1000 trees. Buying in bulk is considered the most economic for seedling purchases. Though a surplus of trees is anticipated this year you should contact the nursery to ensure supplies are adequate for you needs.

Contact Bill Taylor at 360.753.5305, bill.taylor@dnr.wa.gov or visit the website at [DNR Webster Nursery](#) .

Seabird won't be harmed by wind project for Clallam, other PUDs (from the Peninsula Daily News) PORT ANGELES -- A proposed wind power project in Southwest Washington that the Clallam County Public Utility District financially supports will not have a significant impact on the small seabird known as the marbled murrelet, a scientific peer review concluded. Energy Northwest, a consortium of 27 public power providers in Washington, wants to install up to 32 wind turbines on land leased from the state. Public utilities in Clallam, Mason, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties are sharing development costs of the Radar Ridge project near Naselle, a Pacific County town of 400. Advocates said the project will create jobs and help utilities meet a state mandate for renewable energy. Environmentalists have said the wind farm could put the declining marbled murrelet population at risk.

Read more at <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20100105/NEWS/301059993>

Family Forest Expo-OLYMPIA – The second ever Family Forest Expo will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Green River Community College in Auburn. Family owners of private forestland in Washington will have the opportunity to learn how to keep their forests safe and healthy. Some 220,000 families in Washington own more than half of the state's private working forestland. Gates at the event will open at 7:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Participants will be able to attend up to seven different expert presentations, choosing from more than two-dozen topics. Among the topics being offered are common tree and shrub identification, wildlife identification, managing the forest for wildlife, common forest insect and diseases, growing and tending forests, fire-wise practices and pruning trees. There will also be demonstrations of small-scale equipment, tool use and tree falling. There also will be a resource area featuring equipment vendors and public, private and nonprofit organizations that provide

assistance to landowners. Some of the workshops and tours will be outdoors, so participants are encouraged to wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

Advance registration received by Feb. 8 is \$40 per family. Registration at the door is \$60 per family. Box lunches will be available for an additional \$10 each. Because there are no restaurants or stores in the immediate area, attendees are encouraged to either sign up for the box lunch or to plan to bring their own. The registration form and additional information, including driving directions, are available at <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry>. Forms are also available through county Extension offices, or by contacting WSU Chelan County Extension at 667-6540. For more information contact Jim Freed at 360-902-1314 or freedj@wsu.edu.

Timber bills offer hope for region (editorial from the Capitol Press, January 2010) An announcement Dec. 16 that timber interests and some environmental groups are getting behind a plan to thin six national forests in Eastern Oregon came as welcome news. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has introduced a bill that would protect old-growth trees but allow loggers under contract with the Forest Service to thin smaller trees and brush that have grown up after years of fire suppression and flawed logging policy. The measure's goals are to restore the ecology of eastern Oregon forest lands, protect vital salmon habitat and revitalize the area's timber industry. The bill bans logging most large trees and along streams, limits permanent road building and streamlines the process for lodging environmental objections to projects. Also included in the bill is \$50 million to fund large-scale restoration projects that will triple the acreage open to logging activity.

Read more at <http://www.capitalpress.com/opinion/jb-timber010810>

Sumner company conducting logging operation (from the Puyallup Herald)

Approximately 200 acres of timber, mostly Douglas fir and hardwoods, above the Sumner Tapps Highway were part of an extensive logging process on Jan. 16, much to the dismay of Sumner city officials.

Sumner's Corliss Concrete owner Harry Corliss owns the land and he went through public review and public comment processes to obtain two forest practice permits through the state Department of Natural Resources. "In essence, the timber was grown to be harvested," said Sloan Clack of real estate asset management company Canyon Creek Company, which is managing the logging project. "It's mature timber, it's time to harvest them." City of Sumner officials wrote a letter to the Department of Natural resources this past April, expressing their concerns about the project. Read more at <http://www.puyallupherald.com/110/story/4867.html>

Oregon Department of Forestry has an interactive seedling search feature on their website. If you have land in SW Washington or in Oregon and need seedlings, you should give the tool a try. It can be found at <http://www.odf.state.or.us/PF/SeedZones/ZoneSearch.asp>. We recommend you always check with Webster Nursery first for all of you tree seedling needs [DNR Webster Nursery](#).

Links

Washington Farm Forestry

<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension

<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/index.htm>

Northwest Natural Resources Group

<http://www.nnrg.org>

Family Forest Foundation

<http://www.familyforestfoundation.org/>

Smallwood Utilization Network

<http://www.smallwoodnews.com/>

The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) serves as a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. With a mission to promote the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners, the office seeks to develop policies that conserve Washington's privately owned non-industrial forests. Recognizing the significant contributions small landowners make to protecting Washington's public natural resources, the office strives to equip landowners with all the necessary tools and information they need to keep their land in forestry use.

If you would no longer like to receive this update please email us at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov or call 360.902.1400. The new format for our newsletter is web based. A link will be sent to you via our e-subscriber email system. You may have to adjust your spam or junk mail settings to allow mail from WADNR@govdelivery.com