

Forestry and Natural Resources



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY STEVENS COUNTY EXTENSION

Enhancing the environment *supports the health and sustainability of its economy and its communities*. We work with landowners to implement the best practices in stewardship for natural resources.

Backyard Forest Stewardship

These programs help landowners with smaller parcels actively manage their property to increase it's resilience to insects and diseases, decrease fire risk, and manage their forests regardless of their objectives. Many of these new landowners are not interested in the traditional forest product management, but they still need to manage their forests.

Coached Forest Stewardship Planning: Private forestland owners decide what they want to accomplish with their forests, given the biological, physical, and political realities. It gives them the knowledge and skills to make good choices about when and how to thin trees and how to manage noxious weeds and pests. 20 families are attending the Fall 2008 course representing over 500 acres of forestland; many will write a forest management plan by the end of the 8-week course. There have been 150 participants in the past three years representing over 6,000 acres.

Forest Health Field Day: Landowners learned how to recognize forest health problems and how to manage their forest so that it maintains a healthy condition. Workshop evaluations found that 46% indicated a high level of knowledge gained about forest insects and pathogens. In six months: 71% will assess existing damage, 36% will thin, 64% will remove logging debris slash, and 36% will prune ladder fuels. [25 participants / 3,785 acres]

Ties to the Land Workshop: (November 2008)

Succession planning for maintaining family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of challenges facing family businesses and how to address them. Families will receive information about legal and economic aspects of transferring forest lands from one generation to the next.

Stevens County Forest Health Pilot Project;

a forest health awareness education campaign partnering with WA DNR. The mission is to convey information, education, and technical assistance to assist forest landowners in reducing risk from insects, disease, and wildfire.

WA-DNR is focusing it's Forest Health Outreach project in Stevens County because of the severity of the beetle problem. Extension will provide the education and outreach for this project. Without Extension it would be problematic for the DNR, and the quality of any educational and outreach component may be reduced.

