



small forest landowner news

February, 2011

News from the Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office

Welcome

This month's featured article is Road Maintenance and Abandonment Requirements. Cesar Carrion, Road Mapping and Abandonment Program specialist in DNR's South Puget Region office, pens the article this month. If you have questions or comments for Cesar please send them to cesar.carrion@dnr.wa.gov.

SFLO, Forest Health, and Stewardship Program Updates



SFLO

The [Small Forest Landowner Office \(SFLO\)](#) is losing two assets, David Bergvall has promoted to the DNR's BPA Liaison position. David has brought several successful partnerships to the SFLO. SFLO is working with Natural Resource Conservation Service bringing additional funding to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. In another partnership David has been instrumental in producing the [Forest Stewardship Notes](#) in coordination with WSU extension. David is the lead in producing the SFLO electronic newsletter, and has done countless presentations across the state for small forest landowners. David will not be leaving the small forest landowner arena entirely because of his active management in his family's tree

farm. SFLO wishes you the Best of Luck, David.

John Ring has worked in the in the [Small Forest Landowner Office \(SFLO\)](#) as the Forestry Riparian Easement Forester since November 1, 2010. However, John has recently accepted a position with the BLM in Colorado. His last day with us is March 4, 2011. We in the SFLO have appreciated John's great work he has done working with landowners and his field expertise to acquire easements. We will miss him and wish him well with his new challenge.

Contact Mary McDonald for further questions or for additional information, 360.902.1415 or mary.mcdonald@dnr.wa.gov

Stewardship

Eastern Washington: Cost-share funds continue to be available from the U.S. Forest Service to reimburse landowners for up to 50% of the cost of hiring a consulting forester to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan and for thinning, pruning, and slash disposal work to reduce wildfire and bark beetle risk. For details and the application form, go to dnr.wa.gov and type "Eastern Washington Cost-Share" in the search box or call 1-888-783-9548.

Forest Owners Field Days: These popular regional educational events are tentatively planned for June 18 in Jefferson County and August 10 in Klickitat County. Watch this newsletter for details or go to the [WSU Forest and Wildlife Extension Calendar of Events](#) online. Almost 9,000 landowners have attended these events at venues all across the state since 1996.

Contact Steve Gibbs for further questions, applications, or for additional information, 360.902.1706

Forest Health

The gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is a voracious hairy caterpillar, native to Europe and Asia, that we don't want invading Washington State. They could thrive eating many of our tree species and would make people who don't like hordes of itchy caterpillars go nuts and use extra pesticides. Since 1974, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has successfully used detection traps (red or green triangular paper tubes with a sticky interior coating and a lure that smells like a female gypsy moth) hung from trees to attract any male gypsy moths who have come our way. Usually gypsy moths get here when people accidentally move egg masses on their outdoor stuff or vehicles from infested parts of the northeastern United States or on trade goods and shipments from Asia. In 2010, a small, viable gypsy moth population was detected in the Puyallup area. WSDA is proposing to apply the bacterial insecticide B.t.k. to about 29 acres during April and May. No people live within this area and this is an important project that's likely to successfully keep these hungry bugs out! Learn more about those familiar traps and this worthy proposal from [WSDA](#). As forest landowners, we recognize the value of preventing the spread of exotic pests.

Contact Karen Ripley for further questions or for additional information, 360.902.1691 or karen.ripley@dnr.wa.gov

Rivers and Habitat (Riparian Open Space Program)

Cruise contracts have been awarded for four applications. The State determines the value of the easement based on the volume of the timber in the easement as well as the stumpage value established by the Department of Revenue. The State anticipates acquiring these four easements using available funding. For more information please visit the [Riparian Open Space Program web page](#).

Contact Dan Pomerenk for further questions or for additional information, 360.902.1427 or dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov

FREP

The FREP (Forestry Riparian Easement Program) has completed its preliminary field work on the 14 applications of highest priority and has awarded cruise contracts. It is expected that the funds allocated to the program will be used to purchase as many easements as possible before the June 30, 2011 deadline.

Contact Dan Pomerenk for further questions or for additional information, 360.902.1427 or dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov

RMAP construction season by Cesar Carrion, DNR South Puget RMAP specialist



It's that time of the year again. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAP) reports are due. Large forest landowners' roads all over the state of Washington are regulated by the Forest Practices Road Rules.

Once a year they submit their reports to the RMAP Specialist of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Prior to that, there are thousands of hours of work and large financial investments to execute the hundreds of RMAP projects--fish barrier removal, stream culvert replacement or road abandonment--implemented in the state every year. The background and mandate is to provide for clean water, fish habitat and a viable timber industry.

As a professional forester, there are few moments more rewarding than seeing an RMAP project completed. I favor the Fish Barrier Removal and Road Abandonments. Road maintenance projects of grading and cleaning ditches are not as glamorous, however very important to achieving the goal of the program.

One of the first priorities is to identify a culvert that is undersized and does not allow for fish passage up stream. Under sized culvert replacement represents an additional large capital investment in infrastructure for landowners during these challenging economics times. However, large and small landowners continue to be committed to making improvements throughout their ownership bringing their roads up to standard by July 2016. Private forest engineers begin a process of calculating, sizing and designing the appropriate culvert or

bridge that will suit the road, stream and necessary fish passage. The end product will provide for clean water and fish passage to access habitat.

After designs for the site have been completed the proposal is submitted for evaluation to the area Forest Practices Foresters. The proposal is also reviewed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Biologist, the Department of Ecology and local Tribes. The plan for the stream crossing project is then approved by the Forest Practices and a Hydrological Permit issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

After approval, the ground work begins. The work usually starts during the late spring or summer and carries into the fall depending when the autumn rains begin to fall and scale of the project. The work involves blocking the road to traffic, stream water diversions and excavation and removal of the old culvert. This is usually the easy part of the project. Once this is done, the second phase is the installation and fitting in of the new structure. A large culvert designed for fish passage is installed and fitted with stream channel substrate to mimic natural stream conditions or better yet, the stream channel and stream banks go through the restoration process of pulling back the channel slopes and adding boulders and large woody debris.

Now the best part! Sometimes it takes years, but sometimes as soon as the water flows and habitat is reconnected fish again through the project. Improvements such as bridges have the potential to last over many decades and have served to move millions of board feet of timber to the sawmill as well as provided for passage of generations of fish.

Since 2001, an estimated 2,500 RMAP projects have been completed with the initiation of the RMAP program in the state of Washington. This translates into more than 1,400 miles of fish habitat that have been restored in the state to date. Many more need to be completed before 2016 but landowners are committed to completing their RMAP plans. RMAP's have brought about many positive changes for the forest roads and I look forward to next year's RMAP construction season and the results of the landowners' investment in restoration projects.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Grays Harbor CD will host second annual Family Forest Fun Day on April 30

This day-long event will have classes on forest management, wildlife, technical assistance and biomass for small landowners. The event will be held at Satsop Development Park. For more information, contact Theresa at 360-249-5900 ext 106 or visit <http://graysharborcd.scc.wa.gov>

Spring 2011 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

Tuesday nights starting April 12, 2011, in Everett. Find details and registration information on the [Snohomish County extension web site](#), or call 425-357-6017

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The [Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(EQIP\)](#) is a federally funded cost-share program through the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. It helps forest landowners help implement conservation activities on their land. If you are looking to improve your forest stand through activities such as pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, disease and pest management, forest road improvement, culvert replacement, or wildlife enhancements, EQIP can assist you with financial recovery and technical support. If you are looking for financial assistance in developing a forest management plan we currently are offering the EQIP CAP Forestry program that will pay for a management plan to be developed on your property. Deadline to apply for the forest management plan is March 4, 2011. For general EQIP signup the deadline is August 13, 2011.

Other Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost-share programs:

[Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program \(WHIP\)](#)

[Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)

[Wetland Reserve Program \(WRP\)](#)

To apply for the EQIP or any other NRCS program, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#). In the Puget Sound area, contact Joshua Himsl, Forester, at (253) 845-9272 ext. 110 or e-mail: Joshua.Himsl@wa.usda.gov .

Other Classes and Workshops

Septic System Maintenance: On February 22, 2011, at 6 p.m., the Cowlitz County Environmental Health Department will discuss about how to maintain and inspect your septic system. Location is the Cowlitz County Administration Building.

Timber Tax Update Webinar: Hosted by the U.S. Forest Service on February 25 from noon-1:30 p.m., this webinar will cover topics on timber tax laws including the latest changes... right in time for tax season. Visit <http://forestrywebinar.net> for more information.

The Game of Logging: An introduction to precision tree felling and chainsaw safety will be held in Oakville on September 22 and 23, 2011. Based on the concept of open-face felling, the game of logging is the world's leading method for safe, efficient, and precise tree felling. For more information call Kirk Hanson at 360-316-9317 or e-mail at kirk@nnerg.org

Streambank Soil Bioengineering: How to build and install vegetative structures for reducing streambank erosion. This practical, indepth, and applied skills workshop will help you reduce streambank erosion. A wide variety of designs and applications will be covered to assist you with your project. The class will be held February 23-24 in Portland or March 9-10 in Spokane. For more information, visit WesternForestry.org

Forest Stewardship Council Assessor Training will be held on March 18-19th in Elma. This two-day workshop is designed for forestry professionals who wish to gain the knowledge and technical skills for conducting FSC assessments on small woodland properties in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, contact Hannah Yourd at 360-316-9319 or hannah@nnerg.org

News

Hampton Affiliates Looks to Ship Finished Product to Asian markets

The Daily Astorian--Hampton Affiliates might start shipping lumber from Port of Astoria facilities, Port Commissioner Bill Hunsinger reported at a meeting Tuesday night.

"It's still kind of preliminary at this point," said Steve Zika, Hampton's CEO, who confirmed Hunsinger's comments this morning. "We're trying to convince the Port that it's more in everybody's best interests to ship lumber rather than logs." Hampton hopes to ship between 20 to 25 million board feet of lumber a month out of the Port of Astoria, Zika and Hunsinger said. According to Zika, Hampton Affiliates would combine lumber from its Oregon mills in Tillamook, Willamina and Warrenton and ship the lumber to Asian markets from the Port of Astoria. Hampton also has two stud mills in Washington and lumber from these could be included as well.

Tree Rings Give Clues to Ancient Droughts

UPI.com (February 3, 2011) According to scientists at the University of Arkansas, a study of tree rings in Mexico may give clues to the role major droughts played in the fates of long-gone ancient civilizations, U.S. researchers say. The scientists say their 1,238-year-long tree-ring chronology--the longest and most accurate of its kind for Mexico and Central America--is the [first to reconstruct the climate of pre-colonial Mexico](#) on an annual basis for more than a millennium, pinning down four ancient megadroughts to their exact years

Pine Beetle's Devastation Gives State's Logging Industry Needed Boost

Great Falls Tribune (February 6) Across Montana's national forests, [dozens of timber projects](#) are underway to fell trees killed by mountain pine beetles. The unstable trees, located along main roads and campgrounds, are a danger to the public--but an opportunity for loggers.

Conservation of Whitebark Pine May Hinge on Preservation of Ponderosa

PORTLAND, Ore. (February 16, 2011) New study of Clark's nutcrackers suggests that their caching of whitebark pine seeds is less effective than previously thought at restoring populations of the declining conifer. The caching of whitebark pine seeds by the Clark's nutcracker in late summer and early fall may not be enough to regenerate populations of the imperiled conifer in most of its range, scientists have found. Their research--featured in the February issue of *Science Findings*, a monthly publication of the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station--suggests, for the first time, that the success of whitebark pine restoration may be linked to the conservation of another tree species: ponderosa pine. [Read more.](#)

Office of the Washington State Climatologist



Interannual Variability of Costliest Events

Washington gets its fair share of nasty weather, and these weather events can cause millions of dollars in damages. The types of events that have the biggest impacts, however, vary markedly from year to year (and do not always make headlines). This note explores the costliest weather events since the turn of the century. We define the "big events" as a single event that caused more than \$1 million in damage.

[Read the full story](#)

Climate Outlook

La Niña conditions are still present across the equatorial Pacific. According to the [Climate Prediction Center](#), La Niña is near its peak, but is still expected to last through spring. The La Niña conditions are reflected in the CPC seasonal outlooks featured below. The February-March-April (FMA) three-class outlook calls for colder than normal temperatures for the entire state. With regards to precipitation, eastern Washington is relatively likely to be wetter than normal (i.e., at least a 33% chance using the three-class system). The spring (March-April-May) CPC three-class outlook indicates colder than normal temperatures with chances exceeding 40% using the three-class system. The precipitation outlook does not tilt the odds in either direction; there is an equal chance of receiving below, equal to, or above normal precipitation in MAM.

This section is made possible by the [Office of the Washington State Climatologist](#), Nick Bond, State Climatologist.

Links

Washington Farm Forestry	Ties to the Land
WSU Extension	Consulting Foresters Directory
Northwest Natural Resources Group	Office of the Washington State Climatologist
Smallwood Utilization Network	American Tree Farm System
Family Forest Foundation	Washington Tree Farm Program

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.





SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE

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