

small forest landowner News

UPDATE FROM THE SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE

DNR Forest Practices Deputy Supervisor: Aaron Everett



On August 16, 2012 Commissioner Goldmark appointed Aaron Everett to serve as Deputy Supervisor for Forest Practices & Federal Relations. Aaron will also continue to serve as Washington State Forester. Aaron joined

DNR in 2008 as an executive policy specialist focused on forest health and federal lands issues. In 2009, these duties grew to include all federal agency, congressional, and policy affairs. He was appointed by Commissioner Goldmark to the position of State Forester in December 2010. Aaron has helped region, division, and Executive Management staff fulfill many important projects. These include:

- securing and directing \$8 million in funding for DNR forestry priorities from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- designing and managing completion of DNR's statewide



Recent Posts

- [Update from the Small Forest Landowner Office](#)
- [Message from Tami Miketa, Manager of the SFLO](#)
- [Small Forest Landowner Survey](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Coached Planning](#)
- [Washington Tree Farm Program Educational Seminar](#)
- [Small Woodland Owners Hold the Key to Helping Salmon Survive](#)
- [WSU Extension Fall Workshops](#)
- [Eastern Washington Forest Health Workshops](#)

forest resource assessment and strategy for landowner assistance programs

- securing \$1 million in funding to carry out the statewide forest biomass supply study and implementing other aspects of the Commissioner's biomass initiative
- managing DNR's response to proposed transmission line projects and related complex negotiations with Bonneville Power Administration
- securing and directing \$8 million in state capital appropriations to conduct eastern Washington forest hazard reduction projects
- chairing the Commissioner's technical advisory committee to make first-ever use of forest health hazard warning authority in eastern Washington

Welcome aboard Aaron!

[Keeping Track of Wildfires](#)

[in Washington](#)

- [Assessing Fire Injured Trees](#)

- [Protect Your Property from Wildfire](#)

- [September 2012](#)

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[Revenue Forecast](#)

- [Forest C](#)
- [Day Attendance Tops](#)

[10,000 Mark!](#)

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- [SFLO Wants to Hear from You!](#)

MESSAGE FROM TAMI MIKETA, MANAGER OF THE SFLO



Washington's Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy

DNR and other state forestry agencies across the nation administer an array of federal programs for landowner assistance, forest conservation and management, and fire prevention and suppression. Collectively, many of these fall under the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, and are sometimes called U.S. Forest

Service "State and Private Forestry" programs. These programs include:

- Private Land Fuels Management & Community Protection
- Cooperative Forest Health Program
- Forest Stewardship Program

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- Urban & Community Forestry Program
- State Fire Assistance Program
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program

A provision of the 2008 Farm Bill required state forestry agencies to conduct a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy to be completed by June 2010. The outcome of this strategy was to identify the types of work needed to address national, regional, and state forest management themes, and to designate priority forest landscapes in which work could take place over the following years.

The Farm Bill directed the state's strategy be divided into three components:

1. **Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources:** to provide an analysis of forest conditions, trends, threats, and opportunities in the state and the information necessary to delineate priority forest landscapes.
2. **Statewide Forest Resource Strategy:** to provide a long-term plan for investing state, federal, and other resources to manage priority landscapes identified using the assessment, focusing where federal investment can most effectively leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.
3. **Annual Report on Use of Funds:** to describe how State & Private Forestry funds were used to address the priorities in the assessment and strategy, including performance measures for any given fiscal year.

The Farm Bill provision specifies three nationally-significant themes that State & Private Forestry are to address. Those themes are:

1. **Conserve Working Forest Lands:** conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses. The issue of working forest lands and conversion is a primary concern of DNR both as the state's principle forestry agency and as a forest land manager. The pattern and rate of forest conversion of private lands to non-forest uses is resulting in a loss of habitat, recreation lands, and impacts to Washington's resource-based economy. Therefore, DNR has established major initiatives to support small forest landowners to maintain their land as working forests;

advance policies and incentives to prevent the loss of private working forest lands and retain associated jobs; consolidate DNR-managed working forests into strategically positioned blocks that help provide compatible management for neighboring forest lands; and permanently maintain DNR-managed working forests at greatest risk of conversion.

2. **Protect Forests From Harm:** protect forests from threats including catastrophic fires, storms, flooding, insect or disease outbreak, and invasive species. DNR addresses both forest health restoration and wildfire hazard reduction through the development of alternative energy resources such as biomass removal from unhealthy, overstocked forests to restore forest health, particularly in Eastern Washington, where forests suffer from past fire exclusion, disease, and challenges presented by a changing climate.
3. **Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests:** including air and water quality, soil conservation, biological diversity, carbon storage, forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, and wildlife. Upland water quality and quantity, protection of habitat for federally listed wildlife species, and Puget Sound restoration are at the core of DNR's responsibilities to regulate forest practices activities and manage forested state trust lands.

In Washington, core landscapes were identified in the Strategy and carry a commitment of receiving not less than 60 percent of available project funds. Core landscapes are divided into three primary program functions that drive specific actions as follows:

1. **Fuels Reduction and Community Protection Treatments** (Core landscapes: Upper Yakima, Wenatchee, Entiat, Chelan, Okanogan, Lower Spokane, Little Spokane, Hangman, Middle Spokane)
2. **Forest Health Treatments** (Core landscapes: Lower Spokane, Middle Lake Roosevelt, Colville, Kettle)
3. **Forest Stewardship Assistance** (Core landscapes: Upper Chehalis, Willapa, Grays-Elochoman, Cowlitz, Lewis, Kennedy-Goldsboro)

The Washington Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy is to be revised every five years. [To view a summary of the Washington Strategy click here.](#) Strategies

for all 50 states can be found
at www.forestationplans.org.

SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER SURVEY



If you haven't already, please take just one minute to complete our Small Forest Landowner Survey. The Small Forest Landowner Office wants to better understand the people we work for and their forestlands. Your answers will help us direct our work to support your forest goals. The information will be used within the Small Forest Landowner Office.

[Click here to take our Small Forest Landowner Survey!](#)

Please contact Michelle Peterschick at 360.902.1849 for further questions or additional information.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COACHED PLANNING

This 10-session course will enable forest



landowners to prepare their own Forest Stewardship Plan with guidance and "coaching" from natural resource professionals. It is designed to help forest landowners

develop customized management solutions to meet their own unique ownership objectives. If you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this course is for you.

Benefits of attending:

- Learn about keeping your forest healthy and productive for generations to come.
- Learn how to identify and implement practical steps to meet your individual ownership objectives.
- Develop a written plan that may qualify you for property tax reductions for your forestland.
- Discover a variety of available resources for financial, educational, and technical assistance for stewarding your forest.
- Get an on-the-ground, personalized consultation by a forester and/or wildlife biologist to discuss plan development and implementation.
- Have your property recognized as a “Stewardship Forest.”

Vashon Island

October 3 – November 28, 2012

6:00 -9:00 pm Wednesday Evenings

[Click here for more information and class registration details!](#)

Bellevue

October 4 – December 6, 2012

6:30-9:30 PM Thursday Evenings

[Click here for more information and class registration details!](#)

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Logging Your Timber: Options, Opportunities and Precautions



This seminar helps landowners harvest timber for maximum value. Your timber is a valuable asset. For many small forest landowners, harvesting is done infrequently and can come with many unanswered questions. Your trees could be cut and gone before you realize you

have failed to maximize your profit on a long-term investment. A contract logger, two consulting foresters, and a forest landowner will explain the steps involved, from filing the Forest Practices Application to writing and depositing the last checks.

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 8am – 4pm

Location: Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA

Cost: Certified American Tree Farm Members or Tree Farm Inspectors \$70 (\$105 with spouse). Non-members \$80 (\$120 with spouse). Students \$50. Price includes coffee, snacks, and a hot lunch.

Advanced registration by September 28, 2012 is required. Registration forms and further information can be obtained at www.watreefarm.org/2012RegForm.pdf or by calling Donna Loucks at 360-736-2147. The seminar has been approved for 5.5 SAF CFE credits and 6 Master Logger credits.

SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS HOLD THE KEY TO HELPING SALMON SURVIVE

by: Aaron
Everett, DNR
Forest
Practices
Deputy
Supervisor
and
Washington
State
Forester



Herb and Dolores Welch, Small forest landowners

This is the time of year when many communities across our great state hold their annual salmon festivals, and anglers are starting to enjoy our fall salmon runs. Recent large salmon habitat restoration projects like the removal of the Elwah and Glines Canyon dams on the Olympic Peninsula get a lot of well-deserved attention. As we celebrate our salmon and work to restore their runs, it is easy to forget that small woodland owners play an equally important role.

Why, you ask? Small woodland owners comprise 3.2 million acres of Washington's forests—about half the private forestland in the state. Their income helps contribute to Washington State's annual \$16 billion forestry economy and helps sustain many rural communities. At the same time, these family forests provide cold, clean water to thousands of miles of fish-bearing streams. Crossing those streams, in many cases, are roads.

Road culverts and other stream crossing structures that are aging, too small, or improperly installed can block fish from reaching their spawning grounds. The same barriers then confound the out-migration of young salmon to the ocean.

Responsible owners of small woodlands and forests have been working with the state to take action. Since 2003, nearly 200 landowners have taken advantage of a state program that has replaced 232 barriers and opened more than 485 miles of stream habitat – 485 miles, that's about the width of our state and back again. We're poised to do a whole lot more.

To help protect salmon and maintain the economic benefits of these lands, state Forest Practices Rules require forest

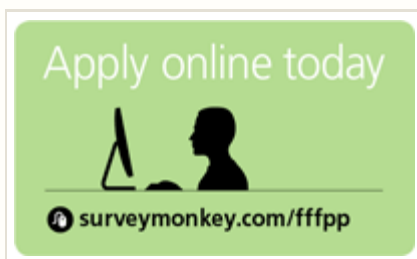
landowners to address fish barriers by 2016. That deadline is not far off. Recognizing that eliminating these barriers can be costly for the small woodland owner, the 2003 Legislature established the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The program provides 75-100 percent of the cost of correcting a barrier by installing a new, fish-passable culvert or bridge.

Thanks to a new round of funding from the legislature, DNR — through the Small Forest Landowner Office — will complete at least 100 of these projects over the next two years. Considering that each replacement project creates construction jobs, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a helpful boost to many rural communities. What's needed now is a large pool of applicants seeking funding so the most significant of the remaining stream barriers can be corrected.

Because the barriers are prioritized and repaired on a 'worst-first' basis, not every landowner who applies and enrolls in the program receives funding immediately. All the same, there is an important reason for landowners to sign up: those enrolled in the program get a pass on the 2016 deadline until the state provides them with financial assistance.

If you are a small woodland owner with a road-crossing structure, such as a culvert, then consider applying to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Find more information through DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office on the Web at: www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo or call 360-902-1404.

[Click here to view a Family Forest Fish Passage Program brochure.](#)



WSU EXTENSION FALL WORKSHOPS

Check out these great WSU Extension workshops being offered this fall!



Prescribed Fire Tour

Thursday, October 4, 2012. 10am-1pm. Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Loomis, WA. Consider if prescription fire is one of the tools you may want to use for managing your forest land. [Click here for details and registration information](#), or call 509-667-6540.

Forest Health Workshop

Saturday, October 6, 2012. 9am-3pm. Snohomish County Extension Auditorium, Everett, WA. Topics covered will include forest health concepts and issues, Western Washington forest insects, Western Washington forest diseases, and abiotic impacts (e.g. drought, pollution, storm damages). [Click here for details and registration information](#), or call 425-357-6017.

Wind Damage Workshop

Tuesday, November 6, 2012. 6:30pm-9:30pm. Preston Community Center, Preston, WA. Join us this fall as we get into our windy season to learn about how to properly care for your trees and your forest before (prevention) and after (clean-up) a windstorm. This is a reprise of a popular workshop we did last year. [Click here for details and registration information](#), or call 425-357-6017.

**EASTERN WASHINGTON FOREST
HEALTH WORKSHOPS**

The Commissioner of Public Lands has declared a “Forest Health Hazard Warning” for portions of Okanogan, Ferry, Klickitat, and Yakima counties.

This workshop sponsored by WSU Extension and WA Department of Natural Resources is designed to help small forest landowners learn about the two insects responsible



for most of the forest damage in the region: western spruce budworm and pine bark beetles. At this workshop landowners will learn to:

- Identify western spruce budworm and pine beetle damage.
- Evaluate your forest to determine if it is at high risk for severe damage from forest insects.
- Understand actions you can take to protect the health of your forest.
- Work with forestry professionals that can provide financial and technical assistance to improve the health of your forest.

Dates and Locations

Monday, October 8, 2012: Klickitat PUD, Goldendale Office

Tuesday, October 9, 2012: Republic Elementary School, Multi-purpose room

Wednesday, October 10, 2012: Tonasket High School, Commons/Cafeteria

All workshops will run from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

[Click here for registration information!](#)



Wildfires throughout Washington are stealing the headlines of many media outlets. With so much information available it's hard to know where to go for consistent and accurate information. We have some direct links to some very useful information.

First, start with the Incident Information System at <http://www.inciweb.org>. This website has wildfire incident updates, announcements, closures, news, photographs, maps, and more. It provides you with all of the most accurate information regarding the cause of the fire, size, percent contained, and other important information. The best part about this website is its usability! Use the box in the upper left hand corner of the page to sort by your state of interest. You'll be able to view a list of the large wildfires that are currently active in Washington. Click on the incident to get more information about it. It's a valuable resource for anyone!

Next, visit Washington's Public Access Cable TV Station TVW. On Monday September 10, Karen Ripley, DNR Forest Health Program Manager; Phil Hess, Consulting Forester; and John Randlett, Forest landowner by Cle Elum met with Anita Kisse who produces a show for TVW called "The Impact." This episode highlights the several forests in WA under a warning in danger of devastating wildfires, and how to protect your forest. Commissioner Goldmark is also interviewed as part of the program. The show initially aired on September 12 and can be viewed at: http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2012090066.

Finally, for those twitter followers out there, get the first information from the Washington Department of Natural

Resources via the twitter account: @waDNR_fire. You can also view recent images and news stories as they are made available to the public.

Have questions about any of this information? Contact us: sflo@dnr.wa.gov.

ASSESSING FIRE INJURED TREES

Karen Ripley, Forest Health Program Manager

Although it can be difficult to discern when a conifer tree actually dies and many systems exist for assessing whether fire injured conifer trees are likely to die, making an initial assessment of tree injuries can be very simple. These steps are intended to give affected landowners a place to start. They aren't the whole story.

1. **Were any of the needles consumed or “set” in one direction by the fire?**

If so, the tree likely received a lethal injury and is dead or will die.





The ponderosa pine on the left has 100% of its live crown scorched and some of the needles consumed. This tree is unlikely to survive its injuries. The ponderosa pine sapling on the right has needles “set” in the direction the heat and fire moved past it. This tree is unlikely to survive its injuries.

2. How much of the crown volume was scorched?

Calculate a percentage of the crown that was alive prior to the fire and is now scorched. An undamaged tree has 0% crown scorch. A tree with its entire crown changed to a reddish color has 100% crown scorch. Here are some samples of calculating crown scorch volume. Record each tree’s species and DBH when observing the crown scorch.



Just about everything above the beige line is fine, so about 75% fine and 25% crown scorch.

First, if that low branch (in the green oval) is mentally moved up above the lower red line, then about 50% of the tree canopy is below the beige line and 50% is above the beige line.



Second, the top half of the crown is pretty much ok. So the tree is at least 50% fine.

Third, of the bottom 50%, about 35% is scorched and 15% is ok. So the tree crown is about 65% fine and 35% scorched.

Tree on the left: Just about everything above the beige line is fine, so about 60%-70% fine and 30%-40% crown scorch.



Tree on the right: Just about everything above the beige line is ok, so about 25% fine and 75% crown scorch.

3. Interpreting what the crown scorch levels mean for tree mortality.

- Large diameter trees have thicker bark and can endure more crown scorch than smaller diameter trees.
- Ponderosa pine (with large buds and very thick bark when it's mature) can endure more crown scorch than other conifer trees of similar size that have smaller buds and thinner bark.
- Use a more detailed reference such as <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=after%20the%20burn%20idaho&source=web&OZ7GIBTIT8NDvQ> (tables that chart the probability of mortality by tree species, size and crown scorch start on page 51) to interpret the likelihood a given tree species, size and scorch amount will die.
- In general, trees with less than 50% crown scorch are more likely to survive. Trees with greater than 75% crown scorch are more likely to die.
- Note, this is a VERY rough assessment system and does not take into full consideration the amount of injury that the stem or roots received. Even a tree with little crown scorch can die if there was a lot of duff or nearby wood debris that burned causing significant root damage or stem char.
- If they were in good health prior to the fire and have good growing conditions during the first few years after the fire, trees are more likely to survive more severe injuries.
- Sometimes landowners want to be more conservative, and wait/monitor even the iffy trees. This is appropriate especially if the land was heavily damaged and there aren't many trees left or if he/she can be attentive to the stand, watching it over time, and removing dying trees as the symptoms manifest themselves. If a landowner really just wants to get all the work done in one operation or the stand was heavily overstocked to start with, he/she might choose to simply remove more of the borderline-survivor trees in a single entry.
- Every forest management activity, including salvage, is an opportunity to improve forest health, address deficiencies that contributed to the damage, and make progress toward your long-term goals.
- Give as much thought to the condition you are leaving the forest as to what you are taking away.
- Mimic the effects that idealized natural fire would have had such as increasing the proportion of pine and larch; reducing the proportion of Douglas-fir and other fir; removing the smallest, weakest trees; reducing the

impact of dwarf mistletoe and other diseases.

[Click here to view a fact sheet about Fire Injury to Trees.](#)

After the Burn is a workshop that will help assess the wildfire impacts to your forest and range property, and provide you with ideas and assistance opportunities for restoring forest and rangeland resources. There will also be information about reducing wildfire risk on your forest property. [Click here to view a brochure about the workshop.](#)

