

Summary of Stewardship Tools for Jefferson County Landowners (Summaries of Programs and People to Contact)

Conservation Tools

Current Use Taxation Programs: These programs provide incentives that help landowners voluntarily conserve open space lands and/or manage for timber or agricultural resources. Tax deductions are available for landowners who implement forest stewardship plans. Landowners can also receive property tax reductions for preserving resources such as stream banks, wetlands, or wildlife habitat. Contact **Mo-chi Lindblad**, Jefferson County Department of Community Development, 360-379-4462, mlindblad@co.jefferson.wa.us, for information on current use taxation programs.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Stream Bank Restoration: The Jefferson Conservation District provides an opportunity for landowners to receive payments for enrolling their streamside land under 10 or 15-year federal contracts. Up to 100 percent cost sharing is also available for tree and shrub planting. Contact **Al Latham**, Jefferson Conservation District, 360-385-4105 or Latham@Jefferson.WSU.edu.

The Conservation District and the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** also offer several additional stewardship programs. Under the Wetland Reserve program landowners can place eligible lands in a permanent or 30-year easement and receive financial compensation. Restoration cost-share agreements that pay up to 75 % of costs are also available. Two Wildlife and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs offer similar technical and financial assistance to landowners.

Land Trust Tools: Land trusts are non-profit groups that can accept land with exceptional habitat value through donations or sales. Land trusts facilitate conservation easements, which can be used by landowners who want to permanently preserve the natural character of their land but maintain ownership, and qualify for local and federal tax deductions. Contact **Jefferson Land Trust**, 360-379-9501, or programs@saveland.org.

Forestry Tools

Forest Stewardship Planning: Education opportunity for owners of private forestlands. Learn how you can get “coached” assistance from natural resource professionals as you author your own forest stewardship plan. Plans address forest health, silviculture alternatives, and water and wildlife resource management. WSU Forestry Extension also provides short courses on various subjects that in the past year have included Chainsaw Safety, Managing Your Timber Sale, Red Alder Management, Pruning and Thinning Your Trees for Forest Health, and Horse Logging. Contact **Andy Perleberg**, Washington State University Extension Forest Stewardship Educator, 360-428-4270 or andyp@co.skagit.wa.us. Andy maintains a mailing list/e-mail list, of people who might be interested in the classes he puts together. Some are held in Jefferson or Clallam County, for others you may need to go to Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish or King County.

Forest Stewardship Program: Learn how you can improve the health and production of your forest for timber, wildlife, and other natural resources while taking a walk in the woods with a forester or wildlife biologist. This free consultation is customized to fit your objectives and the condition of your forest. Contact **Mike Nystrom**, Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Coordinator, (360) 825-1631 or mike.nystrom@wadnr.gov. In addition to his own significant capabilities Mike can also put you in contact with experts within DNR in Biology, Wildlife Management, and Special Forest Products.

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP): The FLEP program includes cost-share provisions (up to 75%) that help the landowner develop a forest management plan, improve both the productivity of his or her forest, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The landowner's contribution need not be financial but can include work in kind. Mike Nystrom is also the local supervisor of FLEP program funds and will work with you to obtain those funds and carry out the program on your own place.

Small Forest Landowner Office, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Offers programs that (1) help landowners with forest practice applications and negotiating thru the rules, (2) assist with replacing fish barriers on forest land (**Family Forest Fish Passage Program**), and (3) offer partial compensation for timber which landowners cannot harvest under new forest practice rules (**Forestry Riparian Easement Program**).

Contact: Main Office in Olympia: **Small Forest Landowner Office**, WA Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 47012, Olympia, WA, 98504-7012. Phone 360-902-1415. Web site: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/>

Olympic Region (including Jefferson County): **Rich Wood**, WA Department of Natural Resources, Olympic Region, 411 Tillicum Ln, Forks, WA, 98331-9797, (360)-374-6131, richard.wood@wadnr.gov.

Washington Farm Forestry Association:

An association of small forest landowners who's objectives are to provide educational programs to improve forest stewardship, increase public awareness of the importance of family tree farms, encourage fair taxation and regulation so that tree farming can continue through generations as an attractive and viable way of life, support the practice of sustainable forestry. The association also provides a social network among its roughly 1300 members interested in forestry. Contact: Washington Farm Forestry Association, P.O. Box 7663, Olympia, WA 98507. <http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Firewise:

Provides information, on-line education and occasional workshops on how to prevent and minimize wildfires. A good source of information on how to protect your home from wildfire in a forest setting. <http://www.firewise.org/>

Oregon State University Forestry Extension:

An excellent source of authoritative information on forestry related topics. Many of their publications are available on-line and at no cost. Contact: <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/extserv/>

National Timber Tax Organization:

An excellent source of information on taxes on timber production and sales at the federal level. Includes up-to-date information on IRS rulings related to timber taxes. Also on-line and no cost publications and decision tools related to Timber property tax strategies, estate planning, and state timber tax regulations. Contact: <http://www.timbertax.org/>

DNR Webster Nursery:

If you are interested in planting trees the DNR nursery provides high quality forest seedlings to the public at a fraction of what they would cost you at a retail nursery. These are not ornamental trees and you must take a minimum order of 100. Contact: Webster Forest Nursery, 9805 Blomberg St SW, or PO Box 47017, Olympia, WA 98504-7017.
<http://www3.wadnr.gov/dnrapp3/webster/>

Other Funding Sources and Project Assistance for Landowners:

Fisheries Enhancement Groups: Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) are citizen-based non-profit organizations created by the 1991 Washington State Legislature to enhance salmon. Volunteer groups or individual landowners can contact their nearest RFE to discuss how to identify, fund and complete a project for salmon enhancement. Projects can include stream-side fencing, construction of off-channel rearing habitat, and estuarine and riparian habitat restoration. The program improves fish habitat on private lands with little to no cost to the landowner. For more information contact the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (360-379-8051 or nosc@jefferson.wsu.edu) or the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (360, 275-3573 or hcseg@hctc.com).

Landowner Incentive Program, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife:

A competitive grant process to provide financial assistance to private landowner for the protection, enhancement, or restoration of habitat to benefit “species-at-risk” on privately owned lands. Typically up to \$50,000 of grant assistance, or smaller grants of up to \$3,000. A 25% nonfederal contribution is required, which may include cash and/or in-kind (labor, machinery, materials) contribution. Contact **Jeff Skriletz** at 360-902-8313 or **GINNA CORREA** at 360-902-2478. Also inquire about **Cooperative Project Grant Funding** (check for updates at http://wdfw.wa.gov/volunter/volunteer_funding.htm.)

Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center:

The CRP offers awards to non-profit organizations, community groups, and local agencies for the restoration of habitat to benefit marine fisheries, including anadromous fish on public or private land. Competitive projects will have (1) 1:1 non-federal match, (2) long-term habitat improvement and protection, (3) substantial community involvement, and (4) multi-species benefit. Funding is distributed either through direct review by the Restoration Center or through a variety of mechanisms including partnerships with Fish America Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Earthcorps, or Ocean Trust. More information can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/> or contact **Paul Cereghino** at 206-526-4670 or Paul.R.Cereghino@noaa.gov.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Private Stewardship Grants Program: The Private Stewardship Program provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. For Fiscal Year 2004, the Service awarded more than \$7 million in Federal funding under the Private Stewardship Program. Three Washington state projects received funding, including private land restoration in the Tarboo Watershed of Jefferson County. A ten percent (10%) match of cash or through in-kind contributions is required. The program is available to private landowners and their partners. See http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html for more information.

Salmon Recovery Lead Entity: Lead entities are voluntary organizations under contract with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife that assist with salmon recovery strategies in their watershed areas. The lead entities are responsible for prioritizing regional projects that can receive Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds. Andy Brastad is the lead entity contact person for the North Olympic Peninsula area (360-417-2415 or abrastad@co.clallam.wa.us). The lead entity in the Hood Canal area is the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (contact **Jay Watson** at 360-765-4780 or jwatson@sprintmail.com).

Salmon Recovery Grant Program: The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) is composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor and five state agency directors. The Board provides grant funds to protect or restore salmon habitat and assist related activities. It works closely with local watershed groups known as lead entities. **Mike Ramsey** is the local SRFB contact for the North Olympic Peninsula and Hood Canal areas (360-902-2969 or michaelr@iac.wa.gov.)

Hood Canal Coordinating Council: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council is a “Watershed Based Council of Governments. It was established in 1985 in response to community concerns about water quality problems and related natural resource issues in the watershed. The council has drafted a Salmon Recovery Plan for Hood Canal Summer Chum which includes the implementation of voluntary, incentive-based programs for landowner involvement in salmon recovery. For more information, contact Sue Texeira, Education and Outreach Program Coordinator, at 360-801-0958 or stexeira@hctc.com.

Trout Unlimited: Trout Unlimited’s mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America’s trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. For information on the Port Townsend area chapter, contact Ian Jablonski at 360-385-5373 or gaij@cablespeed.com.

WSU Shore Stewards: Shore Stewards are shoreline property owners who’ve certified their property as a fish-friendly wildlife habitat. They play an active, positive role in the creation and preservation of a healthy nearshore ecosystem. The Shore Stewards program started in Island County and is now being initiated in the three Hood Canal counties. If you have shoreline property on Hood Canal and would like to learn how to preserve it for future generations, then sign up to become a Shore Steward. If you have questions or would like more information about the Shore Stewards, please email Cammy Mills of WSU Jefferson County at cammymills@jefferson.wsu.edu. Also see the shore steward web site at www.shorestewards.org.