

Stewardship Tools For Snohomish County Landowners **(Summaries of Programs and Presenters)**

Andy Perleberg on 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. Andy is a Washington State University Extension Forest Stewardship Educator. Contact him at 360-428-4270 or andyp@co.skagit.wa.us.

John Keller on Forestland Enhancement Advice: 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. John is a Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Coordinator. Contact him at 360-856-3500 or john.keller@wadnr.gov.

Duane Weston on Washington State Tree Farm Program: Learn how you can qualify to have your property enrolled as a certified tree farm. Duane is a board supervisor with the Snohomish Conservation District, a retired chief forester and general manager of a privately owned 15,500-acre forest property in North Snohomish and South Skagit County, and current owner of a 48-acre tree farm. Contact Duane at 360-435-4063 or DuaneWeston@cs.com.

Ryan Hembree on Current Use Taxation: Public Benefit Rating System and Timber Land programs provide incentives that help landowners voluntarily conserve open space lands and/or manage for timber resources. Landowners can receive property tax reductions for preserving resources such as stream banks, wetlands, or wildlife habitat. Tax deductions are also available for landowners who implement forest stewardship plans. Ryan is a Senior Planner with Snohomish County’s Planning and Development Services. Contact him at 425-388-3311 ext. 2267 or ryan.hembree@co.snohomish.wa.us.

Jamie Bails and Jenny Baker on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Stream Bank Restoration: The Snohomish Conservation District provides an opportunity for landowners to rent their streamside land under 10 or 15-year federal contracts. Up to 100 percent cost sharing is also available for tree and shrub planting. Jamie is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Coordinator and Jenny is a habitat restoration specialist. Contact them at 425-335-5634 or jamieb@snohomishcd.org or jenny@snohomishcd.org.

Kathy Kilcoyne on Wetland Reserve Program and Gale Mayer on Wildlife Habitat and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers several 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. Kathy is a Wetland Specialist with the NRCS’s Mount Vernon Field office. Contact her at 360-428-7684 ext 132 or Kathy.kilcoyne@Wa.usda.gov. Gale is the District Conservationist at the NRCS’s Snohomish County office. Contact her at 425-335-5634 ext 105 or gale.mayer@wa.usda.gov.

Suzi Wong Swint on Watershed Stewardship: Snohomish County watershed stewards can provide personalized technical consultations to landowners on a variety of stewardship topics, ranging from stream bank management, invasive weed control, and laws to know. Watershed education classes are also available. Suzi is the Watershed Education Program Coordinator with Snohomish County Surface Water Management. Contact her at 425-388-6476 or s.swint@co.snohomish.wa.us.

More on other side

Franchesca Perez on River and Stream Restoration: The mission of the Stillaguamish Tribe's Department of Natural Resources is to manage, protect, and conserve those natural resources required to sustain healthy populations of fish, shellfish, and wildlife within the Stillaguamish Watershed. The department assists landowners with conservation planning and stream buffer restorations. Franchesca is the Department's outreach coordinator. Contact her at 360-435-2755 or mperez@stillaguamish.nsn.us.

Peggy Bill on 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. Peggy is the Snohomish County Senior Conservation Director for the Cascade Land Conservancy. Contact her at 425-339-8007 or peggyb@cascadeland.org.

Ann Boyce on Fishery Enhancement: The Stilly Snohomish Fishery Enhancement Task Force is a non-profit group working to restore and enhance salmon and salmon habitat. This non-regulatory group works with interested landowners to replant native plants, replace culverts, rebuild habitat, and improve water quality. The group provides technical assistance, and possibly even funding and materials. Ann is the Executive Director of the Task Force. Contact her at 425-252-6686 or ann@stillysnofish.org.

Other Stewardship Tools to consider:

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 **Boyd Norton** at 360-856-3500 or boyd.norton@wadnr.gov.

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. Next grant cycle scheduled to start August 2004 with December 31st application deadline. Contact **Jeff Skriletz** at 360-902-8313 or **Ginna Correa** at 360-902-2478. Their department is proposing to prioritize local watershed, small forest landowner fish passage, and marine bird shoreline habitat projects in next grant cycle.

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, which may include cash or in-kind contributions of labor, materials, or services, (2) assurance of long-term improvement of habitat and protection from development, (3) substantial community involvement, and (4) multi-species benefit for our nations living marine resources. 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.