

# small forest landowner News

May 2013

## News from the Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office

### Update from the Small Forest Landowner Office



Boyd Norton is a long-time forester with DNR and is currently the new Northwest Washington Landowner Assistance Forester. Boyd grew up in the Puyallup valley, and graduated from Green River Community College with an Associates in Applied Sciences degree in Forest Technology in 1975. After graduation Boyd worked as a temporary Forest Technician 1 and Fire Warden for DNR in Enumclaw. He then spent several years with St. Regis Paper Company at their King Creek Tree Farm just outside of Orting, before being hired full-time to DNR as an assistant unit forester in the Naselle unit. In his 36 years with the DNR, Boyd has worked in timber management and silvicultural programs, forest practices, fire suppression and prevention.

Boyd has been a part of the transformation of the Service Forestry, Farm Forestry and Forest Stewardship Program. Boyd was one of the original Timber, Fish, and Wildlife forest practices foresters. As one of the original forest stewardship foresters, he co-lead the first Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Class in Northwest Region. He also was an original member of the Small Forest Landowner Office, assisting with development of the Forestry Riparian Easement Program and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. When funding for the Small Forest Landowner Office was reduced, he became the Northwest Region Forest Practices Program Coordinator. He also has 32 years of fire suppression experience, is certified as a Logistics Section Chief on fires, and has co-lead fire suppression training at the state and national level. Boyd has been married for 36

years, has two grown daughters and four grandchildren. He spends his spare time with family, and working on carpentry projects.



Ken Bevis is the new Stewardship Wildlife Biologist for DNR's Small Forest Landowner office. He replaces Jim Bottorff who held the position for well over a decade. Ken is a lifelong naturalist, hiker, fisherman, skier, and avid hunter. He attributes his fascination with wild creatures and places to playing in the woods when he was young near his home in Virginia. He attended Virginia Tech from 1975-79 and received a BS in Forestry and Wildlife, with additional studies in Communication. He worked in Colorado for 5 years for the U.S. Forest Service as a forestry technician, performing timber stand inventory and trail maintenance. He attended Colorado State University and earned his Teaching Certificate credentials in 1989, and moved to Washington State to participate in a field wildlife study on northern spotted owls. Once in Washington, he stayed, and has lived on the east side of the Cascades working on forest, fish and wildlife issues since 1986. He began working for the U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest; on wildlife surveys and timber sale support in 1987, then he changed paths and entered graduate school.

Ken earned an MS in Biology, with a study on cavity nesting birds from Central WA University in Ellensburg. After completing graduate school, Bevis was hired by the Yakama Indian Nation as a Wildlife Biologist in support of the timber management program on the one million acre Yakama Reservation. In this work he supervised up to 18 tribal technicians and participated in Interdisciplinary Planning Teams on reservation timber sales. Ken then moved to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a Habitat Biologist, where for 10 years he served as the Timber Fish and Wildlife Biologist, and then Forest and Fish Biologist, for Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Here he worked closely with DNR forest practices foresters and various forest landowners on issues related to timber harvests. These issues included stream buffers, northern spotted owls, and particularly near and dear to his heart, wildlife trees. He also assisted DNR and the Washington Contract Loggers Association with various trainings over these years. He moved from forest wildlife to fish issues during the past five years, representing WDFW in salmon recovery efforts in N. Central WA as the "Watershed Steward". This work involved coordinating with many interests to help initiate restoration projects on a number of the rivers on the eastside. Ken is now the Stewardship Wildlife Biologist for DNR's Small Forest Landowner office, with statewide responsibilities. He will be helping landowners to develop wildlife habitat for their Forest Stewardship plans and will also provide technical assistance for other wildlife related issues.

Ken is also a photographer and a singer-songwriter who specializes in songs about wild places and animals. He is married to the talented photographer, Teri Pieper. The job of Stewardship Wildlife Biologist is a natural fit for Bevis, who looks forward to meeting and working with all of our great Stewardship staff and landowners.



## Message from Tami Miketa, Manager of the SFLO

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. This is the time of year when DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office coordinates with other agency partners to conduct a number of forestry education and landowner assistance courses, workshops, and seminars. Here are a few upcoming events that I'm sure you will enjoy:

### **Forest and Range Owners Field Days**

Forest and Range Owners Field Days offers a hands-on, "out in the woods", educational experience for the whole family. Attending the Forest and Range Owners Field Day will prepare you to plan and execute sound forest management practices, enabling you to accomplish your objectives, reduce risks, and protect your financial investment. Participants can attend outdoor seminars offered throughout the day on dozens of forest stewardship topics such as forest health, thinning, pruning, riparian management, wildlife habitat, chainsaw safety, wildfire protection, counting and measuring trees, tree and shrub identification, forestry taxes, landowner assistance programs, management of invasive plants, noxious weed control, and using a GPS to navigate and manage your land, just to name a few.

These field days provide educational opportunities for participants of all ages and skill levels, regardless of property size. They offer an excellent introduction to forest stewardship, provide advanced learning opportunities for experienced landowners, or simply allow landowners a chance to refresh existing skills and be updated in the latest forest research and developments.

This summer three field days will be held with the first in [Tonasket on June 22](#), the second in [Sumas on July 27](#), and the third in Forks on August 24 (details coming soon).

### **Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses**

Coached Planning courses are offered to forest landowners throughout the state of Washington. These short courses typically include one evening class per week for six to

nine weeks. The classes are designed to help forest landowners develop customized management solutions to meet their individual ownership objectives. Participants identify their property ownership goals and develop a comprehensive forest stewardship plan. This stewardship plan may qualify landowners for cost-share assistance for plan implementation, as well as recognition as a Stewardship Forest, and a reduction in current-use property tax rates. Three Coached Planning Courses are currently scheduled, in [Preston starting September 24](#), on [Whidbey Island starting October 3](#), and in Chehalis starting September 5 (details coming soon).

### **Ties to the Land Workshops**

Who will care for your land when you're gone? Will it be kept intact and protected, or will it be divided up and sold off in pieces? Will it become a source of conflict between surviving family members? What is the long-term future you want for your property? The Ties to the Land Workshop explores these questions and others in succession planning. The purpose of this workshop is not to provide legal or tax advice. Rather succession planning is the *human side* of estate planning, and the critical first steps to take *before* sitting down with a professional estate planner. Things that are discussed during this workshop include:

- Identifying long-term goals for the property
- Gauging family members interest and emotional connections to the property
- Identifying heirs that have the capacity/competency to manage the property into the future
- Strategies for addressing challenging family dynamics
- Overall strategies for more open and productive communication in your family around the uncomfortable topics of death and inheritance.

**Ties to the Land Workshops coming soon, call 509-667-6540 to learn more!**

[May 21 in Bellingham](#), [June 1 in Port Angeles](#), [June 8 in Newport](#), [June 8 in Olympia](#), [June 15 in Chehalis](#), [June 29 in Port Townsend](#).

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## 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](#) or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/SFLO](http://www.surveymonkey.com/SFLO) to take our **Small Forest Landowner Survey**.

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

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## How Does the Fish Cross the Road?

### Do you have roads with stream crossings on your forestland?

Many miles of stream are inaccessible to fish because of barrier culverts or other in-stream structures. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program's goal is to help restore declining salmon and trout populations by replacing culverts with new structures that allow fish to migrate upstream and access quality habitat. Watch a new video highlighting how forest landowners benefit from the FFFPP.



Visit [www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp) to watch a video about the program!

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## Examine Your Western Hemlock Trees for Woolly Adelgid



**by: Karen Ripley, DNR Forest Health Program Manager**

May is a good time to examine your western hemlock trees for the **hemlock woolly adelgid** *Adelges tsugae* (HWA).

Adelgids are insects that are close relatives of aphids. Aphids and adelgids feed on plants by extracting juices and nutrients through piercing, sucking strawlike mouths. The woolly adelgids exude filaments of a white, waxy substance that makes the insect itself look like a little tuft of cotton or wool. This material protects the adelgid and an underlying cluster of eggs from extreme temperatures, dehydration, and predation.

Adelgids cause minor wounding at their feeding sites and, if there are huge numbers of insects, can weaken a plant by heavy feeding activity. The most serious damage occurs when a host tree has a severe reaction to the adelgids' anticoagulant saliva.

HWA is not native to North America. It was accidentally introduced from Asia to the western U.S. in approximately 1924 and was observed in the eastern U.S. in about 1951. The western hemlock trees found in Washington (*Tsuga heterophylla*) do not seem to be affected by this insect, likely because western hemlock is closely related to hemlock tree species in Asia that are tolerant of the insects' saliva. However, the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) are highly sensitive to HWA. These eastern tree species are rapidly killed by HWA infestations and, particularly because of its sensitivity to HWA and small population range in the Appalachian Mountains, the Carolina hemlock is currently at risk of extinction.

Early May is a good time to view HWA. The insects themselves appear to be tiny, woolly balls that line the twigs on low branches of western hemlock. Some trees don't appear to have any insects. Some trees are so heavily laden that the twigs appear "flocked" and no twig bark is visible. As the new growth emerges from the buds along the twig tips, brown eggs that are within the tufty masses (the mother adelgid probably has died and shriveled up inside a cottony tuft) hatch and tiny "crawlers" walk out onto the new shoots, insert their mouthparts into the soft tissue, generate their own protective wool coverings, and live in that position for the rest of their lives.

Because western hemlock trees can support heavy infestations of HWA, Washington is a good place for researchers to seek predators and parasites that feed on HWA here and, after rigorous testing, might be released in the eastern US to provide biological control of HWA. A beetle called *Laricobius* has already been tested and is regularly collected and distributed in eastern forests. Recently two other insects, "silver flies" in the family Chamaemyiidae and genus *Leucopis*, have been identified whose larvae also eat HWA.



Before any insect is purposefully moved and introduced into a new area, it must be tested to determine that, even if starved, it will only eat the target pest.

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## Forest and Range Owners Field Day Coming Soon!



**Saturday June 22, 2013**  
**Fire Springs Ranch**  
**Tonasket, WA**

Whether you own a home in the woods or many acres of land, this out in the woods educational event is packed with practical "how-to" information that you need to know. Stewarding land is both rewarding and challenging.

Successful management is due to the decisions you make and the actions you take. Attending the Forest and Range Owners Field Day will prepare you to accomplish your management objectives, reduce risks, and protect your financial investment.

This event will include classes and activities led by experts in forest and range health, wildlife habitat, grazing, soils, fire protection, and timber and non-timber forest products. Presenters will be available to answer questions specific to your needs and situation. Youth activities are also available throughout the day!

Come join the more than 10,000 satisfied families who have already experienced these Field Day events across the state!!

**Call (509) 667-6540 to learn more about the event!**

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## Silver Spotted Tiger Moth

**By: Karen Ripley, DNR Forest Health Program Manager**



Another insect that causes concern to landowners this time of year is the silver spotted tiger moth (*Lophocampa argentata*). These colonial caterpillars make somewhat unsightly nests in the upper branches of conifer trees. The nests become very obvious in April and early May.

This photo shows a colony of the silver spotted tiger moths taken in Everett, Washington earlier

this week. This cluster of hairy caterpillars and their protective silken nest is normal and not to be of concern. Although the nests reach their largest sizes in early spring and can be somewhat unsightly, they don't damage the host trees much at all. These insects affect only a tiny percentage of a tree's foliage and the caterpillars are only consuming the older needles, which are less valuable to the tree than younger needles. By the time tree buds break and new needles emerge at the ends of the twigs during May, although these portions of the branches might be stripped bare of old needles, the tiger moth caterpillars will have wandered away from this site to make their cocoons.

In fact, a high percentage of these caterpillars are actually not going to mature. They've already been parasitized by wasps and flies- and sort of serve as nature's reservoir of beneficial insects over the winter. Do not make a special effort to destroy these nests. It's not worth the time and would deny your area of the beneficial insects that have parasitized these caterpillars are currently maturing within their bodies. (And these beneficial parasites are really important to kill tent caterpillars, another native caterpillar that's been revving into outbreak status in the Everett area in the last year or so).

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## 2012 Forest Health Highlights Report



Everyone knows Washington State is home to some of the country's most beautiful forests, but what's behind the bark often tells a more interesting story. DNR, along with the U.S. Forest Service, recently published its 2012 Forest Health Highlights report. This annual report describes important insect outbreaks and disease conditions occurring across 22 million acres of Washington State forestland.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

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## Cultural Resources Protection and Management Plan

**by: Jim Freed, WSU Extension Forester and Sherri Felix, DNR Forest Practices Policy Analyst**

The [Cultural Resource Protection and Management Plan](#) (CRPMP) (2003, updated 2008) is the Forest Practices Board's (Board) voluntary cooperative approach to protection and



management of cultural resources on privately owned and state managed forest lands in Washington.

The CRPMP establishes the tribal, forest landowner, and state agency response to the cultural resource planning, protection, and management commitments in both the 1987 Washington State Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW)

Agreement and the 1999 Forests & Fish Report. The state's Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan approved by the federal services in 2005 includes the CRPMP. The Board's TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable implements the CRPMP and reports annually to the Board, on behalf of WDNR, on how this voluntary cooperative protection approach for cultural resources is working.

The CRPMP's basic functions are to increase communication and mutual respect between landowners and tribes, to provide educational opportunities to foster trust, commitment, and understanding, and to develop cooperative processes to protect and manage cultural resources. More specifically, the four main purposes of the CRPMP are as follows:

1. **Provide for the protection and management of cultural resources** that are significant to the history and cultures of the people of Washington State, and which are located on state, private and non-federal forest lands.
2. **Establish and maintain productive communications** among agencies, forest landowners, land managers, and affected tribes.
3. **Ensure cultural resource protection is accomplished through the development of cooperative processes.**
4. **Improve access to tribal cultural resources** so that the affected tribes have a better opportunity to maintain and perpetuate their traditional values and practices.

What are the cultural resources that the CRPMP seeks to protect/manage when private landowners perform forestry work in their family forest?

1. **Historical Sites** are locations where Native and non-Native events and activities have taken place since contact with Euro-Americans. Examples are: homesteads, forts, lumber mills, and cabins.
2. **Traditional Places** are landscapes, sacred sites, legendary areas, indigenous uses and objects which are identified by Indian tribes of Washington State as being important. Examples are: sacred ceremonial sites, groves used for gathering

edible/medicinal plants and sources of materials used for traditional tools and arts.

3. **Traditional Materials** are the resources used by Native peoples to sustain their culture. Traditional and current cultural values for plants include their use as medicines, foods, tools, textiles, building materials, carvings, and sacred objects. Examples are: bear grass, tule, cedar and birch trees.
4. **Archaeological resources** provide evidence of the cultural continuum of people occurring across time and space throughout the diverse landscapes of Washington. These resources demonstrate the variety of activities engaged in by tribal ancestors which still continues today. Examples are: shell middens, lithic scatters, rock paintings, talus slope gravesites and culturally modified trees and their locations.

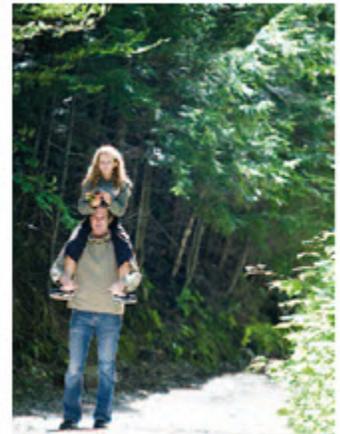
To protect these valued resources the families who own and manage forest lands in the state of Washington should take steps to identify all potential cultural resources on their lands. The identification and inclusion of a plan to protect and enhance cultural resources should be part of every Forest Stewardship Plan. The stewardship foresters with WDNR and the Extension foresters with WSU can assist private forest landowners with developing plans designed to protect cultural resources. This will also help ensure your plan meets the state and federal laws that protect cultural resources.

To access the state's searchable cultural database and for more information on state and federal laws, go to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) website at [www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov). You can also contact DAHP at (360) 586-3065. For information on the forest practices rules and to find out which tribes are in your area, contact the Forest Practices staff at your local DNR Region Office.

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## Ties to the Land

Who will care for your farm or forest when you're gone? Will it be a family legacy or a family squabble? Will it be kept intact and protected, or will it be divided up and sold off in pieces? What is the long-term future that you want for your property? We will explore these questions and others in this succession planning workshop, which will feature the award-winning Ties to the Land curriculum.



## Upcoming classes are available on:

May 21 - Bellingham  
June 1 - Port Angeles  
June 8 - Newport  
June 8 - Olympia  
June 15 - Chehalis  
June 29 - Port Townsend

**Call 509-667-6540 for more information.**

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## Raise Your Awareness to the Western Tent Caterpillar

by: Karen Ripley, DNR Forest Health Program Manager



Landowners in Western Washington should be alert to the possibility of upcoming defoliation caused by the western tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma californicum*). The native insect can be an alarming nuisance as voracious hordes consume the foliage of alder, willow, cottonwood and many other types of broad-leaved ornamental and orchard trees. The 1 ½ inch long skinny, smooth, orange and black caterpillars can be abundant on trees, roads, houses, mailboxes and just about everywhere, especially

when the time comes for them to complete their feeding and they start wandering about trying to find protected sites to construct cocoons. Many landowners express alarm at what's perceived as a devastating invasion. They are disgusted by the tremendous numbers of crawling critters and seek a way to protect their precious trees.

It's useful for landowners to recognize some features of these outbreaks.

First, the trees are not being devastated. Healthy trees are unlikely to be damaged, even if all their leaves are consumed. Deciduous trees are "used to" replacing their foliage each year and will even produce a second crop of foliage in the next few weeks. The plants growing beneath the caterpillar laden trees are getting extra exposure to sunlight and a shower of nutrients in the feces and leaf fragments that drop from above.

Secondly, the event will not last forever and human intervention is not necessary to bring this episode to an end. Although defoliation may re-occur for several springs, there are also populations of predatory wasps, flies and viruses building up, consuming the caterpillars. Many birds, spiders and bats eat the adult moths. Even the trees reduce the digestibility and nutrient content of their leaves in response to caterpillar activity. Caterpillars with a white dot (an egg) on their heads are being eaten by a fly. Dead caterpillars that droop or smear easily were killed by a virus. Human intervention is not necessary to bring this episode to an end.

Thirdly, many people may want to protect the appearance and productivity of favorite plants or simply reduce caterpillar activity on their property. There are many ways to kill tent caterpillars such as squishing them, trapping moths in soapy water, disposing of the nests, and manually removing egg masses from twigs. There are many pesticides available to kill caterpillars. Read pesticide labels carefully, follow all instructions exactly, and make sure that the application method will be effective. For example, one of the reasons the biological insecticide *B.t.k.* is so safe to use around people or other animals is that it becomes activated after it is eaten by a caterpillar. So, it must be applied to leaves that the young caterpillars will eat. It won't kill older caterpillars that have finished feeding. It won't kill the moths either.

Tent caterpillar outbreaks are a natural, cyclical event in northwest forests. About every nine years tent caterpillars rise to conspicuous levels and the populations remain high for about three years. The actual caterpillars are only present for about six weeks each spring, eating the new leaves. They construct conspicuous, persistent, dark, silken nests for protection from adverse weather, and as they grow and move about, the caterpillars and defoliated trees become more apparent.

It's useful to raise your awareness of the western tent caterpillars as they will start to make their appearance this May. This year, there is likely to be heavy defoliation in parts of Whatcom, Island, Skagit, Lewis, and maybe Snohomish and King Counties.

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## Some Trees, Shrubs, and Plants Can Kill Livestock

**by: Jim Freed, WSU Extension Forester**

Did you know that there are some native plants and introduced landscape plants that can make livestock very sick and even kill them?



This past winter I had the opportunity to witness just what a landscape tree can do to three cows. I had cut down an old sick horse-chestnut tree last summer. We piled it up on the burn pile but didn't burn it. I completely forgot about it until we moved our cows into the pasture with the burn pile this winter. As we were moving the cows three of them just fell over and died. We called the veterinarian and after a complete carcass review found no visible reason for the deaths. Since healthy cows do not just die I did

a walk about in the pasture where they had been. I saw where there were three spots near the old burn pile where cows had spent the night. On inspection I saw that the old dead leaves on the Horse Chestnut had been eaten as far up as the cows could eat.

I had never heard that horse-chestnut trees were a problem for livestock. I went online and found that my fears were right. The leaves bark and nuts of horse-chestnut, Ohio buckeye and yellow buckeye, can cause death when eaten in large quantities.

Of the non-ornamental native trees, the most deserving of the skull-and-crossbones warning are those that produce cyanide in their wilted leaves. Cyanide suffocates animals by blocking oxygen transport via the red blood cells. The red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is one such tree whose leaves are harmless most of the year until wind damage or seasonal change causes them to fall from the tree and wilt. Other trees that are dangerous to livestock are trees in the genus *Prunus*. This includes cherry, plums, apricots and peaches. These leaves also produce cyanide when wilted, affecting livestock within a few hours of ingestion.

To be safe, remove these deadly trees or relocate livestock away from pastures or paddocks bordered by or containing them. In general, livestock are not likely to eat leaves or any other tree parts unless they are quite hungry. However, when curiosity or boredom spurs exploratory bites, the livestock may ingest enough of the deadlier species to do harm.

So be very careful when you prune landscape plants. Chip and mulch them, pile and burn them, or place them in a location that livestock cannot get access. Care should also be taken when thinning forests that contain wild cherry trees. If you are cutting them down or pruning them, dispose of the brush as soon as possible and keep livestock out of that area until you do.

Some resources to use to see all the native and non-native plants that can kill or sicken livestock are:

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/>

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/poison-control/Plants>

<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/watershedrangeext/washingtonrangelands/SM/Weeds.htm>

<http://www.spokanecounty.org/data/weedboard/pdf/ToxicPlants.pdf>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=12140>

So the best rule of thumb is, "if you are not sure if there can be a problem, assume there is, and take the necessary precautions".

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## SFLO Wants to Hear from You!

The SFLO takes the lead on serving as a focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. We are here to answer any and all questions you may have!



We are dedicated to providing you with useful and focused information about managing forestland and opportunities for learning. Please send us topics that you would like to be included in our SFLO News editions.

Contact Us: 360-902-1849 or [sflo@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sflo@dnr.wa.gov)

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