



Fall 2006

Director's Message:

I'm delighted to bring you the news that Northwest Natural Resource Group, the parent organization of NCF, has completed our five year strategic planning process and moved forward on some significant decisions. Some highlights:

Focus— Given the opportunities NCF is creating for small landowners, it will continue to be the dominant program of NNRG. We will also put approximately 15% of our resources towards our Watershed Innovations program that directly supports NCF by creating ecosystem service markets (i.e. carbon sequestration credits) for small landowners.

Growth— Over the next five years we will be increasing staff from four to nine and will be expanding our capacity to serve hundreds of landowners. Most new staff will run regional satellite offices or 'hubs' in areas that have the best potential for programmatic success. The hub strategy has several benefits: concentrating timber supply to enable mill recruitment; focused market development across the supply chain; building a community of like-minded forest stewards; and achieving landscape level impacts in particular watersheds.

Capacity— While NCF seeks to be as financially independent as possible, to achieve this level of growth we will be increasing our fundraising activities substantially, including a private and corporate donor campaign aimed at raising one million dollars over the next five years. We welcome donations from families and businesses that support our work.

Partnerships— Being relatively small and focused, NNRG has always invested heavily in relationships, but growth of this scale calls for a substantial increase in partnership building. We will be formalizing several key partnerships and extending our efforts nationally, regionally, and locally within hubs.

Advocacy— Through the creation of NCF, NNRG has made a permanent commitment to small forest landowners that practice ecological forestry. We will be raising the organization's profile in regional and national policy discussions to ensure that our constituents receive fair treatment and the differentiation they deserve in the marketplace.

cont. on page 2 >



1

Director's Message - cont.



Efficiency— One of the keys to operating efficiently is the creation of management systems and tools that incorporate useful technologies. You can expect to see NCF move increasingly toward web based systems that streamline the certification process, communication, and marketing efforts. We'll be helping land-owners navigate technology choices, both to integrate with NCF systems and to maximize the value of their forestland investment.

Obviously we're very excited to implement these plans and look forward to serving both our members and the broader sustainable forestry community for many years to come. Staff would like to thank our Board of Directors for their passion and dedication in guiding NNRG through this process. We would also like to recognize our strategic planning consultants from Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, specifically Mark Bowman and Mike Dickerson, for their tireless and focused efforts.

We welcome your thoughts and comments.

Ian Hanna, NCF Director

NCF Updates

South Sound 'Hub' Officially Launched

NCF's first satellite office, or hub, is centered on Olympia and extends in a roughly 60 mile radius to include much of Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Cowlitz Counties. The hub is staffed by Kirk Hanson, who will become a full time employee as of November 2nd. Kirk comes to NNRG after five years at the Washington DNR Small Forest Landowner Office where he built a reputation as a tireless small landowner advocate, information clearinghouse, and expert in government assistance programs.

NNRG Opens Database Access to NCF Members

As part of our commitment to continually improving the NCF benefit package, NNRG is now offering online access to our contact database for both certified and associate members. These contacts span the spectrum of service providers, government agencies, the FSC industry, wood products buyers, and much more. NNRG staff can also provide members with full datasets for more complex queries in Excel format.

The database is an ever-evolving project and we intend to continue investing in its growth and development. To that end we welcome edits and suggested additions. For more information, contact Ian Hanna at ian@nnrg.org.

The screenshot shows the Northwest Certified Forestry website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT NNRG', 'NW CERTIFIED FORESTRY', 'Featured Product', 'Member Profiles', and 'Species In'. Below the navigation bar is the main header with the text 'Northwest Certified Forestry' and the tagline 'Promoting an Environmentally Sound Economy for Multiple Generations'. The main content area features a search form titled 'Contacts: Search' with a 'Show All' link. The search form includes the following fields: 'First name:', 'Last name:', 'Organization:', 'City:', 'State / Province:' (with a dropdown menu set to 'Any State...'), 'Zip/Postal:' (with a dropdown menu set to '10' and a label 'miles from Zip Code:'), 'Country:' (with a dropdown menu set to 'Any Country...'), 'Email:', 'Website:', and 'Category:' (with a dropdown menu set to 'All Categories').

NCF Updates - cont.



FSC Forestry & Mill Tours for the Green Building Industry

NNRG recently received funding to organize a series of FSC forestry and manufacturing tours for green building professionals in the Seattle, Bend, and Portland markets. These tours are designed to facilitate FSC business in key markets where green building rating systems such as Built Green, Earth Advantage, and LEED reward the use of FSC wood.

The Seattle tour took place in early October, taking 50 commercial and residential architects, builders, green building advocates, and FSC vendors to Fort Lewis, O'Neill Pine Company, and Mason County Forest Products.

This demand building and business facilitation program is a collaboration between NNRG and the Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Partnership of Sustainable Northwest, a key ally in developing FSC rural manufacturing and urban distribution capacity. Tours for next year are currently being planned for Bend in April and Portland in June.



A tour stop at O'Neill Pine Company's Certified Wood Warehouse in Chehalis

Landowner Resources

Mason County Forest Products Certified for FSC Chain of Custody

Mason County Forest Products in Shelton recently completed FSC chain of custody certification for their side by side timbers and studs mills. The development will be welcomed by West Coast FSC lumberyards as the supply of both FSC timbers and kiln-dried Doug-fir studs has been extremely limited in the past.

MCFP is a great place to sell both Doug-fir saw logs and larger diameter sorts as the timbers mill is capable of handling logs up to 60 inches in diameter.

To sell logs to MCFP, please contact Steve Grandorff, Resource Manager, at 360-427-3500. One caveat—having just cut a shift in response to the downturn in housing markets, MCFP currently has a log glut.

As part of our market development work in the South Sound, NCF has invested substantial effort in facilitating certification and downstream markets for MCFP, particularly in central California. We look forward to bringing NCF members more log buyers by facilitating additional large mill certifications in 2007.



Landowner Resources - cont.



New Conservation Tax Benefits for Landowners

Recently passed federal legislation offers the following new land conservation tax benefits for landowners, the most sweeping changes to conservation tax law in two decades:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50%
- Allows qualifying landowners to deduct up to 100% of their income, provided the land remains available for production
- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 5 years to 15 years
- Only applies to easements donated in 2006-2007, including bargain sales

For additional information about this legislation, conservation easements or how to contact your local land trust, please visit the Land Trust Alliance website at www.lta.org.

WSU/ DNR Coached Planning Short Course Teaches Landowners to Accomplish Sustainable Forestry Objectives— by Andy Perleberg, WSU Extension Forester

Family forest owners manage their land for a variety of reasons: some desire a private and wildfire-safe setting to live; some are pleased to endow a variety of habitats for fish and wildlife to thrive; others enjoy periodic revenues from harvesting timber. Most landowners discover over time that these management objectives are not mutually exclusive, particularly when they carefully consider and plan for long term management.

Washington State University Extension and the Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Program provide a nine week short course aimed at teaching landowners how to plan for and accomplish their personal management objectives. The course includes weekly evening presentations, a field day, and a 'walk in the woods' on-site visit at your property by a professional forester and/or wildlife biologist.

The course is called 'Coached Planning' because a major part of this training involves coaching participants as they develop management plans for their forests. Among the topics covered are: forest ecology, forest health, applied silviculture, reforestation, timber harvesting, forest soils, riparian area management, fish and wildlife habitat, hardwood management, cultural resources, special forest products, and forest recreation. The course fee is \$150 per person, family or land parcel and participation is limited to 30 registrants on a first-come, first-served basis.



Stewardship Forester Mike Nystrom demonstrates core sampling

Since 1994, over 2,500 landowners have completed the short course. According to WSU Extension Forestry Specialist Don Hanley, "Nobody has ever dropped out due to boredom!" For more information, go to <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/forestryext/CoachedPlanning/index.htm> or contact your county's WSU Extension office. See page 6 for upcoming courses.

Landowner Resources - cont.



FSC Certified Paper, Envelopes & Printing Now Available

Over the last few years many of NNRG's partners and members have asked us for information on purchasing FSC certified papers. We're happy to report that there are several good options and grades available now, particularly for printer/copier paper, envelopes, and publications. If you are interested in sourcing these home and office products, please contact NNRG for instructions on how to order them over the internet.

Several printers are also chain of custody certified within the region now, which allows your publications to carry the FSC logo. For more information see www.fscus.org/paper.

Windfall Lumber Increases Production Capacities, Starts Buying FSC Logs

FSC landowners in the South Sound have another option for log sales at Windfall Lumber in Olympia. As part of their jump to in-house manufacturing Windfall is purchasing limited log quantities, with an emphasis on maple and alder. For more information contact owner Scott Royer at 360-352-2250 or visit www.windfalllumber.com.

Other News

National Alliance Forms for FSC Family Forests

Over the past year NNRG has played a leading role in the FSC Family Forest Alliance, a broad coalition of family foresters and advocates around the country that are working to improve the FSC tool for the benefit of small forest landowners. The goals of the Alliance are to 1) advocate for policies that allow cost effective and efficient certification and 2) share tools and innovations among the Alliance to improve service to the members of our respective groups.

The timing of this initiative is excellent as FSC is simultaneously reviewing regional standards and adopting new guidelines for family forests. A key recommendation from the regional standards review process has been to create a set of indicators specifically for family forests. These indicators hold promise for simplifying the certification process. The Alliance is well positioned to be a key stakeholder group in influencing the overall process and the design of specific indicators. We will keep you informed as that process evolves, particularly when FSC is seeking stakeholder input.

For those interested in commenting on the regional standards review process generally, the comment period is open through Dec. 11th, with the full report (which runs in the hundreds of pages) available at www.fscus.org.

Cedar River Watershed Finalizes FSC Certification Process

Following a six year process initially started by NNRG, the City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed completed the FSC certification process this summer on 91,000 acres. Given that the watershed's primary function is to provide high quality water to Seattle, logging is limited to low-impact restoration thinnings. Over the course of this fall and winter approximately 1.3 Mmbf will be harvested, with much of the material being milled by Fritch Mill in Snohomish and staying in FSC chain of custody.

Upcoming Events



January 23rd – March 13th

Coached Forest Stewardship Planning, Olympia, WA

This stewardship planning class will run on Tuesday nights from 6:30–9:00pm in the Natural Resources Building on the state campus. It will also include a field day on February 24th. See the article on page 4 for more information. If you live in the South Sound and need to create or update a management plan for your forest, we highly recommend this course.

Contact: Mike Nystrom, 360-825-1631, mike.nystrom@wadnr.gov

Winter 2007

Cost Effective Inventory & Monitoring, Location TBD

This workshop will introduce NCF's monitoring protocol, which has been designed to be both FSC compliant and provide scale appropriate guidelines on how to conduct inventory and monitoring that is both useful and cost effective. We are still seeking a site for this workshop, preferably with good access and a relatively open understory somewhere in the Nisqually or Chehalis watersheds. If you would like to host the event, please contact NNRG.

Contact: Kirk Hanson, 360-316-9317, kirk@nnrg.org

March 24, 2007

Clackamas Tree School, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

This annual event is a great opportunity for landowners, particularly those with limited forestry experience, to learn skills and meet service providers, equipment vendors, and forestry advocacy organizations.

More info/Contact: Mike Bondi, 503-655-8631, michael.bondi@orst.edu

Spring 2007

The Game of Logging, Levels 1,2,3 & 4, Location TBD

A precision tree felling and chainsaw safety workshop sponsored by NCF. Each level will take one day, with Levels 1 & 2 being offered separately from 3 & 4. This will allow folks that have taken 1 & 2 in previous years to return for the opportunity to learn the advanced techniques covered in 3 & 4. We are taking early reservations now, which are recommended as these classes are very popular and are limited to 16 people. We are also still looking for a site to host this workshop that has good access and parking, a variety of tree species, and reasonably close hotel accommodations. Approximately 80 trees will be felled over the four day period. Please contact us if you'd like to host this workshop.

More info: www.gameoflogging.com

Contact: Ian Hanna, 360-379-9421, ian@nnrg.org



Judging lean at the Levels 1&2 class in Duvall last spring