

Pack Forest Field Notes



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Field Notes Editor

- Mason McKinley (Pack Forest)

Pack Forest Steering Committee:

- John Calhoun - Chair (Pack)
- Dr. Dave Peterson (CFR)
- Dr. Don Hanley (CFR - WSU)
- Dr. Bruce Lippke (CFR)
- Dr. Bob Edmonds (CFR)
- Brian Boyle (CFR)

Current Highlights:

- Dean Bare sends formal request to UW to create Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest.
- Feasibility study for Pack Forest residential lodge progresses with a site evaluation.
- Consultant hired to help Pack Forest with Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification process.

College Lands Manager's Message - John Calhoun

Our effort to chart a course for Pack Forest in support of the College vision and strategic themes continues to advance and draw increased interest. Dean Bare has made the formal request to establish the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest and we have nearly completed the job descriptions for the Director of the new center. We are on target to begin recruitment this spring.

Meanwhile, there has been progress on the feasibility study for the

new residential lodge to be built at Pack Forest. A recent site visit by the architects and project managers identified the most likely sites for the new building. The architects plan to conduct workshops for those interested in contributing ideas for the new building. The feasibility study is due June 30 of this year.

Also, the College Visiting Committee will convene their meeting April 9 at the Pack Forest Conference Center. The Committee is interested to learn

about the developing initiatives at Pack. We welcome their advice and direction as the College moves forward with planning and implementation.

Of final note, work on third party certification of the forest is well underway. We will be making a presentation next month to the Washington State SFI Implementation Committee, bringing them up to date on our efforts and offering some ideas on certification for small forest landowners.

New Center Offers Numerous Opportunities for Partnership — Mason McKinley

The Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest will be founded on a principle of local, regional, national and international collaboration. Though the Center has yet to be officially established, we have recognized several exciting partnership opportunities.

One strong potential partner is the College of Forest Resources' Rural Technology Initiative (RTI). With a mission that supports the

transfer of forest related technology to rural areas, there are numerous opportunities for collaboration.

The new center may also create the foundation for a closely linked partnership with WSU Extension services. This could include the development of an extension staff position at Pack Forest and a wide range of possible programs.

Another outstanding

partnership opportunity is the Nisqually River Council, a collaborative watershed group focused on development of non-regulatory sustainable resource management strategies. Its efforts encompass the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability.

Of course, these are only a few of the potential partners, and as always we welcome additional ideas.

2004 Work Plan Timeline:

- **Apr. 1:** Further define and develop the Center mission and purpose.
- **April 1:** Develop job description for center director and other key staff.
- **May. 1:** Refine organization chart and develop budget for first fiscal year.
- **May 1:** Initiate search for center director.
- **July 1:** Evaluate center director candidates and make selection.

Pack Forest Hires Outside Consultant

— Jeff Connick

Last month, the process to become certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) began with an internal review of the forest management policies of Pack Forest. Participants in the SFI program must satisfy 11 objectives, such as long-term forest productivity, protection of water resources, conservation of wildlife habitat, consideration of visual impacts, preservation of sites with cultural

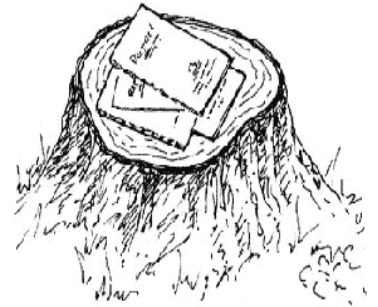
significance, provision for educational opportunities, and a general commitment to sustainable forestry. Mason McKinley and Duane Emmons (Pack Forest forestry staff) provided valuable insights concerning how Pack Forest would demonstrate its commitment to each of these objectives.

Pack Forest hired consultant Scott Berg has been hired to assist with preparation for the

required certification audit. Scott will document how forest management practices at Pack Forest rank in relation to the 11 SFI objectives. With Scott's assistance, Pack Forest will be ready for the audit by early autumn.

The initial review has revealed that forest management at Pack Forest should already be sufficient to satisfy the most significant requirements of SFI

certification. Participation in the SFI program will validate the outstanding management currently occurring at the forest.



Privacy is a Priority — Terri McCauley

Client evaluations are an important tool for determining future business strategies at the Pack Forest Conference Center. With regard to facility improvements, client's foremost requests have been privacy related. Simply stated, most conference center clients want private showers.

We have started to make improvements to

existing facilities that should attract new clients and retain the current client base. For example, we are adding four private shower rooms to the New Dorm restrooms and we expect construction to be completed by early April of this year.

The next scheduled improvement will focus on the main restroom/shower building. We will

transform the partitioned showers into eight showers with private dressing rooms. We expect that the lodge feasibility study will provide information that will be useful as we consider other changes.

Funding for these projects will come from a Pack Forest land acquisition and capitol improvements budget.

Let us know if you want to be added or removed from our mailing list.

We do appreciate your questions, ideas and feedback.

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