

# Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest



University of Washington

College of Forest Resources

## Newsletter

September 2004

### Field Notes Editor

- Mason McKinley (Pack Forest)

### Pack Forest Steering Committee:

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

### Current Highlights:

- Saving Washington's Working Forests conference Nov. 22-23.
- Center staff met with SFI to discuss small landowner participation in certification.
- BVQi hired as SFI audit firm for forest certification
- Sustainability Intern to be hired to review Conference Center Operations.

### 2004 Work Plan Timeline:

- **September 15:** Engineering and design phase begins for Pack Forest Residence Lodge.
- **September 30:** Dean will appoint search committee for Center Director
- **October 5-7:** First SFI forest audit meeting with BVQi.
- **November 1-2:** Second SFI forest audit meeting with BVQi.
- **November 22-23:** Saving Washington's Working Forest Conference.

## College Lands Manager's Message - John Calhoun

We have been busy this summer planning programs and collaborative efforts for the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest. The Center is attracting attention as folks learn about it and consider the potential. There is no lack of interest!

The Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest is participating in the development and sponsorship of a conference entitled Saving Washington's Working Forest Land Base: Breakthrough Strategies for the Future. This conference will be held at Alderbrook Inn November 22-23, 2004. The objectives of the forum are:

- Collaborations to advance sustainable forestry
- Exchange ideas among opinion leaders
- Develop a common understanding of the multiple influences and financial options that

affect sustainable working forests

- Transfer useful information and analytical tools, and
- Identify strategies for innovative management and financing for sustainable forestry

We will invite about 60 key participants. The conference will work to discover approaches that sustain working forests – an integral part of achieving the larger goal of sustainable forestry.

In another effort, Center staff recently met with representatives of the Washington State Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) implementation committee and managers of the American Tree Farm Association (ATF) in Washington State. We exchanged ideas on how the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest might facilitate the process by

which small forest land owners achieve certification for sustainable forest practices. It was suggested that the new Center could coordinate group certification processes which would result in a group of small forest land owners that collectively meet sustainability standards and achieve certification under either the ATF system or SFI. Through education, technical support and process facilitation, the Center would encourage a whole new class of forest owners to adopt sustainable forest practices, and receive recognition for it.

These two projects hold promise of contributing to mission of the new Center. We look forward to the time when we can respond more broadly to the opportunities that continually present themselves.

## SFI Audit Scheduled with BVQi – Jeff Connick

During the past month, bids were requested from auditing companies to conduct the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification audit for Pack Forest. The selected company will provide the independent verification that Pack Forest meets all requirements and standards of the SFI program.

All proposals that were received were reviewed against criteria important to

Pack Forest, including the qualifications of the auditing firm and individuals conducting the audit, the costs, the expressed understanding of the unique scope and scale of operations at Pack Forest, and the degree of local knowledge for each team. After reviewing all proposals, the University of Washington selected BVQi to conduct the audit, with Jack Ward as the lead auditor. The two-part audit has been scheduled for

early October and early November.

With the schedule of events in place, Pack Forest will begin the final preparations for our SFI program. These include an internal review of the program after four months, and a review with senior management, including John Calhoun, Director of the Center for Sustainable Forestry. Areas will be identified for improvement for the following year.

The University of Washington and Pack Forest are excited to begin the final steps to becoming SFI certified. In addition to verifying sustainable forest management at Pack Forest, the University of Washington will now have the opportunity to provide its input on the SFI program and the important issues related to forest certification.

## Sustainability at the Conference Center –

**Terri McCauley**

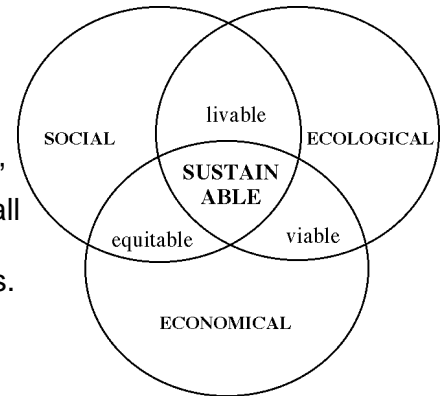
The recent conference on “Enhancing the Sustainability of Puget Sound through Higher Education” showcased presentations made by many of the northwest’s colleges and universities.

The presentations focused on current sustainability practices that demonstrated simple and complex methods to pursue

sustainable campus operations. Ideas ranged from simple signage that encourages water conservation to full scale composting.

These presentations heightened awareness and encouraged conference center staff to apply practical sustainability practices in our operations. For example, funding has

recently been approved to hire a “sustainability intern” to evaluate dining hall and custodial operational practices. Upon completion of the evaluation, the intern will prepare a written report of current practices and make recommendations to enhance the sustainability of future operations.



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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