

# Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest



University of Washington

College of Forest Resources

## Newsletter

July 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:

- Architecture Firm completes pre-design study of proposed lodge.
- Administration budget and framework proposed for Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest.
- Pack Forest begins to implement it's Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program.

### 2004 Work Plan Timeline:

- **June 15:** Develop budget for first year of Center operation.
- **June 30:** Dean establishes Faculty Search Committee for Center Director.
- **June 30:** Completion of feasibility study for Pack Forest lodge.
- **September 1:** Final decision on Pack Forest Residence Lodge
- **September 1:** Sign MOU with WSU Extension for Center outreach position.
- **October 30:** Select Center Director.

## College Lands Manager's Message - John Calhoun

We have some steady progress to report in this issue of the Newsletter. The Architect firm of Snyder-Hartung-Kane-Strauss has completed the pre-design study for the proposed lodge at the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest.

The 71 page document will be presented to College of Forest Resources leadership and other interested parties on July 14, 2004. We are very excited about the prospects of this quality building addition in support of the programs at the Center.

We have worked hard with the architects to keep the costs reasonable while providing a facility that can serve as a compelling physical symbol of the new directions at Pack Forest. A high quality place to stay, featuring sustainability themes, will be attractive to a different clientele than the Pack Forest

Conference Center is accustomed to serving.

Once the basic concepts are approved the next order of business is to develop a fund raising strategy. We expect the total project cost to be in the vicinity of \$2 million. At least half of this may come from forest revenue. We expect to conduct a vigorous fund raising campaign as part of the College's overall development program as well.

Steady progress is also being made toward our goal of achieving third party certification for sustainability in our forest management operations. The Dean is prepared to provide a written commitment to sustainable forestry at Pack Forest. The formal audit will follow sometime this fall.

We are also working on providing the budgetary framework for the Center. An administration budget has been proposed as

well as a new revenue budget for the receipt of contracts and grants. Funding levels and sources will be identified in the next few months.

The recruitment of leadership for the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest may be the most important aspect relative to overall success of this broad initiative. Accordingly, it may take the longest to achieve.

We are moving ahead with negotiations on an agreement with Washington State University to station an Extension Agent at the Center. The Director search will get underway late this summer. Meanwhile, I will continue to provide the leadership required as we develop programs and services of the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest.

## Pack Forest Begins SFI® Program Implementation – Jeff Connick and Duane Emmons

During the past few months, Pack Forest has continued to develop its Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program. A significant meeting was held on May 20 and 21 with consultant Scott Berg.

Over two days, staff foresters Mason McKinley and Duane Emmons, and Jeff Connick from the University of Washington, worked with Scott Berg to determine the readiness of Pack Forest for certification.

Specific actions to prepare the forest for the certification audit were identified, and work has progressed to make the necessary changes.

Based on the meeting, current management practices at Pack Forest appear to already satisfy many of the 11 objectives required by SFI. Pursuing SFI gives the forest an opportunity to validate this good management, and improve aspects where possible. Improvements will

include increased documentation of activities and the establishment of an annual review process for continual improvement.

Implementing a new management approach such as SFI is never an easy task. Pack Forest staff has fully accepted this challenge, and the opportunity to make meaningful improvements.

After the May 20 - 21<sup>st</sup> meetings the Pack Forest staff began to compile an “Indicators

and Evidence file” in preparation for the SFI audit in the fall. This collection of documentation is an integral part of the audit system.

As a small landowner with unique management objectives it was important for the staff to develop indicators of compliance with the SFI objectives that fit within its scope of operations.

As of June 15<sup>th</sup> Pack Forest has begun to implement its SFI program.

## Budgets, Budgets, Budgets – Terri McCauley



As the first year of the newly established cost center nears completion and is on target to meet the goal of achieving a self sustaining budget, the next fiscal year's budget is being formulated. A new budget format providing greater in depth detail will

provide up to date accounting information.

The current year's budget success required reducing labor costs while at the same time continuing to maintain a high standard of customer service.

A diversified client

base has continued to insure adequate revenues. Each department also has contributed by reducing inventory of supplies and materials. We look forward to proposing more cost saving measures throughout the next fiscal year.

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

We do appreciate your questions, ideas and feedback.

Pack Forest  
9010-453<sup>rd</sup> Street East  
Eatonville, WA 98328  
www.packforest.org

Seattle: 206.685.4485  
Tacoma: 253.692.4485  
Local: 360.832.6534

John Calhoun, College Lands Manager  
jcalhoun@u.washington.edu

**Forestry**  
Mason McKinley, Staff Forester  
masonm@u.washington.edu

**Conference Center**  
Terri McCauley, Conference Center Manager  
tmccaul@u.washington.edu