

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AT PACK FOREST

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2006

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This winter we note a milestone for Pack Forest: eighty years of continued, one might say sustainable, forest management and stewardship. It was eighty years ago that the University of Washington received the gift from the Charles L. Pack family that enabled purchase of the initial land that has grown into the Pack Forest of today.

Eighty years may seem a substantial amount of time in human terms. But for foresters with the long view and a passion for sustainable, healthy forests, we realize eighty years is far less than the normal life cycle for most trees on the forest. Nevertheless, eighty years of consistent human care and stewardship of Pack Forest is significant.

One can argue that the founding purposes of Pack Forest have remained constant throughout its history. The founding gift came with instructions: the forest was to become "a showcase" for modern, scientific forestry in the Northwest. This purpose has remained constant. Yet our definition and understanding of modern, scientific forestry has significantly evolved.

The foresters who have been entrusted with the care of Pack Forest over the eighty years can be proud of their stewardship. It is sustainable today because they held the long-term vision typical of foresters and continued to integrate improved modern knowledge of how forest systems work

into their stewardship. Today's professional foresters, including those currently responsible for the care of Pack Forest, are uniquely qualified to ensure that the vision of a sustainable, "showcase" forest will endure for another eighty years and beyond.

We are proud of our accomplishments and those of our predecessors. The forest speaks for itself; come take a look! But even now, as we celebrate eighty years of successful forest stewardship, we are working to revise the Pack Forest Comprehensive Plan. Eighty years may represent a normal human life span but for a forest and for foresters, it is just another milestone along the pathway of sustainability.



FORESTRY NOTES

In 2005, Pack Forest staff completed a re-inventory of 435 continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots and a survey of an additional 234 temporary plots to give a more complete picture of the volume, stand types and ecological conditions of the forest.

This data will now be entered into a Landscape Management System portfolio to help decision makers

chart the course of the forest for the next 50 years.

Staff will also use this data to evaluate the economic costs and ecological consequences of management under both the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification systems.

As this work proceeds, the forest

will continue to follow the prescriptions of the 2000 Landscape Plan and undergo the first surveillance audit of its SFI certification.



COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE UPDATED



Recognizing the need for an updated comprehensive management plan, the Center for Sustainable Forestry has recruited a committee to provide input and advice on revising the existing plan. The committee is comprised of several faculty members from the College of Forest Resources (CFR) and representatives from external organizations.

The committee will review the mission and goals of the Center for Sustainable Forestry and ensure that the new plan reflects these objectives.

We expect to complete the revision by late spring of this year.

PACK FOREST CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

January 2006 marks the 80th anniversary of Pack Forest. Over the years, the forest has provided an outdoor classroom for CFR students, faculty and affiliates.

For more than 70 years, Pack hosted students who lived in residence as they completed the field component of their CFR education. The Forest has hosted a variety of pioneering research projects, ranging from tree breeding and improvement, to

biosolids, to Landscape Management System software application. The forest has also served in other capacities. In the 1930s, Pack Forest hosted a Civilian Conservation Corps work relief program.

For a more complete timeline of Pack's history, go to:

www.packforest.org/about/timeline.htm

We are in the process of planning a



Pack Forest, circa 1927

series of celebratory events and commemorative items for Pack alumni. Stay tuned for updates.

ARBOR DAY FAIR

Each year, children from schools around the Puget Sound eagerly anticipate the annual Arbor Day Fair events held at the College of Forest Resources. This tremendous educational program provides 2,500 city kids from area elementary schools with a

rare, hands-on experience to learn about forestry, forest products and sustainable resource management.

This year, the fair will be held April 19-21 at the CFR campus in

Seattle. Center for Sustainable Forestry staff are coordinating this exciting event. For more information on the fair, to contribute financially or to volunteer, go to:

www.cfr.washington.edu/People/Alumni/ADF

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The UW's Program on Climate Change will host a Graduate Climate Conference (GCC) at the Pack Forest Conference Center April 7-9. The conference will provide a forum for discussion between graduate students in climate sciences from a multitude

of disciplines, including earth, atmospheric, biological, and ocean sciences.

The UW Program on Climate Change is an interdisciplinary program that integrates all climate change activities at the

University of Washington and attacks scientific questions of climate variability in a coordinated way across the disciplines.

For more information, go to:

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwppc>

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Please let us know if you would like to be added or removed from the newsletter mailing list. We welcome your comments, ideas and feedback.

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Located at the foot of Mt. Rainier, the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest sits on 4,300 acres of certified, working forestland.

