



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

December Accomplishments, 2016

Justin G. Smith, PhD., County Director, justingriffis@wsu.edu, 360-427-9670 ext. 690

Lisa DeWall, Office Manager, LisaD@co.mason.wa.us, 360-427-9670 ext. 680

Mission

Washington State University Mason County Extension connects the people of Mason County to the research and knowledge bases of the state's land grant research university providing solutions to local problems and stimulating local economies. Our county-based educators work with partners in your communities to provide educational programs and leverage the broad resources of a major university to resolve issues and create a positive future for the residents of Mason County.

Program Updates

Community & Economic Development

Staff: **Justin G. Smith, PhD.**, County Director & Assistant Professor
Greg Schundler, CED Program Coordinator & GIS Specialist

Mission: Serve as leader in assisting Washington communities achieve their economic, environmental and social goals. Most of our outreach work is conducted through the Community Intelligence Lab.



**COMMUNITY
INTELLIGENCE LAB**

The **Community Intelligence Lab (CIL)** is dedicated to empowering the people through Information Technology mentorship and collaboration. Whether supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses or assisting civic action groups with research, the CIL proactively engages Washingtonians across the State with workshops, solution support, and a collaborative community

Updates: **WSU Community Intelligence Lab** continued its efforts through “**Community Consulting Office Hours**” and on our online forum through the **Facebook group “WSU Community Intelligence Lab”**. Computer mentorship is available remotely through Skype and Join.me video conferencing platforms. Come join us in the New Year on **Mondays at Timberland Regional Library from 4pm-7pm** to learn, share, and collaborate!

Projects in December included further development of our county attributes database, professional GIS mentorship, and an analysis of Lancarbon.org data for tree stand age in County and beyond. Mason County (compared to other US counties with similar attributes of income, inequality, population, and uninsured rate) has comparatively high rates of smoking, mentally unhealthy days, physically unhealthy days, alcohol impaired driving deaths, children living in poverty, as well as a relatively low high school graduation rate. Meanwhile, the oldest stands of trees are up behind Mount Stone and Mount Skokomish.

We are also very excited to be putting the finishing touches on grants; if you'd like to write a letter of support please contact Greg Schundler at greg.schundler@wsu.edu

State	County
Texas	Loving
California	Plumas
Georgia	Pickens
Georgia	Pike
Indiana	Elkhart
Indiana	Clinton
Washington	Walla Walla
Tennessee	Robertson
North Carolina	Cabarrus
Texas	Hardin
North Carolina	Franklin
South Carolina	Berkeley
Florida	Okaloosa
Washington	Mason
Georgia	Catoosa
Nevada	White Pine
North Carolina	Johnston
Oklahoma	Grant

Figure 1: US Counties with Attributes and Percent Range Similarity to Mason County: Inequality+/-10%, Median Income +/-10%, Uninsured Rate+/-10%, Population +/-10%

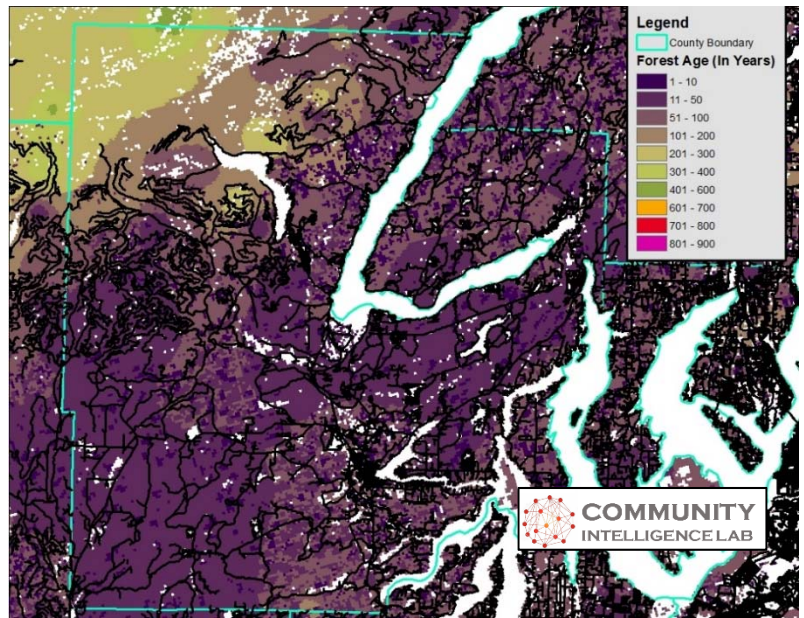


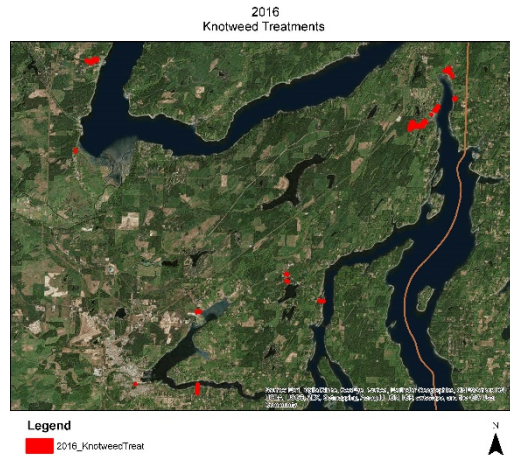
Figure 2: Landcarbon.org Layer for Forest Age zoomed on Mason County; Oldest Forest around Lake Cushman and the Northwest Corner

Noxious Weed Program

Staff: **Patricia Grover**, Coordinator
Kendall Carmen, Assistant
Keith Reitz, Assistant

Updates: During the final month of 2016, Weed Board staff completed multiple reports including the required reporting for grant funding provided by the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Knotweed program. Work accomplished with this funding included:

- Assistance to 42 Mason County property owners
- Treatment of knotweed on 49 parcels
- 23.52 acres of knotweed treated
- 2.3 river/shoreline miles worked



And, on December 06, the Mason County Board of County Commissioners finalized the appointment of Barry Fischer to the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board, District 4. This provides a quorum for the Board as efforts continue to fill the remaining two Board positions.

Food Safety & Food Preservation Program

Staff: Lisa DeWall, Food Safety & Preservation Information Assistants

Mission: Provide resident's current up to date research based answers to their home canning questions to reduce risk of food borne illness.

Updates: Check pressure gauges on Monday's from 10-12. Answer questions regarding Food Safety & Preservation.

4-H Youth Development Program

Staff: Dan Teuteberg, Regional Specialist-Assistant Professor
Kathy Fuller, Program Coordinator

Mission: 4-H Youth Development empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning with caring adults.

Updates: The position of 4-H Community Outreach Assistant has been filled. This position will positively impact our community by coordinating 4-H Youth Development outreach efforts throughout Mason County. The Outreach Assistant will work with community members, volunteers, youth, and partnering agencies to actively engage and educate individuals and families of 4-H programs. The first program in this series will take place in January and will include hands-on educational activities, volunteer recruitment and education and a community service opportunity for current and prospective 4-H families. This position is supported by funding from a United Way Community Fund grant.



Mason County 4-H was proud to participate in the annual Shelton Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 3. The 4-H entry included approximately 20 youth, many with their project animals. The project was led by a group of 4 adult volunteers. The 4-H entry earned a second place award.

Master Gardener Program

Staff: Johanna Willingham, Master Gardener Coordinator

Mission: To provide relevant university based research to meet the home and community horticultural needs of Mason County and to promote responsible environmental stewardship. Public education is the primary goal of Mason County WSU Master Gardener Program.

Updates: Announcing 2017's Mason County Master Gardener Board of Directors:

President- Pat Carpenter*

President-Elect- Kitty Lundeen-Ness*

Vice President- Lisa Henderson*

Secretary- Christy Rowe

Treasurer- Jeannine Polaski*

Directors at Large- Jan Mutter*

Directors at Large- Lou Schmidt

Foundation Representative- Nancy Dillon

Foundation Representative- Jack Smith

*newly elected

Our Christmas Potluck and Shopping Extravaganza was success thanks to the creative contributions of the talented Master Gardeners who donated their handmade items to the sale. Master Gardeners Foundation of Mason County donated of \$482 to Saint's Pantry Backpack Program.

Food Sense Nutrition

Staff: **Christine Ciacetta**, Interim Program Coordinator
Pamela Bish, Educator

Mission: Providing outreach to youth and adults via direct education, environmental supports, and policy work to reduce childhood obesity and stretch food dollars for SNAP recipients.

Updates: SNAP-Ed Nutrition Program staff presented a talk to veteran parolees in response to a request from Harris Haertel, probation officer, to support on-going efforts to live a healthy and productive life. Parolees were not required to stay for the presentation, but the majority of the group stayed and interacted with one another and program staff. Information presented included USDA MyPlate recommendations and how nutrition provides the building blocks for a healthy body and mind.

Water Resources Program

Staff: **Vacant** - Water Resources Associate

Mission: The Water Resources program helps members of our community make the best choices in caring for our local waters by providing research-based tools and information. We connect people with appropriate resources through collaboration with other extension programs, government agencies, businesses, schools, and other organizations.

Updates: The Water Resources Program continued implementation of the Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Outreach and Education program, which will continue through the end of 2016.

Significant current partnerships include: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Puget Sound Partnership.

Small Farms Program

Staff: **Colin Stewart**, Small Farms Education and Outreach Specialist

Mission: Work to build a socio-ecologically sustainable agricultural community through education, outreach and conservation programs.

Updates:

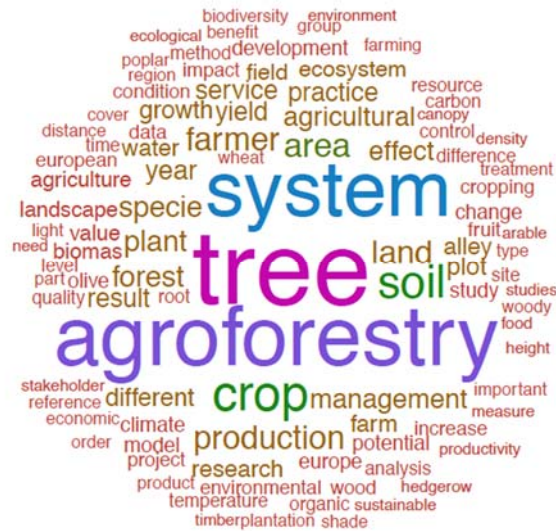


Photo Credit: Marie Gosme

This month, the Small Farms team has been planning for a successful 2017. The practice of agroforestry, or the combination of woody perennials in agricultural systems, has huge potential to be used in Mason County. Once populated by a great number of oak trees, as indicated by namesakes such as Oakland Bay, the reintroduction of perennial fruit and nut production could be highly beneficial to the County, and effort is being put into developing these systems.

Key Partnerships: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health Department, Taylor Shellfish, Capital Land Trust, Shelton and Belfair Farmers' Market, KMAS News Radio, Mason PUD.

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Washington counties. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.