

Washington State University Skamania County Extension -2010 Highlights-

Creating Lifelong Learning Culture



Mission Statement

Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

Vision

Washington State University Extension is the front door to the University. It extends non-credit education and degree opportunities to people and communities throughout the state. Extension builds the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues and to improve their quality of life. Extension is recognized for its accessible, learner-centered, relevant, high quality, unbiased educational programs. Extension collaborates with communities to create a culture of life-long learning.

Todd Murray, Office Director
tmurray@wsu.edu
509.427.3931

Sally Mansur,
4-H Program Manager
mansur@co.skamania.wa.us
509.427.3932



WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

You do
great stuff!

-Survey Response
Skamania Co Fair

Accomplishments -2010 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

Strategic Goals :

- I. Create and Sustain Vibrant Communities
- II. Create and Sustain Business, Jobs, and Economic Vitality of Washington
- III. Enhance Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship
- IV. Enhance Economic Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprises While Protecting Washington's Resources
- V. Empower Youth and Families to Achieve Social, Economic, and Educational Success

Program Areas:

- 4-H
- Forest Youth Success
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Gardening
- Community Development

Staying Relevant and Responding to Needs

Our program goals of 2009 stated that we would identify our target communities, assess program needs, and develop effective work plans. In 2010, we developed assessment tools to guide our work. We have also developed volunteer grievance reporting. Initial feedback has been useful. A common message sent is that our programs are under-promoted.

In addition to measuring needs, we participated on many community boards and organizations such as 4-H Leaders Council, Underwood Conservation District, Skamania County Noxious Weed Board, Skamania County Economic Development Community Task Force, Mt. Adams District Collaborative Group and Skamania County Fair Board. Participation on these boards have been informative for guide our program areas.

Volunteers and Youth Development

In 4-H we have **67 volunteers** leading 22 Skamania County 4-H clubs and group enrollments. Our volunteerbase is paramount to successful programs. We have successfully expanded into afterschool programs and recruited for non-traditional clubs.

Outreach and Education

We had over **1800 adults** use our services and over **500 youth participate in our events**. In 2010, residents accessed our services through 25 workshops, field tours, classes and and through 4-H clubs. Additionally, we offered direct consultation at the office, over the phone, on email and with field visits for gardening, farming, pest diagnosis and small woodlot consultation.

On all our surveyed events, **over 90% of participants show evidence that they have gained new knowledge and expect to change their practices based on the skills developed.**

Funding

We are able to leverage our efforts to bring in grant funds to Skamania County. In 2010, we have accessed **\$641,242** in funds with **7 grants** and have **\$112,030 in pending of 4 grants**. Many of these grants are through partnerships with other departments and agencies that will bring either funds or resources to Skamania County. Some funds offset our time and can be applied to future Skamania County programs.



WSU President Elson Floyd visits
Skamania County – April 2010





4-H -2010 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

Where Kids Experience 4-H in Skamania County:

- 4-H camp—2 overnight camps in Skamania County & 3 week-long sessions
- Know Your Government Conference
- State 4-H Forum
- National 4-H Congress
- Washington State 4-H Camp Rally
- Western Regional 4-H Forum
- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Technology Leadership Conference
- 4-H Science Camp-In
- State 4-H Teen Conference
- Washington State 4-H Fair
- Cultural Exchange
- Skamania County Fair
- Workshops, seminars, trainings
- Challenge/Ropes training
- Daily afterschool programs

4-H is the largest youth organization in Skamania County outside of the school district. 4-H has **473 active members** active enrolled in **22 Skamania County clubs** (total-including group enrollments and active). 67 volunteers maintain and lead these clubs and events. While 4-H programming in Skamania County has been traditional, we have succeeded in recruiting new opportunities to engage youth with alternative club and activity themes.

Emily Waters, WSU Intern, completed a student work assignment in 4-H through WSU's Distance Degree Program. Emily completed a comprehensive survey of past Forest Youth Success participants. Using social media through an innovated way, Emily captured the lasting impacts of the FYS program. Results are being prepared for peer-reviewed publication.

New clubs include the County After School Program, Crossroads Behavioral Health Youth Group, and two new livestock/small animal clubs. Current clubs in the process of recruitment include a robotics team, Mill-A afterschool program and a missionary-themed group.

Superintendents and Leaders Council sponsored several mini-workshops in a variety of areas including Livestock Barn, Judging, Small Animal Barn and Home Economics.

The Horse Advisory Board held horse camp this year. Youth counselors are trained during the week(s) prior to camp then provide leadership to younger participants during camp week.

Camas Camp 'n Ranch, a 4-H Club held three one-week day camps. 84 youth and adults attended. Camas Camp 'n Ranch is a farm co-op where urban families can join and participate in daily activities of a working farm.

What 4-H Participants experienced in Skamania County in 2010:

- Educational trips to Colleges, shows, workshops, seminars, foreign exchange
- Community service, service learning, community development
- Fairs and exhibits—a chance to display projects publicly
- 4-H activities and project work
- Fairs and exhibits—a chance to display projects publicly
- 4-H activities and project work
- Lifelong friendships with young people and adults
- Public speaking
- Ecology and placed based education
- Government, law and political process training/experience



Achievement night - 2010

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Youth Development Program





Forest Youth Success

Building healthy youth, forests, and communities

-2010 HIGHLIGHTS-

In 2010 FYS Accomplished:

- 4.1 miles of USFS/Private boundary cleared
- 10 miles of trails repaired
- 41 acres of white pine pruning
- 600 trees planted and 200 seedlings watered
- 20 acres of invasive species removal
- 4.5 miles of roadside brushing
- 21 culverts maintained
- 26 wildlife structures inspected and maintained
- Cleared logs out of 50 feet of creek
- 26 wildlife structures inspected
- 5 sites of water testing
- 10 Western Pond Turtles released
- 11km of research plots set and flagged

“Working so closely with FYS has truly been a rewarding project as I am very passionate about this program, especially since it helped me gain responsibility and leadership as an adolescent.”

– E. Waters, WSU Intern, graduate and FYS Alumni

Despite living in a county that is about 90 percent forested, many Skamania County youth have few linkages to and little knowledge of the surrounding forest. With changing economies, youth also have few employment opportunities nor many chances to develop job experience. Additionally constrained resources, forest managers and communities need help completing projects that benefit the health of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. **These three challenges make this forest youth program a success for Skamania County.**

Skamania County young adults employed by FYS Program learn-by-doing. WSU 4H Challenge create a safe, hands-on learning environment that achieve the following goals for FYS:

- (1) Teach the fundamentals of forest ecology and forest health management
- (2) Enhance and develop positive life skills to increase employability (self confidence, communication, teamwork, group problem solving)
- (3) Develop a sense of responsibility for the forest and Skamania County communities
- (4) Achieve infrastructure and ecosystem management objectives on the south end of the GPNF and nearby communities
- (5) Provide basic job skills while earning a minimum wage stipend to participating youth and employ local adults as crew leaders

We surveyed past participants dating back as much as 5 years and found that the program has had lasting impacts on Skamania County youth. **Over 65% responded that FYS helped them acquire another job. 95% credit FYS for forming their work ethic and increasing basic job skills. Over 70% of past participants attribute FYS as shaping their career interests. Over 50% shaped their college degree because of FYS. Over 90% found FYS effective for helping manage their personal finances. 98% described FYS as helping them accept future job responsibility.**



Work crews learn how to work with tools safely and effectively.

Answer Options	No	Yes	Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you feel the knowledge obtained in Summer Forest Youth Success will help/has helped you get a job because you:					
Learned specifics about searching for jobs?	12	28	5	1.84	45
Learned specifics about applying for jobs?	8	37	0	1.82	45
Learned specifics about interviewing for jobs?	15	24	6	1.80	45
Learned skills specific to the workplace (punctuality, responsibility, teamwork, etc.)?	2	43	0	1.96	45
Felt confident in your ability to be a good employee?	1	44	0	1.98	45
Had work experience and a reference to put on your resume/applications?	2	43	0	1.96	45
Made connections through FYS that led to other work opportunities?	17	20	8	1.80	45

Survey results capturing impacts of FYS on past program participants. The majority of responses show positive influences on job preparedness and employability.

Program partners



“We now have focus and a plan to expand our farm business “
 Survey respondent of farm investigation series

Agriculture & Natural Resources

-2010 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

In 2010

156 people attended 17 workshops and field trips through the Farm Enterprise Investigation Series.

169 farmers and gardeners learned about newly introduced pests and exotic pest threats

Project Partners

- WSU Klickitat & Clark Counties
- WSU Mt Vernon REC Skamania County
- Noxious Weeds Gorge Grown
- WSDA Pest Program
- WADNR
- USDA APHIS
- USDA FS Forest Health
- OSU Hood River & Wasco Counties
- Underwood Conservation District

Mid-Columbia Small Farms Team –

Within the Columbia Gorge, multiple grants have originated by partnering Extension offices in Skamania, Klickitat, Wasco and Hood River along with the non-profit, Gorge Grown to deliver beginning farmer education and enterprise investigation. In Skamania County, we offered the following opportunities for education: organic farming, E-commerce, direct marketing, livestock fencing, sheep and poultry production, composting, treefruit pruning and value-added farm products. Surveys were given at each workshop to capture knowledge gained and intent to change behaviors. The average score on a scale of 5 was above 4 in a measurement of agreement that new knowledge was gained and behaviors would change based on the materials presented at the workshops.



Farm enterprise investigation series



Brown marmorated stink bug factsheet



Spotted Wing Drosophila – Photo B. Gerdeman

Statewide Invasive Pest Detection & Management with Citizen Science

With world trade and movement of cargo, more potential pest species are being introduced to Washington State. In 2010, we developed and delivered three workshops educating first detectors about significant pest problems in Washington State. WSU Skamania County Extension has facilitated and/or participated on working groups for the Washington State Invasive Species Council, Oregon nursery invasive species advisory group, APHIS exotic beetle citizen detection planning group, spotted wing drosophila research planning group and brown marmorated stink bug response planning group.

Due to dissemination of pest alerts to WSU County offices, specimens of the Brown Marmorated Stink bug were submitted as the first Washington State record. Shortly after, a team of extension educators, WSU and OSU researchers and WSDA specialists were formed to develop response plans to the potential infestation. Extension materials have been developed and currently two research grants have been submitted to aid detection and management in Washington State.



“This class was great! Please do more woodlot classes!”

- Forest Landowner

Agriculture & Natural Resources

-2010 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension



California Five-spined bark beetle

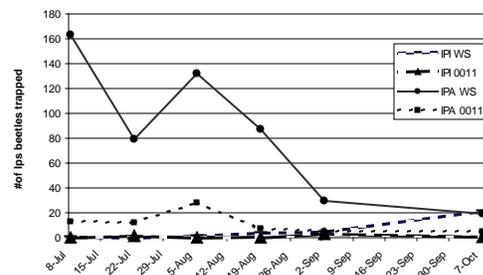


Top killed and subsequent tree death are commonly found in Underwood and White Salmon neighborhoods due to the new bark beetle.

Bark Beetle Cooperative Survey

A single home site in Underwood WA was the first collection record of the California Fivespined Ips, *Ips paraconfusus* in Washington State. *I. paraconfusus* is generally considered a pest of pines in the Southern and Southwestern states. In areas of its occurrence, *I. paraconfusus* is considered to be a serious pest of newly established ponderosa pine stands.

WSU Skamania County Extension in collaboration with WADNR, WSDA, USDA FS monitored the new beetle to document populations. The discovery also prompted inclusion of this target pest in the aerial survey for forest health issues. Over 100 acres of affected pines were recorded in Skamania County. Affected homeowners were consulted and given management options.



Flight pattern of *I. paraconfusus* in the Columbia Gorge.

USFS Gifford Pinchot Collaborative Groups

Collaborative groups are required to develop some projects that can lead to job opportunities on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. With the Mount Adams District Collaborative (MADC), WSU Skamania County Extension secured a grant to fund 4 facilitated meetings to further develop collaboration within the MADC and between other collaboratives with the USFS on the National Forest. Over sixty people attended one or more meetings. Ninety-two percent changed their knowledge, perception and attitudes towards collaborative efforts as a result of the meetings; the same percentage of participants now see the benefit of collaboration because of this grant.



Sustainable Northwest facilitated all four meetings to help develop forest projects.

Forest Landowner Outreach

WSU Forestry in collaboration with the Underwood Conservation District held forest field tour and class session to educate land owners about silviculture, Firewise, tree identification, and tree health. All participants survey indicated a behavior change to adopt better forest management practices. More events such as this are planned for 2011.



Underwood Forest Tour – Oct 2010



Community Outreach -2010 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension



Food Preservation & Home Canning

Our office received regular requests for canning classes and support. In partnership with the Friends of Stevenson Library, four food preservation classes were delivered with the Master Food Preserver Program from WSU Extension Clark County.



Linda Peppers of WSU Clark County Extension teaches a group safe tomato canning techniques.



Todd Murray presents the fundamentals of organic farming.

WSU Skamania County Extension cosponsored with Gorge Grown and Gorge Winds COOP the first Skamania food forum. This well attended workshop series delivered education on beekeeping, cooking, wild harvesting, Asian vegetables, and other organic gardening topics. All participants surveyed found value in the event and are eager to participate in future Food Forums.



TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING AND WHAT PROGRAMS YOU WANT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

We need your guidance to develop effective and relevant programming for Skamania County. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey on-line or visit us at the office to pick up a survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J5RDPTJ>

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