



Washington State University

Snohomish County Extension

2018

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[HTTP://FORESTRY.WSU.EDU/NPS/](http://FORESTRY.WSU.EDU/NPS/)



BY THE NUMBERS

*Of participants in key
Snohomish County programs:*

- **90%** - New practice implementation within a year
- **91%** - Greater property enjoyment
- **85%** - Less likely to convert
- **100%** - Increased confidence
- **98%** - Increased quality of life
- **100%** - Better able to meet goals
- **100%** - Still benefiting years later



Small-acreage family forests in Snohomish County (dark green)



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Forestry

Helping small forest landowners restore and maintain healthy, vibrant forests

ISSUE

Snohomish County has the highest number of owners of small-acreage or forest properties in the state. These forested properties are typically family-owned and have between one acre and several hundred acres. Most owners have fewer than twenty acres. Collectively, these ownerships amount to over 200,000 acres of prime, lowland forest. These forests provide clean air, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and sustainably-produced wood products, contributing to the overall quality of life in Snohomish County. Lack of management, overstocking, climate stresses, and invasive species are leading to declining health, habitat loss, ecological degradation, diminished economic opportunities, and growing wildfire danger in these forests.

RESPONSE

The Washington State University Extension Forestry program provides objective, research-based forest stewardship education programs and resources for owners of small-acreage forested properties. These programs empower property owners to achieve their ownership goals, make informed management decisions, and practice good forest stewardship that benefits current and future generations.

WSU Extension Forestry's flagship program is the Forest Stewardship Coached Planning short course, which is an educational partnership between WSU, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local counties. This eight-week short course covers all aspects of forest stewardship and coaches participants in writing their own personalized forest stewardship plans. The course is offered both in-person and online, and it includes weekly class sessions, an all-day field trip, and a library of reference materials and how-to guides. Each participant receives an on-the-ground site visit by a state service forester from either DNR or WSU Extension.

Other key WSU Extension Forestry resources include individual consultations, newsletters and publications that have won national awards, forest owners field days, forest owners winter school, and a variety of workshops, seminars, qne webinars that address hot topics like forest health and fire.

The WSU Extension Forestry Program provides objective, research-based information and resources for people who own forested property in the Puget Sound area through a variety of forestry classes, publications, and online resources that are designed for people with a few acres of woods as well those with larger forests or tree farms.



QUOTES

"This class has been a great experience. I loved my forest before but now I feel that I look with new eyes and vastly increased understanding."

"A great, transformative and incredibly informational and useful class!"

"We continue to benefit by using the ideas from the class and developing a plan that our whole family can buy into and agree on the future of our property."

"This course was amazing! I did not expect to be completely drawn in by what my job as a landowner would require. I feel a sense of pride with the knowledge that this course left me with"

"Best course I've taken. Lots of material, very well presented. Didn't have any fluff or filler – everything was relevant."

"The Stewardship program was a major factor in clarifying our decision to retain our property and see it as an ongoing resource for us and our descendants."

Funding and Support

This program is funded by **Snohomish County Surface Water Management** and the **Snohomish Conservation District**, with in-kind support provided by the **WA Dept. of Natural Resources**.

IMPACTS

The WSU Extension Forestry program results in knowledge change that leads to behavior change that leads to condition change. As an example, key impacts of Snohomish County Coached Planning courses are summarized below.

Within one year of taking the course:

- 90% used course knowledge to implement **new or different forest stewardship practices**, including invasive species removal, wildlife habitat enhancement, tree planting, and thinning.
- 96% **shared course knowledge** with other people.
- 91% reported that the course **increased enjoyment** of their property.
- 85% reported that the course **decreased the likelihood of conversion** to non-forest use.

As a result of applying course knowledge, within three years:

- 66% observed **increased wildlife** use.
- 70% observed **decreased invasive species** cover.
- 25% generated **income** and county tax revenue through sustainable production of forest products.
- 44% **reduced taxes** by qualifying for current use programs.
- 100% reported **increased confidence** in managing their property.
- 98% reported an **increased quality of life** overall.

After eight years:

- 88% have an **approved stewardship plan**, 96% of whom are following it.
- 100% reported that the course helped them **meet their goals**.
- 100% reported they are **still benefitting** from the course eight years later.



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