

Washington State University Skamania County Extension -2011 Highlights-

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.

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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 -2011 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

Visit us on-line to take a survey and provide feedback to help guide our work plans.
<http://skamania.wsu.edu>

Volunteers and Youth Development

In 4-H we have over **150 volunteers** leaders of **29 4-H clubs** with working with **over 600 youth enrollments**. Our volunteer base is paramount to successful programs. We have successfully expanded into afterschool programs and recruited for non-traditional clubs.

Outreach and Education

In 2011, over 1,000 residents were educated through **27 workshops, field tours, and classes**. Topics ranged from forest health, beginning farming and mushroom cultivation. 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.**

The WSU Organic Gardening team, lead by Skamania County, produced **five extension publications** and have **four in track** to be published in early 2012.

Funding

Due to the partnership between WSU and Skamania County, we are able to leverage our efforts to bring in grant funds to the county. In 2011, we have accessed over **\$950,000** in funds with **10 grants**. Many of these grants are through partnerships with other departments, groups and agencies that will bring funds and/or resources to Skamania County.

Projects

Two grants have supported the development of forest service collaboratives on the South end of the Gifford Pinchot. Twenty-five volunteers surveyed the range of the **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** throughout SW Washington State. Collaboration with WA DNR, USFS Health and private landowners revealed the **expanded range of the California five-spined Ips, Ips paraconfusus**. Experimental retrofits of trellis systems for blueberries were developed to allow for **Spotted Wing Drosophila management**.





4-H -2011 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

Where Kids Experience 4-H in Skamania County:

- 4-H camp—two overnight camps in Skamania County
- 4-H Summer Day Camp – 3 week-long sessions
- Know Your Government Conference
- State 4-H Forum
- Local Clubs/Activities
- 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
- Super Saturday
- Skamania County Fair
- Workshops, seminars, trainings
- Challenge/Ropes training
- Employment through Forest Youth Success
- Daily afterschool programs

4-H is the largest youth organization in Skamania County outside of the school district. 4-H has **613 active members** active enrolled in **29 clubs**. **158 volunteers** maintain and lead these clubs and events. While past 4-H programming has been traditional, we have succeeded in recruiting new opportunities to engage youth with alternative club and activity themes. The need to continue to engage youth and families in more diverse projects and seek opportunities to partner with existing and future businesses and enterprises in the County remains a priority. A stronger WSU Extension/4-H presence in the schools has been established and opportunities for increasing these partnerships continue to be explored.

Over 80% of volunteer leaders surveyed have agreed that 4-H in Skamania County has improved their lives as a result of concepts taught and demonstrated.

Leaders Council sponsored a Super Saturday for participants in a variety of areas including Livestock Barn, Judging, Small Animal Barn and Home Economics.

The Horse Advisory Board held horse camp again this year with over 30 participants. Camas Camp 'n Ranch, a 4-H Club held three one-week day camps. Over 100 youth and adults attended.

The office sponsored an after-fair forum where participants gave feedback on policies and needs. We have implemented some new ideas and will continue to create avenues for feedback and prioritize the concerns as we deliver our programs.

In 2012, Leaders Council will address several key questions toward re-establishing the goals of the WSU Extension 4-H Program and the Leader's Advisory Council for the constituency of our 4-H Programs:

1. What are the vision and goals of the organization?
2. Who are affected by the group's work?
3. How does the organization work?
4. How do people interact?
5. How can we achieve our stated Objectives and Purposes?

What 4-H Participants experienced in Skamania County in 2011:

- 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
- Financial reward and credit recovery with Forest Youth Success Program



Achievement Night - 2011

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



4-H Youth Development Program





Forest Youth Success

Building healthy youth, forests, and communities

-2011 HIGHLIGHTS-

In 2011 FYS Accomplished:

\$162,673 total value of work

- 7 miles of USFS/Private boundary cleared and maintained
- 10 miles of trail work
- 25 acres of white pine pruning
- Reforested and maintained 4 acres of streamside
- 20 acres of invasive species removal
- 9.8 miles of roadside brushing
- 5 sites of water testing
- Assisted in endangered species recovery project
- accomplished brook trout stocking in wilderness lakes
- 6.5 acres surveyed for research

“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

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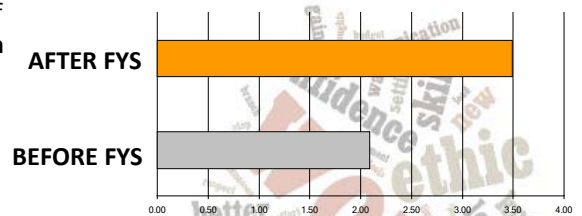
Despite living in a county that is about 90 percent forested, many Skamania County youth have few linkages to and little knowledge of the surrounding forest. With changing economies, youth also have few employment opportunities nor many chances to develop job experience. Additionally constrained resources, forest managers and communities need help completing projects that benefit the health of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. **These three challenges make this 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 and work ethic to increase employability
- (3) Develop a sense of responsibility for the forest and Skamania County communities
- (4) Achieve management objectives for the National Forest
- (5) Provide job skills while earning a minimum wage
- (6) Credit Recovery

In 2011, forty-eight high school students were employed by FYS. **Forty-three students earned high school elective credit** during their employment. In a retrospective survey, **100%** of the participants showed a significant **increase in life skills** such as in leadership and decision-making. All FYS crews illustrated an **increase in fiscal responsibility** and **gained financial management skills.**

“I plan how to use financial resources”



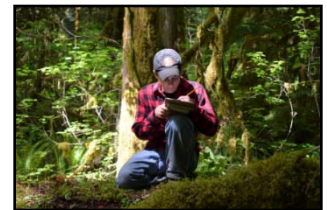
Lasting Impacts on Skamania County Youth



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.**



“I learned that growing [as a person] is hard but feels great once you’ve done it. I am always wanting to grow now!” -2011 FYS Crew



“The most important thing I gained from FYS was the meaning of [integrity] and what integrity looks like” -2011 FYS Crew



2011 FYS Survey
 Word Cloud

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

Agriculture & Natural Resources

-2011 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

Project Partners

WSU Forestry
WSU Klickitat & Clark
Counties
WSU Tree Fruit Research
& Extension Center
WSU Mt Vernon Research
& Extension Center
Skamania County
Noxious Weeds
Gorge Grown
WSDA Pest Program
WADNR
USDA APHIS
USDA FS Forest Health
OSU Hood River & Wasco
Counties
Underwood Conservation
District

Cultivating Success- Columbia Gorge Small Farms Develop Farm Plans and Skills

Sustainable Small Farming & Ranching course has beginning farmers take a realistic look at their goals and resources. The course helps farmers evaluate what type of small acreage enterprise is right for them. In 2011, Skamania County and Gorge Grown delivered the course through nine workshops to over 26 participants. Eleven students received the certificate of completion. Graduates of the Cultivating Success class were surveyed after the class to measure knowledge gained and practices adopted. 72% of the graduates developed a whole farm plan and 100% expect to have future actions influenced by the planning skills developed in class.



Lorrie Conway, Conway Family Farms shares the importance of farm planning to the 2011 Cultivating Success Class



Spotted Wing Drosophila –
Photo B. Gerdeman

Blueberry Growers Manage the New Pest, Spotted Wing Drosophila

The spotted wing drosophila is a serious pest of small fruit such as blueberries. For the first time in the history of blueberry production, farmers need to apply insecticides during fruiting. In 2010, WSU began to experiment with trellis designs that enable spraying equipment to enter blueberry fields with out dropping the entire fruit crop.



Experimental Stink Bug
Trap for monitoring the
Brown Marmorated
Stink Bug

Volunteers Test Stink Bug Traps to Monitor the Newly Introduced Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The brown marmorated stink bug was first detected in Washington State in 2010.. BMSB is responsible for millions of dollars in damage to fruit, vegetable and grain crops in the Eastern US. With a volunteer group of 25, WSU developed pheromone traps to use in detection across four SW Washington counties.



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

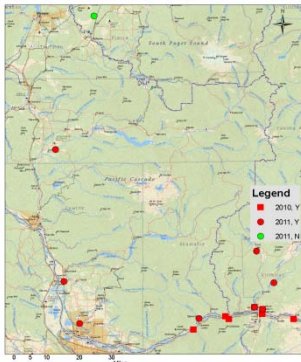
- Forest Landowner

Agriculture & Natural Resources

-2011 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension

California five-spined ips (*Ips paraconfusus*) trap locations in Oregon and Washington, 2010-2011



Statewide distribution of *Ips paraconfusus*.

Tracking Forest Health in Skamania County

WSU Skamania County Extension in collaboration with WADNR, WSDA, USDA FS surveyed for nine significant forest and agricultural pests in SW Washington State. The expanded range of the new bark beetle *Ips paraconfusus* was determined using collaborative resources and two highly skilled volunteers. The Oak Pit Scale, was diagnosed as a significant contributor to oak decline in the Columbia River Gorge and surveys determined the areas affected. With both pests, landowners were educated about proper management of the pests. Significant scientific findings were shared with colleagues internationally through professional presentations.

Forest Landowners Learn New Forest Management Practices

WSU Forestry and Washington DNR hosted the Forest and Range Owner Field Day engaged landowners and natural resource professionals from Washington and Oregon in learning and best practice implementation behaviors. The Field day provided fundamental technical information and enhanced awareness on emerging issues. Finally, the field day served to unite participants with goods and services for future management success. 310 families and individuals controlling 17,500 acres were served. Evaluation information indicates that nearly ninety percent of the respondents executed at least one new practice learned at the field day, that they otherwise would not have implemented -- primarily to improve forest health and reduce wildfire hazard risk. Fuel treatments alone are valued at over \$1 million in savings, if forests were to burn at a fire fighting cost of \$1,500/acre. Nearly one hundred percent of the respondents have recommended the Forest Owners Field Day to friends, family, and neighbors.



Forest landowners learn about a wide range of forest management topics from tree health, pruning, taxes and small timber sales.

Measuring the Effectiveness of Collaboration

With the Mount Adams District Collaborative (MADC) and Lewis River Collaborative, a grant to fund facilitated meetings was secured to further develop collaboration within the MADC and between other collaboratives on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. 98% of the participants understand the importance of multi-interest collaboration to get new stewardship projects started in the GP. 44% of the participants changed their attitude positively because of their participation with the collaborative process. 66% of the business owners see that collaboration will result in more money generated and earned. 94% of the participants increased their understanding of the NEPA process while 88% found opportunities to help with NEPA process.



Understanding NEPA workshop at Fort Vancouver.



Community Development -2011 Highlights-

Washington State University Skamania County Extension



Rural Rapid Appraisal

In 2011, WSU Extension was invited to submit a small planning grant to organize an effective delivery team and create a structure to develop a comprehensive and sustainable program design for asset-building in the Columbia Basin, Klickitat and Skamania County. The overall purpose is to develop institutional commitments and capacity, with the goal of creating an innovative, multi-year asset-building grant for the Paul. G. Allen Family Foundation. In 2012, the implementation of the multi-year project will directly improve family financial health and build wealth among the economically disadvantaged rural seven-county region through education and training.



Rural Rapid Appraisal in Lyle WA



Klickitat-Skamania Asset Building Coalition

In 2011, Skamania County joined the Klickitat Asset Building Coalition, as a product of WSU Horizons resources. The coalition received a grant of \$10,000 from the Washington Dept. of Commerce for two years to expand on the community assets identified by the coalition and its partners in the two counties.



Strengthening Economies Together

Through partnerships with USDA, OSU and WSU, the Mid Columbia Economic Development District is using SET to develop the region's economic development plan. In 2011, MCEDD received funding to implement the SET with WSU and OSU Extension in partnership with USDA. A team was assembled and the 2012 training series was organized and developed.

TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING AND WHAT PROGRAMS YOUR COMMUNITY WANTS

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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