

# Washington State University Skamania County Extension -2013 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.

Todd Murray, Director  
tmurray@wsu.edu  
509.427.3931

Missy Cummins, 4-H Faculty  
missy.cummins@wsu.edu  
509.427.3930

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 -2013 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 **218 volunteer** leaders of **38 4-H clubs** working with **over 587 enrollees**. Our volunteer base is paramount to successful programs. New 4-H faculty member, Missy Cummins is now providing leadership for 4-H in Skamania County. FYS was recognized by National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and received the award for excellence in natural resource and environmental education.

### *Outreach and Education*

In 2013, **1,155 residents** were educated through **29 workshops, field tours, and classes**. Topics ranged from forest health, grape growing and irrigation. 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*

With the investment of **\$57,824 from Skamania County**, WSU provides **\$67,000 in personnel** and an additional **\$275,000 in programming and administration support**. With these investments, we are able to leverage our efforts to bring in grant funds to the county. In 2013, we have accessed over **\$1 million dollars** with **20 grants**. Many of these grants are through partnerships with other departments, groups and agencies that will bring funds and/or resources to Skamania County.





# 4-H Youth Development -2013 Highlights-

## Washington State University Skamania County Extension

### How Kids Experience 4-H in Skamania County:

- 4-H camp—2 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

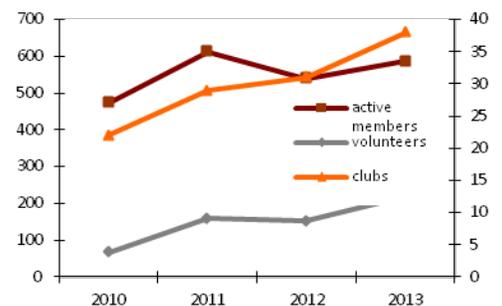
4-H is the largest youth organization in Skamania County outside of the school district. 4-H has **587 active members** enrolled in **38 Skamania County clubs** (total-including group enrollments and active). **218 volunteers** provide skilled leadership to 4-H clubs and events. The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) selected Forest Youth Success 4-H program to win the Specialty Team Award in Excellence for Natural Resource and Environmental Education.

WSU Skamania County Extension also welcomed Missy Cummins as the Regional 4-H Specialist for Clark and Skamania County. With her guidance, we look forward to continuing to increase our efforts and expand our impacts on Skamania County youth.

New clubs have enrolled in several areas such as home economics, fiber arts and exotic animals. Leaders Council continues to explore opportunities to fund raise and has shifted the emphasis from spending funds on awards to making purchases an investments in camps, activities and scholarships.

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 surveyed the progress of our goals and satisfaction of the members. The responses have given us ideas for guiding our process and products in the future. Of particular note, is that we have several very 'old' clubs with new leaders who may have matriculated through the years from members, to project leaders to general leaders. How neat!



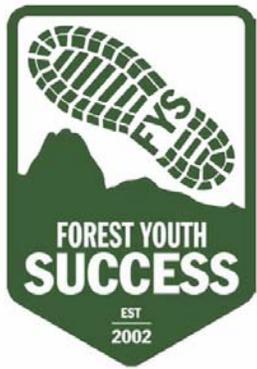
**Watch us grow!** While enrollments show a dip in 2012, FYS cut back on the number of crews. Larger cuts to FYS were made in 2013, however members increased too at a greater rate as other clubs grew.

### What 4-H Participants experienced in Skamania County in 2013:

- 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 peers and adults
- Public speaking and demonstrations
- Ecology and place-based education
- Government, law and political process training/experience



Sally Mansur and Scott VanderWey receive a **NAE4-HA Award on behalf of the FYS 4-H program!**



# Forest Youth Success

Building healthy youth, forests, and communities

## -2013 HIGHLIGHTS-

**\$1 million total value of work since 2002**

**Work accomplished in 2013:**

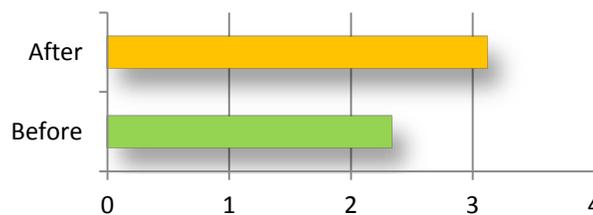
- 70 miles of road surveyed
- 97 acres treated for weeds
- 10 acres of fuel reduction treatments
- 3000 fish stocked in six remote lakes
- 80 culverts maintained
- three units of white pine pruned
- 2 miles of boundary surveyed
- five miles of road brushed

FYS was developed as a response to the symptoms of a local economy depressed through a decline in the timber industry. Skamania County, with more than a 70% public land base, was (and remains) struggling with high levels of unemployment and dismal prospects for its youth. FYS was created to improve students' engagement in school, increase their understanding of potential careers, strengthen their resiliency to the traps of poverty and help them see the positive assets that existed within the community.

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: Teach the fundamentals of forest ecology and forest health management, enhance and develop positive life skills and work ethic to increase employability, develop a sense of responsibility for the forest and Skamania County communities, achieve management objectives for the National Forest, provide job skills while earning a minimum wage



"FYS has allowed me to get the work experience I need to get a job in the real world. It has instilled in me the work ethic and morals of any good citizen and allowed me to grow as a person"



In 2013, 36 high school students were employed by FYS. **All students earned high school elective credit** during their employment. In a retrospective survey, **98%** 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**.



"FYS has helped me become a leader, step out of my comfort zone, and learn so much about this beautiful place we live in, how to help maintain it and the amazing people that already love and appreciate it. "

### **Lasting Impacts on Skamania County Youth**



Past participants dating back as much as 7 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.**

"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

For more information contact:

**Caleb Wheeler,**  
Stevenson/Carson School District

360.772.6370

**Sally Mansur,**

WSU Extension 4-H

mansur@co.skamania.wa.us

509.427.3932



**“This is very important to learn. Thank you for teaching me”**  
-Bark beetle workshop attendee

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

## -2013 Highlights-

### Washington State University Skamania County Extension

#### Project Partners

- WSU Forestry
- WSU Small Farms Team
- WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center
- WSU Mt Vernon Research & Extension Center
- University of Washington Skamania County Noxious Weeds Gorge Grown
- South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative
- Mount Adams Resource Stewards
- WSDA Pest Program
- WADNR
- ODF
- USDA APHIS
- USDA FS Forest Health
- OSU Hood River & Wasco Counties
- Underwood Conservation District

#### Forest Health

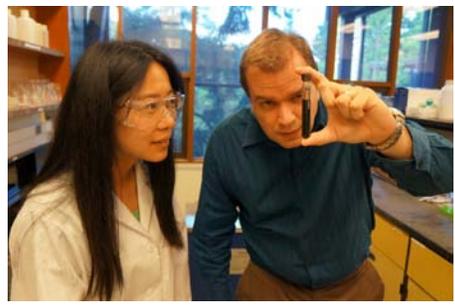
Area fires, ice storms and drought conditions significant forest health issues have arisen in the region such as bark beetle outbreaks. In partnership with Washington State Department of Natural Resources, residents learned about forest health issues at two field days, six workshops and six publications. Participants were surveyed for intent to change pruning and slash management in order to avoid the build-up of beetle populations. Ninety-four percent of the workshop participants said they will manage slash differently when thinning ponderosa pines. One multi-state collaborative forest health team was assembled and successfully applied for grant support in 2014.



Landowners learn about ‘slash management’ to avoid bark beetle problems.

#### Agriculture and Natural Resource Entrepreneurship

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. Three grants have supported outreach to specialty crop growers in the Columbia Gorge region. Thirteen workshops were delivered in the Columbia Gorge. WSU is developing research and education to address needs of the Columbia Gorge Grape Growers.



Dr Fernando Resende and PhD candidate Guanqun Luo are developing a mobile fast pyrolysis unit to experimentally process beetle-killed lodgepole pines. Here Dr. Resende holds a vial of bio-oil.

In collaboration with University of Washington, outreach has been developed to educate landowners and land managers about bio-oil and fast pyrolysis opportunities in forestry and agriculture to develop alternative fuels.

#### Exotic Insect Detection and Management

Four hundred fifty participants learned about exotic pest detection at twelve workshops and 84% of the participants can distinguish exotic wood boring beetles from native species due to the workshop. Collaborative research with OSU Department of Horticulture documented the occurrence of two generations per year for the exotic pest, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and identified an effective trap combination for monitoring BMSB at low densities, which is key for monitoring the spread. Effective Spotted Wing Drosophila organic management in home garden blueberries was tested for a second year.



The newly introduced Brown Marmorated Stink Bug damaging small diversified farms in SW Washington State.

# Community Development -2013 Highlights-

## Washington State University Skamania County Extension



### ***Community and Economic Development in Skamania County***

WSU Extension efforts in community and economic development is 100% partner driven with Skamania County Economic Development and other agencies. Ready, Set, Grow a Business, Pathways to Local Prosperity, Klickitat-Skamania Local Technology Planning Team (rounds 1 & 2), Investing in Manufacturing Communities Project and the Paul Allen Family Foundation Grant are all grant activities that have brought community and economic development to the Columbia River Gorge through WSU Extension and partner agencies such as Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD). The culmination of grant efforts have lead to advancing broad-band access and use, value-added agriculture business support and financial education to households that reached over 2000 people in the Gorge. In 2013, WSU Extension received two nationally recognized awards for Strengthening Economies Together in partnership with MCEDD.



Klickitat-Skamania Local Technology Planning Team

Todd Murray, Director  
tmurray@wsu.edu  
509.427.3931

Missy Cummins, 4-H Faculty  
missy.cummins@wsu.edu  
509.427.3930

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

### ***TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING***

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>

