



## Washington State SAF 2nd Quarter Report - 2006

### Strategic Outcome #1: A Strong Forward Thinking Organization

- The 2006 Washington State Society of American Foresters' annual meeting was hosted by the Mid-Columbia Chapter and the meeting at the beautiful Campbell's Resort on the north shore of Lake Chelan. The theme of *Living with Wildfire—Lessons Learned* was explored through classroom sessions and a field trip.
- Washington State SAF Chair Don Hanley and chair elect Doug Rushton met with University of Washington, College of Forest Resources, Dean Bruce Bare and Professors Gordon Bradley and Eric Turnblom. We expressed concern regarding minimal student participation from UW students in SAF activities and encouraged more engagement, particularly with the National Convention scheduled for Portland, Oregon in 2007. We anticipate increased activity, more involvement with adjoining local chapters and invitations to meet with students. It was a very positive meeting. Dean Bare is very supportive of SAF and will encourage students to join.
- University of Washington Student Chapter was re-invigorated by the elections of new chapter officers: Chair, Angel Ratliff; Vice Chair, Alicia Sullivan; Secretary, Lindsay Malone, and Treasure, Tobey Clarkin
- At the State Meeting held in central Washington at Chelan, College of Forest Resources Dean Bruce Bare (University of Washington) hosted an alumni breakfast where he discussed College activities, SAF accreditation, and relationship with SAF. Probably 30 attended.
- GRCC Student recruiting: GRCC Student Chapter added 10 new student members this academic year (since 9/2005)
- GRCC Student retention: Continue to gain more student members than they lose

- GRCC Membership recruiting/retention: Letter sent by Advisor Dick Hopkins to former members and graduates on 11/27/2005
- Rob Sjogren volunteered to serve as WSSAF Membership Chair in 2006
- Retention/recruitment ideas presented at WSSAF annual meeting by Rob Sjogren and student Jenny Wren
- GRCC Student Chapter participates with Chapter and State meetings and activities, often providing meeting site for South Puget Sound Chapter Meetings
- Student Chapter raised funds to send four students to National convention who also participated in the national student congress
- Student Chapter sponsors “Mentoring Night” bringing professionals to the college to interact with students and discuss careers and jobs in forestry/natural resources
- GRCC Advisor Dick Hopkins contributed article to *Western Forester*
- Student member Jessyka Lemieux suggested new column in the *Western Forester* entitled “Our Voice” for student input and contributed to the first “Our Voice” and *Forestry Source*
- Interaction and encouragement to the fledging student chapter at The Evergreen State College in Olympia
- Promote the SAF logo and name in all Natural Resources student events on and off campus

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## **Strategic Outcome #2: Enhanced Service to Landowners and Employers**

- GRCC Student Chapter exhibited WSSAF “Wildfire in Washington” display at Eastern Washington Family Forest Expo
- GRCC Student Chapter assisted in co-sponsoring with WSU Extension and GRCC Natural Resources Department, the first Eastern Washington Family Forest Expo
- SW Washington Chapter, along with other sponsors is offering a reduced registration fee for family forest landowners who attend the Douglas-fir wildlife conference in October.
- GRCC Student Chapter sponsors “Mentoring Night” inviting non-member professionals to the college to interact with students and SAF members to discuss careers and jobs in forestry/natural resources

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### **Strategic Outcome #3: Enhanced Service to Society at Large**

- Student members assisted with a survey of neighbors and users of forest trails at GRCC school forest, enabling discussion of forest management practices.
- Student members led three “walkabouts” for elementary school students
- Advisor Dick Hopkins led three “walkabouts” for faculty, staff, and neighbors discussing research and forest management
- Provide news articles to GRCC “Communicator” and local newspaper
- Constructed a display at GRCC in the student center promoting Arbor Day, Earth Day, Natural Resources program, and SAF
- One-week sales of seedlings, planted seedlings for Arbor Day activities, and promoted rigorous, scientific forest management
- Provided seedlings and technical assistance to Cub Scouts and Environmental Science class at GRCC for Arbor Day activities
- Envirothon/FFA Forestry Contest was provided for 17 teams from high schools. Assessment included water, soils, wildlife, tree measurements, tree & plant identification, tool identification, and oral judging of answers in response to panel questions.
- Permanent display in SMT Building at GRCC promoting Student Chapter.
- Over here in Wenatchee, we have decided to explore the opportunities to work with local high school FFA groups (with forestry programs) and the PNW Universities to see if there is an opportunity to have some sort of Forestry event here in the spring. This is something that seems to be attractive to a number of our members. Therefore, we may be able to accomplish two things: 1) Keep our chapter participation up and 2) engage the young forestry folks in a positive way with SAF. We'll see what comes of it.

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#### **Strategic Outcome #4: Effective Engagement in Forest Policy**

- WSSAF supported the national effort in backing HR4200 the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. A support letter was mailed to the entire Washington State Congressional delegation.
- Student Chapter exhibited “Wildfire in Washington” display at WSSAF annual meeting
- WSSAF Executive Committee will discuss “appropriate forest science” at the next committee meeting

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## **Strategic Outcome #5: Enhanced Professional Education, Performance, & Leadership Capability**

- North Olympic Chapter: May 18th Conservation Day field trip and talk at eight different stations with 6th graders from Neah Bay, Clallam Bay, and Forks schools.
- We have a variety of professionals covering forest protection, fish and wildlife, forest health, recreation, tree planting, forest management Tree identification, and forest products. The chapter North Olympic Chapter hosts a BBQ for those putting on the event which has been running nearly 40 yrs.
- North Olympic Chapter is working with CIF to have a joint SAF/CIF activity on Vancouver Island latter this summer.
- Interim Status report filed with follow-up to Committee on Forest Technology School Recognition from GRCC
- Seven GRCC students attended the WA/OR Northwest Leadership Conference
- SAF Code of Ethics used in GRCC Natural Resources Business Principles class
- GRCC Student Chapter is sending a poster on *Phellinus weirii* research at GRCC campus to SAF 2006 National Convention in Pittsburg.
- GRCC Student Chapter raised funds and sent 14 student members and two advisors to WSSAF annual conference and is raising funds to send students to the national convention in Pittsburg.
- GRCC Student Chapter raised funds and sent students to WSU Extension Farm Forestry Fall Educational Seminar and to the Oregon Logging Conference
- Central Washington Chapter Report: We currently have 2 business meetings each year in the winter and spring. We also sponsor a field tour in the fall, usually in September. There are typically about 12 people at our business meetings with 30 to 40 people at our annual field tour. Our last business meeting was held in March. At that meeting, we discussed chapter business including requests for contributions from the Arbor Day Foundation and the Natural Resources Camp. We continue to contribute to these organizations and others as we have chapter funds available. The guest speaker at our spring meeting was Bill Higgins, who is the log buyer for Yakima Resources in Yakima Washington. Bill gave us a timely synopsis of current log prices and gave us his best guess as to where prices may

be going in the near future. We also reminded chapter members of the Washington State SAF annual meeting in Chelan on April 6 through April 8. Bart and I attended that meeting as representatives from our chapter. Our fall field tour is planned for a yet to be determined date in September. After discussing possible tour areas and topics of discussion, we decided to look at timber management on the Yakama Reservation. We may also set up a tour of the Yakama Forest Products mill in White Swan. I will let you know the time and date for that tour when we have a firm date set.

- Charles H. Michler, Director of the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center and NSF I/UCRC Center for Tree Genetics at Purdue University ([www.htirc.org](http://www.htirc.org)) spoke at the SW Washington Chapter about their research programs. The programs he discussed included the following: Breeding programs for black walnut, black cherry, white oak, northern red oak, and American chestnut. Elite tree selections for curly maple, curly walnut, and Birdseye maple. Propagation systems for black walnut, black cherry, butternut, and maple. Genetic Transformation for black walnut and black cherry. Molecular markers for black walnut and northern red oak, and Models for maintenance of genetic diversity in fragmented stands. He also discussed: The current program to use DNA evidence to connect logs to stumps in timber theft cases. The huge increase in hardwood exports to China in the past 10 years and the corresponding large increase in hardwood furniture imports from China to the US during the same time.
- At the December meeting, SW Washington Chapter SAF members were treated to an extremely entertaining and engaging presentation by local Christmas tree grower, **John Tillman** ([jet@trees4u.net](mailto:jet@trees4u.net)), who described his visit to the White House last Christmas. John manages about 175 acres of trees on nine different farms near Mossyrock and Satsop, Washington. John won the national Christmas tree contest last year, and as a result, he and his family delivered trees to the Oval Office, Camp David, and the Blue Room. He shared his experiences from the two days he spent at the White House helping with the decorations. The North West Christmas tree Association sponsors the annual contest that John won. John told a funny story of a shipping mix-up that caused him to drive from Split Rock, PA. to JFK Airport overnight to retrieve his lost tree in time for the next days judging. Fortunately, he made it through the streets of New York with his large truck and tree, and arrived just in time for the contest judging. Tillman's tree won in the Douglas fir category, and the photographs showed that it was a beautiful tree. John reported that the Christmas tree business is robust, and that his sales were up to 20,000 trees in 2005. He has special customers for his carefully pruned trees in many locations around the country.

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## **Strategic Outcome #6: Development & Sound Stewardship of SAF's Resources**

- The Northwest Office Finance Committee audited the finances of the Northwest Office of the SAF (a joint project of Oregon and Washington) according to agreed procedures and found the books to be in good order. A few suggestions were made for cost savings and streamlining.
- GRCC Student Chapter cuts, splits, delivers, and sells firewood to pay for first-year student memberships, conferences/conventions, and trips
- Student Chapters raffles items to fund expenses to national conventions
- The WSSAF Foundation raised \$220.00 at the Chelan annual meeting.
- Survey by Membership Chair Rob Sjogren on how to gain/retain membership that related to dues
- Nancy Peckman organized the SW Washington Chapter Silent Auction that benefits Log a Load for Kids®, a national giving program sponsored by the nation's loggers and forest products employees to raise funds for local children's hospitals associated with the Children's Miracle Network. All of the \$2,300 raised during our event will stay in Washington State (Seattle and Spokane).
- WSSAF Raised Dues - to offset rising costs. The five-dollar general dues increase is the first one in decades of service. Exempt from this action are Golden Members and all students.