

**Washington State SAF
Third Quarter Activities
October 19, 2006**

Outcome #1: A strong, forward-thinking organization

- GRCC Student Chapter recruited 17 new members during the 3rd quarter, bringing our current membership to over 40 members.
- WSSAF submitted a candidate nomination to the Fellows District Nomination Committee.
- The GRCC Student Chapter hosted a WSSPS Chapter meeting May 18 that was attended by over 40 people.
- WSSAF is coordinating with Oregon SAF on the development of the 2007 Oregon/Washington Leadership conference scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2007 in Hood River, OR. We will have a session on building vitality in your chapter (including membership) and capacity building. Inland Empire chapter has been invited and information will be in the Nov/Dec issue of *Western Forester*.

Outcome #2: Enhanced service to landowners and employers

- The GRCC Student Chapter transported, set-up, and took down the WSSAF “Wildfire in Washington” display at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup.
- WSSAF displayed the “Wildfire in Washington” display during the Puyallup Fair. This fair is the largest fair in the state and the display was observed by thousands of people. SAF members staffed the display during the 17-day run. GRCC Student Chapter did the display set-up and takedown.
- SW Washington Chapter co-sponsored the successful conference: “Wildlife Habitat in Westside Production Forests” – It was attended by over 150 landowners and professionals.
- The GRCC Student chapter produced and will enter a poster for the National Convention.

Outcome #3: Enhanced service to society at large

- The GRCC Student Chapter maintained a forestry display at the Search and Rescue Conference in Enumclaw.
- WSSAF has nominated 100 members to participate in the “Expert Database Project”. EDP is a joint effort with OSAF, whereby members volunteer to be experts on forestry topics for the press. To date over 40 WSSAF members have accepted this invitation.
- GRCC Student Chapter news articles have been contributed to the “GRCC Communicator” providing awareness.
- GRCC Student Chapter members maintained GRCC forest trails and conducted fire patrol during the summer.
- GRCC Student chapter displayed the SAF logo in four parades.

Outcome #4: Effective engagement in forest policy

- Pete Heide, Past WSSAF Chair, will represent WSSAF on the Washington State Forest Health Strategy Working Group.
- WSSAF is starting work on a policy white paper addressing “*forest science and forest scientists*”.

Outcome #5: Enhanced professional education, performance, and leadership

- WSSAF and the local chapters are electing new officers for the upcoming year.
- North Olympic Chapter held a joint SAF-CIF meeting at the WFP's Saanich Forestry Centre, near Victoria BC.
- The SW Washington Chapter is to be congratulated for setting the standard for outstanding speakers at chapter meetings.
- GRCC Student Chapter representatives contributed to and attended the July Executive Committee meeting. She provided insights into student recruitment.
- SW Washington Chapter co-sponsored the successful conference: "Wildlife Habitat in Westside Production Forests" – It was attended by over 150 landowners and professionals.
- Central Washington Chapter co-sponsored a field trip to the Yakama Nation
- WSSAF CFE has been awarded to over 28 events so far in 2006.
- WSSAF volunteers are actively involved in the planning for the 2007 National Convention in Portland Oregon. The important co-chair positions include Arrangements, Program, Foresters Fund, Hospitality, On-site volunteers, and student activities.
- University of Washington Student Chapter elected leaders:
 - Chair: Angel Ratliff
 - Vice-Chair: Alicia Sullivan
 - Secretary: Lindsay Malone
 - Treasurer: Tobey Clarkin
- Green River Student Chapter elected leaders:
 - Chair: Jenny Wren
 - Vice-Chair: Jeremy Badger
 - Secretary: Sarah Sampels
 - Treasurer: Pamela Phillips
- *GRCC Student chapter is raising funds to send 5 students and Advisor Rob Sjogren to the National Convention to receive a first place (tie) award for SAF Student Chapter of the Year.*
- GRCC Student Chapter is in the process of gathering student testimonials for the SAF membership flyer.

- University of Washington Student Developed guest editorial for the *Western Forester*:

Biography

Forest Hietpas is a senior at the College of Forest Resources focusing in ecosystem sciences and landscape management. He is currently working for the Forest Ecosystem Structure, Function and Dynamics lab studying long term cone production plots and development of old growth characteristics in the Cedar River Watershed. Past research at Peninsula College for Dr. Daniel Underwood includes the socioeconomic impact of the NWFP on Clallam and Jefferson counties as well as soil microbial response to overstory thinning. Forest hails from the foothills of the Olympic Peninsula.

Forestry is one of the oldest professions known to man. Even the Roman Empire had forest reserves set aside for the production of their ships. What's more, just as long as we have been harvesting trees there has no doubt been some one out there asking how we can do this better. Over time, the definition of the word "better" and "The Greatest Good" have changed, but humanity's association and need for forest resources has not changed.

Natural sciences are an interesting field. I like to say I got into forestry because I had all these questions about the natural world and wanted answers. In all reality, I cannot stand the thought of being behind a desk, not quite yet.

While some people just do not want to be trapped inside, the best managers, professors, and field techs I have worked with have all had one thing in common. They believe they are making a difference. They demonstrate passion, interest and concern for what they are doing. Not only do these sentiments help a person maintain their self-worth, but it also holds them accountable for their actions. Foresters and their colleagues are in an interesting position because their daily decisions will often affect the world long after they are gone. I believe this responsibility should weigh heavy on the minds of scientists and managers alike. What are you leaving for the future generations? In today's markets humans, both near and far, must live with those decisions and are dependent upon the outcomes and products of not only the wood, but the carbon, water and habitat those decisions create.

In my mind, I paint this superhero picture of the noble forester. The brave surveyor of the wilds, hand held to brow as she stands poised on a rock outcropping, wind gently tugging at her crusader vest. Yup, that happens all the time.

Why do people get into this field in the first place? It's definitely not for the money; you don't often see a Relaskop hanging from the rearview mirror of a Maserati. It's not the fame; perhaps it's the infamy? I think that all natural scientists; biologists, oceanographers, geologists, foresters and their related fields are truly curious about the world around them and want to get their boots dirty. Both Peninsula College and the University of Washington have allowed me to do this by assisting in research and allowing me to do my own research.

I know at some point in time that desk will catch up to me. For now, I am happy I have found my niche. I don't know where I'll end up as far as a job goes but as long as I'm under the canopy or on a mountain I think I'll be okay.

So fellow supersilvi, keep on doing what you're doing because you know what you are doing is right. But if it's not, does your job come with full medical?



Outcome #6: Development and sound stewardship of SAF's Resources

- GRCC Student Chapter cut, split, and delivered firewood to finance memberships and educational activities.
- WSSAF raised state society dues to \$30 starting in 2007.
- WSSAF Foundation is established and developing a solicitation and informational brochure.