

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WSU Extension Forestry offers online forest stewardship courses for property owners**

Everett, Wash – Dead and dying trees have proliferated throughout western Washington, highlighting the need for better forest stewardship and management. Washington State University Extension is offering its Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses, forestry courses specifically to help owners of wooded property care for their forests and prevent problems.

In these courses, property owners will learn everything they need to know to make their wooded property healthy, and keep it on track to provide enjoyment, habitat, or even income for years to come. Topics include assessing tree health, avoiding insect and disease problems, simple steps to increase wildlife habitat and diversity, improving the chances of your home surviving a wildfire, proper tree spacing, knowing what kind of soils you have and what they mean, and more. People with all sizes of property, and all types of goals, will benefit from this course, whether they own a few wooded acres or a larger forest tract.

The Tuesday course will be held 6:00-9:00 PM Tuesday evenings, September 8th – October 27th, 2020, except for the first night, September 8th, when the class will end at 9:30 PM.

The Thursday course will be held 6:00-9:00 PM Thursday evenings, September 17th – November 5th, 2020, except for the first night, September 17th, when the class will end at 9:30 PM.

Both classes will be held in online webinar format using Zoom software.

During the courses, participants will develop a personalized Forest Stewardship Plan. This plan can be used as a guide to maintain their forest's health, while allowing participants to have their property recognized as a stewardship forest and qualifying landowners can use their plan to lower their property taxes or gain access to cost-share grants.

WSU Extension Forestry knows this is a difficult time financially for many people. Because of this, they have pulled together some additional funding to allow them to drop the normal \$200 per household/ownership course fee down to \$60. Pre-registration is required. The course includes eight evening classes taught by local forestry experts, a digital library of reference publications and how-to guides, a native tree book, and an on-site consultation at your property from professional forester. To register or learn more, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/cponline/> or contact Brendan Whyte, WSU Extension Forestry at (425) 357-6023 or [brendan.whyte@wsu.edu](mailto:brendan.whyte@wsu.edu).

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation should contact WSU Extension Forestry at least two weeks before the event.