

A Year of Washington Forestry



This year, the Washington State SAF (WSSAF) and the Washington Tree Farm Program (WTFP) again partnered to produce the 2023 Tour of Washington Forestry calendar! For this calendar, the members of WSSAF and WTFP outdid themselves in capturing what sustainable forestry looks like in Washington State.

We are asking for a \$25 donation per calendar and recommend preordering your calendar to guarantee availability.

Calendars may be ordered at <https://www.watreefarm.org/asp-products/2023-calendar/>. If you want to pay by check, please contact Elizabeth Ide at info@watreefarm.org, and she will email you an order form that can be mailed in.

Thank you to the WSSAF members who volunteered their time to produce this calendar: Marisa Bass, Don Hanley, Jenny Knoth, Josh Meek, Luke Semler, and Andrea Watts. WTFP volunteers included Margaret Ellis, Jon Matson, David New, Tammie Perreault, and Elizabeth Ide. *WF*

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The Future is with Wildfire

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will likely follow in moist locations and offer high-quality wildlife habitat and fuel breaks that last for decades.

The majority of forests in western Washington and Oregon are generally termed “moist forests” and historically had infrequent fires. Unfortunately, with climate change, we will need to take a hard look at where forests are still considered moist and where some forests are becoming more fire prone. Prior to EuroAmerican colonization, oak woodlands were common throughout the Puget Trough and Willamette Valley. These were actively maintained by Indigenous stewardship and burning practices. Recent research by Andrew Merschel and others at Oregon State University is also shedding light to how frequently fire actually was in forests of the west Cascades of central and southern Oregon.

After over 100 years of change in the Pacific Northwest, it should probably not come as a surprise that it will take a large investment and time to restore more resiliency to Pacific Northwest forests. For dry mixed conifer forests and oak woodlands, this will take a combination of forest thinning and a major increase in the pace and scale of

prescribed burning. Post-fire landscapes also need to be actively managed and maintained for resilience. As we focus on fire-prone forests of today, we also need to turn our attention to forests in the west Cascades and be mindful that many forests are becoming drier and more susceptible to fire. Climate change adaptation will be achieved through learning by doing. As we move forward, we need active investments into monitoring and permission for land managers to experiment, sometimes fail, and continue learning. Under rapid climate change, there is no longer a no-action alternative to consider. Together, fire suppression and climate change present a combined threat to the future of Pacific Northwest forests. Proactive resilience work will take investment, experimentation and dedication, but it offers our most promising path. *WF*

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