

Nominees for 2011 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year

Six Tree Farms have been nominated for 2011 Washington State Tree Farmer of the Year. A judging team will visit the tree farms in Fall 2010 and the winner will be announced at the Washington Farm Forestry Association Annual Meeting in April 2011.

The Nominees

Dick and Mary Anne Easter have owned 115 acres in Clark County since 1979. Their objectives are to grow trees, provide wildlife habitat and provide a family heritage.

Keith Graves owns 165 acres in Snohomish County. 25 acres has been owned for 49 years; the remainder was purchased 13 and 22 year ago. Recent activity includes harvesting 6 acres of alder and replanting it to Douglas-fir.

Dave Konz has owned the 1280 acre K-Diamond-K ranch near Republic for 40 years. It is a working ranch and a guest ranch. The forest is regularly thinned to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. Natural reforestation has been sufficient to meet laws and goals.

Bryon and Donna Loucks own 200 acres in Lewis County. They purchased their first of 3 parcels in 1979 and the largest (160) in 1987. Their goal of is to obtain retirement income from harvesting as well as enjoyment from working in their forest.

Brian Wester and Sylvia Russell own 20 acres in Pierce County. They have owned the property for 6 years. In that time, they have done precommercial thinning, removed invasive species, and replanted 3 acres where the 1990 Douglas-fir planting did not take.

Westergreen Family Tree Farms – Louise, Ed, Tom & Bonnie

A total of 720 acres in Whatcom County is owned by the family members. Some of the property has been in the family since Gust Westergreen homesteaded the valley in 1884. Additional acreage has been purchased by subsequent generations. The three ownerships have been family-managed since the 1960's with financial return being the primary objective.