



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COACHED PLANNING

## Forestry in the Puget Sound Area

*The good, the bad, and the ugly*

Presented By:  
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This presentation will cover several topics.

1. The life cycle of the forest (and implications for management)
2. The importance of protecting sensitive resources
3. Landowner values and objectives
4. Looking beyond Puget Sound

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The forest development cycle begins and ends with a stand-replacing disturbance.



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Stand initiation is the first stage of forest development.



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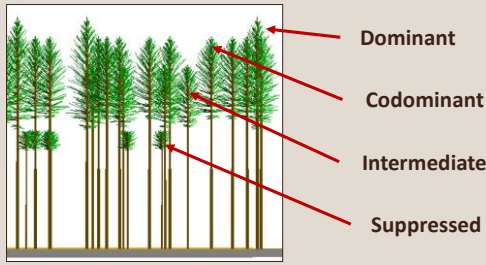
Stem exclusion is the dark, dense second stage of development.



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During this competitive process, trees differentiate into different crown classes.

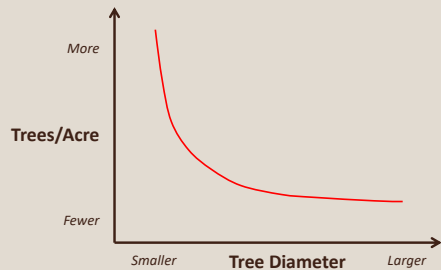


Dominant  
Codominant  
Intermediate  
Suppressed

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There is a limiting relationship between stand density and tree size.



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In understory reinitiation, space begins to open up for understory trees and shrubs.



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Continued development without disturbance results in the complex old growth stage.



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Succession is the change in the mix of tree species present in a stand over time.



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Succession tends to begin with fast-growing, shade-intolerant pioneer species.



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Over time, shade-tolerant species fill in gaps.



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Late-successional development is characterized more by things like disease and senescence.



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Eventually, shade-tolerant "late successional" species will dominate the overstory.



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Here is a shade-tolerance comparison of common Western Washington tree species.

#### Intolerant

- Red alder
- Coastal Douglas-fir
- Black cottonwood
- Lodgepole pine

#### Tolerant

- Western hemlock
- Western redcedar
- Grand fir
- Pacific silver fir

#### Intermediate

- Sitka spruce
- Bigleaf maple

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Here are a few summary points.

1. Forests are dynamic.
2. Disturbance is not necessarily a bad thing.
3. Density management is important.
4. Keep diversity in mind.

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Forests are an important part of local water-sheds.

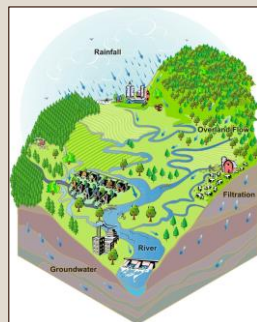


Image credit: Placed in public domain by copyright holder Etliche. Rainfall Diagram. Beaver County, PA Conservation District. From [http://beavercountyconservationdistrict.org/files/watershed\\_diagram1.jpg](http://beavercountyconservationdistrict.org/files/watershed_diagram1.jpg)

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Stormwater can usually take one of four pathways.

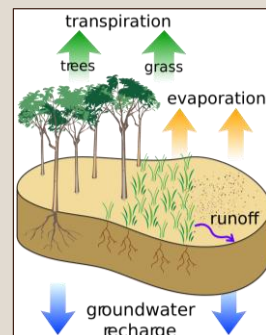


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Forest vegetation intercepts precipitation.



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Forest vegetation transpires water back into the atmosphere.



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The forest floor acts as a sponge and allows good infiltration of stormwater.



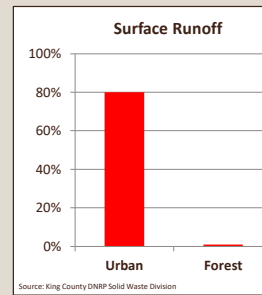
Photos: K.W. Zabriskie, WSU Extension



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Forests are valuable for stormwater control.



Photos: K.W. Zabriskie, WSU Extension

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Riparian zones are the border areas between land and water.



K.W. Zabriskie, WSU Extension

Learn more: [Riparian Areas: Fish and Wildlife Havens](#)  
(Woodland Fish and Wildlife Publication)

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Bluff vegetation is critical to bluff integrity.



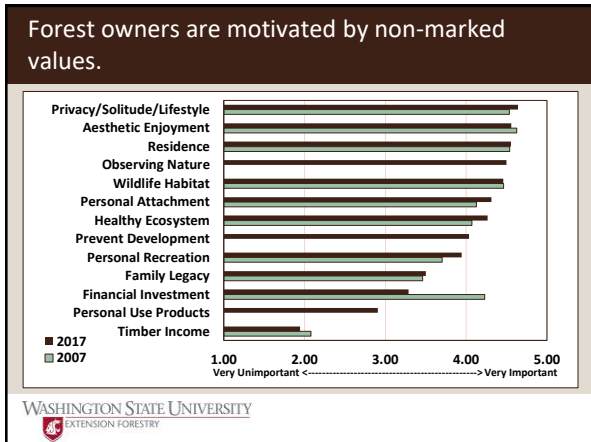
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For more information:

[Vegetation Management:  
A Guide for Puget Sound  
Bluff Property Owners](#)

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Land is generally taxed based on its "highest and best use" regardless of its actual current use.

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Designated forestland reduces taxes for land that can and will be harvested for timber.

RCW 84.33

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