

Down on the Tree Farm Fall 2014

TIP OF THE DAY: Thinning is what tree farmers do once their young stands reach crown closure.
WHAT TO DO IN...

NOVEMBER➤

Water Freezes

We all know water expands when it freezes. This is just a reminder to drain things like water tanks, hoses, pumps and your backpack sprayer so you won't find them damaged when you want to use them next summer.

Burn Season is Here

- Burn after some rain and get a permit, if required. Fall is normally the best time to burn as winter rains extinguish your fire. In spring you need to make sure your fire is out.
- Cover your piles if you think they will be tough to light after you wait for the surrounding area to be fire safe. You do not need to cover the whole pile, just an area large enough to get hot when lit. Good portions of your pile to cover would be the downhill side, the side into the prevailing wind and where you have suitable fuel to light your pile.

Know the regulations regarding burning in your area before you burn.

Inspect Roads

Roads are the largest source of stream sediments from managed forest properties. Clean your water bars and culverts and walk your roads on a rainy day with a shovel to make sure your drainage system is working. Look for opportunities to improve your road drainage and prevent sediments from reaching the nearest stream. If your runoff is absorbed by the soil before it reaches the nearest stream you are part of the solution and not part of the problem.

DECEMBER

'Tis The Season to:

- Check out your tree farm while family members are home for the holidays. This is a good way to burn some calories. Make it a rain or shine event. Pull invasive weeds while walking along your roads and bring a shovel so you can drain puddles and touch up your drainage structures. Plant or transplant a few seedlings and check out the seedlings you planted in previous years. Trees do grow faster and taller than tree planters.
- Harvest a Holiday Tree off your place. Maybe one you planted for this purpose or maybe one that is growing in the wrong place, or maybe one with poor timber genetics whose beauty will be discovered as you decorate it (your version of a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree). Share pictures of your holiday tree outing on Facebook.
- Do some short and long range financial planning. When will you need cash in the tree farm account, how much and what do you have to sell to generate this revenue. Who will be responsible for managing this task?
- Walk the perimeter of your property and see what Mother Nature has been up to or maybe what your neighbor has been doing. Don't know where the perimeter of your property is or maybe you think an old fence you found marks your property line? It is time to hire a surveyor and get your property boundaries marked.

JANUARY

New Years Resolutions

- Renew your membership in your local woodlands association.
- Attend your woodland association's annual meeting with your family.
- Invite a member of your woodland association to attend a woodland activity and offer to pick them up. This could be your newest member or a mostly inactive member.
- Get to know your forest neighbors.
- Make time for your children and grandchildren.
- Develop a safety plan for working on your property.

Planting Season:

January and February are the best months for planting bare root stock forest seedlings on the West Side of the Cascades. Remember before your plant you need to make sure your site is ready to plant, you are planting a good seedling for your site and that trees were not meant to be grown everywhere (you might be planting a site that will not grow a tree).

Will I Get Weeds If I Log?

Yes you will. If you disturb your soil or let the light in you will get something to seed in and it may not be what you want. Have you ever eradicated one weed like Himalayan Blackberry only to find another one has taken its place? Or applied a soil active herbicide such as Oust and later thought you had also planted Canada Thistle? A recent study counted 6,000 weed seeds per square meter (a meter is about 39 inches) deposited on your soil annually. Your number may not be exactly 6,000 weed seeds per square meter, but the number will still be substantial and you will get weeds. Where your forest activity requires reforestation, you should try to control 90 percent of your weeds and grasses for the first couple of years. Remember your objective here is to insure your seedlings survive and not to kill all of your weeds. The cost for annual weed control usually becomes prohibitive and you wait for crown closure to choke many of your weeds out. You may want to spot treat invasive weeds like Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, knapweed etc. Seeding desirable species onto disturbed soil will reduce the number of undesirable species being seeded in by Mother Nature as your site can only support so much plant life. Your integrated pest management plan might include direct seeding of disturbed ground and control of invasive weeds by pulling and/or the use of herbicides. Now would be a good time to come up with a seeding mix so you decide who occupies your tree farm. You may wish to come up with more than one seeding mix, possibly one for your roads and one for your forested ground. A good place to start is your USDA Service Center which should include the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, NRCS, and your Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Another good place to start would be your local extension forester. Have your soils information available when you call.

Who Am I?

No one calls me kitten.

I can't roar, but I have a scream that will stop you in your tracks.

I mostly dine on ungulates, but could dine on a rodent or insects.

You may not have noticed me but you can bet your bottom dollar that I have noticed you.

My range includes all of South and Central America and much of North America.

I do most of my work between dusk and dawn.

I am highly territorial and survive at low densities.

I am the size of a mature human with a 3-foot tail.

I very rarely attack a human.

My most famous relative I am embarrassed to say is the Pink Panther.

Know Your Woods Words

Water Bar. Pub that specializes in Micro Waters. In forestry, a manmade mound, or excavation or ditch,

or an excavation and mounding of the excavated material to direct the flow of water off of a road or skid road.

Thinning. The day to day process of going bald. The first Silvicultural activity by tree farmers following crown closure of young forest stands.

Who Am I?

I am known by many names, Cougar, Catamount, Mountain Lion, Panther and Puma to name a few. Scientifically I am known as *Puma concolor*.

Favorite Forestry Website:

Green Furniture Solutions, LLC Portland, Oregon. <http://gfspdx.com/products/custom-furniture/>

Send me your favorite forestry related website and I will share the link here.