

Opening Remarks

B. Bruce Bare

NW Environmental Forum

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UWBG, CUH

Sustaining and Restoring the Health of Washington's Working Forestlands and Creating an Ecosystem Services Marketplace

- Welcome to the 7th meeting of the NWEF – started in 2004 - and welcome to the NHS Hall, CUH, UWBG, SRF, CoEnv, UWS
- For those from out of town we welcome you to Seattle and hope that everyone has an enjoyable and productive time with us today.(I also wish to welcome our elected officials with us today – Senator Ken Jacobsen and State Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark who you will hear from shortly.
- The SFR is very proud to convene the Forum in a neutral and safe environment where all viewpoints may be expressed and considered with the shared goal of achieving consensus on viable approaches for sustaining and restoring the health of our State's working forestlands
- The University's role is not to provide solutions to these problems – rather it is to share new information gleaned from its research programs, to transmit this information as widely as possible to all interested parties, to convene Forums such as today to discuss this

information and to assimilate additional information provided by Forum participants in a structured dialogue among all present. In essence, we hope these Forums bring people, science and technology together to find viable solutions to our forestland restoration and retention problems.

- Today's Forum is structured to address two interrelated topics: 1) advancing the conclusions from the October 2009 Eastside Forest Forum forward as recommendations for possible Legislative action in 2010 and 2) decide how to best address the creation of incentives for the continued production of environmental services from forestlands within the context of the 2008 Forum's recommendation to establish a Legislative Task Force
- Clearly, these are both very important issues to address as they represent vexing problems that have, to date, evaded solution across the forest landscapes of our State. Yet, we remain confident that together – today – we can take important steps towards solving these issues.