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We operate a Douglas fir tree farm and develop forestland properties in Washington State. We grow trees on extended rotation. We help young people discover tree farming through a summer fellowship program and internships.

## 2015 Tree Fever Volunteer Research Internship: Pest Damage to Trees

Offered to Grays Harbor College (GHC) students, Natural Resources—Forestry Technician Program

**Location:** Tree Fever Farm, 1509 Satsop Road West, 25 miles from GHC.

**Time commitment:** 50 h. The preferred schedule (negotiable) consists of 10 consecutive days in July; 5 h per day (1 h of driving plus 4 h of work on the research plantation).

**Requirements:** Must have transportation. Having a camera is a plus.

**Compensation:** None. Mileage reimbursement (standard rate, up to 50 miles per day for each day with at least 4 h of work on the plantation) is offered.

**Supervision and credits:** The work will be supervised by Dr. Andrej Romanovsky, Tree Fever Partner (Forestry and Research), and/or Mr. Dave Hook, Grays Harbor Conservation District Service Forester. Academic credit eligibility should be discussed with Mr. Todd Bates, GHC Forestry Instructor.



**Plantation:** The work will be performed on a 7-ac western redcedar (WRC) plantation established in March of 2015 (see the photo below). In this plantation, WRC seedlings were protected from animal damage in three modes: 1) by a Vexar tube attached to a bamboo stake (traditional mode; marked with yellow flags); 2) by co-planting (in the same hole) a WRC seedling with a Sitka spruce seedling (experimental mode; blue flags); or 3) by having no protection at all (control; red flags). All three modes were intermixed through the plantation. The plantation was established with partial support by grant FW14-007 from Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE).



**Work:** The major goals of this project is to determine whether co-planting WRC with Sitka protects WRC seedlings from browsing by wildlife and to compare the efficacy of this experimental protection mode vs. the traditional one. To address these goals, the students will collect data needed to determine the WRC seedling survival rate, damage rate, and damage extent for each protection mode studied. The students will walk through the plantation and record whether each WRC seedling is alive or dead. For each live WRC seedling, they will record whether it is damaged or not. For each damaged WRC seedling, they will determine and record the extent of damage. They will also attempt to determine the species of the browser that caused the damage. For that, they will look for signs of mammal pests that forage on WRC seedlings (mountain beaver, rabbits, deer, elk, etc.) and take photos and/or mark locations of such signs. The first working day will be spent touring Tree Fever Farm and the research plantation, discussing the project, reviewing animal damage issues, and practicing the survey techniques.