



# THE DIRT

## **AgForestry Class 45 Applications Open January 15**

Do you know someone with leadership potential? We want them to be a leader in the state!

Do they have what it takes? Do they want to grow professionally and personally? Are they ready for a challenge? If so, the time is now!

Applications open for Class 45 on January 15. [Click here](#) for full application details.



### **Thank you Rayonier**

Rayonier highlighted our very own Colton Cooley (42) sharing his AgForestry experience.

Click on Colton's picture (left) to watch the video.

## **AgForestry is Hiring!**

AgForestry is looking for a Program Manager. The position will report to Hannah Poush, Program Director and will help plan, organize, and facilitate seminars and place-based learning that meet learning objectives. The Program Manager will research and identify speakers and locations for place-based learning and will travel with classes to in-state, national, and international seminars.

The position requires at least five years of relevant experience preferably in natural resource industries and with familiarity in the public policy arena. A Bachelor's is preferred. The candidate must be proficient in MS Office Suite and navigating the internet and must have a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and a current passport. The position will be based in Spokane.

[Click here to apply.](#)

## **Class 43 Preps for Vietnam**

Module Three is nearing the end signaling the transition from gaining insights and perspectives about the economic, environmental, social, and cultural importance of natural resources in Washington State to those in international settings. Class 43 has had the opportunity to look inside the complexities of producing and transporting ag and forest products to customers, the interrelationships among competing uses for natural resources and look at significant natural resource policy issues--impacts, perspectives, and solutions.

Over the last two months Class 43 completed seminars in Skagit Valley and Walla Walla; each providing learnings about producer needs, immigration concepts, and land use concerns. Class members are asking "deep dive" questions of speakers, leaning into the on-site opportunities.

Class 43 President Mikala Staples Hughes shared that AgForestry helped her increase confidence, skill set, and experiences that allowed her to further serve her community on boards and committees including Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Watershed Board, Western Washington Agricultural Association, and advisory committee for CTE and FFA. Mikala wrote, "I attribute all of these experiences directly to the leadership and systems knowledge I recently developed through the program".

Alumni and prospective class members stepped up and attended receptions at both seminars. Without the support of past grads AgForestry would not the impact currently enjoyed. Class 43 appreciates the networking opportunity and meeting people who share their value of personal and professional growth and lifelong learning.

## Class 44 Completes Personal Leadership Module

Class 44 has completed Module One: Personal Leadership. This module was a whirlwind, beginning in Pullman in October, then to Spokane in November, and wrapping up in Wenatchee in December, where the class enjoyed the beauty of freshly fallen snow all week long. In Module One, participants gain self-awareness through a 360 Assessment and the DiSC Personality profile. They learn about and practiced mindfulness and emotional intelligence. Each participant delivered and re-delivered their first persuasive speech, capturing valuable feedback from the professional panel and their peers. Two of their highlight experiences included tours at the Spokesman-Review with Rob Curley and at Stemilt with West Mathison.



## Alumni in the News

Congratulations Casey Black (37) on becoming the 2023 President of the [Pacific Logging Congress](#).

[Click here](#) to read about the work Don McMoran (26) and the WSU extension office of Skagit County is doing to address stress amongst farmers.

## Up Coming Events

- Thanks to the Washington Forest Protection Association for hosting a reception and dinner with Class 44!
  - [Thurs., Feb. 16 - Time TBD](#)
  - [River's Edge Restaurant, Olympia \(Business Casual\)](#)
- Class 43 Graduation - Spokane
  - Fri., April 21 - 2023 in Spokane
  - Registration Details will be shared after the new year

## Thinking about end of year donations?

AgForestry Leadership is the only program of its kind in Washington State that specifically focuses on developing adult leaders in natural resources. Strong leadership is needed now more than ever. The AgForestry Leadership Program shapes the future by shaping future leaders.

The current cost is approximately \$40,000 per participant, of which 85% comes from supporters like yourself.

[Click here](#) to continue supporting the cultivation of Washington leaders.

## Thank You to our Supporters!

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