

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Publication

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Franklin County Timber Harvest Workshop to be Held Feb. 23

Timber harvests, the marketing timber for harvesting and selling of those trees are money-making propositions.

Because Kansas' forestlands often are next to streams and rivers, incorrect tree harvesting can damage other benefits. One of the biggest problems is the negative effect on water quality and clarity, said Ryan Neises, Kansas Forest Service watershed forester.

"Often called riparian woodlands, trees in these areas stabilize streambanks and minimize flood damage," Neises said. "They also provide a buffer, or filter, for runoff sediments and pollutants."

To help Kansas landowners and loggers address these issues, Marais des Cygnes Watershed Riparian Initiative will host a half-day Timber Harvest Workshop, Feb. 23, from 1-4 PM at Brian Shurtleff's property in Franklin County. The workshop will demonstrate how to properly plan harvest operations and apply best management practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts on streams and water quality.

Gary Naughton, consultant forester, will be on hand to discuss how to evaluate your timber resource and if a sale is the proper management practice how to go through the process. The contracted logger Tom Stottlemire will be in the process of harvesting the timber and will demonstrate the logging process. This may include felling a tree, bucking it into a log and skid to landing site. "Harvesting the mature trees and damaged trees and leaving smaller trees to continue to grow," Stottlemire said about how he selects trees to cut.

Dave Bruton, Kansas Forest Service Utilization and Marketing Specialist, will demonstrate a portable sawmill operation and show the different characteristics of a dissected tree. Ryan Neises, Watershed Forester, will start off the session by explaining what is involved with best management practices (BMPs) in riparian areas and the impacts on not using BMPs. Planning harvest operations and applying BMPs can reduce these impacts on streams and water quality. Neises will also discuss what follow up timber improvements should be done to provide for future quality timber.

If the ground conditions are too wet the workshop will be postponed to March 9th at same time and location. Shurtleff's property is located south of Ottawa on Hwy 59 to Haskell Road, east to Montana Road then south ¼ mile

with entrance on east side of road. Please dress appropriately for field and weather conditions.

The Marais des Cygnes Watershed Riparian Initiative is funded through an Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Pollution grant administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The grant sponsor is Lake Region Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Kansas Forest Service and Hillsdale Water Quality Project are Initiative partners.

The Marais des Cygnes Watershed Riparian Initiative will also be partnering with Kansas Forest Products Association by hosting a timber tax seminar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 28, in Emporia. The timber tax seminar is a short course for the person who owns woodlands and conducts forestry operations. The instructor, Dr. Debbie Gaddis is Associate Extension Professor at Mississippi State University Department of Forestry specializing in forest taxation issues. Tax professionals also would benefit from her expertise. Seminar registration is \$35 per person or \$50 per 2 people of same family. Questions about seminar please contact Charles Barden at 785-532-1444.

For more information on either event, contact Ryan Neises, watershed forester, at 785-242-2073 or via email at rneises@oznet.ksu.edu or at kansasforests.org under the calendar of events.

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