

For immediate release

Contact: Gary Kuhn, Plant Materials
Specialist, 509/323-2956

“Building living snow fences” subject of workshop, field trip

SPOKANE, Wash. (September 26, 2005) – If they catch your drift, they’ve done their job. They’re called living snow fences, and conservationists are conducting a workshop Oct. 4-5 in Spokane to teach others how to “build them.”

According to Gary Kuhn, a plant materials specialist with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, living snow fences are trees, shrubs, and native grasses strategically planted to help control snow drifts.

“Those drifts,” Kuhn said, “can block roads, bury houses, and kill livestock. Living snow fences,” he said, “provide natural barriers that help control drifts. In addition,” Kuhn said, “they provide wildlife habitat and are beautiful additions to the landscape.”

Featured speakers who were previously involved with living snow fence projects in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, will cover an array of topics ranging from site preparation and design alternatives to fabric mulch installation and rodent control.

“This workshop is an excellent learning opportunity for conservationists,” Kuhn said. “Attendees will benefit from the latest advancements in snow fence technology from seasoned conservationists,” he said.

Spokane’s Oxford Suites Hotel will host this two-day event, which includes an afternoon field trip to the Highway 25 living snow fence project near Davenport.

For registration information, contact Megan O’Shea, workshop coordinator, at 206-543-9744 or email her at moshea@u.washington.edu.

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