



Washington
State Route 112

The Strait of

JUAN DE FUCA
HIGHWAY

ITINERARY #3
The Working Forest



Learn about modern forest management on Highway 112!

As you drive along the highway, you'll see a wide range of working forests in different states of growth and harvest, creating a mosaic of varied greens and golds. This is prime country for forestry because the Olympic Peninsula is one of the best places in the world for growing forests, such as Douglas fir, western red cedar, red alder and Sitka spruce.

As a complement to the wild forest in Olympic National Park, the working forest provides wood products for humans, recreation, clean water and habitat. Much of it has been managed since the 1880's. Learn about forestry on the Olympic Peninsula at the state's oldest working tree farm, the Merrill & Ring Tree Farm, on the Pysht River.

Call 360-460-3733 for more information and visit the Highway 112 website for more details:

www.highway112.org (Things to Do)

1. Joyce Depot Museum – history and big log
2. Pillar Point County Park
3. Pysht Tree Farm



TAKE A JAUNT ON THE
ROUTE LESS TRAVELED:
HIGHWAY112.ORG

1. Joyce Depot Museum Begin your tour of the Working Forest at the museum to learn about historic logging along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Joyce Depot was built in 1915 by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad and served passengers from Port Townsend to Deep Creek (1915 - 1930). It was primarily used to bring logs from the Twin Rivers area to the mill in Port Angeles. During World War I, Sitka spruce was needed for airplane manufacturing. Civilian loggers were striking for better working conditions, so the government formed the Spruce Division. Hundreds of men camped in the Joyce area in the summer of 1918 building the "Spruce Railroad" around Lake Crescent to Lake Pleasant. The Joyce Depot Museum is open Saturdays year-round (extended hours in summer.)

2. Pillar Point County Park Visit the interpretive panels to learn about the history of State Route 112, the important role that forestry played in its development and a display showcasing historic logging terms and photos. En route to Pillar Point County Park, notice the mosaic of the different growth stages of the working forest.

3. Pysht Tree Farm The Pysht Tree Farm is the oldest working forest on the Olympic Peninsula still operated by its original family owners. It was selected carefully in 1888 by members of the Merrill and Ring families on a trip from Saginaw, Michigan where they had other timber operations. Spruce trees from the farm went into World War I airplanes, and lumber from forests here went into many homes throughout the west. Paper made from red alder trees on the farm is sought out for its quality. More than 30,000 acres are managed for a sustained yield of forest products each year.

Some Native Trees to Watch For

For more on tree species, look online for *Knowing Your Trees* by G. H. Collingwood

Douglas Fir

A tall, slender conifer (cone-bearing), *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, with soft needles and in mature trees, deeply fissured bark. It is widely planted and is highly prized for use in construction.

Western Hemlock

A large coniferous tree, *Tsuga heterophylla*, with flattened needles of two different sizes, grown for pulp and as an ornamental. It grows chiefly along the Pacific coast from northern California to Alaska and in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Western Red Cedar

A large North American arbor vitae, *Thuja plicata*, this species is found along and near the Pacific coast. The wood of the tree is highly desirable for construction and is used by North American tribes for building and for carving totem poles and canoes. It has small cones and flat scale-like leaves.

Sitka Spruce

A tall spruce variety, *Picea sitchensis*, of the northern Pacific coast of North America, Sitka spruce has thin reddish-brown bark, flat needles and cones with slightly toothed scales. It is widely cultivated for its strong, lightweight wood.

Red Alder

A widely distributed deciduous tree of the birch family, *Alnus rubra* has toothed leaves and bears male and female catkins on the same tree for reproduction. Catkins are slim, cylindrical flower clusters (a spike), with inconspicuous or no petals. The white bark is often covered with lichens.

Riparian Forests

"Riparian" comes from the Latin *ripa*, 'river bank' and refers to areas adjacent to flowing bodies of water such as rivers, streams, sloughs, and estuaries, and also includes areas adjacent to non-flowing water bodies such as ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Riparian zones are transition zones between an upland terrestrial environment and an aquatic environment.