

## **Analysis of forested riparian buffers 35', 75', and 180' wide**

### **Summary of Results for Skagit Potato Enterprises**

- Between 28 and 178 acres taken out of production due to buffer placement, depending on buffer width
- Average cost per acre of forested buffer equaled \$11,000. Annualized at a 4% interest rate over fifteen (15) years this represents an annual cost to the enterprise of \$990.00 per acre of buffer.
- When 100% of the installation and maintenance were paid for by a third party and the landowner received land rental payments equaling 200% of the soil rental rate, the average cost of the buffer dropped to \$501.00 per acre. The annualized net cost was reduced to \$45.00 per acre of buffer.
- 60% of the cost of the buffer was due to income lost because of buffer placement.
- When buffers were placed, potato net enterprise return dropped between 6% and 34%, depending on the width of the buffer.
- When cost sharing and rental payments were available, potato net enterprise return dropped between .5% and 7%.