

## **Analysis of forested riparian buffers**

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

- Most of buffer economic impact comes from income loss (as high as 95% of total buffer cost).
- Economic impact of the buffers will depend on the age of the plants they are displacing. When older plants are removed, the impacts are greater than when younger plants are removed.
- Impacts also depend on whether adjacent field is machine or hand harvested. Economic impacts from buffers are greater when adjacent field is hand harvested.
- Because buffer impacts in blueberries are so dominated by income loss effects, cost sharing and rental payments are less effective at offsetting buffer costs than in other crops such as silage or even potatoes.
- Comparisons of total impacts between farms are difficult because field age structure and riparian configurations are seldom the same between farms.
- Other sources of buffer costs include increased fungicide treatment and increased harvest costs due to uneven fruit maturation on shaded plants.