



# Forests & Fish Update

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## Forests & Fish Timeline

**Mid-90s** CWA 303(d) listing of impaired waters

**1997-99** ESA listing of 26 salmon and steelhead species and bull trout

**1997-98** Forests & Fish negotiations

**1999** Salmon Recovery Act

**1999** Governor's Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy

**1999** Forests & Fish Report

**1999** Forests & Fish Law (20-acre small landowner exemption added)

**2000** Forest Practices Board Emergency Rules

**2000** NMFS 4(d) rule limit

**2001** Forest Practices Board Permanent Rules

**2003** SFLO RMAP assist

**2005** Forest Practices – Habitat Conservation Plan application

## Legislative Support

The Forests & Fish law – ESHB 2091 – passed in 1999 with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority, bipartisan support

**House:** 67-Y and 27-N

**Senate:** 29-Y and 17-N

## Stakeholders

Federal agencies  
State agencies  
County government  
Native American Tribes  
Private forest landowners

## Current Events

Washington Forest Protection Association held its 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on October 27, 2005 at the Little Creek Casino in Shelton, WA. Governor Christine Gregoire was the keynote speaker. During the Governor's speech, she declared the day to be "Family Forest Landowner Day". This was presented to Tom and Sherry Fox, after they were awarded National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in September. You can watch the governor's



speech and all the other panels, tribal dancing, and discussions on the [TVW](#) website. (Just search the archives with 'WFPA' as the keyword.)



Also Billy Frank Jr. was awarded the Stu Bledsoe Award for his inspiring leadership and his commitment to the protection of salmon and natural resources. He was also

given the Bledsoe Award for believing in cooperation and collaboration. (Photos courtesy of Mike Crouse of *Loggers World*.)

## Issue Focus - Collaboration

One way that Washington state does business is through cooperative resource management. The timber industry got involved in the collaborative process when they became a part of the Timber/Fish/Wildlife Agreement in 1987. The TFW Agreement is not a legal agreement, but is an agreement of commitment by all parties to work together to reach consensus. The TFW process recognizes that different interest groups and governmental agencies must work together in order for the best decisions to be made. One aspect of TFW is to recognize that the goals of all participants are equally important. When the original TFW discussions began, there were representatives from state agencies, Native American tribes, environmental groups, the timber industry, landowners, and the public. They all worked together, negotiated, and ended up with the agreement that everyone at the table could live with. The agreement provided flexibility in the form of site specific requirements. The TFW "style" of business has some ground rules that were established in the initial round of talks in 1986. One rule is that

## Stakeholder links

[NOAA Fisheries/National Marine Fisheries Service](#)

[US Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

[Department of Ecology](#)

[Native American Tribes](#)

[WA Association of Counties](#)

[WA Farm Forestry Association](#)

[WA Forest Protection Association](#)

## Forests & Fish Contacts

[bwilkerson@wfpa.org](mailto:bwilkerson@wfpa.org)

**Lead negotiator – Bill Wilkerson**

[bgarvin@wfpa.org](mailto:bgarvin@wfpa.org)

**Legislative – Bill Garvin**

[jweiss@wfpa.org](mailto:jweiss@wfpa.org) and  
[hrowton@wfpa.org](mailto:hrowton@wfpa.org)

**Policy – Josh Weiss and Heather Rowton**

[pheide@wfpa.org](mailto:pheide@wfpa.org)

**Technical – Pete Heide**

[jehrenreich@wfpa.org](mailto:jehrenreich@wfpa.org)

**Economics – John H. Ehrenreich, Jr.**

[lferguson@wfpa.org](mailto:lferguson@wfpa.org) and

[mtudor@wfpa.org](mailto:mtudor@wfpa.org)

**K-12 Education – Lynne Ferguson and Margaret Tudor**

[cmitchell@wfpa.org](mailto:cmitchell@wfpa.org)

**Communications – Cindy Mitchell**

## Contact Us

[www.forestsandfish.com](http://www.forestsandfish.com)

[info@wfpa.org](mailto:info@wfpa.org)

negotiators must leave their weapons at the door. This means leaving their positions at the door to listen to the other side with an open mind. Negotiators must also truly listen so they can find a solution to the problem. Another ground rule is that they must make a commitment to attempt to reach a consensus.

## Achievements to Date

The TFW Agreement created a process for resolving differences which arise when managing natural resources. After the success of the agreement, the different groups involved were able to work together with a new way of doing business through cooperative resource management. At WFPA's 2005 Annual Meeting, Governor Christine Gregoire called this collaborative way of doing business, "The Washington Way."

"The Washington Way" was how the different stakeholders worked together to develop the Forests & Fish Law. Forests & Fish was signed into law in 1999 with bipartisan support by Governor Gary Locke. This law is the result of an effort initiated by private forest landowners with collaboration from federal, state, and county governments, and Native American tribes. These groups worked together for 18 months to develop scientifically based changes to forest practices.

Also a board manual, Guidelines for Adaptive Management, was created by different stakeholders in a collaborative process. The Forest Practices Board accepted this board manual (Section 22) at their September retreat. The section on adaptive management highlights the different participants, the program process stages, the scientific peer review process, dispute resolution, and related program elements. The stakeholders were able to work together collaboratively to come up with a board manual that the Forest Practices Board adopted.

Email [Cindy Mitchell](mailto:Cindy.Mitchell@wfpa.org) or [Goldin Ortiz](mailto:Goldin.Ortiz@wfpa.org) with any questions/comments.

Washington Forest  
Protection Association



724 Columbia St. NW, Ste 250, Olympia, WA 98501  
Tel 360-352-1500 Fax 360-352-4621