"The remedy for timber fires may be given in a few words: Remove the cause. Remove the material which may cause a fire."

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

"Our first line of defense is to look at the condition of the forests. "Our first line of defense is to remove the cause. Remove the material which may cause a fire."

A successful forest protection program is composed of both fire suppression and fire prevention. The former utilizes the techniques and equipment available, but success of the prevention effort is of great significance for our forest future and demands of our expanding population.

Report of the President Henry Denton, First Annual Report of the WFPA, 1898

Catastrophic Wildfires are Creating High Environmental, Economic and Human Costs

From the executive director: Mark L. Doutt

"You would be proud to know that we are meeting the challenges of our day, the same way they met theirs 107 years ago. We have a lot to be proud of as we account for the real contribution this industry makes environmentally and economically."

WFPA Members

WFPA Staff


The timber industry provides economic and environmental benefits. Washington's forest products industry is a vital part of the state's economy and natural heritage. The industry supports over 105,000 jobs, including 43,000 direct jobs and 62,000 induced and secondary jobs. The industry generates over $8 billion in wages and $18 billion in economic output. The industry is also a significant contributor to the state's economy, generating $55 million in state taxes and $55 million in local taxes.

The Longest Legislative Session in Washington State's History

The 2015 session was the longest in Washington's history, with 176 days of session and three special sessions. The session focused on a number of issues, including education funding, transportation, and environmental issues. The session concluded with the passage of a number of important bills, including:

- The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) intends to reduce work injuries to loggers engaged in manual logging. Since 2013, 121 logging companies have signed up for the program and received an initial 10% premium discount. The program aims to improve safety through education, training, and enforcement of safety standards.
- The Washington Forest Products Industry Week Proclamation, recognizing the importance of the forest products industry to the state's economy and natural heritage.
- The Adopt a Stream Program, which encourages communities to adopt and improve local streams.
- The Wildland Fire Response Program, which provides funding for fire prevention and suppression efforts.
- The Pacific Education Institute: Received $1 million to facilitate their goal to improve education in the Pacific Northwest.
- The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: $55.3 million in new funding.
- The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) continued to grow, with over 120 companies participating and receiving discounts.
- The Washington Forest Heritage Commission: $2.3 million in new funding.
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Other highlights of the 2015 session:

- The Department of Transportation will receive $300 million for their fish passage projects.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will receive $1.2 million to study emerging contaminants in water.
- The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will receive $1.2 million for fish passage projects.
- The Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will receive $1.2 million for fish passage projects.
- The Pacific Education Institute: Received $1 million to facilitate their goal to improve education in the Pacific Northwest.
- The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: $55.3 million in new funding.

Building a Culture of Safety — the Logger Safety Initiative

The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) works to reduce work injuries to loggers engaged in manual logging. The initiative is focused on improving workplace safety through education, training, and enforcement of safety standards. The program is aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities in the logging industry. Since its inception in 2013, the LSI has seen significant growth, with over 120 logging companies participating and receiving discounts. The program aims to improve safety through education, training, and enforcement of safety standards.
The use of wood from sustainable materials in place of emission-intensive materials as concrete, steel, or aluminum can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Regulatory Stability is Key to Maintaining the Value of Sustainable Forestry

The core of WFPA's 2016 legislative agenda centered around protecting forest and timber industry workforce jobs. WFPA's work focused on delivering a strong voice for the forest and timber industries on the November 2016 ballot.

The use of carbon neutral energy products is an important aspect of sustainable forest management. The use of wood from sustainable materials is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Using wood for building and construction can help to balance economic development and environmental protection. The use of wood from sustainable materials can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% compared to traditional building materials. The use of wood from sustainable materials can also help to reduce the demand for non-renewable resources, such as fossil fuels. By using wood from sustainable materials, we can help to protect the environment and create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

The Longest Legislative Session in Washington State's History

The 2016 legislative session was the longest in Washington history, spanning 132 days. The session included three special sessions and was marked by significant challenges and opportunities. The Legislative Investment Project (LIP) program was approved by the Legislature in 2015 and funded with $2 billion in new taxes and fees. The program was intended to generate $2 billion in new revenue and provide funding for critical projects, such as transportation, education, and mental health.

Building a Culture of Safety — the Logger Safety Initiative

The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (WSLSI) was established in 2016 to improve safety in the logging industry and reduce the number of accidents and fatalities. The program focuses on education, training, and enforcement, and is supported by a range of stakeholders, including the logging community, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The WSLSI has implemented a number of initiatives, including the Logger Safety Awareness Program, which provides training and resources to help prevent accidents and fatalities in the logging industry.

The Timber Industry Provides Economic and Environmental Benefits

Washington's forest products industry supplies green industry jobs that support rural communities. The forest products industry is a leading manufacturer and supplier of green products, providing sustainable materials and solutions for a variety of applications. The industry is also a significant source of economic opportunities, supporting jobs in manufacturing, distribution, and retail. The forest products industry also provides valuable environmental benefits, such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity. The industry is committed to sustainable management practices and is working to reduce its environmental footprint, while also providing economic benefits to communities across the state.

Our social license to practice forestry is very important.

"Building stronger markets for innovative new wood products supports sustainable forestry."
Regulatory Stability is Key to Maintaining the Value of Sustainable Forestry

The core of WFPA’s work is focused on forest policies, bringing together forest leaders and stakeholders to define the policies that ensure our industry’s ability to continue to provide economic opportunities, protect the land, and provide social and environmental benefits. In the past year, our industry has found itself at the center of heated debates about climate change, forest management, and public health. These discussions have highlighted the importance of ensuring that our policies are not only science-based but also effective in addressing the complex challenges we face. In the upcoming legislative session, WFPA will continue to advocate for policies that promote sustainable forest management, protect fish habitat, and ensure that our industry can continue to provide economic opportunities and environmental benefits.

The use of wood from sustainable materials in place of emission-intensive materials as concrete, steel, or aluminum can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Highlight of the 2015 session:

• Support for Mason County timber workers: A $500,000 appropriation was added for the 2015-17 Biennium. There may be as many as 40,000 individuals employed in the logging industry that bring so much value to our society. Thank you for your part in helping us tell our good story.

• WA Governor Inslee, supporting the labor movement: Inslee signed the “Good Samaritan” law, which protects workers injured on the job, and requires insurers to cover their medical claims. This law is expected to save lives and protect workers.

• The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge: $7.1 million in new funding.

• Forest Practices Board: $17 million in new funding.

• Dairy Compensatory Payments: $12 million in new funding.

• Interagency Forest Fire Apparatus Grant Program: $5 million in new funding.

• Partnership to End Homelessness: $2.2 million in new funding.

• Outlier Appropriation: $20 million in new funding.

• Housing Trust Fund: $10 million in new funding.

• Neighborhood Forestry Easement Program: $3 million in new funding.

• Western Washington Forests & Fish Adaptive Management Program.

Building a Culture of Safety — the Logging Safety Initiative

The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (WSLSI) works to reduce work injuries in logging. Through initiatives in early injury control and injury prevention, WSLSI is making the industry safer. The WSLSI collaboration includes logging contractors, industry associations, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations. The initiative aims to reduce work injuries by 10% through improvements in culture, risk management, and worker training, performance, and supervision through three focal safety audits. Though still in the early stages of the programs, the initial results have been promising.

The WSLSI model is more than just safety audits; it is a comprehensive approach that includes education, communication, and support. The initiative has developed partnerships with organizations such as the Washington Forest Industry Safety Council (WFISC), the Washington State University (WSU) Department of Forest Resources, and the Washington State University Extension, among others. These partnerships have helped to create a culture of safety and a commitment to continuous improvement in the logging industry.

The WSLSI is designed to help logging contractors improve their safety culture by providing resources and support. The initiative includes an online learning platform, training sessions, and regular reporting on progress. The goal is to reduce work injuries by 10% through improvements in culture, risk management, and worker training, performance, and supervision through three focal safety audits.

The WSLSI has worked with industry leaders to develop a comprehensive approach to safety that includes education, communication, and support. The initiative includes an online learning platform, training sessions, and regular reporting on progress. The goal is to reduce work injuries by 10% through improvements in culture, risk management, and worker training, performance, and supervision through three focal safety audits.

Since 2013, the WSLSI has served as a model for similar initiatives in other states and has inspired the development of new programs. The success of the WSLSI has led to a national recognition of the importance of workplace safety in the logging industry.
"The remedy for timber fires may be given in a few words: Remove the cause. Remove the material which may cause a fire." - Henry David Thoreau

"A successful forest protection program is composed of both fire suppression and fire prevention. The former utilizes the techniques and equipment available, the success of the prevention effort is of great significance for our forest future and demands of our expanding population."

From the Executive Director: Mark L. Doumit

2015 marked one of the most active fire seasons in recent history. The 2015 fire season, which runs from May 25 through October 31, saw over 1,038,000 acres, following a 2014 fire season which burned close to 1,400,000 acres. The 2015 fire season resulted in 135 human-caused blazes and 457 lightning-caused fires. Three severe wildfires alone burned over 2 million acres, which is larger than the state of Rhode Island. With the increased number of fires and their magnitude comes a continued push for better forest management, as severe wildfires have strained the state's budget. The Washington State Emergency Management Department has estimated that the 2015 fire season costs the state over $900 million. The costs of suppressing fires and managing the aftermath are expected to escalate in the years to come.

"We must dramatically accelerate the scale of forest stewardship on both public and private lands. On our national forests, we must restore more across more rapidly so we can prevent catastrophic fires, insect outbreaks, and other threats, particularly as climate change threatens our forests more than ever." - Governor Jay Inslee, Washington State Governor

From the Executive Director: Kevin Godbout, Weyerhaeuser

I recall – and I hope a few of you also remember – it was back in 2001 when the Forest Practices Board (FPB) adopted the Cost Effective High Growth policy. The policy was widely criticized, and some argued that it would have negative impacts on the industry. However, the policy has been successful in reducing costs and improving forest health. The success of the policy has been due to a number of factors, including the commitment of the forest industry to proactive forest management, the willingness of the FPB to consider new ideas, and the support of the public for sustainable forestry practices. The policy has also helped to reduce the number of catastrophic fires and protect public safety. As we look forward to the next decade, we need to continue to focus on proactive forest management and work towards a sustainable future for our forests.
Catastrophic Wildfires are Creating High Environmental, Economic and Human Costs

After the fire, swift ecological restoration to retain the economic value of the burned timber and start the new forest growing to prevent erosion. The economic value of the burned timber and start the new forest growing to prevent erosion.

A successful forest protection program is composed of both fire suppression and fire prevention. The former utilizes the techniques and equipment available. The latter is in the hands of the local forest protectors, who work with land owners to develop and maintain fire suppression programs. The former is the focus of the current fire season, but the latter is the focus of our long-term strategy.

We must strategically allocate our resources to meet the challenges of wildfire prevention and suppression, and to ensure that our forests are healthy and able to withstand a severe wildfire.

From the Executive Director: Mark L. Doudna

2015 started out with the legislature in town for what was intended to be a 105 day budget session, but then as we well know, the session was extended. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus added 26 days in 2015 to the session in Washington State’s history. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus held a one-vote majority for the last two years in the Senate, and in the House, a Democratic majority of 57 to 43 education and administration appropriation bills, WFPA was a part of a coalition that co-sponsored the WFPA’s Forests and Fish Adaptive Management Program, and the Logger Safety Initiative received $2.07 million for ongoing work to reduce work injuries to loggers and instill a culture of safety.

The 2015 fire season is driving a $137.2 million supplemental budget request for the Forests and Fish Adaptive Management Program, the Logger Safety Initiative, the new forest growing to prevent erosion.

As we look back at the evolution of this Association that was founded in 1908, we realize that there have always been those threats more potent.

Innovative Wood Products Collaborative. Our 2015 WFPA Board of Trustees retreat was a big success, resulting in the following outcomes: 1) working with our Department of Ecology on the Forests and Fish Adaptive Management Program, the Logger Safety Initiative received $2.07 million for ongoing work to reduce work injuries to loggers and instill a culture of safety.

We must dramatically accelerate the rotation pace of forest stewardship on both public and private lands. On our national forests, we must restore more acres more rapidly if we are to prevent catastrophic fires, insect outbreaks, and other threats, particularly as climate change makes those threats more potent.

WFPA Members

WFPA’s Forest Protection Association

Economic Value of the burned timber and start the new forest growing to prevent erosion.

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