



Annual Report 2017

WASHINGTON FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2017

From the Executive Director: Mark L. Doumit



WFPA is weathering another tumultuous year of politics and divisive rhetoric. We maintained a sharp focus on WFPA's core programs of policy, legislature, taxation, and communications to reduce risks and deliver benefits for our members. In an unprecedented move, legislators failed to approve a capital budget this year because of the dispute over water rights in rural areas (*Hirst decision*). This remains unresolved. Despite this, we had a successful legislative session as we saw a number of positive bills passed, no negative bills gaining traction, and a McCleary school funding solution that did not disproportionately impact forest landowners. Under the leadership of our President and the Board of Trustees, we went through a strategic planning process resulting in identifying our core values, purpose and a vision that *forestland is a premier investment in the green economy where today's adversaries are tomorrow's advocates*. To accomplish this, we need to continue developing trust in relationships going both ways, so we can focus our efforts on the most real issues in today's environment and how forestry can pose solutions. This means to me that our dialogue

needs to focus on a broader set of solutions than what are just in the forest. Stormwater and fish passage is an example, where forest landowners are well ahead of any other sector having removed nearly 6,500 barriers, and opening up almost 4,500 miles of historic fish habitat since 2001. The goal is to eliminate 100% of the barriers by 2021, and we are on track. Downstream, however not as much progress has been made, as pollution from stormwater runoff from public roads continues to affect water quality in Puget Sound. Salmon are having a difficult time returning to the cool, clean water in our forests. Landowners can provide leadership on this issue. We have a vested interest in seeing the fruits of our efforts with healthy salmon runs and fish being able to access their habitat from the Sound to the mountains. WFPA's success is possible only with the strong partnerships we develop, and involvement of our members. Thank you for your support.

Mark L. Doumit, *Executive Director, WFPA*

From the President: C. Court Stanley, Port Blakely



Forestry has always been my passion and as I look back over my career, which started in Southeast Alaska, there have been dramatic changes in our industry. WFPA has had to adapt to this changing industry and still our association continues to be an effective advocate for forest landowners. We are now seeing a huge separation between rural communities and the urban centers today. Maintaining our social license is becoming increasingly difficult. Working forests provide most of our population with benefits they do not even know of: clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and renewable wood products for our homes. Our challenge becomes how to inform an ever-increasing urban population about what we provide to society. This year, WFPA reflected on our work and members spent a day together identifying the purpose of WFPA and setting a 25-year vision for the industry. We also identified our core values: stewardship, trust, passion, relationships and leadership. If we are to realize our vision where *today's adversaries are tomorrow's advocates*, we need to build relationships and develop trust by having constructive conversations with stakeholders. We can and have provided this leadership

in the past, such as the Logger Safety Initiative where we worked with Washington Contract Loggers Association and the Department of Labor & Industries to increase logger safety and reduce insurance rates. We have also done the same thing with our Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) effort, leading by example to restore fish habitat, opening thousands of miles of streams, and improving the integrity of our road systems. This industry has a huge opportunity going forward. I foresee a future where the benefits of our private working forests are not taken for granted but recognized and valued by the public. We are poised for a huge positive change, but we cannot do this alone. We need to continue attracting a more diverse, curious, and skilled workforce that can jumpstart innovation in how we manage our forests. It will take a commitment from us to realize our vision and I can see the day when forestry truly is *the premier investment in the green economy*.

C. Court Stanley, *President, WFPA*

The Year in Review

WFPA chronicles industry news through our blog, **One Voice for Working Forests** (www.wfpa.org/news-resources/blog). Here are some of the highlights from 2017:

CLT Plants in E. WA and in the Classroom:

In spring, Vaagen Brothers Lumber of Colville announced it's creating a state-of-the-art mass timber manufacturing company called Vaagen Timbers. The firm, starting in 2018, will produce cross-laminated timber and Glulam beams. Later in the year, a California company called Katterra announced a CLT factory in Spokane Valley. On another note, one of the Washington Legislature's finest moves last year was to allocate \$5.5 million for the construction of new classrooms around the state using cross-laminated timber. The 20 classrooms for kindergarten through third grade are being built in the Sequim, Seattle, Mount Vernon, Wapato and Toppenish public school districts.

Fish Passage Barrier Removals: The Washington state departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources honored 43 large forest landowners for their commitment over the last 15 years to improving forest roads and clearing fish passage barriers to help salmon and improve water quality. The landowners invested more than \$300 million, upgraded more than 25,000 miles of forest roads, replaced nearly 6,500 in-stream barriers to fish and opened almost 4,500 miles of previously blocked stream habitat.

Forest Practices Compliance Excellence: A newly released report from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) showed that Washington's forest landowners are approaching 100 percent compliance with the state's forest practices rules. The 2014-15 Compliance Monitoring Program report was released this year and shows that in the most recent time-period studied by DNR (2014-15), the state's forest landowners were within **90 percent to 98 percent compliance** with state law in their timber harvests and forest road construction. In several cases, state forest landowners' compliance rate went up from the last report (2012-13) and in no cases, were there any statistically significant declines in compliance rates.

State Forestry Industry Recognized: Gov. Jay Inslee proclaimed Oct. 16-22 as Washington Forest Products Industry Week, honoring the state's third largest manufacturing sector, that supports 42,000 direct jobs and another 64,000 forestry-related jobs. The proclamation from Inslee urged all Washington residents to "recognize the importance of products from our forests, and the intrinsic value of our forested land to the people of the state of Washington and to our heritage."

Mark Doumit Honored: WFPA Executive Director Mark Doumit was honored as the recipient of the 2017 Stu Bledsoe Leadership Award by members of Leadership Class 38 of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation Leadership Program (AgForestry) at their graduation ceremony in Spokane in April.

Active Forest Management Solutions: A story in thelens.news showed that some of the threat of the Jolly Mountain Fire in Central Washington to the Suncadia Resort was limited because of active management of the forests nearby. Those forests were owned and managed, until 1996, by the former Plum Creek Timber, which was acquired by Weyerhaeuser last year. In more recent years, the forests have been treated by a [Forest Health Stewardship Team](#) at Suncadia.

Wood for Jet Fuel Innovation: Washington has become an epicenter for innovation when it comes to using wood slash from forests to make jet fuel for airliners. Alaska Airlines flew the first commercial flight from Seattle to Washington D.C. this year, using jet fuel from forest residuals, the limbs and branches left after harvesting managed forests. The renewable, clean jet fuel was produced during five years of research and testing conducted by the Washington State University led NW Advanced Renewables Alliance.

Highlights from the 2017 Legislative Session

Fish Passage Barriers: Sponsored by WFPA, HB 1275 allows landowners to go through a streamlined permit process to clear a fish passage barrier. This means that when landowners have to upgrade a road or a fish passage, they can get one permit at the Department of Natural Resources and have that function as their local permit as well.

Stumpage Tax Reporting: Another WFPA supported bill, HB 1148 extends the expiration date of the stumpage tax reporting requirement from 2018 until 2021. This change ensures that the Department of Revenue will have actual market values to use in calculating the stumpage tax tables without creating potential liability for landowners that extends into perpetuity.

Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP) Refresher: WFPA worked closely with Washington Farm Forestry Association on HB 1531. The bill served dual roles. The first was to give the FREP program some drafting modernization and to educate legislators about the program and why it's important. The second role of this bill was to recognize the ecosystem benefits of all working forests. From a codified section of the bill:

The legislature finds that the overall societal benefits of economically viable working forests are multiple, and include the protection of clean, cold water, the provision of wildlife habitat, the sheltering of cultural

resources from development, and the natural carbon storage potential of growing trees.

Fire Contractors: HB 1489 was based on recommendations coming from the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee, which is a body managed by the DNR that includes representation of forest landowners. The main thrust of this bill is to allow the DNR to preemptively engage local fire contractors to verify safety and set operating rates before the fire season begins. The DNR will also put these contracted resources on the dispatch list and prioritize their use. The Wildland Fire Liaison is tasked with helping to identify potential local resources. Anyone interested in participating should contact the DNR fire program.

Wildfires & Forest Health in Final Budget: Despite a sizable budget request by the outgoing Goldmark administration at DNR, and a smaller-yet-significant ask by the incoming Franz administration, the Legislature did not make any significant new investments in fire prevention. The ones that were made were tied to individual legislator requests and not the DNR's request package. For example, almost \$300,000 was provided to counties for radio communication equipment and to fire protection service providers within those counties for residential wildfire risk reduction activities, including education, outreach, technical assistance, and fuel mitigation.

Forest Policy Update

Water Typing: Establishing a permanent water typing rule has been a priority for the Forest Practices Board (Board) since the adoption of an *interim* rule in 2001. This rule allows for water typing based on either default physical criteria or identification of fish presence through protocol surveys (electrofishing). For the record, the 50-year Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan and federal assurances were approved in 2006 with the *interim* rule in place. WFPA made a concerted effort this year to provide the best available science to inform and finalize the permanent rule, but the Board deferred the decision again until Feb. 2018 in an effort to perfect the science. In the meantime, the current method of typing waters using protocol surveys or default physical criteria in the *interim* rule remains in place.

Cultural Resources: Landowners continue to work with the tribes and Dept. of Natural Resources on a package of recommendations for clarifying cultural resources protections. Recommendations include clarification to the forest practices application form and instructions, enhanced training, targeted funding for DNR and tribes, technical assistance for landowners, and pilot projects to test different methods to trigger the requirement for landowner/tribe meetings.

Loggers Safety Initiative (LSI)

The 3rd Annual LSI Landowner Training Workshop was held in April, which is part of the LSI Landowner Requirements, and is targeted at landowners, timber purchasers, consulting foresters or their representative who work with contract loggers. The goal is to develop

and support a culture of safety, and minimize loss exposure and liability. The training facilitates a knowledge exchange within the timber industry around the LSI with key industry stakeholders. Rates for manual logging have declined by over \$7.00/hour for LSI certified loggers since the program began.

Public Information Media and Online Outreach

WFPA's media efforts in 2017 were focused on politically engaged citizens in the Central Puget Sound Region who don't have an opinion on forest practices. This audience has grown in recent years, and it's critical to reach them with positive messages. Through an integrated media mix

of traditional and Internet radio ads, online ads, streaming video, native advertising in the Seattle Times and paid Facebook ads, our campaign delivered over 23 million impressions, exceeding industry benchmarks for click-through and video view rates.

We launched a new website, More Than A Forest

MoreThanAForest.com shows how Washington's working forests benefit both the economy and the environment. The site includes profiles of forest industry professionals, and videos with forestry leaders talking about how the

state's working forests protect 60,000 miles of streams, produce renewable cross-laminated timber and lead to the planting of 52 million trees a year.

WFPA Centenarians

Menasha Forest Products Corp., 1849
***Olympic Resource Management (Pope & Talbot), 1849**
Stimson Lumber Co., 1850
***Port Blakely Tree Farms, 1864**
***Merrill & Ring, 1886**
***Green Diamond Resource Co. (S.G. Simpson Co.), 1890**
***Weyerhaeuser, 1900**
Fruit Growers Supply Company, 1907
Wilcox Farms, Inc., 1909
**WFPA member for 100 years or more.*

WFPA Staff

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WFPA Members

Barker Tree Farm - Woods Trust
Bloedel Timberlands Development
Broughton Lumber Company
Conservation Forestry Partners, LP
Dye, Mary
EE Overton Log & Pole Co.
Elisabeth Miller Botanical Garden Trust
Fruit Growers Supply Co.
Grandy Lake Forest
Green Crow
Green Crow Forecastle
Green Crow Timber
Green Diamond Resource Company
GreenWood Resources Inc.
Hampton Lumber
Hancock Forest Management, Inc.
Hanson, Gary
Hess, Phil
JLCG, LLC
Miller, Ken & Bonnie
Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC
Munro, LLC
NBGC, LLC
Nookachamps Forest
Norseman Timber Company
Olympic Resource Management
O'Neill Pine Company
Pacific Denkmann - Pilchuck Tree Farm
Pacific Forest Management, Inc.
Pacific West Timber Company, LLC
PB Lumber, LP
Pendleton and Elisabeth Miller Charitable Foundation
Penguin Forests
Plas Newydd, LLC
Port Blakely Tree Farms
Rayonier
RD Merrill Co.
Ring Family Limited Partnership
Seefeld Corporation
Sheldon Properties
Sierra Pacific Industries
Stevenson Land Company
Stewart Tree Farms
Stimson Lumber Company
TC&I Chinook, LLC
Two Cats Timber
Vaagen Brothers Lumber
Weyerhaeuser Company
Wilcox Farms, Inc.
Wilson Tree Farm

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