



## From the Executive Director: Mark L. Doumit



The WFPA was founded in 1908, and its members have been around for a long time, fighting to keep our working forests working. We have seen a lot of challenges over the years, since our founding 108 years ago, the United States fought two world wars, the Soviet Union grew to dominance and then imploded, diseases were wiped off the earth and technology took us from newfangled automobiles to moon rockets and beyond. This year marked another set of challenges, such as the very contentious national election, which our country is just starting to heal from. Likewise, our state politics have been contentious as well, with all of our statewide elected officials up for election, and a very close House and Senate. For WFPA and its members, the election of a new Lands Commissioner is our race of most concern, and while it has been very spirited race, we will persist and work on behalf of the private forest landowners to represent our industry and

forestry's place on the landscape. We have made progress this year in forest policy, from continuing incentive discussions for the spotted owl, to bringing our water typing discussions to a resolution. All of our processes are being tested and pushed to the brink. It was even suggested by the state that a motion be made to claim portions of the water typing discussion were an effort in futility. However, we persisted and found consensus and a path forward in solving many of the issues within the water typing debate. Just like the Chicago Cubs, who last won the World Series in 1908, they persisted beyond what appeared to be all odds over the last 108 years, and in the last game of the series this year, in the 10th inning, they one by one run.

Mark L. Doumit, *Executive Director, WFPA*

## From the President: Kevin Godbout, Weyerhaeuser



The Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) has reached another important point in its organizational life. As a fully functioning advocacy organization, we continue to be a trusted and effective source of information on the benefits of sustainably managed working forest and the value of WFPA policy initiatives within the Washington state legislature, the Governor's office and within the Administration of the Department of Natural Resources. Our success has at times attracted the attention of our adversaries, some of who actively seek to erode our credibility. They know that credibility matters and credibility is especially important during a time of transition. We are also experiencing ongoing structural and leadership changes within our industry sector, as well as within the WFPA organization. These circumstances and other factors beyond our control underscore the need to position WFPA in a way that will secure future success in the midst of constantly changing policy and business environment.

In 2017 we will embark on an effort to define our strategic vision and core values. The purpose of any strategic planning exercise is to gain internal alignment, sharpen our focus and strengthen our organizational impact. The times and issues have changed and accordingly we must adapt and define our destiny. If we don't, our adversaries

will. We don't start this strategic review from a position of weakness, quite the contrary, we are optimistic. I might even say we are bullish about our future. Momentum continues to grow in recognizing the full carbon benefits of private forest management practices resulting in increased demand for wood products as a climate friendly building material; think about the potential of constructing tall wood buildings. Private working forest continue to be recognized as providing conservation benefits to at-risk or listed species. We demonstrated that benefit sixteen years ago, with the Forest and Fish agreement. But we didn't stop, in 2016 we supported efforts to re-introduce the Fisher to private forests in Washington state, and yes, we continue to work on contributing to the recovery of the northern spotted owl.

Looking forward, we recognize that we will be challenged and at times we will stumble, but we have always taken the long-view and remained optimistic about our future regardless of the challenge of the moment. This is the nature of our industry and WFPA, we see our future growing.

Kevin Godbout, *President, WFPA*

# The Year in Review

WFPA chronicles industry news through our blog, **One Voice for Working Forests** (OneVoiceForWorkingForests.com). Here are some of the highlights and trends from 2016:

**The Rise of Cross-Laminated Timber:** Momentum continues to grow for the use of cross-laminated timber (CLT) as a building material, in Washington, the U.S. and around the world. More tall wood buildings are being built around the world, and the international scope of CLT even came to University of Washington in April with a talk by London architect and CLT innovator Andrew Waugh. The Washington Legislature this year also approved \$5.5 million for the construction of 10 school buildings around the state, all to be built with CLT.

**Federal Timber Reform:** Progress continues in Congress on legislation to end the practice of “fire borrowing,” the U.S. Forest Service’s practice of raiding other parts of its budget, including money set aside for wildfire prevention, to meet the rising cost of fighting wildfires each summer.

**State Wildfire Funding:** State legislators this year gave Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark \$6.7 million of the \$24 million he asked for to fight wildfires.

**Forestry History and Education:** In June, forestry leaders and elected officials celebrated the 75th anniversary of the country’s first tree farm – Weyerhaeuser’s Clemons Tree Farm in Montesano. In August, Port Blakely celebrated the 25th anniversary

of its environmental education program, which has educated more than 65,000 students about the natural environment.

**Active Forest Management:** Support is growing for forest fuel reduction and more active management of our forests. This summer, U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., highlighted a video on the Senate floor from the Spokane Tribe on the tribe’s successful fuel reduction efforts. WFPA and other forestry groups created a new website, HealthyForestFacts.org, dedicated to solutions on how to reduce our country’s number of catastrophic wildfires and make our forests healthier, including fuel reduction.

**Billy Frank Jr.:** In December 2015, Congress voted to name the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, near Olympia, for the late environmental, tribal and civil rights leader. In July 2016, hundreds of tribal, federal, state and local leaders came to the refuge to celebrate the renaming and tell stories about Frank and his legacy.

**Forest Certification:** In April, the U.S. Green Building Council announced it will now give LEED credit to wood from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and other certification systems besides the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This ended FSC’s monopoly on LEED credits and means the majority of sustainably managed forests in the U.S. will now be able to be part of the world’s largest green building standard. The decision opens up a world of opportunity for American timber.

# Highlights from the 2016 Legislative Session

## Operating Budget

The final supplemental operating budget increased net spending for the current 2015-17 biennium by \$191 million, with no new taxes.

The budget leaves \$577 million in a projected ending fund balance for the current biennium, but is projected to leave only \$9 million in the ending fund balance for the next biennium. This is important because the state next session must address the remaining education funding issues around the Washington Supreme Court's McCleary decision. Estimates for the state to fully fund basic education are around \$3.5 billion.

## Capital Budget

The final supplemental capital budget makes \$95.4 million in new appropriations and authorizes \$74.4 million in alternatively financed projects.

## Cross Laminated Timber

The final capital budget bill includes:

- A \$75,000 grant to WSU to prepare a review and summary of available engineering test results and other data to demonstrate the performance of cross laminated timber and other regionally sourced sustainable or renewable materials in building construction. WSU must submit the report by Dec. 1, 2016.
- A \$50,000 grant to the Department of Commerce to assist prospective CLT manufacturers in evaluating the potential CLT market.
- \$5.5 million to provide modular classrooms to several school districts that will serve as a model classroom to use mass timber products, including CLT.

## Riparian Habitat and Fish Passage

- \$250,000 to analyze the economic implications relating to water infrastructure and fisheries habitat restoration needs because "population growth, climate change, and other factors are creating increasing stresses on critical water infrastructure, fisheries, and watershed health." The analysis must include, among other things, fishing and recreation benefits of improved floodplain and riparian habitat, and fish passage projects. The report is due by Jan. 15, 2017.

## Transportation Budget

The Legislature this year appropriated \$300,000 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement activities of the Fish Barrier Removal Board, working with cities and counties to inventory and undertake predesign and scoping activities associated with fish passage barrier corrections on city streets and county roads. The report is due by June 30, 2017.

## Wildfire Funding

The 2016 supplemental operating budget provides funding to the Department of Natural Resources for joint wildland fire training of local fire agencies, tribal firefighters, and the National Guard. Funding is provided for DNR to develop a 20-year strategic plan to improve forest health of state lands; to update the smoke management plan; to enhance the capacity to respond to large wildfires using in-state resources; to enhance capacity for aerial attack of wildfires; to provide firefighting equipment to local fire agencies; to provide fire communications, including portable and mobile radios; and to provide wildfire prevention education, community outreach programs, and technical assistance to landowners.

# Forest Policy Update

**Mass Wasting:** In May, the Forest Practices Board approved revisions to the Unstable Slopes Board Manual Section 16. These revisions addressed “items near resolution” that were not included in the version adopted in November 2015. The revisions included an expanded description of the complexity of movement within deep-seated landslides (DSL), LiDAR examples showing DSL features for estimating age and the use of LiDAR for identifying past landslide deposits.

**Fisher:** In April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that west coast populations of fisher are not facing extinction and recognized that collaborative voluntary conservation efforts by state agencies and private landowners are providing conservation benefits on millions of acres across the range of the fisher in three states.

**Cultural Resources:** Tribes, DNR and landowners participated in a cultural resources educational panel before the Forest Practices Board at the May meeting. The tribal panel representatives presented a broad spectrum of examples of how important protecting cultural resources are to their traditional values and practices. Later in the year the Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) Cultural Resources Roundtable resumed work on a survey to assess the efficacy of the WAC 222-20-120 Notice of forest practices that may contain cultural resources to affected tribes and the techniques of the FPB’s Cultural Resources Protection and Management Plan.

## Fish Barrier Removal Board Moves Forward

The state’s new Fish Barrier Removal Board has spent the last two years talking to 54 cities, counties, tribes and other groups about how to maximize investments in salmon recovery. The Board’s funding proposal to the Legislature for the 2017-19 biennium includes 79 fish barrier projects, 154 miles of habitat opened and an investment of \$51.4 million. The Board’s priorities are removing

downstream barriers first, working with regional salmon recovery organizations to identify priority watersheds, working with cities and counties to remove barriers next to other recently completed fish passage projects and maximizing coordination with groups already removing fish barriers.

## Advocating for Working Forests on Social Media

WFPA has adopted an approach to social media that develops content supporting our policy goals without being overtly political. Since July 2013, more than 600 posts have been made on the Washington’s Working Forests Facebook page, reaching more than 1 million users.

Meanwhile, our ongoing Washington Working Forest Action Network email campaign delivers messages supporting WFPA’s policy goals. We will continue to communicate via Facebook and email on key issues, such as catastrophic wildfire reduction and prevention, support for tall wood buildings and uniform compliance with fish passage regulations.

# Introducing Jason Callahan

Please welcome **Jason Callahan**, WFPA's new Director of Governmental Relations. Before joining WFPA, Jason spent nearly 16 years as Senior Counsel for the Washington House of Representatives. There he served as the nonpartisan senior legal counsel for the Environment Committee and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. In that role he provided legal analysis and advice; conducted legal and programmatic research; drafted bills, amendments, correspondences and other legislative documents; mediated stakeholder

discussions; educated elected representatives on topics within his area of expertise; and presented material at public hearings. Before working at the House, Jason received his law degree from Florida State University and a BS in Wildlife Resource Management from the West Virginia University College of Agriculture and Forestry.

We are thrilled to have Jason as part of the WFPA team!

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(Pope & Talbot), 1849  
Stimson Lumber Co., 1850  
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Green Diamond Resource Co.  
(S.G. Simpson Co.)\*, 1890  
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\*WFPA member for 100 years or more.

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