



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Washington Forest Protection Association

November, 2018



FROM MARK L. DOUMIT
WFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In a year when our country has felt so divided, I am energized by our working forest industry and its contributions toward helping to solve many of our state's largest environmental problems. Working forests and renewable wood products bring solutions that help clean the air and water and conserve habitat for fish and wildlife.

In 2018, salmon, clean water and climate became our state's leading environmental issues. The forest industry has once again been recognized for its large contribution toward solutions to these problems. Since the Forests and Fish Law in 1999, forest owners have removed 7,300 fish passage barriers across 9.3 million acres, reopening 5,100 miles of fish habitat.

In June of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state of Washington must replace hundreds of road culverts that block salmon passage. The court's ruling provided clarity about the state's role in fixing the culverts on state highways, but we as forest landowners were at the forefront of this issue two decades ago.

During the 2018 legislative session, carbon issues around the climate discussion highlighted that the state's success depends upon working forests and wood products. Private working forests and wood products sequester 12.7% of our state's total carbon emissions annually, and all the forests and wood products in the state sequester 35% of emissions. These climate-related realizations by policymakers will eventually add great value to keeping working forestry as a priority land-use investment.

The forest industry is collaborative, proactive and forward thinking. We can help make our state a better place to live.

Mark L. Doumit, Executive Director, WFPA



FROM C. COURT STANLEY
WFPA PRESIDENT

As a forestry industry, we will always face challenges, but we also have plenty of opportunity. WFPA leadership met again this year to identify how WFPA can build on our 25-year vision for the industry and live out our core values of stewardship, trust, passion, relationships and leadership. As our long-term vision lays out, forestland is a premier investment in the green economy, where today's adversaries are tomorrow's advocates.

We know that protecting forestland from conversion is the best environmental and economic choice, and we will continue to support legislation that keeps working forests working. We will prioritize our relationships with stakeholders and seek common ground around issues like carbon sequestration, salmon recovery, workforce development, and forest health. Our policy goals don't happen overnight, but we know we have a good story to tell that is backed up by science and by our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. We are proud of our credibility.

We adapt to change, and we continue our investment in public outreach. We want all Washington residents to understand the value of active forest management and the increasing relevance of our industry as climate policy and encroachment on rural lands become more critical.

The Forests and Fish Law and the resulting federal conservation agreements have brought remarkable progress on fish habitat, water quality and improved road construction. As we approach the 20th anniversary of Forests and Fish next year, we are committed to maintaining the same spirit of collaboration and environmental protection.

C. Court Stanley, President, WFPA

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state of Washington must replace hundreds of fish passage barriers. In the wake of the decision, WFPA Executive Director Mark Doumit wrote op-eds in the Seattle Times and Everett Herald about forest landowners' 17-year commitment to clearing the barriers on their land.



Washington DNR released a 20-year sustainable plan to restore 1.25 million acres of forest in Eastern Washington. 56 representatives from 33 agencies and organizations helped put the plan together.



After innovative forest restoration by Vaagen Brothers Lumber, the Colville National Forest is poised to be the No. 1 forest products producer in the Pacific Northwest, an area containing 17 National Forests in Oregon and Washington.



A new state report shows forest landowners are between 87 percent and 100 percent in compliance with state forest practices rules.



Grays Harbor College received \$26,000 in scholarships to fund tuition for its new forestry bachelor's degree program. The college also launched a separate program to train log truck drivers.



Pope Resources completed the last stage of a decadelong conservation deal that protects 20,000 acres of Pope-owned forestland in Skamania County from development.

BILL PASSED

**MASS TIMBER
IN CONSTRUCTION**

The Legislature passed a bill directing the Washington State Building Code Council to adopt rules allowing for the use of mass timber in construction. Forests and wood products store 35% of our state's carbon emissions.



After five years of fits and starts, Congress passed legislation that ends the practice of "fire borrowing," in which the U.S. Forest Service raids its own budget to fight massive wildfires.



BIOMASS

The Environmental Protection Agency declared that woody biomass is carbon neutral, a decision that echoes a move by Washington state lawmakers ten years ago to declare woody biomass as a clean energy source.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Key legislation that was signed by the Governor:

Mass Timber: ESB 5450 directs the State Building Code Council to adopt rules for the use of mass timber in residential and commercial buildings. The rules must consider, but not be bound by, international and national building standards. The legislation makes it more certain that the Code Council will adopt rules for mass timber and that those rules should be prioritized.

Sensitive wildlife data: HB 2703, which changes one word in statute, closes a potential loophole that could have made wildlife data provided to the state by landowners vulnerable to public disclosure. Before, any sensitive wildlife data provided by the state could have been shared by the original collecting agency with other appropriate entities. These would have included other state agencies, federal agencies, universities, and tribes. The legislation provides certainty to private landowners that any information about the presence of endangered, threatened, or otherwise sensitive wildlife will remain confidential, regardless of how the state shares the information.

Wildlife transfer notifications: Under SHB 2276, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife is required to hold a public hearing prior to relocating big game, lynx, coyotes, bobcats, or wolves for population enhancement. This policy does not directly affect private forest landowners; however, land managers may have an interest in learning about, and commenting on, the movement of wildlife in their areas of operation. This bill ensures they have that opportunity.

Federal lands revolving account: ESB 6211 is an example of a forest health bill that shows legislative acceptance of active forest management. The bill, which was an agency request of the Department of Natural Resources, creates two new accounts in the state treasury. These accounts allow the state to better manage “Good Neighbor Agreements” with the federal government. Revenues from state sales on federal lands (under Good Neighbor Agreements) will go into one of these two accounts and then can only be used to fund future work under Good Neighbor Agreements. One account is managed by DNR, and the other by WDFW.

Other issues surfaced during the session that the WFPA could not support and did not pass. These included a proposal for a capital gains tax; efforts to remove language from the existing budget that requires science and policy transparency by the Forest Practices Board; and SB 6235, which would have created extra processes and bureaucracy for forest practices applications in or around potentially unstable slopes. Efforts were also spent crafting language for carbon proposals that recognized forestry’s beneficial role in the issue. Nothing passed this session, but hopefully groundwork was laid for future success.

THE POWER OF WORKING FORESTS

WFPA launched a new advertising campaign in Washington highlighting the environmental benefits of sustainable forestry. Among the many facts in the campaign, which included audio, video, billboards and other digital media, did you know?

- Working foresters in Washington plant 52 million trees a year, three for every one tree that is harvested.
- Working forests protect fish habitat in 60,000 miles of streams, ensuring clean, clear water for healthy salmon runs.
- Forests and wood products store 35% of our state’s carbon emissions. Working foresters are doing their part for climate change.

“I guarantee you now, Seattle would definitely take a little bit of smoke instead of the eventual, all-summer-long smoke that we’re getting.”

– U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, on the new approval from Seattle-area residents for prescribed burns, after wildfire smoke filled Western Washington for the second straight year.



FOREST POLICY UPDATE

Water Typing: The Forest Practices Board modified the water typing rule development schedule, extending the date for presentation of a draft rule to May 2019. DNR has released draft rule language and held several stakeholder meetings to review the language. DNR continues to hold stakeholder group meetings to work on Board Manual language. The focus of the discussions has been on e-fishing, fish habitat assessment methodology and off channel habitat. WFPA is analyzing the three rule proposals from DNR and providing comment at every step of the process.

Water Quality: The “Hardrock” Study was presented to the TFW Policy Committee over the summer. According to the committee’s timeline for follow-up, Final Policy Committee consensus is expected by Jan. 8, 2019.

Cultural Resources: The Drafting Committee continues its work to finalize pilot opportunities to better identify and protect tribal cultural resources; discuss state and federal funding for cultural resources; and identify potential changes to the Forest Riparian Easement Program to incentivize small forest landowners to work with tribes. WFPA supports the tribes, as well as localized, non-regulatory approaches for training for Small Forest Landowners and funding for tribal review of Forest Practices Applications.

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

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Broughton Lumber Company

BTG Pactual

Conservation Forestry Partners, LP

DGS Timber

Dye, Mary

Forest Northwest LP

Fruit Growers Supply Co.

Grandy Lake Forest

Green Crow Corp.

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, LLC

O'Neill Pine Company

Overton & Associates

Pacific Denkmann - Pilchuck Tree Farm

Pacific Forest Management, Inc.

Pacific West Timber Company, LLC

PB Lumber, LP

Plas Newydd, LLC

Port Blakely Tree Farms

Rayonier

RD Merrill Company

Ring Family Limited Partnership

Schaaf, Norm

Seefeld Corporation

Sheldon Properties

Sierra Pacific Industries

Stevenson Land Company

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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