



WASHINGTON FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

NOVEMBER 2021



From the Executive Director: **Jason Spadaro**

The year 2021 is one to remember. Washington held its first all remote legislative session ever. The Climate Commitment Act and Low Carbon Fuel Standards passed, delivering Washingtonians cap-and-trade, carbon tax and clean fuel policies. We supported the Department of Natural Resources, forest fire prevention bill which provides \$125 million per biennium to improve wildfire readiness, restore the health of our forests, expand forest sector workforce capabilities and make communities more resilient to wildfire. Capital gains tax was adopted, with critical recognition of the importance of long-term forest investments, among other business taxes. Last year, Gov. Inslee signed into law the forest products sector carbon bill, recognizing the undivided carbon sequestration benefits that result from the entire forest products sector, benefitting our industry during the dominance of carbon discussions this year.

With Mark Doumit's sudden passing, I stepped into the role of interim Executive Director, continuing the legacy of WFPA's success under Mark's leadership. The important work of our Association includes respecting and renewing our long standing tribal-industry relationship and taking it to a new level, which I'm calling a *New Era of Collaboration*. WFPA's Board began this effort over a year ago, recognizing that we achieve more by working together. Through renewal of the TFW spirit, we look forward to creating a bright future for our mutual interests - making forestry a preferred land use; continuing to provide cold, clean water and improving salmon runs.

I am very proud of the WFPA Staff, Board of Trustees, members of our Association and our entire industry. In a year of stress, in everything from natural resource management to politics, global pandemics and personal loss; our industry has continued to be a model and lead the way - successfully balancing the interests of a healthy forest industry, economy, communities and environment. I am grateful for the support of the Board and members of WFPA and am honored to help lead us through these challenges in the upcoming years.

Jason Spadaro, Executive Director, WFPA



From the President: **Bill Monahan**

In June of this year our Executive Director and dear friend, Mark Doumit, passed away unexpectedly. In a time when too many of us see Government as a place where people position themselves to get what they want, Mark had a reverence for it as a place where we all must care for its proper functions and role in our democracy. He was a patient uniter who led the WFPA for 15 years from a respected and influential position in the state of Washington.

With Mark's passing, our immediate past President, Jason Spadaro, graciously stepped in to lead the WFPA as interim Executive Director. Our highly skilled staff, along with Jason's support, have continued making progress on the WFPA member priorities for 2021 and beyond. Greatest of our near- and long-term priorities is the reinvigoration of relationships between our WFPA members and Tribes.

With the adoption of the Forest and Fish Law and associated Habitat Conservation Plan, and the feeling of mission mostly accomplished, Tribal and Landowner principles gradually became less engaged. Twenty years later, it is easy to see reinvigorating this relationship as a big opportunity to support each other's needs. We have so much in common as co-managers of natural resources. Under Jason's leadership, we have made great progress on this initiative.

Given the need for continuity on multiple WFPA initiatives that are in progress, full support of WFPA staff, and the depth of his experience and competence, the WFPA Executive Committee is lending its unanimous and full support of naming Jason to the permanent role of Executive Director.

The full Board of Trustees has voted to approve his nomination. I know Jason will do a tremendous job in representing our members. The WFPA is such a strong association because of the support and integrity of its members and staff. I've felt that support most acutely over the past several months. I am honored to be a member of this Association and to serve as your President.

Bill Monahan, President WFPA

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This summer WFPA's Lead the Way ad resonated with King County voters. Ninety three percent of the voters found the ad believable, and 77% are more likely to believe that working forests work for us all. Learn more at: www.workingforesters.org

Forests and Fish Law – one of the largest and most comprehensive pieces of environmental legislation in the US aimed at protecting salmon habitat and cool, clean water – celebrates 22 years. (April)

The US Department of Commerce awards the Darrington Wood Innovation Center a \$6 million grant, helping create a 100-acre timber facility dedicated to researching and creating mass timber products in rural Snohomish County. (February)

Stakeholders, including private forest landowners, tribal governments, scientists, government agencies, environmentalists, recreational fishermen and others met online for the 8th Biennial Salmon Recovery Conference (April).

The Washington State Legislature passes HB 1168, which commits \$125 million per biennium to modernize the state's fire preparedness and improve forest health. (April)

Mark Doumit, Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) executive director and former Washington State legislator, unexpectedly passes away. (June)

Washington Forest Protection Association's Executive Committee names Jason Spadaro WFPA interim exec. director (July), and the Board appoints him permanently. (November)

C6 Forest to Farm begins biochar and pyrolysis reactor project in the Methow Valley using Ponderosa pines and Douglas-fir. (September)

"The wonderful thing about forestry is that when a tree farmer plants a tree, especially someone that's my age, is that chances are they'll never see the harvest of that tree, it's going to be 40 to 50 years down the road, so it's an act of faith when a farmer, a tree farmer, plants a tree." – Mark Doumit (1961 – 2021)

Working forests **lead the way**

Washington's working forests have long led the way on environmental stewardship. This is evident as the forestry sector is driven by a sustainable supply of strong, resilient trees and a healthy environment. Washington's private forestland owners have embraced the guiding principle of using the best available science to improve and evolve forest practices. The certainty that good science will lead the way has contributed to a thriving, robust forestry sector that has benefited the state and local economies, society and the environment.

How working forests lead the way:

- **Salmon recovery.** Working forests have helped protect more than 9.3 million acres and 60,000 miles of streams and invested a collective \$295 million in road improvements that help prevent runoff and sediment from making their way into streams. To date, private forestland owners have removed more than 8,000 barriers to fish passage and upgraded stream crossings to make it easier for fish to migrate. The outcome has been clear, clean water and cooler streams that support spawning salmon.
- **Sustainability.** Trees are a renewable resource and Washington's working forests demonstrate that daily, planting three trees for every one tree harvested. This ensures that working forests can continue to provide a reliable, and steady supply of wood used in homebuilding, paper and countless other items. In doing so, Washington's working forests support more than 101,000 workers and generate more than \$5.5 billion in annual wages and \$214 million in local and state taxes, supporting communities and the environment.
- **Science-based.** Managed forests of today rely on the latest science and peer-reviewed studies to ensure forests remain healthy and resilient. The result is private forestland owners apply science-based approaches that have been key to improving aquatic and riparian habitats and water quality to reduce scientific uncertainty and better meet the ecological needs of fish, wildlife and communities.
- **The Adaptive Management Program** has funded more than \$15 million per biennium in research since 2001. The program is paid for with a combination of taxes collected from the forest products industry and proceeds from the state general fund.



Washington State **Legislature Milestones**

Forest health bill: HB 1168 is a groundbreaking legislation that commits \$125 million from the general fund to promote forest health and fund wildfire prevention. The bill also reforms some state operations and solidifies cooperation among state and federal forest managers. Most significant for forest landowners, the bill creates the largest, most targeted forest sector workforce development initiative in modern history.

Timber reporting requirement extension: HB 1055 extends by four years a would-be expiring obligation for timber purchasers to report sales prices to the Department of Revenue. This data is then used by the state to calculate the appropriate stumpage tax rates. Without this information, the taxes would not be based on real world conditions and could become unreflective of reality.

Smoke management civil enforcement: SB 5947 provides DNR with the authority to develop rules to do this. It will be some time before they do.

Plastic bag ban: The single-use plastic bag ban went into effect Oct. 1, 2021, prohibiting single-use carryout bags and charging an \$0.08 fee for large paper and thick, reusable plastic carryout bags. The ban does not apply to plastic produce bags and stores are not required to charge for small paper bags.

Legislative and Congressional District redistricting: Every 10 years, the bipartisan Washington State Redistricting Commission creates the state's new congressional and legislative districts based on the most recent census data. Though Washington's 10 congressional and 49 legislative districts will continue, new voting district boundaries could impact the state's political future in Olympia and Washington DC.

In **Memorium**



The Washington Forest Protection Association lost a dear friend and the forestry sector one of its most prominent champions with Mark Doumit's passing in June. Lawmakers and community leaders heralded Mark as an adept legislator who rose above partisanship, a skilled budget writer and problem solver. But to the WFPA staff, board and its members he was family. We will miss Mark and think often on how he would approach an issue. We at WFPA hope to honor him each day by following Mark's example of working to advocate for healthy, resilient forests with kindness, humanity, integrity and a touch of humor

Forest Policy **Update**

Type F Update: The Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) workgroup is finalizing their report on the spatial analysis of AFF alternatives for delivery to the Forest Practices Board's water typing committee in late Nov. or early Dec. The analysis indicates the landowner AFF alternative performs the best compared to known anadromous presence data; however, some workgroup participants continue to push for a precautionary approach. We continue to focus on making water typing methods more consistent, repeatable, and grounded in solid science rather than entertaining proposals which move the F/N breakpoint up or downstream without scientific justification. CMER/ISAG are continuing work on water typing related study designs, we are coordinating technical input into the process. The field-based science work to support water typing continues to lag well behind the rule making process and is thus far not funded.

Type N/Smart Buffer Update: The revised Smart Buffer Design study is working its way through the guided decision-making process within CMER. TFW Policy continues to deliberate the Type Np workgroup's report to include numerous recommendations for addressing the findings of the suite of CMER studies on the topic. The FPB initiated rule making for Np buffers (CR-101) at their November meeting but will not consider rule language until they have received recommendations (consensus or majority/minority reports) from Policy following receipt of the remaining CMER studies.

C-Peace Process and Next Steps: CPeace completed two conflict transformation workshops for CMER/TFW Policy members and Adaptive Management Program/CMER staff. Although CPeace relinquished their contract with DNR midyear, Commissioner Franz plans to hold meetings with principal participants in Dec., including WFPA members. DNR will provide a report to the legislature in 2022.

Outdoor Worker Wildfire Smoke Hazard Rule: For the 2021 fire season, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) implemented an emergency Wildfire Smoke hazard rule for all outdoor workers. The emergency rule expired this Fall. L&I has begun stakeholder work on permanent rules to be implemented for the 2022 fire season. WFPA staff and the Forest Policy Committee (FPC) have been involved in both the emergency and the permanent rule making. Members of the WFPA FPC reported that the 2021 emergency rules were not overly burdensome but determining the air quality at remote worksites was difficult. WFPA hopes to address this during permanent rule making.

Forest Practices Board Appointments: The Governor appointed Wayne Thompson of Timber Products Union and Cody Desautel with their terms ending in December 2024. Current board member Tom Nelson's term ends December 2021. The Governor has yet to name a replacement. WFPA continues to track member terms and replacement status.





WFPA Centenarians

Stimson Lumber Co., 1850
Port Blakely*, 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

Jason Spadaro

Executive Director

Cindy Mitchell

CFO & Sr. Director, Public Affairs

Darin Cramer

Sr. Director, Forest & Environmental Policy

Jason Callahan

Director, Governmental Relations

John Ehrenreich

Director, Forest Taxation & Economics

Doug Hooks

Director, Forest & Environmental Programs

Shellie Burnham

Executive Assistant

WFPA Members

Barker Tree Farm - Woods Trust
Bloedel Timberlands Development
Broughton Lumber Company
BTG Pactual
Conservation Forestry Partners, LP
DGS Timber
Dye, Mary
EMF Enterprises, LLC
E.E. Overton
Forest Northwest LLP
Fruit Growers Supply Company
Grandy Lake Forest
Green Crow Corp.
Green Crow Forecastle NW
Green Crow Timber
Green Diamond Resource Company
GreenWood Resources Inc.
Hama Hama Company
Hampton Lumber
Hanson, Gary
Hess, Phil
Inland Empire Paper Company
JLCG, LLC
Manulife Investment Management
Miller, Ken & Bonnie
Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC
Munro, LLC
NBGC, LLC
Nookachamps Forest
Norseman Timber Company
O'Neill Pine Company
Pacific Denkmann - Pilchuck Tree Farm
Pacific Forest Management, Inc.

Pacific West Timber Company, LLC
PB Lumber, LP
Plas Newydd, LLC
Port Blakely
Rayonier
RD Merrill Company
Ring Family Limited Partnership
Schaaf, Norm
Seefeld Corporation
Sheldon Properties
Sierra Pacific Industries
Stimson Lumber Company
TC&I Chinook, LLC
Timberland Investment Resources
Two Cats Timber
Vaagen Brothers Lumber
VWDA US Timber, LLC
Weyerhaeuser Company
Wilcox Farms, Inc.
Wilson Tree Farm



**Washington Forest
Protection Association**

724 Columbia St. NW, Ste. 250
Olympia, WA 98501

360-352-1500

www.wfpa.org

