



WASHINGTON FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

NOVEMBER 2022



From the Executive Director: **Jason Spadaro**

We've covered a lot of ground this year, from finishing the first ever fully virtual legislative biennium, to a recent and unexpected vote at the Forest Practices Board last week. We also pursued new paths, welcomed new staff with Tom Davis, our Government Relations Director, and Kenneth King, our Controller, and said so long to a dedicated friend, Kevin Godbout who is retiring this year. Our determination to continue building direct relationships with tribal leaders is some of the most important work we are doing right now. We are developing a carbon vision for working forests and use of wood products and delving into the world and programs related to workforce development. We believe the forest industry has the best and most meaningful jobs for society.

With all the change, there are a few things that are certain, as we conclude our 114th year at WFPA. Our commitment to long-term and sustainable forestry and manufacturing of wood products is steadfast; it is what we do best. The forest industry's solution-oriented and proactive mind set is unwavering and our values in the forestry sector that are built on good people, hard work and making a difference for society and the landscape remains true. Many of our businesses are multi-generational family tree farms, and from the largest to the smallest we have one thing in common – forestry is a great profession which gives to the land, the people and society in a never-ending cycle of growth, harvest, and regrowth. There are not many businesses that have this track record. Our ability to maintain a united front has kept this association able to work through the issues of the day and winning so we have a successful future.

Last year we indicated that we're in a New Era of Collaboration, meaning our focus is on building relationships with natural resource leaders, our tribal neighbors, and those that influence the practice of forestry, like state and federal agencies and political leaders. We're committed to letting the public know about the great things that forestry provides, while demonstrating that we are listening to public values of protecting the environment while practicing forestry. I am very proud of the WFPA Staff, Board of Trustees, members of our Association and our entire industry for your constancy and insight.

Jason Spadaro, Executive Director, WFPA



From the President: **Bill Monahan**

It has been an honor to serve as WFPA President for the last 2 years. Robert Bass, Manulife Investment Management, and current WFPA Vice President, will serve as our President for the next two years. Robert is a thoughtful, intelligent leader and will do a great job serving the WFPA membership.

After two years of working more closely with the Association, I feel a much greater sense of gratitude for the amazing work that our Executive Director and the staff do on behalf of WFPA membership. The greatest compliment I have heard about these efforts came in the form of "the WFPA carries too much influence" on issues. What this really means is that we have a talented staff that does its homework, relies on science, builds consensus, doesn't exaggerate, and comes prepared to recommend defensible positions.

This is a strong Association. It is built upon past and present leaders who embraced transparency, a spirit of collaboration, and a belief that all members have a voice. I've observed this when initiatives arise that we are not in full agreement on. Though difficult, we have been committed to not letting those differences divide our common interest of supporting a vital Forest Products Industry. Small private forest landowners, mill owners, and large industrial landowners all work together to promote an industry that provides for rural jobs, family legacies, and a myriad of environmental benefits including climate-friendly products.

With Mark Doumit's passing last year, we lost a wonderful leader. Mark was a strong proponent of natural resource education and workforce development. I am excited to announce that we can honor Mark, and his legacy, with the Mark Doumit Opportunity Scholarship. This will support students that are pursuing community and technical college programs in forestry, natural resources, environmental conservation, watershed management, wildlife or fisheries. Every dollar donated is matched 100% by the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship program.

Bill Monahan, President WFPA

THE YEAR IN **REVIEW**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources resumed prescribed fires on state lands after an 18-year hiatus. Research consistently shows that controlled burns are a critical forest management tool that promote forest health.

Three state agencies – Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Ecology – jointly recognized large private forest landowners for completing their Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan before the October 2021 deadline.

Working forests continue to increase compliance rates with current forest practices rules aimed at protecting fish and aquatic habitats. The DNR biennium compliance monitoring report found FP compliance rates ranging from 98 – 88%, affirming “generally high compliance.”

University of Washington Foster School of Business opens Founders Hall, its latest building made from mass timber and a model for the university’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Washington State House of Representatives honor former lawmaker and WFPA executive director Mark Doumit.

DNR reports 2022 as the least destructive wildfire season in a decade.

Wildfire smoke from western Cascade-area fires blankets the state, impacting air quality throughout September and October. The lingering wildfire smoke underscores the importance of working forests and active forest management to promote healthy, resilient forests.

Working forests **lead the way**

WFPA’s Public Information Committee (PIC) began its annual public awareness campaign in June featuring WA Working Foresters protecting cool, clean water. The media effort includes videos, and a refreshed website that delivers an uplifting message of leadership and science-backed approaches working forests provide for salmon habitat protection and sustainable forestry. The campaign ran from mid-June through mid-August.

Results from the campaign:

- Impressions delivered = 27.4 million
- Ad message believability among voters = 95%
- Voters support industry efforts to address salmon = 86%
- Favorable voter opinion of logging and working forests = 65% and 67%

We’d like to say a heartfelt farewell, but not goodbye to Kevin Godbout, who is retiring Dec. 1 and has been the WFPA PIC chair since 2018. Happy skiing Kevin!



Taxes & Fees

Paying only our fair share

WFPA’s forest tax program keeps a watchful eye out for taxes levied on the forest products industry, ensuring we pay only our fair share. The Washington State Tax Structure Work Group (TSWG) is considering replacing the state’s gross receipts B&O tax with a margins tax. The WFPA tax program has been involved in the meetings of the TSWG over the last few years, and has been working on how such a change would affect timberland owners. The goal of the TSWG is to introduce legislation in the 2023 session. The WFPA Tax and GR Committees will support Northwest Pulp and Paper Association’s efforts to extend the Hog Fuel Sales and Use Tax exemption, which is scheduled to expire in 2024.

Safety

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries has been pursuing safety rules related to wildfire smoke and heat stress. They adopted emergency rules in 2021 and again in 2022, and are now drafting permanent rules. WFPA staff and members have been engaged in the rulemaking process since Fall of 2020.



Washington State **Legislature Milestone**

The first-ever fully virtual legislative biennium concludes:

The Washington State Legislature moved to a virtual session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Capitol Building was closed to the public and most lawmakers. Committee hearings and lawmaking were held virtually which allowed for Washington residents to testify remotely for the first time.

Biochar: SB 5961 was the only forestry-related bill to pass the 2022 session. Specifically, it requires all state agencies and local governments to “consider whether biochar can be utilized” in public works projects. The bill also creates a pilot project to review the feasibility of sourcing forest products to produce biochar production off of lands managed by DNR.

Outdoor Education: Supported by the Pacific Education Institute, HB 2078 created an outdoor learning grant program that connects public and tribal school students with the state’s various natural resource agencies to provide relevant expertise on land management and work-integrated learning experiences.

Forest Policy **Update**

Working forests keep water cool and clean for salmon

From the mountain waterways to lower watershed to the Puget Sound and ocean, the salmon’s journey is a long one. Washington’s working forest landowners are doing their part to keep waterways and fish-bearing streams cool and clean for fish by using modern forestry practices like smart buffer zones to provide shade, reduce erosion and filter sediment to keep water cool and clean for salmon and other aquatic wildlife.

How working forests lead the way:

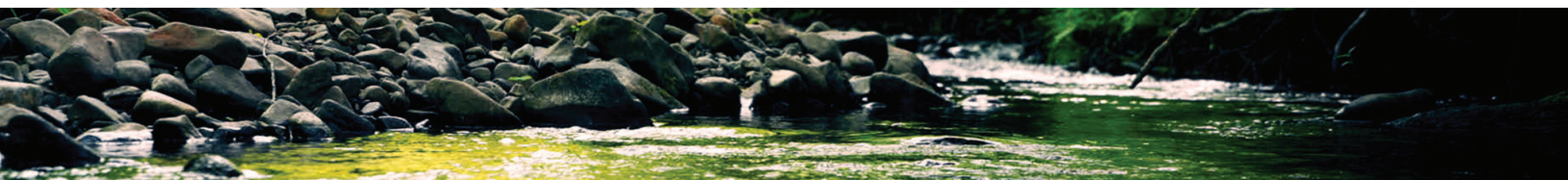
- **Salmon recovery.** Washington’s working forests have led the way with salmon recovery efforts for more than 20 years. That includes protecting 60,000 miles of streams running through 9.3 million acres of state and private forestland, removing fish passage barriers so salmon can thrive.
- **Science-based.** Working forests apply the best science and peer-reviewed studies to protect fish habitat on streams where salmon are returning. Science-based forestry practices also extend to complying with federal and state regulations to protect fish, wildlife and water quality. In fact, a recent state report found Washington’s working forests landowners continue to adhere to state forest practice rules at very high rates.
- **Stewardship.** Washington’s working forests have among the highest level of environmental stewardship and sustainable forestry practices. Working foresters protect fish habitat while supplying a sustainable supply of forest products to house us, keep us healthy and improve our quality of life.

Operating Budget: Included in the operating budget – SB 5693 – was funding for several forestry-related programs.

- The Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP) received an additional \$5 million investment. Lawmakers established FREP more than 20 years ago as part of the Forests & Fish Law to partially offset regulatory costs for small forest landowners.
- DNR requested Adaptive Management Audit funding to implement agreed-to recommendations from a State Auditor’s report on the Adaptive Management Program. Even though the budget proposed by the Governor and approved by the House provided funding for this work, the Senate position won out that requires DNR to complete the work “within existing resources.”
- Prior to the 2022 session, DNR’s wildfire program operated under a recurring budget proviso that prohibited the agency from covering the Wildfire Administration Costs of its wildfire program with its wildfire appropriation. This meant that all other DNR programs and DNR-managed accounts subsidized the administrative overhead of the fire program. The 2022 budget finally addressed this concern by including nearly \$2.9 million for indirect and administrative costs related to fire suppression. An intent to provide this funding support through June 2025 was established.

The State Forest Practices Board (Board) took action this month to consider change to forestry rules for buffers alongside non-fish-bearing Np streams. The Board selected one instead of both proposals presented, to analyze in rule making. We believe both should be analyzed because the proposal developed by small/large forest landowner and counties represents a fair and balanced response directly to **Experimental Buffer Treatment** studies which show whole-basin harvests may temporarily increase water temperatures by 0.9-1.8°F. Forested Np Streams range between 54-58°F which is cooler than the salmon temperature limit of 60.8°F (16°C). As vegetation and trees grow back, temperatures recover in a few years. Current forest practices rules and the landowner/county proposal protects non-fish and fish bearing stream temperatures for salmon and amphibians. The chosen proposal does have two options, and one responds directly to the Experimental Buffer Treatment study design which we support, but when presented with the opportunity to approve this near-consensus option, the Board chose not to take that approach. Rule-making takes 1.5-2 years.

Forestry was the first to develop a salmon and water quality protection plan in 1999 through the Forests and Fish law. Forests and Fish was endorsed for 50 years by the federal government in the 2006 Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan covering 9.3 million acres of working forests and 60,000 miles of streams. The federal services recognized that temporary increases in stream temperatures are isolated and recover within 5-15 years to pre-harvest conditions and that forest management does not create persistent and permanent change in water temperature over 40-60-year rotations.



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

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Green Crow Forecastle NW

Green Crow Timber

Green Diamond Resource Company

GreenWood Resources Inc.

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Hampton Lumber

Hess, Phil

Inland Empire Paper Co.

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.

PacificWest Timber Company, LLC

PB Lumber, LP

Plas Newydd, LLC

Port Blakely

Rayonier

RD Merrill Company

Ring Family Limited Partnership

Salmon Timber, Timberland

Investment Resources

Norm Schaaf

Seefeld Corporation

Sheldon Properties

Sierra Pacific Industries

Stimson Lumber Company

TC&I Chinook, LLC

Twin Creeks Timber, LLC.

Two Cats Timber

Vaagen Brothers Lumber

VWDA US Timber, LLC

Weyerhaeuser Company

Wilcox Farms, Inc.

Wilson Tree Farm



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