



# NOV

## ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023



From the  
Executive Director:  
**Jason Spadaro**

Washington's working forests are the most natural climate solution in the effort to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide. We know with certainty that healthy, carbon absorbing forests benefit from active management. It's a responsibility we cannot merely walk away from, leaving it to natural processes alone. The Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA), and its members, are at the forefront of this battle and ready for the challenge.

The idea that we can address climate change by simply continuing to set aside more forests and leaving them untouched is outdated. The reality of drier, hotter summers demands a more proactive approach. It calls for proactive forest management and cutting-edge tools and techniques to adapt to changing conditions and protecting our forests from catastrophic wildfires.

Actively managed forests control tree density and fuel loads, maintain forest health, have a diversity of age classes, fuel breaks and provide access for management and fire suppression.

We must adapt to changing conditions in our forests using science-backed approaches to forest management. In this endeavor, we can embrace new technologies like artificial intelligence, satellite data, drones, and other innovations. These tools can play a pivotal role in monitoring and managing our forests, helping us prevent smaller forest fires from becoming catastrophic and maintaining forest health. Additionally, our efforts to develop drought-resistant tree varieties that are better equipped to survive and thrive in drier conditions represent a forward-thinking approach to mitigating the impact of water scarcity.

But this battle is not one we can fight alone. Collaboration is essential for effective forest management. Public agencies, private companies and nonprofit organizations must join hands to confront the challenges posed by evolving forest conditions. Together, we can all promote biodiversity, safeguard salmon habitat and provide society with sustainably produced, renewable, carbon-friendly forestry products.

As dedicated WFPA members, your commitment is invaluable. Together, we will continue to address these challenges head-on, championing active forest management, collaboration, innovation and support for our vital forestry sector. Our forests are counting on us, and we stand unwavering in our dedication to their preservation and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Jason Spadaro, Executive Director, WFPA



From the  
President:  
**Robert Bass**

The Washington Forest Protection Association and the member companies are leaders in sustainable forest management. Our collective commitment to ensuring a viable industry, a healthy environment, and vibrant communities is unparalleled. We stand together as we continue to implement our strategic vision advancing the positive impacts of working forests.

We readily embrace our obligations as stewards of the forests we manage continuing to advance Timber, Fish, & Wildlife and Forests & Fish. Our commitment to sustainable practices and responsible land management are an important part of ensuring productive habitat for salmon, the lifeblood of our Tribal friends, and a lasting symbol of the Northwest. The conservation efforts of our members provide vital ecological benefits and contribute to the advancement of science-based policies and economic growth of our great state.

As we look to the future, there are opportunities on the horizon. Our ability to work collectively and our steadfast commitment to Timber, Fish & Wildlife and Forests & Fish will continue to serve as cornerstones of our success. We understand that as stewards of the land, managed forests are healthy forests. A thriving forest sector benefits the state's economy and is instrumental in preventing catastrophic wildfires, meeting ambitious carbon reduction goals, and societal well-being.

A recent poll revealed an overwhelming majority of statewide voters (89%) support active forest management and 83% agree that forest management reduces wildfire risk. This endorsement reaffirms our belief in the importance of sustainable forest management practices and the value these practices bring to the state and our local communities.

It is my sincere hope that we continue to build on our collaborative achievements working together to nurture our industry's vitality, ensuring a bright sustainable future.

Thank you for your dedication, for being a part of our journey, and allowing me to join you in the endeavor.

Sincerely,

Robert Bass, President WFPA

# The Many Benefits of Healthy Forests

Through science-backed forest practices, innovative forest products, stewardship and environmental solutions, private forest landowners demonstrate year-round the critical role working forests play in the state's economic, environmental, and general well-being. Through education, advocacy and partnerships, WFPA is dedicated to supporting working forests and educates policymakers, consumers and communities about the vital role working forests play in advancing forest health, biodiversity and supplying valuable forest products that society depends on daily.

## Healthy Forests

Studies consistently show managed forests are healthy forests. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded sustainably managed forests provide the largest continuous climate mitigation benefit and carbon transferred to harvested wood products can both store carbon over the long-term and substitute for emissions-intensive materials reducing emissions in other sectors. Indeed, well managed forests enhance forest resilience with healthier tree stands that lower the risk of wildfire and absorb twice as much carbon per acre than unmanaged forests. Managed forests store 3.5 times as much carbon per acre in the forest and wood products because the stored carbon is transformed into consumer goods like construction materials, furniture, paper, pallets and much more.

Conversely, we need only to look at the last decade of large-scale forest fires to recognize how catastrophic wildfires in unmanaged forests were made worse by the significantly higher tree mortality rates on national forest land. The result is more carbon is being emitted than absorbed each year on unmanaged forest lands.

The forest sector is a diverse ecosystem that contains elements dependent on one another. In addition to the working forests that supply carbon-friendly, renewable wood, Washington's timber industry relies on sawmills, supply chains and various professionals throughout the sector to maintain its position as the second largest producer of lumber in the United States. Where there are busy sawmills, healthy forests are nearby. Where there is strong demand for forest products, there are healthy, well managed forests. That is why WFPA will continue to advocate for smart, common-sense policies that ensure the entire forest sector remains intact and strengthened for the present day and future generations.

## Biodiversity

WFPA members recognize that sustainability and stewardship are at the heart of what working forests do. Washington's private forest landowners provide and protect habitat for fish, birds, mammals, insects and amphibians and approach safeguarding wildlife with care and the best science available. Different species have different needs. Burrowing and small animals thrive in open areas just harvested, while larger mammals enjoy the space of recently planted areas. The harvests create openings while stands of trees at various life stages form a patchwork of forests that create a type of diverse habitat not found in unmanaged forests.

## Biofuels

Washington's private forest landowners are essential to addressing climate change and are primed to meet the mounting demand for renewable fuels. Bioenergy can be locally produced and utilizes harvest operation residuals and byproducts to create renewable fuel for heating, transportation and generating electricity. Sustainably sourced biomass helps reduce wildfire risk in the forest by reducing

fuel loading, or excessive downed trees, brush, and slash, and helps to improve forest health and resilience. When biomass fuels are substituted for fossil fuels, it lowers carbon emissions instead of introducing new geologic carbon to the atmosphere, which helps mitigate climate change.

## Carbon Friendly Building Products

Timber generated from Washington's working forests can help address the state's urgent housing crisis. Affordable housing remains elusive for far too many lower-income and middle-income households. Nearly one-quarter of Washington renters report allocating half of their income to housing. And for home buyers, surging mortgage rates, low inventory and inflation have kept housing out of reach. But as the state, county and cities consider levies, zoning changes and developer incentives to address housing challenges, forest sector advocates say the solution to meeting housing demands lies in Washington's working forests. When wood is substituted for more energy intensive building materials, the carbon footprint is lowered in the built environment. Wood offers a multitude of benefits for builders, publicly owned housing authorities, developers, communities, and residents.

- Wood construction is generally faster; mass timber buildings take 25% less time to construct than concrete buildings.
- Wood materials are less expensive compared to other traditional construction materials.
- Wood is durable and lightweight with high fire, seismic and wind resistance.
- Wood construction sites are generally quieter and less disruptive since prefabricated timber structures reduce construction traffic.
- Wood is sustainable and is a renewable and recyclable building material.
- Sustainably grown lumber locks carbon away from the atmosphere, reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases, fighting global warming.
- Wood supports local, rural communities by utilizing a homegrown resource providing economic benefits throughout the supply chain.
- Washington state has an abundance of responsibly produced wood.

As one of the best places to grow timber in the nation, we must establish policies that support working forests, increase the use of wood, incentivize growing and managing forests, and provide timber supply which supports jobs in rural communities.

# Working Forests Carbon Blueprint

Washington's working forests are integral to any climate mitigation strategy. If the state wishes to meet its ambitious carbon reduction goal of reducing carbon emissions by 95% by 2050, working forests must play a part in helping meet that challenge. As nature's carbon capturer and supplier of a renewable, carbon friendly material that locks in carbon, WFPA is certain private forest landowners have a special role to play. No other state has a greater capacity to sequester carbon while simultaneously creating products that lock carbon in long-lived timber products like buildings, infrastructure, and furniture. Of the state's more than 22 million acres of forested land, nearly half (47%) is working forest land. WFPA remains committed to ensuring working forest lands remain working.



# Words of a Forester

This year the campaign featured two professional foresters who delivered messages about working forests as an important part of the climate solution, offsetting carbon emissions, and storing it in long-lived wood products. Working forests generate more than 100,000 jobs in Washington state supporting rural economies. WFPA advertised through zoned cable, television news, Root Sports, live and appointment viewing programming, digital video, and social media. We also updated our [www.workingforesters.com](http://www.workingforesters.com) website landing page and sponsored a story in the Seattle Times *Wood and Wood Products are Key to Better Carbon Capture* with an interactive graphic showing how working forests absorb carbon and store it in wood, and transfer it to the built environment.

## Results from the campaign:

- Impressions delivered = **20 million**
- Ad message believability among voters = **80%**
- Trees in managed forest and wood store carbon = **78%**
- Managed forests help prevent wildfires = **83%**
- Managed forest are part of the solution = **85%**

# Forest Policy Update

## Forest Practices Board Rulemaking

WFPA is heavily engaged in both the water typing and Np buffer rule making processes at the Forest Practices Board (FPB). We will continue working toward cooperative solutions on both rulemakings; however, given the potentially adverse precedent which could be set through these rulemakings regarding lack of supporting adaptive management science and interpretation of the Antidegradation Policy, respectively, we are simultaneously focusing on building a solid administrative record. Final draft rules and supporting analysis documents necessary for public review and comment are anticipated in mid to late 2024.

## Department of Ecology

WFPA participated in the Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) rulemaking process, which is Tier III of the Antidegradation Policy. Four water bodies in WA were nominated for ORW designation by a consortium of environmental interest groups. WFPA tracked the process and submitted written comments questioning the analysis supporting the proposed designation, and the indistinguishable interpretation of Tiers I, II, and III of the Antidegradation Policy. A final ORW proposal is anticipated towards the end of 2023.

## Fish & Wildlife Commission

The FWC is considering several policy changes, including uplisting the Western Gray Squirrel to endangered, a conservation policy guiding Department of Fish and Wildlife management and actions, and incorporating future climate change into water crossing structure design. Although DFW rule changes do not impact WFPA members directly, their adoption will result in recommendations the FPB must consider. WFPA will continue participating in these processes.

# Legislative Review

In January 2023 the public was once again allowed to participate in person in the legislative process after two years of hybrid sessions due to Covid.

Climate change remained a predominant topic during session. An example was HB 1789, by the Department of Natural Resources that would have authorized DNR to sell carbon credits on state lands. While the bill eventually failed to pass, the majority party did approve a related budget proviso that the industry opposed but was supported by the state's largest environmental groups.

## Key forestry-related bills that passed:

- HB 1032: Mitigates wildfire risk from electric utilities.
- HB 1176: Creates service and workforce programs to support climate-ready communities. We were able to link it with existing efforts created in HB 1168 from 2021.
- HB 1578: A DNR bill targeting wildfire preparedness and smoke monitoring. Concern remains over the wildfire risk assessment maps authorized in the bill.
- SB 5447: Promotes the alternative jet fuel industry in WA and creates incentives for further investments in the industry.
- Operating Budget: \$10 million provided for DNR to do commercial thinning to restore spotted owl and riparian habitat.
- Capital Budget: \$10 million for the Forest Riparian Easement Program.

## Fish & Wildlife Service

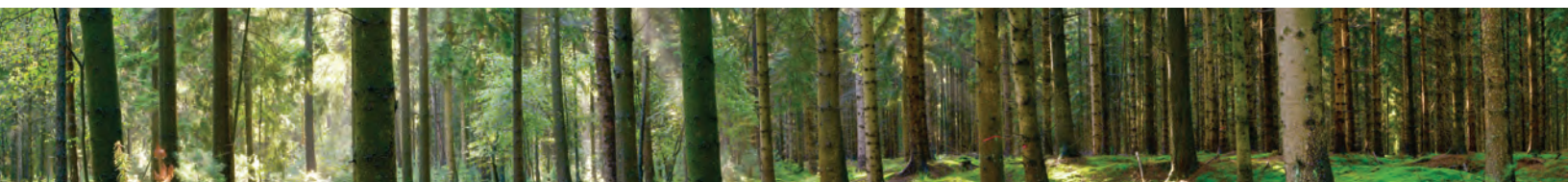
The FWS and National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to reintroduce grizzly bears into the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE) and designating bears in the U.S. portion of the NCE and surrounding areas as a 10(j) nonessential experimental population (NEP) under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. Designation of grizzly bears as a NEP would provide greater management flexibility should conflict situations arise. WFPA will be submitting comments during the comment period which closes November 13, a final decision is anticipated in 2024.

## Industry Science Strategy

WFPA continues to work on developing a landscape scale monitoring proposal which will include stream temperature and status/trend of riparian stand conditions as primary objectives. Secondary objectives may include other land uses, downstream effects, and other variables of interest. The final monitoring proposal will be advertised through a request for qualifications and quotation (RFQQ) process to develop a study design. RFQQ responses will be evaluated by the Forest Policy Committee and a recommendation forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

# Smoke Rules

The Wash. Dept. of Labor and Industries (L&I) is finalizing permanent regulations to protect outdoor workers from wildfire smoke exposure. Sectors such as agriculture, construction, landscaping, and forestry are included, but wildland firefighters are exempt. Emergency rules have been in place for two years, and the permanent rules will mandate air quality monitoring, offer protective equipment, and provide training to recognize smoke exposure symptoms. These regulations respond to worsening air quality due to frequent intense wildfires and hotter, drier summers.



## WFPA Staff

### Jason Spadaro

*Executive Director*

### Cindy Mitchell

*CFO and Sr. Director of Public Affairs*

### Darin Cramer

*Sr. Director of Forest & Environmental Policy*

### Tom Davis

*Director of Government Relations*

### John Ehrenreich

*Director of Forest Taxation & Economics*

### Doug Hooks

*Director of Forest & Environmental Programs*

### Kenneth King

*Controller*

### Erin Simmons

*WFPA Executive Assistant*

## Centenarian Company Members

**Stimson Lumber Co., Est. 1850**

**\*Port Blakely, Est. 1864**

**\*Merrill & Ring, Est. 1886**

**\*Green Diamond Resource Co.**

**(S.G. Simpson Company), Est. 1890**

**EE Overton, Est. 1892**

**\*Weyerhaeuser, Est. 1900**

**Molpus Woodlands Group, Est. 1905**

**Fruit Growers Supply Co., Est. 1907**

**Wilcox Farms, Inc., Est. 1909**

**Inland Empire Paper Co., Est. 1911**

**Hama Hama Company, Est. 1922**

**Broughton Lumber Co., Est. 1923**

*\*WFPA founders*

## WFPA Members

Barker Tree Farm - Woods Trust

Bloedel Timberlands Development

Broughton Lumber Company

BTG Pactual

Chinook Forest Partners

Conservation Forestry Partners, LP

DGS Timber

Dye, Mary

EE Overton

Elska Farms, LLC

EMF Enterprises, LLC

Forest Northwest LLP

Fruit Growers Supply Company

Grandy Lake Forest

Green Crow Corp.

Green Crow Forecastle NW

Green Diamond Resource Company

Hama Hama Company

Hampton Lumber

Hemphill-O'Neill Company

Hess, Phil

Inland Empire Paper Company

JLCG, LLC

Manulife Investment Management

Miller, Ken & Bonnie

Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC

Munro, LLC

Nookachamps Forest

Norseman Timber Company

Nuveen Natural Capital

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

Timberland Investment Resources

Schaaf, Norm

Seefeld Corporation

Sheldon Properties

Sierra Pacific Industries

Stimson Lumber Company

Timberland Investment Resources

Twin Creeks Timber, LLC

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](http://www.wfpa.org)

