



**From the
Executive Director:
Jason Spadaro**

The WFPA annual report is a fitting time to reflect on the past year and look toward the path ahead. I am pleased to share that WFPA's engagement with the Forest Practices Board (FPB), state agencies and forestry sector stakeholders, is yielding dividends.

Policy makers are recognizing the importance of a robust forest products sector and balanced forest policy. We made headway in water typing rulemaking where the Forest Practices Board made a decision that aligns with our position that no two streams are alike. They will leave specific metrics out of the rule which prevents negative economic consequences. This decision also acknowledges that fish habitat is appropriately and accurately captured by all three proposals as guidance in the board manual. A majority of the FPB agree there is no need for dramatic changes to the current approach—a significant victory for private forest landowners and a testament to our collaborative efforts.

We also have made great strides in coalition building. Our work to bring mill operators and landowners together has laid the groundwork for a stronger, cohesive advocacy voice. We continue to expand our coalition to other stakeholders including pulp and paper industries, smaller landowners, independent loggers, trade unions, and others who rely on a strong, robust forestry sector, and we will continue to broaden our coalition, appealing to school districts, cities, tribes, and fire districts that benefit from forest management and recognize Washington's forest products sector enhances community well-being as drivers of sustainable growth and environmental stewardship.

The scientific community, including the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, supports sustainable forest management because it delivers critical carbon sequestration benefits while providing significant economic opportunity. Washington's forest products sector is poised to grow and lead the way in advancing a lumber and wood-based bioeconomy that supports healthier forests, salmon recovery efforts, and wildlife habitat conservation.

I want to thank WFPA members for embodying the virtues of stewardship each day. The work is not over. But by standing together, we can ensure Washington's working forests thrive for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jason Spadaro, Executive Director, WFPA



**From the
President:
Robert Bass**

Forestry has long been a keystone industry in Washington state and since 1908 WFPA has represented the interests of private forest landowners. Today, WFPA continues to proudly celebrate private forest landowners and the critical role they play in supporting green jobs that deliver economic opportunity and lead the way in land stewardship.

It's been 25 years since the legislature passed the Forests & Fish Law which solidified our way of doing business; by working with stakeholders to shape forest policy. The 50-year Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan was signed in 2006, so we still have many years to go. Working with state and federal agencies, Tribes, environmentalists, and community stakeholders, WFPA believes that sound science and listening to the perspectives of private forest landowners must be considered throughout policymaking. This approach ensures the state strikes a commonsense balance between meeting ambitious environmental goals and responsibly managing natural resources.

Thanks to WFPA's patience, tenacity, and steadfast commitment to the Timber, Fish and Wildlife agreement and our continuing efforts to find common ground with the Forest Practices Board, we have seen important wins in forestry. These include steady progress toward a more balanced approach in water typing rulemaking, the anadromous fish floor and new rules surrounding Np water buffers.

I am proud of the strong partnerships WFPA has built in recent years. Looking ahead, I am eager to see a further deepening of our collaborations with the tribes and other stakeholders. I envision WFPA expanding its reach beyond the forest sector as well as continuing to grow and attract more people from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life. I have a great sense of hope and optimism seeing the changing workforce demographics with the newer, younger workers who recognize the importance of forestry and believe it to be a worthwhile career path.

Washington state continues to be one of the best places to grow trees that provide carbon-storing wood products and support jobs dependent upon a thriving forestry sector. Ultimately, the greatest success comes when we all can come together with an open heart and open mind to work toward creating sensible forestry policies that address real environmental concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Bass, President WFPA



2024

ANNUAL
REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024

Public Information: Harvest & Replant

There's good in a cycle. This year's public awareness campaign endeavored to educate Washington residents on the benefits of sustainable forest management with the rally cry – Harvest & Replant. The paid advertising campaign which included network and cable television, print newspaper, public radio and outdoor billboard advertising in King, Spokane, Clallam, Thurston, Whatcom and Jefferson counties, focused on the numerous benefits Washington's working forests provide society, including promoting forest health, economic opportunity, and supplying carbon-friendly wood products when we harvest and replant on a sustainable cycle.

The messages hit the mark. Based on polling after the public awareness campaign ended:

- 58% of respondents repeated the key themes of the ad campaign: replanting trees, managing forests and preventing wildfires.
- 80% found the messaging believable.
- 86% of voters support managed forests -- the practices used by the forest products industry of sustainably harvesting forestlands for wood products and to keep forests healthy, including replanting at least three trees for every one harvested, thinning of dead and dying trees, and removal of underbrush. (Peak Insights, August 2024, Seattle DMA, +/- 5%)

25th Anniversary of Forests & Fish Law



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Forests & Fish Law. Championed by former WFPA executive director and former state legislator, Mark Doumit, and signed into law by then-Gov. Gary Locke, Forests & Fish is a landmark science-based set of forest practices regulations aimed at protecting the state's native freshwater fish and aquatic species.

Forests & Fish represents a truly remarkable achievement, garnering wide-ranging support from private forest landowners, environmentalists, community stakeholders, and federal, state, tribal, and county governments. With strong bipartisan support from the Washington State Legislature, collaboration and science are the guiding principles of Forests & Fish, and more than two decades later, the outcome:

- Private forest landowners completed Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) before the October 2021 deadline.
- The protection of 60,000 miles of streams running through 9.3 million acres of state and private forestland.
- The removal or repair of more than 9,200 fish passage barriers, opening 6,500 miles of fish habitat.
- \$390 million invested in forest road improvements.

"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, 2008

Thank You, Hilary Franz



As Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz's second term draws to a close, WFPA wanted to recognize her numerous achievements before she steps down in January 2025. Franz is credited with raising public awareness on the importance of promoting forest health and taking necessary steps to prevent catastrophic wildfire. Franz achievements:

Wildfire management and prevention: Improved the state's wildfire response capabilities and expanded firefighting resources, including acquiring additional firefighting equipment like helicopters, hiring more firefighters, and persuading the State Legislature to provide \$500 million in wildfire preparedness and response funding through 2029.

Forest health and restoration: Spearheaded the development of a comprehensive forest health strategic plan aimed at restoring forest health in Eastern Washington and advocated for increased investments in forest health and forest restoration projects, including resuming prescribed fires to manage underbrush and reduce fuel loads.

Partnerships: Engaged stakeholders including private forest landowners, tribes, foresters and scientists, local communities, environmental organizations and agencies to leverage resources, coordinate efforts and enhance forest health.

Community and Economic Development: Supported cross laminated timber manufacturing facilities to help fund forest health efforts, promote sustainable wood construction, and green jobs in rural communities.

Advocacy: Actively pushed for state and federal legislation to address long-term forest health, including wildfire funding, forest management, protecting communities in fire-prone areas, and climate resilience.



Forest Policy Update Through A WFPA Staff Lens

Darin Cramer: Sometimes it is a win when the state chooses not to adopt a bad policy – especially within the current political climate. Convincing the Forest Practices Board that dramatic changes to the current water typing rules were unnecessary and largely have unintended consequences is a positive outcome. In 2025, we look forward to further collaboration with forestry stakeholders and building on the gradual progress made within Timber/Fish/Wildlife and the Forest Practices Board. This includes working to codify the current water typing rules and ensuring any future changes are grounded in adaptive management science.

Tom Davis: When working with the Legislature, the goal is to capitalize on opportunities to better educate legislators, especially those from urban and suburban districts, on why the forestry sector is integral to Washington state. Good policymaking can happen when decision makers look beyond the political rhetoric to find commonsense approaches that benefit Washington. In light of this, WFPA organized four forest tours this summer, each hosted by an individual member company. A total of 17 legislators participated in these tours that created an invaluable opportunity to highlight the value of sustainably managed forests as well as the challenges facing the industry. This next session the state faces a budget shortfall, a new governor, and new agency directors. This will create both opportunities and challenges for all of us. Our greatest strength will once again be the positive relationships this industry has with many new and veteran legislators and the ongoing work of the WFPA Government Relations Committee. As always, we will provide weekly updates throughout the legislative session.

Gov. Chris Gregoire: *the forest industry is a “sunrise industry with a bright future as it incorporates public values and quality of life with economic growth.” (2009)*

John Ehrenreich, Jr.: It may not be the flashiest, but tax and economic policy is critical to ensuring working forests can remain working. We spent much of 2024 advocating for sensible tax policies that recognize forestry is a future-oriented practice and thus advocated against drastic schemes that harmed the long-term health and vitality of the forestry sector. This included successfully ensuring county tax codes maintained the forestry designation on working forest lands and fighting tax increases that specifically targeted the wood products industry.

Doug Hooks: Advancing science and subsequent policymaking is often incremental and can take considerably longer than expected. In the case of adaptive management, we’re seeing slow but steady progress in the development of an extensive monitoring design. WFPA remains resolute in its goal to ensure policymakers are mindful that sustainable forestry benefits society by providing a renewable and carbon-friendly quality product, while also providing a plethora of ecosystem services. This is evident with more open and transparent conversations at the Forest Practice Board on the importance of having good science shape policy related to wildlife conservation or fish habitat that WFPA hopes will continue into the coming year.

Cindy Mitchell: Maintaining unity within the forestry industry and collaborating with community stakeholders who recognize the importance of a strong forestry sector is crucial to overcoming challenges, achieving policy wins, and ensuring the future growth of the wood products industry. The Pacific Northwest has abundant resources and the capability to produce top-quality lumber. We will continue to work with legislators, the new public lands commissioner, state agencies, tribes, local government and other stakeholders to promote active forest management, an intact forestry sector, and champion policies that allow working forests and the forest industry to flourish and grow.

Vision:

Washington’s forest products industry is thriving and is a global leader in the lumber and wood-based bioeconomy.





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

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

Clover Forest, LLC

Conservation Forestry Partners, LP

DGS Timber

Dye, Mary

EE Overton

Elska Farms, LLC

EMF Enterprises, LLC

Forest Investment Associates (FIA)

Forest Northwest LLP

Fruit Growers Supply Company

Grandy Lake Forest

Green Crow Corp.

Green Diamond Resource Company

Hama Hama Company

Hampton Lumber

Hemphill O'Neill Company

Hess, Phil

Inland Empire Paper Company

JLCC, 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

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, Inc.

VWDA US Timber, Inc.

Weyerhaeuser Company

Wilcox Farms, Inc.

Wilson Tree Farm



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