



NPF

ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025



From the Executive Director: **Jason Spadaro**

The Washington Forest Protection Association continues to be a strong, unifying voice for sustainable forestry and sound forest policy. This year brought both challenges and progress—but above all, it reaffirmed the importance of staying engaged, standing together, and grounding decisions in science and collaborative problem solving.

WFPA's advocacy before the Forest Practices Board, the Department of Ecology, and other state agencies delivered meaningful outcomes. The Board's recent vote on water typing showed that when sound science and collaborative history are respected, balanced policies can emerge. By avoiding arbitrary standards and recognizing the diversity of Washington's streams, the Board upheld an approach that protects fish habitat and safeguards the long-term viability of working forests.

We've also deepened a statewide coalition of interests. Across Washington, WFPA has built durable partnerships among forest landowners, mills, loggers, local governments, tribes, labor, schools and other natural resource industries. These relationships are essential in reminding the public and decision-makers that forestry is more than trees—it's schools, hospitals, public roads, rural communities, and livelihoods. It's also about climate leadership. Washington's managed forests sequester carbon, protect biodiversity, and provide renewable wood that displaces more carbon-intensive materials.

But our work is far from over. This year's proposed Np stream buffer rule demonstrated how easily policy can veer off course. When the core principles of foundational agreements like Forests & Fish and adaptive management are sidelined, and major rules are developed based on improper application of standards, it undermines the trust and transparency that Forests and Fish is based upon and what makes Washington's model work.

I'm proud of our members, who've stood firm in their commitment to stewardship of forests and adherence to science. You invest every day in our forests, communities, wildlife and science-based practices. That dedication is what sustains the Washington forest industry and our legacy—and with your continued engagement, WFPA will ensure our voice stays strong in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Jason Spadaro, Executive Director, WFPA



From the President: **Kristen Sawin**

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible members that make up the Washington Forest Protection Association. Forestry has long been a foundation of Washington's economy, culture, and environment. Our members manage millions of acres of private forestland that provide renewable materials, sustain rural jobs, and keep forests healthy and resilient. I am inspired by your dedication to sustainable forestry, commitment to stewardship and willingness to tackle hard things.

Across Washington and beyond, there is growing recognition that sustainable forest management is a powerful climate and conservation tool. Thoughtful stewardship—rooted in science, collaboration, and transparency—creates shared value for communities, ecosystems, and economies alike. These are the same principles guiding global efforts like advancing nature-based solutions and sustainable forestry around the world.

I want to thank each of you—landowners, staff and partners for working tirelessly to advance balanced, science-based policy outcomes—including a more measured water-typing rule, improved non-fish-bearing stream buffer guidance, and stronger protections for fish habitat. These results underscore what can be achieved when policymakers, scientists, and landowners work together in good faith.

Equally important is the continued expansion of partnerships that extend beyond our traditional forest sector. WFPA is building relationships with tribes, labor organizations, local governments, environmental groups, and downstream industries that share a commitment to healthy forests and thriving communities. When we listen, learn, and collaborate, we find common ground that strengthens everyone involved.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful. The path isn't always easy but together we're building a future where our forests thrive—providing jobs, clean water, wildlife habitat, and a legacy for generations to come. I invite you to stay engaged and continue to be part of this journey. Our collective commitment is what makes WFPA strong.

Sincerely,

Kristen Sawin, President, WFPA

Bright Future

For more than 117 years—since WFPA was first organized—forest landowners have faced the tough issues of their time and worked to find solutions that serve everyone. This year, we faced new challenges as the foundation of trust, collaboration, and the certainty envisioned by the 1999 **Forests & Fish Law** has been tested. Yet, we believe that when this period concludes, the same spirit that secured 50 years of certainty in the federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan for forest practices, will help us shape the next chapter of sustainable forestry in Washington.

Our industry is entering a new era—one defined not by defending what we do, but by leading with what we know works.

Sustainable forestry is part of Washington's clean-energy future and climate solution, producing renewable materials that store carbon, support rural economies, and provide alternatives to fossil-intensive products. Forest residuals are now being explored as a source of renewable biomass energy, connecting forest health, wildfire prevention, and grid reliability.

WFPA and its members are leaning into this opportunity—partnering with policymakers, researchers, and innovators to ensure forestry remains central to Washington's clean-energy economy. Our future is bright because it is rooted in science, strengthened by collaboration, and sustained by the people who make Washington's working forests thrive.



Keeping and Making Friends: The Importance of Member Engagement and Coalition Building

If there's one lesson from 2025, it's that **early and active engagement** with policymakers is essential to strengthening our industry's place in Washington's economy and future. Part of that effort means building coalitions with others who share our goals, amplifying our message and demonstrating that forestry is not just an industry, but a vital part of the broader community we all call home.

This year, WFPA made important progress expanding those coalitions and showing policymakers that decisions about forest policy reach far beyond landowners or mills. They affect local governments, tribes, labor organizations, businesses, economic development groups, and environmental partners, each connected by a shared interest in keeping forests healthy, communities strong, and local economies viable.

Too often, policymakers and the public have limited understanding of how forest management and the forest products sector work. As fewer decision-makers come from natural resource backgrounds, misunderstandings about our work can lead to unintended consequences for communities, the environment, and the state. WFPA continues to work across party lines and across the state to tell our story—factually, clearly, and with respect.

Gone are the days when our industry could “go it alone.” Effective advocacy now depends on a **broad and informed coalition** that helps carry our message. Here are a few ways WFPA members can help build on this year's progress:

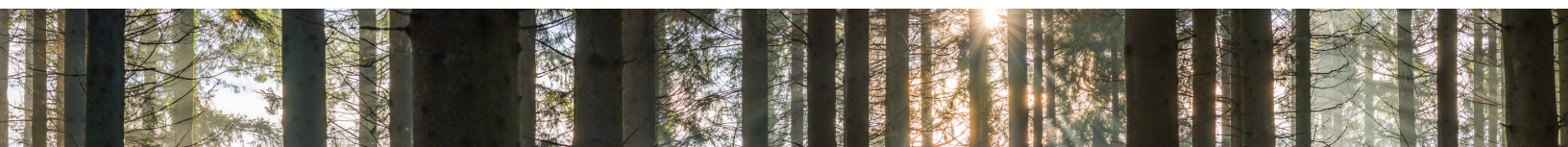
- **Stay informed:** Keep an eye out for WFPA updates on upcoming issues and events. Attend committee meetings and share how proposed policies affect your operations and workforce.
- **Engage in the process:** Testify, send written comments, and meet with policymakers. Our members are community leaders and constituents—your voice matters.
- **Make and keep friends:** Maintain relationships with allies and look for opportunities to build new ones, especially with partners who can help deliver our message.
- **Educate others:** Invite policymakers to see forestry in action—on-site at mills or in the woods. Firsthand experience helps them understand the value of what we do.
- **Be a trusted resource:** Stay factual, nonpartisan, and constructive. Even when we disagree, credibility and good faith keep doors open.

By continuing to engage early, speaking with one voice, and strengthening our relationships, we can ensure that forestry remains recognized as a cornerstone of Washington's rural economy, environment, and quality of life.

Forest Taxation and Economics

WFPA welcomes its newest staff member, Matt Doumit, Policy Associate, who will address the important issues facing WFPA members and the industry. Part of his role will be continuing the work on tax and economic policies that are so important to the long-term health and vitality of the forestry sector. In 2025, the Legislature increased taxes by \$9.4 billion over the next 4 years to fill a major

budget deficit and passed a transportation package that increased the tax on gas and diesel by six cents per gallon plus an annual inflator, and several other fee hikes impacting trucking. In 2026 they may come back for more as state budget problems continue. These policies will likely continue to pressure the forest products industry and the rest of the state's economy.



Public Information and Communications

WFPA's 2025 communications and outreach program represented its most coordinated effort to date—linking advocacy, earned media, and grassroots engagement to elevate awareness of the proposed **Type Np buffer rule** and the pausing of **DNR timber sales**.

Public hearings in Olympia, Port Angeles, Sedro-Woolley, and Longview drew strong participation, with more than **1,200 written comments** submitted and most testimony opposing the rule. Coalition partners, including landowners, labor, counties, and rural community leaders—worked together to emphasize fairness, transparency, and science-based adaptive management.

2025 Legislative Review

The 2025 legislative session brought new leadership, a challenging budget, and more than 2,400 bills—only 430 of which passed. Despite the tough environment, WFPA successfully protected the forestry sector from damaging proposals and secured several meaningful wins. We also hosted the first ever **Forest Products Day**, which drew more than 500 people to the State Capital to learn about the industry's economic and environmental value.

This session underscored the continuing importance of WFPA's advocacy. Our focus remains on educating lawmakers, especially those from urban and suburban districts—about why forestry is essential to Washington's economy, communities, and climate goals. Sound policy emerges when decision-makers look beyond rhetoric and consider practical, science-based solutions that work for everyone.

Looking ahead to 2026, WFPA will continue working to prevent the return of problematic legislation, including environmental crimes, SEPA environmental justice mandates, and eminent domain expansions for transmission corridors. We'll also monitor the state's difficult fiscal outlook, support efforts to restore funding for DNR wildfire and resilience programs and ensure the forestry sector remains competitive and sustainable.

Our greatest strength continues to be the relationships this industry has built with legislators, agencies, and partners across the state. Through the ongoing work of the **WFPA Government Relations**

The integrated campaign deployed both traditional and digital outreach, including connected TV, radio, podcast sponsorships, outdoor displays, and strategic op-eds. Media reach increased by **88% overall**, with **202% growth in TV viewership** and nearly double the **Working Forests Coalition** membership. Grassroots actions generated thousands of letters and public comments, while local partnerships strengthened engagement in key counties.

The campaign's consistent message—**science, fairness, and community resilience**—helped reframe the forestry narrative and demonstrate that balanced, science-based forest policy supports local schools, jobs, and climate goals. WFPA will continue building on this model to ensure Washington's working forests remain **visible, valued, and vital**.

Committee, we'll continue to provide weekly updates and strong representation in Olympia to ensure the voice of working forests is heard.

Key forestry-related bills

- **PASSED:** HB 1389 (Extended stumpage reporting), SB 5444 (Working forest license plate), HB 1539 (Wildfire mitigation workgroup), HB 1563 (Prescribed Fire Claims Fund pilot).
- **STOPPED:** HB 1303 (Environmental justice in SEPA), SB 5360 (Environmental crimes penalties), SB 5466 (Transmission corridors with eminent domain).
- **MODIFIED:** HB 2049 (Property tax increase scaled back), HB 2081 (B&O surcharge removed for forestry), SB 5284 (Recycling exemptions), SB 5794 (Preserved key tax preferences).

Budget Outcomes:

- The 2025–27 state budget totaled \$77.9 billion (an 8% increase), adding \$9.4 billion in new taxes. WFPA's advocacy helped protect the forest sector from broad tax impacts. Notable wins included retaining forest tax exemptions and securing continued support for wildfire resilience and reforestation programs. The **Capital Budget** included **\$23 million** for carbon sequestration forests, **\$5.46 million** for encumbered land replacement in Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties, **\$5.1 million** for Webster Nursery, **\$4.9 million** for the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP), and **\$7.9 million** for Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP).

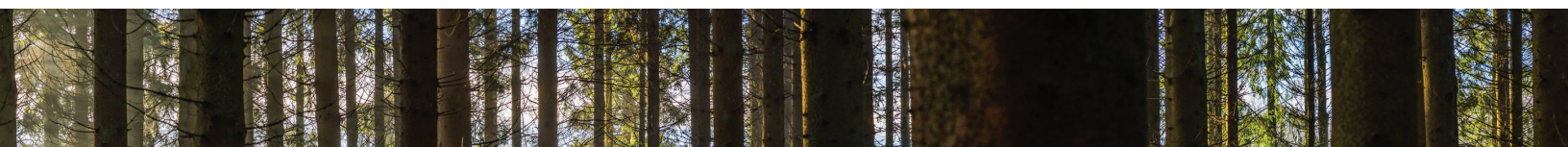
Forest Policy: Defending Science-Based Rules

Sound science must remain the cornerstone of adaptive management

Adaptive management based on sound science remains a cornerstone of Washington's forest practices, and WFPA is committed to making sure that science and consensus, and not bias or politics, governs our regulatory system. We're seeing slow but steady progress in the development of a landscape scale extensive monitoring design. WFPA has also advocated for procedural reforms within the adaptive management program and worked to further improve the impartiality of the recommendations that come from the program – including the need to integrate “structured decision making” to help build consensus around AMP proposals. Recent action by the Forest Practice Board to adopt a more measured permanent water typing rule reinforces the importance of open and transparent conversations, and having good science inform policy decisions. To reach consensus-based decisions that address all stakeholders' concerns, incorporating their values and evaluating the consequences of proposals needs to

occur. This has been lacking in the process to this point in time. WFPA will continue advocating for building and improving our science-based adaptive management process in 2026.

For the past two decades, forest landowners have worked to be good partners with other stakeholders to develop science-based, workable forest practices policies through adaptive management that protect water quality and fish habitat and still allow us to effectively manage our forestlands. Unfortunately, in 2025 the good faith and trust that process was built on took a serious hit with the new rulemaking on type Np stream buffers. Political agendas – not science – drove bad policy and a flawed rulemaking process that goes against the spirit of collaboration that we have worked so hard to cultivate since the passage of Forest & Fish. In 2026, WFPA will continue to push back at the attacks on science-based adaptive management and work to return to a fair, science-based, and collaborative process.



WFPA Staff

Jason Spadaro

Executive Director

Darin Cramer

Sr. Director of Forest & Environmental Policy

Cindy Mitchell

CFO and Sr. Director of Public Affairs

Tom Davis

Director of Government Relations

Matt Doumit

Policy Associate – Forest Policy, Tax, & Government Relations

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

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 Corporation

Green Diamond Resource Company

Hama Hama Company

Hampton Lumber

Hemphill O'Neill Company

Hess, Phil

Inland Empire Paper Company

JLCG LLC

Lily Holdings 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

Salm Emerald

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.

VGI Forest

VWDA US Timber, Inc.

Weyerhaeuser Company

Wilcox Farms Inc.

Wilson Tree Farm



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Remembering John Ehrenreich, Jr.

WFPA is not just about trees, landscapes, or policy decisions impacting our industry. It is also about the people who make it all happen. A year ago, we lost an important one of those people in John Ehrenreich, Jr., WFPA's Director of Forest Tax & Economics for nearly three decades. WFPA honors the memory of John, his deep expertise in valuation and taxation helped shape fair, sustainable policy for landowners statewide. Recognized as an SAF Fellow in 2023, John exemplified professionalism and integrity. His wisdom and humor left a legacy that continues to guide WFPA's work. John was a great friend to those that knew him. The WFPA team misses John a lot, and we will keep him in our thoughts as we continue to build on the foundation he helped lay.

