



Washington's Working Forests Newsletter

March 2020

What are "Working Forests?"

A Working Forest is professionally managed to provide a continuous supply of renewable, sustainable wood products for building materials -- with a focus on protecting fish, water and wildlife. Using scientific practices and adhering to comprehensive state forestry laws, Washington's working forests work to give back to our entire state. Growing working forests absorb carbon, wood products store carbon, and the forest sector taken as a whole currently operates with a negative carbon footprint that supports greenhouse gas reduction goals and rural economies across Washington, a fact that is recognized in state law.

The Good News from the Woods

Homeland Security: Forest sector is a part of critical infrastructure

The impact of the coronavirus epidemic response on Washington's working forestry community is small in comparison to the weight that people and businesses in Washington state and the nation are bearing to see this through.

This week, the US government issued new guidance about the role of forestry affirming that year-round efforts to maintain healthy forests for today and tomorrow are also must continue during the current crisis.

In a March 19 [memorandum](#), the US Department of Homeland Security identified sustainable working forests and the entire forest sector as part of the nation's essential infrastructure, a distinction that goes far beyond keeping the manufacture of paper towels and toilet paper humming at 100%, as it currently is doing.

The DHS letter specifically identifies, "Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products" as part of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.

Representatives of the forestry industry delivered a [letter](#) to Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee echoing the DHS' affirmation.

In response to DHS' announcement, the Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) and the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) submitted a joint letter to Gov. Jay Inslee urging him to make a similar declaration to promote both forest and economic health. ...

Did You Know?

March 21st is the International Day of Forests

Since 2013, member countries of the United Nations have recognized March 21st as the [International Day of Forests](#) for the purpose of raising awareness of the importance of every type of forest -- including sustainably managed working forests which support ecosystems and supply renewable, carbon friendly timber -- in supporting the needs of future generations.

The theme for International Day of Forests 2020 is 'Forests and Biodiversity,' an emphasis designed to draw attention in part to the ways that science-driven forest management is being used to support wildlife and to curb incentives for mass deforestation.

Check out the hashtag #InternationalDayOfForests2020 on [social media](#) for more information and discussion.

