

Washington's Working Forests Newsletter

November 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

Official State Report: Private Forest Landowners Receive Historically High Ratings for Compliance With Forest Practice Rules

For several decades, collaborative efforts in Washington state have given us a set of forest practice rules that provide predictability for private forest landowners while maintaining a stewardship role over the health of the forest landscapes they manage. Now, we also have a track record of gold-star compliance.

From the One Voice Blog:

Private forestland owners continue to have excellent compliance with state forest practice rules, according to a new report from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

With forest landowners between 92-100 % in compliance with state rules in their timber harvests and forest road construction, the 2018-2019 Biennium Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Report indicated some of the highest compliance ratings since the program initiated in 2006. ...

Equally important, the report recorded improved compliance in four prescription groups and no declining trends, signifying the deep commitment forestland owners have to the program by adhering to state guidelines. ...

A recap of the 2018-2019 compliance results include:

- 98% compliance on forest roads
- 96% compliance on timber haul routes
- 98% compliance on unstable slopes
- 92%, 95%, 96%, 98%, and 100% compliance on timber harvests in the five different riparian management zones (areas near streams)
- 97% compliance on harvests in Non-Forested Wetlands
- 97% compliance on harvests in Forested Wetlands

In addition to the biennium compliance report ... the positive results are a testament to the ongoing success of the Forests & Fish Law. ...

Private forestland owners have played a significant role in the Forests & Fish Law, helping lead the way in restoring fish habitat by opening more than 6,200 miles of fish waterways through the removal of 8,100 stream blockages. In fact, private landowners are on pace to remove all fish barriers on their lands by the end of 2021.

This excellent report card is even more powerful considering the importance of Washington's working forests on the state landscape and for the economy. For a deeper dive into what some of the forest practices are performed on private working forestland, visit the interactive "[Forester's View of a Working Forest](#)." The web page offers beautiful illustration and detail about what's done nearly year-round on the ground in forested landscapes across Washington.

You can also read more of the news about the state's official compliance report in the full post [here](#) at WFPA.org.

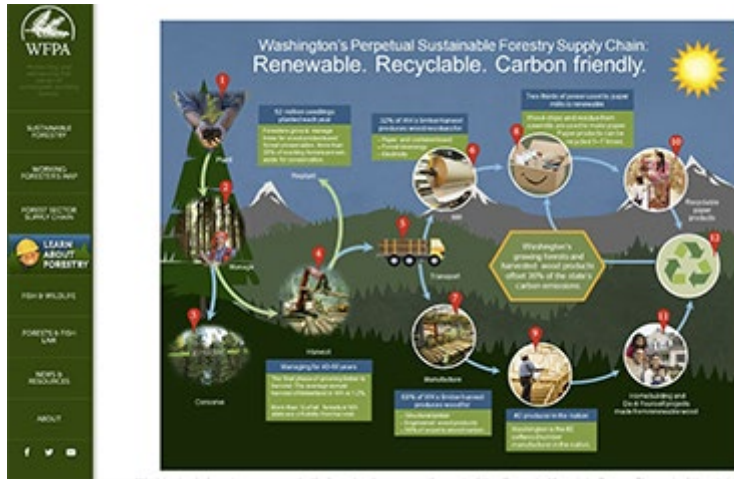
Visualizing Forest-to-Frame

"See" the Whole Forest Sector Supply Chain in an Informative and Interactive New Web Page

Broken down to its basic elements, the cycle of working forestry is very simple: grow, harvest, plant, repeat. But of course that rotational farming of wood feeds an entire network of paper and wood products manufacturing. The entire forest sector working together is essential not only for providing materials and products we need, but also because working forests shoulder a responsibility for maintaining healthy forested landscapes.

In actuality, the forest sector is a complex system with a lot of moving pieces that have to work together – not unlike an old-fashioned clock. That mechanism has been brought to light in a [new interactive graphic](#) on the WFPA.org website. Visitors can scan through the sequence of the cycle, and roll over pins to get detailed information about specific stages.

We encourage you to click [here](#), take a look for yourself and share the link with others. The facts about the entire forest sector supply chain underscore the importance of supporting healthy working forests in Washington State.



Have You Signed?

Our drive toward the creation of a special Washington state vehicle license plate to support working forests is still moving forward. Your help is still needed. If you haven't already, [sign our petition](#) today and then please share with your friends. Thank you for helping to make sure our voices are heard.

[SIGN THE PETITION TODAY!](#)

