



Washington's Working Forests Newsletter

December 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

2020 Year in Review: The Five Headlines that Underscored the Importance of Working Forests

This has been a momentous year for Washington's working forest sector in terms of validating its essential place in the state economy, as well as providing solutions to widely shared public concerns. Five major stories from 2020 involve working forests and also highlight the role of private forest landowners:

1. **The Entire Forest Sector Can Help Address Climate Change**
2. **The Supply Chain for Essential Products Begins in Working Forests**
3. **Working Forests and the Wood and Paper Products Sector and the Response to COVID-19**
4. **The Era of Catastrophic Wildfires and Increases the Demand for Action, Active Management**
5. **Innovators Still Look to the Most Natural Resource for Inspiration**

For a deeper dive in to each of these stories and how they intersect with working forests, click [here](#) to read the newest post on the One Voice for Working Forests blog.

Did You Know?

The littlest forests – Christmas tree farms – were busy again this year across the country. The US Department of Agriculture keeps a census each year of each state's Christmas tree inventory. The 2020 figures won't be available until later next year, but how did Washington state's Christmas tree farms rank in 2019?

In 2019, **Christmas tree farms in Washington state ranked 6th in the country** in terms of the total number of trees cut for sale – **almost 4.8 million trees**, a big number that represents just 4% of the national total of more than 118 million. Who's was the big dog in the Christmas tree world? It was Oregon with a whopping 35 million trees.

Top 10 States, Cut Christmas Trees (2019)

Source: US Department of Agriculture

1. Oregon (35 million)
2. North Carolina (24.2 million)
3. Michigan (13.7 million)
4. Pennsylvania (7.5 million)
5. Wisconsin (7.3 million)
6. **Washington (4.8 million)**
7. Virginia (4.3 million)
8. New York (4.3 million)
9. Ohio (1.8 million)
10. Maine (1.5 million)



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!](#)

