



## Washington's Working Forests Newsletter July 2021

### 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.

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### The Good News From the Woods

#### **"Lead the Way": Telling the unique story of working forests on video**

Most of the work done in our state's thriving sustainable forestry sector – practices grounded in environmental stewardship that support a broad range of shared goals – happens far away from the public's eyes. In a new [series of short videos](#) – "Working Forests Lead the Way" – the Washington Forest Protection Association presents the unique story of the critical contributions made year-round by Washington's private forest landowners.



We encourage you to take a moment, [watch, and listen to the words...](#) we are sure that you will enjoy them. And, of course, we would appreciate you sharing on your own social media these special video messages about the good Washington's working forests do for our future.

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### In Memoriam

#### **A champion for Washington's working forests: Remembering Mark Doumit**

Integrity, kindness, savvy, wisdom, generosity and fun-loving are the oft-used words that people used to describe beloved friend, colleague, lifelong public servant and forestry sector supporter, and Washington Forest Protection Association Executive Director **Mark Doumit**. The WFPA lost a dear

member of its family and the forestry sector one of its most passionate champions with the announcement that Mark passed away unexpectedly June 21st. Mark was 59.

News of Mark's passing prompted an outpouring of praise and kind words from former legislative colleagues, current elected officials, and leaders throughout the forestry sector. Local publications like the Chinook Observer described Mark as a "fierce advocate" for Southwest Washington and the Longview Daily News pronounced him a champion for "Washington's forests and rivers."

Throughout his more than 30-year span of a career in public service, Mark played a critical role in the passage of landmark legislation that benefited working forests, the environment, the state's economy and rural communities. In 1999, while a State Representative and Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Mark sponsored the landmark Forests & Fish Law legislation, which has helped preserve more than 60,000 miles of streams running through 9.3 million acres of private and public forestland.



"Mark Doumit was the most skilled, long-range strategic thinker I've known in Olympia," said Washington House Republic Leader JT Wilcox (R-Yelm). "His most lasting impact on politics will be seen in decades ahead as the multitude of people who learned from Mark how to do politics in the kindest and most positive way, consciously and unconsciously do things as Mark would have done them."

Mark continued to advocate on behalf of working forests when he left the Legislature to lead the WFPA as its executive director in 2006. With Mark's leadership and extensive Olympia connections, WFPA helped advance landmark legislation that affirmed the vital role of working forests in salmon restoration efforts, economic development and helping to address climate change.

During the 2020 legislative session, in partnership with State Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D-Sequim) and State Rep. Bill Ramos (D-Issaquah), the WFPA and Mark advocated for the passage and signing into law HB 2528 which recognizes the essential role Washington state's forestry industry and working forests play in removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

And most recently, Mark and the WFPA partnered with Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz and HB 1168 primary bill sponsor, Larry Springer (D-Kirkland), in support of significant legislation that provides dedicated funding for wildfire prevention and forest health.

Gov. Jay Inslee issued a statement praising Mark's work in the legislature and at WFPA, noting that "generations of Washingtonians, who might never know Mark's name, will benefit from his leadership on behalf of our forests."

WFPA will continue to carry out the 113-year-old organization's forward-thinking vision and framework established by Mark, the WFPA Board and WFPA leadership team. That includes advancing sustainable forestry practices and balanced forest policies that encourage investment in forestland, protection of fish, water and wildlife and promote responsible forest management as a preferred land use.



To honor Mark's passion for working forests, the WFPA has created a scholarship to help fund education for students who wish to pursue careers in forestry. Contributions in Mark's memory can be mailed to: Pacific Education Institute, Mark Doumit Memorial Scholarship, 724 Columbia St. NW #255, Olympia, WA 98501.

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## 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!](#)**

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