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Washington State
Society of American Foresters



What is SAF?

- The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States.
- Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the US Forest Service. SAF is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.
- SAF members (18,000 nationwide) includes foresters from private industry, public agencies, private consultants, non profit organizations, universities and students.



Washington State SAF

- The Washington State Society of American Foresters is one of 33 multi-state/state societies that make up the national Society of American Foresters is composed of professional foresters and forest technicians from western and central WA
- With nearly 750 members in 11 chapters (including three student chapters) throughout the state, the Washington Society of American Foresters is one of the largest state affiliates of the national Society.
- Foresters play a major role in managing Washington's 21 million acres of forest land. These forests provide a variety of benefits for Washingtonians and the nation in the form of wildlife, water, recreation, timber and other forest products.



SAF Core Values

- Forests are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare,
- Forests must be sustained through simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs,
- Foresters are dedicated to sound forest management and conservation, and
- Foresters serve landowners and society by providing sound knowledge and professional management skills



Sustainable Forest Management

We believe:

- In order to achieve the values that people seek from Washington's unrestricted private and public forests, WSSAF advocates the use of active and sustainable forest management.
- Professional foresters, partnering with other natural resource professionals, can assist forest landowners to achieve healthy and productive forests through appropriate and planned cultural operations such as, thinning, vegetation management, timber harvests, fire management and regeneration.

32 years ago when I came to Western Washington

- Major timber harvesting was occurring on the National Forests
- Large Diameter, Old Growth Timber was being harvested.
- One log truck loads were not uncommon.
- Loggers often used chain saws with 6 foot bars



Today



- Majority of timber harvesting is on private tree farms and company lands.
- Trees harvested are typically 14-16 inch diameters and 36-42 years old.
- Ground based logging with Shovels
- Log trucks carry 40-50 logs per load
- More strict protections for water quality and endangered wildlife species are in place.





Water Quality

..... When Washington residents were asked in 1997 and again in 2002, about the most important use of private forestlands, “A source of clean water” ranked number one.

Maryanne Reiter, hydrologist

Weyerhaeuser Company

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Foresters and Water Quality

- Foresters recognize that forest practices such as road building and timber harvesting can affect water quality such as:
 - Temperature
 - Light,
 - Sediment
 - Nutrients and chemicals
 - Biological components
- It is our responsibility to use science based management to minimize these impacts.





Forest Practices Regulations



- The purpose of forest riparian regulations in the PNW has evolved over time.
- They were originally developed to protect water quality by
 - maintaining minimum shade levels,
 - keeping slash out of streams and
 - protecting near stream sites from erosion and sedimentation



Changing Purpose

- Washington has now adopted the most complex riparian regulations designed to provide additional benefits such as:
 - recruitment of large woody debris and
 - to enhance stream habitat for fish.
- One pattern in the evolution of riparian rules has been a move towards more management options to achieve desired benefits.
- Foresters and forest landowners can expect that these rules will continue to evolve.



WSSAF Foresters Support

Science-based forest regulations that:

- Use appropriate channel mitigation, riparian and wetland management zones to protect water quality,
- Use proper road placement and drainage controls to minimize sedimentation,
- Use timber harvesting systems tailored to the site, and
- Leave trees and downed logs to meet wildlife habitat.



Working Forests Challenge

- In order for private lands and public lands to remain in forests, there must be:
 - Fair Economic returns for timber products,
 - New and evolving markets for ecosystem services and products (carbon credits, etc).
 - Incentives, such as conservation easement to compensate loss of revenue
 - Fair and Flexible regulations, and
 - Professional forestry assistance



Incentive for Water Quality Case Study- EARR Credit

Enhanced Aquatic Resource Requirement

- Since July 2000
- Some compensation to timber owners for no timber harvesting within Riparian Management Areas
- DNR designates timber harvests for EARR based on compliance with Forest Practices Act involving protection of waters and steep slopes by leaving riparian management zones and implementing logging road plans involving drainage and stream crossings.
- DOR Reduces Timber Excise Tax from 5% to 4.2% (from state government share)
- Reduce Timber Excise Tax by \$41.5 million (\$5-\$6 million/yr)
- Covers approximately 10-15% of the timber value lost by landowners



Incentive for Water Quality Case Study- Forest Riparian Easements

- DNR purchases conservation easements from willing private landowners who have critical riparian management zones where harvesting is not desirable.
- Since 2001, 4,000 acres protected and 110 stream miles involving 235 easements and \$20.8 million.
- Landowners receive 50% of the fair market value of the standing timber.
- State funding has been limited in the past – as interest has been greater than available funds.
- No funding in 2010 due to state budgets

Deschutes TMDL Advisory Committee should explore

- Increase the number of private landowners who develop and implement forest stewardship plans by cost-share support for consulting foresters.
- Increase the number of watershed enhancement projects by supporting higher cost-share practice amounts.
- Support state and federal funding for conservation easements of critical riparian and headwater areas of the watershed.
- Be an advocate for forestry and water quality with the NRCS State Technical Committee, State Forest Practices Board and the local Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Increase landowner awareness through field days, newsletters, etc.

Remember

- Give a man a fish and he lives for today
- Teach a man to fish and he lives for tomorrow and beyond.
- Check out our Joint Web Site with the Oregon SAF at www.forestry.org