

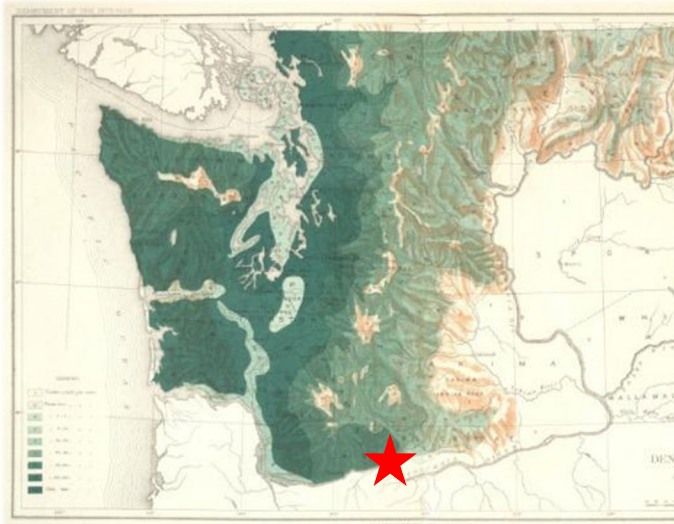
WPPA Spring Meeting •
Luncheon Keynote, May 19, 2026

Ports + Timber

**Built for economic
development**

Jason S. Spadaro
Washington Forest Protection
Association





Welcome to the Columbia Gorge

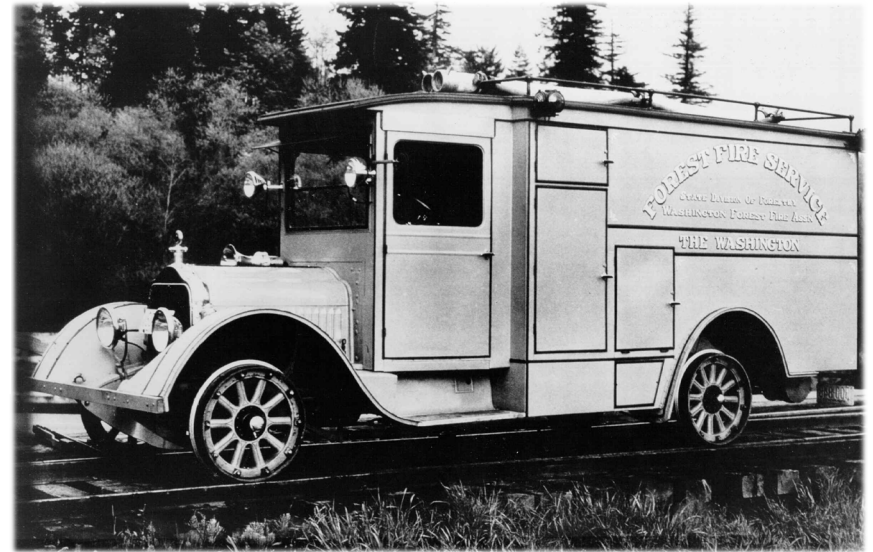
36 years in private forestry sector

Former President, SDS Lumber
Company

Owner, Noble Forest Company

Managing Director, Broughton
Lumber

Executive Director, WFPA



Ports and Timber Have a Long History

Port districts help local industries reach markets.

1

Move goods

- \$3.06 Billion in Forest Product Exports
- 7.26 million tons exported annually

2

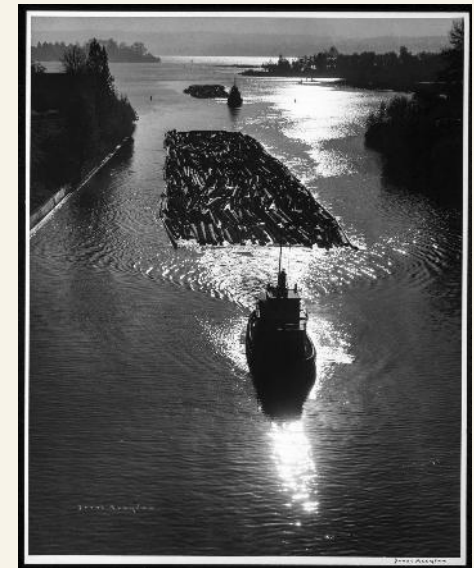
Support employment

- 100,000+ Washington forestry sector jobs supported
- Nearly \$6 billion in forestry sector wages

3

Grow communities

- Ports connect Washington forests to global markets



The Partnership Depends on Wood Supply, Mills & Forestry Sector Viability

Forests supply wood. Mills make products. Ports move products.
State policy determines whether wood is available to move.

MAJOR POLICY TURNING POINTS SHAPING WASHINGTON FOREST SECTOR

1990

1996–1998

1999–2006

2025

Today

Northern Spotted Owl

Federal harvest collapse / community impact

Salmon + CWA pressure grows

26 salmon stocks listed / 666 water bodies listed

Forests & Fish / HCP

Predictable rules + federal assurances

Np buffer rule

Wood supply, jobs, housing, and port-connected commerce at risk

?

Today's Policy Risks

Reduced wood supply from DNR Trust lands & private lands

Ecosystem Services markets & Carbon offsets create uncertainty

Higher operating costs

Mill closures,, loss of markets for wood products, loss of manufacturing in WA

Loss of rural jobs, revenue and port commerce

Increased pressure for land conversion and less economic incentive to keep land in forestry

The port-timber relationship is strong — but it only works if Washington keeps working forests working.

Why Working Forests Matter

Environmental
stewardship

Rural jobs and
economic
stability

Carbon storage
and climate
benefits

Stable county
tax base

Wildfire risk
reduction

Green building
materials

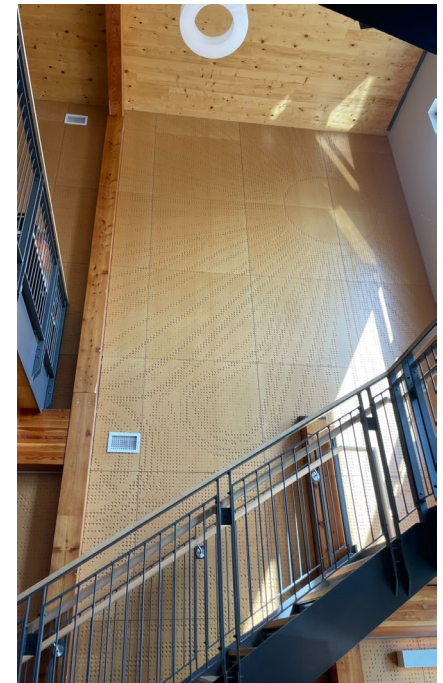
Working forests deliver environmental and economic value simultaneously.

Asa Mercer International
Middle School, Seattle
Public Schools

Washington Wood can Build Washington Communities

Why?

1. Carbon friendly
2. Higher quality learning environment
3. Rural economic support



State Policy Implications - Example

1999 Forests & Fish Law & 2006 FPHCP

GOALS:

- **Harvestable Salmon Populations**
- **Viable Forest Industry**
- **Predictable Science-Based Regulations – 50 years**

Negotiated by tribes, landowners, fed/state agencies, counties

Science-Based Forest Management for Salmon Recovery

9M acres • 60,000 stream miles • steep slope rules • road upgrades • riparian buffers

764,000 acres set aside (≈15–20% of westside working forests) • \$2.36B impact

Adaptive Management: rules change only when science shows resource-objectives impaired

One forest practices permit to satisfies both ESA + CWA



Landowners are Making a Difference Protection

Water is vital to maintaining healthy habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Under the Clean Water Act and the National Forest Management Act, forest landowners have widened forested streamside buffers to protect habitat for fish.



HOME | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | SUSTAINABLE F

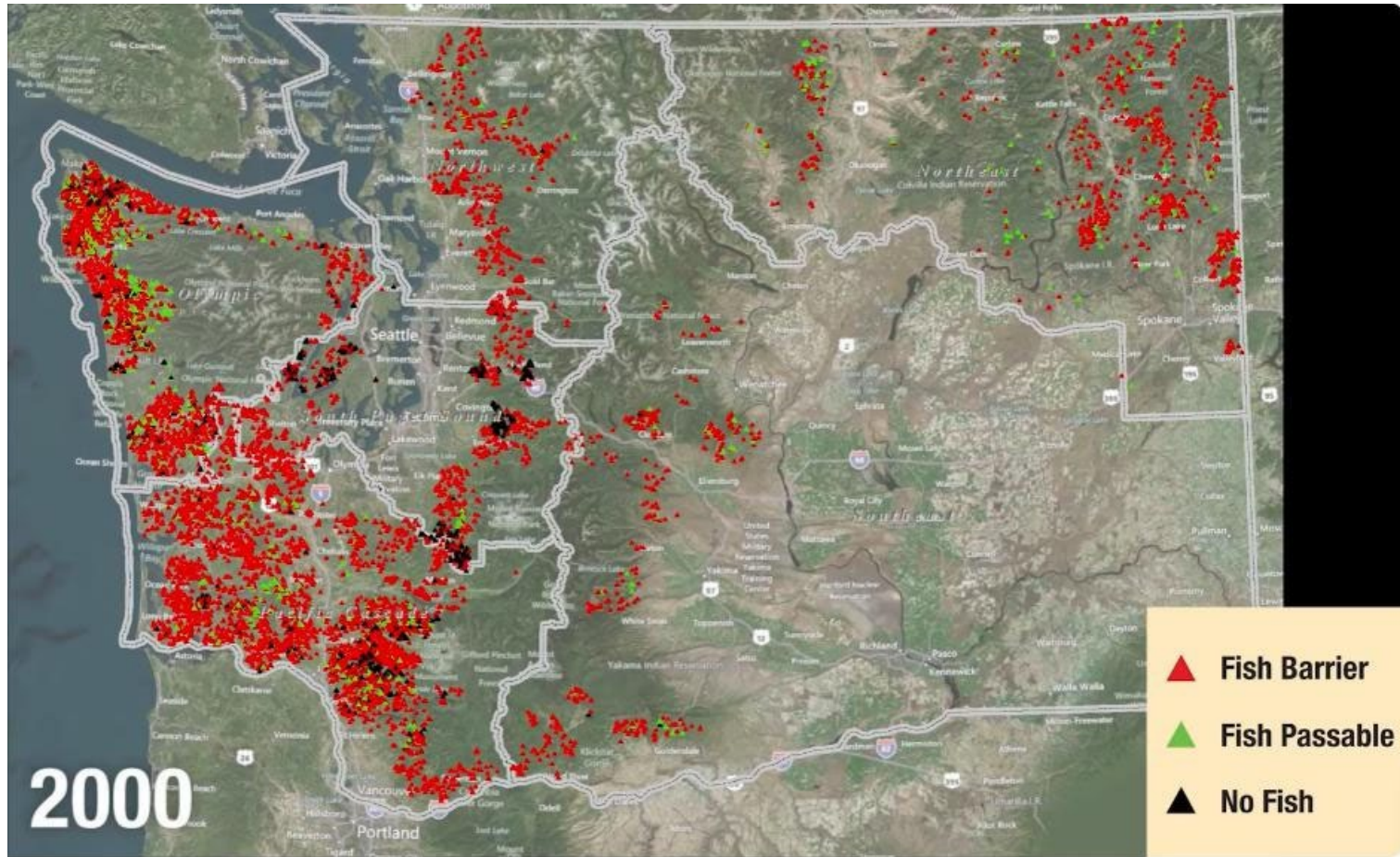
SALMON RECOVERY:
A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY ACROSS OUR LANDS

RESIDENTIAL RURAL & AGRICULTURAL

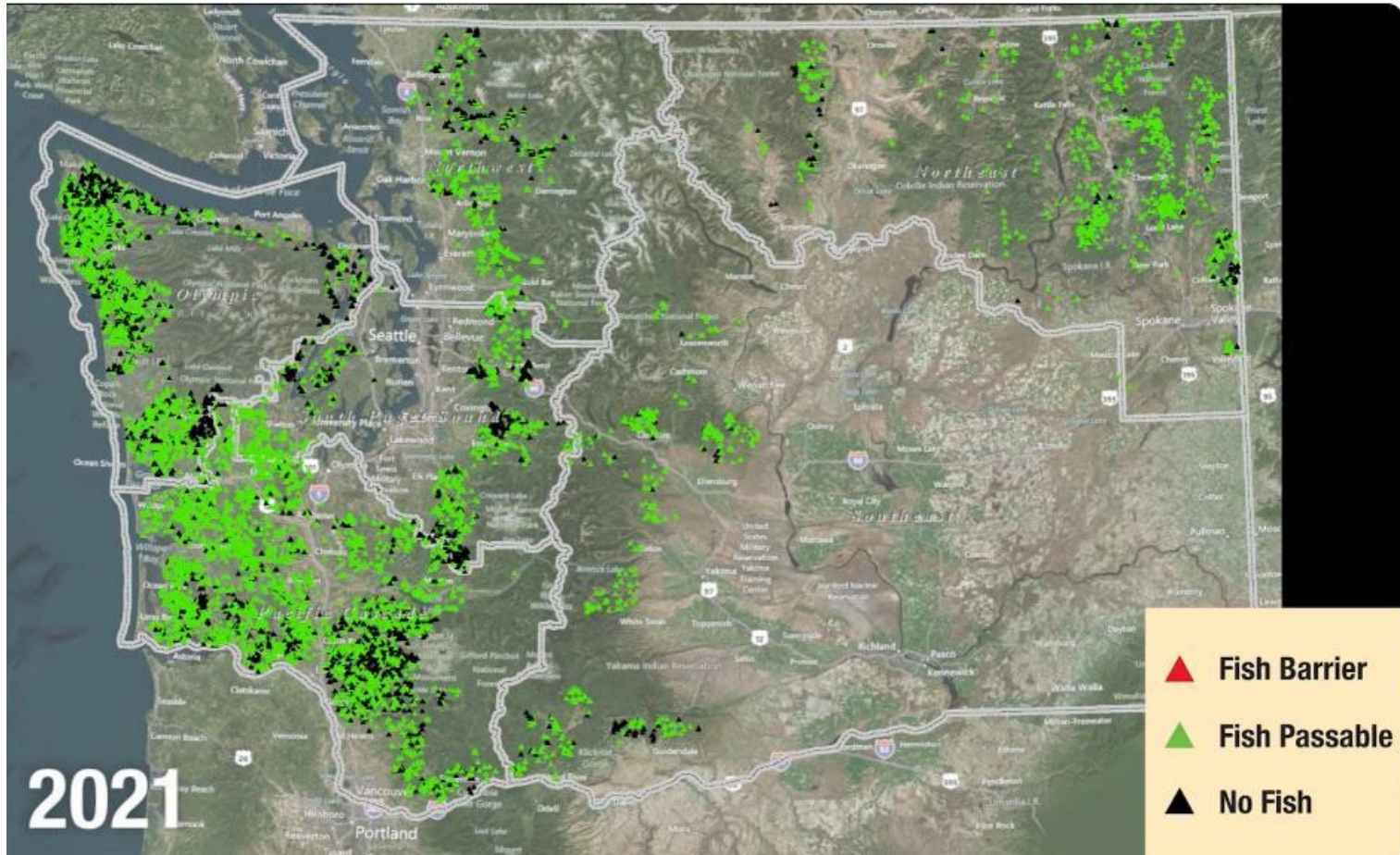
A graphic titled 'SALMON RECOVERY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY ACROSS OUR LANDS'. The background shows a river flowing through a landscape with mountains and a bridge. At the bottom, there are icons representing residential areas (houses) and rural/agricultural areas (farmhouse, windmill, trees). The text 'RESIDENTIAL' and 'RURAL & AGRICULTURAL' is placed below these icons.

Real Environmental Progress

- **Forests & Fish Accomplishments**
 - Improved watershed protection
 - Major road upgrades
 - Fish habitat restoration
 - Long-term investment in salmon recovery

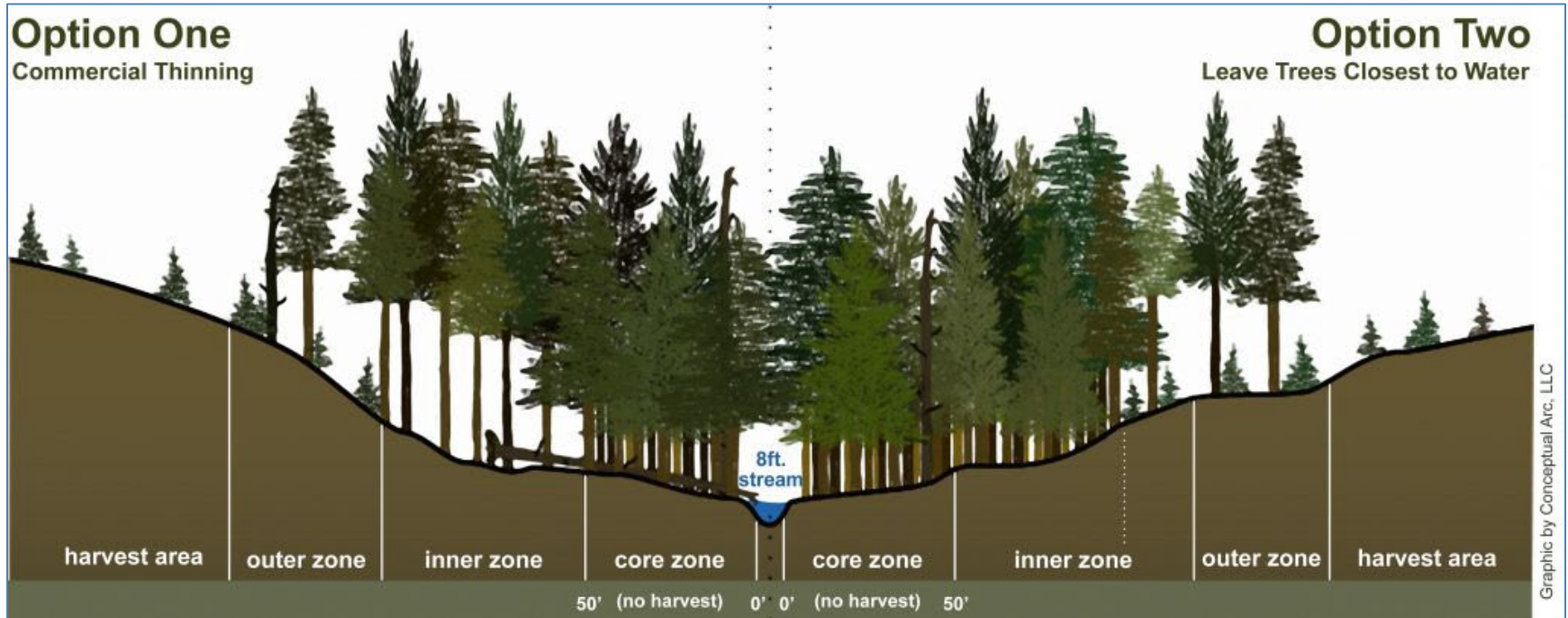


\$2.36 billion in privately funded environmental infrastructure investments occurred statewide – in return for regulatory stability, predictability and a State commitment to the viability of the forest industry.



Working forests and salmon recovery can coexist.

2001 Forests & Fish Rules



Forest Practices Rules (2001):

Fish bearing streams: Continuous buffers up to 200 feet on both sides of fish streams.

Intermittent Non-fish streams (Np): first 300-500' no harvest in 50-foot buffer, buffers on all sensitive sites, openings up to a maximum of 50% of Np stream length to provide operational flexibility.

Continuous Fish Buffers (F) and Intermittent Non-fish buffers (Np) to PIP:

Non-Fish =
Intermittent



Fish =
Continuous





Ken Miller

2h · 🌐



Fairly typical Np (Non-fish, Perennial) stream on my forestland in Grays Harbor that our Forest Practices Board narrowly decided need 75' buffers both sides. "Intermittent dry portions" also must have 75' to protect??? Trust your government representatives to be reasonable? Farmers beware . . . they coming for you next!



After 20 Years of Collaboration, the Rule Making Process Changed

Monitoring showed compliance with standards, limited temporary temperature impacts

Adaptive management evaluated solutions

Ecology reinterpreted the standard to be “no measurable change” & prohibited any other alternatives from being considered

Continuous Np buffers adopted

Industry has challenged the rule in court

The concern is not just the rule – it is the loss of predictability.

The New Rule Removes Wood Supply, Jobs, and Tax Revenue

200,000+ acres removed from production

Loss of 4–8% of private harvest

2,000 jobs at risk

Wood supply for up to 15,000 homes lost annually

\$5-8 billion in economic impact

\$90 million county tax revenue impact

“Negligible to minor” benefit for fish

Core Questions

Is Ecology's "no measurable change" standard legally valid under the Water Pollution Control Act?

What statewide implications are there in prohibiting any "measurable change" in waters that are already **meeting clean water standards**?

2. Did the Forest Practices Board **follow the law** when adopting the Np buffer rule? Were lower-cost alternatives considered?

3. What happens when long term agreements become unpredictable?

Predictability matters for long term investment

What Can Ports Do?

- **Support the Legal Challenge**— Join Amicus briefs before June 12th
- **Engage County Leadership** — Forestry impacts local jobs and tax revenue
- **Advocate for Predictability Policy** — Long-term commerce depends on stable supply chains; regulatory uncertainty drives land conversion and kills commerce
- **Engage in Forest Policy Decisions**— Unified voices from ports, counties, and industry matter in Olympia and agency processes (FPB, BNR, DNR, DOE, etc)

When rule changes are not based in science or law, rural economics and port-connected commerce disappears.

Growing Coalition of Support

Filing Amicus Brief, confirmed and interested (deadline June 12)		
Confirmed	Confirmed	Interested
AFRC	Clallam County	Mason County
Port of Port Angeles (lead)	Skagit County	Port of Longview (95% sure)
Cowlitz County	Grays Harbor County	Wahkiakum County (95% sure)
Skamania County	Pacific County	Pierce County
		Lewis County
		Port Angeles Business Assoc.
		Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce

Washington Forest Products Coalition

Forestry

Manufacturing

Labor

Building Products

Mass Timber

- American Forest & Paper Association
- **American Forest Resources Council**
- American Plywood Association
- Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Union
- American Wood Council
- **Northwest Pulp & Paper Assoc.**
- National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
- Washington Mass Timber Accelerator
- Washington Contract Loggers
- Washington Farm Forestry Assoc.
- Washington Hardwoods Commission
- **Washington Forest Protection Assoc.**
- Western Wood Preservers Institute



Predictability Is the Bottom Line for Commerce in Washington State



Governor Chris Gregoire,
from 2005-2013



Rob McKenna, Attorney
General from 2005-2013

“The one thing that the business community doesn’t need is that lack of predictability.”

— Governor Chris Gregoire

“We’re at a tipping point, but it’s not too late. The key is engagement.”

— Attorney General Rob McKenna

Washington ranks 46th in the nation for affordability.

When rule shifts are not based in sound policy, landowners convert to non-forest uses and port-connected commerce disappears.

If Washington wants vibrant economy, working waterfronts, rural jobs, affordable housing, and healthy forests, we need predictable, science-based forest policy.

Because once working forests are converted, the commerce they support does not come back.

Jason Spadaro, WFPA Executive Director
Washington Forest Protection Association

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Thank You
Washington
Ports!

