

Washington's working forests produce a variety of products

Washington State has 23 million acres of the most productive forestland in the country. Of these, 16.2 million acres are classified as commercial, or "working" forests. Most of these working forests are second and third-growth stands that have been managed and protected for a century or more.

Washington's forests produce millions of dollars of wood and paper products, horticultural and nursery products and floricultural products.

These working forests produce unseen benefits, too. According to the US Forest Service, during a fifty year life span, one tree will generate \$30,000 in oxygen, recycle \$35,000 worth of water, and clean up \$60,000 worth of air pollution.

Working forests also provide wonderfully diverse places for wildlife to live. They even provide places for us to hunt, hike, bike, fish and camp.

Did you know?

An average American uses over 600 pounds of paper each year.



Why foresters must keep working forests healthy

With all of this natural beauty and productivity within our forests, it is easy to forget that forests don't always stay healthy on their own. This is why we have foresters. Foresters are trained professionals who use science-based information to keep our working forests healthy, protect wildlife habitat and our environment.

Foresters believe that the best defense to fight off pests are healthy trees. Severe infestations can weaken and kill trees by leaving them more susceptible to fire, disease, and drought. Foresters watch closely for indications that pests are invading their stands of trees. As part of their integrated vegetation management plan, they may use a pesticide to treat the affected area.

Did you know?

Forests cover over half of Washington's land.

Noxious weeds, nature's foreign invaders

Of all of the plants found in our working forests, noxious weeds are the most damaging. Noxious weeds are invasive, non-native plants that choke out native plants that provide food and habitat that wildlife depend on for survival. If left unchecked, these weeds will crowd plants and animals out of the forest.

Foresters often use herbicides to control these and other weeds that compete with tree growth and survival. Herbicides not only allow Washington's foresters to grow trees better, but it also allows them to maintain the Washington forest products industry, the second largest producer of forest products in the nation.

Did you know?

Young Douglas Fir trees need sunlight to grow. Noxious weeds, like scotch broom, shade young stands, preventing growth.



Foresters are Trained Professionals

Foresters understand the many demands that working forests have to satisfy. They must maintain a healthy forest that will be productive for generations to come while also providing habitat for wildlife and shaping the recreational landscape we enjoy.

Foresters who apply pesticides are required, by law, to be licensed applicators. They must pass an exam administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture that tests applicants knowledge of insect and disease control in forests, and the safe handling, application and disposal of pesticides.

All pesticides must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. All forest pesticide applications are made according to state forest practice laws as regulated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



Washington Friends of Farms & Forests (Friends) is a non-profit association serving as a resource and advocate for crop protection issues. Friends represents individuals, organizations, and businesses involved in the production and/or protection of food and fiber. We believe that by controlling pests, we can provide improved health for children and adults, assure safeguards against disease, promise more comfortable living, protect our forestlands, and yield the most bountiful food supply man has ever known.

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MANAGING WASHINGTON'S WORKING FORESTS



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OF FARMS & FORESTS