

Western Legislative Forestry Task Force

We support active, sustainable forestry to promote revenues, taxes, jobs and produce renewable wood products for society.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"All politics are local" or should it read, "all forest management starts local"



Last summer a raging forest fire on USFS and private lands came dangerously close to Paul and Dawn Sheperd's home near Riggins, Idaho. Traffic was stopped for some time on the main north and south route in central Idaho, and destroyed valuable resources and property. Recently I talked with Rep. Sheperd, a WLFTF member, about forest conditions - including private, state, and federal lands. Paul emphasized that local involvement is critical to communicating with everyone involved in the process - not just supporters of our positions, but those in opposition to healthy forest management. Paul will speak to the importance of "acting locally" at our annual meeting in Sandpoint.

We are pleased to have Washington as our featured member state in this newsletter.

"Forest Service defends Oregon Thinning Project"

Rep. Judy Boyle shared a recent article that underscores the importance of local involvement in management of forest resources. Here is an excerpt:

PORTLAND - "The U.S. Forest Service was recently joined by a timber company in defending the necessity of a 11,700-acre Oregon thinning project

that environmentalists are seeking to block." [Click here to read](#) Also, we have that article, along with other forestry related news on our website. [Click here](#)



WLFTF ANNUAL MEETING



We have finalized our hotel arrangements for our Annual meeting in Sandpoint, Idaho, June 19-21 at the Best Western Edgewater Resort. We were able to negotiate a discounted rate for all attendees as outlined in the hotel flyer in this newsletter. It's a beautiful setting on Lake Pend Oreille..you are sure to enjoy! For planning purposes would you please let us know if you are attending.

Reservation details are below.

Hotel accomodations & Agenda

Early Bird Registration is ending soon! Save \$ by registering before May 19th

Preliminary agenda is attached.

WASHINGTON WLFTF MEMBERS

Washington's total land area is 42.5 million acres. About two-thirds of Washington's forestland is publicly owned, and managed by the government, while the remaining one-third is privately owned. Washington's forest land ownership has evolved over the years. New structures have developed in response to changes to pension and income tax law changes, including Timberland Investment Management Organizations (TIMO's) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's). Working forests comprise 47% of forest lands, 53% are restricted from any timber harvesting, including parks, wildlife refuges, and observation set-asides of state, private and tribal land. These working forests form the foundation of the timber industry that supports more than 101,000 workers and generates \$5.5 billion in wages annually, as well as, sustaining the 3rd largest manufacturing industry in Washington.



Rep. Ed Orcutt- R

Ed is a long time member of the WLFTF. He has served as Chairman and has been active in serving our membership. Rep. Orcutt represents Washington's 20th legislative district which stretches from Olympia to Vancouver, WA. He lives in Kalama, WA. Rep. Orcutt is the ranking minority member on the House Finance Committee, and serves on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources & Transportation Committees.



Rep. Brian Blake-D

Brian has been a WLFTF member for many years and is an active participant in our work. Rep. Blake represents the 19th District, including all of Wahkiakum and Pacific counties , and parts of Cowlitz, Grays Harbor and Lewis counties. Brian was a logger for ten years before he became an environmental specialist for the Department of Corrections. He is a current member of the Coastal Harvest board, a food-bank distribution center, and is on the board of the Lower Columbia Community Action Program.



Sen. Shelly Short-R

A life-long Washingtonian, Shelly is serving her fifth term representing the 7th Legislative District, which includes Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens counties and parts of Okanogan and Spokane counties. Sen. Short is the Republican Floor Leader, the Ranking member of the Local Government Committee, and serves on the Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Park, Environment, Energy & Technology, and the Rules Committees. She is a former 4-H leader, has participated in the Colville Valley Gymkhana Club and enjoys skeet shooting, horseback riding, swimming and gardening. Shelly and her husband, Mitch, live in Addy. They have two adult children, Trevor and Brianna.



Sen. Kevin Van De Wege-D

Kevin Van De Wege is a firefighter, paramedic, husband and father. A lifelong Washington resident, he is serving his first term in the Senate after five terms in the House of Representatives. Sen. Van De Wege represents the 24th district which contains Jefferson, Clallam, and most of Grays Harbor Counties. The chair of the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee, Kevin also serves on the Senate Ways & Means Committee and the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee. A resident of Sequim, Kevin and his wife Jennifer, a vice principal at Roosevelt Elementary School, enjoy raising their two teenagers on the Olympic Peninsula.

Agenda

**Western Legislative Forestry Task Force
Annual Meeting June 19-21, 2019
Best Western—Edgewater Resort—Sandpoint, Idaho**

Wednesday, June 19

- 2:00—4:00p Welcome—Roger Seiber, Executive Director WLFTF; Judy Boyle, Acting Chairman-WLFTF
Introductions and State updates—Preview field day activities. Members and private sector participants. (Possible welcome from Gov., Pro Tem; Speaker, Mayor;
- 4:30—6:00p Post meeting mingle with beverages
Dinner on your own

Thursday, June 20

- Continental breakfast provided by Best Western
- 9:00a Depart for field tours: (1) Idaho Forest Group—LaClede Mill Priest River; followed by drone demonstration project.
- 12 noon Box lunch
- 1p Continue field visits—Active logging site; Good Neighbor/Shared Stewardship project; Logging Equipment
- 4p Return to Best Western
- 6P Reception and dinner

Friday, June 21

- 8:30a—12n Presentations from speakers:
- Tom Schultz-VP Public Affairs Idaho Forest Group — Transforming the Forest Health Crisis
- Sandra Mitchell-Executive Director Idaho Recreation Council — The effects of Recommended Wilderness vs. Designated Wilderness
- Skip Brandt-Idaho County Commissioner — Local Gov't forestry issues
- Betty Munis-Idaho Forest Products Commission — Communications and education challenges
- Dustin Miller/David Groeshl-Idaho Dept. Of Lands
Shawn Keough-Associated Logging Contractors
Kennon McClintock-Forestry Consultant
Will Hart-Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Assoc.
Invited- Idaho Pro-Tem & Speaker; USFS Supervisor

- 10a—10:15 Coffee-beverage break
- 10:30 Continue panel discussions with WLFTF members
Health of Idaho forests;
Good Neighbor Authority/Shared Stewardship Efforts
Regional Forest Products Economy
Logging Contractors' Challenges
Designated Wilderness
Tree planting by drones
Private sector tree farms;
- 12:30 Buffet lunch
- 1:30—3:30 WLFTF members Business Meeting—election of officers; old/new
business; 2020 annual meeting. Agenda to follow
- Adjournment

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