

# Restoring Forests Restoring Communities

Our state-managed forests are unifying spaces that provide valuable cultural heritage, ecosystem services, rural jobs, treaty rights, revenue, and outdoor access opportunities.

Caring for these forests sustainably and for multiple benefits is a complex task, and there's no one-size -fits-all solution. Fortunately, we have the tools, the expertise, and the people power to address the needs of our forest and our communities together.

We are a group of advocates who believe the status quo isn't good enough - not for our forests and not for rural communities. We seek out innovative solutions to ensure communities don't have to choose between a healthy environment and funded public services.

These are your trust lands, and we are here to help.



## Ways we're advocating for communities and forests



### Conserving our most carbon-dense & bio-diverse forests

Mature, non-plantation forest (<5% of DNRs holdings) provides irreplaceable ecosystem services to protect adjacent communities from climate impacts



### Improving access to advocacy

We advocate for transparent decision making on state lands and support impacted communities to participate in the public process and have their voices heard



### Growing the timber base

We've secured over \$80 million in the legislator to purchase working forests at risk of development -- that means more timber in forests where it makes sense to cut



### Innovating forestry for the future

Improving forest management to increase jobs, timber, and ecological health for the long term



Learn more at:  
[wadnrtrustlands.org/](http://wadnrtrustlands.org/)

# GROUND TRUTHING BIG TIMBER

## CONSERVING MATURE FORESTS

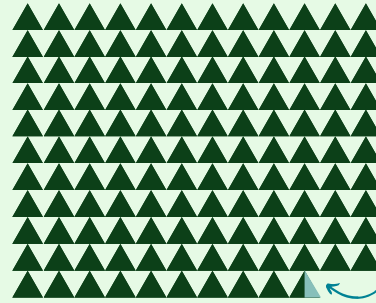
### SPIN

“Activists want to close 77,000 acres of working forest which will have a huge impact on the timber industry”

### TRUTH

This is less than 1% of total working forests in the state.

But they are our last remaining unprotected mature, biodiverse stands on state lands. They are essential to meeting DNR’s older forest targets. In addition, some of these acres may need active management, so they will not be “closed” to logging. The estimated 20,484 acres of forestland lost **each year** to development in Washington poses a greater threat to the timber industry.<sup>1</sup>

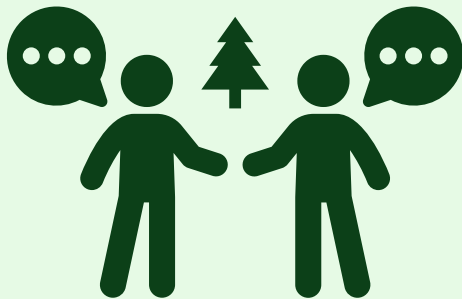


10.8 million acres of working forests

70K acres of mature forests

### SPIN

Only urban activists are calling to stop logging older forests



### TRUTH

Advocacy to conserve mature forests was started by rural community members

and every Washingtonian – urban and rural alike – has a stake in the sustainable management of public lands. There is no place for stoking false divisions.

### SPIN

“By law, DNR State Trust lands are intended to be managed for the benefit of defined beneficiaries”

DNR is legally obligated to *balance* the needs of trust beneficiaries and all Washingtonians<sup>2</sup>; DNR is also *not required* to maximize revenue or generate revenue through timber alone.

The WA Supreme Court affirmed this in 2022, stating “[t]here appear to be myriad ways DNR could choose to generate revenue from the state and forest board lands or otherwise put them to use for the benefit of the enumerated beneficiaries.”<sup>3</sup>

### TRUTH



<sup>1</sup> WA Dept. of Natural Resources, [www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_wa\\_carbon\\_inventory\\_final\\_111220.pdf](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_wa_carbon_inventory_final_111220.pdf), pg. 123

<sup>2</sup> WA Supreme Court <https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/991839.pdf>, pg. 22

<sup>3</sup> WA Supreme Court <https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/991839.pdf>, pg. 23

# GROUND TRUTHING BIG TIMBER



TIMBER  
ECONOMY

SPIN

**"There will be a loss of \$400 mil in tax revenue;  
\$500 mil in DNR funding"**

TRUTH

**Environmental groups secured \$98 million in the 2023-2025 biennium to increase DNR's working timber lands base and increase the amount of commercial thinning DNR can afford to do.<sup>1</sup>**

This advocacy secures working forests in the long-term, gets commercial logs from restoration harvests, and increases DNR's capacity to conduct needed management for forest resilience. All these actions benefit rural communities and support timber-related employment. These efforts are not mutually exclusive with conserving remaining unprotected mature forests, and in fact, are all a part of a holistic strategy to sustainably manage and improve the health of our forests.

SPIN

**"There will be a loss  
of 9,200 jobs over 15  
years"**

**Volume coming from < 1% of the state's total working forests is not a significant enough amount to lead to job loss. In reality, timber harvest volume from all DNR lands makes up *only* 9% of total timber volume harvested in Washington state.**

There are many factors putting timber jobs at risk right now, including industry automation, log exports from private lands, and loss of forestland to development. Conservation groups are fighting for changes that could sustainably increase timber volume and jobs, like more restorative thinning and lengthening harvest rotations over time.

TRUTH

When environmental groups advocate for improved management and help DNR secure more timberlands as replacement for conserving mature forests, we ensure these forestlands at risk of conversion remain as working forests forever. This protects forestry jobs and keeps local mills running for the long term, not just short term profit for corporate timber shareholders.

SPIN

**"There will be 1.3 billion in lost  
revenue to trust Beneficiaries "**

TRUTH

**We can conserve our last mature forests while meeting revenue needs of trust beneficiaries.**

Environmental groups continue to secure funding for replacement timber lands, while advocating for diverse ways to generate revenue from conserved lands, such as carbon credits. In 2024, funds secured by environmental groups enabled DNR to purchase the 9,115 acre Deep River Woods parcel for ongoing timber harvest.<sup>2</sup> If managed under DNR's current practices, this land will generate approximately \$815,000 of revenue for trust beneficiaries every year.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile, Big Timber continues to use litigation, legislation, and misinformation to obstruct attempts to diversify revenue for the long term stability of beneficiaries.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Washington Conservation Action, <https://bit.ly/83milbudgetproviso> ; WA DNR, <https://bit.ly/2024legislature>

<sup>2</sup> WA DNR, <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/news/dnr-conservation-fund-partner-climate-solutions-sustainable-economies-coastal-forest-purchase>

<sup>3</sup> Estimate based on average of \$89.30/acre per year calculate from DNR 2022 timber report, [https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_annual\\_report\\_2022.pdf](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_annual_report_2022.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://conservationnw.org/news-updates/conservation-northwest-lauds-court-ruling-on-management-of-state-public-lands/>

# GROUND TRUTHING BIG TIMBER



## SPIN

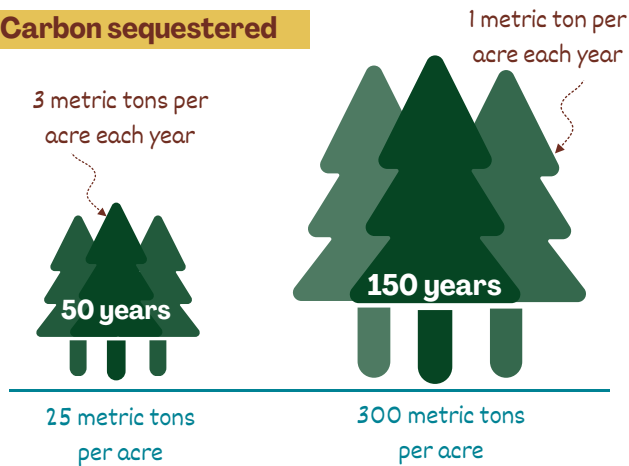
**Wood products are better for storing carbon than unharvested forests**

**Unharvested forests store 120 more metric tons of per acre** than harvested forests & wood products combined.<sup>1</sup>

**Logging results in an immediate and irreplaceable release of carbon.**

Slash, stumps & roots from harvest decompose or are burned and soils erode- all releasing carbon to the atmosphere.<sup>2</sup>

### Carbon sequestered



### Carbon stored

## TRUTH

**40% of harvested material does not become a wood product**

and is burned or decomposes in the short-term.<sup>3</sup> Timber companies also often don't account for fossil fuels used during harvest, transportation, and manufacturing in their climate-friendly claims.

**81% of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from West Coast forests since 1900 has been returned to the atmosphere or decomposed in a landfill.<sup>4</sup>**

## SPIN

**Planting new forests is better than conserving older forests for climate**

### We can do both.

Older forests (150+ years) are best at keeping carbon out of the atmosphere. They continue to sequester carbon in perpetuity, even if at a slower rate.

Younger forests (20-80 years) sequester carbon from the atmosphere at a faster rate, but store much less carbon than mature forests.<sup>5</sup>

**Newly replanted forests don't start sequestering significant carbon for at least 20 years.<sup>6</sup>**

## TRUTH

<sup>1</sup> Law BE, Moomaw WR, Hudiburg TW, Schlesinger WH, Sterman JD, Woodwell GM. Creating Strategic Reserves to Protect Forest Carbon and Reduce Biodiversity Losses in the United States. *Land*. 2022; 11(5):721. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050721>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Hudiburg, Tara, et al. "Meeting GHG reduction targets requires accounting for all forest sector emissions." *Environmental Research Letters*, 14 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab28bb>.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Kurz, W.A., Beukema, S.J., & Apps, M.J. 1997-1998. *Carbon Budget Implications of the Transition from Natural to Managed Disturbance Regimes in Forest Landscapes. Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change Vol. 2, 4:405-421*

<sup>6</sup> Suchanek, T.H., Mooney, H.A., Franklin, J.F., Gucinski, H., and Ustin, S.L. 2004. "Carbon Dynamics of an Old-growth Forest." *Ecosystems*. 7: 421-426

