

## **Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee Resolution**

### **Requesting Washington State Legislative Reform in the Regulation of Urban Forest Practices**

**WHEREAS**, forests within Urban Growth Areas play an important role providing wildlife habitat and a range of environmental services; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington cities and counties are required to each adopt a critical areas ordinance under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70C.060) reflecting best available science and particular local conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the regulations under those ordinances are often more stringent than forest practice regulations under the state's Forest Practices Act (RCW76.09); and

**WHEREAS**, Forest Practices Act regulations exempt from environmental review and regulation under critical areas ordinances logging cuts at or exceeding 20 acres in Urban Growth Areas when a logging company commits to keeping the land in forest management for a period of 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision of the Forest Practices Act overrides often more stringent, community-determined provisions in critical areas ordinances based on best available science, thus negating the wishes of the citizens of the particular city; and

**WHEREAS**, the penalties for converting logged lands in Urban Growth Areas to development short of the statutory commitment are ineffective at protecting forested lands as urban communities desire;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

Section 1. That the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee urges the Washington Legislature and Governor to amend Chapter 76.09 RCW, which enacts the Forest Practices Act, to allow full transfer of jurisdiction over all forestry regulations and all logging activities to cities compliant with the Growth Management Act and wishing to exercise such jurisdiction. The Committee further urges that RCW 76.09 no longer provide an exception for Class III forest practices of logging greater than or equal to 20 acres whether or not a logging company agrees to place a moratorium on development for the statutory 10-year or any other period.

Section 2. That until such legislative remedy is enacted, there be a temporary moratorium on urban logging practices that do not comply with local critical area ordinances supported by best available science.