

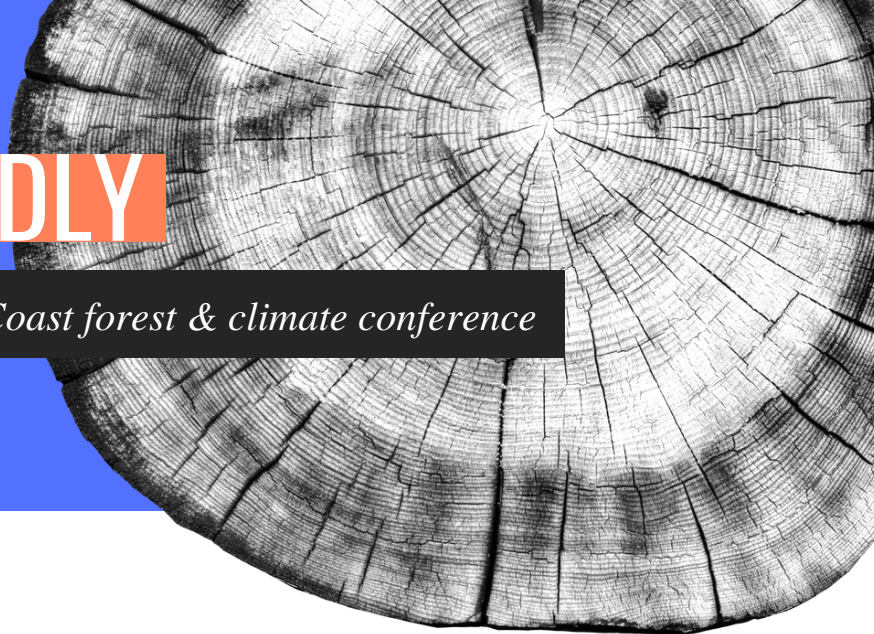
Virtual

CARBON FRIENDLY

FORESTRY

*a West Coast forest & climate conference*

AGENDA



## VIRTUAL WEBINAR SERIES | DECEMBER 7-8

The annual Carbon Friendly Forestry Conference brings together diverse thinkers to feature approaches to forestry that sustain both ecological integrity and community wellbeing. We invite you to join us in an event that centers the management of the West Coast's working forests around sustainability, equity, and resilience in the time of the climate crisis. The agenda on the following pages outlines this year's sessions and speakers. These webinar presentations will feature efforts in forest and wood product management happening along the West Coast and across the country, that use a variety of approaches to address the climate crisis and its consequences for ecosystems and communities.

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**WEDNESDAY, DEC 7**

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## **Opening Remarks**

**Alyssa Macy, CEO of Washington Environmental Council**

## **9.30AM - 10.30AM**

### **Reigniting the Flame: Returning Good Fire to the West's Forest Ecosystems**

**Elizabeth Azzuz, Board Secretary, Cultural Fire Management Council**  
**Kara Karboski, Program Manager, Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council**

The forest ecosystems of the West adapted to fire. For millennia, Native people have managed forests with fire for food, fiber, and other uses. Intentional fire supports healthy forests that are resilient and less likely to experience severe wildfire. But more than a century of federal and state fire suppression policies and ecologically detrimental forest management practices combined with climate change have ushered in an era of catastrophic wildfire.

Fortunately, momentum is building to return good fire to the forest and foster more resilient ecosystems. In this panel, Elizabeth Azzuz from Cultural Fire Management Council and Kara Karboski from the Washington Prescribed Fire Council will share insights into the historical role of fire, recent successes in returning cultural and prescribed fire to the landscape in California and Washington respectively, and the barriers that remain.

## **11.30AM - 1.30PM**

### **Evolving Management of State Forestlands for Public Benefit**

**Miguel Perez Gibson, State Forest Policy Analyst, Washington Environmental Council**

**Tye Menser, County Commissioner, Thurston County**

**Heidi Eisenhour, County Commissioner, Jefferson County**

**Todd Donovan, County Councilmember, Whatcom County**

**Duane Emmons, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands (Acting), Washington Department of Natural Resources**

**Sandor Toth, Donald J. & Robert G. McLachlan Associate Professor, University of Washington**

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Approximately 2 million acres of state trust lands were granted to Washington State by the federal government upon statehood. In July 2022, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in *Conservation Northwest v Franz*, affirming that the state's Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") is not required to maximize revenue generation on these lands above all other objectives, and the agency has broad discretion to balance revenue generation with other public benefits, such as carbon storage and biodiversity. Establishing a new, innovative path forward will require re-imagining policies and processes, scientific analysis of diverse public benefits, and local stakeholder engagement in decision-making about their local forests.

This panel advances dialogue related to this evolution by bringing together three important voices in the evolution ahead: elected county leaders, DNR staff, and technical experts. Elected county leaders from Thurston, Whatcom, and Jefferson County will share their experiences related to management of state forestlands, their perspectives on opportunities for management of state lands for multiple benefits after the *Conservation Northwest v. Franz* decision, and how they envision local communities shaping management decisions. A scientific expert will share insights on modeling for the forest management of the future, which includes greater complexity and multi-objective optimization. DNR will speak about the agency's current plans to adapt to management for public benefits in response to the agency's broadened discretion, evolving stakeholder expectations, and new science.

### 2.00PM - 3.00PM

#### Four Climate Tests for Durable Wood Products

**Bill Keeton, Professor of Forest Ecology and Forestry, University of Vermont**

Despite recent excitement, durable wood products remain controversial within the scientific community in terms of their net climate mitigation effects. Advocates tout the carbon sink potential of innovations such as mass timber, while skeptics stress the risks of net carbon loss from intensively managed forest landscapes. Moreover, the science has examined a wide variety of forest-based Natural Climate Solutions (NCS), generating often competing proposals. Debate over the relative carbon value of passive (e.g. reserves) vs. active (e.g. silvicultural) forest-based NCS is an example.

Because over-reliance on any one NCS, including durable wood products, would carry risk of unintended consequences, Dr. Bill Keeton has proposed four tests to minimize uncertainty and maximize the potential for beneficial outcomes. This session will explore these four tests:

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Test #1: Does an emphasis on production of durable wood products compete with or complement other NCS, such as conservation or restoration?

Test #2: Does production of durable wood products contribute to stable or increasing net carbon stocks at landscape scale? Is the carbon sink capacity of durable wood products greater than the long-term opportunity cost of emphasizing a different mix of NCS?

Test #3: Is the production of durable wood products part of multi-functional forest management, ensuring beneficial outcomes for a range of objectives including biodiversity conservation?

Test #4: Does production of durable wood products help make forests future adapted? Will it increase or decrease resilience to fire, insects, and other disturbances?

### 3.30PM - 4.30PM

## Watershed Function and Forest Management: The Role of Forests in Hydrologic Resilience

**Julia Jay, Project Engineer, Natural Systems Design**

Watersheds are holistic systems in which land management in the uplands can directly influence streamflow at lower elevations. Streamflow in the dry season limits the availability of water for both in-stream uses, i.e. for fish health, and out-of-stream uses in the summer months. Forests occupy an important role in the water balance of many watersheds, and how they are managed can influence their impact on water availability. Understanding the effects of historical and current upland forest management actions on dry season streamflows is critical to developing long-term strategies for water supply, salmon recovery, and climate change adaptation.

This presentation will detail the context, results of, and questions raised by a pilot research effort to quantify the effects of forest management on summer streamflow in the South Fork Nooksack River. This collaborative effort between Natural Systems Design, Western Washington University, and Nooksack Indian Tribe included application of two state-of-the-science hydrological models to understand the direction and magnitude of influence on summer streamflow from forest management actions including cutting gaps in the snow zone, changing harvest rotation frequencies, and reducing the areal extent of timber harvest in the watershed.

### 4.30PM - 5.30PM

## Day 1 Closing Remarks

**Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands**

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**9.00AM - 10.30AM**

**Tribal Carbon Offset: Projects and the Climate Commitment Act**

**Cody Desautel, Tribal Executive Director, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

**Corey Hinton, Lead Attorney, Tribal Nations Practice Group, Drummond Woodsum**

**Javier Kinney, Carbon Project Manager, Yurok Tribe**

**Steve Hinton, Conservation Scientist, The Tulalip Tribes**

**Jordan Wildish, Senior Environmental Planner, Climate Commitment Act Carbon Offset Program Lead, Washington State Department of Ecology**

**Eliza Ghitis, Climate Change Scientist, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission**

Washington's new cap & invest program, the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), will provide new resources to support forest conservation, reforestation, and improved forest management through carbon offsets. The CCA's carbon offset program is similar to California's carbon offset program in many ways— though the CCA creates a specific category of carbon offsets for projects on federally recognized tribal lands. This emphasis on tribal carbon offset projects provides an opportunity for a new revenue stream that can support the goals and natural resource management of tribal nations.

The panel will connect existing tribal leadership on carbon offset projects with new opportunities through Washington's new cap and invest program. The panel will showcase experiences of tribal nations in implementing carbon offsets in California's program, featuring presentations from the Yurok Tribe and the Colville Tribes. The Department of Ecology will provide an overview of the CCA Offset Program, including the four offset protocols initially adopted by Ecology, plans for future protocols, as well as Ecology's two Tribal Grant Programs: the Tribal Carbon Offset Assistance grant and the Tribal Consultation grant. Lastly, the panel will feature representatives of Washington tribal nations who are exploring the opportunities carbon offset projects may offer to support the objectives of their tribes.

**11.00AM - 12.00PM**

**Extended Rotations: How a New Model Helps Us Understand the Potential Carbon and Harvest Volume Benefits**

**Paula Swedeen, Policy Director, Conservation Northwest**

**Sean Jeronimo, Principal Ecologist, Resilient Forestry**

**Rachel Baker, Forest Program Director, Washington Environmental Council**

**Amrita Vatsal, Managing Director of Business Development, EFM Investments**



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Exploration of strategies for greater forest carbon storage and sequestration has prompted discussion of extended rotations: growing stands actively managed for timber longer before harvest. Recent analysis has explored the potential and challenges of shifting to extended rotations, including a series in [Sightline](#). For forests west of the Cascades, extending rotations provides significant carbon and biodiversity gains. However, some stakeholders raise questions about the impact of extended rotations on timber volume and local employment, and are concerned about the possibility of displacing timber harvest elsewhere (known as 'leakage').

To explore how a transition to longer rotations would impact carbon, harvest volume, and net present value, Conservation Northwest and Washington Environmental Council worked with Resilient Forestry to develop an optimization model. The results demonstrate it is possible to achieve good outcomes for both carbon and local economies— sequestering significant additional carbon while increasing timber volume harvested and keeping local mills in business. These outcomes are enabled by an increased emphasis on thinning across on the landscape. In this session, panelists will describe the model, share results, and discuss potential policy implications.

**1:00PM - 2:15PM**

### **Keeping it Local: Perspectives from Community Forests in Washington**

**Justin Hall, Vice President, Nisqually Community Forest**

**Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office**

**Ray Entz, Director of Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources, Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department**

**David Troutt, Natural Resources Director, Nisqually Tribe**

Ecological forest management and local priorities go hand-in-hand in Washington's community forests. As working forests operated by Tribes, land trusts, and/or local governments, these lands are managed for a broad range of community goals through a variety of management approaches.

In this session, Ray Entz, Justin Hall, and David Troutt will share highlights from their community forest projects at the Kalispel Indian Creek Community Forest and the Nisqually Community Forest. These two forests showcase Tribal and partnership-oriented approaches to managing community forests for goals that include research, education, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem resilience. Ben Donatelle from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will also provide an update on the RCO community forest grant program, including successes from previous years and looking ahead to funding in the upcoming legislative session.

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### 3.00PM - 4.15PM

#### Climate Smart Wood Group: Pacific Northwest Debut

**David Diaz, Director of Forestry Analytics and Technology, Ecotrust**  
**Timothy Cooke, Associate, LEVER Architecture**  
**Micah Stanovsky, Green Markets Manager, Sustainable Northwest**  
**Brad Kahn, Director of Communications, Forest Stewardship Council US**  
**Aaron Everett, Director, Climate Smart Wood Group**  
**Seth Zuckerman, Executive Director, Northwest Natural Resource Group**

Interest in wood building materials and mass timber is on the rise, as builders and developers pursue green building and building decarbonization. As a result, owners, developers, architects, and engineers are confronted with challenging questions about wood product sourcing: How do we know if forestry is exacerbating or mitigating climate change? How can we move towards more data-driven differentiation of forest product supply chains? How do we get climate-smart wood into our construction projects?

The Climate Smart Wood Group (CSWG) was created to help the building sector in North America identify and procure climate-smart wood products: those produced from climate-smart forestry and recycled or reclaimed sources. This panel is the Pacific Northwest debut of the CSWG, featuring many of the members of the group's Leadership Council. The panel will discuss what is driving interest in wood as a climate project, the technical challenges of carbon accounting across the wood supply chain, procurement from a perspective of an end-user, the pathways to climate-smart forestry for landowners and land managers, and upcoming work by the Climate Smart Wood Group through the USDA Climate Smart Commodities Grant Program in Washington and Oregon.

### 5.30PM - 7.00PM

#### Seattle Area Happy Hour

We would like to invite those of you who live in the Seattle Area to join us for a Happy Hour this Thursday evening after the conclusion of the 2022 Virtual Carbon Friendly Forestry Conference.

When: 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Thursday Dec 9, 2022

Where: Optimism Brewing , 1158 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122

Who: Seattle-area attendees of the Virtual Carbon Friendly Forestry Conference plus your colleagues and friends