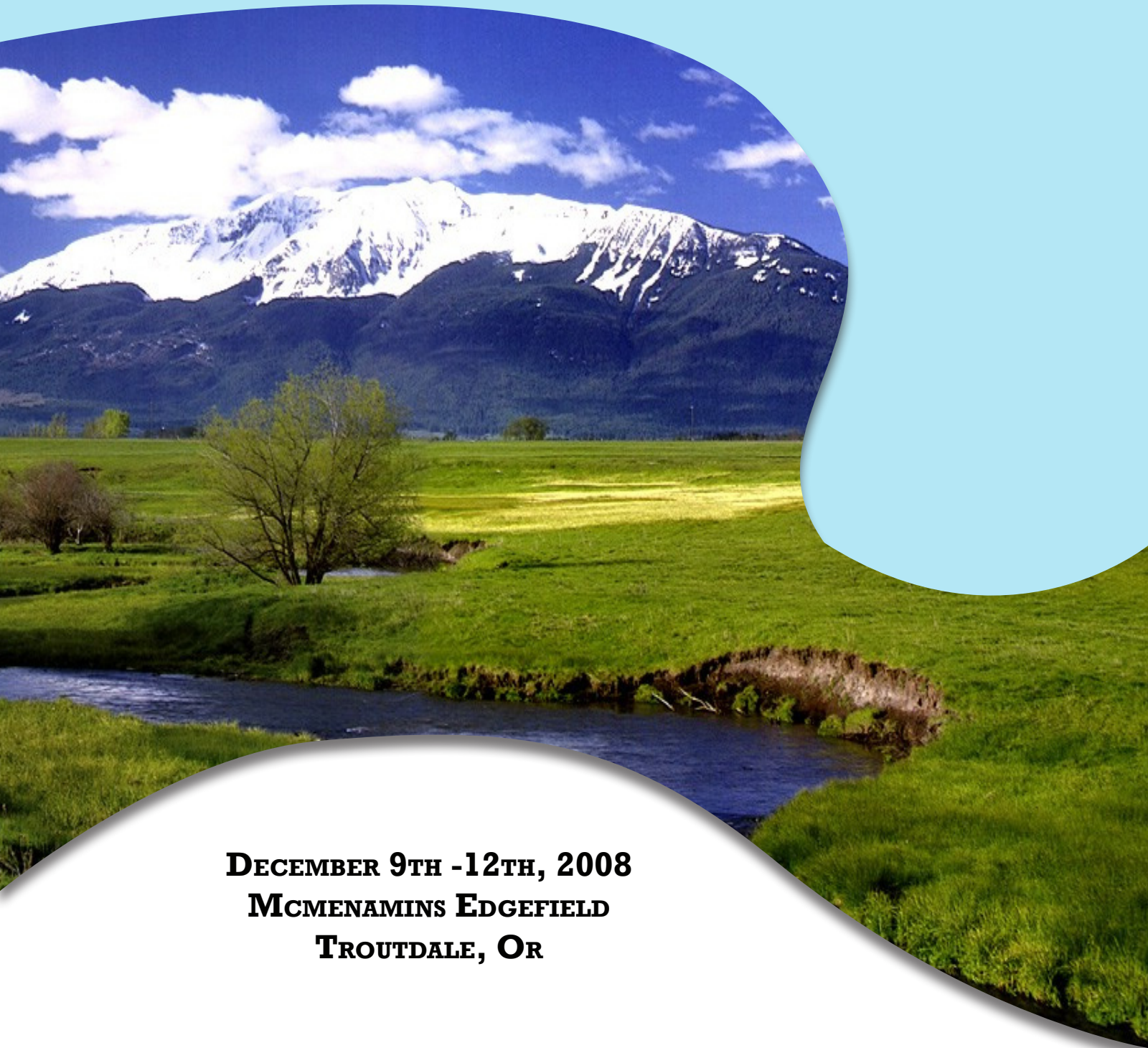


*RURAL VOICES FOR CONSERVATION COALITION
PRESENTS:*

EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTERN POLICY MEETING



**DECEMBER 9TH -12TH, 2008
MCMENAMINS EDGEFIELD
TROUTDALE, OR**

ORGANIZING PARTNERS

The Annual Policy Meeting is the cornerstone event that the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition annually convenes. This meeting provides a venue for everyone participating in the coalition to come together and create our policy platform for the coming year. The RVCC Core Group is comprised of eight organizations that work together to convene this meeting and share in the leadership and growth of the coalition. Each of these groups brings different skills and resources to the table and we are very grateful to each of them for taking on a leadership role. To learn more about each of these groups please visit their websites.



Sustainable Northwest

Sustainable Northwest helps people and communities restore and maintain ecological health, balance diverse interests, and promote economic opportunities. We're headquartered in Portland, Oregon. Through collaboration, we bridge rural and urban interests, encourage entrepreneurship, and build trust in sustainable natural resource management and utilization in the western U.S. www.sustainablenorthwest.org.



American Forests is the nation's oldest nonprofit citizens' conservation organization. American Forests is a world leader in planting trees for environmental restoration, a pioneer in the science and practice of urban forestry, and a primary communicator of the benefits of trees and forests. www.americanforests.org



The Ecosystem Workforce Program was founded in 1994 to support the development of a high-skill, high-wage ecosystem management industry in the Pacific Northwest. Since that time, we have fostered forest-based sustainable rural development in forest communities by developing restoration workforce training curriculum and supporting local quality jobs programs in forest communities. www.ewp.uoregon.edu



The Forest Guild is a professional organization of forest stewards, associated natural resource professionals, and affiliates who are passionate about restoring and sustaining the integrity of our forests while meeting the needs of the communities that rely on them. We are a national organization with regional projects and programs across the country. www.forestguild.org



Northwest Connections engages in community based projects which assist land managers and private land owners in better understanding, conserving, and restoring critical habitats and habitat connections in the Swan Valley and surrounding areas. We are exploring new ways to integrate local knowledge and conventional scientific processes in the conservation of Montana's rural forest lands. www.northwestconnections.org



Resource Innovations is a research collaboration between the Resource Innovation Group and the University of Oregon Institute for a Sustainable Environment. Resource Innovations is an independent non-profit organization. www.uoregon.edu/~cwch/



Wallowa Resources works through partnerships with a diverse group of people to design and realize a new, healthier, rural community. In 1997, the Wallowa County Court passed a resolution establishing the Wallowa County Chamber and Wallowa Resources as the lead agencies implementing the Wallowa County Strategic Plan for Economic Development. www.wallowaresources.org



The Watershed Research and Training Center was started in 1993 to promote healthy communities and sustainable forests through research, education, training, and economic development. This work centers around the belief that the relationship between local communities and the public forest must change so that the economy can rebuild itself based on an ethic of land stewardship. The following program activities reflect this attempt to develop and encourage sustainable forest-based activities and a vibrant economic system for Hayfork and all of Trinity County. www.thewatershedcenter.com

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ABOUT RVCC

Mission

The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition is comprised of western rural and local, regional, and national organizations that have joined together to promote balanced conservation-based approaches to the ecological and economic problems facing the West. We are committed to finding and promoting solutions through collaborative, place-based work that recognizes the inextricable link between the long-term health of the land and the well-being of rural communities. We come from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado.

Goals

1. Seek and develop ecologically responsible and economically equitable solutions to the systemic problems that inhibit the restoration and maintenance of forests across the West.
2. Increase support among decision makers for federal funding of restoration and maintenance of public lands and rural economic development.
3. Advance legislative ideas and influence legislation proposed by others.
4. Strengthen the voices of non-elected rural leaders within conservation and economic development policy.
5. Inform the media of our priority issues and the potential benefits of the solutions we offer.

History

The first RVCC Western Annual Policy Meeting was held in 2001 as a way for community forestry groups across the Pacific Northwest to come together and address policy-related issues of mutual concern. In subsequent years, the regional focus of the group has broadened to include other areas of the West and the coalition has grown to include participants from the ranching community in an effort to broaden the discussion on issues like restoration.

The Western Annual Policy Meeting was catalyzed by several factors:

1. A sense that there were many groups who shared values and objectives;
2. Increasing frustration over national policy issues and our limited ability to access related discussions; and
3. A hope that by working together we could more effectively influence national policy.

The RVCC prides itself on being a “We” movement that seeks common ground between diverse interests. The coalition is currently comprised of more than 60 western rural and local, regional and national non-profit, public, and private organizations. Our partners include rural community advocates, regional and national conservation organizations, environmentalists, business owners, federal and state land managers, researchers, county and state government and foundations.

Coalition Structure

Membership: RVCC employs an ad-hoc organizing and membership structure with few formalities. Organizations and individuals engage and participate through working groups and attendance at the Annual Policy Meeting, various field tours, and trips to Washington, D.C.

Leadership: Sustainable Northwest’s (SNW) policy program includes a Rural Voices for Conservation Initiative, dedicated to building the capacity of partner organizations to participate in national policy discussions, development, and education, as well as media outreach. As part of that initiative, SNW distributes information on policy developments, coordinates the working groups, works with individual partner organizations on various policy issues, raises funds to support the activities of partners, plans and organizes all coalition activities, and tries to connect partners with the media.

The RVCC has a core group of organizations committed to working together to plan and facilitate working groups, meetings, media work, and other activities. The Core Group meets annually to come up with a strategic plan for the coalition and identify cross-cutting challenges and opportunities faced by RVCC working groups. The Core Group makes strategic decisions for the RVCC enabling the coalition to respond quickly to new policy developments. In alphabetical order the following organizations make up the RVCC Core Group: American Forests (www.americanforests.org), Ecosystem Workforce Program (www.ewp.uoregon.edu), Forest Guild (www.forestguild.org), Northwest Connections (www.northwestconnections.org), Resource Innovations (www.uoregon.edu/~cwch), Sustainable Northwest (www.sustainablenorthwest.org), Wallowa Resources (www.wallowaresources.org) and the Watershed Research and Training Center (www.thewatershedcenter.com).

Representation: We encourage all participating organizations to speak for themselves on priority policy issues. No one organization formally speaks for the coalition; we try to support one another by working together to convey our shared messages and solutions. Issue papers are developed to capture a collective voice and provide opportunities for organizational sign-on under the banner of RVCC.

For more information about RVCC:

<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/rvcc>

For information about how to get involved email: issue@sustainablenorthwest.org

AGENDA

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

- 12:30pm** **Registration opens** – *registration table and display tables for materials in Blackberry Hall*
- 2:00pm** **Welcome and introductions**
Location: All sessions this afternoon will take place in Blackberry Hall
Objectives: To provide an overview of the meeting purpose and begin the networking process for meeting participants.
- 2:15pm** **Plenary session: History and orientation to RVCC**
Objectives: To build a common understanding of who the RVCC is, what we believe in, and what we've accomplished in the past. This session is critical for all RVCC participants, especially those who are new or recently participating.
- 3:30pm** **Break** (*coffee, tea and light snacks*)
- 3:45pm** **Keynote panel: Messages for the Next President: Video Presentation from Enterprise, Oregon High School Seniors**
Objectives: To hear from rural youth about the concerns and solutions they have regarding natural resource policy and how they believe the next President should solve these issues.
- Moderator: Nils Christeroffersen, Executive Director, Wallowa Resources
 Enterprise High School Seniors, Enterprise, Oregon
- *Patrick Baird*
 - *Andrea Schaeffer*
 - *Chris Stauffer*
- 5:00pm** **Break**
- 5:30pm** **No host bar opens** - *Location: The Ballroom, 2nd floor Main Lodge*
- Location: Keynote presentations and dinner will be in the Ballroom, 2nd floor Main Lodge*
- 6:00pm** **Keynote presentation: State forestry and federal lands management: Collaboration opportunities for communities and state foresters.**
- *Marvin Brown, State Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry*
- 6:30pm** **Keynote presentation: Restoration, stewardship, and community collaboration in the West.**
- *Mary Wagner, Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Forest Service*
- 7:00pm** **Catered plated dinner**

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

- 7:00am** **Catered breakfast** - *Location: Ballroom in Main Lodge, 2nd Floor*
- 8:00am** **Keynote presentation: The future of the Forest Service: Opportunities and new directions in federal land certification, climate change, and ecosystem services.**
- *Sally D. Collins, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service*
- 8:30am** **Overview of Annual Policy Meeting Process**
- Objectives:* To build an understanding among meeting participants of how the meeting is structured and what we hope to accomplish.
- 9:00am** **Political realities roundtable: What's new? What's the same? What opportunities does RVCC have in the post-election landscape?**
- Objectives:* To assess the political opportunities in a post election landscape to advance issues of concern for the RVCC and incorporate these into the RVCC 2009 platform and strategies. Key issues to be addressed by panelists will include: forest restoration, climate change, water and power issues, rural economic development, worker protection and other related issues.
- Moderator: Maia Enzer, Policy Program Director, Sustainable Northwest
- Roundtable participants:
- *Mike Carrier, Natural Resource Policy Director, Office of Governor Ted Kulongoski*
 - *Mary Gautreaux, Deputy State Director, Office of Senator Ron Wyden*
 - *Jon Isaacs, State Director, Office of Senator-elect Jeff Merkley*
 - *Colby Marshall, Director of Eastern Oregon Offices, Office of Congressman Greg Walden*
 - *Willie Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Congressman Earl Blumenauer*
 - *Leslie Weldon, External Affairs Officer, Office of the Chief, US Forest Service*
- 10:15am** **Break**
- 10:30am** **Building effective political strategies and actions to support community conservation**
- Objectives:* To hear from top political strategists on what approaches and tools are most effective for diverse coalitions to effectively influence the federal legislative and administrative decision-making processes.
- Moderator: Niel Ritchie, Executive Director, League of Rural Voters
- Panelist:
- *Working to build effective relationships between Governors and the Federal Government, Lori Faeth, Sr. Policy Advisor for Natural Resources, Agriculture, Energy and Environment, Office of Governor Janet Napolitano*
 - *Components of building an effective strategy for influencing the executive branches in the transition, first year, and beyond, Juliette A. Falkner, Senior Policy Advisor-BLM, The Nature Conservancy*
 - *The role of communications and political strategy in framing policy; opportunities for rural communities to influence the dialogue, Steve Bella, Senior Advisor to the Center for State Innovations*
 - *Effective political strategies for multi-state, multi-issue coalitions: A Case Study of the Northern Forest Alliance, Andrea Colnes, Carsey Institute*
- Noon** **Lunch**
- 12:45pm** **Break** (*walk to Round Robin sessions*)

1:00pm

Round Robin #1: RVCC Issue Development

Objectives: To generate ideas and identify priority and common ground issues to develop the 2009 RVCC Platform. Participants will be divided into four groups comprised of diverse perspectives. Issue discussion leaders will do short presentations to kick off dialogue. All participants will participate in 4 different round robin sessions.

Group 1: Forest and Range Restoration	Blackberry Hall North
Group 2: Private Lands	Barley Room, ground floor in Main Lodge
Group 3: Contracting and Workforce Issues	Blackberry Hall South
Group 4: Biomass	Theater room, Power House Station

2:05pm

Session change over

2:15pm

Round Robin #2: RVCC Issue Development

Group 1: Climate Change	Blackberry Hall North
Group 2: Forest and Range Restoration	Barley Room, ground floor in Main Lodge
Group 3: Private Lands	Blackberry Hall South
Group 4: Contracting and Workforce	Theater room, Power House Station

3:05pm

Session change over

3:15pm

Round Robin #3: RVCC Issue Development

Group 1: Biomass	Blackberry Hall North
Group 2: Climate Change	Barley Room, ground floor in Main Lodge
Group 3: Forest and Range Restoration	Blackberry Hall South
Group 4: Private Lands	Theater room, Power House Station

4:05pm

Session change over

4:15pm

Round Robin #4: RVCC Issue Development

Group 1: Contracting and Workforce	Blackberry Hall North
Group 2: Biomass	Barley Room, ground floor in Main Lodge
Group 3: Climate Change	Blackberry Hall South
Group 4: Forest and Range Restoration	Theater room, Power House Station

5:05pm

Adjourn for the day

**Dinner is on your own this evening.*

6:30 pm

Optional viewing of “Keeping Energy Dollars Local: Using Wood to Heat the Enterprise School” and “Are We Safe from Fire: Protecting Idaho Communities” - Location: Barley Room

“Keeping Energy Dollars Local” showcases the first woody biomass heat project in Oregon. The video highlights the use of a local fuel source, community support, and the energy savings performance contract mechanism to fund similar projects. Resource Innovation, Wallowa Resources, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Sustainable Northwest, and the McKinstry Company, among others made the video possible. *(12 minutes)*

“Are We Safe From Fire” is a compelling video about wildland fire and creating defensible space. Produced by Framing Our Community in Elk City, Idaho and their partners. *(45 minutes)*

Thursday, December 11, 2008

7:00am **Catered breakfast** - *Location: Ballroom in Main Lodge, 2nd Floor*

8:15am **Plenary session: Issue Report Out** - *Location: Ballroom*
Objectives: To report on major areas of agreement, integration, and cross cutting issues.

9:00am **Plenary session: The Rural Compact** - *Location: Ballroom*
Objectives: To learn about and identify ways to collaborate with the National Rural Assembly and others and integrate messages with the RVCC 2009 Platform.

Moderator: *Whitney Kimball Coe, Rural Strategies*

- Why and what is a Rural Compact? *Niel Ritchie, League of Rural Voters*
- Rural Health Care: Policy Opportunities, *Marcie McLaughlin, Rural Policy Research Institute*
- Rural Education: Policy Opportunities, *Delia Perez, Llano Grande*
- Stewardship of Natural Resources, *Maia Enzer, Sustainable Northwest*
- Investment in Rural Communities, *Tim Marema, Rural Strategies*

10:30am **Break** (*Light snack in the Ballroom, then walk to working group sessions*)

11:00am **Platform Development 1: Legislative, administrative, and other policy priorities.**
Objectives: To develop a draft plank of the 2009 RVCC platform. Working Groups will meet and review the survey results, outcomes from the Round Robins, and panel information to select the policy initiatives they want to focus on in 2009. These recommendations will be presented at the end of the day for discussion and ratified by the full group on Friday morning.

Biomass Working Group	Blackberry Hall North
Private Lands Working Group	Theater room, Power House Station
Restoration Working Group	Blackberry Hall South

12:30pm **Break** (*walk to the Ballroom for lunch*)

12:45pm **Catered lunch** - *Location: Ballroom*

1:30pm **Break** (*walk to working group sessions*)

1:45pm **Platform Development 2: Legislative, administrative, and other policies priorities.**
Objectives: See description above.

Climate Change Working Group	Blackberry Hall North
Stewardship Contracting Working Group	Blackberry Hall South
Workforce and Labor Working Group	Barley Room, ground floor Main Lodge

3:15pm **Break** (*Walk to Ballroom for coffee, tea and light snacks*)

3:30pm **Plenary session: Platform Previews** - *Location: Ballroom*
Objectives: Each Working Group will provide an overview of what they propose for inclusion in their plank of the 2009 Platform, including legislative, administrative, appropriations, and other “asks” for the first year of the new administration, and to provide an opportunity for discussion, coordination and integration between working groups. 10 minutes for each group.

- Biomass
- Private Lands
- Restoration
- Climate Change
- Workforce and labor
- Stewardship Contracting

- 4:45pm** **Working group caucuses** – *Location: Ballroom*
Objectives: To provide time for participants to informally review and ask questions of the working groups to increase understanding and opportunities for discussion, refinement, and coordination of their platforms. The room will have round table stations for each working group, flip charts, and other materials to assist the groups in coordinating with each other. Participants will approach working groups with ideas to improve and coordinate messages, priorities, and activities.
- 5:30pm** **Break**
Note:Between 5:30 and 6:15 the Core Group will meet to incorporate suggestions for each plank generated during the working group caucus session and prepare the most current version of their issue area plank to present to the full group on Friday morning
- 6:30pm** **Keynote presentation** – *Location: Ballroom*
Rural Communities and Natural Resource Stewardship: What does the future offer?
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, United States House of Representatives, Oregon (D-4th) (Invited)
- 7:00pm** **Catered buffet dinner and no host bar** – *Location: Ballroom*

Friday December 12, 2008 -

Location: All sessions will take place in Blackberry Hall

- 7:00am** **Catered breakfast**
- 8:30am** **Platform presentations and discussion**
Objectives: Each group will present the framework for their proposed 2009 platform and “asks” for the first year of the new administration. Platform components will include: Legislative, Administrative, Appropriations, and/or priority “issues” to target for change. Discussion and Q&A of the full group will take place.
- 9:45am** **Platform prioritization and “initial” ratification**
Objectives: To identify the areas of broadest agreement on issues that RVCC should tackle in 2009. Each participant will be able to ‘vote’ by placing a dot on up to three items within each plank of the platform that they think are: 1) Most needed, 2) Ripe for collective action, and 3) Politically achievable or worth spending collective resources on.
- 10:30am** **Working Group Meeting**
Objectives: Each Working Group will identify how they will advance their portion of the platform in 2009, with specific attention to: issue paper development, recommendations for the first year, priorities for Western Week in Washington, media events and outreach, policy trainings, and connections to the National Rural Assembly and Rural Compact.
- 10:30am to 11:00am**
- Biomass Working Group
 - Climate Change Working Group
 - Appropriations and Accountability Working Group
 - Private Lands Working Group
- 11:00am to 11:30am**
- Contracting working group
 - Workforce and labor working group
 - Community Restoration and Stewardship Working Group
- 11:30am** **Closing Ceremony**
Objectives: To communicate the next steps for platform finalization and identify upcoming opportunities to work together again.
- Noon** **Adjourn till next conference call!**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROFILES



Marvin Brown *State Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry*

Marvin Brown was appointed the Oregon State Forester in 2003, bringing diverse experience in forest policymaking at the state, national, and international levels to the job. He has worked extensively as a professional forester in both the private and public sectors. He was employed by the Missouri Department of Conservation for 22 years, serving as Missouri's State Forester from 1992 to 1999. As director of forest policy at Willamette Industries (now merged with Weyerhaeuser) from 1999-2002, he was responsible for certification of environmental standards on the company's 1.7 million acres of forest holdings. He also developed Willamette's corporate-wide forest policy. As the CEO's representative, he helped develop and refine the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, an internationally-recognized certification standard for sustainable forest management that is currently in use by major forest products companies throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Brown has also worked for the American Forest and Paper Association directing private lands-related policy, and regulatory and legislative activities for the trade association, which represents the forest-products industry in the United States and abroad. Brown has served as a panel member of the intergovernmental Montreal Process and assisted in developing a set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry that are recognized worldwide. Throughout his career, Brown has served in key forest policymaking roles with several professional associations including the National Association of State Foresters (president in 1998), and the Society of American Foresters (president, 2006), as well as serving on the boards of the Forest History Society and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. Brown holds both master's and bachelor's degrees in forestry. **Email:** mbrown@odf.state.or.us



Sally D. Collins *Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service*

Prior to her selection as Associate Chief, Collins had been the Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System since April 2000. With more than 25 years with the Forest Service, she has held positions including: Associate Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems in Washington, DC, Forest Supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest and Forest Planner on the Siuslaw National Forest. Prior to the Forest Service, she worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado as a Wilderness Specialist, Environmental Coordinator and Energy Minerals Coordinator. She was born in Ames, Iowa. She received her BS from the University of Colorado and her Master's degree from the University of Wyoming. **Email:** sdcollins@fs.fed.us



Peter Defazio *United States House of Representatives, Oregon (D-4th)*

Congressman Peter DeFazio was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1986. He is dean of the Oregon House delegation, and represents southwest Oregon from Corvallis in the north, down to the California border-from the west coast to the Cascade Mountains. The ten-term member sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he serves as Chair of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. He also serves on the Aviation and Railroad Subcommittees. DeFazio also serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security, where he sits on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection. Finally, DeFazio serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, where he sits on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. **Email:** <http://www.house.gov/formdefazio/contact.html>



Mary Wagner *Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region*

Mary Wagner was named the 21st Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service in August, 2008. She oversees 17 national forests and one national grassland within the states of Oregon and Washington comprising 24.7 million acres with approximately 3,600 employees and a budget of \$457 million. Wagner previously served as Deputy Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service with oversight for Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and eastern Wyoming. She succeeds Linda Goodman as Regional Forester. Goodman retired in March, 2008. Wagner has served as the Forest Supervisor on the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City, Utah, and as Deputy Forest Supervisor and District Ranger on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. She also was District Ranger on the Ashley National Forest in Utah. Wagner began her career with the Forest Service in 1983 as a Forester on the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho. Wagner holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah. "Mary brings a breadth of leadership experience in natural resource management and state and private forestry," said Chief Abigail Kimbell. "She set a precedent as the first National Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers in Washington, DC. Mary will be an excellent Regional Forester and an outstanding addition to the national leadership of the Forest Service." **Email:** mwagner@fs.fed.us

PANELIST PROFILES

Messages for the Next President: Video Presentation from Enterprise, OR High School Seniors

Patrick Baird is a senior at Enterprise High School where he is student body president. He is an active member of Family Career and Community Leaders of America. He is a three sport varsity athlete. In his free time he enjoys hiking, running, and playing his guitar.

Andrea Schaeffer is a senior at Enterprise High School, Enterprise, Oregon.

Christopher Stauffer is the son and apprentice of Marc and Teena Stauffer. With parents as entrepreneurs, Christopher is part-time apprentice to Stauffer Refinishing – an antique repair and refinishing business. He is a senior at Enterprise High School, Treasurer of the Associated Student Body Council, active band member (first seat trombone) and varsity cross-country runner. Christopher has been honored for his scholastic ability with recognition for academic achievement and a position on the honor roll. Christopher believes that every person can make a difference in the world. His favorite quote is: “Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius, and a lot of courage, to move the in the opposite direction.” (Albert Einstein)

Political Realities Roundtable

Moderator: **Maia Enzer** (see biography in Meeting Design and Facilitation Team profiles)

Mike Carrier, Natural Resource Policy Director, Office of Governor Ted Kulongoski

Mr. Carrier is the Natural Resource Policy Director for Governor Ted Kulongowski. A native of Michigan, Mike holds degrees from Western Michigan University and Ball State University. He spent eight years with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and 15 years with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In Indiana, he worked in forestry and fish and wildlife. In Iowa he administered the division responsible for parks, submerged lands, boating access, and the state’s threatened and endangered species program. In 2000, Mike was named director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. **Email:** michael.carrier@state.or.us

Mary Gautreaux *Deputy State Director, Office of Senator Ron Wyden*

Mary Gautreaux is the Deputy State Director for Senator Ron Wyden. Mary has worked for Senator Wyden for almost 15 yrs in both the House and the Senate. She has worked on natural resources issues including the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act and its recent reauthorization, wilderness legislation, and is now working on the Senator’s major thinning proposal. Mary serves the Senator from his Portland, Oregon office.

Email: mary_gautreaux@wyden.senate.gov

Jon Isaacs, *State Director, Office of US Senator Elect Jeff Merkley*

Jon Isaacs is the State Director for incoming United States Senator Jeff Merkley. As State Director, Jon will oversee Senator elect Merkley’s constituent service and in State outreach operations. Isaacs recently served as the Campaign Manager for the successful Jeff Merkley for US Senate campaign. Isaacs is the former Vice President of Compass Media Group, a political consulting firm based in Chicago, IL and served as the Executive Director of the Oregon House Democratic Campaign Committee, Future PAC, where he engineered the first Democratic Majority in Oregon since 1990. Previously, Isaacs was the Midwest Finance Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and was the Finance Director for the Bill Bradbury for US Senate Campaign and the Bev Stein for Governor Campaign where he engineered fundraising efforts that brought in a combined \$5 million. Before working in Democratic electoral politics, Isaacs was a national leader in the effort to engage young voters in politics and government. He served on the Executive Committee and as National Program Director for the Youth Vote 2000 Coalition during the 2000 campaign cycle. From 1998 – 2000 Isaacs served as the National Organizing and Training Director for the United States Student Association and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Young Voter PAC. Isaacs graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelors in Political Science in 1996 where he served as President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University his senior year. **Email:** isaacs@jeffmerkley.com

Colby Marshall *Eastern Oregon Office Director, Office of Congressman Greg Walden*

Colby Marshall is the Senior Policy Advisor and Eastern Oregon Office Director for Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR). Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) represents one of the geographically largest districts in the U.S. At over 70,000 square miles, it is larger than 33 U.S. states and borders the states of Washington, California, Nevada and Idaho. Walden, a former congressional staffer and State Senator and Representative, serves on the House Energy & Commerce Committee and Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change. Colby has worked for Congressman Walden for seven years, spending the first two years managing one of his two regional district offices in Oregon, then moving to Washington, D.C. to manage natural resources and energy policy issues. Colby moved back home to eastern Oregon in January 2008 to open Walden's and Oregon's Second Congressional District first ever east-side office. Previously Colby has worked as wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service (1995-1997); graduated Magna Sum Laude from Eastern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business Management (1999). Colby was born and raised in the rural high desert area of Oregon where his parents still operate the cattle ranch which has been in the family for four generations. He has been happily married to his wife, Shelley, for nearly 13 years and they have two children, a five-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son. **Email:** colby.marshall@mail.house.gov

Willie Smith *Campaign Manager and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Congressman Earl Blumenauer*

Willie has worked for Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) for the past four years in a variety of capacities, including Senior Advisor, Campaign Manager, and Executive Director of Blumenauer's political action committee, Committee for a Livable Future (the second largest environmental PAC in the country). When Congressman Blumenauer became the Chair of the Obama campaign in Oregon, Willie served as Barack Obama's interim Oregon State Director. Before that, he managed Bill Bradbury's successful re-election as Oregon Secretary of State and worked for Congresswoman Darlene Hooley as her district director, legislative staffer, and campaign manager. **Email:** willie.smith@mail.house.gov

Leslie Weldon *External Affairs Officer, US Forest Service, Office of the Chief*

Leslie's natural resource career began in her high school days as a Youth Conservation Corps recruit on the Blue Ridge Parkway in southwest Virginia. She was hired by the Forest Service in 1981 to monitor seedlings, fight forest fires and survey spotted owls on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington. During that time she participated in the coop-education program and was hired as a fisheries biologist by the Forest after graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in Biological Sciences in 1983. She also worked in the State and Private Forestry branch of the Forest Service as the Forest Service liaison to the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. During this assignment she pioneered an interagency partnership for technical assistance in natural resource management on U.S. Army and other military installations. Prior to this position she served as District Ranger on the Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, from 1992 – 1996, where she led an extensive local public involvement program to implement collaborative ecosystem-based management of forestlands adapted to fire. Special assignments have included being the co-chair of the Forest Service National Workforce Diversity Conference and Coordinator of the Forest Service International Programs "Sister Forest" partnership between the Bitterroot National Forest and the Nahuel Huapi and Lanin National Parks in Patagonia, Argentina. She served as Executive Policy Assistant to former Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck from 1998 – 2000, just before her position as the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor. **Email:** lweldon@fs.fed.us

Building Effective Political Strategies and Actions to Support Community Conservation

Moderator: Niel Ritchie *Executive Director, League of Rural Voters*

Mr. Ritchie is the executive director for the League of Rural Voters. Before joining the League, Niel spent 14 years with the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy serving in a variety of roles including eight years as National Organizer, with responsibility for outreach and networking among U.S. Farm groups and non-farm partners including environmental, consumer, business, labor, and church groups. He has managed Statewide and Congressional campaigns in the Midwest and is the author of numerous articles and op/eds on food, farm, and rural economic policy. He currently serves on the boards of the Jobs Now Coalition and Main Street Project. **Email:** nritchie@leagueofruralvoters.org

Steve Bella *Senior Advisor, Center for State Innovation*

Steve Bella is a member of the senior staff for the Center for State Innovation (CSI). Steve is based in Bend, Oregon and works on outreach to Western and Midwestern Governors. In addition, Steve is responsible for working on message and communications development programs as well as policy support for CSI. Steve has held several senior staff positions for Governors across the country, including policy director for Indiana Governor Joe Kernan, communications director for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, policy director for Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon, and policy advisor to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. **Email:** stevedbella@aol.com

Andrea Colnes *Policy Leadership Director, Carsey Institute - University of New Hampshire*

Ms. Colnes is policy leadership director for the Carsey Institute and works with nonprofit leaders throughout the New England region to build strategic capacity on state fiscal policy, affordable housing and smart growth, and working landscape issues. Andi served as founding executive director of the Northern Forest Alliance, policy director of the Northern Forest Center, and deputy director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. She also co-founded Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation and the Eastern Forest Partnership. Giving perspective and depth to her work and life, Andi spent about 4 years traveling the world by bicycle, exploring people, place, and life. She lives in East Montpelier, Vermont, with her daughter.

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Lori Faeth *Natural Resources Advisor, Office of Governor Janet Napolitano*

Lori Faeth is the Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources, Agriculture, Energy and Environment to Governor Janet Napolitano. Ms. Faeth previously worked as the Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy of Arizona. She moved to Arizona from the Washington, DC metro area where she worked as a Policy Associate in the Government and Community Relations Division of the Conservancy's National Office. She has fifteen years experience with natural resource policy issues at both the state and federal level. In addition, she worked at the state and local level to create public funding sources for conservation. She represents the State of Arizona on the Western Governors Association Staff Advisory Council, Western Interstate Energy Board, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body, and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council. Prior to her public policy work, Ms. Faeth ran a successful residential and investment real estate business in central Pennsylvania. **Email:** lfaeth@az.gov

Julie Falkner *Senior Policy Advisor-BLM., The Nature Conservancy*

Julie Falkner has over 15 years experience in natural resource policy and collaborative processes. From 1993-2001, she served under Secretary Bruce Babbitt in a variety of positions, including Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and as his Deputy Chief of Staff. Between 2001-2003 Ms. Falkner was a founding partner in Carr, Falkner and Swanson LLP, a mediation firm, where she specialized in negotiated rulemakings, Native American and natural resource issues. Ms. Falkner has also worked as a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, assisting federal agencies with natural resource management, regulatory processes and sustainable planning. She is currently a Senior Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy working on public land management issues. Ms. Falkner is a graduate of Albion College and Washington and Lee Law School. Ms. Falkner also was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, studying European labor laws and their applicability to U.S. multi-national companies. **Email:** jfalkner@tnc.org

Plenary Session: The Rural Compact

Moderator: Whitney Kimball Coe *Program Associate, Rural Strategies*

Whitney Kimball Coe is a native of Athens, Tennessee, but spent the last six years in North Carolina earning her post-graduate degrees. After completing her undergraduate work at Queens University of Charlotte in religion and philosophy, Whitney and her husband Matt Coe moved to Boone, North Carolina, where she received her masters in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University. Whitney began working with Rural Strategies' Donors Ourselves project in 2007, and after graduating from Appalachian joined the Knoxville staff in July 2008. She is now assisting the organization with the National Rural Assembly, a rural policy movement devoted to pushing a progressive rural policy agenda at the federal level.

Email: whitney@ruralstrategies.org

Maia Enzer (see biography in Meeting Design and Facilitation Team profiles)

Tim Marema *Vice President for Communications, Center for Rural Strategies*

Tim helps direct the organization's public information campaigns, press outreach, and corporate communications. Most recently he was part of the Rural Strategies team that launched the Daily Yonder, a rural news and information site on the web at www.dailyyonder.com. Tim is a graduate of Berea College and holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina. He was a daily newspaper editor before entering the nonprofit media field. He is married, has two children, and lives in Norris, Tennessee. **Email:** tim@ruralstrategies.org

Marcie McLaughlin *Director of Constituent Relations, Rural Policy Research Institute*

Marcie is the director of Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Constituent Relations in Washington D.C. RUPRI conducts policy-relevant research and facilitates public dialogue to assist policymakers in understanding the rural impacts of public policies and programs. Before joining RUPRI, Marcie served as the founding Executive Director of Minnesota Rural Partners, Minnesota’s state rural development council. She also served as a Renville County Commissioner where she represented her county on many state committees, including the Minnesota River Citizen’s Advisory Committee. Marcie previously worked with six southwestern Minnesota counties managing comprehensive water planning and owned and operated a small family business. She holds a master’s in public administration degree from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, has an elementary education degree from Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota and advanced studies in adult education from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Marcie’s move to Washington DC continues the experiment in the similarities and differences of rural and urban life. **Email:** mmclaughlin@rupri.org

Delia Perez *Associate Director, Llano Grande Center for Research and Development*

Delia was one of the first students involved in establishing the annual East Coast college trips at Edcouch-Elsa High School that over the years have led to more than 50 Delta Area students attending Ivy League schools. Delia graduated from Yale University in 1997, returning to teach at EEHS. She later went on to earn her master’s degree in public policy at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. She has been employed with the Center since it’s formalization in 1997. **Email:** delia.perez@llanogrande.org

Niel Ritchie (see biography in Building Effective Political Strategies and Actions to Support Community Conservation Panel)

MEETING DESIGN AND FACILITATION TEAM PROFILES

Alden Boetsch is the Senior Policy Associate at Sustainable Northwest where she works on public land management and rural economic development issues. In addition to her work on policy, Alden is also involved with multiple community-based collaborative groups in the region. Before joining Sustainable Northwest she researched and analyzed collaborative planning efforts on Western state trust lands with the Sonoran Institute. Alden’s previous experience also includes working as a coordinator of the Bureau of Land Management’s citizen-based Resource Advisory Councils, and on legislative and public affairs issues for the agency in Washington, D.C. In addition, she has worked on public relations campaigns at Fenton Communications in Washington, D.C. Alden holds a Master’s Degree in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment and a Bachelor’s Degree in Geology from Carleton College.

Michelle Christensen is the Policy Program Intern at Sustainable Northwest where she helps with program support for the policy team. She will be graduating from Portland State University in December with a B.S. in Geography and an emphasis in Sustainable Community Development, linking her two interests of natural resource conservation and urban planning. Prior to joining Sustainable Northwest she worked as a USFS wildland firefighter for two seasons in Leavenworth, WA and Enterprise, OR.

Nils Christoffersen is the Executive Director of Wallowa Resources, a community-based non-profit in Wallowa County, Oregon. Nils has worked at Wallowa Resources since 1999. Nils currently serves on the Core Group of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, the Global Concepts Group of IUCN-The World Conservation Union’s Sustainable Use Specialist Group, and the Governor of Oregon’s Community Incentive Fund Advisory Board. From 2003-2005, he chaired the Governor of Oregon’s Eastside Forest Advisory Panel. In 2007, he co-led a four-month external evaluation of the Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program. Nils’ previous work experience includes over six years in Eastern and Southern Africa on forestry, wildlife and community development issues. He has a B.A. in Economics (Honors) from Williams College, and a M.Sc. in Forestry from Oxford University, UK.

Chad Davis is engaged in supporting HFHC Members, administering financial and technical assistance provided to partners through various grant programs, and is the Group Coordinator for HFHC’s Forest Stewardship Council Group Chain of Custody certification. Before coming to Sustainable Northwest, Chad was employed at Oregon State University in the College of Forestry as a Research Assistant. His research work there focused on collaborating with forest contractors and investigating ways to increase harvesting efficiencies in forest restoration projects. At OSU, Chad also had the opportunity to teach several classes on forest harvesting and help conduct various training seminars for forest contractors. Chad has also worked in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida in a host of forest management roles. Chad holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Policy and Sciences from Duke University and a Master’s degree in Forestry from the University of Tennessee.

Mike DeBonis is the Southwest Region Director of the Forest Guild. Mike's work at the Guild is focused on the development and implementation of community-based forestry projects in the Southwest, providing technical assistance to rural communities engaged in forest restoration, and support of the Guild's regional and national education, forest policy, and membership initiatives. Prior to working for the Guild, Mike was employed by the Maine Forest Service as the state's urban and community forestry coordinator. Mike has also spent time as an environmental consultant in CT, a park ranger in VT, and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica. Mike holds a Master's degree in Forestry from Yale University.

Maia Enzer is the Director for the Policy Program at Sustainable Northwest. In that capacity she works on issues related to forest restoration and community economic development, with a focus on federal lands policy. She has more than 13 years experience in bringing diverse stakeholders together to identify common ground around federal lands management issues. Previously, she served as Sustainable Northwest's Director of the Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Partnership (HFHC), a regional collaborative working to market the byproducts of forest restoration. Previously, Maia was the Director of Forest Policy at American Forests in Washington, D.C. (1993-2000). She has also worked as an organizer for MASSPIRG and NYPIRG on state and local environmental issues. Maia has a Masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (1993) and a BA in Political Science from Union College (1989). She serves on the Western Governors' Association Forest Health Advisory Council. She is one of the editors on the book entitled, *Understanding Community Based Forest Ecosystem Management*, published by the Journal of Sustainable Forestry.

Wendy Gerlitz works on research and project management focused on environmental sustainability. Her current areas of work include community forestry and energy issues. Specifically, Wendy conducts research centered on social and ecological well being in communities and forests across the nation, including Federal agency program administration, federal budget analysis and a GIS based research project illustrating connections between wildfire and poverty for Sustainable Northwest. She also works on energy issues related to environmental responsibility in the areas of climate change, air emissions and corporate footprint monitoring and reduction for Portland General Electric located in Portland, Oregon. Wendy has also worked as a management planner in local community development and conservation in Central America. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry.

Nick Goulette's work centers around community-based and regional research into forest work contracting and wood utilization, coordinating local collaboration with the US Forest Service associated with forest restoration and fuel reduction activities, developing assistance programs for local contractors, and advocacy for national forest, energy, and development policies that benefit rural communities. Previously, he spent one year working in New York's Adirondack Park, northern New Hampshire, and western Maine marking timber sales and conducting forest inventory for a small private forestry firm. He earned a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Vermont (2004) with a concentration in Community-based Forestry. While in Vermont, he also worked as a Research Assistant for the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics studying characteristics of forest management planning in the state relative to ecological economic and sustainable forestry principles.

Gerry Gray is Vice President for Policy and oversees the Forest Policy Center at American Forests. He has extensive experience working on policy issues related to the restoration, protection, and management of public and private forests. Since the mid-1990s, his policy work has focused on advancing community-based forestry and helping to bring the voices of local and regional partners to the national policy arena. In addition, Gerry has worked on issues related to forests and climate change and forest-based ecosystem services. Prior to joining American Forests in 1988, Gerry worked as a state forest resource planner with the Division of Forestry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and with the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry. He holds a Doctor of Forestry degree from the University of Minnesota (1987), a Master of Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (1982), and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Yale University (1978).

Howard Gross has a background in field research, natural resource management, non-profit leadership and advocacy, and fostering collaboration. He began serving as the Executive Director of the Forest Guild in January 2007. Headquartered in Santa Fe, NM, The Guild is a national organization of foresters and allied professionals that promotes ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry. Prior to coming to the Guild, Howard worked for four years with the National Parks Conservation Association in the California desert, promoting protection and increased public support for Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks and the Mojave National Preserve. From 1999-2003 Howard was the Executive Director for HawkWatch International, which works to monitor and protect birds of prey and their environment. Howard also worked for five years as a consulting ecologist in Utah and was the founding treasurer for Friends of Great Salt Lake. Howard received an M.S. in Watershed Science from Utah State University in 1995.

Mo Hartmann is Program Director and Student Coordinator for Northwest Connections. Maureen received her Master’s of Science in 2004 from the University of Montana’s Environmental Studies Program and was selected as a Doris Duke Environmental Fellow. Her graduate work focused on the divestment of corporate timberlands and the conservation strategies being utilized to maintain rural landscapes and working forests. Prior to her graduate work, she spent 5 years working for various government agencies (USGS, USFS, NPS, Nez Perce Tribe) doing wildlife and forestry related fieldwork. She has been working for Northwest Connections for the past 5 years coordinating NwC’s student educational programs and assisting with land conservation projects on both public and private lands. Her passion in the conservation field lies with protecting rural places – working towards balanced solutions that sustain the abundant natural resources while simultaneously sustaining local economies and protecting rural culture. Maureen grew up in the Adirondack Mountains of New York and has lived in Montana for 12 years.

James Honey is the Director of the Rangelands and Ranching Program at Sustainable Northwest. He has managed Sustainable Northwest’s efforts in the Klamath Basin since 2001. He is responsible for one of the first “working lands” conservation easements in Oregon, a potential model for broader settlement of water and restoration and economic issues in the Upper Klamath Basin. He is a recipient of the John Wesley Powell Award for outstanding contributions to Western watershed management for this and other innovative work with ranchers and the Klamath Tribes in the Basin. James also directs SNW’s emerging Ranchland Renewal program, through which he has assisted with the regional expansion of Country Natural Beef, the largest cooperative of Food Alliance certified natural beef producers in the West. James was born and raised in Mexico and is a graduate of Stanford University. His background includes complex class action litigation, and conservation work with the World Wildlife Fund Mexico and the California Hydropower Reform Coalition.

Lynn Jungwirth was born and raised in a milling and logging family in a small timber town in Oregon. She received a BA from the University of Oregon in 1971. She has been an activist on social issues in forest towns for twenty years. She has worked with various community groups interested in rebuilding forest dependent communities in northern California. Currently she is the Executive Director of the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) in Hayfork, Ca. The mission of WRTC, which is a community-based organization, is to promote sustainable ecosystems and sustainable communities through research, training, education and economic development. She served on the Collaborative Stewardship Taskforce of Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck and on the Board of Directors for the National Network of Forest Practitioners. Lynn also chaired the Communities Committee of the 7th American Forest Congress from 1996 to 2000.

Kathy Lynn is Associate Director of Resource Innovations. Since 2003, Kathy has focused on working with rural communities and Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest to understand their risk to wildfire, ability to access fire-related programs, and build capacity to reduce wildfire risk. Kathy led the development of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan and has provided technical assistance to Jackson and Clackamas Counties. Kathy also created a framework for community fire plans that was adopted and distributed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in the fall of 2004. Kathy has a Master’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon in 2001. Kathy also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Haiti from 1996 to 1999.

Katie MacKendrick is a graduate student at the University of Oregon working toward a master’s degree in community and regional planning. Her thesis research focuses on climate change adaptation planning for tribal communities, using case studies in Southwest Oregon and Northern California. She is a graduate research fellow with Resource Innovations and currently assists RI on developing a report on consultation between federal land management agencies and tribes in Oregon and Washington within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl; co-facilitating a collaborative restoration group; and researching climate change and social equity. Her past experiences range from community organizing, including working to create a local food system in the Columbia Gorge, to field and lab research, including studying lodgepole pine forest regeneration after fire in Wyoming and monitoring endangered plant, butterfly and freshwater mussel species in Wisconsin. Katie received a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources in 2004 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Michelle Medley-Daniel grew up in Hayfork and is happy to call Trinity County home again. Her educational background includes a B.A. in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in English, and a B.A. in Studio Art from Humboldt State University. She draws on her creativity as well as her previous work experience as a Communications Director to perform her duties at the Watershed Center.

Cassandra Moseley is the Director of the Ecosystem Workforce Program in the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at University of Oregon. At the EWP, she developed applied research and policy education programs, focused on community-based forestry, federal forest management, and the restoration workforce. She is co-editor of *People, Fire, and Forests: A Synthesis of Wildfire Social Science and is co-author of Collaborative Environmental Management: What Roles for Government?* Prior to joining EWP in 2001, she was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida and Program Development Director at the Rogue Institute for Ecology and Economy in Ashland, Oregon. She is a former board member of the Flintridge Foundation and the Applegate Partnership. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University, where she studied collaborative natural resource management and American political development, and her B.A. from Cornell University.

Max Nielsen-Pincus is a research associate with the Ecosystem Workforce Program in the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon, where he conducts applied research and technical assistance to support natural resource-based sustainable development in rural natural resource-based communities in the American West. Prior to joining the EWP, Max was the Executive Director of the Crooked River Watershed Council. He worked with the collaborative organization's board and partners to develop watershed restoration and monitoring programs focused on the reintroduction of anadromous fish to the Crooked River basin and the management of western juniper. Max served as a member of the Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee and helped to establish the Deschutes Strategic Investment Partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Max received his Ph.D. in Forest Resources at the University of Idaho, M.S. from the Environment and Community program at Antioch University Seattle, and B.A. from University of Oregon. He has published articles in Landscape Ecology, Bioscience, and Ecology and Society.

Melanie Parker is co-founder and Executive Director of Northwest Connections. Melanie graduated with honors from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. She attained a Masters of Science degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana in 1997. Melanie has taught field-based ecology courses for twenty years, and has worked in a wide diversity of outdoor jobs including backcountry ranger, wilderness guide and field ecologist. Melanie is an active spokesperson for place-based collaborative conservation. She has a strong reputation as someone who can bring people with diverse interests together and craft a solution that benefits both people and land. Melanie facilitates the Swan Valley Coordinating Committee, a group that includes state and federal agencies, local government, as well as local and regional non-profits to coordinate conservation and restoration work. She is also the current chair of the Swan Valley Elementary School Board of Trustees. Melanie grew up in Arizona and has always been an avid outdoors person. She and her husband Tom Parker now have two small children, Kyra and John, whom she hopes to instill with a similar love for nature.

Alaina Pomeroy is Program Assistant for the Policy, Klamath, and Ranching and Rangelands Programs at Sustainable Northwest where she helps her colleagues work on a wide range of issues. Alaina was introduced to the community based forestry movement as research assistant at the Ecosystem Workforce Program in Eugene. Her previous work experience also includes tutoring for the American English Institute, a three week stint in Bulgaria as a research assistant for the INTREU program and landscaper extraordinaire for Pomeroy's Organic Landscape and Design in Portland. Alaina holds a bachelors degree in Environmental Studies and Spanish from the University of Oregon Clark Honors College. During her senior year she completed an Honors thesis, Science and the Klamath Project, where she researched the role of science across the history of the Klamath case to see if and when science influences the policy process, and by what processes it does so. Alaina is a 7th generation Oregonian, born and raised in Portland.

Laura Schweitzer works as the Director of Forest Policy at American Forests, based in Washington, DC. Since 2004, her work has focused on strengthening the participation of community-based forestry groups in national policy discussions. Additionally, she has advocated for legislative and administrative policies seeking to jointly achieve forest restoration and community wellbeing. Prior to joining American Forests, Laura worked at the Blodgett Forest Research Station in Georgetown, CA as a forest technician. Laura also worked in government affairs with Ball Janik LLC in Washington, DC. Currently, she is serving on the board of the Communities Committee. Laura holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of California at Berkeley.

Barbara Wyckoff During her 25-year career, Barbara has worked both in the United States and internationally on environmental, community, and economic development issues, collaborating with scientists, indigenous peoples, community groups, businesses, international organizations, government agencies, and donors. She has always sought to build the capacity of local people and organizations, leaving behind tools, skills, and mechanisms for people to manage their own futures. She has a Masters degree in Anthropology and extensive training in leadership and coaching.

~NOTES~

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

We want to thank the *National Rural Assembly*, which is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation, for sponsoring this year's Annual Policy Meeting. The National Rural Assembly made the youth panel possible and also provided support to help RVCC make linkages to their national platform, the Rural Compact.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL RURAL ASSEMBLY

The National Rural Assembly is a series of activities and partnerships aimed at building better policy and more opportunity across the country. Now in its second year, the Assembly serves as a rural advocacy base where rural issues and policy are discussed and acted upon to promote positive change.

Approximately 270 participants from 205 organizations convened in June 2008 in Washington, D.C., to develop a federal policy agenda that would contribute to a stronger rural America and a stronger nation. Conversation at the Assembly delved into the four areas of the Assembly's organizing document, the Rural Compact, including Education, Stewardship of Natural Resources, Rural Healthcare, and Rural Investment. The subsequent policy agenda endorses a list of messages and cross-cutting policy opportunities that will be introduced to the new administration in 2009.

In the coming year, the Rural Assembly will initiate various activities that will offer substantial points of engagement for assembly delegates and organizations. Work will include refining policy proposals, building an endorsement drive to support the Rural Compact, and the development and dissemination of effective messages and frames that advance the needs of rural America.

The Assembly will also commit to hold or attend a number of regional and sectoral gatherings across the United States throughout the next year. This is part of an effort to engage diverse stakeholders, address challenges and opportunities that face various regions and sectors, and expand participation in the Rural Assembly as the work moves forward.

The National Rural Assembly's guiding principle and belief is that an inclusive, prospering, and sustainable rural America improves prospects for all of America. To learn more about how you can become involved in the Rural Assembly, please visit: www.ruralassembly.org

We would like to thank the following foundations for their enduring support of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and our activities. Without their help we could not have accomplished all that we have done in the last eight years, due their support we are able look to the future with the resources we need to attain our goals.

Thank You!

FORD FOUNDATION

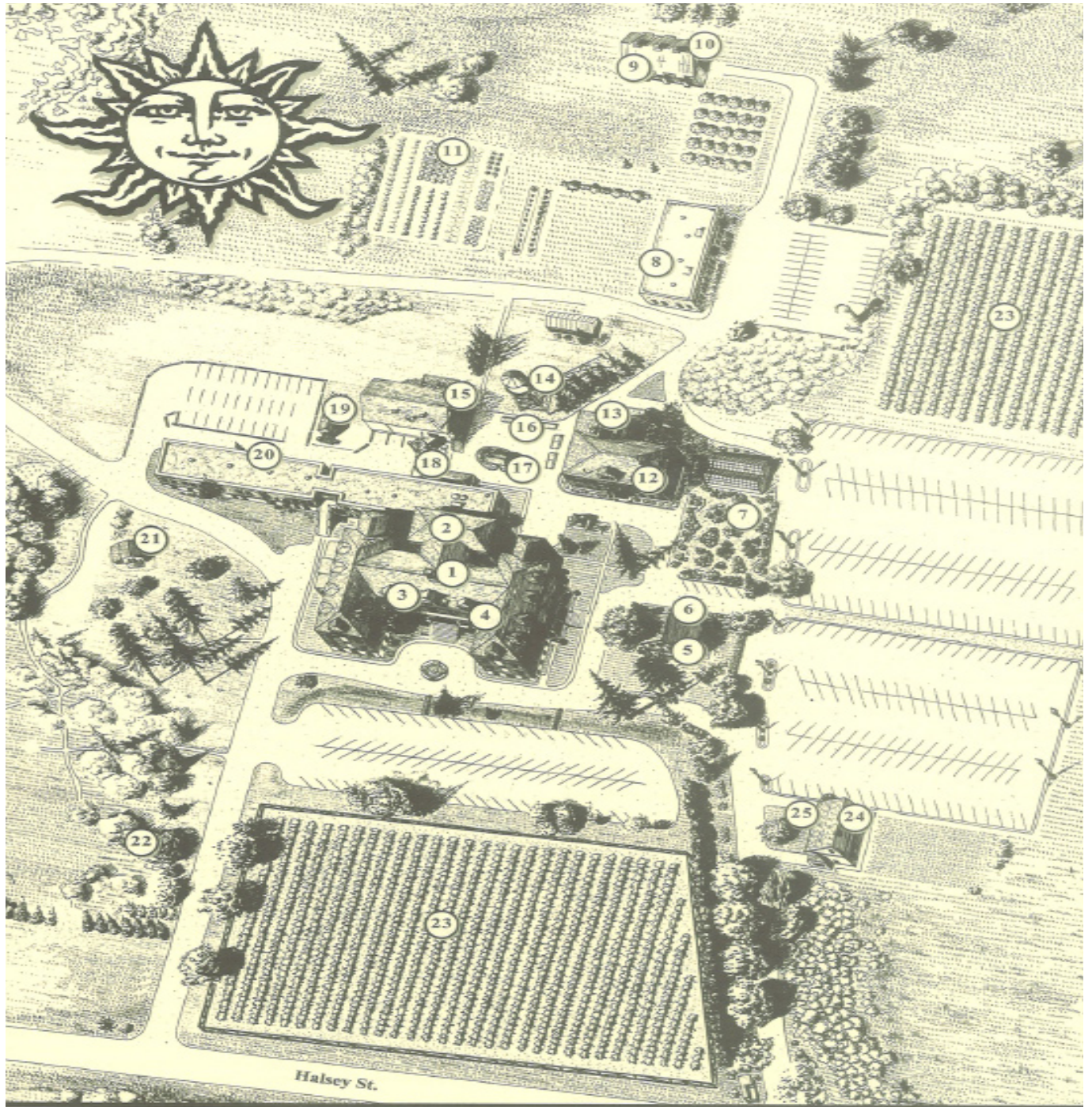
Brainerd Foundation

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McMENAMINS EDGEFIELD
TROUTDALE, OREGON

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|---|---|--|
| 1. Main Lodge | 9. Distillery | 18. Jerry's Ice House |
| 2. Black Rabbit Restaurant, Bar & Courtyard | 10. Distillery Bar & Pub Course Clubhouse | 19. Halfway House featuring EarthArt Clayworks |
| 3. Edgefield Gift Shop & Espresso Bar | 11. Vegetable Garden | 20. Winery & Tasting Room |
| 4. Lucky Stachly's Pool Hall | 12. Power Station Pub | 21. Little Red Shed & Grove |
| 5. Administrator's House | 13. Power Station Theater | 22. Jerry Garcia Sculpture |
| 6. Gorge Glashaus | 14. Water Tower | 23. Vineyards |
| 7. Herb Garden | 15. Brewery | 24. Ruby's Spa & Soaking Pool |
| 8. Blackberry Hall & Meadow | 16. Loading Dock Grill | 25. Tea House Bar |
| | 17. Black Rabbit House | |

