

EVERGREEN



WORLD FORESTRY
CENTER MAGAZINE



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CENTER

2023 SPRING ISSUE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Forests and Climate Change



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In late 2022, a study published in the journal Environmental Pollution showed that the 2020 wildfire season in California emitted more greenhouse gases than 18 years of carbon-reduction efforts in that state. Twice over. In other words, a single wildfire season erased nearly two decades of effort by the state most aggressively seeking to address climate change.

Technology advancements and emissions reductions are exciting (indeed, most of California’s carbon reductions have come from the energy sector), but statistics like this one prove that natural climate solutions warrant greater attention and investment.

Our forests are a central part of addressing climate change through the sequestration of carbon. But, just as importantly, if managed poorly, our forests can be a major contributor to climate change.

The good news? We know how to properly manage our forests. We just lack the public will to do so. This is why we, at World Forestry Center, are so committed to our mission. Through initiatives like our recent series on Wildfire and Public Health (Page 3) and our relaunched Fellows program (Pages 4-5), we are focused on making forests and their management a social priority.

In March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest report, and it makes it clear that climate change is this generation’s existential crisis and aggressive action is essential to corral its impacts.

The IPCC says that the actions taken during this decade will “largely determine” what happens for centuries to come. The report is sobering, but it is also hopeful. It shows that there is a pathway to a more climate-resilient future if we act aggressively. And, whether you’re concerned about sequestering carbon or reducing carbon emissions, forests are central to making that future possible.

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NEW PROGRAM

Virtual Series on Health Impacts of Wildfire Smoke

Earlier this spring, World Forestry Center premiered a two-part discussion on the public health impacts of wildfire smoke. The two pre-recorded conversations brought together experts in public health research, policy, and advocacy to discuss the latest data on the impacts of smoke and what actions can be taken to support communities most at risk.

"World Forestry Center wanted to host this program because we see public health as one of the most critical and timely issues in the wildfire conversation," said Tim Hecox, World Forestry Center's Director of Experience. ♦



“In my view, wildfire smoke exposure is likely to be THE main impact of climate change that many folks in the US are going to feel in the next few decades.”

— Dr. Marshall Burke, Stanford University



“Pound-for-pound wildfire smoke is much more toxic on the lungs compared to an equal weight of normal ambient pollution.”

— Dr. Shehnaz Hussain, UC Davis



“Farmworkers are constantly outside when wildfire season is starting. There is a lot of uncertainty and concern around what this means for their long-term health.”

— Ira Cuello-Martinez, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)



“We all need to be prepared, whether we’re on the West Coast or the East Coast, smoke is going to travel.”

— Susan Lyon Stone, Environmental Protection Agency



“When you think about the cost of action relative to the cost of inaction, we need to be taking this seriously and investing in ways to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.”

— Dr. Tom Corringham, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

For more information on the panelists and to watch the program, visit worldforestry.org/virtual-programs

NOTABLE & NEWSWORTHY

Introducing Our New Cross-Sector Fellowship

World Forestry Center is proud to announce the most recent evolution of our Fellows program. This new model empowers leaders from across multiple sectors to engage with a critical issue impacting our forests and our communities.

The first cohort, which will focus on wildfire, includes 10 individuals from diverse backgrounds, including public health, energy, carbon, indigenous communities, social justice, and more.

These Fellows will join us for an immersive two-year program focused on learning from trusted subject matter experts, informing the development of a new public exhibit, and designing an individualized community engagement plan.

This program is made possible thanks to support from



Jamiah Adams

Vallejo, California

Senior Vice President of Diversity and Justice, The Climate Reality Project

“I thought this program seemed like a great way for me to build my knowledge of forest management, while also lending my creative experience to an important public institution.”



Dr. Dodie Arnold

Slidell, Louisiana

Chief Executive Officer, Arnold CR

“I am a consultant and activist in public health, racial justice, outdoor recreation, and climate justice spaces. I have always wanted to work on a project with a museum and this is the perfect intersection of my areas of expertise and interest.”



Leticia Cervantes

Portland, Oregon

Mass Timber Innovation Director, Hacienda CDC

“I joined the Fellowship to learn about the environmental impacts of building with wood and Mass Timber products and to find new ways to engage my community in the forestry culture.”



Wei-ting Chen

San Francisco Bay Area, California

Executive Director, Office of Community Engagement, Stanford Medicine

“I joined the Fellowship because I have two young children who were born in the era of massive, and massively destructive, wildfires. I want to apply my knowledge and skills to help other people grapple with the complexity of wildfires.”



Richard W. Corey

Sacramento, California

Partner, AJW

“I believe that good policy comes from robust analysis, thoughtful forums where ideas are exchanged with a broad spectrum of stakeholders with varying perspectives, and ultimately informed action. I see my participation in this program as part of that process.”



Elise Ford

San Francisco, California

Operations Associate, Foundation Special Projects – Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

“The Fellowship spoke to me professionally as a staff member of the Wildfire Resilience Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and personally, as someone who grew up on the rural, heavily forested California North Coast.”



Alex Konopka

Portland, Oregon

Senior Manager of Vegetation Management, Portland General Electric

“I see this opportunity as a great example of collaborative partnerships that involve traditional and non-traditional sectors.”



Maura R. O'Connor

Brooklyn, New York

Journalist and Author

“I am interested in joining with others to think of new ways to engage with the public understanding of forest science and ecology, especially when it comes to the history and future of fire management.”



Jason Reese

Medford & Grants Pass, Oregon

Principal Broker, eXp Realty

“People in my community have their homes, businesses, and health threatened by the effects of wildfire on an increasingly regular basis, and I'd like to help mitigate these issues in any way possible.”



Andrea Tulee

Wapato, Washington

Public Affairs Specialist, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)

“I am an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation which is a tribe that is heavily affected by the threat of wildfires. I'd like to bring back information to my community that can help save lives and prevent disaster for families in my community.”

NEWS & COMMUNITY

2023 Venue Rental Grant Recipients



World Forestry Center is pleased to announce the two non-profit organizations selected for our 2023 Complimentary Venue Grant Program: Children’s Healing Art Program (CHAP) and College Possible.

CHAP brings the healing power of art to children and families facing medical challenges. They’ll use the complimentary venue rental to hold CHAPlandia, their biggest and most important annual fundraiser. “CHAPlandia builds community, celebrates art and creativity, and raises vital funds needed to deliver on our mission,” said Barb McDowell, Executive Director. “It’s an event like no other. It brings together donors, artists, business owners, medical professionals, and families we serve for a colorful, joyful celebration of the healing power of art.”



College Possible makes college admission and success possible for students from low-income backgrounds through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support. They’ll use the complimentary venue rental to celebrate College Possible students who have graduated with a Bachelor’s degree and help launch them into their careers. “The event will be primarily for students and families to celebrate this huge accomplishment,” said Margarita Gutierrez Lemus, Senior Program Director. “It will also be an opportunity for them to network with College Possible supporters and make connections for potential career opportunities.”



Now in its second year, the Complimentary Venue Grant Program is intended to help non-profits host events and gatherings that advance their mission and benefit the community through the free use of our Cheatham Hall or Miller Hall event spaces.

“We hope this program provides a valuable opportunity for non-profits to engage with the community and are excited to support the selected organizations in achieving their goals,” said Event & Visitor Services Director Jennifer Kent. “We’d also like to thank all the non-profit organizations that applied this year. We received a lot of impressive applications, and we encourage all the organizations that were not selected this year to apply again next year.”

COMMUNITY EVENT

Wildfire Preparedness Weekend at Discovery Museum



On May 20 and 21, Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal in partnership with Portland Fire and Rescue proudly co-sponsored a free two-day Wildfire Preparedness Weekend at World Forestry Center’s Discovery Museum.

With wildfire season approaching, it's important to be informed and prepared. This special event helped visitors learn how to reduce the risk of wildfire around their homes and communities. Experts from nearly a dozen local agencies and organizations were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

"We know that wildfires can devastate our communities," said Chief Deputy Claire McGrew, Oregon State Fire Marshal. "This partnership with Portland Fire and Rescue provides an important educational opportunity to help residents better prepare for wildfire season."

Museum admission was free to all attendees over the weekend and the event featured interactive exhibits and materials, covering a wide range of topics related to wildfire prevention and preparedness.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make an Impact as a Corporate Member

Contributing to World Forestry Center through our Corporate Membership program directly impacts and supports our work. Members can choose from various custom-designed packages that allow them to customize your support in the way that's right for you.

We are honored to collaborate with corporate partners by providing opportunities that align your brand with programming that supports communities across the region and provides experiences for your employees to engage in actionable solutions.

Give back to the community and receive valuable employee benefits at the same time. As a Corporate Member, you can help expand our community, empower new voices, and drive the actions that create healthier forests and a healthier society. 🌱

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