

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Upcoming Forest Guild Meeting of Pacific Northwest Foresters in Corvallis**

### ***Field session at Mary's Peak, local sustainable forestry issues to highlight weekend***

*Corvallis, OR* – **Forest Guild** members in the Pacific Northwest are meeting for two days in the Forestry Club Cabin at Oregon State University's Peavy Arboretum in Corvallis on Saturday and Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. They are gathering to discuss a number of issues pertinent to sustainable forestry practices, and to participate in a field session in the Rock Creek Watershed on the northeast flanks of Marys Peak near Corvallis. **Howard Gross**, the Forest Guild's new Executive Director, will be at the event to meet and greet members and non-members. All foresters, allied professionals, students and other interested individuals are invited to attend.

Guild members in the region are excited about the upcoming meeting, citing it as much more in-depth than teleconferencing, an opportunity to discuss regionally-important issues, and a place to learn how to practice ecologically, economically and socially responsible forestry.

A major regional forum for sustainable forestry, the meeting has attracted an impressive group of presenters covering a wide range of topics from reinventing forest management to starting a community forest to applying forest restoration treatments. Saturday evening's keynote speaker will be Oregon State University Distinguished Professor K Norman Johnson, who will discuss a new book he is writing with Dr. Jerry Franklin, who is known as the "father of ecological forestry."

Also on the agenda to speak is Scott Ferguson who, along with Trout Mountain Forestry partners Barry Sims and Mark Miller, led a team of resource professionals in assessing current forest conditions at Mary's Peak. They worked with the City of Corvallis to complete a forest stewardship plan for its municipal watershed area. Scott will guide participants on a field trip to see how the team's "go slow" approach prioritized restoration of streams, wildlife habitat and native plant communities in the Rock Creek watershed.

Other presenters at the weekend's indoor sessions will include Mike Hagen, Director of Land Management for the Hoh River Trust, which owns over 4,500 acres within a 10,000 acre corridor of the Hoh River that extends in Washington from the Olympic National Park boundary to the Pacific Ocean. On Sunday, Tom Giesen, a Ph.D. student in Forest Resources at the University of Idaho, will probe the question, "Does severe fire really make a difference in soil nitrogen and carbon pools over long periods of time?"

In related news, Forest Guild has hired **Kevin Whitlock** as its new Pacific West Region Director to advance Guild programs in the region including promoting the Guild Model Forest program which recognizes exemplary sustainable forestry management practices; and applying the findings of a recent Guild report on working forest conservation easements to applicable forested areas in the Pacific West region.

### **Background Information**

**Forest Guild** is a national association of more than 600 professional foresters and associated resource professionals whose mission is to promote ecologically, economically and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon them. The Guild provides training, policy analysis and research to foster a broader community in meeting the challenges of forest conservation and management. The Forest Guild is headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with regional offices in California, Wisconsin and Massachusetts. Our website is [www.forestguild.org](http://www.forestguild.org).

**Howard Gross**, Forest Guild's new Executive Director, has a long and impressive background in field research, natural resource management and non-profit leadership. His previous work experience includes records of accomplishment with the National Parks Conservation Association; HawkWatch International, and SWCA Environmental Consultants. Howard received an M.S. in Watershed Science from Utah State University and a B.S. in Mathematical Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and presented at scientific conferences on a diverse range of topics.

**Kevin Whitlock** is the new Pacific West Region Director for the Forest Guild. Owner of *Under the Trees*, a conservation and natural resource management company, Kevin recognizes and believes in the importance of safeguarding natural resources and preserving a healthy global environmental heritage. Kevin holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Management – Forestry from Humboldt State University and an M.B.A. from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

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