

Communities and Forests

The Newsletter of the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress • Spring 2003 • Volume 7 • Number 1

Coming of age—Seven years after the Seventh American Forest Congress

by Jane Braxton Little

For a group dedicated to forests and communities, the Sheraton Ballroom in downtown D.C. was an unlikely place to begin. A cavernous room without windows, strong-willed people crammed elbow-to-elbow, the only vegetation an occasional lobby plant—this was not an auspicious site to launch a movement of, by, and for folks bent on changing the way America manages its forests.

But the pure merits of a vision, conceived in communities across the country, gave birth to community-based forestry at the 1996 Seventh American Forest Congress in Washington, D.C. People active in their own towns brought their experiences and their dreams to the Sheraton, where they met others with similar ideas. Their lives, their communities and their forests have never been the same.

In the seven years since the Forest Congress, community-based forestry has progressed well beyond a handful of isolated groups forming non-traditional coalitions and petitioning agencies for projects. Today it is a nationally recognized movement of partners invested in forest restoration and community building. Its participants are regularly called to testify before Congress on policy issues. Community-based forestry is the primary legacy of that Washington gathering, maintaining and strengthening the collaborative processes tested in the Sheraton Ballroom.

Community-based forestry has been dubbed “the we movement” for its dedication to inclusion, its emphasis on partnership over competition. The fact that it has achieved so much in so little time is a miracle—“a flipping miracle,” says Lynn Jungwirth, the first chairwoman of the Seventh American Forest Congress Communities Committee.

The accomplishments have been evolutionary, not revolutionary. Participants at the forest policy table now wear Birkenstocks, sweatshirts, and suspenders spotted with chain oil as well as suits. They discuss what's good for the woods, what's good for the neighborhood, and who does the work.

— continued on page 4

In this issue

Feature: 1

The state of community-based forestry

Inside Scoop: 2

Strengthening our voice

Member Profile: 3

Carol Daly

Resources 7

Events 8

SPECIAL FEATURE INSERT:

Directory of national community forestry organizations



Celebrating an early success: Communities Committee members after testifying at a 1997 Senate hearing.

Photo by Jane Braxton Little



page 3

“We found each other at the Seventh American Forest Congress. It turned people doing great work into a coalition working together”

— Carol Daly, Flathead Economic Policy Center

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Listserv:

The Committee's listserv, communityforestry@lists.nau.edu, is a bulletin-board type list where committee members post weekly federal policy updates, announcements of upcoming workshops and conferences, job announcements, and related notices.

Subscribers may also post questions or comments for general discussion. However, use of the listserv for extended debate is discouraged and personal attacks are not tolerated.

To subscribe to the listserv, send the following message to listserv@lists.nau.edu:

subscribe communityforestry NAME

(Type your first and last name in place of "NAME")

Strengthening our voice

Inside Scoop

by Carol Daly

Many Capitol Hill policymakers recognize the strength of the Communities Committee and the creative, innovative ideas its members bring to Washington, D.C. Despite our name recognition, however, until recently the Committee never had a mechanism for taking official positions, because it was not an official organization. We worked through other organizations, such as American Forests, who spoke on our behalf. This arrangement left policymakers and funders confused about the differences between us and the groups through which we worked. We felt it was time to capitalize on the reputation we have built through consistent communication by creating a distinct identity and a voice of our own, so we incorporated last year and this January applied for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

We also needed a more "official" structure and procedure to maintain our current functions as we expand into new areas. We are still transitioning from a fluid, amorphous organization to a more structured one. Our strength has always come from our collaborative and consensus-based approach, and it's important that we maintain that as much as possible. We need to model what we advocate and make sure everyone's needs are met before we move forward.

"We have been so successful working in partnership with other groups, doing more together than any of us could do on our own. We would never want to lose that."

There will be other changes in coming years. In the past, we've focused fairly heavily on public lands policy and the West. Now we have built some credibility and can broaden our scope. For instance, we'll be focusing more on urban-rural linkages, private lands issues, and the development and use of indicators of community and forest sustainability. We'll also continue to advocate for participatory research. A broadened scope will take some resources, but we need to be responsive to our whole constituency.

Of course, the Communities Committee will continue to work closely with our existing national, regional, and local partners, while building new partnerships in different areas. We have been so successful working collaboratively, in partnership with other groups, doing more together than any of us could do on our own. We would never want to lose that.

The Communities Committee is clearly the leading voice for communities' ideas about forestry. For a long time, communities weren't present at the table when important decisions were being made about the future of the nation's forests. Now we are heard, and we're making a difference. We will work to maintain and strengthen that voice in coming years.

Carol Daly is President of the Communities Committee.

In the late 1980s, I was staffing an economic development organization in the Flathead Valley of Montana when federal land management issues started getting contentious in our area. I facilitated a couple of collaborative efforts trying to bring together industry, environmental, and other interests to address the conflicts. We were probably a little ahead of our time, and we never got the broadly based participation we were seeking.

Then, in 1994, two local contract loggers asked me to participate in a new group they were convening. That was my introduction to community forestry and the start of the Flathead Forestry Project, a local, all-volunteer, collaborative group that's been working for almost

ten years to meet the needs of both the economy and the environment. It was also the beginning of my work in the broader world of community-based forestry.



Carol Daly is President of the Flathead Economic Policy Center and President of the Communities Committee. Photo by Jane Braxton Little

Pioneering stewardship contracting

The Flathead Forestry Project (FFP) has concentrated mostly on stewardship contracting. The loggers were tired of taking the rap for prescriptions they had no hand in designing. They wanted more discretion to make decisions about conditions they encountered on the ground. They kept talking about “leaving the best”—focusing on what’s left on the land, not what’s taken off of it. So we started advocating that the Forest Service should get the very best people available to do the job and then give them the discretion they had earned to make good decisions on behalf of the forest.

There had been a few stewardship demonstration projects in the 1970s and 1980s, but FFP took it further. We wanted to both allow contractors to focus solely on the end results of their work on the ground and at the same time address the environmental community’s concern that contractors should not have any financial interest in the trees being removed. That piece has come to be termed *delivered log contracting*, which some people call “separating the logger from the

log.” FFP was probably the first collaborative that really looked at new contracting mechanisms designed to get the best work done on the ground while removing potentially perverse economic incentives for loggers to cut more trees than necessary. The group authored legislation back in 1995 for a stewardship pilot demonstration project. That bill didn’t pass, but it set the stage for the federal stewardship contracting demonstration program created in 1998.

Size matters

FFP is about to embark on its fifth stewardship demonstration project with the Forest Service, and we have also done one stewardship project on state land and one on private land. The Forest Service has been moving toward larger projects, because they have to do costly environmental assessments (EAs) or impact statements (EISs) regardless of a project’s size. Our counter-argument is that if you get positive people involved up-front in collaboratively developed projects, you can do reasonable EAs or EISs. You shouldn’t have to do huge, costly assessments on small projects just to try to bulletproof yourself against appeals and litigation. So we’ve focused on small projects that people can agree on, not large volumes or large areas. We learn from each project, and use the lessons to try to make the next project even better.

On the downside, this has been a very slow process, and some folks in the timber industry are saying it’s too little, too late—not enough to save their jobs or their family businesses.

From local experience to national advocacy

Once the federal government got a stewardship contracting mechanism people started taking interest in us. We share our experiences with a lot of people. So while we haven’t been able to help all the local folks, we have helped a lot of people in other places through the tools we’ve developed, our experience, and simply on-the-ground evidence of successful stewardship projects.

In 1995, I was tapped for the board of the Seventh American Forest Congress. That brought me into the Communities Committee, which Lynn Jungwirth was chairing, and into the national policy arena. I became vice-chair of the Communities Committee in 1999 and was elected Chair in 2001.

I would be useless at the national level if I wasn’t involved in community forestry at the local level. That’s my source of credibility: I can talk about these things on the basis of my experience on the ground.

The language has changed to include terms such as stewardship, restoration, and multi-party monitoring. Even the tenor of the discussion is different: less angry and confrontational, more considerate and understanding.

Accompanying these intangibles is a list of substantial results of seven years of community-based forestry. National legislation directly brought or influenced by participants includes the Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act of 1998, annual stewardship contracting legislation from 1999-2003, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Development Act in 2000, the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000, the National Fire Plan's Title IV authorities and the Western Governors' Association's 10-year Comprehensive Strategy in 2001, the 2002 Farm Bill, and the Community-Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act proposed for 2003.



"People can't resist this movement. It just makes too much sense"

—Maia Enzer, *Sustainable Northwest*

Just as remarkable as this legislation is the sea change in the relationship between forest practitioners and the conservation community. National environmental groups once viewed them with the same mistrust they accorded the timber industry. Today, community-based foresters enjoy a cordial relationship with many local and national groups. That includes zero-cut environmen-

talists, who bought into the community's role in reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Western Governors' Association fire plan. After President Bush announced his Healthy Forests Initiative early this year, the governors' strategy became a rallying cry for The Wilderness Society and other environmental organizations.



"Our ideas have gained currency in the environmental movement but not in the timber industry"

—Gerry Gray, *American Forests*

Despite these successes, the promise of community-based forestry so strongly held in so many hearts has not fully materialized. The hope was for a new way of doing business with different results on the ground brought about by a new kind of workforce—a stewardship culture that would sweep the nation, restoring forests to health, establishing sustainable economies in communities, and transforming land management agencies.

Many of the accomplishments have been piecemeal. The amiable partnerships some community groups enjoy with their environmental counterparts, for example, are by no means universal. Polarity continues to define these relationships in many parts of the country.

Some of the disappointments stem from the movement itself. As an organization, community-based forestry is an unwieldy association of loosely affiliated local groups

with no hierarchy, no officials and no clear identity.

The Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress and the National Network of Forest Practitioners serve as national organizers, but neither claims to represent the movement as a whole. There is general acceptance of the principles of stewardship, reinvestment, monitoring, and collaboration in a process that is open, inclusive, and transparent. But the undefined gaps leave many participants uncomfortable.



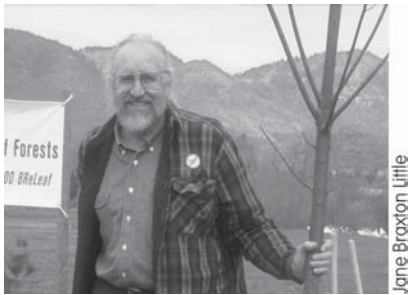
"We're on the map. That's a huge accomplishment. But who's the 'we?'"

—Thomas Brendler, *National Network of Forest Practitioners*

At least part of the unfulfilled promise is simply the time it takes to develop a movement. Community-based forestry has passed through its infancy yet it is anything but mature. Like an energetic adolescent, it includes a strong measure of impatience.

Many participants are anxious to move beyond the collaborations they have established and on to project implementation. For them, the last seven years have simply laid the foundation for on-the-ground changes. There will be no genuine success, they say, until community-based forestry achieves widespread work in the woods and watersheds based on new principles.

Practitioners in the West feel additional pressure from the forests themselves. A century of fire suppression and a decade of drought have left forestlands vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. The fires that have occurred in recent years have had the paradoxical effect of advancing national acceptance of the role communities play in reducing the fire danger.



“The Forest Service is talking the talk, but we’re not seeing the performance”

— Jack Shipley, Applegate Partnership

Yet not much work has occurred. No one doubts that it is needed. What’s holding it up is what many consider the major impediment to the long-term success of the movement: federal land management agencies.

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management can showcase impressive successes in community projects. Overall, however, they have not come close to the achievements community-based forestry advocates predicted.

In some cases, agencies have thrown up bureaucratic blockades that thwart the timber sales and restoration projects proposed by adjacent communities. Elsewhere, work on the ground has gone forward only to have payrolls bungled by bureaucrats who, from the perspective of the workers, feel no commitment to any of the changes.

These disappointments have left many practitioners disillusioned. Some have developed deep distrust in the agencies’ ability to complete any of the projects collaborative groups propose. Unless the agencies address these failures, some community-based forest activists believe the movement is doomed.

Government officials say their agencies are changing—slowly but steadfastly. They credit community leaders with providing the consistent, outside pressure required to redirect big bureaucracies used to dealing with big industries. Communities have sent their representatives back to Washington again and again, regardless of who is chief or president, to report which programs are working at the ground level and which are not.



“The promise of collaboration has not been fulfilled as many of us had hoped”

— Brett KenCairn, Indigenous Community Enterprises

Whether agencies can change fast enough to benefit forests and communities is an issue hotly debated across the country. Communities and agencies alike are losing skills as their experts retire or move on to other jobs. Some coalition activists have proposed an in-depth critique of the Forest Service to address what they consider “unworkable dysfunctionality.”

The last seven years have generated disappointments even in

success. Several federal bills have taken concepts proposed by community activists but ignored their plans for implementation.

Stewardship contracting legislation, for example, dilutes the concept of multi-party monitoring, a key part of determining what works on the ground and why. Without true monitoring, stewardship contracting is just logging, the critics say. They also censure the National Fire Plan for reducing the concept of best value contracting to low-bid sales.



“Our ideas are powerful. Our political base is not”

— Colin Donahue, Rural Action

Others denounce the Bush administration and Congress for funding neither new initiatives nor the agencies responsible for implementing them. Worst of all, they say, is the president’s Healthy Forests Initiative, which recognizes the need to reduce flammable forest fuels but makes no commitment to the communities who helped bring national attention to the danger and who proposed doing the work.

Many participants believe that such co-opting of these grassroots initiatives is a knife in the back of community-based forestry. It could alienate environmentalists and the public just when genuine dialogue has begun.

Still other participants are encouraged that the innovations are now part of the national discussion.

— continued on page 6

The dialogue has changed to include concepts such as adding value to raw materials, inviting everyone to monitor projects, reinvesting profits from local resources back into local economies.



Jane Braxton Little

“People on the ground won’t give up on the land and they won’t give up on communities”

— Lynn Jungwirth, Watershed Research and Training Center

What makes this movement unique is that it is not possessive but aims to get new ideas integrated into a universal agenda. For every participant who rails against the co-opting of community-based forestry ideas, there is one who says, “Please! Yes! Co-opt us.” They have no fear of hijacked visions.

Community-based forestry faces a multi-pronged challenge in dealing with these external issues, but it must also confront internal challenges. Among the tests ahead is bringing along all of the movement’s diverse parts as the whole lumbers forward.

Restoring local economies cannot precede ecosystem restoration without risking a return to the bad old extraction days; both must address equity in the workforce as they progress.

Of all the internal challenges, equity issues may be the most divisive. Lack of diversity has alienated some members and discouraged others from participating. Although race has been a primary focus of concern, the

dispute over diversify is not limited to ethnic groups. Eastern forest advocates have often felt eclipsed by their counterparts in the West. Rural issues have historically dominated urban concerns, and public lands have received much more attention than private.

As the movement comes of age, there is pressure from some participants to establish a more formal national presence. Advocates say an office and staff in Washington would give better access to the principles and people who articulate them to policy makers. Elevating the profile as a mainstream organization would also help recruit new members, including youth and minorities.

Opponents call establishing a national presence the kiss of death. The strengths of community-based forestry are its ties to the land and the communities it represents in national policy discussions. Without these, the movement is in danger of becoming just another interest group.



Eleanor Torres

“It’s like hosting a dinner party using the same amount of food, but every year the guest list keeps increasing”

— Alice Ewen Walker, National Alliance for Community Trees

Despite internal challenges, community-based forestry is poised to play a positive role in the national dialogue about forests and resource use. At a time when federal politics are contributing to in-

creased polarization, community foresters can buffer the breach by continuing the dialogue with their new-found partners. The divisive pall cast by the president’s Healthy Forests Initiative has only strengthened the bond between the community and conservation camps.



Jane Braxton Little

“Community-based forestry is the wave of the future—if we can keep it together”

— Jonathan Kusel, Forest Community Research

The movement is also extending its partnerships to the international arena, where practitioners are meeting with their counterparts around the world. The newly created Global Caucus for Community Forestry promises to broaden and deepen the role the American movement plays. In a world already divided by war, these personal and community relationships could ease global tensions with the reassurances that friendships provide.

If community-based forestry can maintain its focus on forests and communities—if it can resist taking itself too seriously—the opportunities are endless. As it ambles forward, warts and all, the ultimate challenge for the movement will be keeping its equilibrium: balancing definition with flexibility; diversity with unity; policy with implementation; and me with we.

Freelance journalist Ian Leahy contributed to this article. Our thanks to the more than 20 people who shared their expertise and opinions.

Publications and Web sites

Community Preparedness for Wildfire: Case Studies. Six case studies of fire-ready communities are available at www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/4803/highlights.htm. Hard copies can be ordered from Pamela Jakes, USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station, 1992 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-649-5163.

Rebuilding Northwest Communities' Economies. *Seeing the Communities through the Trees: Rebuilding Communities in the Northwest?* An Analysis of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, by Forest Community Research, analyzes the effects of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, which pumped \$1.2 billion into northwest communities to offset the decline in timber harvests. To see case studies from the report go to: www.fcresearch.org/neai. To receive a copy of the full report, contact Jonathan Kusel at kusel@fcresearch.org or 530-284-1022 x.12.

Ecosystem Workforce Report and Quick Guide. *Business and Employment Effects of the National Fire Plan in Oregon and Washington in 2001*, a report by Cassandra Mosely, Nancy Toth, and Abe Cambier and the *Ecosystem Workforce Assessment Quick Guide*, which includes sample worker and contractor surveys for multiparty monitoring, are both available at ewp.uoregon.edu or by calling the Ecosystem Workforce Program at 541-346-0675.

Analyzing Forest Service Appeals. Two reports from the Ecological Restoration Institute, *Analyzing USDA Forest Service Appeals: Phase I, the Database*, and *Designing a Framework for Evaluating the Impacts and Outcomes of Forest Service Appeals*, address the claims (and counter-claims) being put forward about the impacts of appeals. Both reports are available on line at www.eri.nau.edu/new/research/sociopubs.htm; hard copies can be ordered by calling 928-523-7154.

How-to Guide on Forest Landowner Cooperatives. *Balancing Ecology and Economics: A Start-up Guide for Forest Owner Cooperation, 2nd Edition*, by the Community Forestry Resource Center, shows how private landowners, working together, can improve the ecological conditions of their lands while at the same time improving their own economic well-being and that of the communities in which their forest land is located. Available for \$13 at www.forestrycenter.org or from CFRC at 612-870-3407 or forestrycenter@iatp.org.

GreenInfrastructure.net An information center for organizations and resources related to our "natural life support system," GreenInfrastructure.net has been redesigned to reflect the latest information on green infrastructure planning, design, and implementation. For green infrastructure course and conference listings, reference materials, and links to organizations, visit www.greeninfrastructure.net.

Requests for proposals

Editor/Producer. The Communities Committee is seeking proposals from individuals or organizations to edit, produce, and distribute its quarterly newsletter, Communities and Forests. For the full Request for Proposals, contact Carol Daly, President, Communities Committee, 919 Elk Park Road, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912, cdaly1@centurytel.net, 406-892-8155.

Web site manager. The Communities Committee is seeking an individual or organization to maintain its Web site, communitiescommittee.org. This is a small site and updating and maintenance are expected to require less than 160 hours per year. Proposals and requests for further information should be sent to Carol Daly, President, Communities Committee, 919 Elk Park Road, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912, cdaly1@centurytel.net, 406-892-8155.

Job announcement

Coordinator, Southwest Community Forestry Research Center. The Southwest Community Forestry Research Center, a program of the Forest Trust, is dedicated to participatory research with rural people in forested communities and is one of four regional centers of the National Community Forestry Center. This position requires a Master's degree, experience in forest-related research, and excellent writing and communication skills. Additional qualifications include strong management skills, a knowledge of participatory research methods and publications, and an affinity for working with people in rural communities. To apply, send a cover letter describing your interest in the position, a resume, and a list of three references to: Director, Forest Trust, P.O. Box 519, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Position is open until filled.

Communities and Forests

Communities Committee of the

Seventh American Forest Congress

c/o Ecological Restoration Institute

Box 15017, Northern Arizona University

Flagstaff AZ 86011-5017

Events

Community Forestry Week in Washington / SAF Legislative Days, June 2-5, 2003, Washington, D.C. Contact Kim Ziegelmayer at 401-273-6507, ext. 16 or kim@nnfp.org.

Forest Health Summit June 17-19, 2003, Missoula, Montana, sponsored by the Western Governors Association. Call 303-623-9378 or visit www.westgov.org/wga/meetings/forest_health_summit.htm

National Urban and Community Forestry Education and Outreach Conference for Minority and Underserved Communities, June 18-20, 2003, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Visit www.urbanforestry.subr.edu/nucfac or contact Dr. Zhu Hua Ning at zning@subr.edu or 225-771-2262 ext 267.

Pathways to Forest Sustainability: Putting the Pieces Together, June 30-July 2, 2003, Jacksonville, Florida. Go to www.safnet.org/science/e6.htm or contact Terry Clark or clarkt@safnet.org or 301-897-8720 ext. 123.

Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource—a symposium engaging economic, ecological and social principles and practices, October 2-3, 2003, Hendersonville, North Carolina. Contact Susan Moore at 919-515-3184 or susan_moore@ncsu.edu or visit www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium.

National Network of Forest Practitioners Annual Members Meeting October 28-November 1, 2003, St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Contact Susan LaPolice at 401-273-6507 or susan@nnfp.org, or visit www.nnfp.org.

Mission statement:

The purpose of the **Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress** is to focus attention on the interdependence between America's forests and the vitality of rural and urban communities, and to promote:

- improvements in political and economic structures to ensure local community well-being and the long-term sustainability of forested ecosystems;
- an increasing stewardship role of local communities in the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity;
- participation by ethnically and socially diverse members of urban and rural communities in decision-making and sharing benefits of forests;
- the innovation and use of collaborative processes, tools, and technologies; and
- the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of diverse forest landowners.

— Who's Who on the National Scene —

non-governmental organizations advancing community forestry in the United States

American Forests - Forest Policy Center

The Forest Policy Center at American Forests serves as a bridge group between local and national groups by developing and sharing information on forest policy issues related to ecosystem restoration and maintenance; bringing the perspectives of urban and rural community groups to the policy arena; promoting constructive dialogue among diverse interests; and promoting "common ground" solutions that integrate environmental, social, and economic considerations. Often considered communities' "voice on the hill," the Forest Policy Center works closely with Congressional members and their staff.

Mila Alvarez, Director
Forest Policy Center at American Forests
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malvarez@amfor.org
www.americanforests.org

Communities Committee

The Communities Committee works to focus national attention on the interdependence of America's forests and the vitality of rural and urban communities. The Committee connects grassroots community forestry practitioners to national policymakers through its field tours, workshops, and publications, which include a quarterly newsletter, policy quick guides, and occasional position papers. Board members testify before Congress, speak at conferences, and sit on national committees related to community forestry.

Carol Daly, President
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cdaly@digisys.net
www.communitiescommittee.org

Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC)

The Community Forestry Resource Center, a program of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, provides technical, educational, and organizational assistance to landowners working to manage their own forestlands in a sustainable manner. The mission of the CFRC is to promote responsible forest management by encouraging the long-term health and prosperity of small, privately owned woodlots, their owners, and their communities.

Philip Guillery, Program Director
Community Forestry Resource Center
c/o IATP, 2105 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis MN 55404
612.870.3456 ☎, pguillery@iatp.org
www.communityforestry.org

Intertribal Timber Council (ITC)

The ITC is a nation-wide consortium of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native American communities. The ITC works cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), private industry, and academia to promote social, economic and ecological values while protecting and utilizing forests, soil, water, and wildlife. The ITC offers training sessions to tribal officers, monitors natural resource management policy, and convenes an annual symposium.

Intertribal Timber Council
1112 NE 21st Ave.
Portland OR 97232
503.282.4296 ☎, 503.282.1274 📠
itc1@teleport.com
www.itcnet.org

National Alliance for Community Trees (ACT)

ACT is a national support network for grassroots, citizen-based, nonprofit organizations dedicated to urban and community tree planting, care, conservation and education. Membership is offered to nonprofit urban forestry organizations whose purpose is to promote urban and community forestry through citizen action. Members receive ACT's newsletter and member directory and have access to the resources of ACT's headquarters office and the ACT network.

Alice Ewen Walker, Executive Director
National Alliance for Community Trees
Box 464, College Park MD 20741-0464
301.431.6728 ☎
alice@pobox.com
www.actrees.org

National Association of State Foresters (NASF)

NASF represents the directors of the state forestry agencies from all fifty states, eight U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. State Foresters provide management assistance to private landowners (who own over two-thirds of the nation's forests), and leverage state and local resources to develop urban and community forestry programs. NASF maintains a directory of state foresters, an educational materials program, and annually updated state forestry statistics, and publishes a national policy newsletter.

Anne Heissenbuttel, Executive Director
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— Who's Who on the National Scene —

non-governmental organizations advancing community forestry in the United States

National Network of Forest Practitioners (NNFP)

The National Network of Forest Practitioners is an alliance of rural people working on the ground to build a forest economy that is ecologically sound and socially just. It is a clearinghouse for information and technical assistance, and a place for people to meet, learn, and make their voices heard. Members benefits include: access to network staff, a membership directory, peer learning and organizing opportunities, and financial assistance to help them attend NNFP gatherings and other community forestry events.

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National Community Forestry Center (NCFC)

The National Community Forestry Center, a program of the NNFP, works to improve the ability of rural people to access, produce, and use information through participatory research—and in the process develop new relationships among communities, practitioners, and researchers.

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Henry Carey
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Box 519, Santa Fe NM 87504-0519
800.802.0025 ☎, forest@theforesttrust.org
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National Tree Trust (NTT)

The National Tree Trust promotes healthy communities by providing resources that educate and empower people to grow and care for urban and community forests. By partnering neighborhoods, businesses, environmental agencies, and conservation groups, the NTT helps communities use trees to improve our homes, our health, and the quality of life.

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Pinchot Institute for Conservation

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation works to facilitate communication and close cooperation among resource managers, scientists, policymakers and the American public. The Institute's Community-based Forest Stewardship Program helps interpret USDA Forest Service programs for communities and works with community practitioners to give the agency feedback on its programs. The Institute leads the monitoring and evaluation effort for the Forest Service's stewardship contracting pilot program.

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TreeLink

TreeLink is the premier urban forestry Internet site, providing networking among urban foresters and community advocates throughout the United States. TreeLink maintains several discussion forums; a searchable research database; and an extensive library with educational materials, how-to-guides on tree care and natural resource management, and other urban forestry information. TreeLink also publishes a quarterly on-line magazine and maintains lists of national and local urban forestry groups.

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