



2019 FSC US Board of Directors Elections

Dear US-based members of the Forest Stewardship Council,

As an organization led by its members, your participation is fundamental to the integrity of the FSC system. Membership and member-driven governance set FSC apart.

Member participation manifests in many ways, and today I am asking for your participation in the 2019 Board of Directors elections.

Once again, we are honored to have a slate of engaged FSC members who are willing to dedicate their time and expertise to making our system strong and resilient.

During this voting period, you will elect three new board members (1 Economic Chamber, 1 Environmental Chamber, and 1 Social Chamber). Enclosed within this letter is a packet with information about each candidate.

Please review the materials in this packet and complete your ballot as soon as you are able.

We do encourage you to hear from the candidates in a **Meet the Candidates call on Monday, July 15, 11:00am-1:00pm Central Time**, for which the call-in information is below:

Dial-in Number: 605-468-8014
Access Code: 871937

The deadline for voting is Sunday, August 4.

Important:

- Submit ballot via online form: <http://bit.ly/FSCUS-2019BoD-ElectionBallot>
- All ballots must be received by **Sunday, August 4, 2019**

If you have any questions, you may contact Maggie Abel at m.abel@us.fsc.org, (612) 353-4511.

Thank you for your leadership and support for the Forest Stewardship Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Brinkema', is positioned above the printed name.

Corey Brinkema
President



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Economic Chamber Candidates



Christopher Gibbons
American Green Consulting Group, LLC
President
chris@americangreenconsulting.com
Economic Chamber

Biography

Chris Gibbons is President of American Green Consulting Group, LLC, which specializes in helping companies manage their FSC Chain of Custody and/or Controlled Wood certifications. Since its founding in 2011, Chris has broadened American Green services extensively. Starting solely as the group manager of the largest print-centric group certificate in the US (a role that continues today), American Green now also manages a solid wood focused group certificate, acts as the primary contact for a number of large multisite certificates across a broad array of CoC industries, and provides ready-made documentation sets for any company needing assistance with their CoC or CW

certification. Chris and his team have developed systems that have cut the annual time for certification of their clients by up to 90%.

Prior to his involvement in the FSC industry, Chris worked as a contract forester, park ranger, and invasive species surveyor/inspector. After learning about FSC through his contract forestry work, Chris joined Rainforest Alliance on their CoC team, leaving to open a certification body affiliate with a partner, and finally opening American Green Consulting in 2011. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Conservation, from Michigan State University.

Position Statement

Though I've been on the CoC side of things for over a decade, what led me to FSC was my time in the forest. FSC embodies the best of our goals, when it comes to forest management. Economic, Social, and Environmental chambers coming together, finding areas of agreement, rather than disagreement. It is the ideal that we should all strive to achieve. As an organization we have not yet reached that goal, but our ideas about why that may be, with disparate views from various organizations, industries and operations, will help to push FSC forward.

That ideal though, and the belief that we can actually find a way through the morass we're currently facing (e.g. CW NRA, FM standards review, overall marketing focus, etc.), is why I am running for the FSC-US Board. We have a good mix of current board members. We're losing a committed and effective economic chamber member in Luke. My knowledge, and my experience, is a good fit for filling in potential gaps in the current Board composition. Most importantly, my understanding of where I lack knowledge, and my willingness to reach out to each of you and solicit that knowledge, will be the key to all of our success.

FSC-US has made some great strides in the past few years. Programs and projects that languished are being completed. There is continuity in the staff, and we are looking to the future as an organization. My intention for the Board is to see remaining points of friction addressed, while driving the organization to continue to focus on the key issue facing us – growth of FSC name recognition with consumers that leads to increased sales in the marketplace.



Mike Houser
PotlatchDeltic Corporation
Manager, Certification & Environment
Mike.Houser@PotlatchDeltic.com
Economic Chamber

Biography

Mike Houser is Manager, Certification & Environment, for PotlatchDeltic. He has been with the company for 23 years with certification, environmental, marketing and public affairs responsibilities. PotlatchDeltic owns 2 million acres of forestland in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota and Mississippi and operates eight solid wood products facilities that produce lumber and plywood in Arkansas, Idaho, Michigan

and Minnesota.

He has developed, implemented and managed company-wide environmental systems for FSC FM and CoC/CW, as well as SFI and ISO 14001 EMS certification. Prior to Potlatch becoming FSC certified, Mike also participated with the Rainforest Alliance as an FSC auditor.

Mike has actively engaged in numerous state, regional and national multi-stakeholder processes, collaborating with a range of opinions and working to produce creative, science based results. FSC examples include participation in the FSC US Plantations Working Group and the only North American member of the FSC International Plantations Review – Maintaining Ecosystem Integrity technical working group. His responsibilities have also included state/federal policy, T&E species management and cooperative forestry research with universities, ENGOs and private partners.

Mike is a certified wildlife biologist and ISO 14001 Lead Auditor and has degrees in Wildlife and Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University.

Position Statement

The opportunity to run for the BoD is a great honor and responsibility. I have had lead roles and managed FSC FM and CoC/CW certification of land and solid wood mills since 2004 in the SE, Lake States and Intermountain West. Currently, that includes FSC FM/CoC certification in the Southeast US and FSC CoC/CW certification at sawmills in Arkansas and Michigan. PotlatchDeltic was the first publicly traded landowner to become FSC certified, and thus I have been involved firsthand in the opportunities and limitations that FSC provides landowners and solid wood manufacturing facilities.

My experience has given me a unique and valuable perspective on the FSC system from the ground up – national and international standard development, governance, communication and economic feasibility throughout the supply chain. All FSC certification, be it FM or CoC/CW, is ultimately dependent on sustainable business principles. Long term viability of FSC is dependent on practical processes for very diverse large and small forest landowners and manufacturing facilities that create genuine incentives for participation. At the same time, these applied, science-based outcomes must also provide environmental and social leadership. If elected to the Board, I will endeavor to help FSC advance a practical and sustainable business model – this is vital for FSC's long term success in the US. I am excited for the opportunity and appreciate your consideration.

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Environmental Chamber Candidates



**Brent Davies
Ecotrust**

Vice President, Forests and Ecosystem Services
brent@ecotrust.org
Environmental Chamber

Biography

Brent Davies is Ecotrust's Vice President of Forests and Ecosystem Services. For the last two decades, Brent has worked with tribes, local and regional nonprofits, private landowners, businesses, and government agencies to develop and implement innovative conservation, restoration, and economic development strategies. She has co-led the development of several conservation planning tools, including [Forest Planner](#), a user-friendly, online tool that allows landowners to visualize how changes in their forest practices affect revenue and the production of timber and other ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration. In partnership with the University of Washington, Brent and her team recently published a peer-reviewed study that compared forest management outcomes expected under “business as usual” (ongoing compliance with Oregon and Washington forest practice rules) with management scenarios following two of the key requirements of Forest Stewardship Council certification: larger and more protective buffer zones around streams; and leaving more live trees standing following timber harvests. The study (“[Tradeoffs in Timber, Carbon, and Cash Flow under Alternative Management Systems for Douglas-Fir in the Pacific Northwest](#)”) shows that FSC scenarios always store more carbon than business-as-usual approaches, averaging at least 30% more. The study also shows that we would produce more timber and store even more carbon if we allowed trees to grow for a longer time before harvesting them. These findings demonstrate how FSC-certified wood from Douglas fir forests of the Pacific Northwest carries an embedded carbon benefit—one of the many benefits provided by FSC-style management.

Brent received a Master of Science degree from the University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources. In addition to the FSC US Board of Directors, Brent also serves on the Washington Forest Practices Board and assists in the management of her family’s Oregon forestland.

Position Statement

It is a great honor and responsibility to serve on the FSC US Board of Directors. I am excited by the possibility of continuing to work with the Board, staff, membership, and other supporters to maintain FSC’s role as the most credible and rigorous standard for forest certification and to grow our influence on forest management by expanding our market recognition. As a family forest landowner, I also understand the importance of practical guidelines and that conservation isn’t free—we need more accessible and meaningful incentives for conservation.

I am committed to restoring and protecting native forest ecosystems and to growing the pool of incentives for ecological forest management that generates vast public benefits. I am also passionate about helping to find and create more of these incentives. While many of us intuitively understand the many benefits provided by good forestry, better data on forest ecosystem services will help translate these values for a broader constituency. One of my current projects is to test FSC’s new Ecosystem Service Procedure in collaboration with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to daylight the climate, cultural, biodiversity, and clean water benefits provided by the Tribe’s forest management.

If re-elected to the Board, I will continue to work with stakeholders to strengthen FSC by expanding our resources and by better articulating the connection between FSC-certification and public benefits.

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Social Chamber Candidates



Dr. Shoana Humphries

Green Value

Co-Founder

shoana.h@gmail.com

Social Chamber

Biography

Shoana is a co-founder of Green Value, a California-based consulting firm that provides training, research, and other services to support small and medium sustainable forest enterprises around the globe. Shoana has a PhD in Forest Resources and Conservation with a minor in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida. Her graduate research focused on community forestry and forest certification. She has worked in small-scale forestry and forest certification for the last 20 years in the US, Latin America, and Europe. She has served on the FSC US Board for one year, finishing out the term of a member who left early.

Position statement

During my last year of service as an FSC US Board member, I have advocated for social member interests on the Policy and Standards and Marketing Committees, as well as led a new cross-chamber effort to improve social chamber engagement. I would be honored to continue to serve on the Board for the next three years and to use my experience and skills to make FSC certification more accessible and beneficial in the US for small and medium forest owners and forest product enterprises, Native Americans, and forest industry workers.

My service on the Board is informed by my work since 1996 to promote and strengthen the FSC and forest certification, including leading FSC regional standards development and FSC policy development, serving as a certification auditor, providing training and education in certification, and conducting research on the impacts of certification. Notably, from 1997 to 2000, I co-led the development of the FSC regional standards for the Southeastern United States and wrote a forest certification handbook for the region. In addition, I served as the Social Policy Manager at the FSC International Center from 2009-2012, during which time I led several regional and global initiatives, including a contractor certification pilot, creation of a new label for products from small and community producers, and the development of guidance for free, prior, and informed consent. My work since 2012 has focused on using a tool I co-developed, the Green Value tool for simplified financial analysis, to strengthen the financial viability of small and medium forest enterprises.



Ted Wright
Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands
Executive Director
executivedirector@tcnef.org
Social Chamber

Biography

Ted Wright is the Executive Director of the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands (TCNEF), which oversees the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program for all New England and New York. TCNEF is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to supporting exemplary forest professionals; acknowledging those who are highly trained and interested to third party certification; and increasing partnerships by acknowledging common goals among landowners, loggers, foresters. In his current position, he works with professional timber harvesting companies, to ensure they comply with Nepcon's Smartlogging certificate, which recognizes them for their exemplary social, economic and environmental practices. The Smartlogging certificate was created in 2005 by the Rainforest Alliance and the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine as the need for third-party point of harvest certification increased. TCNEF also holds FSC Group COC and FM Certificates which Ted acts as the group manager.

He is currently collaborating with the FSC New Approaches initiative as a global working group member to develop and test forestry contractor certification in the U.S. The aim of the global working group is to analyze potential benefits from including forestry and logging contractors into the FSC system - especially from a smallholder certification perspective.

Ted grew up on a family-owned potato farm in Littleton, Maine, along the Canadian border. He first became interested in logging and forestry as a young adult. He began harvesting wood from his family's land and discovered his passion for the forest products industry.

Ted attended the University of Maine at Fort Kent and graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with a concentration in Forestry. He then went to work at the Region Two School of Applied Technology, a regional education center located in Northern Maine, as a lead instructor of the Wood Harvesting/Forestry program for seven years. In this position, Ted trained students in forestry, work safety, and environmentally conscious logging practices with cut-to-length and conventional harvesting systems.

Position Statement

As a board member I will work to advance the US-Forest Stewardship Council's mission of promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the US forests all and more specifically work to promote the mission as a collective effort that requires the collaboration of all stakeholders. A positive working relationship between land owners, logging professionals, and forest resource managers can only lead to improved environmental outcomes in addition to social and economic gains. Through my work, I have come to understand the pivotal role that logging companies play in ensuring that environmental standards are achieved. It is my position, that empowering logging professionals leads to exceptional harvest practices, in addition to fostering companies that provide exceptional work environments through safety, fair wages, and community stability.