



2021 FSC US Board of Director 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 sets FSC apart from other certification systems.

Member participation manifests in many ways, and today I am asking for your participation in the 2021 Board of Director 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 (One Economic Chamber, One Environmental Chamber, and One 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 Thursday, July 22 at 1:00 pm Central Time. The deadline for voting is Friday, August 20.

Register in advance for the Meet the Candidates call:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_32BNA5U2RUmEz_e8kp-n2Q

Important:

- Submit ballot via online form: <https://forms.gle/5pNskTphcbcwA9pM6>
- All ballots must be received by Friday, August 20, 2021

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,

François Dufresne, Interim President, FSC US



2021 FSC US Board of Director Elections Candidate Biographies and Position Statements

Economic Chamber Candidate

- Sarah Billig, Mendocino Redwood Company

Environmental Chamber Candidate

- Stuart Hale, The Nature Conservancy

Social Chamber Candidate

- John Fenderson, Croatan Institute

Forest Stewardship Council—US

708 1st Street North, Suite 235

Minneapolis, MN 55401

612-353-4511 **Phone**

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Economic Chamber Candidates



Sarah Billig
Mendocino Redwood Company, LLC

Stewardship Director

sbillig@mendoco.com

Economic Chamber

Biography

Sarah Billig is Director of Stewardship for Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Companies. In this role, which she has held for 18 years, she manages the organization's FSC forest management certificates totaling 530,000 acres, including a group certificate of external landowners. She also manages the FSC chain of custody certification the Mendocino Family

of Companies. In addition to these duties, Sarah also manages the companies' forest inventory and information systems teams.

Sarah received her B.S from the University of Michigan in Natural Resources. After graduation her desire to explore led her to study birds in Australia, count seals off the coast of Maine, get treed by bison in South Dakota, and trek in the Himalayas. All the travelling left her with a strong desire to improve management of natural resources throughout the world.

Sarah joined Mendocino Redwood Company in 2001; when it was still a new ownership in the redwood region. Its long-term forest management outlook and strong company values of stewardship and restoration were a perfect fit for Sarah's career objectives. Her passion is managing forests to promote their economic, environmental, and social values.

Position Statement

I would be honored to continue representing FSC membership as a board member. I bring 18 years of experience working in FSC-certified operations (including implementing Forest Management, Chain of Custody, and Controlled Wood standards); as well as a full term of FSC-US board experience.

Vision:

Increase value for certificate holders.

We must find creative ways to increase value of participation for certificate holders.

Certificate holder and membership engagement

We need streamline certificate holders and members engagement, reducing frustration and information overload. When all interested members and stakeholders are heard we can build better outcomes.

Streamline standards to increase efficiencies while maintaining rigor.

We need to find ways to make the applicable standards efficient and workable while maintaining their rigor. The current FSC-US Forest Management standard revision is the first step in this process.

Recruit the right leader for FSC-US.

Our challenge in the remainder of 2021 will be to find and select the right leader who can facilitate achieving these objectives and our organizational mission.

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Environmental Chamber Candidates



D. Stuart Hale, CF

The Nature Conservancy

Forest Program Manager, American Forest Carbon Initiative

stuart.hale@tnc.org

Environmental Chamber

Biography

Stuart is the Forestry Program Manager of The Nature Conservancy's American Forest Carbon Initiative, a program helping landowners unlock the potential of forest management and carbon. Prior roles at the Conservancy include serving as the first Forest Manager for the NatureVest Impact Investment Fund's Cumberland Forest Project and working with the Clinch

Valley Program in southwest Virginia and east Tennessee. In addition, Stuart was recently a member of the FSC-US FM Standard Revision Working Group. His other experience includes managing large, certified TIMO lands, acting as a FSC Forest Management and Chain-of-Custody Auditor, and working as a forester for Native American tribes in the US Southwest. Stuart has held leadership positions with the Forest Stewards Guild and Society of American Foresters, and currently serves as an appointed member to the FSC-US Board of Directors and as a member of his local town's Tree Commission.

Position Statement

The importance of forests have never been greater – from helping with climate and biodiversity to providing sustainable jobs and local economies – their roles are critical and must continue to grow. In order for consumers and manufacturers to have confidence that the forest products they are purchasing support our shared values, it is important to have an assurance – an assurance that the management was of the highest caliber, meeting the most complete and robust standards, as provided by FSC. Through a position on the Board, I hope to continue to protect and promote these values and to ensure long-term forest health and stability for the benefits of both nature and people. Thank you for your support.

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Social Chamber Candidate



John Fenderson
Croatan Institute
Natural Resource Finance
fenderson.john@gmail.com
Social Chamber

Biography

John is currently a Fellow at the Croatan Institute where his focus is Conservation Forestry that complements regenerative soil health/wealth practices in Agriculture. He is based in the Greater Nashville, TN area, and serves on several boards, and has been a champion of the Small Non-Industrial Private Forest landowners over a long period of time. Towards that end shoring up and strengthening the Social chamber has been one of his focal points since he joined the board. John has a background in Economics & Finance, and a 20 + year career in Forestry - more recently having worked as a Specialty Asset Manager with Bank of America's U.S. Trust in the Timberland Group. He has also co-authored papers on Carbon Accounting

and Viewshed Valuation, while serving as an advocate for market-based behavior change.

Position Statement

My name is John Fenderson, and I am a Board candidate for the Social chamber. I believe the 3rd leg of the stool that represents the foundation of FSC principles has not been very solid and suffered from benign neglect over the first 25 years of existence. I am running for re-election because the task of strengthening and continued build out of stakeholders in this realm is unfinished. During my first term we undertook a process of discovery as it relates to how FSC US has been underserved in this area and began implementing remedies for this. To ensure this is successful, continuity is key. I ask for your vote to fulfill this mission.