



## 2022 FSC US Board of Director Elections

July 18, 2022

Dear US-based members of the Forest Stewardship Council,

The Forest Stewardship Council is a member-led organization whose unique governance structure ensures that when it comes to the stewardship of our world's forests, all voices are heard and that decisions are made through a deliberate, consensus-based process. As such, FSC members contribute directly to our standards and to the future of responsible forestry. The organization brings together private enterprises, NGOs, international organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and educational institutions. This diverse set of stakeholders share a common desire: to improve the stewardship of our world's forests.

The strength and value of this system is built on our balanced, transparent, and tri-chambered system of governance open to all interested in participating. Member contributions manifest in many ways, and today FSC-US is asking for your participation and for you to vote in our 2022 Board of Director elections.

We are honored to have a committed slate of engaged FSC members willing to dedicate their time and expertise to assist in making our system as strong as possible.

During this voting period, you will elect three new board members, one each from the economic, environmental, and social chambers. Enclosed is a packet with information about each candidate which includes a short biography and a position statement.

Please review these materials and complete your online ballot by **Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. We encourage you to listen in and hear from the candidates in a Meet the Candidates call on **Thursday, August 11 at 2:00 pm Central Time**.

### **Key Information:**

- Register in advance for the **Meet the Candidates** call to learn more about the candidates and ask questions: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VMwcMwSgRbyA2IT\\_X9Xi5A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VMwcMwSgRbyA2IT_X9Xi5A)
- Submit your ballot online: <https://forms.gle/FTcpZ9BRFqHPfDXZ8>
- **Deadline to receive ballots is Friday, August 19, 2022**

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If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Abel at [m.abel@us.fsc.org](mailto:m.abel@us.fsc.org), (612) 353-4511 at your earliest convenience. I thank you for your leadership, active participation, and support for the Forest Stewardship Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derik Frederiksen', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Derik Frederiksen  
President  
Forest Stewardship Council-US



## **2022 FSC US Board of Director Elections**

### **Candidate Biographies and Position Statements**

#### **Economic Chamber**

- Mike Houser, PotlatchDeltic Corporation

#### **Environmental Chamber**

- Rachel Baker, Washington Environmental Council

#### **Social Chamber**

- Amanda Mahaffey, Forest Stewards Guild

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## **Economic Chamber Candidates**



**Mike Houser**  
**PotlatchDeltic Corporation**  
Manager, Certification & Environment  
[Mike.Houser@PotlatchDeltic.com](mailto:Mike.Houser@PotlatchDeltic.com)  
Economic Chamber

### **Biography**

Mike Houser is Manager, Certification & Environment, for PotlatchDeltic. He has been with the company for 26 years with certification, environmental, log marketing, government and public affairs, and ESG responsibilities. PotlatchDeltic owns approximately 2 million acres of forestland in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota and Mississippi and operates

seven 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 a second term for the BoD is a great honor and responsibility. I have learned much from my first term (during the Covid era!) and look very much forward to continuing the important work that FSC US has to accomplish.

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.

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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 re-elected to the Board, I will endeavor to continue 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**



**Rachel Baker**  
***Washington Environmental Council (WEC)***  
Forest Program Director  
[r.baker@wecprotects.org](mailto:r.baker@wecprotects.org)  
Environmental Chamber

### **Biography**

Rachel is the Forest Program Director at Washington Environmental Council (WEC). For more than a decade, Rachel's career has focused on the intersection between forest management, sustainable development, and global supply chains. She has partnered with NGOs, civil society, academia, tribes and indigenous organizations, and government agencies to develop policies and incentives in support of forest conservation and sustainable forest management. Rachel leads WEC's

Forest Program, which advocates for ecological management of Washington's public and private forestlands. In this role, she promotes management of the state's forests for ecological, social, and economic benefit through legislation, policy, elections, litigation, convening and education, coalitions, and leveraging downstream demand for climate-smart wood. In Rachel's previous work, she advocated for international financial institution investment and safeguard policies in support of forests and forest-dependent peoples, including for REDD+. Rachel also worked at The Forest Trust, where she guided private sector companies towards transparency and deforestation-free supply chains for soy, palm oil, and pulp & paper. Rachel holds a Master of Forestry and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University. She lives in Seattle, WA with her partner and their two cats.

### **Position Statement**

I am excited to run for the FSC US Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity! I would be thrilled to work with the FSC US Board, staff, and membership to support FSC's mission and build on its reputation as the most credible global standard for forest management. Forests have been the throughline in my career, and I am passionate about conservation and management of forests for multiple benefits. I believe forests provide far more than fiber, revenue, or climate change mitigation—they also provide us with a sense of identity and connection, and we have an obligation to manage our forests for future generations.

FSC has been a consistent presence across my education and career. In graduate school, I learned about local North Carolina landowners' perspectives on forest management certification. Forest certification was part of my advocacy for strong World Bank safeguards, with FSC as a source of inspiration. At The Forest Trust, my work with companies to build responsible commodity supply chains was centered on a "beyond certification" model while leveraging FSC. At WEC, I promote FSC as a pathway to climate-smart forestry in legislation, local policy, and as part of the Climate Smart Wood Group. I have also been lucky enough to work on forest issues across a range of geographies, from Washington and the Southeast US to Latin America and Southeast Asia. I hope to bring these experiences to FSC, and I know that deeper engagement with FSC and members would have a positive impact on my own work.

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I appreciate that FSC’s structure facilitates engagement across environmental, social, and economic interests, and I would be excited to learn from colleagues in other chambers. I believe it is powerful when different sectors can work towards a common interest. If elected to the board, I would hope to support efforts to demonstrate and communicate the value of FSC in terms of climate and ecosystem service benefits. I would also be interested to understand barriers to certification experienced by landowners and mills, towards the goal of informing an FSC value proposition that expands uptake. The Pacific Northwest is experiencing growing demand for both climate-smart wood and natural climate solutions, and there is opportunity for FSC to position itself to fulfill these needs. Lastly, as a representative of an organization actively shifting to an environmental justice lens, I would be excited to explore how FSC can support equity and tribal sovereignty.

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**Social Chamber  
Candidate**



Amanda Mahaffey  
**Forest Stewards Guild**  
Deputy Director  
[amanda@forestguild.org](mailto:amanda@forestguild.org)  
Social Chamber

### Biography

Amanda Mahaffey serves as deputy director of the Forest Stewards Guild, a professional organization that promotes and practices ecological forestry to sustain the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities that depend upon it. Through her leadership at the Guild, Amanda supports practitioners across the U.S. in adapting forests to the changing climate, engaging woodland owners in forest stewardship, and

integrating fire science and management. Amanda is a licensed forester in Maine and holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Southern Maine.

### Position Statement

FSC and the Guild are like-minded in advancing the stewardship of the forest ecosystem as a whole. My forestry career began nearly two decades ago in boots-on-the-ground practice and has evolved into a specialty of managing people who manage forests. In every forest-based community I work in across the U.S., I spend time in the field with people whose lives and livelihoods are intertwined with FSC-US. I listen to their voices and bring their perspectives into my work of advancing forest stewardship. I worked with wood products manufacturers in the Southeast to develop guidelines for ecological management of bottomland hardwood forests. The Guild continues to work with FSC certificate holders to support efforts to uphold the FSC Controlled Wood Standard following the implementation of the National Risk Assessment. Guild members and collaborators are FSC Certified Resource Managers, managers of FSC-certified lands, FSC group certificate holders, and third-party certifying bodies.

From coast to coast, I hear constantly about the integral connection between FSC-US and what the work of this organization means to the practice of forestry. I am excited to run for a seat in the Social Chamber of the FSC-US Governing Board to help give voice to the needs I hear from forest stewards. I would bring my strategic mindset, collaborative approach, and facilitation skills to the team to support the work of the Social Chamber in meeting the goals of FSC-US. I believe that in this moment, FSC-US has renewed energy and a good team in place to advance positive outcomes in forest stewardship, and I'm excited to potentially become part of the team.