



Women in Forest Management

Women in Forest Management (WIFM) is an organization that exists to empower and connect women and those that support them. This group is for anyone working in all aspects of forest management as well as all forest management objectives. In the future, we will be planning and promoting events that provide professional development, training, networking, and mentoring opportunities for women and their allies in forest management. This includes an annual conference.

Membership

Open to any person who is interested in the empowerment and connection of women in forest management. There are no dues or fees for membership.

About Us

The WIFM steering committee is currently made up of 9 (#of members) individuals from the PNW who represent industrial timber companies, state and federal agencies, and universities. We work in a variety of roles within forest management including silviculture, operations, research, education, forest health and resource protection. Our committee members are passionate about bringing positive changes to our industry that will create a more inclusive and empowering culture for women. We seek to guide this effort by collaborating with other like-minded groups, creating online spaces that provides resources and support for women in forest management and continuously seeking input from women and allies to understand their needs.

Upcoming Events:

March 4th

*Inland Empire Reforestation Council -
CDA Idaho*

April 23-25th

*Olympic Logging Conference
Victoria, BC*

May 7-9th

WA SAF Meeting, Vancouver, WA

May 12th

Oregon Women in Lumber Portland, OR

November 2-5th

Pacific Logging Conference Quinta, CA

Are you attending any of the above-mentioned events and interested in joining us for a WIFM networking event? Let us know at womeninforestmgmt@gmail.com

Introducing WIFM's Chair Lauren Magalska

I grew up in the suburbs outside of Milwaukee, WI. After graduating from high school, I decided to attend Colorado State University and major in psychology. For some reason, my advisor recommended that I take Introduction to Forestry as one of my electives. I did. And then I changed my major to forest management. After completing my degree in forest management, I had difficulty securing a forestry job. Instead, I worked as a GIS analyst contracting for the Department of Defense. While that was a rewarding career and I learned a lot about our military, I knew that I wanted to work in forestry. I decided to get a master's degree in forest genetics from Oregon State University. Because land is a finite resource, and there are many alternative uses to timber production, I focused on tree breeding to make the trees that grow timber as productive as possible. It is also important to me that we have forestland that is conserved and preserved. Maximizing production in working forests is an important component of protecting those landscapes.

I love being able to come to work every day and help manage a working forest that contributes to providing the fiber that society needs. That includes everything from lumber for building, paper menus at restaurants, and something we'll never take for granted after the pandemic: toilet paper.

I love my job and the forest products industry. Throughout my career, I have been lucky to have great working relationships with my male colleagues individually. No matter where I have worked though, in group settings I can see that as strong as those working relationships are, they are not like the camaraderie that they have with each other. From my perspective, it seems like there is some kind of barrier. There could be many reasons for that. To take on new challenges and grow my career, I have moved around a lot resulting in short tenure. I also have a non-traditional background of research and academia rather than operations. But there is still the possibility that my gender could be a contributing factor. I started Women in Forest Management to strengthen my own and other's professional network so that we have the support we need to be successful. My ultimate goal is to break down those barriers so that there is no need for this group to exist.

In my current role at Green Diamond, I work with a team of 8 people. Half of the team focuses on forestry (seed production through pre-commercial thinning), and the other half focuses on many of the land use considerations that come with managing a 300,000+



acre tree farm. Many circumstances and experiences over the course of my career prepared me to step into a leadership role. I've learned that leadership is a practice. You do not need to be a supervisor or manager to start practicing your leadership skills. Volunteering for steering committees and work groups provides me with valuable opportunities to practice leading people to accomplish a shared objective. I have also had the opportunity to work on many business initiatives. I opt for a collaborative approach and solicit input from my colleagues. This approach takes longer, and always results in a better outcome than working independently.

Those that know me also know that I am an avid reader, constantly looking to expand my knowledge base on a wide variety of topics, including leadership. There have been a few books that have really influenced the way I think about work. *When they win, you win* by Russ Laraway is an excellent read for anyone that wants to improve their people management skills. *The Rise of Superman* by Steven Kotler is great for understanding the cadence of human performance, when we should push and when we should take a break to perform at our best. *The Invisible Gorilla* by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons is a great reminder that none of our brains work perfectly.

Understanding the ways in which our brain short circuit can help us have grace for both our colleagues and ourselves. I am currently reading *Seek: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life* by Scott Shigeoka. I am looking forward to reading *Likeable Badass* by Alison Fragale next.

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Book and Podcast Recommendations

