



Worthy Garden Club connects people to the natural world and cultivates a community of environmental stewards working together to build a greener and healthier planet through advocacy, action, and education.

November 15, 2022

Re: Forest Science Roundtable, Dec. 5-9th (TBD), Portland

Dear Forest Champions:

Congratulations on the midterm elections as we take a collective deep breath for democracy and our nation. Now we can again focus on the important issues we face as a state and a nation. One of those issues is the importance of mature and old-growth forests in mitigating the effects of a rapidly warming climate and allowing humanity the time to transition the world to clean, renewable energy.

We are requesting your presence for a roundtable discussion on the need to protect mature and old-growth forests on public lands. We have assembled an “A” team of top scientists. The latest alarming projections show that the world may have only 9 years to take immediate steps to reverse catastrophic climate change. While reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors are a must to the health of our planet, our expert panel will make the case that nature-based solutions (NBS) are the most cost-effective hedge to buy time for the world to transition to a more sustainable future.

There is new and exciting information coming from Oregon forest scientists that we believe should embolden federal and state forest and climate change policies. NBS, if centered on protecting older forests and large carbon-storing trees, would contribute to solving both the global climate and biodiversity crises.

We are requesting an hour of your time. Our panel consists of the following forest respected forest scientists, a former USFS chief, and a natural resources legal expert:

- Dr. Beverly E. Law (Professor Emeritus, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University and distinguished IPCC scientist)
- Dr. William H. Schlesinger (President Emeritus, Biogeochemist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, New York)
- Jim Furnish (Retired Deputy Chief of the Forest Service & consulting forester, Washington D.C.)
- Mary Wood, Esq. (Philip H. Knight Professor, Faculty Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center, University of Oregon)

Additional information will be provided by Richard W. Martinson, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Worthy Garden Club), Bill Ripple, Ph.D. (Ecology Professor at OSU and author of “Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice”), and Dominick DellaSala, Ph.D. (Wild Heritage Oregon and

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global forest and climate change scientist). Several deans from OSU have indicated they will attend, as well.

We are securing a venue in Portland, Oregon. The timeline will be on a day between December 5th and December 9th. We will be arranging an in-person meeting, with an option to participate by Zoom. You and your staff members are invited. We hope to reach a consensus on the push for state and federal rulemaking to protect mature and old growth trees on public lands in Oregon and nationwide. Eventually, we would be pleased to sponsor a symposium on the importance of protecting mature trees during a climate crisis that is open to the public.

We look forward to meeting with all of you on this critically important subject. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roger Worthington, Esq.
President
Worthy Garden Club

To:

Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Governor Elect Tina Kotek
US Rep. Earl Blumenauer
US Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
US Rep. Cliff Bentz
US Rep. Val Hoyle
US Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer
US Rep. Andrea Salinas
Or House Speaker Dan Rayfield
Or Sen. Bob Wagner
Or Sen. Jeff Golden
Or Sen Floyd Prozanski
Or Sen Deb Patterson
Or Sen Kathleen Taylor
Or Rep. Jason Kropf
Or Rep. Julie Fahey
Or Rep Khan Pham
Or Rep Dacia Grayber
Or Rep Pam Marsh