

RESOURCE INNOVATIONS
& THE CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Resource Innovations and the Climate Leadership Initiative is a sustainability and global climate change research consortium between The Resource Innovation Group and the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon.

Our mission is to foster the development and application of innovative thinking and approaches to the complex causes and solutions to climate change.

Our approach is grounded in the integration of whole systems thinking with the physical and social sciences, capacity building, social equity, and change management.

Dear Friends, Supporters and Colleagues,

During 2008, we vigorously engaged in successful climate change education and research efforts and produced many publications. As you'll read in this annual report, we also made important changes to our programs.


Our Climate Masters program continues to be highly effective in motivating individuals to make sustainable choices. In 2008, we produced two useful training manuals and expanded the program to engage businesses as well. We conducted a series of "Climate Futures Forums" to help communities assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change. We are also dedicating a new program to establish preparation training specifically targeted toward public health issues.

Our work to increase the capacity of socially vulnerable populations and areas produced several helpful publications targeting the wildfire protection needs of underserved populations. We played a significant role in the implementation of natural resource stewardship partnerships and co-sponsored the Western Stewardship Summit to highlight the unique problems facing low-income communities with regard to climate change. Our work with Ecotrust of Portland resulted in the publication of a landmark book, Redefining Stewardship.

We also published Woody Heat Solutions, along with a corresponding video, to demonstrate the benefit of heating with woody biomass. This important project led to the development of a new program, the Community Energy Initiative, which will foster the use of renewable energy sources from working landscapes. In addition, our sustainable food trade program was so successful that it led to a new organization, the Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Initiative.

Finally, Director Bob Doppelt completed and published another seminal book, The Power of Sustainable Thinking, urging a completely new mind set to overcome the climate crisis.

As global warming and climate change continue to dominate our future, we appreciate the support of the partners and contributors that enabled us to accomplish so much in 2008. We also want to thank the many undergraduate students and graduate interns that have worked so hard all year. The staff and board especially want to acknowledge the ongoing support of our colleagues at the UO Dept. of Planning, Public Policy and Management and the Institute for a Sustainable Environment. Special thanks to ISE Director Rob Ribe, who serves as the Principal Investigator for many of our projects, for his unflinching encouragement.

Sincerely,

Katy Eymann
Board Chair

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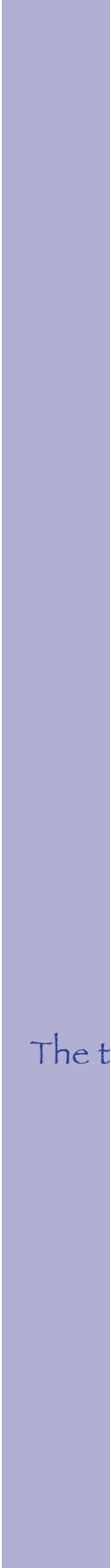
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The training “strengthened my sustainability knowledge,
built my confidence, and gave me direction.”
- Climate Masters at Home participant

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

CLIMATE MASTERS PROGRAM

Despite the increasing urgency surrounding the issue of climate change, households and businesses are slow to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions. Local governments, nonprofits and educational institutions are searching for ways to motivate their constituents to adjust their thinking and behavior toward reducing emissions. CLI's Climate Master programs address these needs both at home and at work, and are designed for replication across the nation.

Climate Masters at Home

In 2008, interest in the ***Climate Masters at Home*** program spread like wildfire. Our pilot the previous year resulted in annual emission reductions of ***two tons*** per participant! Fifty trained volunteers reached more than a thousand community members through their outreach efforts during that pilot. Many reported that the classes changed the way they make daily decisions to incorporate their concern for the climate.

Our program consists of two primary components: 1) Climate Masters, a 'train-the-trainer' course modeled after the thriving Master Recycler and Master Gardener programs; and 2) volunteer education and outreach by people trained through the course, including personalized household audits, or "climate consultations." Participants repay the free or low-cost training they receive with an equivalent amount of volunteer education and outreach. Through the course, they learn how to think about issues and make choices that incorporate climate action into their daily lives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their homes and yards, food, transportation and general consumption choices. They also learn communication and outreach skills that allow them to effectively share that information with others.

In 2008, we fostered more partnerships and further developed the replication tools needed to create new Climate Masters at Home programs throughout the country. We produced "*The Climate Master Handbook: A Step-by-Step Guide to Helping People Curb Their Household Climate Impact,*" a comprehensive guide for community leaders who are ready to initiate their own CMH programs. We also finalized our participant manual for them to use in their community once trained. "*Climate Master Handbook: A Guide to Shrinking Your Climate Footprint and Motivating Others To Do the Same,*" allows our Climate Master partners to easily adapt the materials to their region.

We developed partnerships with the National Association of Evangelicals, the New Mexico Department of the Environment, OSU Extension and others to kick off national programs that engage diverse constituents. In Oregon, we helped three agencies prepare for their own Climate Masters at Home programs. Oregon State University (OSU) Extension in Benton County, Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center in Salem, and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in Portland. The first two have already begun training in their area. Finally, we held trainings on initiating Climate Master programs for OSU Extension directors, the City of Denver and at a session hosted by the state of Maryland's Department of the Environment. We expect that these trainings will also result in new CMH programs in 2009.

Climate Masters at Work

Modeled after our successful Climate Masters at Home program, we developed an innovative approach for educating and engaging business leaders in climate protection and preparation. As with the household program, the purpose of **Climate Masters at Work** is to develop a replicable approach to help business leaders adopt new ways of thinking that lead to continual innovation and improvement. By changing the way they think and operate, participating businesses can raise the carbon reduction bar for others in their sector and along their supply chain.

In the fall of 2008, we completed our first ten-week pilot training session with a total of twelve participants from ten diverse businesses in sectors including food, biofuels, banking and low-income housing. The courses covered a) why climate protection and preparation are important for businesses; b) the initial steps businesses can take to reduce their carbon emissions; and c) how to think about the issues in a way that produces continual improvement and emissions reductions.

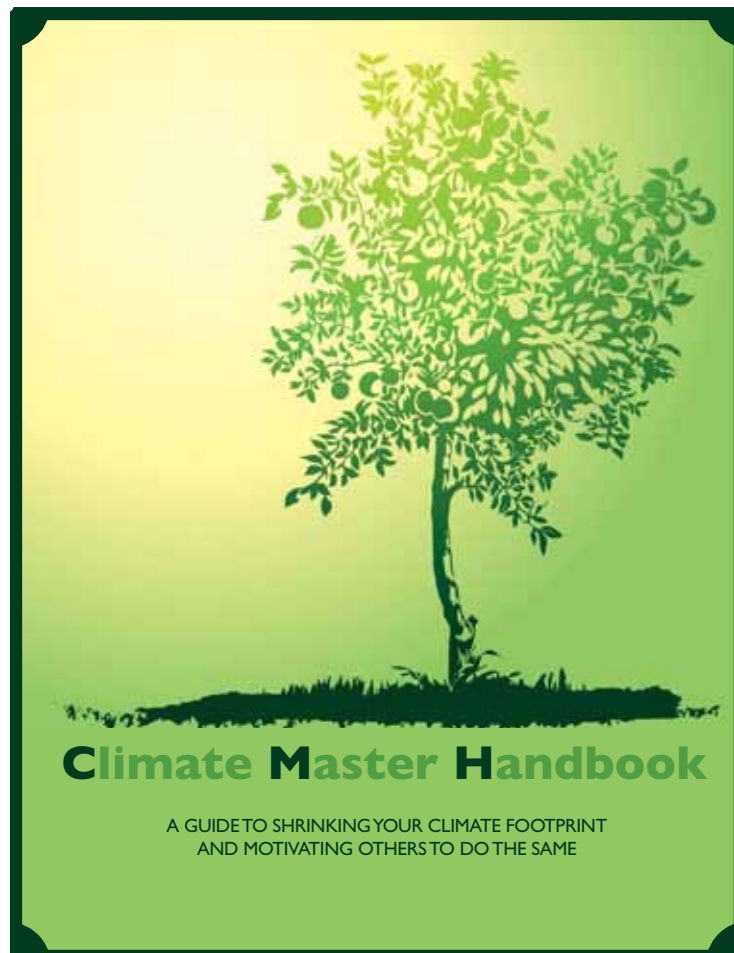
The 20-hour training was followed by five months of monthly trainings and individual consultations with the sustainability consulting firm, Good Company, on behalf of Lane Community College's (LCC) Business Development Center. The follow-up supports participants in implementing lessons learned in the class, including conducting a business-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, taking steps to reduce those emissions, and developing a climate action plan.

The information from the course has “continued to spill into my personal life more and more.”

- Climate Masters at Work participant

As a result of the training, many participants have already begun assessing their company's carbon footprint; initiated waste and energy audits; and improved their recycling programs. Once the businesses have set a baseline for their emissions and current practices, they will be able to effectively set goals and evaluate their progress. Aside from completing those tasks, many also plan to initiate or further develop their "green teams;" hold speakers series at their workplaces on sustainable practices and climate change; and implement energy efficiency projects. About half of the participants intend to connect with LCC Energy Management student interns to assist with their energy audits and efficiency projects, providing students with real world "green collar" job training.

All in all, our first Climate Masters at Work training session was a very successful beginning to what could become an important new way to do business.



CLIMATE FUTURES PROGRAM

Although much attention is appropriately focused on reducing climate-damaging carbon emissions, taking action to prepare for the now unavoidable consequences of climate change is also essential. Our Climate Futures Program works with governments, private sectors, and households to ensure that strategies are developed for preparing, or adapting, to climate change.

Climate Futures Forums

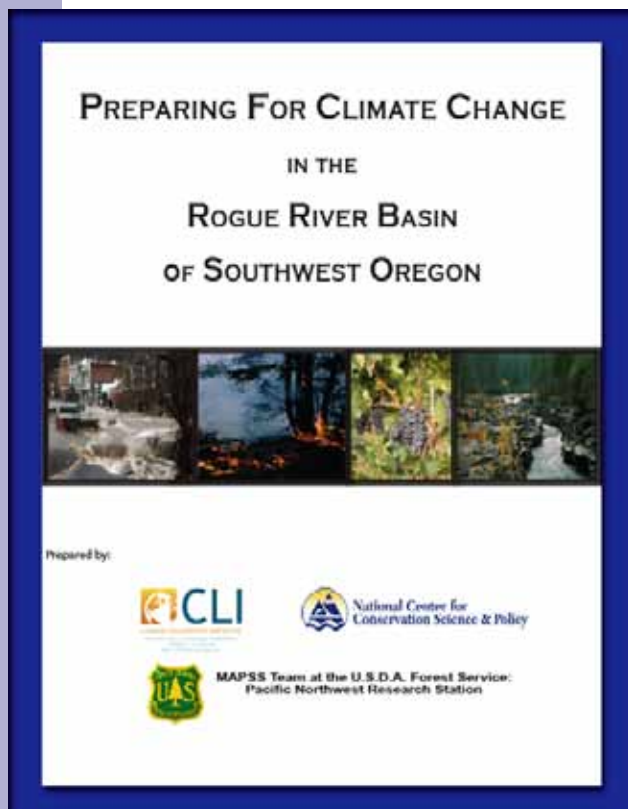
In partnership with the National Center for Conservation Science & Policy and the Forest Service Mapped Atmosphere-Plant-Soil System (MAPSS) team, we organized and conducted two pilot "Climate Futures Forums" to find the most effective ways to assist communities in proactively planning for climate change.

Climate Futures Forums are based on state-of-the art climate change planning that begins with applying climate models developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to local river basins or regions to assess likely future climate change scenarios. These climate projections become the cornerstone of scenario planning, allowing communities to analyze likely vulnerabilities and then begin designing appropriate strategies to prepare for those risks. A structural dialogue

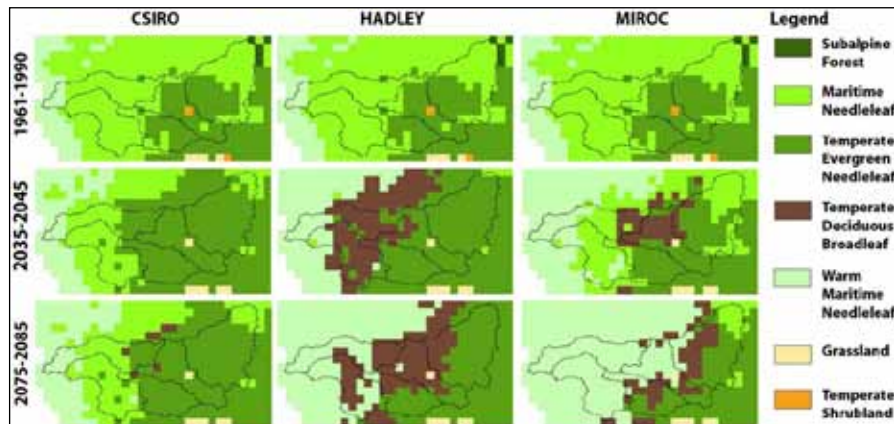
using a facilitated workshop format is used and a final report with recommendations is issued for each area after completion of the process.

Our Climate Futures Forums raise awareness of the need for climate change preparation and mitigation, while offering communities an integrated framework from which to begin their actual preparation efforts. By partnering with community-based organizations and local governments at the outset, we improve the chances of the forums' long-term success.

In 2008, we focused on two geographically distinct regions, the Rogue River Basin and the Upper Willamette River Basin of Oregon. The Rogue Climate Futures Forums consisted of two workshops with



experts from the natural systems – one was held for aquatic and one for terrestrial species and ecosystems. A third workshop invited representatives from public health, education, emergency preparedness, public works, city planners, developers, business owners, economists, and the agriculture and timber industries to focus on human, built and economic systems. A total of forty-nine community leaders participated.



Current and future projected conditions for vegetation distribution across the Rogue Basin, as estimated with the MC₁ vegetation model and 3 Global Climate Models.

(From the Rogue River Basin report)

We released the final Rogue Basin report at the end of the year during a public briefing to over 60 people, an Ashland public radio talk show, and a formal presentation to the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) and the Jackson County Commissioners. As a result, the RVCOG are committed to the principal of incorporating climate change preparation into future planning.

Climate Futures Forums were held for the Upper Willamette River Basin in the fall of 2008, one workshop for representatives from natural systems, and one for those from built, economic, and human systems. We are also working with partners in the Umatilla and Klamath river basins with the intent of holding Climate Futures Forums in these regions in 2009.

Our 2008 Climate Futures Forums solicited the participation of over 200 scientists, community leaders, and professionals in the four sectors: natural, built, human, and economic. Media coverage of the findings reached thousands of citizens and the reports will continue to be disseminated to local governments, professional associations, private businesses, nonprofits, state and federal agencies, and others. The findings, knowledge and motivation instilled in the participating professionals and community leaders will form a solid basis for developing climate change preparation plans and policies at all levels of government and economic sectors in the Northwest and beyond.

Public Health and Climate Change

Climate change will have profound consequences for public health. Researchers around the world predict that climate change impacts like warming temperatures and changes in snowpack and precipitation will increase demands on the public health sector in Oregon and other states in the Pacific Northwest.

These demands are further expected to climb when climate change impacts are paired with a growing and aging population. Likely health impacts include increased instances of vector-borne disease, higher rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases, and increased heat stroke and mortality. In order to avoid additional stress on a thinly stretched public health system, preparation for these changes is essential.

In 2008, the Climate Leadership Initiative and the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) distributed a survey across Oregon's 36 county public health departments to assess current knowledge on the health risks associated with climate change. Our goal was to understand the current level of preparation to manage those risks and to identify resource and training needs to support county health departments in preparing for them. We received responses from 70% of Oregon counties with public health departments.

*“Climate change could be the biggest global health
threat of the 21st century.”
—The Lancet*

The findings revealed that respondents are generally aware of the global and local health impacts of climate change. Many believe their county is already experiencing some effects of climate change and is likely to experience even greater impacts in the future. Despite this, few have the necessary management support, technical expertise, or financial resources they need. Moreover, existing, urgent health risks take precedent over preparing for future health risks. County health departments across the state of Oregon feel that they will only be able to prepare for climate change-related health risks if provided with the necessary tools, resources, and community collaboration.

These results reveal an overwhelming need for society to focus efforts on assessing and preparing for the impacts of climate change on public health. We will use these survey results in 2009 to establish climate change preparation trainings for public health workers and communities across Oregon, with the goal of reducing future costs to human welfare and the economy.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Community Capacity and Environment program builds the capacity of rural and underserved communities to address a variety of natural resource concerns including: wildfire protection, forest restoration, biomass utilization, and local economic development. The program develops model collaboratives and demonstration projects that illustrate how to effectively incorporate social equity, diverse participation, and innovation into natural resource management. Additionally, the program engages in policy research, analysis, and organizing to help illustrate the relationships between social equity and wildfire.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

In 2008, we continued to co-chair the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition climate change working group, which is focused on increasing the level of knowledge of the risks rural communities face from climate change, and the role these communities can play in climate change mitigation and preparation. We worked jointly with the Ecosystem Workforce Program and Sustainable Northwest to evaluate the effectiveness of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition. The evaluation resulted in strategies to build leadership and develop partnerships with key stakeholders and to enhance community empowerment, policy dialogues and policy outcomes within the Coalition.

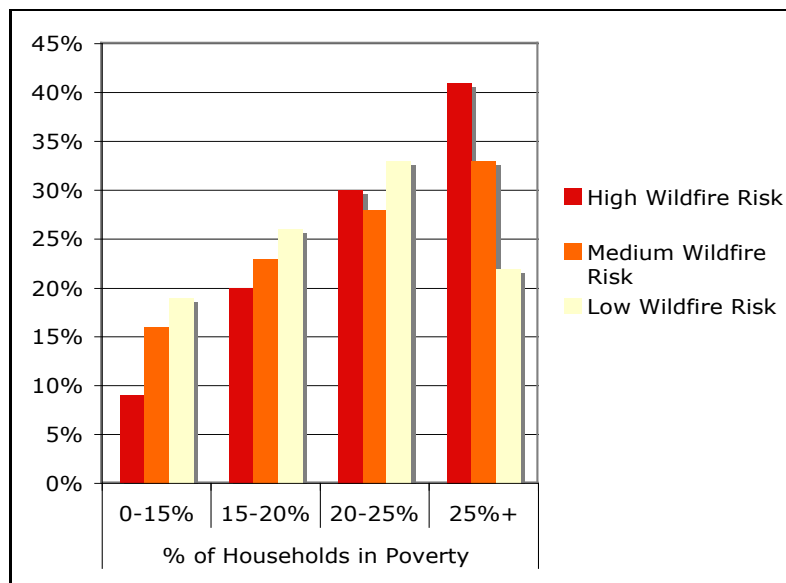
We also helped develop a transition memo to the Obama Administration highlighting the needs and opportunities for rural, resource-based communities in the West. The memo focused on the vital role that rural communities could play in emerging climate change policy, and strategies for sustaining competitive rural economies and protecting lands, water and natural systems. The memo highlighted the importance of rural communities and rural green jobs in the economic stimulus package. Our memo was shared with key members of the Obama transition team, as well as congressional and land management agency leadership.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND WILDFIRE

Reducing Wildfire Risk to Vulnerable Communities

In coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry, we developed and disseminated a briefing that illustrates the challenges to reducing wildfire risk among socially vulnerable populations and communities. *Wildfire and Poverty in Oregon: Communities at Risk from Wildfire in High Poverty Areas* stresses the need take a different approach and provide additional resources when working with socially vulnerable populations. Specifically, the report drew attention to the fact that poorest rural communities are often the ones most at risk from wildfire. Our findings show that the highest levels of poverty coincide with the areas at highest risk from wildfire.

We presented the report to Oregon Department of Forestry staff and to Congressman DeFazio's (D-OR) legislative staff in DC. We used the report to argue for that local, regional and statewide risk assessments should include social indicators such as poverty and that greater technical and financial resources are provided to ensure that low-income communities and vulnerable populations receive support and assistance to reduce their risk from wildfire.



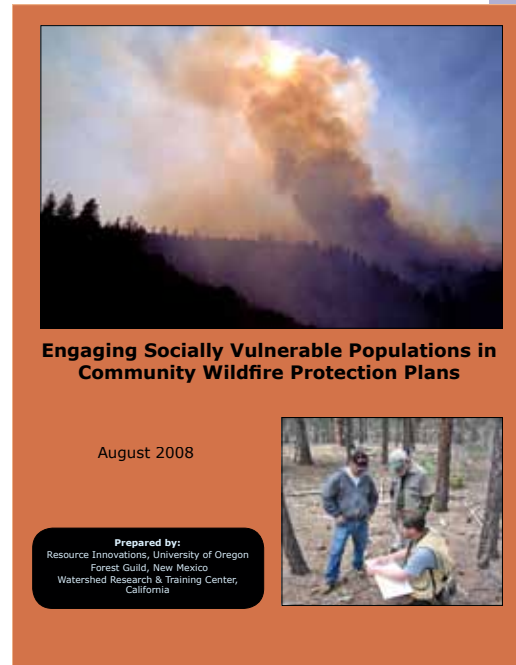
Percent of poor households in Oregon communities at varying levels of risk from wildfire. Source: Resource Innovations and the Climate Leadership Initiative

In November 2008, our Graduate Research Fellow, Ryan Ojerio, attended the national Firewise conference, *Backyards and Beyond*, in Tampa, Florida where he presented a briefing paper based on his Master's thesis research on the link between socioeconomic status and community participation in wildfire mitigation. His findings highlighted

the challenges unique to tribal communities where the cultural and political landscape differs significantly. His work indicates that successfully engaging low-income communities requires a comprehensive and culturally-appropriate approach.

We released two other new publications in 2008 that address the critical need for protecting communities at risk to wildfire, and in particular, the needs of low-income and under-served communities. *Engaging Socially Vulnerable Populations in Community Wildfire Protection Plans* and the *Community Wildfire Protection Plan Evaluation Guide*, distributed widely at conferences and workshops throughout the country.

These publications help communities evaluate and revitalize their fire planning efforts, engage vulnerable populations in reducing wildfire risk, and integrate hazardous fuels reduction with restoration and stewardship projects on public land. All of these publications are now available through a joint partnership between Resource Innovations and the USDA Forest Service at www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/cwpp.



“This series of guides is outstanding and valued beyond words.

Each of the guides far exceeds anything published to date.”

Timothy Lange, Mill Creek Canyon Fire Safe Council

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

We were invited to participate in a national task force to update the federal handbook for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). We helped completed a supplemental Community Guide to Preparing and Implementing a CWPP. The new version updated the information provided in the original 2004 Handbook and highlighted best practices for development, implementation and monitoring of CWPPs.

We also completed development of a specific Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Curry County in early 2008. The plan includes an extensive assessment of low-income and special needs populations within the county, and recommendations on reducing risk to these populations through partnerships with social services organizations.

As a result of the plan, Curry County was ranked highly for National Fire Plan funds to implement high priority fuels reduction projects in 2009. We provided citizens with an executive summary of plan that included key findings, recommendations and actions, and priorities for fuel reduction identified in the plan. Hard copies were distributed to public sites throughout the county, and electronic versions are available on the county's web site at <http://gis.co.curry.or.us/cwpp/WildfirePlan/index.html>.



Northwest Forest Plan Tribal Monitoring

In 2008, we began conducting a project to monitor government-to-government relationships under the Northwest Forest Plan in Oregon and Washington, and partnering with Regions 5 and 6 of the USDA Forest Service to develop the full report.

With 22 interviews completed and 4 case studies underway, preliminary results of this study indicate that there is a need to increase the level of awareness among federal agencies about the role of consultation, and specifically, greater opportunity for tribes to engage in all levels of planning, implementation and monitoring a range of projects (including restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, and prescribed burning) under the Northwest Forest Plan.

The other case studies are focused on best practices and outcomes related to the Northwest Forest Plan with the Coquille Indian Tribe, Quinalt Indian Nation, and the Upper Skagit and Quileute tribes.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND RESTORATION

Community-based Stewardship Partnerships

During 2008 we built the capacity of four collaborative stewardship contracting groups through direct facilitation, coordination, and project development.

The Alsea Stewardship Group (ASG) worked on four stewardship projects on the Siuslaw National Forest. These projects restored over 1,100 acres of old growth habitat, produced 18.4 mmbf of small-diameter timber for regional timber markets, and generated over \$500,000 of retained receipts to invest in additional forest and watershed restoration activities. The facilitation and coordination we provided to the ASG and the Siuslaw Stewardship Group was key to helping the Siuslaw National Forest and local stewardship collaboratives design and implement the first forest-wide restoration investment program using funds generated from restoration thinning on Forest Service land.

The Coast Range Stewardship Fund provided funding for six restoration projects on private and non-federal land with such partners as the City of Corvallis, Mary's River Watershed Council, Lincoln County Public Works, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council. The stewardship investment totaled over \$130,000 and leveraged an additional \$300,000 of other funds. The Coast Range Stewardship Fund also made \$360,000 available to 10 habitat and restoration projects on the Siuslaw National Forest. The collective effort of the Siuslaw National Forest and its partners and contractors has resulted in a regional and nationally recognized model of community-driven watershed restoration. The success of the effort has allowed us to pass the facilitation of the two groups to a private contractor.

Stewardship contracting is “the best opportunity to share in the management of natural resources that affect our properties, our watersheds and our communities.”
- Johnny Sundstrom, Siuslaw Stewardship Group

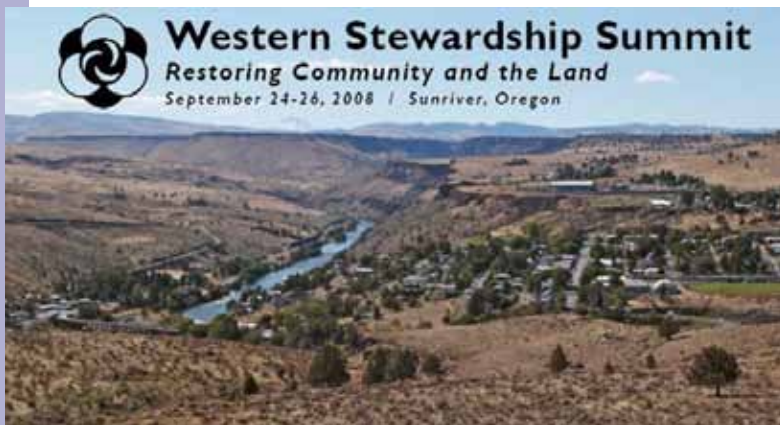
Our leadership with the Josephine County Stewardship Group helped foster more effective local collaboration with the federal land management agencies and resulted in numerous fuels reduction projects that enjoy a high level of local support and provide strong local benefit. We helped the Grants Pass Resource Area (Medford BLM) develop four large-scale stewardship projects that reduce fuels, provide merchantable material to local manufacturers, including biomass, and provide work for local contractors.

As a result of our facilitation of this group, the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest, the Siskiyou Project, and Lomakatsi Restoration recently signed a 10-year stewardship agreement to jointly plan and implement stewardship projects. This historic agreement brings together the national forest and one of its main former adversaries and a grass-roots restoration contractor to explore new ways to getting work done on the ground. This agreement would never have been possible without the pioneering work and collaboration that we fostered with the Josephine County Stewardship Group.

Finally, we continued to facilitate the community partnership in the upper McKenzie Basin. Partners include Eugene Water and Electric Board, the McKenzie Watershed Council and the McKenzie District of the Willamette National Forest. The McKenzie River is the municipal watershed for the City of Eugene and is home to a nationally known trout fishery.

Western Stewardship Summit

As part of a collaborative effort, we co-sponsored the Western Stewardship Summit, a regional conference in Sun River, Oregon. The Summit convened over 250 participants from diverse organizations including public agencies, environmental organizations, business and industry, community forestry organizations, and others from around the West Coast. We organized sessions on collaboration, community wildfire protection plans, climate change and social vulnerability, emergent learning, and small-scale biomass utilization.



Our panel on understanding the problems facing socially vulnerable communities in the context of climate change framed issues related to poverty, capacity, and disaster risk. We discussed the social and economic costs and benefits to vulnerable populations from mitigation and

adaptation policies and programs, including emerging carbon markets. The Summit resulted in stronger strategic connections among communities where collaborative restoration and stewardship efforts are taking place. Proceedings from the Summit are available online at: <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/wss>.

Redefining Stewardship

In March 2008, we released *Redefining Stewardship: Public Lands and Rural Communities in the Pacific Northwest*, a joint project with Ecotrust of Portland, Oregon. The 30-page full color book tells the stories of four Northwest communities who are collaborating in the restoration of public lands by using federal stewardship contracting authorities.



Rural communities and urban centers alike benefit from the good management of forest ecosystems. With this publication, Ecotrust and Resource Innovations highlight a shared public responsibility for forest and community health. These stories celebrate the accomplishments of groundbreaking partnerships and have changed the tone of public lands discussions in the Pacific Northwest. *Redefining Stewardship* was broadly distributed to communities and agencies throughout the West.

BIOMASS UTILIZATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Woody Biomass for Heating Applications

Utilization of woody biomass for direct thermal applications (space and process heat) is a potential source of clean renewable energy. Examples of successful biomass heating projects are beginning to appear across the country. To help strengthen capacity for biomass thermal development in the northwest, we collaborated with several regional partners to present a two-day workshop in May 2008 on utilizing woody biomass for heating applications. Over 125 people attended the workshop, which was held at Mt. Bachelor Village in Bend, Oregon.



In September 2008, we released *Wood Heat Solutions: A Community Guide to Biomass Thermal Projects* and the companion video *Keeping Energy Dollars Local: Using Wood to Heat the Enterprise School*. Importantly, these two products prompted a surge in interest in small-scale biomass heat and are furthering new project development across the region.

Willamette Valley BioEnergy Park

The Willamette Valley Integrated Bio-Energy Facility began as a market-based alternative to the burning of annual rye grass straw and evolved into a regional waste-stream-to-renewable-energy facility. The initial feasibility study determined that a wide array of municipal and agricultural wastes could be converted to renewable energy and bio-based projects. The project team, led by Lane County Economic and Community Development, has raised approximately \$200,000 to develop a business plan to acquire the funding needed to construct an initial pilot bio-energy facility in the Willamette Valley. The BioEnergy Facility continues to gain strong financial and development support from a long list of partners including the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Seed Council, Office of Governor Kulongoski, Oregon Department of Energy, Department of Environmental Quality, Energy Trust of Oregon, and Lane Council of Governments.

COMMUNITY ENERGY INITIATIVE

Late in 2008, we launched a new initiative aimed at fostering the development of distributed renewable energy from working landscapes. The Community Energy Initiative will become a major programmatic focus over the next several years. The Initiative has four main elements that work together:

- ◆ Develop and leverage pilot projects with partners from agricultural and woody biomass feedstocks in ways that provide environmental, economic and social benefit to rural communities.
- ◆ Build regional capacity through public education, knowledge development, and learning tools to transfer the lessons learned to the other communities, businesses, and decision-makers.
- ◆ Foster public-private research partnerships to explore new technology and business models as well as evaluate and document the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of initial activities.
- ◆ Engage in regional and national renewable energy policy forum to help develop policy initiatives that speeds the development of equitable small-scale distributed renewable energy.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

The Sustainable Business and Job Development program focuses on expanding business and job opportunities through a cluster approach. We work with companies in similar industries that share common markets and technologies, building public education and communication, developing community capacity for local and regional economic impact assessments, and creating projects related to sustainable food systems and sustainable mobility systems. Much of our work last year focused on the food products industry.

EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

Lighten Your Distribution Footprint

In January 2008, we organized a special educational forum for food growers, processors, and distributors to discuss ways to a) increase distribution efficiency; b) transition to renewable fuel sources and power systems; and c) establish alternative distribution networks. Presenters included Buddy Polovick from the Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay Transport Partnership and Bill Van Amburg of the Hybrid Truck Users Forum.

The presentations were followed by interactive discussion around what innovative distribution strategies companies are currently employing. Clif Bar reported reducing the impact of inter-company shipping through three actions: moving the distribution center closer to the bakery; packing truckloads more efficiently (reducing shipments by 40%); and switching to B100 biodiesel fuel. As a result of these changes, Clif Bar has eliminated more than 800,000 shipping miles, reduced CO₂ emissions by 97%, and saved \$1 million in shipping costs.

Organic Valley reported that in 2007 they opened a new \$17.5 million 80,000 square foot distribution center on a 40 acre green business park, where businesses will create and utilize renewable energy such as biomass conversion of manure and sawdust, biodiesel and wind energy. Organically Grown Company (OGC) spoke about using a 20% biodiesel blend, sourced mainly from used cooking oil in all trucks, displacing 87,962 gallons of petroleum diesel with pure biodiesel over the last 3 years. In addition, OGC has recently leased a Kenworth T-300 Hybrid electric biodiesel truck that achieves 10-30% increased efficiency.

Sustainable Food Packaging Alternatives Forum

In March 2008, we facilitated a full day educational forum for over 150 business people at the 2008 Natural Products Expo-West in Anaheim, California. We partnered with Dan Imhoff, author of *Paper or Plastic: Searching for Solutions in an Overpackaged World* and Tom Wright, Sustainability Director for Wholefoods to bring together people from across the food supply chain to collaboratively network toward solutions.

The Responsible Packaging Forum focused on understanding the lifecycle of consumer packaging and ways to address both the upstream and downstream environmental and human health impacts. We worked to generate interest in and then pool demand for sustainable biomaterials from businesses across industry clusters. This aggregated demand will be used as leverage to shift production of both existing and new manufacturers of sustainable materials. Together these efforts will enable a viable market shift toward new sustainable biomaterials and bio-based products.

TRANSITION TO NEW FOOD TRADE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

Throughout the first quarter of the year, the FTSL Program Advisory Group met monthly to finalize the sustainability benchmark criteria for the food trade and to create a sign-on process whereby participating companies could 1) commit to transparency around their practices in key areas such as waste management, energy use and water use; 2) agree to continual improvement year after year; 3) participate in a recognition system; and 4) receive tools to support their efforts.

At the March meeting, the Advisory Group recommended the formation of a new 501 (c)6 non-profit business association whereby each member business will become an official signatory to the "Declaration of Sustainability." In the first year, there will be a fairly modest baseline performance for a self-audit. Over time, members will be expected to demonstrate commitment to continual improvement.

In April 2008, Natalie Reitman-White, who had led our food trade program, became director of the newly formed Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association. We consider the program a great success, as the companies involved with the Sustainable Food Trade Program have now taken full ownership of it. We will continue to work closely with the new business association.

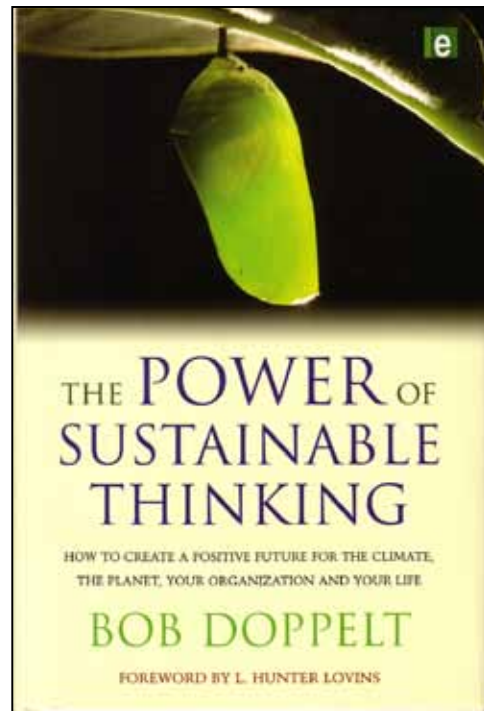


THE POWER OF SUSTAINABLE THINKING

From “Take-Make-Waste” thinking to “Borrow-Use-Return” thinking is the only way to deal with the climate crisis at hand. That is the main message in Director Bob Doppelt’s recent book, *The Power of Sustainable Thinking: How To Create a Positive Future for the Climate, The Planet, Your Organization and Your Life*.

The 240-page book, published in summer 2008 by London-based Earthscan Publications Ltd., is targeted at decision makers in the public and private sector, but its content is accessible to anyone interested in changing thinking and behavior about the climate and sustainability.

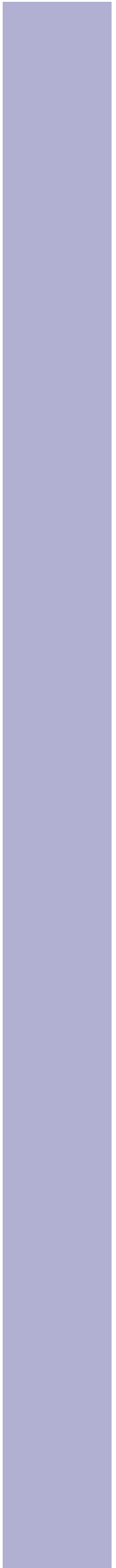
The book explains that global warming, at its core, is not an energy, technology or policy problem. It is the greatest failure of thought in human history. Attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will fail unless people first alter their thinking and behavior. This requires that we overcome ‘systems blindness’ and begin to ‘think sustainably.’



In closing, Bob writes, “We have no time to lose.”

“A valuable guide book for those courageous enough to transform their traditional cognitive biases towards more sustainable behaviour.”

Dr. Steve Schneider, IPCC member and lead author, Stanford University



RESOURCE
INNOVATIONS



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