

Columbia Gorge 2017 Economic Symposium Speaker Information

Welcome from Ken Bailey

Ken is Chair of the Board of Directors for Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Vice President and Shareholder in Orchard View Farms, Inc. Orchard View grows, packs and ships premium fresh cherries for domestic and international sales and grows some pears and wine grapes. It is a 4th generation family business founded in 1923. Ken returned to the farm after his graduation from Oregon State University with a BS in horticulture. Ken and his wife Shirley have three grown children and six grandchildren.

Keynote from Jason Spadaro

Jason Spadaro is President of SDS Lumber. Wally Stevenson, Frank Daubenspeck, and Bruce Stevenson founded SDS Lumber Company in 1946, and Stevenson Land Company in 1990. SDS Lumber Company Manufactures Lumber, Plywood, Power and Pulp in Bingen for a variety of markets. Stevenson Land Company is focused on managing approximately 70,000 acres of timberland in the mid-Columbia gorge. These two companies work in partnership to grow high-quality timber and manufacture high-quality lumber products. SDS Lumber Company's mill site is fully integrated including full maintenance, engineering and construction capability. This structure provides constant innovation and improvement to our manufacturing processes keeping them efficient and productive in increasingly challenging markets.

Economic Data Presentations

Scott Bailey

For the past 25 years, Scott Bailey has served as the Regional Economist for the Employment Security Department's Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch covering Southwest Washington. Scott is the local source of labor market information for the region, tracking unemployment, industry trends, the occupational outlook, and wages and income. He publishes a monthly newsletter on local and national economic trends. Scott has done extensive research on wages in the state, with a particular focus on the minimum wage. He has served as a national trainer with the Census Bureau for the Local Employment Dynamics database, and is a board member of the Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference. He received his master's degree in economics from Portland State University. Scott is also an adjunct professor at Clark College, teaching economics and geography.

Dallas Fridley

Dallas Fridley has been employed by the Oregon Employment Department since December of 1991, including Regional Economist – based in Hood River – since October of 1995 and as an Employment Economist – in Salem. Prior work experience includes one year as a Community Development Planner for the Umpqua Regional Council of Governments in Douglas County and three years as an Economic Development Planer for the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council in Deschutes County. Dallas attended and graduated from Willamette University in Salem Oregon with a BS in Economics. He is a

native of Central Oregon and attended Crook County schools. Dallas currently lives in Hood River and is married with three children.

Panel Discussion

Panel Moderator Lisa Naas Cook

Lisa Naas Cook works as a facilitator and educator in the Columbia River Gorge. She currently serves as the Coordinator for the South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative and facilitates community conversations with Oregon Humanities.

Jon Paul Anderson

Jon Paul Anderson is a Purchaser Rep for High Cascade, Inc. He has a Forestry Degree from Washington State University. Jon Paul started his career as a forester with the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources in 2000 and left in 2009 to work as a Sale Administrator with the US Forest Service. Since 2013 he has been with High Cascade, Inc. working as a purchaser representative managing their State, County, and Federal Timber Sales. He also participates on the South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative Group and the Hood River Collaborative (Stew Crew). Jon Paul lives locally in Stevenson and was born and raised in Carson.

Trevor McConchie

Trevor McConchie is Executive Policy Advisor on Forest Health with Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Jay McLaughlin

Jay McLaughlin is Executive Director of Mt. Adams Resource Stewards. Jay has been working with communities and natural resource issues since 1995, including stints as a forester with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, forestry consultant, the Peace Corps in Panama and as a high school teacher in Glenwood. Jay has a master degree in forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, a bachelor degree from Whitman College, and is the founding director of MARS.

Jeff Nelson

Jeff Nelson is CEO of Nelson Brothers Engineering. The family-run business in Trout Lake is focused on sawmill machinery optimization to get the most product out of each log. Using 3D laser profiler sensors, their equipment scans each log entering sawmill production in real-time, uses their unique software to model the log and run hundreds of combinations in the blink of an eye to determine the combination of product that can be cut from the log to leave the least amount of waste behind.

Emily Platt

Emily Platt serves as District Ranger for the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest where she and her team work to create a landscape more resilience to disturbances like wildfire and insects, and manage the district's forest, recreation, wildlife, fish, heritage, water, plant and mining resources. Emily earned her PhD in forest resources at Oregon State University's College of Forestry where she studied wildfire behavior and Forest Service governance. Prior to graduate school, Emily

worked in the non-profit sector where she helped initiate the Pinchot Partners and Blue Mountains Forest Partners collaborative groups.

Bob Sourek

Bob Sourek is Founder and CEO at Bear Mountain Forest Products Inc. Bob has been very involved in the usage of forest and sawmill residuals for over 35 years. Bob is a Graduate Forester from the University of Montana, past US Forest Service employee, small sawmill production supervisor and log buyer. He is also on the Board of Directors of Bear Mountain's parent company Lignetics Corporation with nine plants nationwide. He is the owner and oversees the management of Smokehouse Products, Smokey Mountain Logistics and SML Trucking. He is also Co-Owner of the Wind River Biomass Utility. Bob is on the Board of Directors of the Biomass Thermal Energy Council, past Board member of the Biomass Energy Resource Center and Pellet Fuels Institute.

Wayne Vineyard

Wayne Vineyard is a Commissioner with The Port of Klickitat. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest and Range Management from Northern Arizona University. Wayne worked as a Forester/Forest Manager with private industry in Klickitat and Yakima counties for 45 years, retiring as Area Manager for Hancock Forest Management in 2014. During that time, he worked in all aspects of forest management.

Closing Presentation from Amanda Hoey

Amanda Hoey is the Executive Director for Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), a bi-state regional economic development entity supporting the Columbia Gorge region of Oregon and Washington. Under Amanda's leadership, MCEDD has diversified regional economic initiatives to include additional opportunities for access to capital and regional cluster development. Prior to MCEDD, Amanda worked in small business development, developing youth entrepreneurship opportunities. She returned to the Gorge, where her family is involved in dryland wheat production. Amanda graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Whitman College. She serves on the boards of the Rural Development Initiatives, The Dalles Riverfront Trail, and Old St Peter's Landmark Church. She is a Marshall Memorial Fellow (2017) and American Leadership Forum of Oregon Senior Fellow.