



RVCC
Rural Voices for
Conservation
COALITION

16TH **2020**
ANNUAL
MEETING

CONNECTING PRACTITIONERS

The RVCC Annual Meeting connects practitioners from across the West, facilitates peer-to-peer learning, and helps participants identify common challenges and opportunities with both public and private land stewardship and restoration. By bringing together rural, community based groups and asking critical questions, we help improve an understanding of policy, while identifying and transferring lessons and innovations across landscapes. The meeting also allows coalition participants, who live and work in isolated rural areas, to network and build relationships with diverse partners – essential to maintaining social fabric while building shared priorities. We will use the discussions that take place during this meeting to refine and shape RVCC's focus areas for 2020.

RVCC STAFF

Karen Hardigg, Executive Director
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Policy Analyst
Jessica Sabine Brothers, Communications
Sally Bernstein, Program Associate

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Karen Hardigg, RVCC
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC
Jessica Sabine Brothers, RVCC
Sally Bernstein, RVCC
Nils Christoffersen, WR
Heidi Huber-Stearns, EWP
Michelle Medley-Daniel, WRTC
Gary Burnett, Heart of the Rockies
Sarah Altemus-Pope, SWFC
Emily Jane Davis, OSU/EWP
Tom Page, CIRN

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Northwest Fire Science Consortium
Page Foundation
RVCC Leadership Team
USDA Forest Service



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MEETING SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY JAN 14

LAY OF THE LAND

Get to Know Silverton (optional)	9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Pre-Meeting Sessions (optional)	10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Lunch (provided)	11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Welcome and Introduction to RVCC	12:45 p.m.
Pair & Share Icebreaker	1:30 p.m.
Political Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation	1:45 p.m.
BREAK	3:00 p.m.
Trends & Trajectories: What We Know & What We Don't Know	3:15 p.m.
An Update on the Forest Service	4:00 p.m.
Adjourn	4:45 p.m.
Evening Reception & Discussion with Robert Bonnie	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY JAN 15

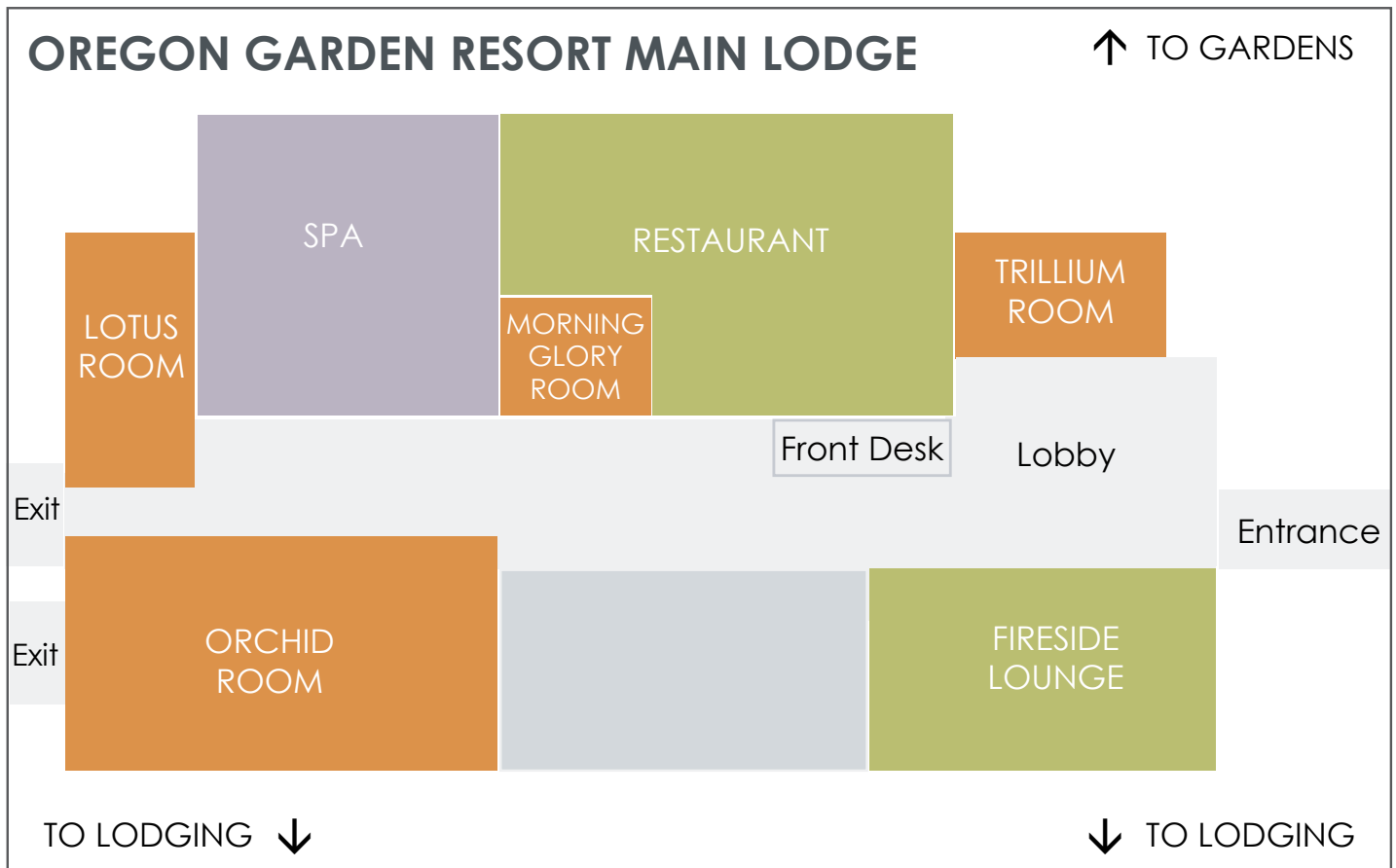
LEARNING & PRIORITY SETTING

Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
Philanthropic Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
BREAK	10:00 a.m.
Breakout Sessions: Peer Learning on Key Topics	10:30 a.m. – noon
Lunch + Presentation with Rick Johnson	12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Afternoon Overview	1:15 p.m.
Afternoon Breakout Sessions	1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Happy Hour at the Fireside Lounge	5:15 p.m.

THURSDAY JAN 16

WORK PLANS & COLLECTIVE ACTION

Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
Welcome & Overview	8:30 a.m.
Looking Forward: Breakout Sessions	8:45 – 10:15 a.m.
BREAK	10:15 a.m.
Key Takeaways + Priorities for 2020	10:30 a.m.
Closing Remarks	11:00 a.m.



LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

EAT/DRINK DOWNTOWN:

- Silverton Coffee Station - Coffee Cafe
- Live Local Cafe - Coffee Cafe
- Gather - Northwest-inspired entrees
- The Old Oak Oven - Artisan pizza
- Creekside Grill - Waterfront American comfort eats
- Los Girasoles - Mexican restaurant
- Mac's Place - Waterfront American comfort eats

LOCAL BREWS:

- Silver Falls Brewery
- Benedictine Brewery (Mt Angel)
- Ratchet Brewery

ATTRACTIONS:

Silver Falls State Park is an Oregon favorite. This serene park featuring 10 waterfalls on a dog-friendly 9-mile loop trail, with options for shorter hikes.

Gallon House Bridge is one of the oldest covered bridges in the state. Built in 1916, it separates the towns of Mt. Angel and Silverton.

Frank Lloyd Wright Gordon House: Oregon's only Frank Lloyd Wright designed structure. The Gordon House is located right outside of the Oregon Garden.

Downtown Murals: The town boasts around 30 outdoor murals, with each telling a story of the town's history, well-known residents or national events.

9-11:30 a.m. **Get to Know Silverton, Oregon**
Enjoy a walk along the waterfront or a hike at nearby Silver Falls State Park with your friends and colleagues. Check out page 2 for some local suggestions. Transportation not provided.

10-11:15 a.m. **Optional Pre-Meeting Sessions**

TRILLIUM ROOM

CONCURRENT

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY 101

This pre-meeting session is an opportunity to learn the basics of how Good Neighbor Authority works, how states are using the authority, and how it fits into a broader suite of available contracting pathways (e.g. stewardship contracting and traditional sales).

Lead: Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC

ORCHID ROOM

CONCURRENT

NETWORKING WITH RVCC PARTICIPANTS

For meeting participants who arrive before lunch, you are welcome to use this time to connect with coalition partners, meet new people, or learn about RVCC.

Leads: Jessica Sabine Brothers, RVCC & Sally Bernstein, RVCC

11:30-12:30 p.m. **Lunch (Provided)**
ORCHID ROOM

12:45 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction to RVCC**
Purpose: An overview of RVCC, including our approach and accomplishments, what we believe in, what to expect during the meeting, and what we hope to accomplish.
Speakers: Karen Hardigg, RVCC
RVCC Leadership Team

1:30 p.m. **Pair & Share Icebreaker**
An opportunity to connect with colleagues attending the meeting.

1:45 p.m. **Political Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation**
Moderator: Cass Moseley, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Oregon
Purpose: The panel will offer an overview of emerging and important issues in federal policy, including forest restoration, county payments, prescribed fire, rural economic development, and other related issues.
Speakers: Susan Jane Brown, Western Environmental Law Center
Travis Joseph, American Forest Resource Council
Jessica Keys, Senator Jeff Merkley's Office
Malcolm McGeary, Senator Ron Wyden's office
Jonathan Shuffield, National Association of Counties

- 3:00 p.m.** **BREAK**

- 3:15 p.m.** **Trends & Trajectories in Rural Communities: What We Know and What We Don't Know**
ORCHID ROOM
Summary: Drawing on both literature and current research, Dr. Crandall will discuss some of the economic trajectories of the rural west and what role land management activities can have in influencing community outcomes.
Presenter: Dr. Mindy Crandall, Oregon State University

- 4:00 p.m.** **An Update on the Forest Service**
ORCHID ROOM
A chance to learn more about the opportunities and challenges facing the Forest Service, including updates on appropriations, staffing, and new regulations, among others.
Speaker: Chris French, U.S. Forest Service

- 4:45 p.m.** **Adjourn**

- 6:00 p.m.** **Evening Reception & Conversation**, cocktails and heavy appetizers provided
ORCHID ROOM
Topic: *Understanding Rural Americans' Attitudes on the Environment*
Speaker: Robert Bonnie, Nicholas Institute for Policy Solutions, Duke University



Photo by Kendrick Moholt

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast on your own

RESTAURANT (Restaurant breakfast included with room reservation)

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Philanthropic Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation

ORCHID ROOM

Purpose: Rural communities face complex social and economic challenges, and yet the share of foundation dollars going to rural areas is both limited, and unable to match the needs. The percentage of foundation dollars addressing rural conservation and economic development is even smaller. In this panel, experts will share the need and opportunity for investing in conservation in the rural West, while highlighting engagement strategies.

Moderator: Kathleen Cornett, *formerly* Oregon Community Foundation

Panelists: Liz Bell, Program Officer, Wilburforce Foundation

Robert Bonnie, Nicholas Institute for Policy Solutions, Duke University

Katharine Ferguson, The Aspen Institute

Anne Kubisch, President & CEO Ford Family Foundation

10:00 a.m.

BREAK

10: 30-12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (Concurrent Sessions)

TRILLIUM ROOM

CONCURRENT

FOSTERING YOUR FOREST WORKFORCE

The need to “increase the pace and scale of forest restoration” has become a common refrain. Less commonly addressed is who will do the work? RVCC recently held a peer learning exchange on workforce development, which identified workforce equity, mechanisms to partner with land management agencies, and the role of intermediaries as key topics. This session will dive deeper into those topics, and identify policy and peer learning opportunities for RVCC in 2020.

Leads: Emily Jane Davis, EWP/OSU & Carl Wilmsen, Northwest Forest Worker Center

ORCHID ROOM

CONCURRENT

GNA & COLLABORATION

Good Neighbor Authority is increasingly used to accomplish restoration work on federal lands. This session will offer an overview of how some collaboratives are working with GNA projects, as well as facilitate discussion on how collaboratives can be more aware and involved in local GNA projects.

Lead: Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC

LOTUS ROOM

CONCURRENT

MIND THE GAP: INCREASING PRESCRIBED FIRE IMPLEMENTATION

As collaboratively planned restoration projects become more common, restoration efforts face a new challenge: a growing backlog of prescribed fire and noncommercial restoration work. In this session participants will hear some of the reasons for this backlog from fire practitioners, and then identify strategies for RVCC to engage on the topic.

Lead: Karen Hardigg, RVCC

12:15-1:15 p.m. **LUNCH + SPEAKER:** Rick Johnson, former Executive Director of the
ORCHID ROOM Idaho Conservation League

1:15 p.m. **Afternoon Overview**
ORCHID ROOM

1:30-4:30 p.m. **Afternoon Breakouts**

TRILLIUM ROOM

CONCURRENT

AGENCY INCENTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES: YOU TREASURE WHAT YOU MEASURE

The Forest Service's internal agency incentives and performance measures drive budget allocations, and influence staff behavior. This session will provide context and background information on performance measures, while offering participants an opportunity to identify and refine locally-relevant performance measures for possible use within the shared stewardship initiative.

Leads: Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC; Heidi Huber-Stearns, EWP/UO; & Anna Santo, EWP/UO

ORCHID ROOM

CONCURRENT

SHARED STEWARDSHIP: COMMUNITY & COLLABORATIVE INTERESTS

The Forest Service and state agencies continue to prioritize shared stewardship – more than a dozen MOUs have been signed since January. Participants in this session will draft recommendations to federal and state agency leadership on how to work with and involve local, community-based partners in shared stewardship, while also identifying administrative barriers to success.

Leads: Karen Hardigg, RVCC & Chad Davis, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

LOTUS ROOM

1:30-3 P.M.

THE ROLE OF RECREATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Outdoor recreation is increasingly how people interact with public land, providing both benefits and challenges to rural communities. While recreation can play an important role in rural economic development and public lands management, it is not a panacea. In this session participants will hear from recreation specialists and identify ways RVCC might engage on this topic.

Lead: Sarah Altemus-Pope, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

LOTUS ROOM

3-4:30 P.M.

CONNECTING USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

USDA Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to rural communities and businesses for a broad range of purposes, including housing, utilities, and business development. Yet understanding and accessing these programs can be a challenge. This session will identify strategies for connecting rural development and natural resources management projects more explicitly.

Lead: Katharine Ferguson, Aspen Institute

5:15 p.m. **Happy Hour**
FIRESIDE LOUNGE

Join RVCC staff and Leadership Team members for a no-host happy hour in the Lounge.

7:30 a.m. **Breakfast on your own**
RESTAURANT (Restaurant breakfast included with room reservation)

8:30 a.m. **Welcome & Overview**
ORCHID ROOM

8:45-10:15 a.m. **Looking Forward: Breakout Sessions**

LOTUS ROOM

CONCURRENT

WOMEN IN COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

Women play important roles in rural, community-based conservation in the West, often serving as the “keepers of community.” Women were also instrumental in both the founding of RVCC and growing the collaborative conservation movement. This session aims to connect women across communities, offering an opportunity to share stories, experiences, and identify ways to work together and offer mentorship going forward.

Lead: Karen Hardigg, RVCC

TRILLIUM ROOM

CONCURRENT

RVCC IN 2020 – OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Do you want to stay engaged in the work of the Coalition beyond the Annual Meeting? Come to this session to learn more about opportunities to participate, including our annual Western Week in Washington trip, working groups, peer assists, and policy calls.

Lead: Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC

ORCHID ROOM

CONCURRENT

TRIBAL AUTHORITIES AND FOREST RESTORATION

The Forest Service is increasingly looking to partners to help accomplish and implement forest restoration and land stewardship projects on national forests. Tribes can bring important capacity, expertise, and skills to the agency, and yet the enabling policies and programs that can facilitate tribal partnerships are not well understood, and are often underutilized. In this breakout discussion, participants will learn more about authorities such as the Tribal Forest Protection Act, Contracting and Compacting, and the opportunity for tribes to participate in Good Neighbor Authority projects. Outcomes will include an improved understanding of existing programs and policies, as well as considerations and strategies for including tribal partners in forest restoration projects.

Lead: Trent Seager, Sustainable Northwest

10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30 a.m. **Key Takeaways + Priorities for 2020**
ORCHID ROOM RVCC Team

11:00 a.m. **Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Liz Bell

Program Officer, Wilburforce Foundation

Prior to joining Wilburforce Foundation, Liz worked as an advisor to private land conservation organizations, including nearly 10 years strengthening the excellence of land trusts in the Pacific Northwest. Previously, she was Director of Land Protection for The Nature Conservancy/Massachusetts and Executive Director of the Essex County Greenbelt Association (MA).

Robert Bonnie

Executive in Residence, Duke University

As an Executive in Residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, Robert is working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America. During the Obama Administration, Robert was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands.

Susan Jane Brown

Staff Attorney, Western Environmental Law Center

Susan Jane is a staff attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center. Her primary focus of litigation is federal public lands forest management, but her practice includes cases involving the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, and other land management statutes. She is a former Co-Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Implementation of the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule and is also heavily engaged in collaborative forest restoration in the Upper John Day Basin in eastern Oregon.

Kathleen Cornett

Former VP Grants & Programs, Oregon Community Foundation

Kathleen Cornett served as Vice President of Grants and Programs at Oregon Community Foundation for 32 years, retiring in 2019. In that role she oversaw distribution of the Foundation's \$75 million grant and scholarship programs and special grant initiatives. Prior to her work at OCF Kathleen was Executive Director of the Oregon Food Bank, a statewide network of emergency food organizations. She also worked in anti-poverty community action programs and as a health educator.

Dr. Mindy Crandall

Assistant Professor of Forest Policy, Oregon State University

Dr. Crandall has degrees in Native American Studies from Salish Kootenai College, and Forest Management and Applied Economics from Oregon State University. After receiving her PhD in 2014, she worked as an Assistant Professor of Forest Management and Economics at the University of Maine until returning to Oregon State as an Assistant Professor of Forest Policy in 2020. Her research is focused on the role of forestry in rural community vitality.

Katharine Ferguson

CSG Associate Director, The Aspen Institute

Katharine connects, motivates and equips local leaders to build more prosperous regions and advance those living on the economic margins. Katharine previously served as Chief of Staff for the White House Domestic Policy Council and as Chief of Staff for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Obama Administration. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University.

Chris French

Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems, U.S. Forest Service

As Deputy Chief, Chris is responsible for the conservation and continued legacy of the 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands across the country. Chris was appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service January of 2016. He began his USDA career in 1991 on the Coronado National Forest in Arizona as a volunteer in recreation. From there, he has worked in planning, NEPA, fire, fuels, wildlife, and recreation/wilderness. He has also served as Director of Ecosystem Management of the USDA Forest Service.

Rick Johnson

Former Executive Director, Idaho Conservation League

Rick is a consultant supporting development and implementation of natural resource conservation strategy, philanthropy supporting conservation, and best practices for organizations doing the work. Rick recently retired as executive director of the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) after 24 years. During his tenure, Rick grew the size, impact, and credibility of the ICL and helped reshape the practice of conservation in Idaho and beyond.

Travis Joseph

President & CEO, American Forest Resource Council

Travis earned his bachelor's degree in history and international studies from the University of Oregon and a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science in environment and development. He spent eight years in Washington D.C. working for the U.S. House of Representatives as a senior legislative aide to an Oregon congressman, a senior policy advisor on the House Natural Resources Committee, and the Director of Northwest Policy for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. As President and CEO at AFRC, Travis manages the overall operations and strategy of the Association.

Jessica Hamilton Keys

Natural Resources Liaison, US Senator Jeff Merkley

Jessica currently works for Senator Jeff Merkley, as both his Eastern Oregon Field Representative and his statewide Natural Resources Liaison. Prior roles include Natural Resources Policy Advisor for Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and Senior Policy Advisor to NOAA's Administrator Jane Lubchenco in Washington DC. She has a B.S. in Public Health from the University of North Carolina and a M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University.

Anne Kubisch

President & CEO, The Ford Family Foundation

Anne joined The Ford Family Foundation in 2013 as its second president. She came to the Foundation after 19 years at The Aspen Institute. She founded and served as director of the Aspen Roundtable on Community Change, a national resource center that advised policymakers, funders and practitioners on strategies for improving outcomes for low-income children, families and communities. Anne currently serves on the board of Foundations for a Better Oregon. She is also a member of Oregon Governor Kate Brown's Early Learning Council.

Malcolm McGeary

Natural Resources Director for Senator Ron Wyden

Malcolm McGeary serves as the Natural Resources Director for Senator Ron Wyden and is a senior member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He recently returned to his home state of Oregon after working for Senator Wyden in Washington D.C. as a legislative assistant and policy advisor. He has a Master's in political science and government from Johns Hopkins University.

Jonathan Shuffield

Assoc. Legislative Director for Public Lands, National Association of Counties

Jonathan Shuffield works on lobbying Congress on public lands issues including Payments In Lieu of Taxes, Secure Rural Schools, land management and endangered species. Before joining NACo, Jonathan served as both Policy Director and Executive Director for the Congressional Western Caucus. He also served as Legislative Director for Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) and as Legislative Assistant for Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-02), where his primary focus was on federal lands and environmental issues. Jonathan is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

RVCC LEADERSHIP TEAM

RVCC's Leadership Team is committed to promoting healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities throughout the American West. Members represent community-based or regional organizations and institutions from a wide range of perspectives and geographies, always keeping our work firmly grounded in the local communities on whose behalf RVCC works. The Leadership Team helps set strategic direction, provides leadership, shapes policy recommendations, and lifts up the shared values of our network participants.

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A Land Trust Partnership



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