

## Community forests and forestry in the United States

### Prepared for the project team of the South Santiam Community Forest Corridor project

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#### What is community forestry?

Community forestry is forest management with an explicit focus on local socioeconomic benefits and participation.

- *Local residents have some form of access to the land and its resources.*  
Management deliberately considers how benefits from forest resources are distributed, including timber and nontimber products, jobs and opportunities to recreate and subsist off the land. There is some kind of structure that helps reinvest any profits from the forest in the community.
- *Local residents participate in decisions concerning the forest.*  
There is a governing body and structure that include a diverse range of stakeholders and interests in meaningful ways. There are clear and effective decision-making rules that are consistently used to guide management. Decisions are communicated to a broader public and adjusted when they do not work for the community.

#### How is community forestry practiced in the United States?

There is no one formula or landownership model for community forestry. It may be *community-based*, where an organized group helps guide management activities but does not own land. A *community-owned* forest is an arrangement where a community council, nonprofit, corporation, or other entity owns the land. The model that works best varies from one place to the next.

#### For more information and examples

- **The Communities Committee**  
<http://www.communitiescommittee.org/>
- **The National Community Forestry Service Center**  
<http://www.conservationfund.org/nationalcommunityforestryservicecenter>
- **The US Endowment for Forestry and Communities**  
<http://usendowment.org/cbfhome.html>