

PROJECT SUMMARY

Instructions:

The summary is limited to 250 words. The names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PD/PI) should be listed in addition to the title of the project. The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should focus on: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the goals of the program. The importance of a concise, informative Project Summary cannot be overemphasized.

Title: Advancing Rural Prosperity And Equity Through The New Forest Economy

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Institution: Oregon State University

CO-PD: Crandall, Mindy S

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CO-PD: Huber-Stearns, Heidi R

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Institution: Lomakatsi Restoration Project

CO-PD: Albrecht, Don E

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Some rural communities in the U.S. West have developed a new forest economy based on harvesting fiber, improving forest productivity, and reducing wildfire risk. However, prosperity through this economy has not emerged everywhere and for all people. This integrated project's long-term goal is to foster equitable employment and entrepreneurship through the new forest economy in the American West, in order to create more vibrant and prosperous rural communities and Latinx populations that sustain economic growth. We pursue this through interdisciplinary research, education, and extension activities that allow us to understand and support successful outcomes for workers, businesses, and communities. Our research objective is to combine quantitative and qualitative approaches to identify the community, social, and policy factors that drive or inhibit equitable labor and entrepreneurship in the new forest economy. Our education objective is to design and implement educational programming that directly addresses barriers to equitable employment for Latinx forest workers and businesses. Our extension objective is to accelerate knowledge transfer to improve the capacity of land managers, economic development practitioners, extension personnel, and social service providers to create equitable jobs and businesses. This project will result in new knowledge about 1) combinations of community, social, and policy factors that contribute to successful economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs and minority workers; 2) necessary policy instruments and investments that increase human capital in rural communities; and 3) educational and extension models that apply research findings, use diverse delivery formats, and meaningfully improve prospects for forest workers and businesses.