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December 2021

Highlights from December CommuniTEA

Nearly two hundred participants from the forest and conservation space came together on December 8th to celebrate the [Women's Forest Congress](#) and aligned organizations. Described as a "CommuniTEA," this virtual event offered time to hear stories from organizations who share our values and are raising the profile of gender equity in the broader forest, conservation and recreation spaces. To learn more, watch the [videos](#) and review the graphic recording on our [Padlet](#) site.

WFC Blog

This month's blog features Nadine Block, Senior Vice President for Community and Government Relations at Sustainable Forestry Initiative, where she discusses her experience serving as a Visiting Forester at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Read her blog [here](#).

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for a WFC blog, please contact us at info@womensforestcongress.org.

WFC Working Group Restructuring

propelling us forward. To ensure our continued success and to prepare for the inaugural Women's Forest Congress, the Steering Committee undertook a thoughtful and thorough review of our organizational structure and what resources we will need to maintain momentum. As such, the WFC Steering Committee decided to reorganize the Women's Forest Congress working groups.

Starting in January 2022, the Women's Forest Congress Working Group structure will be reorganized to focus on the most effective and efficient planning possible for the inaugural Women's Forest Congress. The Content Development Working Group will now consist of Five Topical Sub-Teams:

- Leadership for Equity & Inclusion
- Workforce Opportunities for Increasing Recruitment, Retention & Advancement
- Women as Catalysts for Change
- Addressing Today's Greatest Forest Challenges
- Supporting Each Other

The Stakeholder Engagement and Meeting Design and Logistics Working Groups will sunset, but members are encouraged to re-engage in one of the content development teams to provide their stakeholder engagement and meeting design expertise to the planning elements. The Communications Working Group will evolve into a Communications Sounding Board, which will help guide messaging and materials developed for the October 2022 Event. If you'd like to learn more, drop us a note at info@womensforestcongress.org.

We are extremely excited for the progress to date, which would not have been possible without the many volunteers who shared their expertise and experience. We look forward to continued positive impact and outcomes and ensuring a successful Women's Forest Congress, October 17-20, 2022. Learn more about the in-person event [here](#).

Upcoming WFC Events

Save the dates for our 2022 events. Simply click the buttons below to download the save the dates to drop into your calendar.

March 8, 2022

Oct. 17-20, 2022

Get Social with WFC

Join our LinkedIn Group to network with Women's Forest Congress supporters and advocates. If you are active on LinkedIn, look for the "[Women's Forest Congress Networking Group](#)" and join the conversation. We welcome your engagement in this new networking space. Share articles of importance, job announcements, upcoming events of interest, best practices/tips & tricks, or simply meet new people in the forest community. Join the conversation and invite others to join us.

The Women's Forest Congress is also active on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We have pages/profiles on each channel and share content relevant to the forest community and women's issues, so like, follow, and share with your network and tag with #WeAreWFC.

Fun Fact of the Month

For those who celebrate Christmas, the holiday is right around the corner! And, the perennial question still remains - real or fake Christmas tree, and which has less impact on the environment? According to a 2018 Dovetail [report](#), the answer is "it depends." So you do you, and know there's research available to help you make an informed decision.

Also, #DYK this year's "People's Tree" at the U.S. Capitol was harvested from a USDA Forest Service forest impacted by wildfires. According to the U.S. House of Representatives [website](#), "the white fir comes from the Mad River Ranger District, which was impacted last year by the largest recorded wildfire in California's history." As District Ranger Kristen Lark said, "this tree signifies the fortitude and resilience of this community."

Wishing you and yours a blessed holiday season!

THERE IS A NEED – ARGUABLY TODAY MORE THAN EVER – FOR DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES TO HELP ENSURE THE HEALTH AND FUTURE OF FORESTS.

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