



WOMEN AS CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

Why Is This Important?

Our Unique Perspective. As we look to the future with growing diverse participation, workforce, and leaders, what can women do to affect change?

First and foremost, bringing a unique perspective is our strength. Women can be more inclusive by nature, valuing the group feeling, the ‘family’ aspect. It is no mistake the environment is referred to as “Mother Nature.” Filling the role as change agents, actions informed by the female perspective can profoundly impact the future of forests.

Our ability to pull disparate concepts together to create a new understanding and way forward for all can be the catalyst for change. The inclusion of women in the field of Forestry has, like any other expansion of diversity, brought new perspectives, expanded understanding, and redefined values.

How Will We Do This?

Teasing apart the changes in the forest sector, both changes in the past forty years and changes to come from the next forty years, that can be definitively attributed to women is nearly impossible, as we are all men and women alike, engaged in moving the profession forward. One of the best ways to understand the female influence is to listen to women’s stories.

WFC is in a distinct position to seek examples for women as catalysts for change in many areas of the forestry sector. If we pursue these illustrations of change at work, we can have a catalog of importance from which to draw and duplicate where needed. Here is a place to highlight the positive outcomes informed by a female perspective and provide models for meaningful change in other forestry sector organizations.

Success stories demonstrate the possibility and inspire both individual women and companies or organizations striving for success. Shining the light on the success of diversity with all genders and races supports everyone in pursuing meaningful work and achievement. Diversity builds better organizations, and stories inspire the adoption of diversity.

Mostly though, this element of **WFC is a place of celebration and demonstration.** By spotlighting a wide variety of women telling their stories and working with these stories to distill the wisdom that women and all aspects of diversity can shine on the issues and challenges facing forests and society.



**WOMEN'S FOREST
CONGRESS**