

## **Welcome!**

### **Introduce our Panelists:**

Lindsay Cornelius, Stewardship Lead, Columbia Land Trust

Neal Hedges, Stewardship Director, Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, Friends of Columbia Gorge?

### **Opening:**

- Today we're going to talk about public access to land trust lands – the opportunities and the challenges.
- Opening your land or easement to the public can lead your land trust to a whole new level of community engagement.
  - Yesterday, those of you who were in the Community Conservation workshop heard a lot about the benefits of listening to your community and engaging them in new ways. Letting people come onto your land and engage with your land trusts in a new way is a huge way to do that.
    - Its about activating community interest and bringing in new partners by connecting to community values
- But, of course, it also brings complicated challenges.
  - One big one we'll talk about is **balancing public benefit and safety with preservation of natural resources**
- In this session, land trust leaders will discuss the benefits of public access versus the costs and challenges;
- How can you make sure your land trust is prepared;
- and how to set the right policies for your organization around public access.
- Each of our panelists will present a current case study to show how their land trust is tackling these questions.
- Managing the practical challenges of public access including:
  - Staff capacity
  - Developing infrastructure (trails, facilities, interpretation, etc.)
  - Public safety
  - and Stewardship challenges

**Panel presentations:** Public access case studies & how lessons learn on the ground affect, or are guided by, organizational policies, missions and strategic plans (15 min each, 45 min total)

- 1) Neal Hedges
- 2) Lindsay Cornelius
- 3) Kevin Gorman

**Facilitated discussion & questions from the audience (40 min)**

- 1) How has your work with public access guided, or been guided by, your policies mission or strategic plan? What's the organizational framework for doing this?
- 2) Where did the impetus come from – was it a demand that you met or did it come from internally?
- 3) What were some of the sticky questions and processes you went through?
- 4) Who are the key audiences you're engaging?
- 5) Have you tied this to your membership or fundraising?
- 6) What's been the biggest challenge?