

## From the Interim Executive Director

Summer is in full swing now, meaning it's the season for visits to state and national forests and parks, berry picking, fishing, wildlife watching, river rafting, and countless other activities. I've heard many a visitor say that Oregon's beauty and outdoor offerings make it one of the best places they've ever been to. It is a credit to both public land managers and private landowners that such a plethora of recreational opportunities are available for us to enjoy and respect.



Indoor attractions are also available for those interested in learning more about our natural resources. For over half a century, the World Forestry Center's Discovery Museum at Washington Park has featured exhibits on forests and their importance to people and other species. The first floor of the museum focuses on Northwest forests, with sections on urban forests, recreation, fish and water health, wildlife in the city, natural disturbances such as fire, harvesting technology, and tree planting requirements after harvest. Interspersed on the first floor are also portraits of individuals who own or manage forestland, and what their work entails.

On the second floor, a hanging picture banner shows a young girl carrying fuelwood on her head, a task she likely does multiple times a day. It is an intentional reminder that for millions around the world, the forest is a source of food, water, shelter, and fuel. A wall-sized world map follows, featuring snapshots of the complex interactions humans have with our natural resources, including products derived from the forest, species endangered by declining habitat, and climate change's disproportionate impact on certain communities. I was part of the team who pulled together the stories and faces the wall talks about. The foreign language voices belong to our international alumni, and many of them helped us to source these stories, provide oral translations, and obtain permits to shoot footage in remote locations in Russia and China. They and our northwest partners were instrumental in helping us create these exhibits in North America's largest forest-centered museum.

So when you need a break from the sun, or even the rain (yes, it happens!), stop by the Discovery Museum. You may find it will enhance your appreciation for the great outdoors.

Sara Wu

Interim Executive Director