



*The Northwest Community Forest Coalition believes that long-term, secure community control and tenure of local forests leads to enhanced stewardship and multiple public benefits.*

**What is a Community Forest? The updated Definitions and Principles were incorporated in September of 2020 after a lengthy and rich discussion. Previous versions of the Definitions and Principles as well as associated Operating Procedures are available on request and in the NWCFC Archive.**

### **Definition**

Community Forests are forestlands that are owned and managed on behalf of local people to provide them secure and reliable access to the ecological, social, and economic benefits produced by forests.

### **Principles**

1. Forests are critical natural-resource assets in the Pacific Northwest that provide diverse social, economic, and ecological benefits that are particularly important to surrounding communities and tribes.
2. Maintaining working forest landscapes is fundamental to sustaining resilient communities in the Pacific Northwest over time.
3. Long-term secure forest tenure, which can take many forms, combined with meaningful local community participation that involves multiple stakeholders, leads to enhanced forest stewardship that balances local interests with wider public interests.
4. Community Forests deliver meaningful benefits and rights to communities and tribes who have geographic, economic, and cultural connection with the local forest resources.