

MPC Update

August 16, 2022

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The Guild's [Membership and Policy Committee \(MPC\)](#) supports members, staff and the organization by discerning emerging and pressing forest policy concerns, welcoming new members and reaching out to existing members. In short, it's a peer group of Guild members supporting the Guild community in reaching our organizational mission and individual professional goals.

As one of nine committee members, I joined the MPC in January this year (2022) after the membership elected me to serve a three-year term. I am interested in serving on the MPC because I like to contribute to this organization (the Guild) that I have worked for and worked with starting in 1993. I care about bringing new members to the Guild, growing the organization, and being part of a community that engages in national forest policy.

As you may have read in previous MPC Updates, we have had our plate full this year. Our monthly zoom meeting agenda covers standard items that include staff updates, membership support and recruitment, tribal forestry initiatives, model forests, forest policy regarding carbon and climate change, and the 30x30 initiative. We also review updates from the board and MPC business such as annual MPC membership nominations.

To start with the last topic, I must clarify that – yes – you can join the MPC, too! If you feel called to serve the Guild community by supporting and growing our peer group of members and by preparing policy and position statements for all of us in the Guild, please let us know. Through the MPC you have a chance to grow the camaraderie in the Guild, get to know your peers better in and beyond your own region, and engage in policy development in sub-committees. There will be a nomination process in October. More details will follow in the next issue of ATL. **Please consider professional Guild members, including yourself, who you may wish to nominate this autumn.**



View of the Truchas Peaks across the Ojo Sarco and Rio de Las Trampas watershed and its culturally important forest and woodlands in northern New Mexico.

In the last quarter, the MPC continued to support membership commitment to Diversity-Equality-Inclusion-Justice (DEIJ) behavior in our forestry organizations and individually. We explored how Guild members could engage in meaningful ways with tribal forestry and be better partners to tribal foresters, such as through work with the Intertribal Timber Council.

The MPC, in coordination with the board of the Guild, worked on policy statements regarding several large-scale conservation topics. We were soon struck by the complexity of issues such as carbon footprint reduction in forestry practices, carbon storage in forest management, and the wide ramifications for forestry practices oriented toward adapting to the impacts of climate change. One sub-committee has been looking at the 30x30 land conservation Executive Order and how the Guild community can participate and support this initiative. In addition to the 30x30 initiative, the MPC has also been preparing commentary on the "Protecting Mature and Old-Growth Forests, both Foreign and Domestic" Executive Order.

The MPC supported the Guild's partnership with Dovetail Partners in administering a logger survey. Recently, we also reviewed and collaborated with the board on a position paper reflecting on the Guild's "Spectrum of Forestry" dialogue; this position paper asserts how the Guild professes a broad and evolving view of forestry. Finally, the MPC has actively pursued a rejuvenation of our membership by supporting the development of several student chapters across the country.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to engaging with you as members or as potential peers on the MPC.