

FOREST FETE 2026

FORESTS: SOLVING THE CLIMATE PUZZLE



Join us for *Forest Fete 2026— Forests: Solving the Climate Puzzle*. PFT's annual gala is the premier social event for all those who love forests and what they provide to sustain us.

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 6:15 pm–10:00 pm

6:15 pm – Welcome reception | 7:30 pm – Dinner & Program
9:00 pm – Post-Gala Social

JCCSF | 3200 California Street, San Francisco, CA

This year, we'll highlight the untapped power of forests as a natural climate solution and successful approaches to forest conservation for biodiversity and climate resilience.

Together, we'll explore stories of practical restoration management for ecosystem function and economic return, while enjoying delicious food, delightful drinks, inspiring speakers, and an opportunity to support PFT's mission to sustain America's forests for generations to come.

To buy tickets or sponsor Forest Fete, please visit forestfete.org.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rhett Butler

Rhett Ayers Butler is the founder and CEO of Mongabay, a nonprofit environmental journalism organization he launched in 1999. Today, Mongabay operates one of the world's largest independent environmental newsrooms, with a global network of more than 130 staff and contributors and roughly 1,000 journalists reporting from over 90 countries.

Publishing in multiple languages, Mongabay reaches more than 100 million readers annually with investigative reporting, features, and daily coverage. In addition to investigative reporting, Mongabay places strong emphasis on solutions-oriented journalism that examines what is working for conservation and natural climate solutions, under what conditions, and why. Its coverage highlights community-led conservation, emerging science, and approaches that support both people and nature.

Rhett frequently speaks about the role of journalism in informing decision-making and expanding the range of viable responses to environmental challenges. Rhett is also a photographer whose images have appeared in hundreds of publications.

AWARD HONOREES



OUTSIDE-THE-BOX

Kip Lipper

Kip Lipper is one of the most influential and effective champions of environmental protection in California's history. For more than four decades, he has helped shape landmark policies on climate, clean air, water, and natural resources conservation, working largely behind the scenes to turn bold ideas into lasting law. Known for his deep integrity, collaborative spirit, and unwavering commitment to the public good, Lipper has played, and does play, a pivotal role in advancing California's leadership on environmental stewardship.

A trusted advisor to legislative leaders across administrations, Lipper has been instrumental in advancing transformative policies on climate action, water conservation, biodiversity protection, and environmental quality. His work has helped position California as a national and global leader in addressing climate change.

FOREST CHAMPION

Nick Goulette, Watershed Research and Training Center



Nick Goulette has partnered with PFT in myriad ways for over two decades, serving on PFT's Klamath Cascade Advisory Council, collaborating on numerous policy initiatives to advance beneficial fire and direct conservation. In a unique partnership and at Nick's urging, PFT acquired and permanently protected an 11,000 acre property—nearly 10% of the Upper Trinity River watershed—and conveyed it to the non-profit Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) for long-term stewardship under a PFT Working Forest Conservation Easement.

Born and raised in Maine, Nick trained as a forester at the University of Vermont and moved to California in 2004, launching a 20+ year career with the WRTC, taking over as Executive Director in 2009. WRTC is now the second-largest private employer in Trinity County. Nick leads programs on forestry, fire and fuels, watershed and fisheries, youth development and natural resources policy, working locally, regionally, statewide, and nationally.

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Pacific Forest Trust, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, is a "think-and-do tank" of scientists, forest managers, conservationists, policy wonks, and outdoor enthusiasts that – working with many diverse partners – is building a new model for conservation and commerce. For over 30 years, our work has had one aim: keep working forests working for all the benefits they provide.

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