

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:20:14 AM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

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#### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.*

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Title *Field not completed.*

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First Name Gregory

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Last Name Houle

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Today's Date 12/5/2023

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Street Address [REDACTED]

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City [REDACTED]

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Zip [REDACTED]

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Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

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Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

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Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

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Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

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Email Address [REDACTED]

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### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Forest Resilience Task Force

Forest Resilience Task Force	Community member with expertise in forest management and/or wood products industry
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 3
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?	No
8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

As a forest manager, my qualifications for a role in the Forest Resilience Task Force consists of a depth of knowledge in applied forest management and climate science in the realm of forest ecology and management.

Within the dynamic landscape of the Pacific Northwest, I have experience in identifying, planning, and managing forest resiliency projects across Oregon and Washington. In this role, I intricately utilized scientific insight, public engagement, and applied management to accomplish forest resiliency, resource management, and wildfire mitigation objectives across private and public lands.

As a forester and forest carbon analyst, I have diverse understanding of the wood products and forest carbon credit markets. This dual perspective has equipped me with a deep understanding of both the economic and environmental dimensions of forest resource management.

In conclusion, as a member of the Forest Resilience Task Force, I bring not just knowledge but a depth of management experience with history of proven results within forest resiliency and natural resource management.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I have working history of planning and managing forest resiliency projects across the Pacific Northwest and I would like the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skill set in the subject to benefit my local community and forested landscape.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Cory McDonald, Washington DNR (360) 318-5539  
Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest Vice President (303) 328-7524  
Greg Block, Sustainable Northwest President (503) 201-3678

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Greg Houle

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

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# GREGORY HOULE

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## Summary

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Experienced Forest Ecologist with a demonstrated history of working in environmental research and applied management. Advanced skill in quantitative research, forest management, environmental policy, and carbon cycling analyses. Strong environmental professional with nature-based solutions for climate issues.

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## Skills

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- Forest Health
  - High Understanding of Global Carbon Cycling
  - Project Management
  - Team Leadership
  - Environmental Policy and Regulation
  - Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis
  - Reforestation
  - Forest Management
  - Nature Based Solutions
  - Wildfire Mitigation
  - Compliance & Voluntary Carbon Markets
  - Problem-Solving
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## Experience

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### Forest Carbon Analyst Anew

**08/2023 to Present**  
**Bellingham, WA**

- Performed duties of a forest carbon developer within the carbon project implementation team.
- Developed opportunities summaries of potential new carbon developments to determine project viability.
- Assisted with the management of on-going forest carbon projects in both the voluntary and compliance carbon markets.
- Developed Green House Gas (GHG) plans, CO<sub>2</sub> Calculations, and Emissions Reduction Tonnage reports for carbon projects.
- Completion of annual monitoring reports for respected reporting periods for projects involved with the Climate Action Reserve and American Carbon Registry.
- Developed reports for compliance projects associated with the California Air and Resources Board.
- Updated annual CO<sub>2</sub> calculations and Emissions Reduction Tonnage modeling workbooks.
- Contracted inventory crews for forest carbon assessment.
- Worked with third party verification body through on site and desk verification processes for project approval and carbon credit issuance.

### Forest Management Consultant Contracted by Sustainable Northwest

**08/2023 to Present**  
**Portland, OR**

- Assisted with the ongoing project management of the RCPP AFA for the Western Oregon Cascade Recovery Effort from the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires.
  - Continued partner communication.
  - Collection and processing of landowner applications.
  - Assistance with partner contracts and subaward agreement development.
- Assistance with onboarding and orientation of the new SNW Wildfire Program Manager.
  - Orientation of position job duties and priority projects:
    - WOCRE coordination.
    - RCPP AFA project management.
    - CDS project management.
    - MARS PBA management.
- Continued coordination of the WOCRE monthly meetings.

### Forest Program Manager: Wildfire and Forest Resilience

**06/2022 to 08/2023**

## **Sustainable Northwest**

**Portland, OR**

- Project Manager of the RCPP AFA for the Western Oregon Cascade Recovery Effort from the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires.
  - Managed post-fire recovery and reforestation across the 6 large fire footprints of western OR.
  - Coordinated multiple partnerships across the state to address post-fire restoration.
  - Facilitated reforestation and recovery for non-industrial forest landowners.
  - Leveraged over \$5 million for post-fire restoration.
- Project Manager of the Western Cascade Climate Resilient Reforestation (CRR) Initiative.
  - Worked with Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson to define principles for CRR.
  - Adapted reforestation methodology to provide Climate Smart Reforestation solutions outside of the traditional industrial approach to reforestation.
  - Developed and coordinated a working group of experts across the field of forest management and scientific research to refine and develop principles further across the landscape.
- Facilitated the establishment of Washington's first Prescribed Burn Association.
  - Promoted the uses of Prescribed Fire as a treatment for forest resiliency.
  - Increased the number of private landowners' participation in RX Fire events.
  - Assisted with burn plan development and treatment planning.
- Initiated the establishment of a new landscape designation for Forest Health and Resilience in the South Adams region of Washington.
  - Promoted forest health treatments across multiple non-industrial forest landowners.
    - Focused treatments on forest resilience, prescribed fire, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration.
- Developed and maintained partnerships with multiple diverse stakeholders consisting of small forest landowners, environmental non-profit groups, and large industrial landowners.

## **Landowner Assistance Forester**

**06/2019 to 06/2022**

### **Washington Dept. of Natural Resources**

**Husum, WA**

- Project Manager of large fuels reduction and forest health treatments.
- Assisted small forest landowners with forest health and wildfire hazard mitigation activities.
- Developed Forest Management Plans for forest landowners detailing planting, thinning, and harvest prescription to meet the landowner's desired management goals and needs.
- Developed and maintained partnerships with multiple diverse stakeholders consisting of small forest landowners, environmental non-profit groups, and large industrial landowners.
- Built a strong and positive rapport with a multitude of private landowners, WSU Extension, Conservation Districts, Firewise USA communities, coalitions, municipalities, NGO's, local schools, and the general public.
- Collaborated with other foresters, wildlife biologists, pathologists, GIS specialists, Forest Practices staff, and SFLO technical advisors.
- Represented the agency in a positive manner when interacting with the public.
- Independently assessed private lands for forest health and wildfire risk.
- Independently planned and prioritized field work and project deadlines.
- Acted as Firewise USA regional coordinator for Klickitat and Skamania County to establish Firewise Communities within the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Conducted field verification and unit boundary layout with consultation from Landowner Assistance Coordinators.
- Used ARCGIS technologies to collect and analyze data.
- Participated in wildfire suppression activities as a Type 1 Firefighter (trainee).

## **State Lands Forester**

**05/2017 to 06/2019**

### **Washington Dept. of Natural Resources**

**Bellingham, WA**

- Acting Baker District Wetland Specialist
  - Identified and consulted on wetland delineation and management strategies.
- Acting Hamilton Unit Forester March 2019 – May 2019

- Managed and supervised two other State Lands Foresters.
- Organized and planned 2020 Hamilton Unit forest management action plan.
- Trained and advised Foresters on forest management issues.
- Worked to meet unit deliverable in a timely and efficient manner.
- Trained, supervised, and mentored seasonal hires, interns, and new permanent State Lands Foresters.
  - Instructed staff on DNR forest management and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- Determined geological sensitive areas and coordinated mitigation protocols with geologists.
- Followed and enforced Washington State Forest Practice Rules.
- Consistently met individual, unit, and district yearly deliverable.
  - Assisted other units and districts to meet yearly deliverable to help meet region goals.
- Delineated and identified resource protection areas and other limitations: unstable slopes and geologically sensitive areas, riparian management zones, wetland management zones, wildlife areas, and reserve tree locations.
- Used ARCGIS for spatial analysis and geographical projection of management areas.
- Ensured compliance with the Policy for Sustainable Forests, Habitat Conservation Plan, current rules, policies, and regulations.
- Prepared logging plans, Forest Practice Applications, SEPA Checklist, regeneration plans, leave tree retentions, and harvest prescriptions.
- Designed and implemented forest road construction.
- Designed and managed silviculture planting, pre-commercial thinning, and harvest prescriptions for management units.
- Recommended site-specific contract clauses to be included in the timber sale contract.
- Developed and implemented contract agreement and sale compliance.
- Complied and inspected silviculture, timber sale, and road construction operations to assure work is abiding to the contract.
  - Enforced contract clauses
  - Mitigated disputes between the state, purchaser, and contractor.
  - Managed and anticipated operation production in accordance with sale bonding to avoid arrearage.
- Participated in wildfire suppression activities as a Type 2 Firefighter.

**Research Assistant**

**12/2015 to 05/2016 and 12/2016 to 05/2017**

**USFS Northern Research Station**

**Houghton, MI**

- Researched and studied the effects of disturbance ecology on carbon cycling in North America.
- Developed and monitored field and lab research methodology to quantify terrestrial carbon of forest ecosystems.
- Collaborated with undergraduate and graduate students to provide research guidance and supervision.
- Prepared and completed NEPA checklists, EAs, and EIS for research sites and experimental treatment implementation.
- Trained and instructed research technicians on the use of lab equipment (gas chromatograph, IRGAs, and lab computers), field sampling methods, and data management protocols.
- Used Statistical programs and models (SAS, R, Excel, and ARCGIS) to produce graphs and informational tables to be used in conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications.
- Edited scientific papers to be submitted for peer-review and then publication.
- First and second author writing responsibilities for paper publication in a peer-review journal.

**Forestry Technician – Silviculture**

**05/2016 to 12/2016**

**USFS Mt. Hood National Forest (Barlow Ranger Station)**

**Dufur, OR**

- Conducted silviculture surveys within the Mt. Hood National Forest to identify stand characteristics and identify forest health issues.
- Participated in stand reforestation activities to monitoring and complying planting contacts, survival surveys, pre-commercial thinning, and commercial thinning to ensure management activities were within the desired prescription.

- Conducted field reconnaissance to identify harvest and reforestation boundaries and limitations.
- Prepared and completed NEPA checklists, EAs, and EIS for planned forest management activities.
- Monitored restoration plots to collect data on revegetation and post treatment successional trajectories.
- Used Statistical programs and models (Word, Excel, ExamPC, and ARCGIS) to produce graphs, informational tables, and silvicultural models for data management and analysis.
- Implemented ARGIS to determine planting and harvest areas for management activities.
- Assisted departments outside of the silviculture and timber sales department to help meet NEPA planning and surveying requirements for future management.

**Graduate Research Student**

**08/2013 to 12/2015**

**Michigan Technological University**

**Houghton, MI**

- Studied forest carbon cycling and successional shifts related to wildfire disturbance in the boreal forests of interior Alaska.
- Collected terrestrial carbon data and performed laboratory experiments using scientific standards and protocols.
- Furthered field knowledge and presented research results at terrestrial carbon cycling conferences.
- Instructed undergraduate level course in both the lecture and laboratory setting.
- Adhered to university requirements for student assignments, testing, and grading of work.
- Followed established course outline to prepare lessons and convey information and enhance understanding of materials.

**Youth Conservation Corps Supervisor**

**05/2012 to 09/2012 & 05/2013 to 09/2013**

**Superior Watershed Partnership**

**Marquette, MI**

- Supervised 10 high school youths from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of the Ojibwe Nation on multiple environmental conservation and restoration projects within the Baraga Reservation of the KBIC.
- Led upland, lowland, and shoreline revegetation projects consisting of native tree and shrub planting, invasive species removal, native seed collection, and habitat restoration.
- Monitored previous restoration treatments for viability.
- Worked with tribal fisheries management to monitor fish habitat restoration and sea lamprey trapping and removal.
- Coordinated with the tribal members and council leaders to help plan, organize, and participate in tribal events, trail maintenance, campground maintenance, and POW WOW setup and breakdown.
- Instructed educational field trips for tribal youth.
- Mentored tribal youth crew members on environmental conservation and natural resource management.
- Adhered to tribal policy and regulation.

**Education and Training**

**Master of Science: Forest Ecology and Management**

**12/2015**

Michigan Technological University

Houghton, MI

- Thesis: **Recovery of Carbon Pools a Decade Following Wildfire in Black Spruce Forests of Interior Alaska: Effects of Soil Texture and Landscape Position**

**Bachelor of Science: Environmental Science**

**05/2011**

Northern Michigan University

Marquette, MI

**Research Publications**

- **Houle GP<sup>1</sup>** Kane ES<sup>1</sup>, Kasischke ES<sup>2</sup>, Turetsky MR<sup>2</sup>, and Gibson CM<sup>2</sup>. 2017. Recovery of Carbon Pools a Decade after Wildfire in Black Spruce Forests of Interior Alaska: Effects of Soil Texture and Landscape Position. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. Accepted October 12<sup>th</sup> 2017.

- Gibson CM<sup>1</sup>, Turetsky MR<sup>1</sup>, Cottenie K<sup>1</sup>, Kane ES<sup>2</sup>, **Houle GP<sup>2</sup>**, and Kasischke ES<sup>3</sup>. 2016. Variation in Plant Community Composition and Vegetation Carbon Pools a Decade Following a Severe Fire Season in interior Alaska. *Journal of Vegetation Science*. Accepted June 6<sup>th</sup> 2016.

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### **Certifications**

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- Carbon Markets and Initiatives Certification Michigan State University
- Washington State Certified Burn Manager
- Certified Tree Farm Inspector American Tree Farm Systems.
- Assessing Structure Ignition Potential.
- Type 1 Wildland Firefighter.
- USFS Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team Participant.