

RAND SCHENCK

Rand began his environmental activism focused on forestry in the late 70s with the Sierra Club. He served in a variety of leadership roles over the next 15 years with the Sierra Club with a major focus on designating more public lands as wilderness. While the focus then was not on increasing carbon sequestration and storage that in fact was one of the results. After moving to Oregon in 1996 Rand joined the Board of Oregon Natural Resources Council, now Oregon Wild, and continued to focus on protecting Oregon's wild lands, wild waters and wildlife.

In 1989 Rand read Bill McKibben's book, [The End of Nature](#), and became aware of the existential threat that climate change posed on all of us. Rand helped found 350PDX with a number of other climate activists, attended a three-day climate activists training session with Al Gore, and began focusing on passing climate legislation in Oregon. He was one of the founders of MCAT in 2019 and focused initially on MCAT's key strategy of ensuring that every Portland area legislator was a climate champion. Rand has led the Forestry and Natural Lands team since 2022. In 2024 Washington State University Press will publish Rand's book, "[Forest Under Siege, The Story Old Growth after Gifford Pinchot.](#)" This book examines a century of forestry through the lens of how forestry practices played out in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Professionally, Rand spent much of his career focused on helping large organizations be more humane and effective. Now retired he has even more time to spend in the forests he loves hiking and backpacking as well as enjoying the many benefits of living in the Pacific Northwest which include skiing, rafting, canoeing, sea kayaking.

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