Who Will Own the Forest?

September 26-28, PDX
Hosted by the World Forestry Center

“Who Will Own the Forest?” (WWOTF) brings together leaders in timberland investing, corporate social “responsibility”, and the forest industry to network and discuss plans for the expansion of capitalistic and financialized forestry practices. Attendees have one aim above all others: squeeze as much profit out of the land as possible.

Thoroughly doused in the rhetoric of greenwash, attendees will detail the latest plans to further financialize and control global forests, create bogus carbon offsets, escape policy restrictions on forest investing, among many other schemes on their agenda. This conference fuels the idea that markets and technocratic fixes are the solutions, rather than the drivers, of our current ecological crisis. Absent from the conference agenda: discussion of Indigenous rights to and sovereignty on the land, respecting human rights, reducing consumption, and making structural changes to the system that is destroying global forest lands.

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contact@forestsoverprofits.org
WHO THINKS THEY SHOULD OWN THE FOREST?

DRAX
A UK-based power company, Drax is determined to expand its bioenergy operations. They even have plans to build the first large-scale bioenergy pellet export plants in the PNW in Longview, WA. *Come meet a company whose business model is literally dependent on burning forests!*

WEYERHAEUSER
The largest lumber producer in the US, this company has a history of drawing controversy for rights violations, logging old growth forests, and destroying sites significant to Indigenous peoples. *Get to know the living legends of forest destruction!*

CRITERION AFRICA PARTNERS
A private equity firm headquartered in Maryland, United States, which invests in companies driving land acquisition (aka “land grabs”), biomass energy, timber production, and more. *Stop by to talk to them about their approach to neocolonialism!*

JP MORGAN
The world’s largest bank by market capitalization, JPMorgan Chase is a well-documented investor in ecological harm. *With $5.5 billion in global forest “assets” they truly do like owning the forest!*

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BP
Interested in drawing out their fossil fuel sales as long as possible, this oil giant will be attending to discuss carbon markets. Why stop selling oil and gas when you can create marketing campaigns about your carbon offsets instead?

MICROSOFT
Obsessed with the idea of “net zero,” big tech companies like Microsoft are interested in “hacking” their emissions through problematic carbon offset markets. Capitalism just needs to be debugged, bro!

WHAT CAN I DO?

Find out how to join in counter-programming on our website: forestsoverprofits.org

Join our mass mobilization: On Wednesday, September 27 grassroots activists and leaders from the forest defense & climate justice movement will converge at the World Forestry Center for a demonstration confronting these Wall Street capitalists and putting them on notice that managing forests to maximize profits and stall climate action will be met with increasing resistance.

Attend the Forests over Profits conference: On Thursday, September 28th, the Forests Over Profits conference will explore these solutions. In contrast to the corporate ‘Who Will Own the Forest?’ conference, communities and activists will come together to elevate real solutions and the need for fundamental systems change in the face of capitalist exploitation and the climate & biodiversity crises.