

## Panelist Bios

### **Sherburne B. Abbott**

*University Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy, Syracuse University*

**Shere Abbott** is Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives and University Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at Syracuse University. Her work focuses on the intersection of science and technology for sustainability, communications, and public policy. Prior to this appointment in June 2011, she was a senior advisor to President Obama, serving as the Senate-confirmed director of the environment and energy division of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, overseeing the approximately \$5B federal portfolio of research and development for the environment and natural resources. Previously, Ms. Abbott has been a faculty member and center director at the University of Texas at Austin; served as chief international officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and consulted on environmental science and sustainable development for private foundations, the World Bank, the Brookings Institution, and other non-governmental organizations. Until 2001, Ms. Abbott worked at the National Academies' National Research Council over a 17-year period, directing boards and studies concerned with science and sustainable development, international affairs, and polar research. She also served as assistant scientific program director of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission. Ms. Abbott earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Goucher College and her master's degree in environmental science and natural resource policy from Yale University, where she was a Dodge Fellow in Human – Animal Ecology.



### **Peter Crane**

*Dean and Professor of Botany, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies*

Dean Crane's work focuses on the diversity of plant life: its origin and fossil history, current status, and conservation and use. From 1992 to 1999 he was director of the Field Museum in Chicago with overall responsibility for the museum's scientific programs. During this time he established the Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs and the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change, which today make up the Division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo). From 1999 to 2006 he was director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, one of the largest and most influential botanical gardens in the world. His tenure at Kew saw strengthening and expansion of the gardens' scientific, conservation, and public programs. Crane was elected to the Royal Society (the U.K. academy of sciences) in 1998. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the German Academy Leopoldina. He was knighted in the U.K. for services to horticulture and conservation in 2004. Crane currently serves on the Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas, and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. Crane holds a B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Reading, U.K.



**Thomas L. Tidwell**

*Chief, US Forest Service*

Tom Tidwell has served as Chief of the US Forest Service, the largest agency in the US Department of Agriculture, since 2009. He has served in a variety of positions at all levels of the agency, including as district ranger, forest supervisor, and legislative affairs specialist in the Washington Office. As deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, Tom facilitated collaborative approaches to wildland fire management, roadless area management, and other issues. As regional forester for the Northern Region, Tom strongly supported community-based collaboration in the region, finding solutions based on mutual goals and thereby reducing the number of appeals and lawsuits. In 2009, after being named Chief, Tom set about implementing the Secretary’s vision for America’s forests. Under his leadership, the Forest Service is restoring healthy, resilient forest and grassland ecosystems—ecosystems that can sustain all the benefits that Americans get from their wildlands, including plentiful supplies of clean water, abundant habitat for wildlife and fish, renewable supplies of wood and energy, and more. Such benefits are at risk from the effects of climate change, and Tom has led the way in forging a national response. Under Tom’s leadership, the Forest Service has charted a national roadmap for addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation. The Forest Service is taking steps to help ecosystems adapt to the effects of a changing climate while also taking action to mitigate climate change, partly by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Tom has facilitated an all-lands approach to addressing the challenges facing America’s forests and grasslands, including the overarching challenge of climate change. Such challenges cross borders and boundaries; no single entity can meet them alone. Under Tom’s leadership, the Forest Service is working with states, tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation—to restore ecosystems on a landscape scale.



**Peter Pinchot**

*Senior Fellow, Pinchot Institute*

Peter is a Senior Fellow at the Pinchot Institute, and the Director of the Institute's EcoMadera Project in Ecuador. He also serves as the President of EcoMadera Forest Conservation LLC, representing the non-profit and social venture sides of creating an economic alternative to rapid deforestation in Ecuador’s northern coastal plain. He received his Masters in Environmental Studies at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Previously, Peter has been an organic dairy farmer in upstate New York, a partner in a ghetto rehabilitation social venture in Brooklyn, NY, founder of the Pocono Streams Project, and for the past 10 years, the Director of the Milford Experimental Forest, engaged in research on white tailed deer management, American chestnut restoration, and community forestry. In Ecuador, Peter is directing the Pinchot Institute’s program focused on developing a sustainable silviculture and conservation strategy for the native forests of the Choco ecoregion. This program includes studies in forest taxonomy, forest regeneration, more efficient timber harvesting, biodiversity conservation planning, and entering FSC certification. At the same time, Peter is an entrepreneur coordinating the expansion of the EcoMadera business enterprise by



building a large community forest landholding, by launching production of engineered flooring and balsa laminates (used in wind turbines), and by establishing a sales network in the US northeast to sell flooring directly to green contractors. Through this process EcoMadera has become a hybrid business venture that combines community leadership, professional business and technical management, private investment, and NGO oversight to create a sustainable local economy based on forest conservation.

### **Jean-Luc Peyron**

*Director, ECOFOR-Paris*

Jean-Luc Peyron is managing director of ECOFOR, a French public body in charge of research and expertise coordination on behalf of 13 scientific, monitoring, governmental and professional organisations in the field of forest temperate and tropical ecosystems. He also chairs a working group of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) on “Managerial economics and accounting”. He is a corresponding member of the French Academy of Agriculture and member of several forest scientific committees in France and Europe. In the past, he served in the French Administration, taught at the French college of forestry in Nancy, was involved in the development of research in forest economics, was Chief Editor of the French Forest Review, member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Forest Institute, and Chairman of an intergovernmental action on “Expected climate change and options for European silviculture” (ECHOES) on behalf of the European Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (COST).



### **Mark Shaffer**

*National Climate Change Policy Advisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Mark Shaffer has served since 2010 as the National Climate Change Policy Advisor in the Office of the Science Advisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Shaffer is a biodiversity conservationist with extensive experience in population viability analysis, conservation biology, resource economics and environmental philanthropy. As Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, he provided strategic direction for the investment of nearly \$100 million in land conservation projects and promoting the implementation of state wildlife action plans. All told, the Foundation’s investments have assisted in the conservation of nearly 2 million acres of high priority habitat nation-wide. As Senior Vice President of Programs for Defenders of Wildlife, Dr. Shaffer provided direction, oversight, and administration of the organization’s species, habitat, and legal work, while managing a regional staff in eight states. Prior to his work with Defenders of Wildlife, Mark worked with three other major conservation organizations: The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mark received a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and his PhD from Duke University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. His doctoral research on grizzly bears helped to pioneer population viability analysis in conservation biology. Mark has also served as a consultant for federal and state agencies on various endangered species issues.



**Ross S. Whaley (Moderator)**

Ross Whaley served as Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency from 2003-07. Prior to that Dr. Whaley served as President of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in Syracuse, New York, from 1984-99. An economist by training, Dr. Whaley had previously been Director of Forest Economics Research at the United States Forest Service. Other prior institutional affiliations include faculty and administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Colorado State University, and Utah State University. Dr. Whaley served as President of the Society of American Foresters in 1991. Dr. Whaley has served as Chairman of the Pinchot Institute Board of Directors, and was awarded the Pinchot Medallion in for his distinguished service and contributions to forest science, policy and practice.

