

The Living Classroom:

Lessons on Forest Stewardship and Sustainable Timber for AEC Professionals

Course Description:

Join us for an immersive two-hour experience designed specifically for AEC professionals. This journey through a "living classroom" within a working forest allows participants to witness the evolution of forest stand development, observing the transformation of forest landscapes over time. Guided by a forestry expert, you'll gain insights into the carbon sequestration potential, habitat features, and wood products that forests produce at different stages of growth. Learn about the advantages and challenges of extended rotations in Douglas-fir forests, including biodiversity benefits and markets for premium timber. The tour emphasizes the economic and environmental advantages of using locally sourced timber, showcasing its vital role in supporting regional economies and sustainable building practices. Engage in a meaningful discussion on how regulations, market trends, forest certification, and conservation goals influence forest management decisions, ultimately shaping the sustainable resources you work with. This is an invaluable opportunity to deepen your understanding of sustainable forestry and its impact on construction practices.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explore benefits of growing Douglas-fir forests on extended rotations related to wood products, including stronger wood fiber, opportunity for larger dimension products, and higher yield of high grade and finish materials.
2. Discuss environmental co-benefits of managing Douglas-fir forests on extended rotations, including enhanced biodiversity, increased carbon sequestration potential, and available wildlife habitat.
3. Assess the multifaceted benefits of utilizing locally sourced 60-year Douglas Fir timber, including its impact on regional economies, sustainable construction practices, and verifiable carbon offset strategies.
4. Recognize key elements of state forestry regulations, landscape-scale regulatory impacts, and the influence of forest certification schemes and voluntary commitments on land management decisions.



Tour Schedule:

09:30am: Arrive by personal vehicle or carpool to one of two Port Blakely Environmental Education (EE) sites (location for any given date will be specified in the tour offering for that date):

- a. 31644 S Grimm Rd, Molalla, OR 97038 (Portland area attendees)
- b. 8630 Delphi Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98512 (Puget Sound/South Sound attendees)

09:30 – 10:00am: Welcome and introductions

10:00 – 11:30am: Walking tour through Port Blakely's Environmental Education Site. Participants will follow a well-maintained path through 3-4 different forest stands. Stops on the trail will be used to highlight aspects of sustainable forestry, forest ecology, and other topics related to the learning objectives. The tour guide will answer questions while also offering thought-provoking questions to foster an open conversation with attendees.

11:30am – 12:00pm: Lunch will be provided, and the tour group is invited to continue the conversation around topics covered on the tour.

12:00 – 12:30pm: Tour participants are free to depart any time after 12pm.

Additional Information

Port Blakely's EE sites are located 20 minutes from downtown Olympia, Washington, and roughly 45 minutes from downtown Portland, Oregon. These sites have been established and maintained to support an elementary school education program the company has provided since 1993. Tours for AEC professionals will only be held when school groups are not present.

The tour at either EE site will require walking up to one mile on a very well-maintained trail, on mostly flat ground, with a few short inclines. Along the trail we will have a combination of stops for in-depth discussion of specific topics, and "walk and talk" sections to attune participants to things they may observe in the forest around them.

Tours will be held rain or shine but may be cancelled in the event of high winds, freezing rain, potential for heavy accumulation of snow or ice, or other severe weather events. Hard hats are required and will be provided if needed. Portable toilets are available at either site.

AIA Provider #: 10097528

AIA Course #: IPB06A (2 LU/HSW)

AIA Link: <https://classic.aia.org/coursecatalog/providers/001Qo00000GoaWx/course-listing/6815225>

GBCI Course #: 0920031377 (2 CE)

GBCI Link: <https://www.usgbc.org/education/sessions/living-classroom-lessons-forest-stewardship-and-sustainable-timber-aec>