

**R. Neil Sampson**  
**President, The Sampson Group, Inc.**  
**and**  
**President, Vision Forestry, LLC.**

R. Neil Sampson is a career conservationist with service in the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service), the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the American Forestry Association (now American Forests). As President of the Sampson Group, Inc., a natural resources consulting firm in Alexandria, Virginia, he also serves as an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Idaho, and a Research Associate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. In 2001, he was the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Visiting Fellow at the Yale School, involved in research and teaching on public policy as it relates to private forest management and sustainable forestry.

With Vision Forestry, LLC, he and partner Larry Walton operate a consulting firm that manages some 100,000 acres of sustainably-managed forests in Maryland and Virginia, as well as consulting with a broad range of private landowners who wish to obtain certification under one of the nationally-recognized forest certification programs..

He has written extensively on the forest health situation in the Inland Western region of the United States. He chaired the National Commission on Wildfire Disasters (1992-94), and served on the USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee to the Edison Electric Institute's Utility Forest Carbon Management Program, and the External Review Panel for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. He is technical advisor to the National Carbon Offset Coalition. In the international area, he was Coordinating Lead Author for chapter 4 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2000 Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry. He developed and presented a training program on agriculture and forestry-related carbon mitigation projects for the USAID program in Ukraine, and was a coordinating lead author for a chapter on timber, fuel, and fiber for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, sponsored by the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme.



Sampson is a 1960 graduate of the University of Idaho, where he received his B.S. degree in Agriculture (Crops and Soils). He earned a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1974. He has authored two books on soil conservation, and edited many books on natural resource topics in addition to over 100 scientific and popular articles on natural resource topics. Recent work published by the Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry at Yale University is entitled "*Dynamic Models of Land Use Change in Northeastern USA*," done in collaboration with Mary Tyrrell of Yale and Myrna Hall of SUNY. Also recently released from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change is *Agricultural and Forest Lands: Carbon Policy Strategies for the United States*, done in collaboration with Kenneth Richards and Sandra Brown.

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