

R. Neil Sampson

Neil Sampson has been a member of the External Review Panel since 1995. His final term under the Panel Charter ended in 2004, but he remains under contract as Executive Secretary, a post he has held since 1996. His professional career spans over 40 years, with service in the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resource Conservation Service), the National Association of Conservation Districts, and American Forests.

Since 1995, he has operated a consulting business, The Sampson Group, Inc., in Alexandria, VA. In that role, he leads research projects on private forest ownership



trends, wildfire hazard and risk modeling, and the design of forestry projects for carbon sequestration. He also assists SFI program participants in preparing for third-party certification audits. He has worked on several international studies of climate change and forestry. He is technical advisor to the National Carbon Offset Coalition.

In 2001, he launched Vision Forestry, LLC, a Salisbury, MD forest management firm. With partner Larry Walton in charge of field operations, and Neil in charge of information management and planning, Vision Forestry manages some 80,000 acres of public and private forestland in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware.