

2006 Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award Recipient

R. Neil Sampson

President, The Sampson Group, Inc. Alexandria, Virginia

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 a Senior Fellow with American Forests, is an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Idaho, and teaches Natural Resource Policy at Virginia Tech University.



As executive vice president of American Forests from 1984 to 1995, he launched the internationally-renowned Global ReLeaf program and the Forest Policy Center. 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 American Forest & Paper Association's Expert Review Panel to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. He is currently on the Technical Advisory Panel to The Nature Conservancy's International Carbon Mitigation Program.

In the international area, he was Coordinating Lead Author for chapter 4 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry. This report was sent to the United Nations in June, 2000, for background as the countries develop follow-up rules for implementing the carbon sequestration articles of the Kyoto Protocol. 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 books on natural resource topics in addition to publishing over 100 scientific and popular articles on natural resource topics.

Recent publications include *Public Programs for Private Forests* (1997) and *Forest Health in the United States* (1998).

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