

**ENGAGING THE PUBLIC AND POLITICIANS IN CLIMATE SCIENCE DISCUSSIONS: UNDERSTANDING OUR ROLES AS CITIZENS, SCIENTISTS AND EMPLOYEES. ORAL (PANEL DISCUSSION) - Alan Hardcastle, moderator** (panelists **Steve Ghan**, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; **David L. Peterson**, PNW Research Station, retired and **Dan Seimann**, WA Department of Natural Resources).

How can scientists advocate for appropriate policy while navigating their professional roles, citizen's rights, scientific ethics, and employer guidelines within a politically charged environment? As many groups work to mitigate the effects of climate change, scientists are called on to help to inform and influence policy. Their role might seem relatively uncontroversial, but there are potential pitfalls to avoid.

- Communicating scientific findings in a politically charged arena requires sound judgement and a deliberate approach to educating and engaging others.
- Exercising one's social responsibility and citizen's rights to engage in advocacy are vitally important. How can scientists avoid clashing with employer's rules of engagement?
- Scientists new to public information dissemination and debate may not consider the perception of bias by others, and the conflicting political values in environmental debate.
- Newcomers to scientific debate may need to understand their own values and biases, and how to use the relevant scientific/technical communities to help overcome their own dogmatism.

How have professionals in the climate change arena met these challenge? An invited panel of climate scientists and advocates will hold a panel discussion guided by a moderator. Panelists will answer several prepared questions exploring their roles as climate science producers, consumers, educators, and political advocates.