



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Dianira Piceno

Phone: 503-951-2145

Email: [dianira@wordsoutpr.com](mailto:dianira@wordsoutpr.com)

### **Freres Donates \$3 Million to World Forestry Center**

*The Freres Foundation pledges the largest donation in WFC history*

**LYONS, Ore., Dec. 16, 2025** – As 2025 comes to a close, [Freres Engineered Wood](#) is celebrating the completion of a three-year, \$3 million pledge to the [World Forestry Center](#) — the largest donation in the organization’s history. The gift reflects a decades-long partnership, focused on advancing forest education, stewardship and long-term wildfire resilience.

“World Forestry Center is in a unique position to open eyes and ears to the message of sustainable forestry and its benefits,” says Rob Freres, president of Freres Engineered Wood. “We began contributing to WFC decades ago because we want to do our share advocating for forestry and its scientific improvements over time.”

Throughout WFC’s 60-year history, the Freres family has played an active role in supporting the organization’s mission, participating in its international timberland investment conference, CANOPY; attending meetings with state and national policy leaders and contributing to public education efforts around wildfire and forest management. The partnership stems from a shared belief that the public must understand both the risks of catastrophic wildfires and the opportunities to mitigate them through sustainable forestry practices.

“Freres has been a critical supporter and advisor in developing our vision for the transformation of our campus and our program — for which Freres has made the largest contribution in this organization’s history,” says executive director of WFC Joseph Furia. “The impact of that pledge is ongoing and will continue to expand.”

The most recent multi-year pledge has supported the design and planning of major campus updates and initiatives — early work that set the stage for the development of WFC’s first permanent exhibit in 20 years, [Wildfire | Climate | Forests](#). The exhibit blends media, storytelling and interactive spaces to explore the deep connection between forests, climate change and wildfires — and the choices communities can make today to shape a more resilient future. Among these choices, Furia noted that wood products like Freres Wood’s Mass Ply and biochar will play a pivotal role.

“By being an innovator of products from Mass Ply to biochar, Freres is championing a market transformation that should be the norm for social, economic and ecological reasons,” says Furia. “Folks are waking up to the importance of forest management, and there is no reasonable scientific pathway that doesn’t involve reducing fuel on the landscape. If we can sell wood products to help reduce those costs, all the better.”

Freres Wood will complete its \$3 million pledge with a final donation of \$200,000 in the first quarter of 2026. For more information about Freres Engineered Wood and the Freres Family Foundation, call 503-859-2121 or visit [www.frereswood.com](http://www.frereswood.com).

# # #

### **About Freres Engineered Wood Products**

Freres Lumber Co., Inc., DBA [Freres Engineered Wood](http://www.frereswood.com), has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in Oregon's Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres' operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LLC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit [www.frereswood.com](http://www.frereswood.com) or call 503-859-2121.