

Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Advisory Council

Nominee: Jason Ramos

Additional Page on Background and Qualifications

In his role as Vice Chairperson for the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) Tribe, a federally recognized Native American tribal nation and government in Humboldt County, California, a heavily forested region. Jason has led multiple forestry product, forest management and ecology development and research initiatives. In 2013, Jason commissioned a regional Woody Biomass Availability Study in partnership with Humboldt State University Department of Forestry which analyzed the economic and carbon emission implications of the total woody biomass on timberlands in Humboldt County, the annual amount of woody biomass feedstock likely to be available from public forest lands, private forest lands, Tribal forest lands, residues from wood processing plants, and agricultural and urban sources. In 2014, the Tribe developed the first of its kind biomass to fuel cell energy system incorporating gasification, hydrogen production, and proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell electricity generation, to make use of mill waste and other low-quality forest residues while improving efficiency and economics of biomass to bioenergy conversions.

Since 2015, Jason has investigated forest carbon sequestration paradigms and has worked with tribal nations across the U.S. on forest products, biofuels/bioenergy, biochar soil remediation strategies, carbon forest offset protocols, and other forest-centric climate and fuels solutions. Jason has extensive experience in environmental regulations, as he has led the Tribe's development of its Environmental Protection Agency, including tribal environmental regulations and codes, air and water quality, and non-point source monitoring programs, NEPA and CEQA processes. Jason's leadership has achieved significant innovations in resilience strategies across the lifeline sectors, striving for highest conservation, lowest carbon emission solutions for rapidly changing conditions. Most recently (2021) Jason is leading investigation of engineered timber products (e.g., structural beams) for a new net-zero training and rural economic development facility, the Toma Resilience Campus, located at BLR.

Jason is also experienced in wildfire mitigations and adaptations, including wildfire emergency response and research into prescribed burns and energy provision in high-risk wildfire situations, particularly at the wildland urban interface (WUI). Jason is the Tribal Council liaison for and leads BLR's emergency operations services portfolio, including the BLR Fire Department. For this work, BLR has been recognized with a Whole Community Preparedness Award (FEMA), Climate Action Champion Award (Obama Administration and Department of Energy), among other honors.

In addition to these forest-centric qualifications, Jason has been Chair of the Humboldt State University Advancement Foundation Board where he managed multiple concurrent initiatives including a real estate portfolio and overall financial and investment strategies. Jason serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group, and the North Coast Tribal Chairpersons Association, and the California Tribal Chairpersons Association. Jason is experienced in board participation and developing and maintaining long term strategic partnerships to make demonstrable progress on innovative initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of Jason Ramos as a tribal representative on the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Advisory Council.