

## **URGE Agreement between Quaternary Research Center pod 2 and representatives of the Northwest Scientific Association**

February 12, 2021

The board of directors of the Northwest Scientific Association (NWSA) is participating in the NSF program Unlearning Racism in Geoscience (URGE) through pod 2 of the Quaternary Research Center (QRC). This agreement relates URGE to a NWSA efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Founded in 1923, NWSA describes itself as “a network of professional and amateur scientists from diverse disciplines that provides support and a forum for research and education relevant to the environment and resource management of northwestern North America. To accomplish our mission, the association publishes a quarterly journal, convenes an annual scientific meeting, and awards student research grants.” The journal, *Northwest Science*, is published quarterly as “an outlet for original papers on wide ranging topics in the natural sciences, including anthropology, aquatic biology, botany, ecology, fisheries, forestry, geology, geography, hydrology, soils, wildlife biology, and zoology” (quotes from <https://www.northwestscience.org/>). The 2019 annual meeting was convened with members of the Nez Perce tribe and included a full day of sessions on native foods.

In November 2020, the NWSA board of directors considered a proposed DEI statement for the Association. The board responded by establishing a DEI committee and by directing it, for starters, to finalize the statement. This DEI committee includes three pod 2 members—Matt Brousil, who initiated the DEI statement as chair of the NWSA communications committee; Connie Harrington, the NWSA president; and Brian Atwater, the pod liaison with URGE. Also on the NWSA DEI committee are Matthew Brady, its chair; Rebecca Lawton, who writes about water; and Gregg Riegel, past NWSA president and chair of its journal committee.

On February 4, 2021, the NWSA DEI committee set a timetable for finalizing a DEI statement before the next board meeting, in March 2021. The committee also agreed to provide the board with a companion list of DEI actions that NWSA could reasonably take within the next year or two.

By participating in QRC pod 2, the three NWSA representatives listed below commit to apply their URGE training to DEI policies and actions within NWSA, both before and after the URGE curriculum ends. They further commit to participating in all of sessions 2–8.

Constance A. Harrington, U.S. Forest Service (emeritus); NWSA president  
Matthew R. Brousil, Washington State University; chair, NWSA communications committee  
Brian F. Atwater, U.S. Geological Survey (emeritus) and University of Washington