



Laurie Wingate and Brian Cox, donors; Lars Laestadius, co-director of Global Forest Watch; and Volha Roshchanka, research analyst for Global Forest Watch.

DONOR PROFILE

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA

Russia's great northern boreal forests are not only a source of wood; they play a critical role in stabilizing the global climate. To Russians, however, the great northern forests mean much more. They embody the harmony of communities, natural diversity, and the free and untutored flow of life.

The challenges facing these bastions of biodiversity are enormous; the environmental movement in Russia suffers from a plethora of difficulties in its attempts to help guide and regulate forest management: outdated information, a weak civil society, and decentralized governance.

Laurie Wingate and Brian Cox understand these central challenges facing the Russian landscape, first supporting our forestry work there five years ago when Brian was stationed in Moscow with the U.S. Treasury Department. They also understand that partnering with local NGOs who are versed in the nuance of the issues is imperative in the achievement of meaningful outcomes.

Global Forest Watch works with civil society groups in Russia to change the way forests are visualized and valued.

Laurie and Brian explain, "What we value most about WRI is its partnership approach. The whole concept of an active civil society is just emerging in Russia, with NGOs being looked upon with suspicion by the Russian government. By working closely with these nascent environmental groups and government agencies, WRI provides a critical foundation of experience and data upon which a successful strategy for improved forest management is being built."

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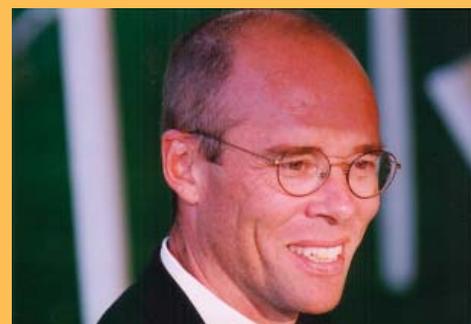
THE OLIN FOUNDATION: FAMILY INVESTMENTS AND FAMILY VALUES

"It's about more than the mission," says Ralph Taylor, when discussing what drives his family's philanthropic investments in an organization. "We also look for clear strategies and the presence of leaders whom we believe can deliver on those strategies." Ralph Taylor is the president of Greenleaf Composting Company and an advisor to the philanthropy founded by his grandparents, The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation. He joined the WRI Board of Directors in 2000.

Over the past decade, Ralph Taylor and his mother Barbara Olin Taylor have invested more than \$3 million in WRI. Taylor family and Olin Foundation funding have helped catalyze WRI's work with the business community, including the development of the Greenhouse

Gas Protocol, which has become the international standard used by more than 300 companies and government programs to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions. It's an essential step in the process of reducing and trading emissions.

The family also invested early in WRI's environmental governance portfolio of work. One key component of good governance is providing people with the right and ability to influence decisions about the natural resources they depend on. An early idea nurtured with Taylor and Olin support — The Access Initiative — has grown into the largest global network dedicated to changing laws and practices to protect this fundamental right. When citizens are involved, better decisions are made.



WRI Board Member Ralph Taylor, an advisor to The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation

"What we value so much about WRI," explains Ralph Taylor, "is that WRI epitomizes a practical way for businesses, governments, and environmental groups to work together, focused around solutions rather than ideology. We are very proud of our investments."