

TIERRA VILLAGE

Residents from Tierra Village are employed as the donkey's primary caretakers. Tierra Village is a non-profit dedicated to including adults with developmental differences in a wider community. Tierra Village receives a weekly CSA box from the garden and actively participates in the compost process.

DONKEY LAND

Poles for this structure were harvested from current forestry project areas. Its construction showcases efficient engineering and the possibilities of one person building alone with materials harvested or reclaimed on site. The miniature donkeys live here seasonally and provide joy to guests and visitors, provide manure for compost and provide employment opportunities for Tierra Village residents.

COMPOST

With inputs from the hay fields, the donkey pen, biochar, culls from farming operations and food waste from the residences and retreat center, we're able to keep an active compost process and produce a finished product that is later reincorporated into the soils.

CHUMSTICK BIOCHAR

Tierra uses an on-site slow-pyrolysis retort to convert biomass to charcoal. The retort allows us to burn the volatile gasses in the process resulting in minimal emissions. The retort handles about a cord of wood at a time and produces a cubic yard of biochar. The resulting pure carbon charcoal is used as a soil amendment – we add it to our composting process. The molecular structure of biochar is somewhat like a coral reef – lots of surface area for micro-organisms to thrive and it aids in moisture retention.

TIERRA FORESTRY



TIERRA RETREAT CENTER



TIERRA FORESTRY

Tierra manages 220 acres of forest surrounded on all sides by US Forest Service land. Historical tree stand analysis shows that what looks like a "natural" forest here has actually been altered in the past 100 years through harvest practices and wildfire suppression. This has led to overcrowded stands that are more susceptible to disease and wildfire prompting our fuel reduction efforts aimed toward forest health and fire resiliency. Tierra's activities follow a forest management plan and FSC © certification guidelines. The Washington State DNR has approved a long term Forest Practice Application for commercial timber harvests. Tierra converts a portion of non-commercial biomass into material for use on site. Tierra Forest Products produces small diameter logs for pole construction, 20-25 cords of wood per year and Chumstick Biochar.

RETREAT CENTER

Retreat Center caterers frequently source produce straight from the farm. Guests actively separate food scraps that are returned to the compost. The lodge is partially heated by a main fire place supplied from forestry operations.

HAY FIELDS

Originally homesteaded in the 1880's, Sunitsch Canyon has a long history of agricultural production, from early Holstein herds and their required hay to seed potatoes supplying the region. Tierra manages 40 acres of valley bottom land that stretches from the mouth of the canyon. Crops are rotated; an alfalfa grass mix normally gets 3 cuttings per season. Much of the hay stays on site for animals, mulch and compost.

TIERRA GARDEN ORGANICS

Tierra Garden Organics, a family run farm established in 2007, continues the agricultural tradition in Sunitsch Canyon, rotating crops through 5 acres of leased farm land and producing 80 varieties of vegetables - providing the community with top quality produce and a tie to the cycles of small scale farming.

