



Why Equity Matters to Future of Forests in the United States

**Megaforestais Panel on
Equity, Thursday, June 29,
2023**

Every Human Being Wants To:

- Feel Valued
- Belong
- Be Heard



Snapshot of Inequity in United States

Key Dates	People	System of Inequity	Inequities
1619-1865	African Americans: Starting with 20 at Jamestown Settlement, Enslavement of Estimated 10 million Africans	Slave trade and ownership fueled Agriculture-based economy in mostly Southern United States	No human Value Didn't Belong No Voice
1829-1840	Native Indians: 100,000 Indians forcibly removed from lands in Michigan, Louisiana, Florida; moved to West after U.S. government coerced treaties. Denied right to vote until 1924.	System of land ownership, possession, based on ethnicity	Didn't Belong No voice
1870s-1900s	African Americans: Enactment of black codes or Jim Crow laws, , segregation which limited rights of blacks to vote, own land; well into 20th century. Poll taxes, literacy tests limited voting rights	System to limit participation in government, economic prosperity. Second class citizenship; limited access to services.	Did Not Belong Unequal value No Voice
1850s-1898	Chinese Americans: No citizenship until 1898	System of cheap, dangerous labor in the construction of Pacific Railroad; low wages, limited rights	Did not Belong No voice Low value
1941-1945	Japanese Americans: President Franklin Roosevelt signs order to imprison 127,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. It took property; and businesses; 1600 died in camps. No voting rights until 1952 and 1965	System to exclude Japanese Citizens during the World War II conflict with Japan.	Didn't Belong No voice Low value
1776-1920	U.S. Women; No Right to Vote; job opportunities limited; seen as property	No voice or ability to participate in elections; system of low wages	Low Value No Voice
1920-1930s	Hispanic-Latino Americans U.S. Government forcibly deported 2 million of Mexican descent, 60 percent were citizens, as economy collapsed in Great Depression Denied right to vote until 1966	System of immigration influenced by discrimination against Mexican and South American peoples.	Didn't; Belong Low Value No Voice

Sharing Our Hopes for Equity with the World:

Women in Forest Carbon Program

