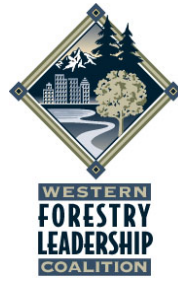




## Western Regional Update from The Council of Western State Foresters and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition



July 2016

Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters' Meeting

### CWSF Executive Committee Retreat Recap

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) Executive Committee (EC) met in Denver, CO, on June 30 for an in-person executive retreat. The EC reviewed and provided feedback on the CWSF Strategic Plan. CWSF staff members provided updates on various performance measures and discussed any outstanding items and next steps. Discussion centered around finding ways to increase the CWSF operating reserve fund, expanding member-focused opportunities, staff development, broadening new partnerships, and best practices for implementation of the strategic plan. The EC also reviewed and approved revisions to the CWSF policies and concluded the meeting with a closed business session regarding the 2017 budget.

### Western Competitive Grant Portal

CWSF continues to move forward with the grants web portal project with an expected completion date of August 2016. This project includes portals for the Western Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) and the Western Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant process as well as the Southern Group of State Foresters' LSR grant. These portals make applying, reviewing and scoring much easier and allow for a search function and historical database for the CWSF and SGSF. New for 2017, the CWSF WUI grant process includes online forms for use by the local cooperators requesting funding from the states. The Western LSR web portal and the Western WUI grant portal are now open and accepting applications for the 2017 grant cycle. For more grant information, please visit <https://www.forestrygrants.org/>.

CWSF is also pleased to announce that Ann Juette of South Dakota has been contracted to be the new Western LSR Grant Team Facilitator. Diane Denenberg's term sunset in May 2016, and Ann is currently facilitating all duties with administrative support from Grace Mirzeler, CWSF Member Services Associate.

### CWSF/WFLC Business Operations

#### Climate Change RFP

- CWSF has selected the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy as the winning proposal to complete the Climate Change Synthesis project. This project will analyze and synthesize the work that the Western states and Pacific islands are currently undertaking on issues related to the changing climate. The project will span several months with a completion date in October 2016.

#### True Cost of Wildfire RFP

- CWSF is seeking assistance in updating the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) *True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S.* report originally published in 2009 and updated in 2010. CWSF extended the reviewing deadline to July 15, 2016 to ensure adequate time for feedback from the reviewing team. A decision and the accepted proposal will be determined soon.

## CWSF/WFLC Membership Update

#### New State/Island Foresters

- Henry Capelle is the new acting state forester for the Republic of Marshall Islands, replacing Karness Kusto.

#### WFLC Member Updates

- Rick Cooksey has accepted the position of deputy director of Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry, in the U.S. Forest Service Washington Office. Harris Maceo has assumed the Acting S&PF and Tribal Relations Director post for the next 120 days.
- Dan Jirón, Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, is currently acting US Forest Service Associate Chief. Jacque Buchanan will serve as Acting Regional Forester.
- Rob Mangold, Station Director for the Pacific Northwest Research Station retired on June 15. Felipe Sanchez, Budget Coordinator for Research & Development in Washington, D.C. will serve as Acting Station Director.
- John Phipps, Station Director for the Rocky Mountain Research Station, has joined the WFLC Executive Board in the Research Lead position.
- Shawna Legarza has been selected to serve as the National Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the U.S. Forest Service

## CWSF Legislative Priorities

CWSF remains engaged with NASF, NAASF and SGSF along with other partners on Western forest policy issues of priority. The latest CWSF policy and legislative update, providing a snapshot of several issues CWSF is monitoring or engaging in, can be found at

<http://www.westernforesters.org/publications>.

Other policy and legislative activities the CWSF has engaged in this spring/summer:

- CWSF contributed an article to the Society of American Foresters Western Forester Publication about our 2016 priority issues. The link to the publication and the CWSF

article is:

<http://www.forestry.org/media/docs/westernforester/2016/WFMarAprMay2016.pdf>.

- CWSF policy and communications staff have been assisting Western Forest Service Regions by supplying talking points and informational materials on WFLC priority issues upon request.
- CWSF staff participated at the *Collaborative Restoration Workshop* hosted by the National Forest Foundation, April 26 – April 27. The workshop acted as a forum for “sharing innovative approaches to collaborative restoration, tools, and lessons about planning, implementing, and monitoring restoration efforts on and around National Forest System lands.” CWSF staff attended on behalf of the WFLC. Over 300 Forest Service, state agency, local, regional and national partners participated at the event.
- CWSF assisted Alaska State Forester, Chris Maisch, and NASF in preparation for Chris’ testimony during the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee field hearing in Kenai, Alaska. The hearing purpose was to examine the challenges and impacts of federal regulations and wildfire management on outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing opportunities, and tourism on public lands on the Kenai Peninsula. Chris’ testimony can be found at:  
[http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=3DDD0218-CF1F-4203-89EC-FA215880679F](http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=3DDD0218-CF1F-4203-89EC-FA215880679F).
- CWSF assisted California State Forester, Ken Pimlott, and NASF in preparation for Ken’s testimony during the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Wildfire Budgeting, Response and Forest Management Act of 2016. Ken’s testimony can be found at:  
[http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=F6527902-C06A-4FB8-934E-08982347CE02](http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=F6527902-C06A-4FB8-934E-08982347CE02).

## CWSF/WFLC Communications Highlights

CWSF launched a new logo and website in March. The website, accessible at [westernforesters.org](http://westernforesters.org), comes with several new functionalities including a blog, publications library and members' portal for increased member engagement. The website also features a new look and feel along with updated messaging to better describe CWSF's work and issue areas.

CWSF also recently became active on LinkedIn and Twitter, @westernforester and launched a monthly newsletter. This monthly newsletter is sent out on the fourth Wednesday of each month and is positioned as a CWSF focused newsletter with a WFLC section. Sign up to receive the e-newsletter at [bit.ly/CWSFnewsletter](http://bit.ly/CWSFnewsletter).

In early June, WFLC kicked off a project with to refresh the WFLC website and logo. This project includes scaling back some of the fine detail in the current WFLC logo and establishing a newly organized website for WFLC.

## CWSF/WFLC Meeting Dates

- Western LSR Grant Committee Meeting, August 24-25, 2016, Denver, CO
- CWSF Executive Committee Retreat, October 4-5, 2016, Sunriver, OR
- Pacific Island Forestry Committee Meeting, October 25-27, 2016, Hilo, HI
- Western State Fire Managers' WUI Meeting, October 27-29, 2016, Sunriver, OR
- CWSF and WFLC 2016 Fall Meeting, November 15-17, 2016, San Diego, CA
- CWSF and WFLC 2017 Spring Meeting, May 16-18, 2017, Flagstaff, AZ
- CWSF and WFLC 2017 Fall Meeting, November 28-30, 2017, San Diego, CA

Please see our full calendar of events at <http://www.westernforesters.org/events>.