



**Forest Utilization Network  
2020 – 2021 Report**

## LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

### **FOREST UTILIZATION NETWORK LEADERSHIP**

The Forest Utilization Network (FUN) leadership team for 2021 includes:

- Tim Reader (CO), Chair
- TBD, Vice Chair\*
- Tom Perry (MT), Past Chair
- Peter Daugherty (OR), State Forester Advisor
- Kelsey Cruickshank (CWSF), Staff Liaison

\* The new vice chair is awaiting confirmation.

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## 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2020**

- The FUN hosted the annual meeting virtually with presentations from state and federal forestry agency staff and private sector and nongovernmental partners.
  - FUN members contributed content for a CWSF publication featuring forest utilization success stories from 11 western states.
  - The FUN developed Terms of Reference for engaging a CWSF procured contractor to conduct an emerging market analysis focusing on international wood energy export markets. Future Metrics, a leading expert in the sector, was awarded the contract. FUN members were able to increase the budget authorized by CWSF (\$10,000) by contributing an additional \$17,000 of state funds.
  - The FUN secured an additional \$50,000 in funding from the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Lab (FPL) for building network capacity and strategic wood utilization work in the region. These funds were awarded via a grant held by the University of Nebraska and administered by the Nebraska Forest Service.
  - The network continued engagement with National Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network through their Wood Utilization Community of Practice, a cross-network collaboration and information sharing hub.
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## 2021 WORK PLAN

### **MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2021**

- February / March 2021 virtual meeting

- October / November 2021 in person meeting – Show Low, AZ
- Quarterly FUN leadership calls

## **METHOD OF COMMUNICATION**

- Monthly planning calls to develop agenda and logistics for 2021 annual meeting
- Project calls as needed
- Ad hoc email communication among membership

## **KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2021**

- Seek opportunities to connect network members to landscape-scale restoration projects, community wildfire protection plans and other allied efforts
  - Increase FUN members' knowledge, information sharing, and opportunities for collaboration and networking
  - Continue to identify key emerging markets and technologies that could strengthen wood products utilization
  - Strive for consistent western state and Pacific Island representation within the network
  - Pursue additional funding opportunities to increase the effectiveness of network activities
  - Conduct a peer-to-peer exchange on Oregon's collaborative juniper utilization work (this was meant to occur in 2020, however due to COVID-19, this is being shifted to 2021)
  - Finalize and distribute results of the Wood Energy Export Market Analysis
  - Work with CWSF staff and a CWSF procured contractor to continue report series and produce a market analysis report detailing emerging technology(s), product(s), or sector(s) with high potential to increase utilization in the region
  - Initiate development of a resource for inclusion of forests and forest products in state-level carbon-planning
  - Host regional biochar information exchanges
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