



**Ensuring our Forests Meet
the Needs of
Today and Tomorrow**

**About the Council of
Western State Foresters**

Established in 1967, the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a nonpartisan organization of state, territorial, and commonwealth foresters of the Western United States and Pacific Islands. State Foresters provide forest management assistance to landowners, manage state trust lands, and provide forest health and wildfire protection services.



Council of Western State Foresters FY 2011 Appropriations Priorities


*Healthy Western Forests and Vibrant Communities
Don't Just Happen –
They take careful planning, stewardship and resources.*

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) has identified the following programs within the US Forest Service as critical to addressing western forestry issues. We support the continued funding, successful implementation and leveraging of federal funding for these programs in the following manner:

State Fire Assistance program at \$120 million
Forest Stewardship program at \$45 million
Forest Inventory and Analysis program at \$76 million
Urban and Community Forestry program at \$40 million
Cooperative Forest Health program at \$66 million
Woody Biomass Utilization programs at \$20 million

State Fire Assistance (SFA) provides crucial financial and technical assistance to states and local fire departments for wildland fire management. Efforts to reduce wildfire risk are long-term, work across ownership boundaries and include agencies and communities in a collaborative process. An increase in SFA funding is a wise investment that would work in concert with and complement Volunteer Fire Assistance and Hazardous Fuels funds, and be offset by decreased suppression costs.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides funding for sustainable, long-term management of private forestlands, increasing the likelihood that their forests will remain intact, productive and healthy. Private working forests provide public benefits such as clean water, wildlife habitat, wood products, flood protection, erosion control, family and community identity, recreation access, carbon sequestration and many others. However, we are in danger of losing these benefits due to such forces as changing climate, economic conditions, demographics and competing social values. By directing funds to state forestry agencies, the Forest Stewardship Program helps private forest landowners protect, maintain and restore the resilience and health of their forests. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource, long-term Stewardship Plans, which enable the private landowner to access additional conservation assistance from cooperating agencies.



The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program is the only national forest inventory system. FIA delivers timely and consistent information about the condition and trends of America's forestland across all ownerships, which is essential in conserving and restoring America's forests. Currently, the island territories and five states in the west lack current baseline data. For this reason and others, continued funding support is needed.

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program provides technical and financial assistance to promote the stewardship of urban and community forest resources. Research demonstrates that urban trees can help solve many pressing national and community issues such as cleaning storm water run-off, providing flood protection, carbon storage and energy savings. However, large-scale disturbances from invasive species and severe storms, combined with development pressures, are eroding community forest resources. The UCF program provides a significant financial return on investment while improving the livability of communities across the west.

The Cooperative Forest Health Protection (CFHP) Program provides funding assistance for forest health issues on non-federal forestland. Western forests face many issues that threaten their capacity to maintain the benefits they provide now and for future generations. The CFHP program is designed to mitigate threats to forests by preventing and/or minimizing the damage caused by invasive and native insects and diseases. CFHP is a critical investment in prevention and mitigation of ongoing and future forest health issues.

Woody Biomass Utilization Programs are managed through State and Private Forestry and Research branches of the US Forest Service in conjunction with State Foresters. Forests are a strategic national resource of vital importance to meeting the nation's economic, environmental and energy needs. Development of new bioenergy businesses depends upon integration of forest management with new and existing forest products entities.

For more information on the CWSF priorities please contact: Brent Keith, Governmental Affairs Director, 303.445.4366, brent.keith@colostate.edu



Our western forests and the benefits they provide are at risk.

Clean and abundant water, wood products, habitat for plants and animals, rural community stability, energy self-sufficiency, and access to open space for recreation and spiritual renewal are essential to the quality of life for all Americans.

Our forests and these benefits are diminishing due to large-scale wildfires, insect and disease outbreaks, outdated tax policies and assistance programs that discourage investment in our forests.

