



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 is a nonpartisan organization of state, territorial, and commonwealth foresters of the Western United States and Pacific Islands. State Foresters are charged with providing forest management assistance to landowners, managing state trust lands, and supplying wildfire and forest health protection services.

The CWSF partners with the National Association of State Foresters and other regional state forester organizations on issues of western and national importance.



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

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) represents one western voice to best leverage resources to foster healthy forests and communities. Our collective actions ensure the continued funding, successful implementation and leveraging, often doubling or tripling, of **over \$100 million** of federal funding for State and Private Forestry Programs in the West.

The CWSF is requested by Congress to testify on western issues. We represent a credible source of subject matter expertise.

“The very programs proposed for elimination are the programs that can help reduce the wildland fire suppression costs.”

“The State Fire Assistance Program is the federal program that States use to prepare and respond to wildland fires. Improved response is critical to reducing suppression costs.”

We create cutting-edge reports that influence people and policy.

“The true costs of wildfire are far greater than the costs reported, anywhere from 2 to 30 times the suppression costs.”

“With additional resources we can minimize the impacts of bark beetles. At least \$300 million dollars can be productively utilized over the next five years to create healthy forests and provide jobs.”

We are a valued go-to source for the media.

“We believe the Federal government can and should be responsible land stewards as well help our country on its way to energy independence – changing the renewable fuels definition is critical.”

“Having a separate catastrophic fire account would help insulate the rest of the Forest Service’s budget from firefighting overruns.”

The above quotes can be found in documents on the following web pages:

Testimonies can be found at <http://www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/testimonies.php>

Reports can be found at <http://www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/reports.php>

Articles can be found at http://www.wflcweb.org/pressandpolicy/in_the_news.php



- ✓ **CWSF implements a competitive granting process** for approximately \$20 million in wildfire reduction, forest health, community vitality, and renewable energy across the west.
- ✓ **CWSF maintains a formal working partnership** with the USDA Forest Service in the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition.
- ✓ **CWSF facilitates the efficient use of resources** across western states and provides venues for State Foresters to share management practices, successes, and lessons learned. Common agendas are supported and facilitated through a CWSF Strategic Plan and staff support.



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

These benefits such as 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.

“It’s a small amount of one state’s time and investment to be part of the CWSF, but it pays off big. We couldn’t compete well for funding (with the South and Northeast) without the Council.” Dr. Scott Josiah – Chair, CWSF and Nebraska State Forester.

“It’s critical that the western state foresters work as a council. The Forest Service depends on their organization and efficiency to successfully implement the State and Private Forestry programs.” Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service.

