



**CWSF**  
COUNCIL OF WESTERN  
STATE FORESTERS

# Western Forestry Issues: SUSTAINABILITY



From tropical forests to dry climate conifer forests, boreal to temperate rainforests, the forests of the West and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands contain some of the most diverse and rich flora and fauna on earth.

Throughout the western region, forested landscapes, and the values they provide, are under pressure from human development and population growth. The encroachment of human development leads to fragmentation, parcelization, and higher management and wildfire protection costs.

Western states and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands believe sustainable forestry requires:

- Addressing major risks and threats, including: catastrophic wildfire, development, native and non-native invasive pests, drought
- Supporting working forests and a viable forests products industry
- Educating the public, partners, the Administration and Congress about the importance of forests, their values, and benefits

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) supports forest management and restoration practices that balance long-term economic, social, and ecological sustainability, resulting in resilient forests that provide a multitude of benefits for communities across the West.

Western forests provide critical ecosystem services such as clean water, wildlife habitat, wood products, flood protection, erosion control, carbon sequestration, and more.

CWSF supports:

- Sound policies, practices, and incentives that keep working forests working
- Opportunities for actions that span boundaries, strengthen partnerships, and support active forest management across all land ownerships
- Vibrant urban and community forests that support the health and well-being of the public and serve to connect people with forests
- Diverse forest products industries that support traditional markets as well as opportunities for new and emerging forest markets.

