



**WESTERN FORESTRY  
LEADERSHIP COALITION**

## **Western State Fire Managers 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan**

### **LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

<b>2025 Leadership Team</b>	<b>2026 Leadership Team</b>
<b>Chair:</b> Cody Griffiee (SD) <b>Vice Chair:</b> Bill Waln (KS) <b>Secretary:</b> Matt Hall (MT) <b>Past Chair:</b> Vaughn Jones (CO) <b>State Forester Advisor:</b> Jamie Barnes (UT) <b>CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison:</b> Halie Miyazawa	<b>Chair:</b> Bill Waln (KS) <b>Vice Chair:</b> Matt Hall (MT) <b>Secretary:</b> Andrew Giralt (NE) <b>Past Chair:</b> Cody Griffiee (SD) <b>State Forester Advisor:</b> Jamie Barnes (UT) <b>CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison:</b> Halie Miyazawa

#### **MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE**

View the mission on the committee's webpage at  
<https://www.westernforesters.org/about/committees/western-state-fire-managers>

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### **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Provided potential topics for breakout discussions at CMS to ensure Western representation and engagement throughout the CMS meeting and identify follow-up items for action and topics for further discussion.
- Engaged on key issues with the Southern Group's Fire Chiefs and the Northeast-Midwest States' Fire Supervisors.
- Continued Fire Coordination calls (at higher Preparedness Levels) based on the success of the 2024 Fire Coordination calls (facilitated by NASF's Greg Smith) that also involved the other regions
- Continued to assist Interagency Resource Ordering and Capability (IROC) implementation with a focus on Compacts.
- Continued to provide insight and information relevant to CWSF and the national policy team.
- Provided a Western perspective and information on national and regional fire issues.
- Identified recommendations and next steps concerning state aviation resources, including exploring the potential need for an aviation subcommittee to ensure a strong and unified Western voice in these discussions.
- Explored how the committee can support state-to-state agreements and compact-to-compact solutions for greater resource sharing and coordination through discussions with WSBM.
- CIMT AAR: Coordinated Western representation/feedback process to contribute the Western perspective in the future
- Established a Wildfire Resiliency (WUI Code) Subcommittee to share resources among Western states' subject matter experts tackling these issues.

- o An Initial meeting was held, and a purpose statement was created
- **WUI**
  - o Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants.
  - o Provided the WUI ranked list to the Washington Office
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
  - o Hospital family liaison support
    - WA DNR provided eight CISM responders to support ID following the tragic Coeur d'Alene firefighter ambush/shooting and mobilized through the NW Compact.
    - ODF provided CISL and a Hospital Liaison to AK during high fire danger incidents. Both mobilized through the NW Compact.
    - The WSFM On-Call CISM Coordinator was contacted by MT for Clinical support. An available clinician was identified, but ultimately did not need to be deployed.
    - AK CISL and CISM team members were identified for potential support to WA for end-of-season follow-up. In the past year, AK supported five states with qualified CISM team members or Hospital/Family Liaisons.
    - The group supported several calls between states to identify potential CISM resource availability to support ongoing incidents. It also supported inter-agency federal response in AK with AK, CO, and OR CISM resources.
  - o Continued to develop and provide shared tools and resources, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams and shared training opportunities, across the Western states through the Mental Health and Wellness subcommittee webpage and event calendar.
- **WSBM**
  - o Held monthly virtual meetings
  - o One annual virtual meeting with one day with WSFM
  - o Continued to compile and organize information and resources about state processes for comparison and potential briefing paper
  - o Continued to support one another by sharing resources and providing examples of challenges and successes

## 2026 WORK PLAN

### MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2026

- CMS on January 13-15, 2026 (Miramar Beach, FL)
- WSFM Annual Meeting on October 6-8, 2026 (Location TBD)

### KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2026

- Ensure Western representation and engagement by providing possible breakout topics for discussion throughout the CMS meeting. Identify follow-up items for action and topics for further discussion.
- Continue to engage on key issues with the Southern Group's Fire Chiefs and the Northeast-Midwest States' Fire Supervisors.
- Continue Fire Coordination calls (at higher Preparedness Levels) based on the success of the 2024 and 2025 Fire Coordination calls (facilitated by NASF's Greg Smith) that also involved the other regions
- Continue to assist Interagency Resource Ordering and Capability (IROC) implementation with a focus on Compacts.
- Continue to provide insight and information relevant to CWSF and the national policy team.
- Identify recommendations and next steps concerning state aviation resources, including exploring the potential need for an aviation subcommittee to ensure a strong and unified Western voice in these discussions.
- Continue to explore how the committee can support state-to-state agreements and compact-to-compact

solutions for greater resource sharing and coordination through discussions with WSBM.

- Leverage the Committee's expertise to provide feedback, examples, support, etc. for possible legislative, policy, or administrative changes impacting wildfire as requested and daylight emerging issues, and, where appropriate, elevate messages/positions to CWSF and NASF Wildfire Committee for consideration
- CIMT AAR: Coordinate Western representation/feedback process to contribute the Western perspective in the future
- Support the WSBM subcommittee in the development of a briefing paper concerning process consistency issues from region to region/specific FEMA regional reps when handling Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) documentation requirements. Send for CWSF approval of potential actionable next steps.
- Ensure a full slate of western representatives are assigned to NWCG Management Committees and provide regular reports from NWCG reps at monthly meetings to keep WSFM informed on NWCG Management Committee work
- Contribute western perspectives through NWCG Management Committee western representatives and assign ad hoc work groups or existing subcommittees as appropriate to inform that work
- Continue to provide insight and support to CWSF/WFLC to pursue fulfillment of the Director of Wildland Fire position. Support staff in the transition and set the new individual up for success in the director position.
- **WUI Grant Process and Scoring**
  - Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants
  - Provide the WUI ranked list to the Washington Office
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
  - Virtual ½ day training to share resources
  - Continue to develop and provide shared tools and resources, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams and shared training opportunities, across the Western states through the Mental Health and Wellness subcommittee webpage and event calendar
- **WSBM**
  - Have monthly virtual meetings and one annual meeting with a joint session with WSFM
  - Continue to compile and organize information and resources about state processes for comparison. Work with the CWSF/WFLC Director of Policy to draft a briefing paper about current challenges
  - Continue to support one another by sharing resources and providing examples of challenges and successes
- **Wildfire Resiliency (WUI Codes)**
  - Schedule meetings for the committee to meet quarterly
  - Share resources, successes, and challenges with Western State subject matter experts in the committee
- **Training and Workforce Development**
  - Establish a Training and Workforce Development Subcommittee and task the group with creating a streamlined resource-sharing process between states, leveraging state resources to provide priority training, and facilitating intra-state training opportunities

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## FOR APPROVAL BY CWSF/WFLC MEMBERSHIP

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the WSFM 2026 Work Plan