



Council of Western State Foresters

Ponderosa Pine Symposium

Request for Information

Issue Date: September 16, 2024

Submission Deadline: October 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. MDT

Email Request To: info@westernforesters.org

Please include "Ponderosa Pine Symposium RFI" in the subject line.

Request for Information

The [Council of Western State Foresters](#) (CWSF) is a 501 (c)(3) membership association soliciting information from potential bidders to facilitate a symposium on the future of Ponderosa Pine Markets and Management in the West.

This Request for Information (RFI) is in coordination with CWSF's [Forest Products Committee](#) (FPC).

The information, data, comments, and reactions obtained will be used to formulate a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFI does not constitute an Invitation for Bid, Request for Proposal, or Proposal and is not to be construed as a commitment by CWSF.

All inquiries related to this RFI are to be directed, in writing, to the email address on the front cover. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon.

RFI Schedule

Event	Date
RFI Issued	September 16
Deadline for Submission of Responses	October 18
Anticipated RFP	Early 2025

Background

CWSF is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization comprised of 17 western State Foresters and six U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island Foresters.

CWSF promotes the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of forests for today and generations to come by leading collective action, fostering learning, facilitating resource sharing, providing credible expertise and information, carrying out outreach and advocacy, and engaging with partners.

The FPC was established to address forest products and biomass utilization opportunities and challenges of regional significance. In particular, the committee supports sustainable forest management and other forest-based benefits by working with the CWSF leadership to maintain and enhance markets for traditional and non-traditional forest products. The establishment of this committee offers the opportunity for the sharing of information across the western U.S. on utilization issues, representation at the regional and national meetings, and create recommendations for the CWSF's consideration and action.

Objectives and Statement of Need

Ponderosa Pine (PP) is one of the most common conifer species in the western United States. PP can be found in all western states except Kansas, Alaska, and Hawai'i.

PP tends to inhabit fire-adapted ecosystems with a history of relatively common low-intensity wildfires. With the continuous development of the West, human settlement infiltration and past management practices have led to conflict with the natural management regime (fire). We face a wildfire crisis in the West with many communities at increased risk of wildfire due to their proximity to these fire prone ecosystems.

In order to treat the vast acres of PP habitats that are within and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface (WUI), we need commercial markets for the products that can be derived from PP. **Markets equal management.**

If we have access to robust markets, the necessary fuels treatments that can be used to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire can be implemented at significantly lower costs or even profitably, resulting in more critical management being done. Recently, a handful of mills that have historically manufactured PP products have closed, and others are on the verge of closing. Not only are management opportunities lost, but so are the livelihoods of people in those communities who often rely on the forest products industry for their existence.

To this end, the CWSF FPC wishes to convene a group of industry, government, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to discuss the status of the PP industry in the West. Through panel presentations, group discussions, and presentations, participants will share the latest research and success stories, information on emerging technologies, and resources to support the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the PP sector.

The outcome of the symposium will be a forward-looking roadmap that identifies potential actions to address key industry needs, foster innovation, and identify potential resources and support.

CWSF seeks information from qualified entities in forest products utilization and markets and related fields to refine the scope of the symposium. The following questions are intended to help respondents understand the questions identified for the symposium's focus areas, so they may offer additional insights and resources, suggest refinements to these questions, and clarify the objectives and deliverables of this project.

- What is the state of the milling infrastructure, and the industry in general?
- What is the state of the resource - availability, quality, quantity?
- What are the factors that prevent industry from building or improving utilization capacity in areas with abundant supply?

- Are there regional differences?
- Identify emerging technology (new and ongoing projects).
- What should be investigated or done to stabilize and create markets?

In addition to these scoping questions, we request recommendations on how this symposium could be structured and where it could be held. The location should be easy to travel to from locations throughout the West, and note if there may be a location proximate for a field tour. Information provided should include proposed locations, proposed attendees (presenters), suggested format and size, timeframes, resources, and expertise that may be needed to support this work, and any other information that may assist in developing the scope of work for this project.

RFI Submission

Responses should be submitted electronically to the email listed on the cover page no later than 5:00 p.m. MDT on October 18, 2024. Late responses may not be considered. PDF format is preferred.

Responses must include:

- Contact name, phone number, and email;
- Organization name, address, and phone number;
- Background and qualifications of the organization (can be attached or reference a website);
- Narrative response to this RFI;
- Any additional information or suggestions that you would like the CWSF Forest Products Committee to consider; and
- Please indicate if you would like to receive notification of any future RFPs and any additional contacts that should be included in that notification.

We encourage you to be creative but also concise in your responses. The goal of this RFI is to refine the scope and deliverables of this symposium.

Funding is secured for this project, and timing is critical.

Funding for this project is made possible by a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

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