



**WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION**



CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN
STATE FORESTERS

2024 WFLC & CWSF Spring Meeting

May 21-23, 2024 | Radisson Blu Fargo | Fargo, ND

Tuesday, May 21 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting	
Attendees: All CWSF and WFLC Members/Staff and Invited Partners	
Attire: Business Casual	
Meeting Room: Cityscape Ballroom	
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided)
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Welcome, Agenda Preview, and Introductions <i>Mary Farnsworth (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and David Smith (HI, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Keynote Remarks <i>Andria Weeks (USFS Associate Deputy Chief for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry)</i>
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Local Welcome <i>Bernhardt Saini-Eidukat (North Dakota State University)</i> WFLC members will be welcomed to North Dakota with an overview of the state’s history, geography, land acknowledgment, and development.
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Understanding Place: Forestry in North Dakota <i>Scott Liudahl (City of Fargo Forestry Department), Allyson Burcham (City of Fargo Forestry Department), and Tom Claeys (ND, Past Chair)</i> WFLC members will learn about urban and community forestry in Fargo, the implementation of priority forestry programs by the North Dakota Forest Service, and fun facts about the state.
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Policy Update <i>Neil Simpson (CWSF/WFLC)</i>
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.	Next Steps: Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Report <i>Jamie Barnes (UT) and Kelly Norris (WY)</i>



	WFLC members will share how they are engaging in and furthering recommendations from the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Report. Meeting attendees will discuss individual efforts, the potential for CWSF/WFLC action, and external partnership/coalition opportunities.
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Solutions for the Housing Crisis in Rural America <i>Kacey KC (NV) and Scott Fitzwilliams (USFS)</i> Speakers will share examples and efforts underway to address housing shortages affecting the local workforce in their state and/or region. A Q&A and discussion with meeting attendees about ideas for individual and/or collective CWSF/WFLC action will follow.
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Day's Adjournment <i>Mary Farnsworth (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and David Smith (HI, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Reception <i>City Atrium</i>

Wednesday, May 22 Council of Western State Foresters Meeting and separate Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting		
Attire: Business Casual		
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided) <i>All Attendees</i>	
	CWSF Meeting <i>Cityscape Ballroom</i> Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and senior staff; State Forester associations' staff and representatives (CWSF, NASF, NMSFA, SGSF); and invited partners	Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting <i>Metropolitan and The Loft</i> Attendees: USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Washington Office Leaders
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Morning Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>David Smith (HI, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF)</i>	During this time, WFLC federal members will meet separately



8:15 - 9:10 a.m.	<p>USDA Forest Service Mountain Planning Service Group Overview <i>Jenna Sloan (Mountain Planning Service Group Director, USFS)</i></p> <p>Attendees will hear about the recent changes to the USDA Forest Service forest planning structure and what this means for the future of forest plans, engagement with state forestry agencies, and new opportunities to strengthen the state/federal partnership for forest planning.</p>	for western USDA Forest Service business.
9:10 - 10:00 a.m.	<p>Emerging Issues: State Forest Action Plans 2025/30 Requirements and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Cost-Share Program <i>Alice Ewen (USFS)</i></p> <p>Details will be provided about forthcoming deadlines and needs for State Forest Action Plan reviews and highlight reports, and the IRA cost-share program. Time will be dedicated during the session for clarifying questions, State Forester recommendations for success, and suggestions for helpful tools and resources to inform state forestry agency personnel.</p>	
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	<p>Break <i>All Attendees</i></p>	
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.	<p>Community Navigator Primer <i>Jonathan Bruno (Coalitions & Collaboratives) and Emily Troisi (The Watershed Research & Training Center)</i></p> <p>CWSF members will receive an overview of the new Community Navigator Program, including the vision for the program, operations, and clarifying items. Meeting attendees will share questions, discuss nexus areas with state forestry agencies, and identify action items/solutions linked to relevant programs (e.g., Community Wildfire Defense Grant).</p>	USDA Forest Service business
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<p>National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update <i>Jay Farrell (NASF)</i></p>	



	An NASF team member will share recent activities and updates on priority issues to state forestry agencies across the nation, and welcome the new NASF policy director.	
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided) <i>All Attendees</i>	
1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) Update <i>Chris Martin (NMSFA)</i> An NMSFA team member will share updates on recent activities & priority issues to state forestry agencies across northeast and mid-western states.	USDA Forest Service business
1:45 - 2:00 p.m.	Southern Group of State Foresters Updates <i>Wib Owen (SGSF)</i> An SGSF team member will share updates on recent activities & priority issues to state forestry agencies across southern states.	
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	State Forester Lightning Round	
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Break <i>All Attendees</i>	
3:30 - 3:50 p.m.	State Forester Lightning Round	USDA Forest Service business
3:50 - 4:45 p.m.	Business Session (closed)	
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Meeting Adjournment	



Thursday, May 23 | Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting

Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and senior staff, State Forester associations' staff and representatives (CWSF/WFLC, NASF, NMSFA, SGSF); USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Washington Office Leaders, and Invited Partners

Attire: Business Casual

Meeting Room: Cityscape Ballroom

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided)
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Meeting Welcome and Agenda Preview <i>Mary Farnsworth (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and David Smith (HI, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
8:15 - 10:00 a.m.	Work Session: Improving Fuels Reporting Metrics and Outcomes <i>Brian Ferebee (USFS), George Geissler (WA), Patrick Wright (CA Wildfire & Resilience Task Force), Aaron Kimple (SWERI), and Keith Smith (NIFC/NASF)</i> WFLC members will engage in a structured and focused conversation regarding fuels reporting to highlight challenges related to data interoperability between states and the Forest Service, which can impede clear accomplishment tracking.
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Work Session: Improving Fuels Reporting Metrics and Outcomes WFLC members will continue the fuel reporting conversation with a discussion on tracking and reporting accomplishments across boundaries, and a leadership commitment to collaborative efforts aimed at ensuring mutual accountability towards shared goals.
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Work Session Reflections and Next Steps <i>Mary Farnsworth (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and David Smith (HI, WFLC Co-Lead)</i> Meeting attendees will share reflections and feedback on the work session addition to the WFLC 2024 Spring Meeting, as well as discuss potential next steps. Did attendees find value in this new work session format, what went well, lessons learned, and topic ideas for future sessions?
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Break



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3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Western Forest Service and State Partner Discussions Break-out groups of USDA Forest Service and state personnel from each Western USDA Forest Service Region (<i>States in more than one region, please select one discussion to attend; other partners – free time</i>). Questions linked to meeting topics will be shared with break-out groups as an optional element to guide conversations.
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Meeting Wrap-up and Adjournment <i>Mary Farnsworth (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and David Smith (HI, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>