



CWSF Western State Fire Managers Committee 2022 Report and 2023 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

WSFM LEADERSHIP

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2023 includes:

- John Truett (Arizona), Chair
- Vaughn Jones (Colorado), Vice Chair
- Norm McDonald (Alaska), Past Chair
- TBD - Secretary
- Jamie Barnes (Utah), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2022 included:

- Norm McDonald (Alaska), Chair
- John Truett (Arizona), Vice Chair
- Vacant, Past Chair
- Vaughn Jones (Colorado), Secretary
- Sonya Germann (MT)/ Jamie Barnes (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

Committee/Network Mission Statement and Purpose:

Mission: To unify the perspective of 17 Western States and 6 pacific islands on wildfire management; to promote effective rural fire protection; and to stimulate and improve efficiency in the fire protection and management of State and private wildlands in the western United States. To this end, the Council of Western State Foresters established a working group known as the Western State Fire Managers' Committee.

Purpose:

1. To serve as a specialist staff group for the CWSF to collect information, to provide detailed analysis, and to make recommendations on fire issues.
2. To aid in merging regional viewpoints, focusing attention, and reaching consensus on recommending a Western approach on fire management issues to the CWSF.
3. To serve as a sounding board for the CWSF on fire-related issues concerning the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG), National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Committees, Federal agencies and cooperators.
4. To provide a western state perspective on issues such as: needs for fire management, fire equipment development, policy development, fire research, use of inmate crews, training and qualifications, and aviation resources.
5. To provide opportunity for increased interaction and effectiveness among Western Fire Managers, the Southern Fire Chiefs, and the Northeast Fire Supervisors.

6. Assign western state representatives to NWCG working teams in coordination with the CWSF.
 7. Provide a forum for other fire-related organizations to disseminate fire information and ideas to the Western state fire organizations.
 8. Conduct Western State Fire Assistance Wildland Urban Interface Competitive Grant funding recommendation process.
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2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2022

- Coordination of Representation on NWCG committees.
- Identification of issues on the horizon:
 - Type II contracting issues this past spring
- Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to discuss contracting Type II issues for the 2023 fire season.
 - Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Western State Fire Managers 2023 Work Plan.
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2023 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2023

- WFSM Meeting (In-person, combined with CMS on January 12 & 13, albuquerque, NM; Virtual -2/16/23)
 - Helps the CWSF fulfill Goals 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 70% predicted attendance.
- WUI Grant Meeting Denver, January 23 & 24, 2023
 - Helps the CWSF fulfill Goals 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 80% predicted attendance.

METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

- Monthly Thursday calls at 10:00 MT.
- Emails to update membership of relevant fire issues communicated from NMAC or NWCG.
- Emails requesting state resources (Leadership for Guard Crews, etc.)

PRIORITIES FROM CWSF MEMBERSHIP

- Implementation and implications of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA);
- USDA Forest Service Shared Stewardship & 10-year Wildfire Crisis strategies (state forestry & USDA Forest Service joint prioritization and decision-making); and
- State forestry agency operations and workforce challenges.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2023

- Engage with other regional fire manager groups on key issues
- Continue to assist IROC implementation
- Continue to provide insight and information relevant to CWSF and the policy team
- Produce western-perspective white papers on national and regional fire issues
- Support the Western State Fire Business Manager subcommittee in the development of a white paper concerning consistency issues from region to region/specific FEMA regional Reps when handling FMAG documentation requirement, and then send up thorough WSFM for consideration by the full CWSF membership to move forward to the National Policy Team/Wildfire Commission
- Develop a white paper concerning aircraft carding issues
- Include mental health agenda item for regular meetings on a quarterly basis
- Include request for FEMA issue reporting at regular meetings