Across the Western U.S. and Pacific islands, forest health is deteriorating. The problems are complex and multifaceted and have significant impacts across large-scale forested landscapes.

Many forest stands are overly dense and therefore competing for water and nutrients. Human development continues to encroach on these landscapes resulting in parcelization and forest fragmentation. There is an increasing frequency of catastrophic wildfire, invasive species spread and large-scale insect and disease impacts.

Coupled with climate variability and drought, urban and rural forests across the Western landscape are in critical need of intentional management and restoration treatments.

CWSF supports sound policies, effective management strategies, and collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries that focuses on improving the health and resiliency of Western and Pacific island forests.

CWSF and its members coordinate efforts across arbitrary jurisdictional boundaries in order to mitigate the complex threats to natural resources, support forest sector infrastructure, and maintain other benefits provided by healthy forests.

Challenges to addressing and overcoming forest health decline include:

- Reductions in timber supply, diminishing viable wood products market
- Threats from wildfire, insects, disease, and invasive species
- Uncertainty about the future of carbon markets and biomass utilization
- Generational turnover among non-industrial private forest landowners
- Funding cuts for natural resources programs at all levels
- Unnatural wildfire fuels conditions due to suppression efforts, lack of management

Across the West, approximately 242 million acres of forestlands are within public ownership and 104 million acres are owned privately\(^1\). These issues, and the nexus of public, private and state lands in the Western U.S. makes the cross-boundary, collaborative work of CWSF critical.