

RFP: The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S. Expansion

BACKGROUND

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a 501(c)(3) membership association that is seeking to expand upon *The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S.* report originally published in 2009 and updated in 2010. The report is available [here](#).

This RFP is meant for contractors that are skilled in research on wildfire, economics, and have understanding of related national and western policies and operations.

Established in 1967, CWSF is a nonpartisan organization of state, territorial, and commonwealth foresters of the western United States and Pacific Islands. State Foresters are charged with providing forest management assistance to landowners, managing state trust lands, and supplying wildfire and forest health protection services. CWSF staff and members participate in the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) with western members of the U.S. Forest Service leadership.

PROJECT OVERVIEW and STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CWSF is seeking proposals from qualified parties to analyze and synthesize the full range of human, ecosystem, and economic costs associated with wildfire. The WFLC *True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S.* report was well received and is still often quoted in regional and national media outlets a decade after its publication. The second iteration of this report should add to the regional and national dialogue on wildfire by expanding upon the work of the first to include costs that were not quantitatively evaluated in the initial report, a new cost methodology for policy and decision makers, and case studies representative of the CWSF membership (see Appendix A). The report should bring new understanding to the concept of valuation as it applies to wildfire. CWSF is a trusted and credible source of expertise on western forestry issues, and this report should reflect CWSF's commitment to research and data-driven decision-making.

SCOPE OF WORK

A full accounting of the true cost of wildfire in the western U.S. considers long-term and complex costs, including impacts to watersheds, ecosystems, infrastructure, businesses, individuals, and the local and national economy. Specifically, these costs include property losses (insured and uninsured); post-fire environmental incidents (such as flooding, erosion, and soil loss); ecosystem services changes (such as to air and water); long-term healthcare costs (such as from injuries, illnesses, and fatalities); lost revenues (including from residents evacuated by the fire, from losses experienced by tourism, timber, and other businesses, and from any other revenue stream impacted), infrastructure shutdowns (such as highways, airports, and railroads), and more.

The report should provide a full, quantitative accounting using the most recent methodologies available to estimate human, ecosystem, and economic costs, both short and long-term. It should be built on the most recent publications, research, spatial data, and other related works. The resulting report should identify patterns that could be helpful in future budgeting and planning processes. This may include a literature review and/or other elements. At minimum, the report should identify the full spectrum of costs linked to wildland fire and develop a methodology for accounting for them. The methodology should cover wildfire costs in different locations with different ecosystems and values as well as account

Council of Western State Foresters
The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S. Expansion
Request for Proposals

for impacts to smaller communities. Like the first report, this expansion should also highlight specific examples of recent wildfire occurrences with information on the total costs associated with each in the form of case studies.

Upon completion of the Scope of Work, CWSF will produce the products for external consumption including design, printing, and outreach.

DELIVERABLES

The end result of this project will be a report that fully details the true costs of wildfire in the western U.S. and a webinar to be presented to CWSF members in November of 2021. The report should be a thorough and serious analysis that offers a new way to measure the true costs of wildfire in addition to case studies. It is intended to be a tool for policymakers that helps shift academic research into the policy space and should be of a reasonable length and readability for this purpose. It may be accompanied by validating information. WFLC will publish and promote the report, which should include recommendations for addressing the impacts of the full range of costs associated with wildfire.

Information may be expressed in text, tables, and graphics to convey material for maximum impact and ease of interpretation. Methodology must be described and all non-proprietary data sources must be provided in footnotes.

Upon completion of the project, CWSF will own the rights to the final report. The contractor is authorized to use the data for purposes beyond the scope of work with CWSF. The report will be branded as a CWSF product, but the contractor will retain authorship.

CWSF will be engaged in the development of these deliverables by facilitating the process and providing advice. The contractor will be responsible for data and content development.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The final product will be submitted as a report no later than November 11, 2021. All work products and deliverables will become the sole property of CWSF.

BUDGET

There is no set award for completing the project. Please provide your best estimate needed to accomplish the goals outlined in the scope of work. Furnished equipment including computer and workspace will not be provided by CWSF and are expected to be provided by the selected bidder.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND TIMELINE

Bids for the contract award of this project will be evaluated by responsiveness to the RFP, inclusivity of CWSF member states and entities (Appendix A), proposed outcomes, and total cost. All bid submissions must include a certification statement that the bidder is not presently suspended or debarred from conducting business with the Federal government.

Bids should be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time on March 12, 2021 in writing to Kelsey Cruickshank by email or hard copy. Contact details are provided below:

Email: kcruickshank@westernforesters.org

Hard copy (by mail): 2255 Sheridan Blvd., Suite C-327, Edgewater, CO 80214.

Council of Western State Foresters
The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S. Expansion
Request for Proposals

The winning bidder will be notified by March 29, 2021. Selected bidder will be required to provide proof of liability insurance and eligibility to work.

POINT OF CONTACT

For questions regarding project scope, deliverables, bid process, award and contracting, contact:

Kelsey Cruickshank
Associate Communications and Operations Director
Council of Western State Foresters
kcruickshank@westernforesters.org
720-795-7173

Appendix A: CWSF Region, Member States, and Entities

