



**CWSF WESTERN STATE FIRE MANAGERS COMMITTEE
2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Plan**

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2023 included:

- John Truett (AZ), Chair
- Vaughn Jones (CO), Vice Chair
- Norm McDonald (AK), Past Chair
- Josh Harvey (ID) - Secretary
- Jamie Barnes (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2024 includes:

- Vaughn Jones (CO), Chair
- Josh Harvey (ID), Vice Chair
- John Truett (AZ), Past Chair
- TBD, Secretary
- Jamie Barnes (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Halie Miyazawa, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

Mission: To unify the perspective of 17 Western States and six 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 (CWSF) established a working group known as the Western State Fire Managers' (WSFM) 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 a 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 (WUI) Competitive Grant funding recommendation process.
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2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2023

- Coordination of Representation on NWCG committees.
- Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants.
- Developed a Director of Wildland Fire Position Description.
- Held an in-person annual meeting in conjunction with Chiefs, Managers, & Supervisors (CMS), and a virtual annual meeting portion.
- Participated in the development and rollout of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG); providing input on CWDG process to improve implementation.
- Provided input concerning the slip-on tanker program.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation to approve and hire a new CWSF position of Director of Wildland Fire.
 - Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Western State Fire Managers 2024 Work Plan.
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2024 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2024

- WFSM Meeting (in-person, combined with CMS) and additional meeting with Western State Fire Business Manager (WSBM) (in-person, location TBD)
 - Helps CWSF fulfill Goals 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 70% predicted attendance.
- WUI Grant Meeting Denver, CO January 17 & 18, 2024
 - Helps CWSF fulfill Goals 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 80% predicted attendance.

METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

- Monthly Thursday calls at 9:00 a.m. Mountain Time.
- Emails to update the membership of relevant fire issues communicated from the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) or NWCG.
- Emails requesting state resources (Leadership for Guard Crews, etc.)

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2024

- Engage with other regional fire manager groups on key issues.
- Continue to assist Interagency Resource Ordering and Capability (IROC) implementation.
- Continue to provide insight and information relevant to CWSF and the national policy team.
- Produce western-perspective white papers on national and regional fire issues.
- Support the WSBM subcommittee in the development of a white paper concerning consistency issues from

region to region/specific FEMA regional reps when handling Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) documentation requirements, and then send up for consideration by the full CWSF membership to move forward to the National Policy Team/Wildfire Commission.

- Identify recommendations and next steps concerning state aviation resources.
 - Develop and provide shared tools and resources, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams and shared training opportunities, across the western states through the mental health and wellness subcommittee.
 - Create a streamlined resource-sharing process between states, including workforce development and training.
 - Explore how the committee can support state to state agreements and compact to compact solutions for greater resource coordination through discussions with WSBM.
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