



## CWSF FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM/LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Work Plan

### LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

#### COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Forest Stewardship Program/Landowner Assistance Committee leadership team for 2024 included:

- Stew McMorrow (CA), Chair
- Jonathan Sloan (WY), Vice-Chair
- Vacant until 2024/2025, Past Chair
- Matt Provencher (WA), Secretary
- Kelly Norris (WY), State Forester Advisor
- Neil Simpson, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Forest Stewardship Program/Landowner Assistance Committee leadership team for 2025 includes:

- Jonathan Sloan (WY), Chair
- Matt Provencher (WA), Vice-Chair
- Stew McMorrow (CA), Past Chair
- Trevor Dobell-Carlson (AK), Secretary
- Kelly Norris (WY), State Forester Advisor
- Neil Simpson, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

#### MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

**Mission:** The Forest Stewardship Program/Landowner Assistance Committee (FSP/LOA) provides a channel for ongoing communication and collaboration between western states, the USDA Forest Service, and forestry partners. The FSP/LOA Committee creates opportunities to leverage and share resources, expand the transfer of technology, and cooperate on shared goals and initiatives, including multi-state competitive grant applications.

**Purpose:** The committee was formed with the permission and support of the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) to serve as a forum to share information, cooperate on program delivery, and advance private lands forest stewardship in the West. It provides a structure for ongoing communication between western states and between states and partners. The committee creates opportunities to leverage and share resources, expand technical transfer, and cooperate on common goals and other efforts, such as multi-state competitive grant applications.

A well-informed committee is prepared to address emerging and ongoing forest stewardship issues at the state and national levels and to serve as a source of information and support for CWSF and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). Bringing together the skills, talents, experience, and passion of western forestry professionals strengthens every state and helps them better serve the public.

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## 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2024

- Convened the committee's first in-person coordinator meeting, June 4-6, in Folsom, CA. The event was well attended by states and partners, including the USFS and NASF.
  - Four common issues among states emerged from this meeting. These topics will provide focus and enable more outcome-driven meetings.
    - Workforce Development
    - Land Use Change Complexity
    - Industry Infrastructure
    - National Reductions in Forest Stewardship Program Funding
- Identified overlap between FSP/LOA's issues of concern and other committee's interests. FSP/LOA invited the Forest Products Committee (FPC) to a meeting to give an update on the FPC's work planning a Ponderosa Pine Symposium.
  - Strengthening communication amongst committees has been identified as a 2025 work plan item (see below for further details).
- Convened bi-monthly conference calls to share information and resources, update and status checks on the work plan, and pass through information and resources from partners. Much of the focus of meetings was on the Inflation Reduction Act funding, particularly landowner cost-share funds.
  - Meetings alternate between state member-only meetings and meetings with the Forest Service and other partners, resulting in three state-only meetings and three state-plus partner meetings.
  - Meeting times were adjusted to one and a half hours to allow for additional discussion.
- Opened direct lines of communication and strengthened relationships with Forest Service Stewardship staff at Regional Offices and the Washington Office.
- Opened dialogue between states about USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) relationships and provided a venue for NASF to present on successful state-NRCS agreements and programs.
- Provided a forum for peer-to-peer interaction between committee members to build relationships, open communication lines, and share resources and training opportunities. For example, Washington State traveled to California as a separate trip to learn more about Emergency Forest Restoration Teams and to take part in the CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.
- Chair attendance at the 2023 CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Authored a CWSF newsletter article highlighting the committee and first in-person meeting.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the 2025 Work Plan.

## 2025 WORK PLAN

### MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2025

- Annual meeting, June 17-19 in Wyoming.
- Chair attendance at CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Bi-monthly meetings via remote access venue. Additional meetings focusing on specific topics may be added.

### KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2025

- Committee members will utilize quarterly Zoom calls, and ad-hoc email to encourage information sharing and collaboration on projects and grant proposals.
- Encourage and help facilitate individual site and state visits as opportunities allow.

- Establish a FSP/LOA Resource Library in Google Drive to house and share proposals, methodologies, position descriptions, and other documents for members to utilize when developing proposals or programs.
- Share information, lessons learned, develop a stronger peer network and helpful resources on forest stewardship/landowner assistance topics impacting western state forestry agencies.
- Enhance direct communication with the National Stewardship Program and coordinate with NASF.
- Provide a platform for state forestry agency staff with forest stewardship/landowner assistance responsibilities to daylight emerging issues in their states and elevate issues, as appropriate, to the CWSF membership for discussion and/or action.
- Provide a platform for state forestry agencies to share successes and opportunities with NRCS.
- Discuss issues and brainstorm impacts relative to emerging federal funding opportunities for forest stewardship and landowner assistance.
- Utilize CWSF processes and protocol to provide feedback to federal and state funders on matters of importance or impacts to state programs as a result of funding opportunities.
- Explore a Shared Stewardship Strategy across western states.
- Have regional focuses within meetings to highlight key issues, successes, etc.
- Seek opportunities to highlight state success stories utilizing communication tools such as blog posts, the FSC website, and the CWSF BIL/IRA webpage.
- Hold subject-focused meetings to educate the committee on key topics.
- Seek opportunities to strengthen coordination and communication with other committees on joint topics of interest.