



CWSF WESTERN STATE FIRE MANAGERS COMMITTEE 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2024 included:

- Vaughn Jones (CO), Chair
- Josh Harvey (ID) - Vice Chair
- Norm McDonald (AK) - Past Chair
- *Vacant - Secretary*
- Jamie Barnes (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Halie Miyazawa, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Western State Fire Managers leadership team for 2025 includes:

- Cody Griffee (SD), Chair
- Bill Waln (KS), Vice Chair
- Matt Hall (MT), Secretary
- Vaughn Jones (CO), Past Chair
- 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, provide detailed analysis, and make recommendations on fire issues.
2. To aid in merging regional viewpoints, focusing attention, and reaching a consensus on recommending a Western approach to 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's perspective on issues such as need for fire management, fire equipment development, policy development, fire research, use of inmate crews, training and qualifications, and aviation resources.
5. To provide an opportunity for increased interaction and effectiveness among the Western Fire Managers, the Southern Fire Chiefs, and the Northeast Fire Supervisors.
6. Assign Western State's representatives to NWCG committees in coordination with the CWSF.

7. Provide a forum for other fire-related organizations to disseminate fire information and ideas to the Western State's fire organizations.
 8. Conduct Western State Fire Assistance Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Competitive Grant funding recommendation process.
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2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2024

- Coordination of Representation on NWCG committees.
- Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants.
- Developed a Director of Wildland Fire Position Description and supported CWSF efforts to secure funding for the position.
- Held an in-person annual meeting in conjunction with Chiefs, Managers, & Supervisors (CMS), and hosted an annual meeting in conjunction with the Western States Business Managers (WSBM) in the Fall.
- Participated in the development and rollout of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG); providing input on the CWDG process to improve implementation.
- Provided input concerning the slip-on tanker program.
- **WUI Grant Subcommittee**
 - Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants.
 - Collected feedback for the WUI process to rework the grant guidance language and improve the process.
 - Creation of a common issues document to assist both WUI scorers and applicants
- **Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee**
 - Formulation of mission and vision statements while holding regular leadership and larger group meetings
 - Creation of the Western State Fire Managers Health and Wellness Subcommittee website to provide tools and exchange program information between states
 - Held regular leadership and larger group meetings
- **Western State Fire Business Managers (WSBM) Subcommittee**
 - Held monthly meetings and one annual joint meeting with the Western State Fire Managers
 - Gathered information and resources from western states about FEMA processes, challenges, and successes to further the discussion about the possibility of a white paper or briefing paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Western State Fire Managers' 2025 Work Plan.
 - Recommendation for State Foresters to support WSFM in establishing two additional subcommittees and supporting staff participation on the subcommittees.
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2025 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2025

- WUI Grant Meeting (Omaha, Nebraska) - December 10 - 11, 2024
- CMS Meeting (Fort MacDowell, AZ) - January 14 - 16, 2025
- WSFM Meeting (in-person) with WSBM (TBD, Nevada) - October 7 - 9, 2025

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2025

- Method of Communications
 - 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) and NWCG.
 - Emails requesting state resources (i.e leadership for National Guard hand crews; and overhead, ground, and aviation resources shared via Compacts and State-State agreements)
 - Provide potential topics for breakout discussions at CMS. Ensure Western representation and engagement throughout the CMS meeting and identify follow-up items for action and topics for further discussion.
 - Engage on key issues with the Southern Group's Fire Chiefs and the Northeast-Midwest State's Fire Supervisors.
 - Continue Fire Coordination calls (at higher Preparedness Levels) based on the success of the 2024 Fire Coordination calls (facilitated by NASF's Greg Smith) that also involved the other regions
 - Continue to assist Interagency Resource Ordering and Capability (IROC) implementation with a focus on Compacts.
 - 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 briefing paper concerning process consistency issues from region to region/specific FEMA regional reps when handling Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) documentation requirements. Send for CWSF approval of potential actionable next steps.
 - Identify recommendations and next steps concerning state aviation resources, including exploring the potential need for an aviation subcommittee to ensure a strong and unified Western voice in these discussions.
 - Explore how the committee can support state-to-state agreements and compact-to-compact solutions for greater resource sharing and coordination through discussions with WSBM.
 - CIMT AAR: Coordinate Western representation/feedback process to contribute the Western perspective in the future
 - Establish a Wildfire Resiliency (WUI Code) Subcommittee to share resources among Western states' subject matter experts tackling these issues.
 - Establish a Training and Workforce Development Subcommittee and task the group with creating a streamlined resource-sharing process between states, leveraging state resources to provide priority training, and facilitating intra-state training opportunities.
 - **WUI**
 - Completion and Solicitation of WUI Grants.
 - Provide the WUI ranked list to the Washington Office
 - **Mental Health and Wellness**
 - Virtual 1/2 day training to share resources
 - Hospital family liaison support
 - Continue to 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 webpage and event calendar.
 - **WSBM**
 - Have monthly virtual meetings
 - One annual in-person meeting with WSBM
 - Continue to compile and organize information and resources about state processes for comparison and potential briefing paper
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