



2026 [WFLC](#) & [CWSF](#) Spring Meeting

May 12-14, 2026 | Lied Lodge at Arbor Day Farm | Nebraska City, NE

Tuesday, May 12 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting	
Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and senior staff; State Forester associations' staff and representatives (CWSF and NASF)	
Attire: Business Casual	
Room: Rosenow C & D	
7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided, Rosenow A & B) All Attendees
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	WFLC Meeting Commencement and Introductions <i>Jacque Buchanan (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and Kelly Norris (WY, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Arbor Day Welcome <i>Dan Lambe (Arbor Day Foundation) and Eric North (Arbor Day Foundation)</i> Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, Dan Lambe, will welcome attendees to the Lied Lodge at Arbor Day Farms, offering context and grounding everyone in the local landscape. The 50th anniversary of Tree City USA provides a timely opportunity to highlight the value of community forestry and collaborative partnerships across the West.
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	Forestry and Trees of Nebraska <i>John Erixson (NE, CWSF Past Chair) and Justin Evertson (Nebraska Forest Service)</i> Nebraska State Forester John Erixson will provide opening remarks on the history and stewardship that shape the state's landscape, communities, and forestry. NFS Green Infrastructure Coordinator Justin Evertson will then introduce the variety of tree species that make up Nebraska's landscape.
10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors (Steinhart C & D)
10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	Shared Stewardship 2.0 Implementation Across the West In light of more Western states signing updated/new Shared Stewardship agreements, this session will explore how partners can move from agreements into effective, on-the-ground implementation. Participants will discuss strategies for aligning priorities, coordinating efforts, and sustaining collaboration to achieve shared goals. The session will also address common implementation challenges and highlight practical approaches for working through them successfully.



11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<p>Planning and Outcome-Based Performance Measures</p> <p>Building on previous membership discussions, this session will discuss the Outcome-Based Performance Metrics effort in high-risk landscapes across the West. Participants will better understand the latest information on these metrics and how they are applied, and will discuss potential opportunities to adapt and scale this approach to support state-level planning, evaluation, and decision-making.</p>
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch (Provided, Rosenow A & B)</p> <p>All Attendees</p>
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	<p>Wildfire Data Initiatives Presentation</p> <p><i>Aaron Kimple (SWERI), Keith Smith (NASF), and LandFire Contact TBC</i></p> <p>Attendees will receive an overview and update on the Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase (TWIG) and the Grant Accomplishments Reporting Portal (GARP) to better understand these data initiatives and how they support work across ownerships.</p>
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	<p>Emerging Topic Discussion</p> <p>Details Forthcoming</p>
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Break with Exhibitors (Steinhart C & D)</p>
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.	<p>Western Forest Service and State Partner Discussions</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Jacque Buchanan (R5, R6, and R10), Michiko Martin (R3 and R4), and Troy Heithecker (R1 and R2), with updates provided by State, Private, and Tribal Directors Chad Davis, Ali San Gil, and Danny McBride</i></p> <p>Break-out groups of USDA Forest Service and state personnel to discuss priorities and needs within their sub-region of the West, and identify potential solutions and action items to further collective prioritization, planning, and program delivery.</p>
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Wrap-up and Day's Adjournment</p>
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	<p>Reception (Woodland Grove on Arbor Day Farm property)</p> <p>All Attendees</p>
Evening	<p>Dinner on your own</p>



Wednesday, May 13 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting	
<p>Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and senior staff, USDA Forest Service WFLC members and Washington Office leaders, and invited partners</p> <p>Attire: Field Tour Attire</p> <p>Room: Rosenow C & D</p>	
7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	<p>Breakfast (Provided, Rosenow A & B) All Attendees</p>
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	<p>Welcome <i>Jacque Buchanan (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and Kelly Norris (WY, WFLC Co-Lead)</i></p>
8:15 - 9:20 a.m.	<p>Policy Update <i>Neil Simpson</i></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of key federal forestry policy developments and emerging issues impacting the forestry sector. The briefing will be followed by time for discussion and questions.</p>
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.	<p>WFLC Meeting Wrap-up and Field Tour Instructions <i>Jacque Buchanan (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and Kelly Norris (WY, WFLC Co-Lead)</i></p>
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	<p>Break with Exhibitors (Steinhart C & D)</p>
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	<p>Guided Walking Tour Arbor Lodge: Trees, Stewardship, and the Living Landscape <i>Mark Canney (Director of Horticulture and Landscape, Arbor Day Farm) and Ben Heusinkvelt (Orchard and Grounds Manager, Arbor Day Farm)</i></p> <p>Explore the historic landscape of Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, where more than 150 years of tree planting, design, and stewardship have shaped one of the earliest private arboretums on the Great Plains. This guided tour highlights the legacy of J. Sterling Morton and the origins of Arbor Day, while showcasing champion trees, diverse plantings, and modern approaches to landscape care, restoration, and long-term forest stewardship.</p>
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	<p>Lunch (Provided, Location TBD) All Attendees</p> <p><i>Note that the guided tour will conclude with lunch at Porter's Barbecue (tentative) on Arbor Day Farm property.</i></p>
12:45 - 1:00 p.m.	<p>Board Vans and Depart for Field Tour from Lunch Location</p>



1:00 - 5:30 p.m.	<p>Trees, Wildlife, and Stewardship: A Nebraska Field Tour Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium <i>Dakota Wagner (Browse Program Supervisor, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium)</i></p> <p>This tour highlights the innovative link between forest restoration and wildlife. Following the 2011 Missouri River flood, the Nebraska Forest Service planted thousands of native trees, including willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores, to restore the landscape. Attendees will see how a partnership with Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium uses harvested willow branches for animal enrichment, and witness firsthand how Nebraska restoration projects support both ecosystems and wildlife.</p> <p>Horning State Farm Demonstration Forest <i>Aaron Clare (Conservation Forester, Nebraska Forest Service) and Jay Seaton (Forester, Nebraska Forest Service)</i></p> <p>Horning State Farm is a living laboratory where forest management, conservation education, and ecological research come together. Field tour attendees will have the opportunity to explore a working forest landscape, examine innovative management practices, and discuss how similar approaches might translate to their own states.</p>
5:30 p.m.	Return to Lied Lodge
Evening	Dinner on your own



<p>Thursday, May 14 Council of Western State Foresters Meeting and separate Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting</p> <p>Attire: Business Casual</p>		
7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	<p>Breakfast (Provided, Rosenow A & B) All Attendees</p>	
	<p>CWSF Meeting <i>Room: Rosenow C & D</i></p> <p>Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and senior staff; State Forester associations' staff and representatives (CWSF and NASF); and invited partners</p>	<p>Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting <i>Room: Steinhart B</i></p> <p>Attendees: USDA Forest Service WFLC members and Washington Office leaders</p>
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	<p>Morning Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>Kelly Norris (WY, CWSF Chair)</i></p>	USDA Forest Service business/meeting with WFLC Executive Director
8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	<p><u>Ponderosa Pine Utilization Summit: Outcomes and Actions</u> <i>Kim Slezak (NE, CWSF Forest Products Committee Chair)</i> Attendees will be provided a brief overview of the <u>Ponderosa Pine Action Plan</u>, discuss planned next steps, and identify collaborative opportunities to move these recommendations forward by both members and partners.</p>	
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<p>Post-Disaster Funding <i>Aaron Lumley and SPTF Directors (TBC)</i> Participants will receive an overview of current post-disaster programs and processes, followed by a discussion on state-level needs, with the goal of identifying opportunities to improve coordination and better align available resources and those needs.</p>	
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	<p>Break (Steinhart C & D) All Attendees</p>	



10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Business Session (State Foresters Only) CWSF members and staff to discuss member business. Several session items will require formal approval by a vote of the membership.	
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided, Rosenow A & B) All Attendees	
1:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Business Session Continued	USDA Forest Service business (end early for travel or other meetings)
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Meeting Adjournment <i>Kelly Norris (WY, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF/WFLC)</i>	
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Meeting Follow-Ups and Networking (Steinhart C & D) All Attendees	

DRAFT