



## CWSF FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM/LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Plan

### LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

#### COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Forest Stewardship Program/Landowner Assistance Committee leadership team beginning at inception late in 2023 and continuing for 2024 includes:

- Stew McMorrow (CA), Chair
- Jed Arnold (NV), Vice-Chair
- Vacant until 2024/2025, Past Chair
- Jonathan Sloan (WY), 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 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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### 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2023

- The FSP/LOA Committee was formed in late 2023. In 2023, the committee developed a charter and 2024 work plan, and the Chair will attend the 2023 CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the 2024 Work Plan.
- Approval of name change to Private Forest Landowner Assistance Committee (PFLAC).

## 2024 WORK PLAN

### MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2024

- Annual meeting, Option 1: April 30-May 2, and Option 2: June 2-4 in CA.
  - This would be the first in-person meeting for the FSP/LOA committee and would allow for networking, information sharing, and field tours identifying best practices for forest stewardship and landowner assistance projects. Expected attendance will be 75% of FSP/LOA membership.
  - Linkage to CWSF strategic plan – Goal 1: CWSF creates an inclusive, member centered environment to facilitate meaningful engagement and learning among members.
    - Strategy 1: Facilitate dialogue, networking, and learning among western State Foresters as well as state agency staff and other forestry stakeholders.
    - Strategy 2: Manage the functioning of CWSF committees and networks according to clear and consistent guidelines.
  - Linkage to CWSF strategic plan – Goal 3: CWSF strengthens the prominence of western forestry principles through establishment and maintenance of strong and collaborative partnerships.
    - Strategy 2: Provide opportunities for networking, dialogue, knowledge sharing, and learning among CWSF members and partners.
    - Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with the National Association of State Foresters, the Northeast Midwest State Foresters Alliance, and the Southern Group of State Foresters.
  - Linkage to CWSF State Forester Priorities – Speakers and dialogue will focus on strategies for achieving defined outcomes to meet national and state goals using effective, accurate, modern techniques. Members will share knowledge and resources on best practices, novel programs, and solicit information requests to most effectively implement programs with measurable outcomes (supported by Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, state and other funding sources)
- Chair attendance at CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Quarterly meetings via remote access venue.

### METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

- Committee members utilize quarterly Zoom calls, and ad-hoc email to encourage information sharing and collaboration on projects and grant proposals.
- The committee uses a Google Drive to store by-laws, working groups' documents, and meeting agenda/notes.

### KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2024

- Share information, lessons learned, develop a stronger peer network and helpful resources on forest stewardship/landowner assistance topics impacting Western state forestry agencies. – CWSF Strategic Plan: Goal 1, Strategy 1 & 3; Goal 3, Strategy 1 & 2
  - 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. – CWSF Strategic Plan: Goal 1, Strategy 1 & 3
- 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.