



**Western Urban and Community Forestry Network (WUCF)
2018 Fall Meeting Report-Out**

Western Urban & Community Forestry Network Leadership

2017 - 2018

Chair: Linden Lampman (WA)
Vice-Chair: Rachel Ormseth (SD)
Secretary: N/A
Immediate Past Chair: Keith Wood (CO)
State Forester Liaison: Larry Kotchman (ND)

2018 - 2019

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Vice-Chair: Heather McMillen (HI)
Secretary: N/A
Immediate Past Chair: Linden Lampman (WA)
State Forester Liaison: TBD

Key Accomplishments from 2017-2018

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- Planning and hosting **2018 Annual WUCF Network meeting** in Tacoma, WA
- Planning and conducting **quarterly conference calls**
- Participation in Western USFS monthly UCF calls; representing WUCFC Network Partners
- **Representation of WUCF Network at NMSFA (formerly NAASF) UCF, SGSF UCF, NASF UCF, CWSF/WFLC fall meeting**
- **Planning for 2019 Annual WUCF Network meeting** in Sioux Falls, SD, March 26-27, 2019
- Attendance and representation at the **2018 ADF Partners Conference in Irvine, CA**
- Communication is key across our vast region in the western U.S. and islands. In 2018 we invited all the USFS UCF program managers from the regions to attend our calls, and likewise we provided a State representative from the WUCF leadership team to participate on their monthly calls.

Tree City USA Growth Award Work Group:

This group was allowed to sunset since Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award development is in hiatus.

Resource, Information and Technology Transfer Work Group:

Lead: Jennifer Dann (NM)

Key Accomplishments:

- Green Infrastructure:
 - The Green Stormwater Infrastructure deep dive team for arid/semi-arid climates was led by [Alicia San Gil](#), USFS Region 3 UCF program manager.
 - Members of the deep dive team exhibited at the EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference and participated in a panel discussion, helping to make the connection between the urban forestry and stormwater management.
 - WUCF members are currently testing and providing feedback on the reporting process for the newly proposed stormwater performance measure. Three members of the WUCF group participated in the pilot program to develop the performance measure.

- Tree Assessments:
 - The results of the 2017 survey on the effectiveness and use of urban forest assessment assessments/tools in the west were summarized and presented at the Spring 2018 WUCF meeting. The primary take-aways were:
 - Agreement that a good working knowledge of GIS and data analysis is a necessary skill set for state UCF program managers. Because not everyone has exposure to projects or the necessary training and are struggling to initiate assessments, the working group is developing a decision support tool for initiating and contracting urban forest assessments to support members.
 - Community-level assessments have been helpful and are used in various ways across the west, but can be time consuming and challenging to translate into actual management change.
 - WUCF members are concerned about the accuracy and applicability of the Urban FIA and other sample data set analysis approaches to rural states and diverse and unique western environments.
 - Canopy-level assessments have been extremely informative, and there is interest in seeing more work in this area and higher resolution canopy data available.
 - Five of the WUCF states are participating in the USFS-funded Portland State University [“Canopy Continuum”](#) research study that is exploring the links between environmental quality, human health, and tree canopy and sharing information with the WUCF network.
- [UF Connections series of webinars](#) were promoted and well attended by the western UCF network. Coordinators were encouraged to provide input for topics and speakers.
 - The WUCF network welcomed several new state coordinators this year. Each new coordinator was formally welcomed by the chair, assigned an experienced coordinator as a mentor, and sent the New Coordinator’s Manual.
 - The USFS Regional program managers are keeping the network updated on the national Urban Technology and Science Delivery Team and continued development of a “Denver Urban Field Station” research center that serves and increases the capacity of the urban and community forestry interests of the semi-arid west.
 - The WUCF network discussed research needs on the July 2018 conference call. Common needs identified included: adaptable and resilient tree species; tree water use; urban forest pests and diseases; health and socioeconomic benefits of trees; and, pollen and pollinator concerns.
 - The network continued cross-state collaboration and sharing on local/state/regional tree care conferences, such as the Northern Rockies Tree School (MT/WY) and the Trees, People and Towns Conference (WY, CO, SD, NE, KS), the Washington state Regional Seminar series, the Oregon Community Trees Annual Conference, etc.

Marketing and Communications Working Group

This effort is led by Sara Goodwin (WFLC) in coordination with the current WUCF Linden Lampman (WA)

Key Accomplishments:

- WFLC staff (Sara Goodwin) compiled notes and presentations from the “Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities” coordinator reports by states during the March 2018 WUCF meeting in Tacoma, then created and distributed “Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities” publication.
- Engaged in a more robust #healthytreeshealthylives social media campaign to communicate contributions of healthy trees to human and community health. Originally initiated by the Southern Group of UCF Coordinators, WUCF expanded the project to the western states. Monthly, a state volunteer writes a blog post, which is posted to the WFLC website. The URL is shared back to the state to share on social media. Sara developed a template to guide state communication staff to share blogs posted to the WFLC website via other social media options. Committee members assist in crafting social media content (pre-written twitter messages and paragraphs to post to other social media sites) to share with the network and assist each state in calling attention to the article through their respective communication outlets.

The campaign was piloted in CO, WA, and SD in the spring then continued with posts from New Mexico, Oregon, Hawaii, North Dakota, Arizona, Nebraska, and Kansas.

- WUCF members provided items of interest to CWSF/WFLC and NASF to be included on their social media feeds and in monthly newsletters.
- CWSF/WFLC continued and enhanced a shared drive accessible to all members.
- The University of Nebraska continued to provide an email list serve for all members to communicate efficiently and effectively.

Emerging Issues and Priorities

- Annual in-person meeting for the Western UCF Network is scheduled for March 26-27, 2019 in Sioux Falls, SD to formalize 2019 work plan and work groups.
- WUCF Network representation at NMSFA (formerly NAASF) UCF, SGSF UCF, NASF UCF Committee and CWSF/WFLC meetings to provide a more coordinated national approach to the UCF program
- Quarterly conference calls for the network have been scheduled for January 10, April 11, July 11, and October 10, 2019 to stay connected with national, regional and west-wide programs, priorities and events, and to update and stay on task with annual work plan and work group activities.
- Proposed Work Groups for 2019:
 - Resource, Information, and Technology Transfer Work Group
 - Continue focus on urban tree assessments occurring in the western states and look into west-wide assessment tool
 - Provision/awareness of appropriate training/educational opportunities
 - Welcome new coordinators to the network, complete new coordinator's manual, and provide mentoring opportunities
 - Involvement as appropriate with Denver Urban Field Research Station development
 - Tree City USA Work Group
 - Assess role of advisory partnership with ADF in support of ongoing and emerging programs
 - Marketing and Communications Work Group
 - Distribution of 'Beyond the Zone' publication highlighting western state projects from 2017
 - Additional publication highlighting theme of 2018 WUCF meeting
 - Develop monthly #HealthyTreesHealthyLives social media campaign
 - WUCF leadership organization
 - Continue seamless transition of leadership roles on statewide rotation

Recommendations for Action by State Foresters

- The WFLC/CWSF endorsed the following Task Force recommendations in 2014, which the WUCF has effectively made progress towards achieving:
 - Strengthen western engagement in UCF policy and management.
 - Wisely invest state and federal resources for effective and efficient west-wide delivery of UCF.
 - Address emerging western UCF issues by providing technology transfer and coordinating across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Continue stressing the importance and value of participation in the UCF program.
- Communicate with UCF staff about the new Green Stormwater performance reporting to gauge the success of measures and monitor impacts.
- Continue advocacy at the federal level in support of funding for all State and Private Forestry programs, including Urban and Community Forestry.
- Approve the 2019 Western UCF Work Plan and Budget.