



Western Urban and Community Forestry (WUCF) Committee 2022 Report and 2023 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

WUCF COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The WUCF leadership team for 2023 includes:

- Cayenne Engel (NV), Chair
- Walter Passmore (CA), Vice Chair
- Alyssa O'Brien (NM), Secretary
- Heather McMillen (HI), Past Chair
- Thomas Claeys (North Dakota), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The WUCF team for 2022 transitioned mid-year due to Chair departure, and included:

- Tara Costanzo (Wyoming)/Cayenne Engel (NV), Chair
- Cayenne Engel (Nevada)/Walter Passmore, Vice Chair
- Walter Passmore (CA)/Alyssa O'Brien (NM), Secretary
- Michael Beaudoin (Idaho)/Heather McMillen (HI), Past Chair
- Thomas Claeys (North Dakota), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

Committee Mission Statement and Purpose:

Mission: The WUCF Committee provides a channel for ongoing communication and collaboration between western states, the USDA Forest Service, and forestry partners. The WUCF 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 to serve as a forum to share information, cooperate on program delivery, and advance urban and community forestry 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 UCF issues at the state and national levels and to serve as a source of information and support for the CWSF and NASF. Bringing together the skills, talents, experience, and passion of Western UCF professionals strengthens every state and helps them better serve the public.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2022

- Convened annual coordinator meeting (March 1-2, 2022 - virtual). At the meeting we re-visited the need and function of the various subcommittees, and found little interest in maintaining the marketing and outreach specialized group, so we decided to shift focus in favor of a more comprehensive tech-transfer subcommittee. Another discussion topic was how to link reporting to outcomes that we value. Many great presentations from members on effective and novel programs throughout the meeting
- Convened four quarterly conference calls to share information and resources, update and status checks on the workplan and pass through information and resources from the work groups.
- WUCF representatives attended the SGSF, NMSFA, NASF UCF committee meetings, and in-person/virtual Partners in Community Forestry Conference
- Western State Stories highlighting community forestry resilience were submitted for the CWSF UCF publication, to be finalized and published in 2023.
- Three Guest Blog Posts were submitted and highlighted in the CWSF newsletter
- Participated in National CARS committee work sessions. The CARS committee responds to questions submitted through a webform about process and function, and is giving feedback to coordinators on how to guide communities through the ordinance updates requested by the Arbor Day Foundation
- Subcommittee outcomes:
 - Resource, Information, and Technology Transfer Work Group
 - Continued new mentoring program for new coordinators and assign mentors through identifying an experienced mentor to serve as a “go-to” for each new coordinator and provide resources including the coordinator’s manual
 - Partnered with USFS Denver Urban Field Station staff (Travis Warziniack) to serve as a USFS liaison to connect the committee to up-to-date USFS research and resources
 - Initiated updating the methods and organization for delivery of technical resources to WUCF members
 - Addressed desire to improve awareness and information sharing of appropriate technical resources for promoting equity/inclusion in UCF
 - Attended Urban Field Station Webinars and USFS urban field station regional meetings
 - Tree City USA Work Group
 - Continue advisory partnership with Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) in support of the ADF programs.
 - WUCF representative met monthly with ADF for the first half of 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the 2023 WUCF Committee Work Plan.
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2023 WORK PLAN PROPOSAL

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2023

- List the date(s) and location(s) for all planned meetings (in-person or virtual) and conference calls.
 - SGSF UCF Committee Annual Meeting (1/31 - 2/2/2023, Baton Rouge) and NMSFA UCF Committee Annual Meeting (May 2023, Annapolis)
 - One member from the WUCF Committee Leadership team will attend to provide the group an

- update on WUCF Committee accomplishments and initiatives, and hear how state UCF Coordinators in other regions implement the UCF program
- WUCF UCF Committee Annual Coordinator’s Meeting- Las Vegas, Nevada - April 11 - 13, 2023
 - 80% (25 members) of the Committee will attend this meeting in-person to provide opportunities for networking dialogue, knowledge sharing, and learning among state and federal UCF program managers
- WUCF UCF Quarterly Conference Calls-
- 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 Committees 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: CWSF strengthens the prominence of western forestry priorities through establishment and maintenance of strong and collaborative partnerships. - 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 CPG, IRA, state and other funding sources)

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

PRIORITIES FROM CWSF MEMBERSHIP

- Implementation and implications of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- USDA Forest Service Shared Stewardship & 10-year Wildfire Crisis strategies (state forestry & USDA Forest Service joint prioritization and decision-making)
- State forestry agency operations and workforce challenges.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2023

- Urban and Community Forestry publication with CWSF with the theme of “resilience”, publication date scheduled for March 2023
- Begin development of future UCF publication, with focus on IRA funded projects from all members, for Spring 2024 completion
- Initiate development of a CWSF/WFLC WUCF strategic plan, with content specific to the western states. WUCF members will provide input and feedback at the annual and quarterly meetings and as requested. The plan will be informative rather than prescriptive, and will identify alignment and strategies for western states as well as inform CWSF of relevant state interests. The intent is for a “living” document that will be updated annually

(Implementation and implications of the BIL and IRA & State forestry agency operations)

- Develop and populate a shareable and accessible spreadsheet with program and project ideas and examples (Implementation and implications of the BIL and IRA)
- Continued implementation of WUCF internal mentoring program, providing startup resources and mentor assignments to new members (supports Western State Foresters priority of State Forestry Agency operations and workforce challenges)
- In-Person annual meeting to include sessions that assist state UCF Coordinators with BIL/IRA funding, State UCF Operations, state-to-state dialog, and Federal-State collaboration and communication (Implementation and implications of the BIL and IRA & State forestry agency operations)
- WUCF members will attend the Partners in Community Forestry conference in 2023, and participate in the associated annual state-federal coordinators meeting
- Schedule meetings so that Pacific Island members may attend