



**WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION**

WFLC WESTERN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE

2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

2025 Leadership Team	2026 Leadership Team
Chair: Christina Hoyt (NE) Vice Chair: Alyssa O'Brien (NM) Secretary: Madeline Burton (AZ) Past Chair: Walter Passmore (CA) State Forester Advisor: Thomas Claeys (ND) CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Neil Simpson	Chair: Alyssa O'Brien (NM) Vice Chair: Madeline Burton (AZ) Secretary: John Hartland (SD) Past Chair: Christina Hoyt (NE) State Forester Advisor: Thomas Claeys (ND) CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Neil Simpson

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

View the mission on the committee's webpage at

<https://www.thewflc.org/about/committees/western-urban-community-forestry-committee>

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Convened annual coordinator meeting and strategic planning, March 26, 2025, Virtual.
- Convened monthly conference calls to foster communication, share policy information and resources, update and status checks on the work plan, and pass through information and resources from the workgroups.
- WUCF leadership attended and provided presentations at the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) (virtual), Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) (virtual), and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) (in-person) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) committee meetings.
- WUCF leadership team met monthly to plan meetings, discuss emerging policy, and strategies for fostering collaboration between members and partners.
- WUCF leadership team met monthly with other regional UCF committees to share information and coordinate responses to emerging issues.
- The leadership team helped plan the National Coordinators Meeting in Nevada by soliciting input from members on the agenda and structuring it to meet their needs.
- Members attended the in-person/virtual state and federal partners meeting, held in conjunction with the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Henderson, NV, in November 2025.
- Created a survey and surveyed members on the impacts of federal funding reductions on state programs. A survey was used in the West, and other regions adopted it, along with the NASF.
- The leadership team wrote a letter highlighting UCF's accomplishments, which became the framework for creating a UCF Accomplishment and Highlights report. The leadership team identified themes, compiled data and

research, and UCF stories for use in the report. This report demonstrates how investments are driving meaningful progress on shared forestry priorities across the Western region. State Foresters will use the reports to communicate the success and on-the-ground impacts to decision-makers.

- Maintained a WUCF Resource Library in Google Drive to house and share proposals, methodologies, position descriptions, and partnership development guidance for members to utilize when developing proposals or programs.
- Revamped mentorship program for new coordinators and assigned mentors by identifying an experienced mentor to serve as a “go-to” for each new coordinator and provide resources, including the coordinator’s manual.
- Reviewed and continued to follow the WFLC WUCF Strategic Plan. The completed plan serves as an informative, living document that outlines alignment and strategies for Western states, communicating relevant state interests to CWSF.
- Continued sharing BIL, IRA, and state-funded implementation strategies and programs by maintaining accessible shared folders and spreadsheets with program and project examples.
- Utilized WFLC processes to provide feedback to State Foresters, the Forest Service, and other partners, identifying mechanisms and recommendations for policies, best practices, information sharing, and funding alignment to address local and regional needs.
- The Tree City USA Workgroup continues its advisory partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) in support of ADF's programs. WUCF representative met with ADF throughout 2025.
- Helped solicit input for the national Municipal UCF Survey.

2026 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2026

- Monthly virtual meetings are held throughout 2026 on the third Thursday of each month.
- In-Person WUCF Meeting in New Mexico, March 2026, date TBD.
- SGSF UCF Committee Annual Meeting and NMSFA UCF Committee Annual Meetings.
 - One member from the WUCF Committee leadership team will attend to provide the group with an update on WUCF Committee accomplishments and initiatives, and to hear about how state UCF Coordinators in other regions implement the UCF program.
 - SGSF: TBD
 - NMSFA: TBD
- Chair attendance at the CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Chair attendance at the NASF Annual Urban and Community Forestry Meeting in June.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2026

- Identify a theme and coordinate with the CWSF Director of Communications to develop and publish an Urban and Community Forestry publication before the 2026 CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Utilize the CWSF/WFLC WUCF strategic plan to guide member meetings and activities.
- Establish work groups to foster collaboration among states and address regional needs. Work groups will set goals and may host breakout sessions and workshops for members to discuss, share strategies, collaborate on developing multi-state programs, and evaluate program effectiveness.
- Continue to share information related to federal funding, including BIL and IRA, state, and other funding sources. Share implementation strategies and programs by populating shareable and accessible folders and spreadsheets with program and project ideas and examples.
 - The library format will help by coordinating, assisting, and enabling the storytelling of model/program development.
 - WUCF facilitates multi-state engagement, helping to leverage resources and encouraging collaboration

across entities (including federal partners and others).

- Utilize WFLC processes to provide feedback to State Foresters, Forest Service & other partners about issues we feel could be addressed. Identify mechanisms and recommendations for policies, best practices, sharing information, and identifying funding alignments to address local and regional needs and policies.
 - Continuing implementation of the WUCF internal mentoring program, providing startup resources and mentor assignments to new members.
 - In-person annual meeting to include sessions that assist state UCF Coordinators with BIL/IRA funding, State UCF Operations, state-to-state dialogue, and federal-state collaboration and communication.
 - WUCF members will attend the Partners in Community Forestry (or World Forum on Urban Forests) conference in 2026 and participate in the associated annual state-federal coordinators meeting.
 - Increase Pacific Island engagement and resource sharing.
 - Participate in the update of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Ten-Year Urban Forest Action Plan.
 - Tree City USA Workgroup continues advisory partnership with ADF in support of the ADF programs. WUCF representatives met with ADF throughout 2026.
 - Help guide communities towards appropriate recognition, certification, and implementation programs in partnership with national UCF organizations such as the Urban Forestry Society, American Forests, and ADF.
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FOR APPROVAL BY CWSF/WFLC MEMBERSHIP

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the 2026 WUCF Committee Work Plan.