



**WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION**



CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN
STATE FORESTERS

2025 WFLC & CWSF Spring Meeting

May 13-15, 2025 | DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown | Salt Lake City, UT

Tuesday, May 13 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and Senior Staff, USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Washington Office Leaders, and Invited Partners Attire: Business Casual Meeting Room: Ballroom	
7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided, Atrium) All Attendees
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.	Welcome, Agenda Preview, and Introductions <i>Michiko Martin (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and John Erixson (NE, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
8:20 - 8:45 a.m.	Local Welcome <i>Jamie Barnes (UT) and Danny McBride (USFS)</i> WFLC members will be welcomed to Utah with information on the state, its forest and wildfire issues, and a preview of Wednesday's field tour.
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.	Policy Update <i>Neil Simpson (CWSF/WFLC, Director of Policy)</i>
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Break and Split into CWSF and Western USDA Forest Service Leaders Meeting



Tuesday, May 13 | Council of Western State Foresters Meeting and separate Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting

Attire: Business Casual

	CWSF Meeting Ballroom Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and Senior Staff; State Forester Associations’ Staff and Representatives (CWSF and NASF); and Invited Partners	Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting Ambassador Attendees: USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Representatives
9:45 - 9:50 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>John Erixson (NE, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF)</i>	During this time, WFLC federal members will meet separately for western USDA Forest Service business.
9:50 - 11:30 a.m.	State Forester and Partner Lightning Round CWSF members or their designees and forestry partners will share 3 to 5 minutes of remarks in response to questions regarding forestry priorities within their state/organization.	
11:30 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.	Lunch (Provided) <i>All Attendees</i>	
12:55 - 1:00 p.m.	Transition: USDA Forest Service Rejoins for Keynote	
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	USDA Leadership Virtual Keynote <i>Kristin Sleeper (USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & the Environment)</i> The Deputy Under Secretary will share the Administration’s vision and direction on forestry issues, including addressing the critical need for increased active forest management, opportunities for streamlining and creating greater efficiencies, and strengthening the federal and state partnership to accomplish these shared goals.	
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	State Forester and Partner Lightning Round Continued	USDA Forest Service business



2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Update SGSF representative Tim Foley (Policy Director) will present recent activities and updates of shared importance across regions.	
2:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) Update Tee Jay Boudreau (RI) from NMSFA will present recent activities and updates of shared importance across regions.	
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Update NASF President Patty Cormier (ME) and members of the NASF team will share recent activities and updates on priority issues to state forestry agencies across the nation.	
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Break <i>All Attendees</i>	
3:45 - 4:00 p.m.	NASF Foundation and Strategic Plan <i>Katie Forman-Cook (Executive Director, NASF Foundation)</i>	USDA Forest Service business
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Western Dry Forests & Fire Program <i>Yewah Lau (TNC Senior Policy Advisor, Western Division)</i>	
4:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Reflections and Identification of Needs/Opportunities	
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Meeting Adjournment <i>John Erixson (NE, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF)</i>	
Evening	Dinner on your own	



Wednesday, May 14 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Morning Field Tour, and Afternoon Council of Western State Foresters Meeting and separate Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting		
Attire: Field Tour Attire		
7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided, Atrium) All Attendees	
8:00 - 8:10 a.m.	Board Vehicles and Depart on Field Tour	
8:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Field Tour A field tour to learn about local forest and natural resource management issues, including wildfire-related challenges and opportunities.	
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided) All Attendees	
	CWSF Meeting Ballroom Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and Senior Staff; State Forester Associations’ Staff and Representatives (CWSF and NASF); and Invited Partners	Western Forest Service Leaders Meeting Ambassador Attendees: USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Representatives
1:30 - 1:40 p.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview John Erixson (NE, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF)	During this time, WFLC federal members will meet separately for western USDA Forest Service business.
1:40 - 3:00 p.m.	Navigating Change – Partnering in a Shifting Landscape With Forest Service restructuring and staff reductions, states and partners must adapt to a changing system. This session will explore how states can work with the Forest Service, NGOs, and other entities to address immediate concerns and set priorities for the future.	
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Break All Attendees	



3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Business Session (Closed) <i>John Erixson (NE, CWSF Chair) and Danielle Okst (CWSF)</i> Following the break, the remainder of the day will be limited to State Foresters. All other attendees are encouraged to take this time to network and connect with sponsors.	USDA Forest Service business
Evening	Dinner on your own	

Thursday, May 15 | Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Meeting

Attendees: Western State and Pacific Island Foresters and Senior Staff, USDA Forest Service WFLC Members and Washington Office Leaders, and Invited Partners

Attire: Business Casual

Meeting Room: Ballroom

7:00 - 7:50 a.m.	Breakfast (Provided, Atrium) All Attendees
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>John Erixson (NE, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
8:15 - 9:15 a.m.	USDA Forest Service State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Virtual Leadership Update <i>John Crockett (USFS Deputy Chief for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry)</i> Participants will learn about recent changes and upcoming program priorities for State, Private, and Tribal forestry.
9:15 - 10:00 a.m.	Western Priorities and Emerging Issues This session will focus on identifying shared priorities in the face of shifting capacity and policy set against the backdrop of growing wildfire risk across the West. Participants will explore how agencies and partners are adapting, where roles are evolving, and what strategies are needed to stay aligned and effective.
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	The Future of Shared Stewardship Shared stewardship has improved cooperation across federal, state, tribal, and local partners. This discussion will explore what has worked, what hasn't, and how shared stewardship needs to evolve to remain effective into the future



12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Provided) All Attendees
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Western Forest Service and State Partner Discussions States and partners will divide into breakouts for topical discussion such as wildfire, followed by collective sharing on takeaways and potential solutions to move forward.
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	WFLC Opportunities and Actions Insights from prior discussions to be used to chart a path forward. Together, we will identify opportunities, shared challenges, process for continued engagement, and collaborative solutions to advance our collective goals. Emphasis will be placed on aligning efforts and driving actionable outcomes that respond to the most pressing needs in the region, particularly around Administration priorities. Upcoming WFLC efforts (GNA work, utilization summits, etc.) and follow-up needs and actions to be explored.
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Meeting Reflections and Adjournment <i>Michiko Martin (USFS, WFLC Co-Lead) and John Erixson (NE, WFLC Co-Lead)</i>
Evening	Dinner on your own