



Resources, Partnerships *and* Solutions  
for Western Forestry Challenges

# WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

March 8, 2006

## STATE AND PACIFIC ISLAND

### FORESTRY AGENCIES:

Alaska

Arizona

California

Colorado

Hawaii

Idaho

Kansas

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Mexico

North Dakota

Oregon

South Dakota

Utah

Washington

Wyoming

Territory of American Samoa

Commonwealth of

Northern Mariana Islands

Federated States of Micronesia

Territory of Guam

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Territory of Palau

### USDA FOREST SERVICE:

Alaska Region

Intermountain Region

Northern Region

Pacific Northwest Region

Pacific Southwest Region

Rocky Mountain Region

Southwestern Region

Pacific NW Research Station

Pacific SW Research Station

Rocky Mountain Research Station

Forest Products Laboratory

Dr. James Bristow  
Deputy Director of Programs  
Joint Genome Initiative  
JGI Production Genomics Facility  
2800 Mitchell Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Dear Dr. Bristow:

The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) is a state/federal partnership that delivers forestry programs to the western U.S. States and Pacific Islands. Seeking to speak with one western voice, the members of the Coalition include the 23 heads of the State and Island forestry agencies of the West, the 7 western Regional Foresters, 3 western Research Station Directors, and Forest Products Laboratory Director of the USDA Forest Service. The mission of the WFLC is to promote science-based forest management that serves the values of society and ensures the health and sustainability of western forests. Our goals include (1) tackling emerging western issues by providing research, recommending policies, and coordinating efforts across land ownerships, (2) launching initiatives that position the west to respond to the public's forest resource needs, (3) facilitating the development, integration, and implementation of western State and Private Forestry programs.

The project proposed by Dr. Howe and his colleagues will address many of the WFLC's priorities and goals, particularly those related to forest health and rural communities. Western forests are susceptible to insects, diseases, and catastrophic wildfires which threaten nearby communities and surrounding drinking water watersheds, wildlife habitat, old-growth forests, and recreation areas. Further, the economic and social well-being of communities is dependent upon the long-term health of urban and rural forests. New and existing forest-based industries must be nurtured and are one key to achieving healthy forests.

Douglas-fir is a major component of western forests. Therefore, research on Douglas-fir insect resistance, disease resistance, and tolerance of environmental stresses such as drought and cold will help us maintain healthy forests. The research proposed by Howe et al., aimed at identifying and characterizing Douglas-fir genes, will provide valuable tools for research entomologists, pathologists, and physiologists. The result will be more informed management decisions by forest landowners and managers, thus improving the health of our western forests. Because of Douglas-fir's important role in the economy and ecology of the west, we urge you to fund this project.

Sincerely,

**DAVID LIMTIACO**  
Guam Territorial Forester  
Chair, CWSF, and  
Co-Chair  
Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

**LINDA GOODMAN**  
PNW Regional Forester, USFS  
Lead Regional Forester, and  
Co-Chair  
Western Forestry Leadership Coalition