



WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SOLUTIONS FOR WESTERN FORESTRY CHALLENGES

MISSION

To promote science-based forest management that serves the values of society and ensures the health and sustainability of western forests.

GOALS

- Launch initiatives to *strengthen the western voice*.
- Advocate for *active, sustainable forest management*.
- Forge *productive partnerships*.
- Maximize federal and state *financial investments*.
- Provide research, recommend policies, and *coordinate efforts across agencies*.
- Facilitate the development, integration and implementation of *western State and Private Forestry programs*.
- *Provide credible information* for forest landowners, policymakers, media and the public.

ABOUT THE WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) represents a unique partnership between state and federal government forestry leaders. Membership includes the Council of Western State Foresters and the western US Forest Service's Regional Foresters, Research Station Directors, and the Forest Products Lab Director.

The WFLC focuses its efforts on five strategic goals:

Climate Change: improve forest ecosystem resilience in the face of a changing climate and ensure that forests are recognized contributors to climate change solutions.

Wildfire: reduce wildfire risk to communities and mitigate wildfire impacts.

Water: secure clean and sustainable flows of water through forest management.

Forest Health & Invasive Species: reduce impacts to forest health from insect, disease, and invasive species threats.

Communities: support new and existing forest-based industries and programs that provide for the economic, social and environmental needs of our society.

2009 ACTIONS

Operating with consideration to our nation's current economic and environment condition, the WFLC has prioritized the following three actions/outcomes.

Wildfire Coordination and Suppression Funding

Upward trends in fire suppression expenditures limit federal and state agency implementation of mission critical programs. Partitioning emergency fire suppression funds into a separate account and replacing the current requirement to budget for the 10-year average of suppression costs with a more predictive way of budgeting for non-emergency suppression costs would help solve this problem.

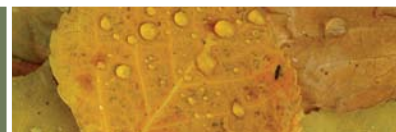
Expansion of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), continued droughts, a warming climate, and an increasing forest and rangeland health crisis have created a perfect storm that is threatening to overwhelm our country's response capabilities. Partnerships and collaboration between agencies, communities and stakeholders is more important than ever to help us collectively succeed in protecting communities and our forests.

Economic Recovery

With the nation's recent economic downturn, Americans are in dire need of job creation through public and private investment in infrastructure. Just as investment in roads and bridges creates jobs; investment in our green infrastructure, in our forests, creates jobs. Forestry, the original "Green Job," supports a healthy economy while contributing to the long term sustainability of our lands. We are committed to implementing the forestry provisions of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act in the most efficient and effective way.

Keeping Working Forestlands Forested

At a time when we need our forests to sequester and store greenhouse gases, clean and sustain our water supply, and provide numerous other ecosystem services, many forest owners are converting their lands to other uses. Both the economic health of our rural communities and the ecological health of our forests are threatened as the forest products industry changes and diminishes. Forest landowners are left with fewer management options to maintain their lands as forests and keep working forestlands forested. Equitable support is needed for existing industry and new market options, such as woody bioenergy, to ensure we build our economy and sustain our forests.





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UTAH

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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USDA FOREST SERVICE REGIONS

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