

Western Forests: Critical Issues for the Next Decade

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Resources, Partnerships *and* Solutions
for Western Forestry Challenges

WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION



WFLC: State and Federal Coalition

17 western
State Foresters
and 6 Pacific
Island Foresters



WESTERN
FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP
COALITION

www.WFLCweb.org

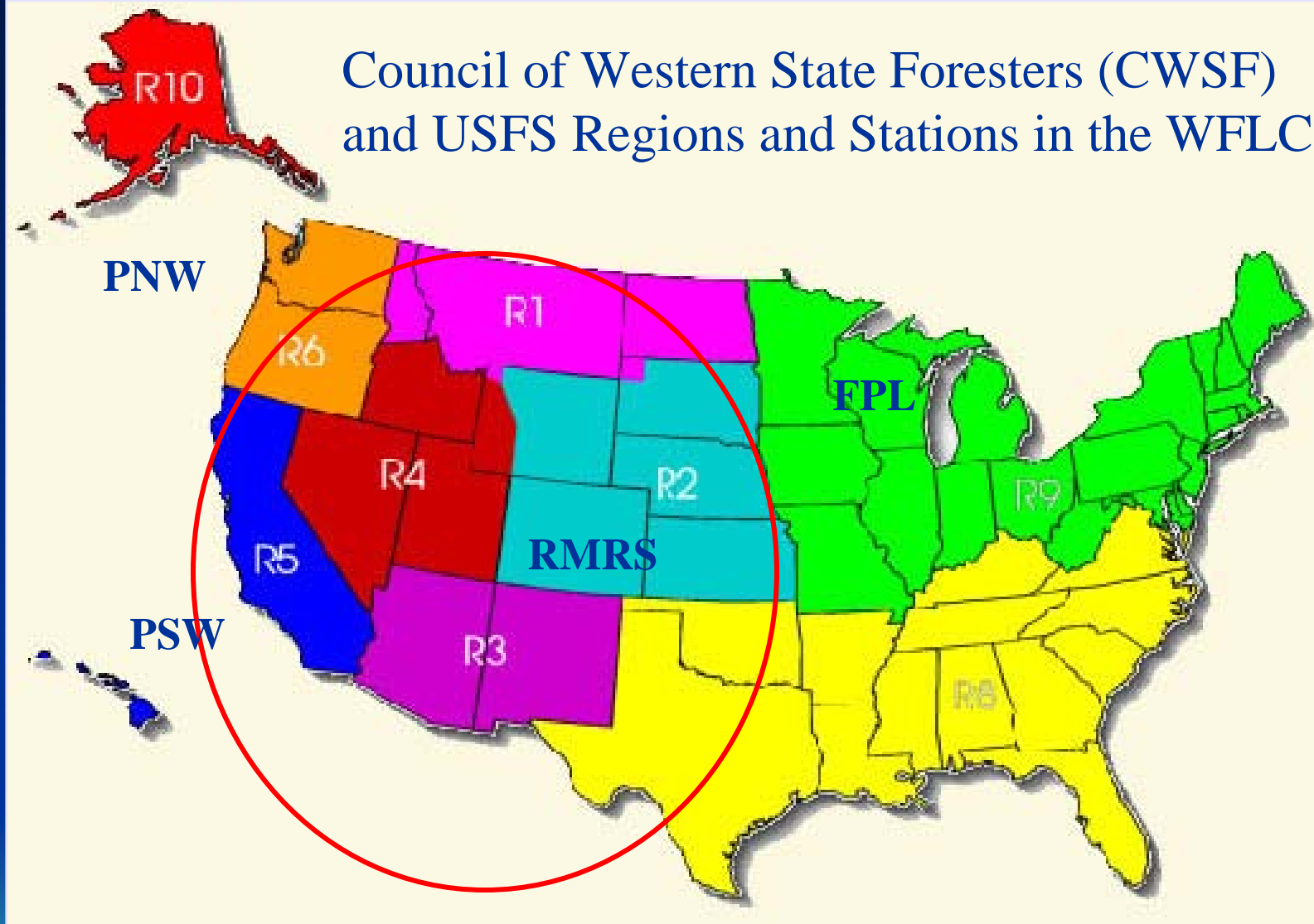


7 western Regional
Foresters,
3 Research Station &
Forest Products Lab
Directors.

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Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) and USFS Regions and Stations in the WFLC



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We move forward initiatives by

Having a common voice for State and Federal
Efforts in the West in the areas of:

- Policy
- Communications
- Focused Program priorities

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Critical Issues for the WFLC

- Woody Biomass
- Forest Health
- Forest Products Infrastructure

- Climate Change
- Fire

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WFLC Focus I - Woody Biomass [PRIORITY]

- ***Objective: Promote utilization of woody biomass via traditional and non-traditional avenues for the economic, social and ecologic benefit of communities and forests.***

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Reports linking biomass and western forests

- The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S.
- Threats to Western Private Forests
- Western Bark Beetle Assessment
- Climate Change Policy and Western Forests

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True Costs of Fires - Case Studies

- Canyon Ferry Complex (MT - 2000)
- Cerro Grande (NM - 2000)
- Rodeo-Chediski (AZ - 2002)
- Hayman (CO - 2002)
- Missionary Ridge (CO - 2002)
- Old, Grand Prix, Padua (CA - 2003)



Case Studies show true costs can be as high as 30 times than reported costs

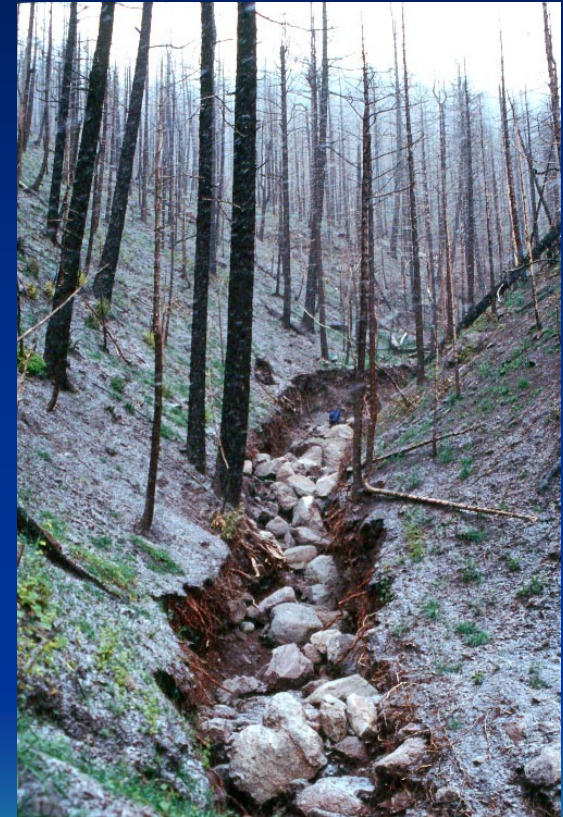
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True Costs of Fire Report Recommendations

1. Invest in Management Activities **that Improve Forest Health**
2. Reinvest in Cut-back **Agency Programs**
3. Full Implementation and Funding for FLAME Act
4. Develop **Cohesive Strategy**



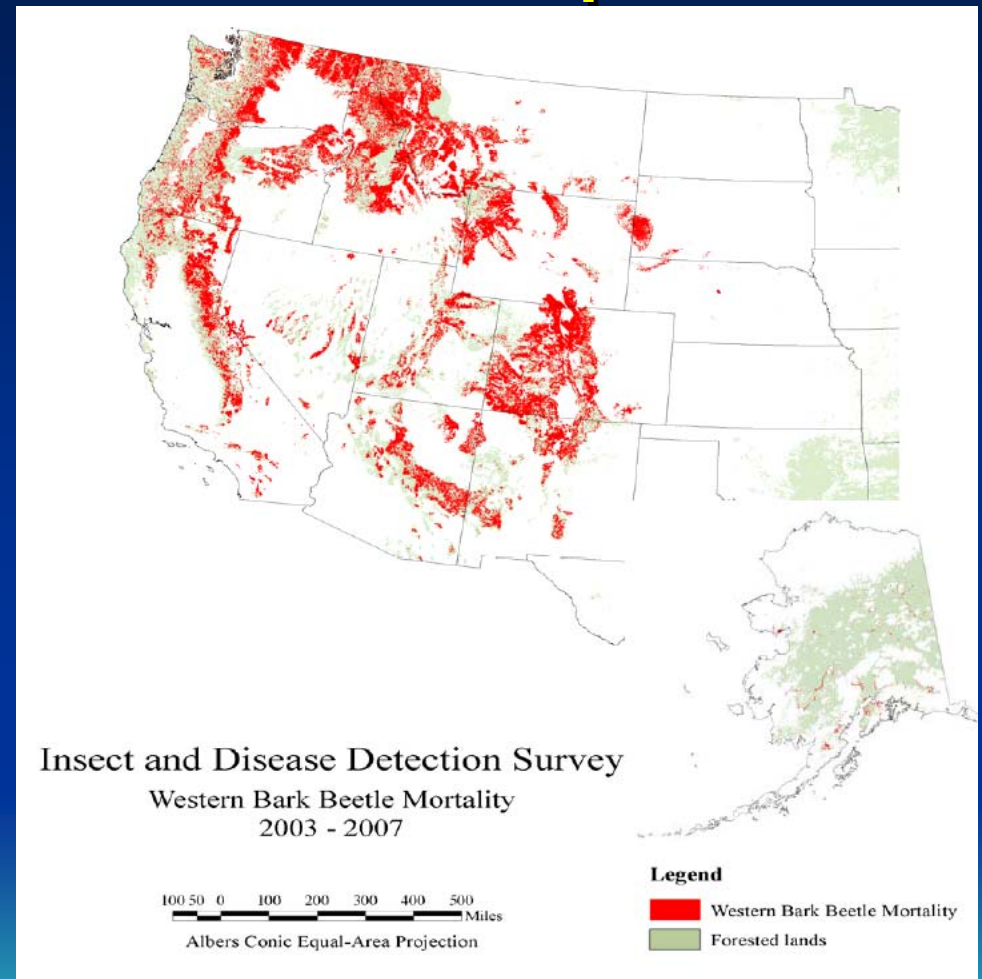
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Western Bark Beetle Report

- Across six states of the interior west, over 17.5 million acres of forested lands are infested by bark beetles
- The infestation is expected to increase on average of 600,000 acres per year
- This is happening at a time when lumber markets are already depressed and pellet mills are running at 50% capacity
- Expected use of the material is estimated to be the next 10 years



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Western Bark Beetle Report Recommendations

Increase Active Forest Management

- Economically viable
- Reduce fire risk
- Improve forest health

Requires new markets to use vast
amounts of beetle killed trees



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Threat to Western Private Forests Report

- Changing demographics (aging population with new owners not interested in land management)
- Warmer temperatures and reduced precipitation
- Changing and conflicting public values related to public lands
- Loss of processing facilities and markets

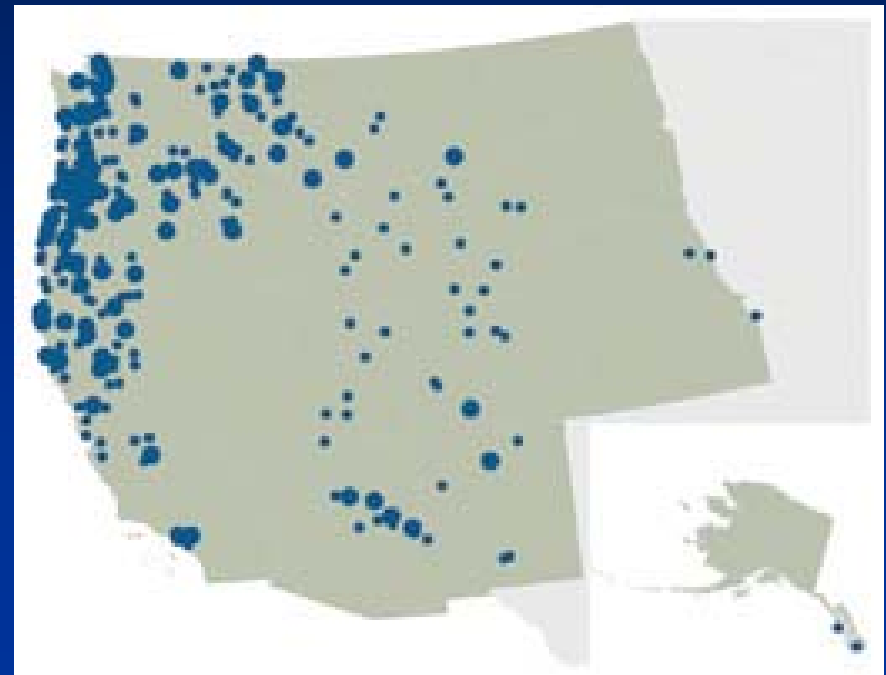
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Western States Forest Products Industry Decline

With the decline in markets leading to temporary and permanent mill closures, employment and labor income in the western primary forest products industry have declined by 25% and 33% since 2005. The number of facilities in the west have dropped from 1,300 in 1986 to about 900 as of June 2009 . 2010 saw further closing or layoffs due to the housing decline.*

* Todd Morgan, U of MT Bureau of Business and Economic Research



Western Mill Closures, 1989-2009

Small dot = 1

Large dot = 2 or more

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Threat to Western Private Forests - Recommendations

- Reward landowners for their stewardship of **ecosystem services**
- Promote the utilization of **woody biomass**
- Facilitate action through cross-ownership management and **partnerships**



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Climate Change and Western Forests Report- CWSF

- Role for Existing Programs
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Beyond Offsets- Programs to Support Private Land Owner Actions that Address Climate Change

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Climate Change Report

Recommendations- bioenergy

- *Support the Farm Bill definition (of renewable biomass) in order to maximize flexibility and opportunity. Biomass from forest management activities on public lands, including practices that increase resilience of late successional or mature forests must be included in these standards.*
- *Provide a consistent definition of renewable biomass that applies to a federal Renewable Energy Standard and a Renewable Fuels Standard. This is needed so that investors can rely on biomass supply estimates.*
- *Improve the effectiveness and utility of longer term stewardship contracts to support continuity of wood supply from federal lands, sustainability, and business planning necessary to attract investment.*
- *Recognize greenhouse gas benefits of bioenergy through “carbon neutral” determination in the energy sector CO2 reporting because emissions from biomass are implicitly included in the forestry and land use sector accounting.*

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State Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies: Expected Common Themes

- Industry Infrastructure and new markets are needed to help cover cost of forest management
- New biomass and bioenergy markets help achieve both biomass utilization and climate change mitigation and adaptation goals

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WFLC Staff in Denver

➤ Federal and State Employees

- Caitlyn Pollihan–Executive Director
- Bob Carnes – Business Manager
- Diane Denenberg - Communications Director
- Dana Coelho - Program Manager
- Marcia Patton-Mallory – Bioenergy and Climate Change Specialist
- Brent Keith – Governmental Affairs Director

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Questions?



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<http://www.wflc.org/>

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