

Western Coordinating Committee (WCC 1003) meeting in Auburn, CA on December 14-16, 2015

#### Attendance

California – Bill Stewart, Rick Standiford, Ryan DeSantis, Susie Kocher, Carlin Starrs

Oregon – Scott Reed, Jim Johnson

Utah – Mike Kuhns

Arizona - Chris Jones, Kent Apostol

USFS PNW – Cindy Miner

USFS RMRS – Jan Egert

#### Common themes shared across Western States

1. Resource management before and after increasing wildfires in the West
2. Improving distance outreach to dispersed family forest landowners
3. Potential synergies between fire risk reduction, bioenergy production and increased forest resilience at an 'All Lands' scale

Unlike the Southeastern US where all the state's interact with only one NFS region and one USFS Research Station, in the west we have 7 NFS Regions and 3 USFS Research Stations. This leads to more complex Cooperative Extension-State Agencies-State NRCS offices – NFS regions – USFS research unit relationships, and the potential to miss out on high probability successes from collaboration. To improve the situation, the work group members agreed to undertake a number of initial steps

1. Improve our state-level rosters of all relevant experts across University Cooperative Extension, USFS state and private forestry, USFS research station NRCS forest related, and state forestry agency that would
2. Work with our state forestry agencies to increase visibility and interaction with the Western Forests Leaders Committee
3. Share experiences with working with the federal Climate Hubs where they have forestry relevant projects and outputs
4. Schedule annual meetings far enough in advance to ensure broad attendance from the states and use the meetings as an opportunity to develop new funding for strategic opportunities.

The group also toured the University of California's Blodgett research forest, discussed increased collaboration across our state level fire-related and forest management-related programs, and drove into the center of the 95,000 King Fire that burned both federal and private forest lands.

The 2016 Western Regional Extension Forestry (WCC 1003) meeting will take place **August 8-10 in Park City, Utah**. It will be hosted by Utah State University Extension Forestry.