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**COUNCIL OF WESTERN
STATE FORESTERS**

Policy and Funding Opportunities for Reforestation and Nursery Support

The Reforestation Pipeline In The Western United States
September 2022



Outline

- CWSF and WFLC Overview
- Infrastructure Law
- Inflation Reduction Act
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Farm Bill
- Reforestation Initiatives
- Challenges

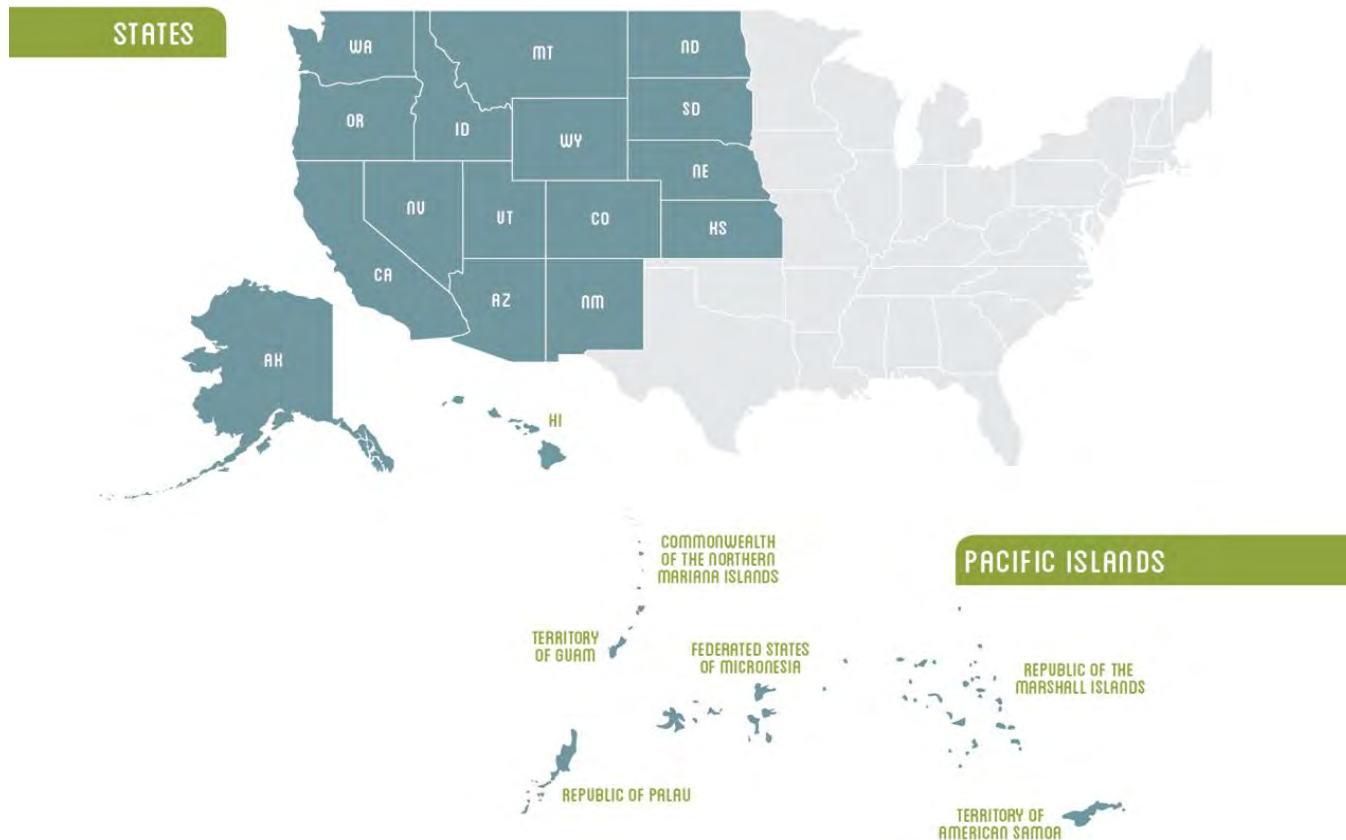


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CWSF and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC)

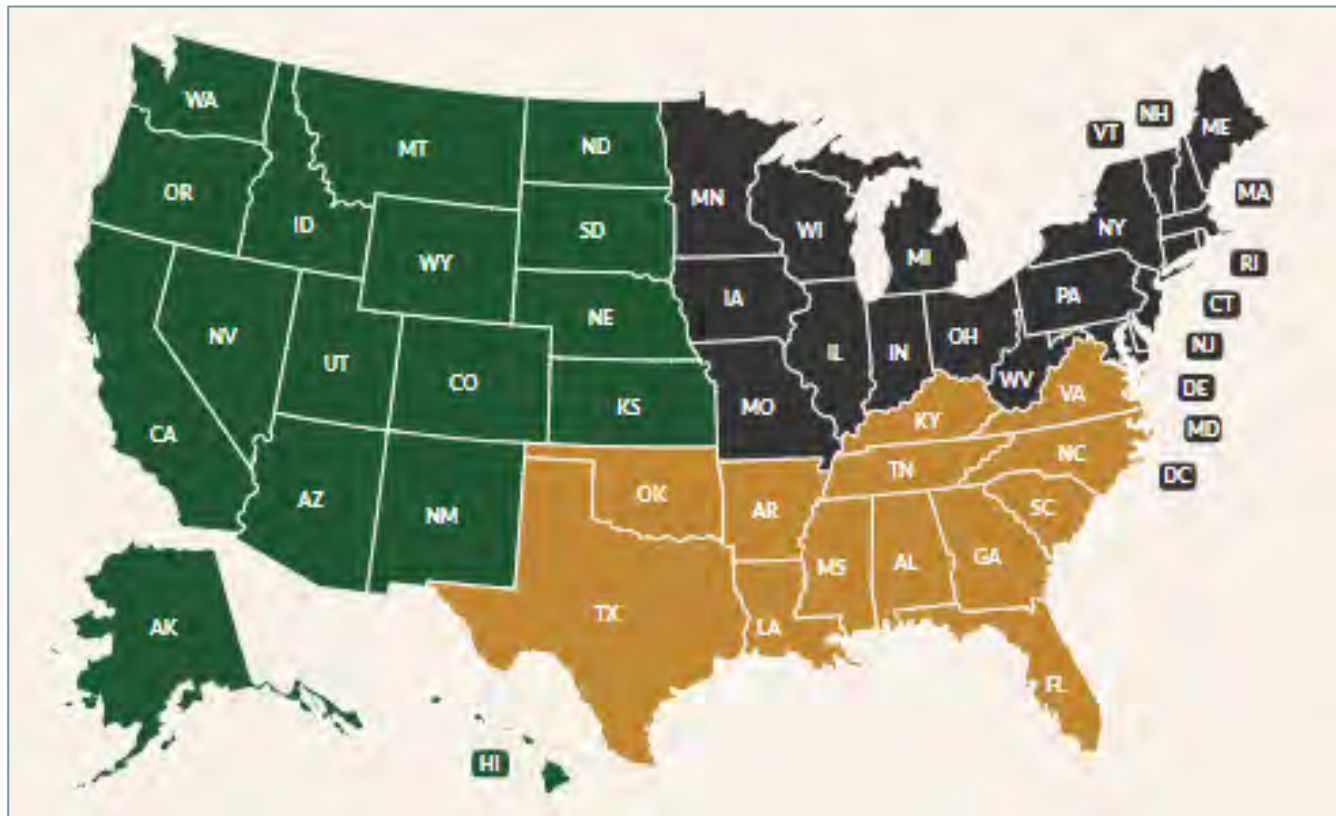


CWSF Membership





Regional and National Partners





WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

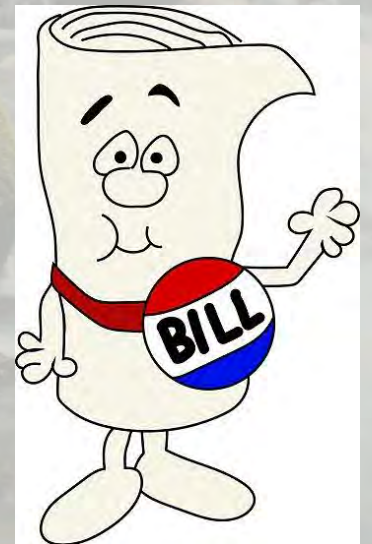
The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) is:

- CWSF Members (23 States and Pacific Islands) + 11 USDA Forest Service members from the western U.S.
 - 7 Regional Foresters
 - 3 Research Station Directors
 - 1 Forest Products Lab Director
- Also includes participation from western State & Private Forestry Directors
- Focuses on dialogue, relationships, and information sharing to address western cross-boundary forestry and wildfire related issues and priorities



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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) or
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
Act (IIJA) [H.R. 3684](#)





Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- Signed into law November 15, 2021
- \$550 Billion total investment; \$1.2 Trillion including reauthorizations
- Funding over 5 FY (FY22-FY26)
- \$1.5B for State and Private Forestry
 - Community Wildfire Defense Grants - \$1B
 - Forest Action Plan Implementation - \$200M
 - Forest Health Funding - \$200M
 - SFA/VFA Funding - \$108M
 - Skidder Bridge Rental Programs - \$50M
 - National Revegetation Effort, including support for nurseries - \$60M
 - Firewood Banks - \$8M



Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act



- Supports reforestation on national forests by removing the current \$30M per year funding cap on the [Reforestation Trust Fund](#)
- Uses funds already collected through tariffs on foreign wood products
- Focus on reforestation following wildfires and other disasters
- [“Growing and Nurturing Resilient Forests: A Reforestation Strategy for the National Forest System”](#)



National Revegetation Effort

- \$200M to establish and implement a national revegetation effort on Federal and non-Federal land, including to implement the National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration
 - \$70M DOI
 - \$130M USDA (\$60M for non-federal/S&PF)
- \$5.5M to states and territories for nursery/orchard support
- \$1.5M available for Tribes
- FY22 BIL funds will be used to modernize existing state and tribal nursery and tree orchard facilities





Other BIL Provisions

- State Forest Action Plan Implementation Funding
 - State forestry agencies get money to implement the highest priorities from their Forest Action Plan
 - U&CF, FSP, SFA, and Forest Health
- Abandoned Mine Lands Funding
 - USFS - \$200M over 5 years to restore native vegetation and mitigate environmental hazards on mined land
 - FY22 funding being run through NFWF
 - DOI - \$11.3B over 15 years for grants to states and tribes for AML work
- For more on BIL provisions see our [publications page](#)



Recently Proposed Legislation

- A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes ([S.4891](#))
- Proposes to use the BIL AML funding to carry out a pilot program to establish and operate nurseries on DOI and NFS lands - 4 western states + 1 non-western state
- Would be able to enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal entities to use trees produced in nurseries established under the pilot program

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4891

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NURSERIES.



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Inflation Reduction Act



Inflation Reduction Act

- [H.R.5376](#)
- Signed into law on August 16, 2022
- \$4.95 billion to Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- \$450 million to provide cost sharing or grants through the Landscape Scale Restoration program for forest landowners with a focus on specific carbon sequestration, climate mitigation, and forest resilience practices;
- \$1.5 billion to provide multiyear grants through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program for tree planting and related activities
- [August Policy Update](#) for more information on IRA



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Climate and Carbon Policy Driven Demand



Climate and Carbon Focus

- Push from public and private sectors
- USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities
 - **Opportunities for market development for “commodities”** (including wood products) grown using climate smart practices
- Carbon Markets & Afforestation/Reforestation



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Good Neighbor Authority



USFS/WDNR Seed Orchard Restoration Project





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Farm Bill



Farm Bill

- Once every 5-years (+/-) opportunity for significant ag/forestry policy signals
- Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition currently working on 2023 Farm Bill Platform
 - Forest Health, Biodiversity, Wildlife, Wildfire Resilience, Cross-boundary;
 - Private Landowner, Technical Assistance, Conservation Easements, and Keeping Forests as Forests;
 - Forest Products marketing including carbon and wood products and Research; and
 - Funding, Efficiency, administrative, and Capacity
- Proposal for dedicated funding for [USFS RNGR Program](#) (Reforestation, nurseries and genetic resources)



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Reforestation Initiatives



Reforestation Initiatives

- Trillion Trees (us.1t.org)
 - “The U.S. Chapter of 1t.org is a community of U.S.-based companies, non-profit organizations, and governments committed to reaching the global goal of creating healthy and resilient forests.”



- USDA-convened Reforestation summit in June 2022
 - Beginning of a strategic process with working groups focused on funding, policy, communications, labor and models of success



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Opportunities and Challenges



Challenges

- An adequate work force, in terms of both skilled and general labor, is lacking;
- Substantially more funding needs to go into the infrastructure necessary to expand seed and seedling capacity; and
- Information sharing to improve technical knowledge and practices, and to better understand demands, climate change impacts and other issues is necessary.



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Questions, comments, or genius
solutions to solve all the world's
problems?

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