

Forest Restoration: Western Policy Issues

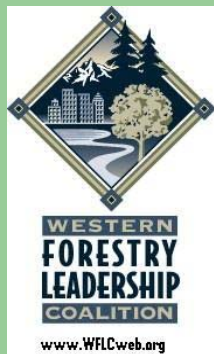


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Western Stewardship Summit

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Resources, Partnerships *and* Solutions
for Western Forestry Challenges

Who is the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition?



- The Coalition Formed in 2000:
 - 23 Western State & Pacific Island Foresters (Council of Western State Foresters)
 - + 7 USDA-FS Western Regional Foresters
 - + 3 USDA-FS Western Research Station Directors
 - + 1 Forest Products Lab Director =

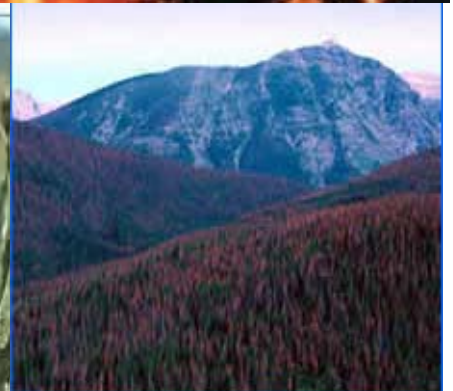
34 WFLC Members (plus 5 staff)

Mission and Priorities

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

Overall Western Priorities:

1. **Wildland Fire**
2. **Climate Change**
3. **Forest Health & Invasive Species**
4. **Water and Watershed Management**
5. **Communities**



Western Restoration Policy Priorities and Issues- Outline for Today

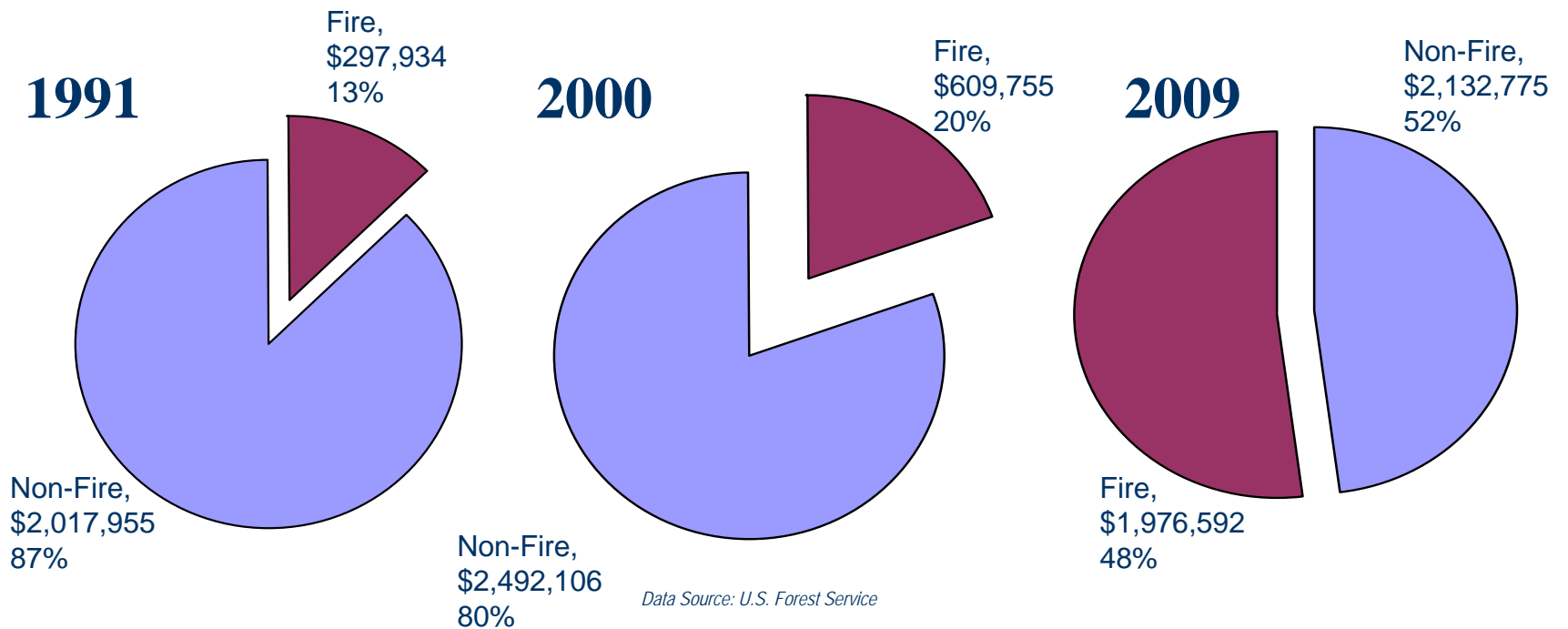
- I. Fire Suppression Funding and Fix
- II. Cross Boundary Authorities
- III. Climate and Ecosystem Markets
- IV. Biomass
- v. 10-year Strategy Implementation Plan
- VI. Looking toward the Future

I) Fire Suppression Funding

and Why it Impacts Everything

- Suppression costs ‘eating the lunch’ of partners, the agencies and the citizens
- Suppression funding impacts the Agency’s ability to deliver their mission and programs
- Transferring has happened and will continue without a **fix!**

Effects of Wildland Fire Management on U.S. Forest Service Budget



Fire Suppression Solution

- Separate emergency events into an off-budget account
- Reformulate the 10-year average requirement
- Provide funding for the programs that have been decimated over the years due to constrained funding and 'transferring'
- FLAME Act
 - HR 5541 – House Mark up version
 - Supplemental

II) Cross Boundary Opportunities in the West

- Good Neighbor Authority
- Wyden Amendment
- Community Wildfire Protection Funds (Steven's Money)
- Stewardship Contracting
- FLRA



III) Climate Change & Ecosystems Market

- Forests play an important role in the carbon budget and in providing ecosystem goods and services.
- Must ensure forests are part of the conversation.

Forest – Climate Policy Issues



- Offsets
 - Permanence
 - Leakage
 - Additionality
 - Wood Products
- Allowances
- Adaptation Funding

IV) Biomass: Utilization and Research

- Fuels For Schools – Community Scale
- 2007 Energy Bill Renewable Biomass Definition
 - Private Lands
 - Public Lands
- Research – Forest Products Lab
- Production Tax Credit



V) 10-year Implementation Strategy

- Western Governors' Association - Important Partner
- This is the framework for Wildfire Restoration Work
 - Continuity is Key
- Elections? - Opportunity to Further Support this Important Document



VI) Future - Next Administration

- Time to look towards new Administration and new Congress
- National Association of State Foresters' Administration Transition Priorities
 1. Fire
 2. National Policy (*Sustainable Forests*)
 3. State & Private Forestry
- Questions?

