



**WFLC Pacific Islands Forestry Committee  
2022 Report and 2023 Work Plan**

## LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

### PIFC LEADERSHIP

The Pacific Islands Forestry Committee leadership team for 2022 included:

- Marlyter Silbanuz (FSM), Chair
- Christine Fejeran (Guam), Vice-Chair
- David Smith (HI), Past Chair
- River Thomas (Palau), Secretary
- Sherry Hazelhurst, USDA Forest Service
- Laura Wagner, CWSF Staff Liaison

The Pacific Islands Forestry Committee leadership team for 2023 will include:

- Christine Fejeran (Guam), Chair
- River Thomas (Palau), Vice-Chair
- Marlyter Silbanuz (FSM), Past Chair
- Lajikit Rufus (Marshall Islands), Secretary
- Sherry Hazelhurst, USDA Forest Service
- Laura Wagner, CWSF Staff Liaison

**Committee/Network Mission Statement and Purpose:** To aid Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) in developing informed and unified approaches to natural resource and forestry management issues that represent needs of the tropical forests of the United States affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI). This approach insures that the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) and WFLC redeems their responsibility to present a unified presence to Congress, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and the Washington Office of the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) on behalf of the State of Hawaii; Territories of Guam and American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and the Freely Associated State of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau with their unique tropical forestry management issues. In addition, it provides a forum for technology transfer, training, and cultural information exchange among USAPI, WFLC, CWSF and NASF members on forestry topics.

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## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2022

- Held in-person annual meeting in Guam
- Plan for and attend Roundtable Meetings with USDA Forest Service
- Updated all State Fact Sheets

- Held in-person trainings with USDA Forest Service
- Modified Leadership structure
- Development of Communication Products, with WFLC, as a result of the State Fact Sheets
- Plan for 2023 Technical Training Workshop

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS**

- Recommendation for State Foresters to support equitable access by U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island to competitive and noncompetitive federal funding and program direction
  - Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Pacific Island Forestry Committee 2023 Work Plan.
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## **2023 PIFC WORK PLAN**

### **MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2023**

- Quarterly zoom meetings, date & time TBD
- In-Person Annual Meeting, Kona, HI, November 28 - 30, 2023
- In-Person Technical Training Workshop - In conjunction with Fall Meeting - Week of December 4, 2023

### **METHOD OF COMMUNICATION**

- In addition to quarterly zoom meetings, the PIFC Committee members communicate via phone calls and email.

### **PRIORITIES FROM CWSF MEMBERSHIP**

- Implementation and implications of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA);
- USDA Forest Service Shared Stewardship & 10-year Wildfire Crisis strategies (state forestry & USDA Forest Service joint prioritization and decision-making); and
- State forestry agency operations and workforce challenges.

### **KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2023**

- Development of Communication Products, with WFLC, as a result of the State Fact Sheets
- Plan and hold the 2023 Technical Training Workshop
- Review and Revise Committee Charter
- USDA Forest Service will report & coordinate with the Islands on Research Priorities
- Revision and renewal of strategic plan
- Develop training calendar
- Work to ensure equitable access to competitive and noncompetitive federal funding and program direction
- Develop strategy and opportunities for coconut and breadfruit sustainability