

Funding for forestry research creates economic opportunities

... while ensuring healthy and sustainable ecosystems



The Western Region's forests provide essential environmental and economic benefits, not just to the region, but also to the country. Our quality of life depends on healthy forests to provide clean air and drinking water, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat and resources for construction and manufacturing jobs.

Increased funding to the Western Land-Grant Universities is needed to prepare for the significant losses in forestland projected over the next five decades.

On average, 47% of the acreage in the Western Region is owned by the public. Forestry producers, land managers and others need information and decision-support tools developed through research projects such as:

- Using technology to accelerate forest restoration
- Building landscape-level resiliency to weather variability and extremes



With adequate funding, the Western Land-Grant Universities are uniquely positioned to:

- Address the use of forest products in green building materials and design
- Improve the application of agroforestry practices and principles in protecting water and soil resources
- Create multipurpose landscapes that can produce food, fiber, energy and other products for human use
- Develop management strategies to preserve the value of our forests in the face of ongoing climate changes that are altering both the economic and ecological dynamics of the forest

The Western Perspective
of the Land-Grant Universities

WAAESD
Western Association of Agricultural
Experiment Station Directors
<http://www.waesd.org>

WEDA
Western Extension
Directors Association
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/weda>

The Western Perspective & The Western Agenda

What is the Western Perspective & Agenda?

The Western U.S. is facing unprecedented challenges maintaining sustainable urban communities and agricultural and natural resource economies. The Western Perspective & Western Agenda serves to inform policy responses and actions and demonstrates how Land-Grant Universities, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Cooperative Extension support all Western Region communities sustained by agricultural and natural resources economies.

What are the unique challenges and characteristics of the West?

Every state in the Western Region has densely populated urban areas juxtaposed with large expanses of sparsely populated rural areas. This creates pressure on natural resource and agriculture industries while increasing population brings new demands on local and regional economies—largely dependent on watersheds, ecosystems, infrastructure and federal lands.

The public owns 47% of the land in the West. The majority of Western Region agriculture depends on public lands for livestock and forestry production, and on strong partnerships with federal organizations to sustain the health of ecosystems, agriculture and communities.

Fire, water, climate change, population growth, and invasive pests and diseases are the primary threats to agriculture and communities in the Western Region.

Synergy Between Units

Land-Grant Universities, the Cooperative Extension Service, and Agricultural Experiment Stations have a federal and state obligation to conduct research and outreach, and lead educational programs that address the greatest agricultural and natural challenges of their home state and region.

The collaborative nature between these entities in the Western Region ensure the programs, people and places of the Western Region are able to sustain and thrive with respect to their individual state needs and united regional challenges.

This collaboration is unique and powerful! No other institutions have the scope, resources or capacity to anticipate and respond to the current and future challenges facing the Western Region. The interaction between each entity produces timely information and research from experts at each institution. The depth and breadth of these programs reaches everyone, from the most vulnerable to the most prosperous.

Agenda Priorities

- Sustainable Production Systems: Food Production, Food Safety, Food Security, Forestry and Horticulture
- Natural Resources: Water, Wildlife, Wildfire, Invasive Species, Ecosystem Services and Economic Opportunities
- Energy
- Community and Economic Development
- Youth Development: Agriculture, Nutrition and Natural Resources Science Literacy
- Nutrition and Health: Innovation in Foods for Health

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