

**WIR Board of Directors Meeting
2018 WIR Conference
Blaine County, Idaho**

[Meeting opened at 9 AM]

President Joel Bousman presided over the meeting.

Intermountain Region Forester Nora Rasure welcomed the WIR Board to Region 4, and briefed the board on her top five priorities:

1. Uplift and empower USFS employees
2. Be good neighbors to communities
3. Be good partners
4. Improve the conditions of forests and grasslands
5. Improve recreational opportunities, which includes the facilities and infrastructure that provide recreational access.

Increased funding due to the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill will provide opportunities to better achieve the stated goals. She thanked the WIR for their efforts to find solutions.

WIR 2nd Vice President Kevin Cann introduced **Kim Dolbow Vann, California State Director for Rural Development, USDA**, who provided information on USDA's 35 loan, grant and loan guarantee programs to assist counties in economic development, infrastructure maintenance, public health (including tools to combat the opioid epidemic) and job creation. She encouraged county commissioners to reach out to their USDA Rural Development State Director to discuss possible funding opportunities.

Wendy Green from the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) discussed how the coalition gains consensus on forest management projects and its future challenges. The coalition is focused on: wildfire, wildlife, watershed health, and public access and recreation. Participating members must sign an agreement to collaborate in good faith and not litigate outcomes. This coalition was founded in 2009 and is engaged in four (4) phases of landscape scale restoration projects: design of the proposed action, administrative (environmental) review, implementation by various contract authorities, and multi-party monitoring.

We were updated by **Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association (WGA)**. WGA and WIR have partnered in the Western Policy Network, an informal organization to share information. WGA and WIR met in Washington, DC and Denver, CO to discuss a possible actionable items which included:

- Improved consultation with the states
- Application and collection of local socio-economic data (state, tribal and local data) which is critical in environmental and land planning decisions.

The WIR Board of Directors adopted wildfire as its most important policy priority for 2018. **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Western Region Coordinator Katie Lighthall** presented the new [County Wildfire Playbook](#). This is a guide to assist commissioners fortify and protect our communities from the high-severity impacts of wildfire. This interactive website provides recommendations for counties to become more fire adaptive.

Jonathan Shuffield, NACo Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands and WIR Liaison, provided a legislative update that covered the FY 2018 omnibus spending bill, PILT, SRS, the Farm Bill, infrastructure and opioids legislation. (Presentation Attached)

WIR 1st Vice President Tommie Martin led a discussion about the future of WIR, topics of interest to individual members and meeting processes.

[Meeting Concluded at 12 p.m.]