



State Foresters by the Numbers

*Data and Analysis from the
2016 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey*



November 2017

National Association of State Foresters | 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 540 | Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202 624-5415 | Fax: 202-624-5407 | nasf@stateforesters.org | www.stateforesters.org

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Introduction

About This Report

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is a non-profit organization that represents the directors of all 50 state forestry agencies, the eight U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia. This report uses “states” as an inclusive term for both states and territories.

Every two years NASF conducts a survey of its 59 members to capture key information about the non-federal forest lands in the United States and the role of State Foresters in enhancing their value, representing public interests, and protecting these lands from fire, disease, fragmentation and other resource threats. The survey includes information about forestry programs, agency budgets, and funding support pertinent to each state and territory.

The ***State Foresters by the Numbers*** report is based the 2016 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey. It has been designed to provide an easy-to-understand summary of the responses from the NASF members for fiscal year 2016. Part I of the report looks at forest land and forest land ownership; Part II at state forestry agency employment and expenditures; Part III at program delivery areas; and Part IV at demand for services and funding. In many cases, survey responses have been summarized by region. In addition to providing a national voice for state forestry agencies, NASF collaborates with three regional state forestry agency organizations. The geographical regions represented by these three organizations are described in Appendix I of this report.

The ***State Foresters by the Numbers*** report was prepared by Industry Insights, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, while working closely with NASF representatives in the design of the study. Survey forms were distributed to NASF members in early 2017 with 50 of the 50 states, and the District of Columbia, providing responses. In this report, territories are not included due to limited response both in 2016 and in previous years. In order not to distort trends across years with different participation levels from the states, only those states reporting in the years of an identified trend (e.g., states that reported in both 2014 and 2016) were included in the year to year comparisons.

Data clean-up included a check of totals, metrics, and variances to past survey responses. In some cases, follow-up was made with state contacts to provide clarification of submitted information.

However, any use of the data should be qualified by the fact that not all the data discrepancies could be addressed, particularly those related to the different interpretation and definitions applied to the survey questions by the different respondents. This caution applies to comparisons between states in 2016 and to comparisons between survey years within the same state. Efforts continue to improve data quality and consistency thereby increasing the value of future benchmarking reports. Any questions about specific data should be sent to Greg Manns of Industry Insights at gmanns@industryinsights.com or 614.389.2100 x108.



Fiscal Year 2016 Overview

- **Private forest lands make up 59 percent of the total forest land in the U.S.; state and local government make up 11 percent, and federal forest lands, 30 percent.** Almost seven out of every 10 acres of forest land in the United States are in non-federal ownership. [page 4]
- **State forestry agencies provided 222,560 technical assists to landowners in 2016.** State Forestry agencies are the primary source of forest management advice for family forest owners. [page 14]
- **On average, state forestry agencies spend 80 percent of their budgets providing services for private and local government owned forest land and other wildland areas in their states.** This means that three out of every four dollars spent by state forestry agencies are often for services to lands not owned by the state. [pages 10 and 13]
- **State Foresters are meeting the increasing demands for their services.** The top five issues expected to take an increasing amount of attention for state forestry agencies in coming years are: 1) pest infestation and disease outbreak, 2) reducing risks of wildfire impacts, 3) strengthening forest markets, 4) minimizing forest fragmentation, conversion and development, and 5) water quality and quantity. [pages 20-22]
- **Acres under wildfire protection by state forestry agencies in 2016 totaled 1.52 billion acres, and state forestry agencies trained 61,988 firefighters in 2016.** NASF members also help provide funding for fire suppression equipment and assist with formation and expansions of volunteer fire departments. [page 13]
- **State forestry agency expenditures in 2016 totaled \$3.0 billion. Compared to 2014 expenditures, this represents an increase of \$194 million or 7 percent.** Wildfire programs reported an increase of \$264 million or 16% for 2016 vs. 2014, primarily due to large increases in California, Alaska, and Texas. After several years of decreased spending on outreach and education spending, 2016 reported an increase of \$29 million or 11%. [page 11]
- **State forestry agencies provided technical assistance under Urban & Community Forestry to 8,831 communities in 2016.** This comes during a time of decreased funding for Urban & Community Forestry programs as expenditures decreased again in 2016. Although the 2016 decrease was only 1%, this follows decreases of 20%, 5% and 19% (2010, 2012, and 2014, respectively). [page 15]
- **State forestry agencies employed 26,747 individuals in 2016.** Overall state forestry agency permanent staffing levels in 2016 increased only 2%, but seasonal employees increased over 6%. The total number foresters employed increased only 0.3% from 2014 to 2016. [pages 7-9]



Part I: State, Local and Private Forest Land in the United States

Forest Land Area

Forest land¹ makes up 819 million acres of the total 2.3 billion acres, or 36 percent of the total land area of the United States. This is slightly higher than the global figure of 31% for the total percentage of forestland to global land area (FAO, 2015). Forest cover in individual states ranges from 89 percent of the state's total land area (Maine) to 2 percent (North Dakota). The forest lands of U.S. represent nearly 8 percent of the world's forests and the U.S. ranks fourth in comparison with other countries in total forest area behind the Russian Federation, Brazil, and Canada (FAO, 2015).

Table 1: Percent of Forest Area by State – Top 5 and Bottom 5 States

State	% Forest Land to Total Land Area
Maine	89%
New Hampshire	83%
West Virginia	78%
Vermont	76%
Alabama	71%
Kansas	10%
Iowa	8%
South Dakota	4%
Nebraska	3%
North Dakota	2%
U.S. Total	36%
Median of U.S. States	43%

Source: 2016 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey and U.S. Department of Commerce²

¹ Survey Definition of "Forest Land" = Forest land is a contiguous predominantly vegetated land area that is at least 120 feet wide and 1 acre in size with at least 10 percent cover (or equivalent stocking) by live trees of any size, including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated within the next 10 years. (2016 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey)

² Total Land Area Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. Census 2010 U.S.

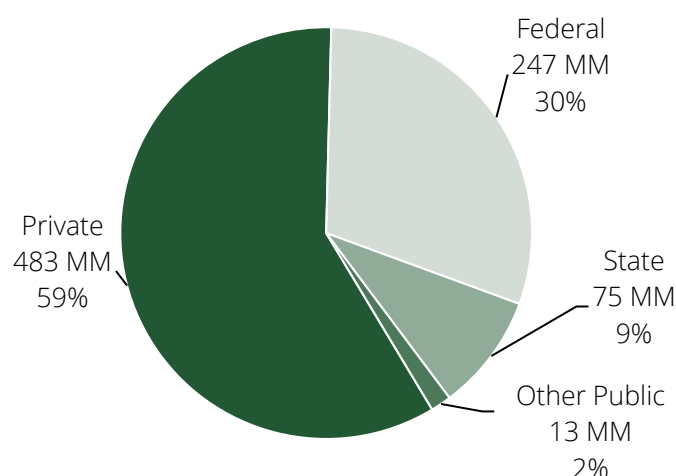
https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_SF1_GCTPH1.US01PR&prodType=table



Total Forest Ownership

More than half of the nation's forests are held in private ownership; states hold 9 percent, and local public entities, such as counties and municipalities, own 2 percent; and the federal government, such as National Forests and Bureau of Land Management, own 30 percent. Nearly seven out of every 10 acres of forest land in the United States are non-federal. Non-federal forest land ownership is concentrated in geographic proximity to U.S. population centers and these are the lands where state forestry agencies focus their efforts.

Table 2: U.S. Forest Land Ownership – 2016 Acres

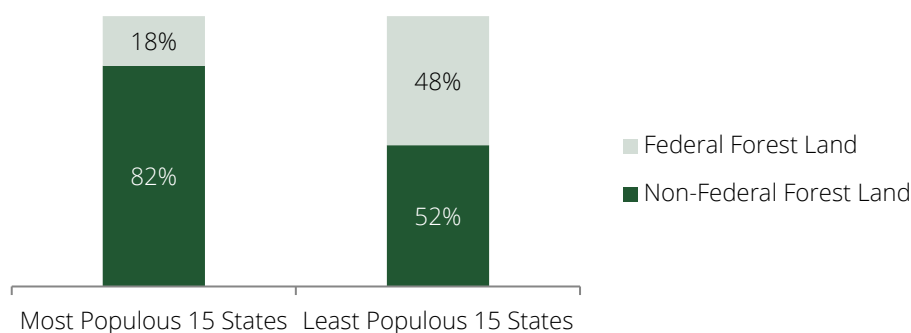




Forest Ownership and Centers of Population

Within the most populous 15 states, representing two-thirds of the nation's population, the amount of non-federal forest land is over four times that of the federal forest land (please see Appendix I for a detailed data table). Within the least populous 15 states, the amount of federal (48%) vs. non-federal (52%) forestland is nearly equal. State forestry agencies have influence over those areas closest to population centers and consequently greater responsibilities for interacting and informing the public. Protection and sustainable management of these forest lands have positive impacts on water protection, air quality, wildlife habitat, renewable forest products for building, raw materials for paper and packaging products, jobs, and recreation.

Table 3: U.S. Forest Land Ownership and Centers of Population





Private Forest Ownership

Private forest land is composed of several owner groups: corporate, forest industry, non-industrial private, and Native American. The largest owner group within private is non-industrial private, comprising 64.8 percent of the total private forest in 2016. The next largest group within private is the corporate ownership group at 25.8 percent. Corporate represents business owners without a wood processing plant within the state. Many of these owners manage their forest properties as an investment. This group's share of the private forest has been climbing over the previous four NASF surveys, from 14 percent in 2004 to 25 percent in 2012. It dropped to 24.4% in 2014 but increased to 25.8% in 2016. The increase has been the result of forest industry owners selling their forest lands. Forest industry ownership of the total private forest land dropped from 7% in 2014 to 6% in 2016. The Native American ownership type, which is defined as forest land acres held in trust by the U.S. and administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for Native American tribes, families or individuals, consists of 3.2 percent of the private forest land in 2016.

The state with the largest number of forest land acres owned by non-industrial private individuals is Texas with 44.7 million acres. The state with the largest amount of private corporate ownership is Alaska due to the land holdings of native corporations. Oregon has the largest number of acres owned by the forest industry. Arizona has the largest number of forest land acres held in trust for Native American tribes, families or individuals.

Table 4: Private Forest Land by Ownership Type – 2016

	Acres	
	MM	%
Private Individuals	313.3	64.8%
Corporate Ownership	124.8	25.8%
Forest Industry	29.9	6.2%
Native American	15.4	3.2%
Total U.S. Private Forest Land	483.3	100.0%

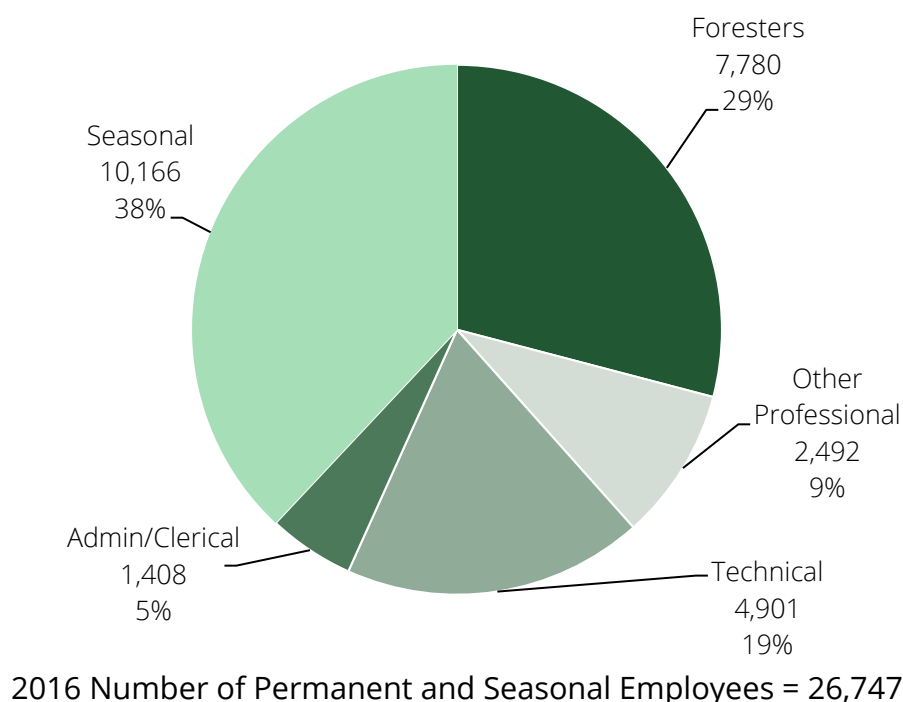


Part II: State Forestry Agency Employees and Expenditures

Total Employees in 2016

State forestry agencies employed 26,747 individuals in 2016. The largest category of permanent employees consists of foresters. In addition to foresters, other professionals employed at state forestry agencies include staff with college and advanced degrees in recreation, fire and fuels management, environmental/ land use planning, conservation, watershed, wildlife, information technology, finance, and accounting. The technical category includes employees who provide a wide range of support services including working in the nurseries, driving heavy equipment and those who provide technical support to the resource professionals. Twenty-four of the state forestry agencies receive administrative, professional or other categories of support from allocated personnel from other agencies in the state.

Table 5: State Forestry Agency Employees – 2016

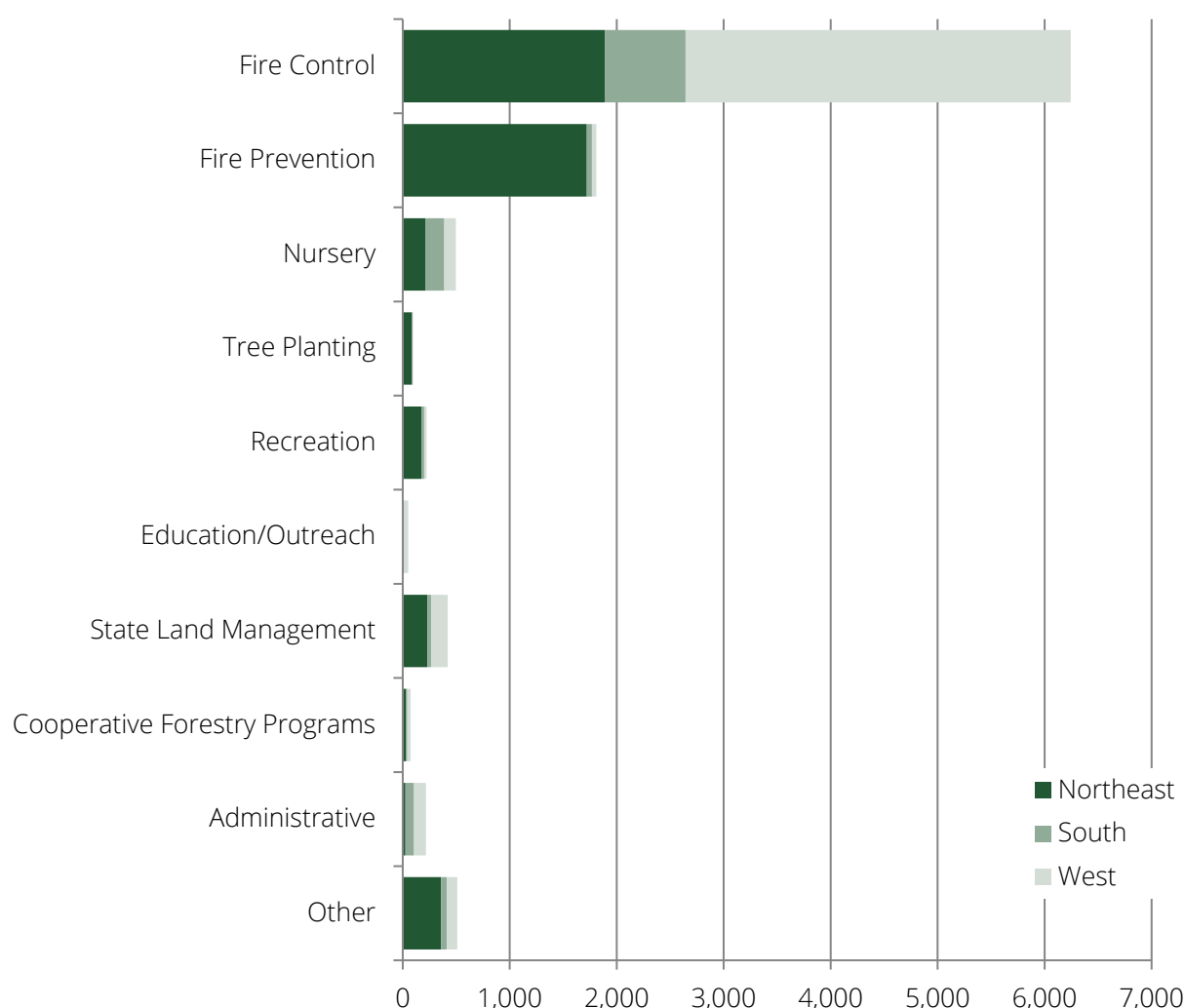




Seasonal Employees in 2016

Seasonal employees make up the largest number of positions in state forestry agencies. Seasonal jobs at the agencies make key contributions to field work in areas such as fire control, fire prevention, nursery, recreation, monitoring, and other land management activities. These seasonal jobs provide important economic support in rural communities across the states and the nation. In 2016, state forestry agencies employed 6,243 seasonal employees in fire control and 1,809 seasonal employees in fire prevention.

Table 6: Number of Seasonal or Temporary Employees by Major Function – 2016





Employment Trends

State forestry agency employment decreased by 3,183 positions between 2008 and 2010. Many of these positions were recovered in 2012 with the addition of 2,052 positions, which represented a 9% increase in the size of the workforce over the two-year period. After the increase in 2012, there was very little change in staffing levels in 2014. Permanent staffing levels in 2016 increased only 2%, but seasonal employees increased over 6%. The number of foresters in 2016 were essentially the same as 2014, increasing only 0.3%. At a time when state forestry agencies are being asked to provide additional services, it appears that this additional demand is being met by an increase in seasonal staffing.

Table 7: State Forestry Agencies Staffing Changes – 2016 vs. 2014

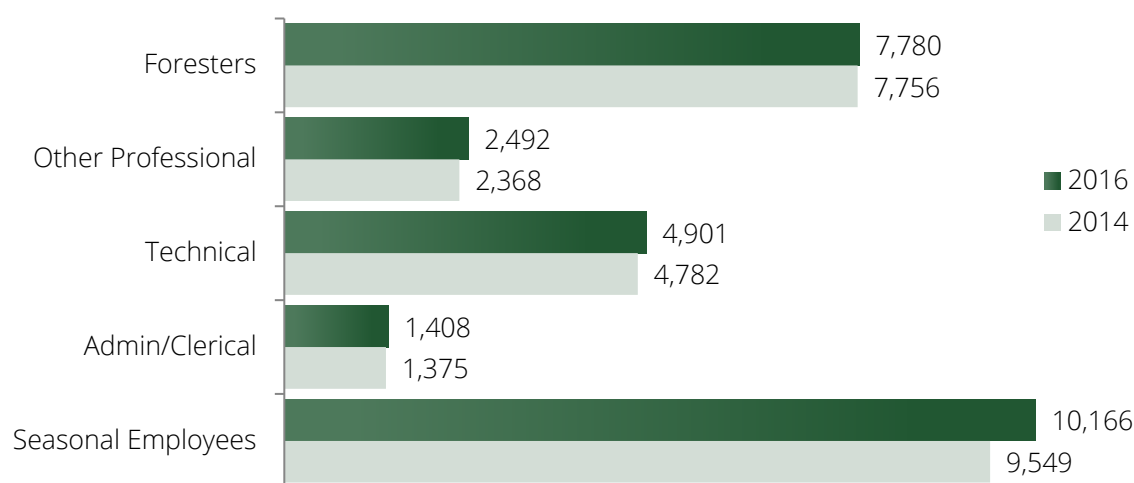
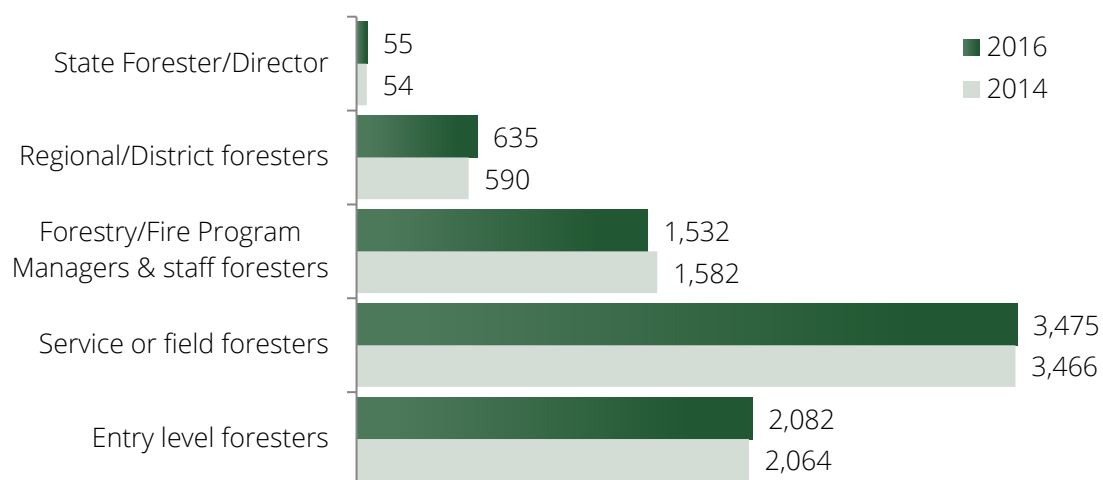


Table 8: Forester Positions Staffing Changes – 2016 vs. 2014



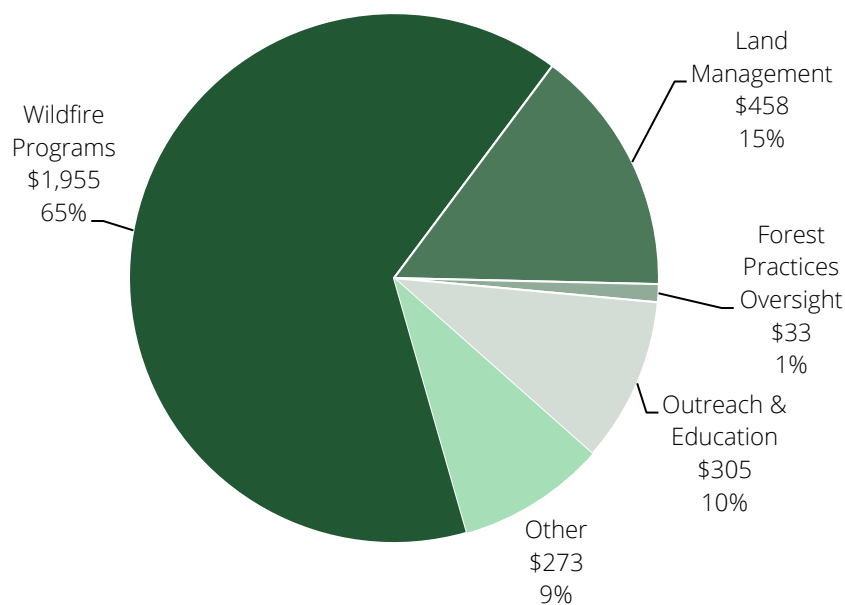


Total 2016 Expenditures

State forestry agency expenditures in 2016 totaled \$3.0 billion. This represents an increase over 2014 expenditures of \$194 million or 7 percent. Fourteen members reported decreases and thirty reported increased expenditures. The majority of these expenditures (65%) were related to fire control, prevention, education, protection, and management. Most of these wildfire related expenses are incurred on non-state lands and this is a significant budget item for every NASF member.

Land management includes funds spent on managing public lands controlled by the state forestry agency. Outreach and education expenditures include cooperative forest management landowner assistance programs, forest products utilization and marketing programs, forest health, Urban & Community Forestry, nursery programs, forest recreation, and Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA). Forest practices oversight includes enforcement of watershed and water quality protection measures.

Table 9: 2016 State Forestry Agencies Expenditures (Millions)



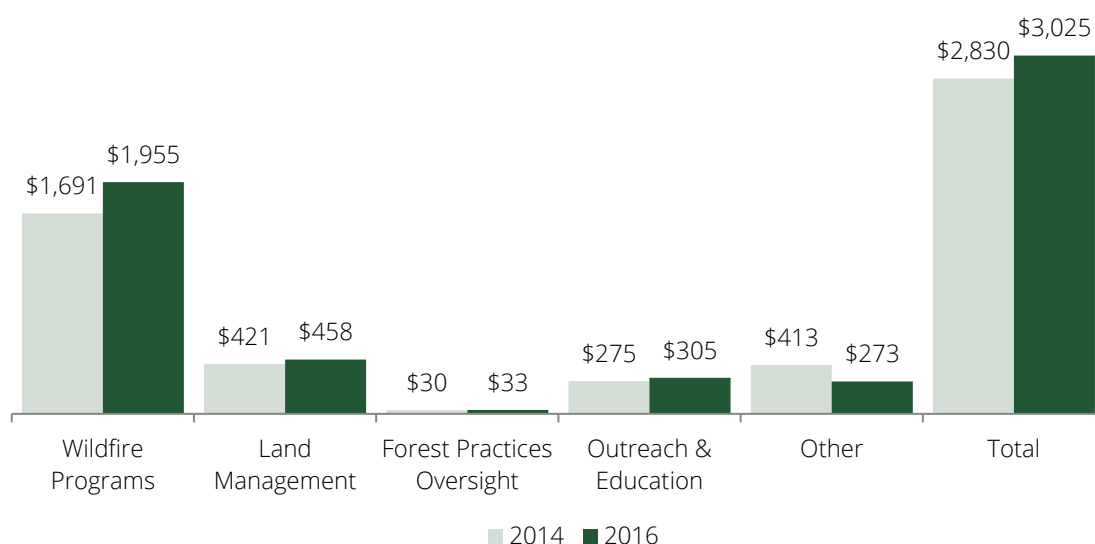
2016 Total Expenditures = \$3,025 Million



Trends in Expenditures by Category

Total expenditures in 2016 increased 7% or \$194 million from 2014. Wildfire programs reported an increase of \$264 million or 16% for 2016 vs. 2014. This was primarily driven by large increases in California, Alaska, and Texas. Following significant reductions in many of the categories, 2016 reported increases in many of the expenditure categories. State forest land management expenditures increased \$37 million or 9%. The outreach and education category reported an increase of \$29 million or 11%, primarily driven by an increase in Cooperative Forestry Management Assistance programs.

Table 10: State Forestry Agency Spending (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016





Trends in Expenditures by Region

A regionally focused review of expenditures shows both different distributions of funds across program areas as well as different trends over time.

The northeastern region on a proportionate basis has spent more on outreach education programs than the other two regions (28 percent of total expenditures in 2016). These include programs such as Cooperative Forest Management and Urban & Community Forestry. Total expenditures in the Northeast were up 5 percent between 2014 and 2016, but comes on the heels of an 8% decline in 2014.

The southern region dedicates higher percentages of agency budgets on wildfire related programs (55 percent for 2016) compared to the Northeast but still apportions considerable amounts in outreach and education programs (20 percent on average for 2016). Total expenditures in the South were up \$48 million between 2014 and 2016, but this is still \$62 million *below* the 2012 expenditures.

The western region spent 76% of their total budgets on wildfire related programs, which totaled nearly \$1.6 billion in 2016. The West experienced an increase of \$124 million in total expenditures in 2016.

Table 11: State Forestry Agency Spending by Region (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016

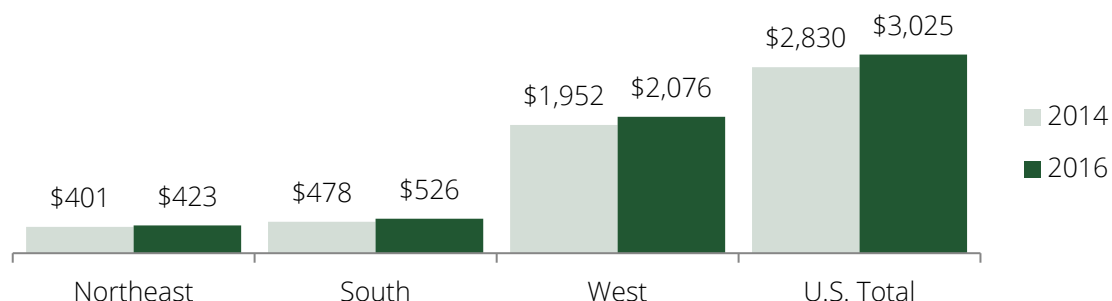
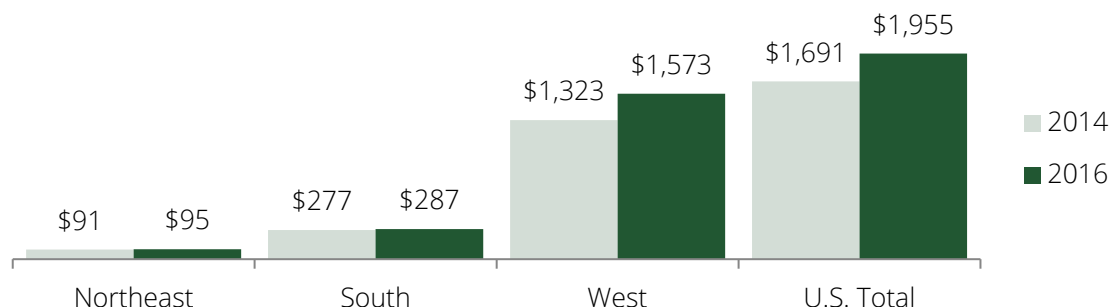


Table 12: Wildfire Program Expenditures by Region (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016





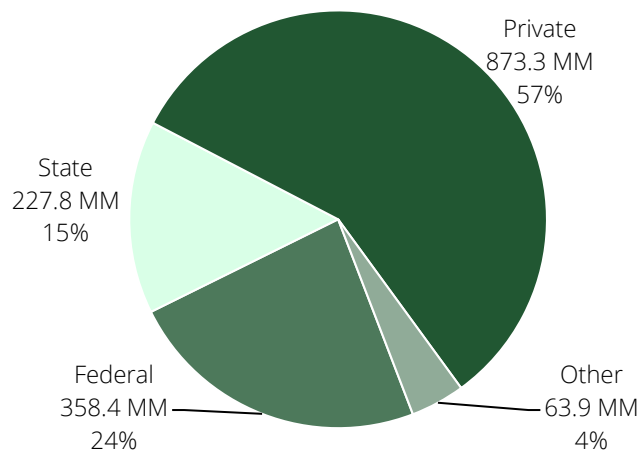
Part III: State Forestry Agency Program Areas

This section reports on survey data gathered for programs delivered by state forestry agencies. State forestry agency impact on the nation's natural resources is greater than generally thought, not only through the management of state-owned forestlands but also through technical assistance to private forest land owners, monitoring and oversight of forest and best management practices on private lands, and wildland wildfire suppression and prevention for all types of ownerships.

Wildfire Protection Activities

Wildfire related programs take a majority of the budget and staff resources of most state forestry agencies, particularly in the West and the South. Acres under wildfire protection by state forestry agencies in 2016 totaled to 1.52 billion acres. Of the 50 member states, 48 state forestry agencies managed nearly 10.1 million acres of prescribed fire in 2016.

Table 13: Wildland Protected by State Forestry Agencies (Millions) – 2016 Acres



Community Capacity Building

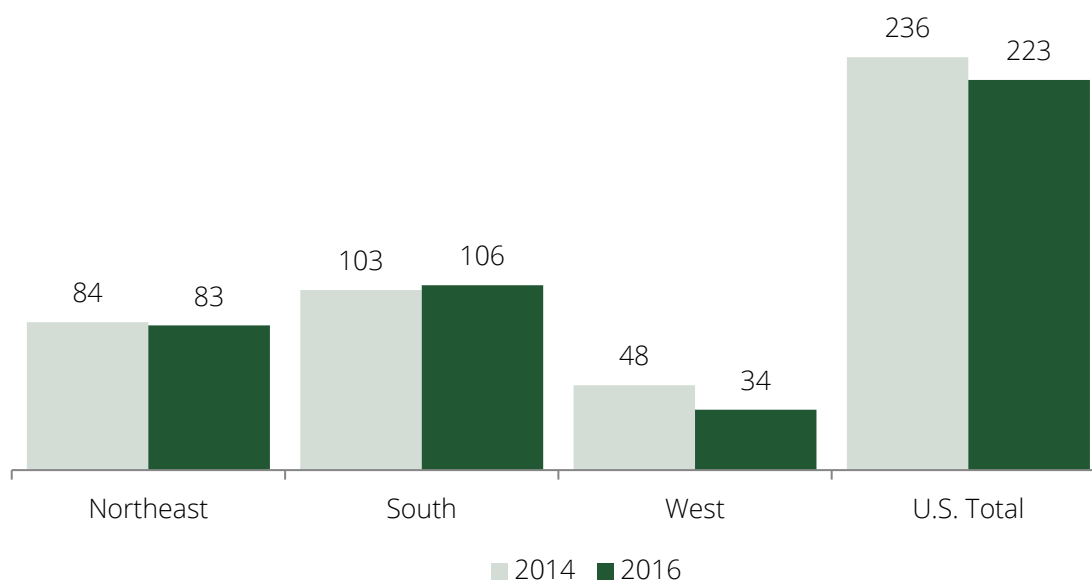
NASF members help communities prioritize their preparedness and mitigation efforts through the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). State forestry agencies help communities develop preparedness and response capabilities through rural firefighter training supported by the federal State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs. NASF members also help provide funding for fire suppression equipment and assist with formation of and expansions of volunteer fire departments. In 2016, State Forestry Agencies trained nearly 62,000 firefighters, and provided assistance to nearly 23,000 rural fire departments, as well.



Cooperative Forest Management and Landowner Assistance

State forestry agencies offer professional forestry assistance, answer technical questions, and provide other services for landowners concerning their forest lands. State forestry agencies are the primary source of forest management advice for family forest owners. This may include advice on timber marketing, fuels management, insects and disease, seedling purchase, tree planting, implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans and participation in Cooperative Forest Management cost share programs. State forestry agencies reported 222,560 landowner assists in 2016.

Table 14: Private Landowner Assists by Region (Thousands) – 2014 vs. 2016





Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Programs

Another program with decreased expenditures in 2014 is Urban & Community Forestry. All 51 respondents show their state forestry agency with the lead role in administering the Urban & Community Forestry program in their respective states. This program maintains, restores, and improves parks, street trees, and landscaped boulevards. Spending on Urban & Community Forestry decreased 1 percent, or \$0.4 million in 2016 compared to 2014. This follows sizeable declines in each of the last three survey cycles (2010, 2012, and 2014). Communities receiving state forestry agency technical assistance for this program increased in 2016 to 8,831, with the majority of these in the Northeast.

Table 15: Urban & Community Forestry Programs
Expenditures by Region (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016

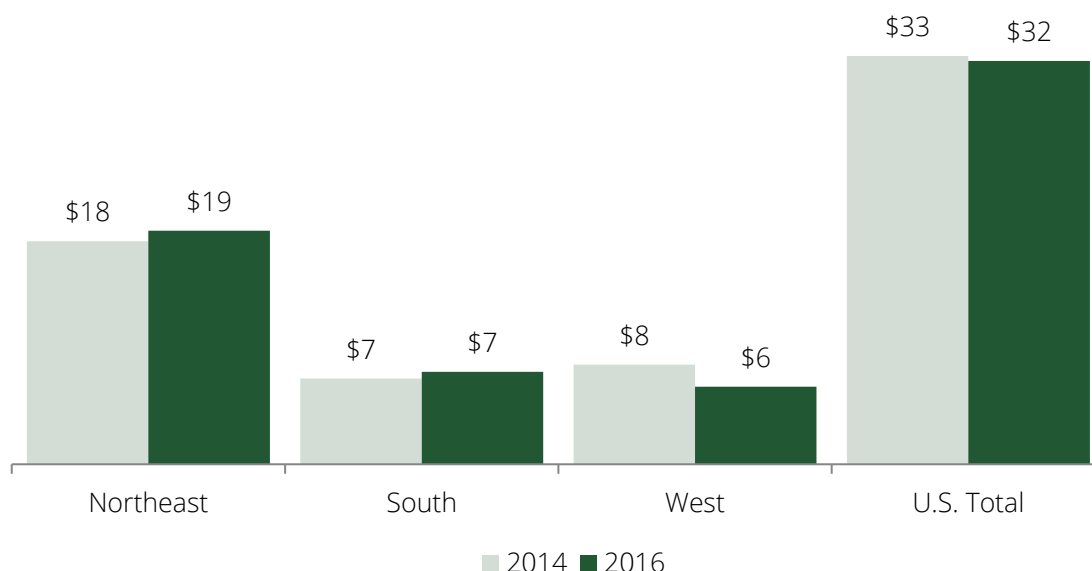


Table 16: Communities Receiving Forestry Agency Technical Assistance by Region – 2016

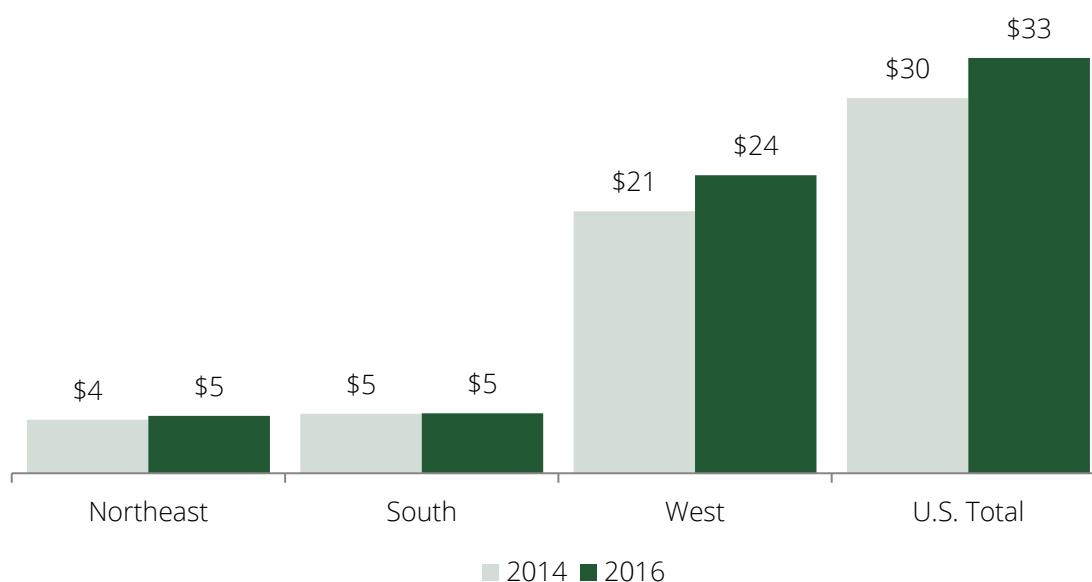
Region	Total	% of Total
Northeast	4,701	53%
South	1,852	21%
West	2,278	26%
U.S. Total	8,831	100%



Watershed/Water Quality Protection/BMPs

Most state forestry agencies are the lead agency for water quality protection related to forest silviculture on forest lands within their states. To this end, state forestry agencies have been involved in the development and field monitoring of best management practices (BMPs). Emerging issues with anadromous fish habitat, invertebrate habitat, enforcement, and BMP effectiveness have resulted in higher state forestry agency workload in this area. In 2016, total expenditures increased 11% from 2014. The west region reported an increase of nearly 14% in program expenditures, followed by the northeast region with a 7% increase, and the south region was relatively flat with just under 1% more expenditures than 2014.

Table 17: Watershed/Water Quality Protection/ BMPs
Program Expenditures by Region (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016

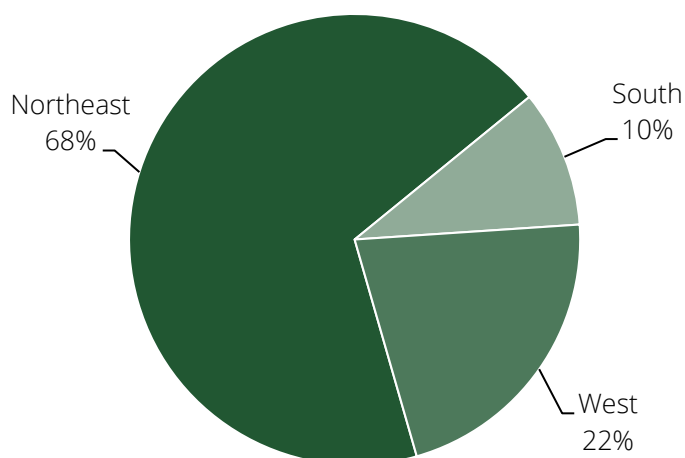




Forest Legacy Projects

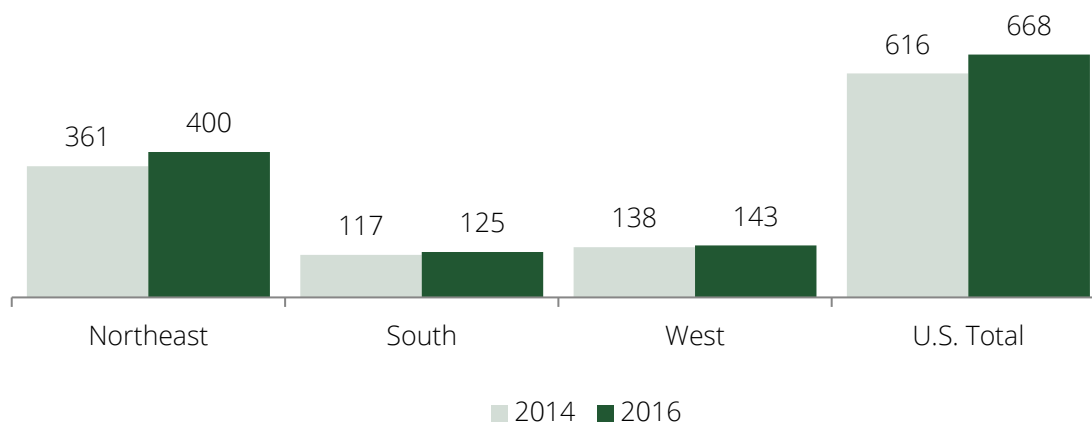
State forestry agencies are extensively involved with the Forest Legacy program (FLP). NASF members reported 668 total forest legacy projects in 2016, representing an 8 percent increase over 2014. The cumulative acres in the programs increased by over 85,000 to a total of over 2.9 million acres. These numbers show the program is continuing to grow as rapidly as the availability of funding from sources such as the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forestry (SPF) budget. It helps states to protect working forest lands that are threatened by development or other land uses, either through outright (fee simple) purchase or conservation easements. Landowner participation in FLP is completely voluntary. Landowners who choose to put a conservation easement on their lands must have a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared with technical assistance from the state forestry agency.

Table 18: Cumulative Acres of Forest Legacy Projects by Region – 2016



Cumulative Forest Legacy Acres through 2016 = 2.9 Million Acres

Table 19: Number of Forest Legacy Projects – 2014 vs. 2016

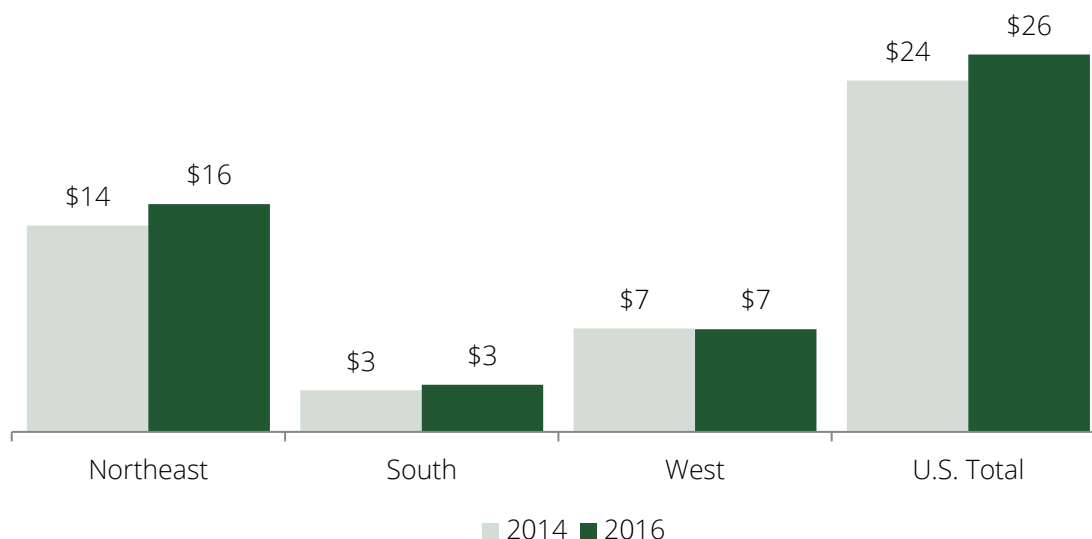




Forest Recreation Programs

Forest Recreation is a program to provide public recreational opportunities in state and other non-federal forests. Spending on Forest Recreation programs decreased 32 percent, or \$11 million in 2014 compared to 2012, primarily driven by a significant drop in Michigan due to a shift in budget responsibilities. In 2016, spending on Forest Recreation programs increased \$1.8 million or 7%.

Table 20: Forest Recreation Program Expenditures (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016





State Forest Nursery Programs

Expenditures for state forest nursery programs increased \$2.2 million or 7 percent in 2016 compared to 2014. Annual seedling production dropped by nearly 25 million during this time period. The seedling production in state nursery programs can have implications for long-term reforestation capacity. State forestry seedling production increased significantly in the south region, increasing by over 31 million or 24% in 2016. The northeast reported a decrease of over 7 million or 25% in 2016.

Table 21: State Forest Nurseries Program Expenditures (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016

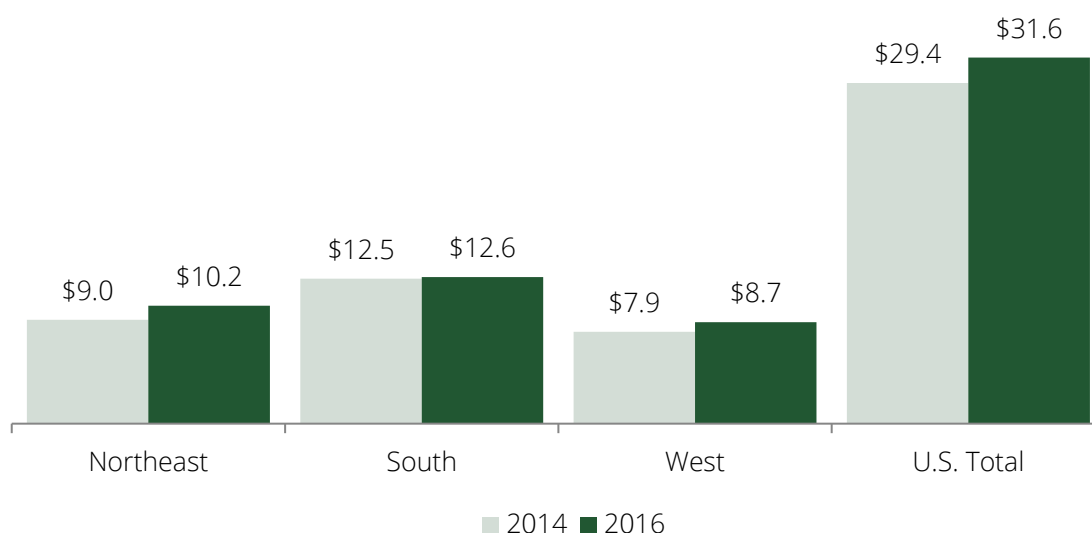
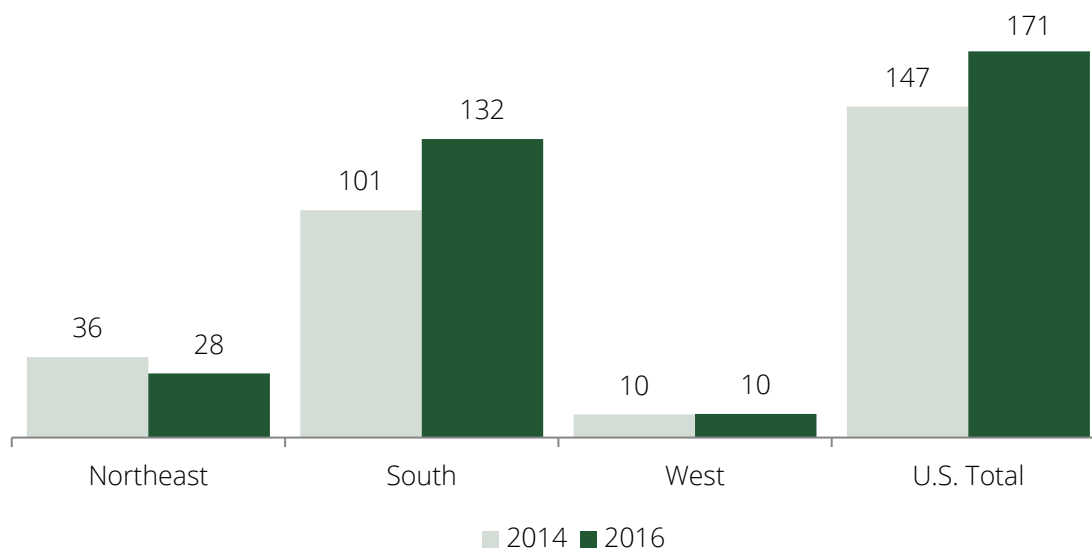


Table 22: State Forest Nurseries Annual Tree Seedling Production (Millions) – 2014 vs. 2016





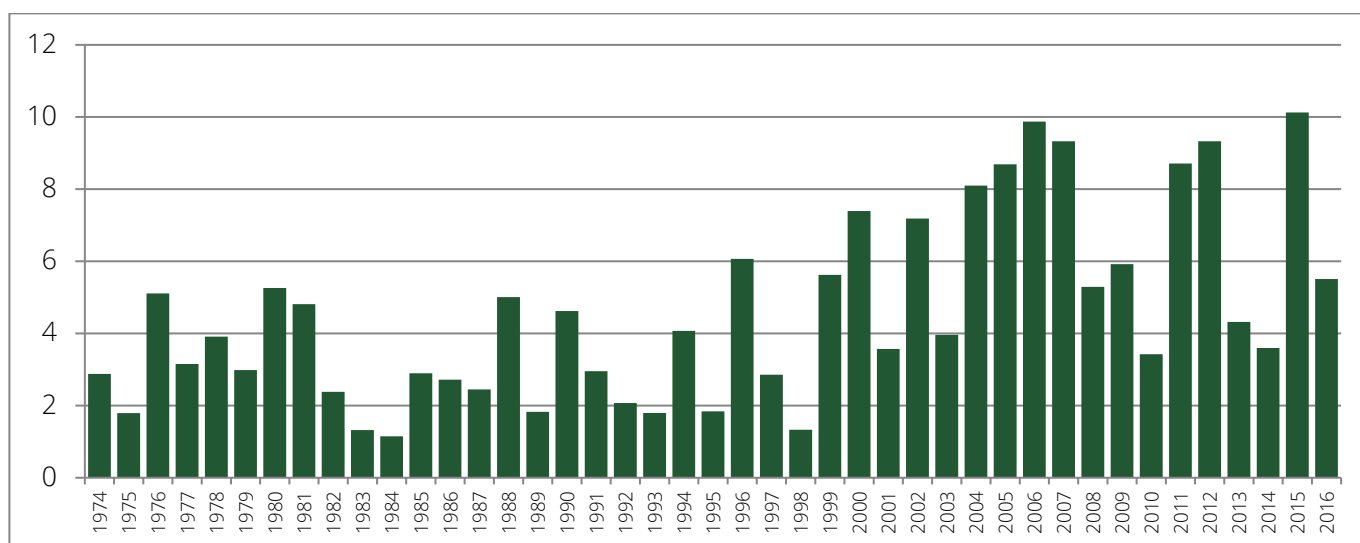
Part IV: Demand for Services and Funding Sources and Challenges

Growing Demand for Services

The 2016 NASF State Forest Statistics Survey shows an industry that is trying to meet the growing demand for services from state forestry agencies. While funding and expenditures increased in 2016 to meet the demand for services, maintaining the funding moving forward will continue to be a challenge, as 2017 has brought many natural disasters that have impacted state forestry agencies. High density population centers continue to expand in proximity to the non-federal forest lands for which services from state forestry agencies are utilized. Total area in private, non-corporate ownership is growing resulting in forest fragmentation and smaller average tract size. Consequently, the resources required for state forestry agencies to conduct outreach with education and technical forest management expertise will be stretched to a greater degree.

Wildland acres burned were down in 2016 from the 2015 high. At the time of this writing, 2017 is nearing 9 million acres. This trend is compounded by mortality from insects and disease, which are occurring more often and on more acres than in the past. The top five issues expected to take an increasing amount of attention for state forestry agencies in coming years are: 1) pest infestation and disease outbreak, 2) reducing risks of wildfire impacts, 3) strengthening forest markets, 4) minimizing forest fragmentation, conversion and development, and 5) water quality and quantity (see Appendix III for a full list of the high impact issues).

Table 23: Total U.S. Wildland Acres Burned (Millions) – 1974 - 2016



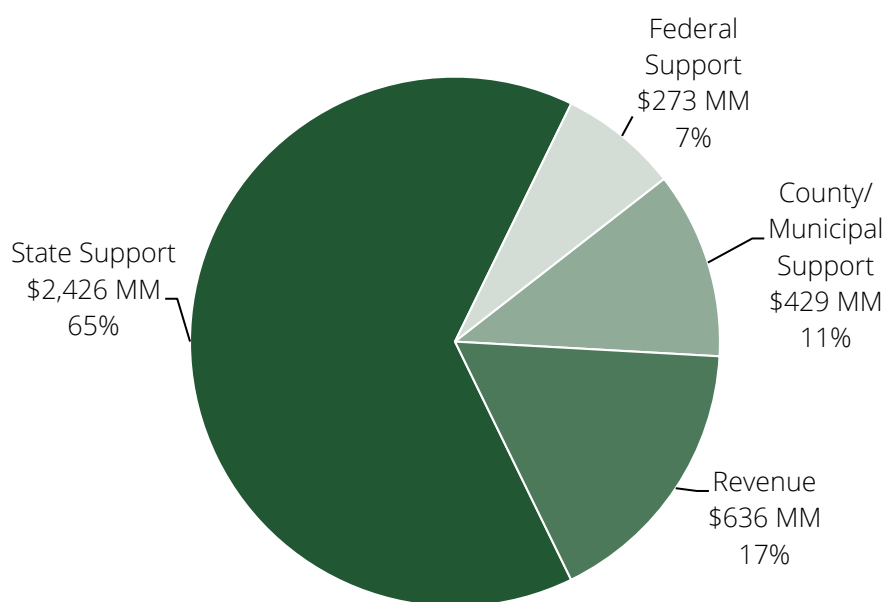
Source: National Interagency Coordination Center



Funding Sources

Overall funding support for state forestry agency programs came from state government (65 percent), state forestry agency revenues (17 percent), federal government (7 percent), and county and municipal government (11 percent). These percentages varied slightly by region, with the northeast showing less reliance on state support and more on state forestry agency revenues. The west region, primarily due to California, reported an increased reliance on county/municipal support.

Table 24: State Forestry Agencies Funding Sources - 2016



2016 Total Funding = \$3.8 Billion

Overall funding increased over \$600 million, or 20%, from 2014 to 2016. This is somewhat misleading as the majority of this increase is driven by California. On an individual state basis, agencies reported an average increase of 5%. There were some shifts in terms of the funding support categories. After consecutive decreases amounting to a \$100 million decline from 2010 to 2014, overall federal funding increased \$44 million or 19% from 2014 to 2016. State funding increased \$454 million or 23% in 2016. State forestry agency revenues were relatively flat, dropping less than \$1 million from 2014 to 2016. County and municipal funding was up significantly, but was primarily due to another large increase in California. Individual states and regions displayed a lot of variability between the two years. The northeast and south reported overall funding increases of 2.5% and 8.0%, respectively. The west region reported an increase in overall funding of 26% in 2016.



Table 25: State Forestry Programs Funding Sources by Region (Millions) – 2016 vs. 2014

State Funding	2016	2014	% Chg.
Northeast	\$240	\$220	9%
South	\$396	\$362	9%
West	\$1,791	\$1,390	29%
U.S. Total	\$2,426	\$1,972	23%

Federal Funding	2016	2014	% Chg.
Northeast	\$55	\$58	-6%
South	\$77	\$69	12%
West	\$141	\$102	39%
U.S. Total	\$273	\$229	19%

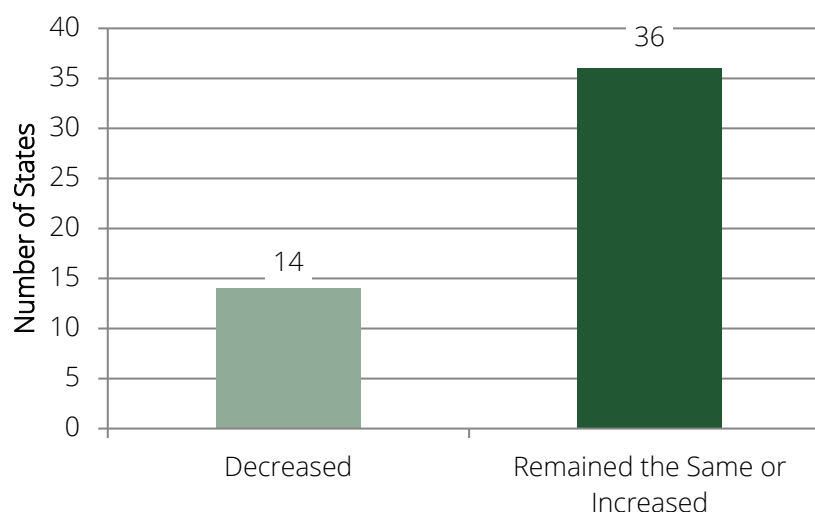
State Forestry Agency Revenue	2016	2014	% Chg.
Northeast	\$167	\$156	7%
South	\$63	\$62	0%
West	\$406	\$419	-3%
U.S. Total	\$636	\$637	0%

County & Municipal Funding	2016	2014	% Chg.
Northeast	\$1	\$18	-93%
South	\$8	\$9	-14%
West	\$421	\$272	55%
U.S. Total	\$429	\$298	44%

State Funding Support

State funding support was \$2.4 billion out of a total of \$3.8 billion, or 64 percent of total funding for state forestry agencies in 2016. This was an increase of \$454 million over 2016 or 23 percent. Although in aggregate this represented a large increase, individual states experienced an average increase of only 8% in spending from 2014 to 2016. From 2014 to 2016, 36 states experienced increases in state funding or remained relatively flat, while 14 had decreases. South Dakota, Idaho, Hawaii, Maryland, and Alabama reported over 10% declines in their state funding dollars from 2014 to 2016. California, Washington, Florida, and Texas reported the largest increases in state funding from 2014 to 2016.

Table 26: Changes in State Funding Dollars – 2016 vs. 2014





Appendix I: NASF Regions and Regional Forest Land Ownership

Regional Forest Ownership

NASF works with three regional organizations – the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), and the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) – to support forest management practices and policies unique to the regional characteristics of U.S. forests. The Northeast and South have predominately private ownership of their forest lands while the West has high federal ownership. The different ownership profiles impact priorities and work for the state forestry organizations.

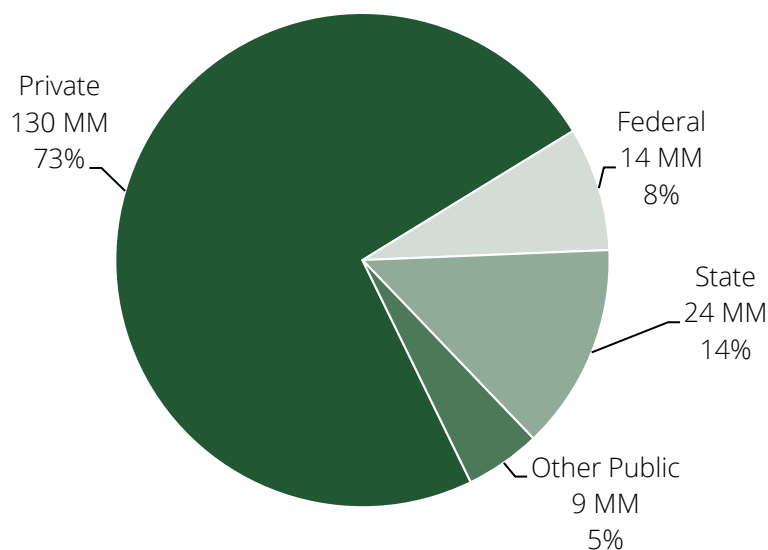
Northeastern Region

Partner Organization:

Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) <http://www.northeasternforests.org>

The twenty Northeastern and Midwestern states and the District of Columbia are home to 39 percent of the nation's population and contain over 21 percent of the nation's forests—some 177 million acres. Here, the majority of the forest land—73 percent—is owned by private citizens and corporations.

Northeastern Region Forest Land Ownership – 2016 Millions of Acres



Northeast Region Total Forest Land: 177 MM Acres

States & Territories

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
West Virginia
Wisconsin



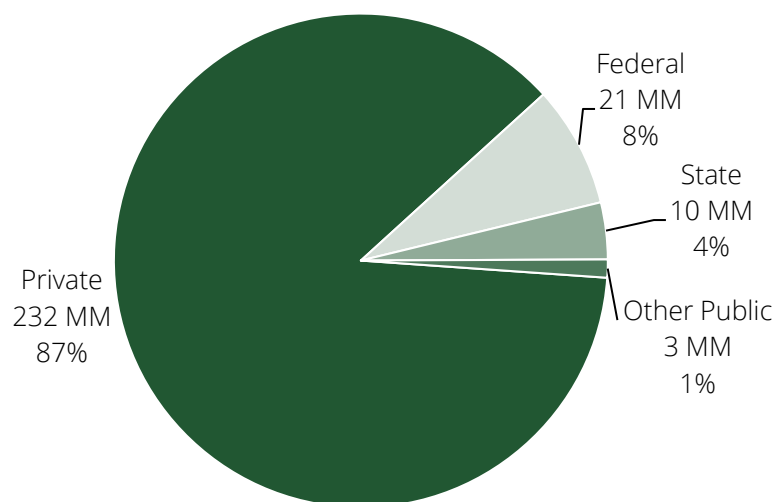
Southern Region

Partner Organization:

Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) <http://www.southernforests.org>

The South is home to vast and diverse forest resources. Forests account for a large portion of land in the South, with some states having two-thirds or more of their land area in forests. Over 87% of Southern forests are privately owned by over 5 million landowners. Southern forests are being shaped by several trends, including population growth, urbanization, changing landowner characteristics and extreme weather and fire events.

Southern Region Forest Land Ownership – 2016 Millions of Acres



States & Territories

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

Southern Region Total Forest Land: 266 MM Acres



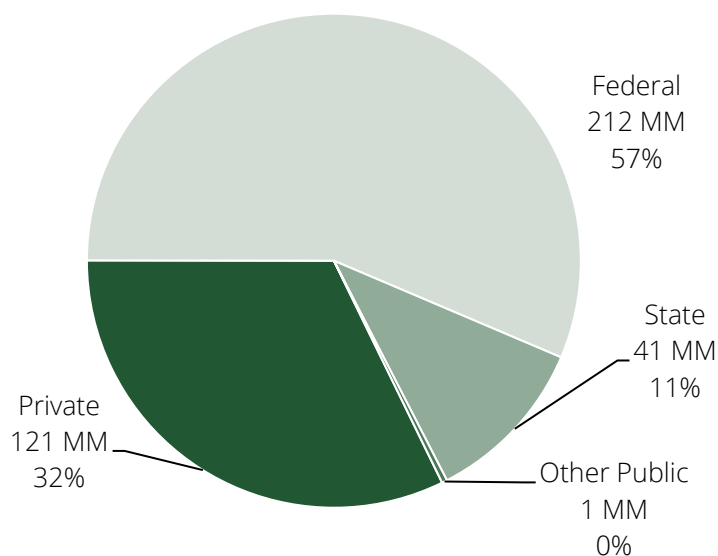
Western Region

Partner Organization:

Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) <https://www.westernforesters.org>

Forests of the West contain an incredible assemblage of resources. They cover about 376 million acres (46% of the nation's total forested area) and are managed by a diversity of owners, both public and private. The issues facing western forests—wildfire, invasive species, changing ownership patterns and markets, fragmentation, and climate change—affect all lands and all people, threatening basic assets we need and often take for granted: clean air and water, safe communities, open space, and economic opportunities.

Western Region Forest Land Ownership – 2016 Millions of Acres



Western Region Total Forest Land: 376 MM Acres

States & Territories

Alaska
American Samoa
Arizona
California
Colorado
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Kansas
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Northern Marianas
Oregon
Palau
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming



Appendix II:

Land and Population Data

State	Thousands of Acres			Total Land Area ⁴	Population ⁵
	Non-Federal Forest Land	Federal Forest Land	Total Forest Land ³		
California	13,478	18,464	31,942	99,699	39,250,017
Texas	61,734	1,628	63,363	167,188	27,862,596
Florida	13,965	2,280	16,245	34,320	20,612,439
New York	18,866	140	19,006	30,161	19,745,289
Illinois	4,645	283	4,928	35,532	12,801,539
Pennsylvania	16,256	635	16,891	28,635	12,784,227
Ohio	7,741	336	8,077	26,151	11,614,373
Georgia	22,483	1,827	24,310	36,809	10,310,371
North Carolina	16,705	2,104	18,808	31,115	10,146,788
Michigan	17,257	3,040	20,297	36,185	9,928,300
New Jersey	1,880	122	2,002	4,707	8,944,469
Virginia	13,836	2,224	16,060	25,274	8,411,808
Washington	12,502	9,885	22,387	42,532	7,288,000
Arizona	9,091	9,621	18,712	72,700	6,931,071
Massachusetts	3,208	81	3,289	4,992	6,811,779
Tennessee	12,487	1,394	13,881	26,390	6,651,194
Indiana	4,511	365	4,876	22,929	6,633,053
Missouri	13,501	1,907	15,409	43,995	6,093,000
Maryland	2,383	80	2,463	6,213	6,016,447
Wisconsin	15,437	1,618	17,055	34,661	5,778,708
Colorado	6,724	16,648	23,372	66,331	5,540,545
Minnesota	15,668	2,839	18,508	50,961	5,519,952
South Carolina	11,884	1,047	12,931	19,239	4,961,119
Alabama	22,191	942	23,133	32,413	4,863,300
Louisiana	13,159	979	14,138	27,650	4,681,666
Kentucky	11,256	1,187	12,443	25,271	4,436,974
Oregon	11,605	17,995	29,600	61,432	4,093,465
Oklahoma	11,385	889	12,274	43,901	3,923,561
Connecticut	1,780	14	1,794	3,099	3,576,452
Iowa	2,784	116	2,900	35,749	3,134,693
Utah	4,538	13,689	18,227	52,589	3,051,217
Mississippi	18,276	1,524	19,800	30,031	2,988,726
Arkansas	15,862	3,178	19,040	33,303	2,988,248
Nevada	661	9,226	9,887	70,260	2,940,058
Kansas	5,115	0	5,115	52,326	2,907,289
New Mexico	16,208	8,691	24,899	77,631	2,081,015
Nebraska	1,484	85	1,569	49,167	1,907,116
West Virginia	10,771	1,203	11,974	15,384	1,831,102
Idaho	5,114	17,157	22,272	52,892	1,683,140
Hawaii	2,303	583	2,886	4,110	1,428,557
New Hampshire	3,902	856	4,758	5,730	1,334,795
Maine	17,355	223	17,579	19,739	1,331,479
Rhode Island	367	0	367	662	1,056,426
Montana	7,660	16,220	23,880	93,149	1,042,520
Delaware	351	0	351	1,247	952,065
South Dakota	898	1,072	1,970	48,519	865,454
North Dakota	629	176	805	44,161	757,952
Alaska	63,445	63,423	126,868	365,210	741,894
District of Columbia	15	0	15	39	681,170
Vermont	4,016	492	4,508	5,899	624,594
Wyoming	2,400	8,832	11,232	62,140	585,501

³ 2016 NASF Statistical Survey

⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau. http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_SF1_GCTPH1.US01PR&prodType=table.

⁵ Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016 (NST-EST2013-01), Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Release Date: Dec. 2016. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2016_PEPANNRES&src=pt



Appendix III: High Impact Issues

The top issues expected to take an increasing amount of attention for state forestry agencies in coming years were determined by the answers to a question in the 2016 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey where each member was asked to list the three “highest impact” issues facing their agency. “High Impact Issue” was defined as: “an issue which is drawing an increasing amount of attention in your state and one which is likely to have significant impact on your state forestry agency in the coming years.” A chart of the full range of response is below:

High Impact Issues Affecting State Forestry Agencies

