



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

on USDA's "Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes"

With this new and improved strategy, the federal government will work with states to co-manage wildfire risk.

Congress gave state foresters and the USDA Forest Service more tools to boost active forest management in the FY 2018 appropriations omnibus. The USDA's *Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-based Investment Strategy* reiterates Congress' call for more active, cross-boundary forest and fuels management and requires a national approach to this work that goes beyond the traditional coordination between the states and federal government.

In the strategy, the Forest Service commits to:

Working closely with the states to (1) set landscape-scale management priorities and (2) implement targeted, cross-boundary treatments in areas with the highest payoffs. With guidance from state Forest Action Plans, hazardous fuels work and other methods of forest management initiated by the states and the federal government can now be implemented in the highest priority areas first.

Using a full suite of active management tools, including prescribed fire and managed wildfire in concert with mechanical treatments and timber sales.

Letting the states and territories lead the way in convening stakeholders to facilitate dialogue about the wildland fire environment at every scale. Through better on-the-ground coordination, wildfire suppression efforts will be more focused, effective, and safe nationwide.

Working with the states to utilize new and emerging technologies for preventing, detecting, and suppressing wildfires more quickly and safely.

Changing the agency's own internal processes to get more work done, including improving the efficiency of its NEPA environmental review processes and realigning its policies to better meet market demand for forest products.

Involving states, tribes, and others in pre-fire planning to maximize the safety of fire suppression efforts.

Sound Bites on *Toward Shared Stewardship*:

This strategy will help to forge a stronger partnership between the states and federal government in support of healthy forests.

State foresters look forward to building our partnership with the Forest Service as laid out in this new and improved strategy for shared forest management.

This new approach will have state forestry agencies and the USDA Forest Service **working together as we should, shoulder-to-shoulder, to manage wildfire risk.**

Firefighter tracking devices, enhanced satellite mapping, and the deployment of drones for early detection of wildfire could greatly enhance the effectiveness and safety of wildland firefighting efforts. **State foresters will be supportive of the Forest Service's efforts to expand use of these technologies and others.**

Quick Facts on Wildfire and State Forestry Agencies:

- State foresters have responsibility for wildfire suppression on **over 1.5 billion acres.**
- Each year, they train upwards of **62,000 men and women** to fight the majority (80 percent) of all the wildfires started across the United States, regardless of land ownership.
- This enormous responsibility costs state forestry agencies a considerable amount of resources. In 2017, for instance, these agencies spent **more than \$1.4 billion to fight wildfires** and protect communities nationwide.



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