






State Forest Action Plans:

An Overview and Explanation of 10-year Revisions

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to require every state forestry agency to prepare a "Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy."

The resulting state Forest Action Plans—as they are more commonly referred to—were completed in 2010 and reviewed in 2015 by all 59 states and territories. Each of these plans offers a practical and comprehensive roadmap for investing federal, state, local, and private resources where they can be most effective in achieving three national conservation goals:

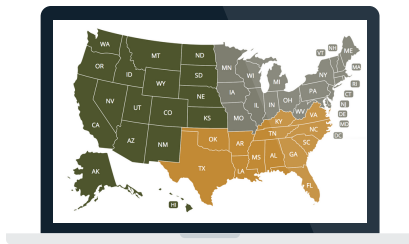
-  **Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses**
-  **Protect forests from threats**
-  **Enhance public benefits from trees and forests**

Comprehensive revisions of these plans are required at least every 10 years. To date, the majority of states have only made minor revisions to their plans, so nearly all will be required to conduct revisions by 2020.

Forest Action Plans require state forestry agencies to coordinate with other agencies and solicit stakeholder engagement. For instance, every Forest Action Plan must complement existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans and State Wildlife Action Plans, and include input from a diversity of stakeholders, including State Technical Committees, State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees, and applicable federal land management agencies.

Most states have broadened their coordination with stakeholders well beyond what is required to ensure their Forest Action Plans reflect the values and priorities of their residents. Many have worked closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, conservation districts, recreation groups, and environmental regulatory agencies to this end.

States are not limited in the ways they involve stakeholders and agencies in the 10-year revision process. Forests provide tremendous benefits to society, including clean air and water, soil erosion protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, recreational opportunities, and raw materials that support millions of jobs nationwide. Because everyone is a beneficiary of forests, anyone can choose to be a stakeholder in their management—simply reach out to your state forestry agency and ask to be included.



**Find your state's
Forest Action Plan at
ForestActionPlans.org**

