



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

## WHERE STATE FORESTRY FITS IN THE TIMBER SUPPLY CHAIN

The forestry sector relies on an integrated supply chain that includes landowners, professional foresters, loggers, truckers, primary mills, and secondary manufacturing.

### State forestry agencies are critical links in this chain.

- **State forestry agencies provide forest landowners with management advice and resources.** Among other modes of assistance, state forestry agencies develop forest management plans for landowners to help them keep their forests providing private (and public!) benefits for the long run, including timber, recreation, and ecosystem services like improved water and air quality and wildlife habitat.

These management plans help to keep forests intact, healthy, and more productive. In fact, forest owners with management plans are 2.7 times more likely to harvest timber.

- **State forestry agencies are the leaders in setting, disseminating, and monitoring best management practices (BMPs)** for protecting water quality during timber harvests and other forest management activities. State BMP programs are fundamental to meeting industry certification requirements and justifying the Clean Water Act permitting exemption for normal silvicultural activities.

- **State forestry agencies help protect America's forest resources from wildfire, pests, and disease.** State forestry agencies train tens of thousands of professionals and employ aircraft and heavy equipment to provide wildfire protection on 1.5 billion acres, including 1.1 billion acres in state and private ownership. They also run dozens of forest health programs for monitoring, trapping, and eradicating native and invasive pests that kill trees.

- **State forestry agencies actively manage state-owned forests and operate state tree nurseries.** Over 75 million acres of state forests are managed for "multiple-use" – including timber production, recreation, and wildlife habitat – much like national forests are. Unlike some national forests, however, state forests are intensively managed and often healthier and of higher quality as a result. State forestry agencies also operate dozens of tree seedling nurseries, provide site preparation services, and manage tree planting crews nationwide.

# BY THE NUMBERS

State forestry agencies provide the professional expertise, capacity, and infrastructure essential to active forest management in the United States. Their contributions include:



**Employing 26,880 individuals**, including 7,850 trained foresters and 12,280 wildland firefighters essential to actively managing and protecting the nation's forests;

**Operating 29 tree seedling nurseries and 30 tree seed orchards** – the core infrastructure for future reforestation efforts in the U.S.;

**Producing an average of 170 million tree seedlings annually** for reforestation of native ecosystems;



**Actively managing 75 million acres of state-owned forests** and leveraging state resources to **cooperatively manage federal lands** through Good Neighbor Authority agreements;

**Providing wildfire protection on 1.5 billion acres**, including federal land;



**Providing technical support to 270,000 private landowners annually**, adding to the direct management of 66% – over 520 million acres – of America's forestland held in state or private ownership;

**Assisting more than 8,000 local governments annually** to establish and manage urban and community forests;



**Delivering hundreds of federal, state, and private on-the-ground programs** that support reforestation, active forest management, forest markets, and 2.4 million forest sector jobs;

**Protecting, conserving, and enhancing forests of all ownerships nationwide** with state-defined Forest Action Plans.