100 YEARS IS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE BY ANY MEASURE.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as this organization’s president during this centennial year. The theme of this year’s annual report — 100 Years Protecting Forests — is entirely appropriate. In this year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, everything we do contains thoughts of protection for our forests, our employees, and our loved ones.

As we’ve adapted to this world of COVID-19, our vocabulary has expanded as we’ve learned new behaviors — social distancing, self-isolation, and remote workstations — and new tools for communicating — Zoom, Teams, Ring Central, and Adobe Connect. With new — and very real — safety concerns, we’ve had to create and institute dozens of new protocols for managing large wildfires.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we’ve had a number of notable successes. This spring, NASF policy efforts contributed to increased or steady funding for State and Private Forestry programs, and congressional feedback confirmed that our performance measures project directly contributed to support for increased Forest Stewardship Program funding. This summer, the Great American Outdoors Act was passed by Congress and signed into law, ensuring future funding for the Forest Legacy Program.

NASF now sits on the Stakeholder Council for the U.S. Chapter of 1t.org, a global effort to conserve, restore, and plant one trillion trees. And due to our long-standing commitment to shared stewardship implementation, we have partnered with the National Forest Foundation to deliver a series of webinars on the value of shared decision-making and priority-setting.

NASF continued to build out its Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revision Toolkit with helpful resources for state forestry agencies and their local partners. We also released the latest biennial statistics survey on state forestry agencies and used its findings in strategic communications to illustrate the tremendous value of state forestry work. Throughout 2020, and now through 2021, state forestry agencies have been helping NASF celebrate its 100th anniversary by completing unique Centennial Challenges. NASF has been highlighting their challenges in magazine articles, on NASF’s blog, and across social media.

Yes, 2020 has had many challenges, but we adapted, and accomplished a great deal despite the setbacks. I wish you all great success as you begin the next 100 years of protecting America’s forests. Together I know we can effect great and positive change over the next century.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Greg Josten
South Dakota State Forester
NASF President, 2019-2020
Letter from NASF Executive Director Jay Farrell

One hundred years ago, Pennsylvania State Forester Gifford Pinchot presided over the first meeting of what became the National Association of State Foresters. State foresters traveling to that meeting in 1920 might have listened to America’s first commercial radio station, KDKA, broadcast from Pittsburgh (where NASF planned to meet in 2020). The news of the day included the end of a pandemic and stories of states coming together to make history by ratifying the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

2020 has been a defining year in American history that has challenged every aspect of our personal and professional lives. COVID-19 changed NASF’s priorities, too. Within a matter of days, the association’s focus became maintaining business continuity and member services with remote work and meetings, renegotiating hotel contracts, ensuring employee’s health and safety, and pursuing legislative relief for state forestry agencies. The pandemic even forced NASF to postpone our in-person centennial annual meeting.

COVID-19 has put a stop to so much, but it can’t lessen the importance of our association’s 100-year milestone or the many accomplishments of state forestry agencies over the last century; NASF is going online for its 2020 annual meeting — making it the first in 100 years that won’t be in-person — but come September 2021, we’ll be back where it all started, in Pennsylvania, with even more to celebrate. Even better yet, you won’t need a radio to follow along like in 1920 — you can go to www.stateforesters.org for up-to-the-minute news.

At the highest levels, NASF is recognized as a go-to resource because of the integrity and expertise of its members. This year, the New York Times, CNN, Reuters, and a slew of other national news outlets contacted NASF to learn more about wildland firefighting amid COVID-19. Congressional offices contacted NASF to ask what assistance state foresters might need. When the White House convened a meeting of business and conservation leaders, NASF was at the table in the West Wing. The World Economic Forum invited NASF to serve on the first advisory board for 1t.org, the new U.S. platform for the global effort to plant a trillion trees.

This is the legacy of that first meeting in Pennsylvania long ago, when visionary state foresters decided to establish a national association and work together.

In the next 100 years, I know state foresters will continue to provide the expertise and experience critical to solving some of most pressing challenges we face as a nation. Today, those challenges center on a pandemic. Together, we’ll be ready for tomorrow’s challenges, too.

Jay Farrell
NASF Executive Director
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS FOUNDATION IS A NONPROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1983 BY STATE FORESTERS. PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION RECOGNIZE STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES’ EFFORTS TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE AMERICA’S FORESTS.

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State Forester of Texas

VICE CHAIR FOR INVESTMENTS
MICHAEL BUCK
Former State Forester of Hawaii

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THOMAS CLAEYS
State Forester of North Dakota

CHUCK WILLIAMS
Former State Forester of Georgia

GENE KOODAMA
Former State Forester of South Carolina

SCOTT PHILLIPS
State Forester of South Carolina

Developing State Forestry Leaders
The NASF Foundation, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, offers a fellowship for state foresters or senior state forestry agency staff to attend Harvard University’s Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. The John F. Kennedy School of Government fellowship focuses on refining skills related to leadership, strategy, crisis management, financial stewardship, and more. Although a worthy state forester was selected to participate this year, the program was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

Generating Interest and Investment in Forestry
In 2020, the foundation supported NASF’s centennial campaign with a generous grant. To learn more about NASF’s Centennial Challenge celebration, visit: www.NASF100.org. To purchase the official NASF “Stately Treasures” centennial poster featuring all 59 of its members’ state trees, visit: www.stateforesters.org/store.

Training Young Professionals and Emerging Leaders
Ordinarily, the NASF Foundation awards a fellowship to a talented photographer each year. These fellows traverse the country, capturing photos that help tell the compelling story of state and private forestry. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions this year, the 2020 Photo Fellowship was postponed.

Fortunately, the NASF Foundation was able to secure a summer intern for NASF who could work remotely. The NASF Foundation’s James Hubbard Internship for Policy and Communications program gives college-aged candidates the opportunity to engage in policy and communications at the national level on behalf of state and private forestry. This year’s intern was Tyler Hoguet.

Over the summer of 2020, Tyler contributed extensively to the association’s communications and policy work. He assisted NASF with COVID-19 federal stimulus outreach by updating and expanding NASF’s congressional contact list and conducting research. He also prepared documents on state-led reforestation efforts and carbon markets relevant to the global trillion trees platform and researched and summarized climate change assessments and objectives identified in state Forest Action Plans.

To make NASF Foundation Photo Fellow photography easier to find, download, and use, Tyler tagged hundreds of photos hosted on the organization’s Flickr account and created a NASF Flickr user guide for state forestry agency staff. He also wrote seven blog posts and helped create content for NASF’s social media platforms and social media campaigns, such as NASF’s Centennial Challenge campaign.
Building a Following with Original Content and Strategic Outreach

In 2020, NASF continued producing at least two press releases and original blog posts on average each month, in keeping with the association’s renewed emphasis on using communications strategies to bolster its policy initiatives.

NASF also increased its following and boosted engagement across all of its social media platforms by promoting state forestry agency news and sharing more original content with branded infographics and state-sourced imagery. Among the association’s most engaging posts were those featuring NASF blog posts, state forestry agencies’ Centennial Challenges, and shared stewardship agreement signings.

As in years past, NASF articles are published on a quarterly basis in the National Woodland Owners Association Magazine, which reaches more than 12,000 readers with each issue. This year’s articles highlighted the NASF Centennial Challenge campaign (in January and April), changes to the federal Forest Stewardship Program, and the effects of COVID-19-related budget cuts on forest health and productivity.

By early 2021, NASF will have launched a new video series about state forestry agencies and the value of their work. The four short videos — three one-minute clips and a longer two-minute story — feature footage from all three NASF regions and touch on Forest Action Plans, active forest management, and shared stewardship.

Refining Online Presence and Marketing Strategies to Advance State Forester Interests

In January, NASF debuted a new website for hosting and promoting Centennial Challenges. That site — www.NASF100.org — will continue to operate through the close of 2021 to accommodate those states and territories whose challenges were postponed due to COVID-19.

NASF issued its online suite of annual appropriations one-pagers, which detail the importance of federal cooperative forestry programs. The association also began expanding the scope of its weekly newsletter, which has increased dramatically to include more subscribers has stayed consistent, the content of the weekly newsletter. While the number of newsletter subscribers has stayed consistent, the content of the weekly newsletter has increased dramatically to include more subscribers has stayed consistent, the content of the weekly newsletter.

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By April, the State Foresters Store — www.stateforesters.org/store — was home to six new special-to-NASF Smokey Bear products: a 12 oz. drinking glass, 2-inch magnets, air fresheners, 4-inch decals, 4-inch window clings, and a reimagined “Stately Treasures” centennial poster. These products — and dozens of others sold in the State Foresters Store — directly support NASF wildfire prevention work.

Throughout the year, the association published official talking points, briefing materials, and one-pagers on its website to support policy priorities ranging from the importance of federal excess property programs to wildfire management to the roles state forestry agencies play in the U.S. forestry supply chain. NASF also updated its webpage dedicated to shared stewardship with the addition of ten new state agreements.

Now More Than Ever: Communicating the Importance of Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation, and Suppression During a Pandemic

COVID-19 affected virtually every aspect of state forestry operations, but none more profoundly than wildfire management. Immediately upon understanding the risks of COVID-19 and its ability to spread rapidly, state forestry agencies began working together through, and with, NASF, regional interstate forest fire compacts, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group to establish new protocols for fighting wildfires.

These protocols, along with NASF’s COVID-19 stimulus platform, links to NASF COVID-related news releases, and more in-depth information related to state forestry and COVID-19 response now reside on a dedicated “COVID-19” webpage (under “Where We Stand”) on NASF’s website.
The single best thing any outdoor recreator can do for their neighbors today is to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. Just one escaped ember from a campfire can start a wildfire. A single spark from dragging chains on pavement can too. BeOutdoorSafe.org provides us with tools we can use to keep our families and friends safe this summer — let’s put them to work.

— Jay Farrell, NASF Executive Director

Starting in early April, NASF began working with state forestry fire prevention and communications leads, the USDA Forest Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other key national and local partners to craft and disseminate consistent messaging on wildfire prevention and mitigation amid COVID-19.

By May, NASF, Ad Council, and the USDA Forest Service had released a new PSA campaign — Be Outdoor Safe — encouraging Americans to recreate safely and responsibly outdoors. Among the many tips hosted at BeOutdoorSafe.org are pointers on how to prevent wildfires while recreating.

NASF also launched the nominations periods for the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Awards and 2021 Smokey Bear Awards this summer. Both awards programs serve important roles in marketing the value of wildfire prevention and mitigation work nationwide.

Prioritizing State Forestry Agencies and State Forest Action Plans
Throughout 2020, NASF made updates to its Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revision Toolkit for state forestry agencies. In addition to the latest checklists and guidelines for revised Forest Action Plans, the digital toolkit now hosts a number of technical resources to help state forestry agencies navigate the 10-year revision process. These resources include: (1) two webinars on using social media to promote Forest Action Plans, (2) a guide for generating infographics using NASF biennial survey data, (3) a presentation on how conservation districts can engage in the Forest Action Plan revision process, and (4) tools for making the connection between forests and drinking water in Forest Action Plans.

Due to COVID-19 constraints, NASF was able to secure a three-month extension to the original submission deadline for 10-year Forest Action Plan revisions in April, ensuring that state and territorial forestry agencies would have adequate time to complete comprehensive revisions. NASF created additional member value by expanding access to NASF’s Meltwater account, a news aggregating and monitoring service, to more than a dozen state forestry communicators in 2020; and continued to regularly provide state forestry agency staff with free and useful resources, capacity building opportunities, and news most relevant to their work.

In the last 12 months, NASF has published a number of stand-alone publications that illustrate the value of state forestry agencies and state Forest Action Plans:

A Century of Shared Stewardship: State Foresters and the Forest Service states clearly and without reservation that state Forest Action Plans are the basis and guide for shared stewardship.

The latest State Foresters by the Numbers report relies on NASF biennial survey data to illustrate the key roles state foresters and their agencies play in protecting and enhancing America’s forested landscapes.

Protecting the Nation’s Water: State Forestry Agencies and Best Management Practices explains how state forestry agencies use best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality before, during, and after silvicultural activities take place.

Forest Action Plans are even at the center of NASF’s economic stimulus recommendations to Congress. In May, citing state forestry agencies’ contributions to America’s forest products supply chain, NASF justified stimulus funding for the implementation of state Forest Action Plans. Additional resources for state and private forestry, the association said, would help create thousands of jobs, restore millions of acres of forest, and rebuild vital infrastructure critical to economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19.
Supporting Appropriations of Critical Importance to State Foresters

NASF actively supports the USDA Forest Service’s suite of State and Private Forestry programs, which includes Landscape Scale Restoration, Forest Health on Cooperative Lands, Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Inventory and Analysis, State Fire Assistance, and Volunteer Fire Assistance.

In an improvement over past proposals, the Trump administration’s proposed fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget would fund some state and private forestry programs—like the Forest Stewardship, Landscape Scale Restoration, and State and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs—at levels closer to or at FY 2020 enacted levels. Unfortunately, it would also see the Forest Legacy and Urban and Community Forestry programs zeroed out, and other important state and private forestry programs cut by an additional $12.48 million compared to FY 2020 enacted levels.

In response, NASF:

- Visited personally with more than 20 federal lawmakers, their staffs, and key committee staff members to discuss the importance of cooperative forestry work.
- Provided written testimony to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on NASF’s recommended appropriations levels.
- Hosted a briefing for congressional staffers on Capitol Hill in which State Foresters John Erixon of Nebraska, Greg Josten of South Dakota, and Rob Farrell of Virginia presented on the benefits of federal and state-led urban and community forestry programs.

Additionally, through special briefings and key meetings, state foresters have maintained relationships with key decision makers in Congress and with federal agencies that the association anticipates will yield positive results in future budget cycles.

Voice of State Foresters Heard Loud and Clear on Capitol Hill

In June, State Foresters George Geissler of Washington, Laura McCarthy of New Mexico, and Thom Porter of California appeared (virtually) before members of Congress to discuss the difficulties of fighting wildfire during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Geissler stressed the significant role state forestry agencies play in wildfire management and how protocols for suppression operations have changed to better protect firefighters and the public from COVID outbreaks.

Encouraging More Active Management of America’s Forests

NASF advocated for a number of administrative policies and legislative solutions over the last 12 months to improve the health, productivity, and resilience of America’s forests, including:

- Timber tariff relief. In a November 2019 letter sent to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, NASF urged the Trump administration to prioritize Chinese removal of retaliatory timber tariffs. By January 2020, China had agreed to include hardwood timber in their purchase agreements per phase one of the U.S.-China trade deal.
- Forestry Renewal Act of 2019. Also in January, NASF expressed its support for legislation that would renew the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Committee’s charter.
- Invest in America Act. Also in February, NASF signed onto a coalition letter of support for increasing Forest Service road maintenance funding within a surface transportation bill.
- Trillion Trees Act. In March, NASF pledged support for the bill, citing its recognition of forests and forest markets as environmental and economic solutions.
- Great American Outdoors Act. In June, NASF and other members of the Forest Climate Working Group sent a letter in support of the GAOA. With passage of this bill, NASF expects significant increases to Forest Legacy funding.
- Growing Climate Solutions Act. NASF praised the bill for seeking to create a USDA-run certification program to ensure third-party verifiers and technical service providers have the expertise necessary to help forestland owners generate carbon credits.
- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. Also in June, NASF joined with dozens of diverse stakeholders to request that the bipartisan bill be included in a future economic recovery package. The bill has since been passed by the House.
- Exemption for H-2B forestry workers. In June and July, NASF was a signatory on several letters written by the Forest Resources Association, the Forest Landowners Association, and the National Alliance of Forestland Owners to the Trump administration urging it to exempt forestry workers from presidential proclamations or orders restricting immigrant or non-immigrant labor entry into the U.S. In August, the State Department released guidance that “those working in forestry and conservation” may qualify for exemption.

COVID-19 protocols have been laid out as living documents and are expected to be improved throughout the year as we learn what is working and what is not through after-action reviews by our firefighters. We are building a bridge as we cross it.

— George Geissler, Washington State Forester, to members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

### NASF Priority Program

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<th>FY 2019 ENACTED</th>
<th>FY 2020 ENACTED</th>
<th>FY 2021 ADMIN PROPOSED</th>
<th>FY 2021 HOUSE PASSED</th>
<th>FY 2021 NASF RECOMMENDATION</th>
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*The House’s spending bill of the Great American Outdoors Act, the Forest Legacy program would be separated from the State and Private Forestry Mission. NASF’s budget and funded directly from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.*

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*Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act. NASF came out in support of the bill in July, stating that it would improve Good Neighbor Authority and “help state, local, tribal, and federal agencies work together—across boundaries—to tackle forest threats with active forest management.”*

*The Rural Forests Markets Act. In August, NASF voiced support for the bill, which would provide a federal loan guarantee to innovative projects that help small forest land owners adopt sustainable, climate-smart land management practices.*

The association also submitted official comments on: (1) proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, (2) proposed changes to the Conservation Stewardship Program, (3) proposed changes to the Renewable Fuels Standard, (4) comprehensive forest climate solutions for the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and (5) the USDA’s Agricultural Innovation Agenda.

**Investing in Lasting Partnerships**

**FOREST CLIMATE WORKING GROUP:** In spring of 2019, NASF regained full membership status within the Forest Climate Working Group, and by March 2020, assumed the role of co-chair of the group’s Government Relations Team. This summer, NASF stood up a working group to investigate the potential role of state forestry agencies in engaging in carbon markets.

**FOREST SERVICE BUDGET STRUCTURE REFORM:** NASF has worked closely with USDA Forest Service leadership and the agency’s budget director to ensure that changes made to the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Mission Area’s budget structure will benefit both state forestry agencies’ ability to deliver S&PF programs and improve the agency’s budget transparency and ability to execute long-term workforce planning goals.

**NASF FIA WORKING GROUP:** In early 2020, its members re-grouped after administrative changes were made to the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The NASF FIA Working Group worked with USDA Forest Service leadership and FIA staff at the Washington Office to find resolution, and ultimately, elevated and increased the relevancy of the NASF-Forest Service partnership.

**PARTICIPATING:**

**Convening & Partnering**

In late 2019, the nation’s 59 state and territorial foresters voted to approve a new strategic plan for their association. The 2019–2021 plan is similar to past strategic plans with the notable addition of a new goal: “Convening.” This new strategic goal emphasizes the value of NASF’s critical role as a convener of agencies, organizations, and individuals in the forestry and wildland fire communities.
The CMS Group — made up of wildland fire chiefs, managers, and supervisors (CMSS) — produced reports and action items for consideration on four key national wildfire issues. Progress to date on those issues (bolded below) includes:

1. The Shared Wildland Fire Risk Mitigation (SWRM) project pilot and completion of the hazard Explorer website have helped CMS document fuels treatments that reduce community wildfire risk.

2. WFC has approved and shared NASF templates for SWRM state membership expectations and leadership support. Several key NWCG state vacancies have been filled.

3. NWCG is developing standards for “Recognition of Prior Learning,” which will support incident workforce development and staffing for this fire year and in the future. Dave Celino of Massachusetts is the task group lead on developing Prior Learning, “which will support wildfire occurrence reporting and wildland firefighters. The SWRM portal allows state, federal, and non-governmental partners to (1) share focus areas on the landscape, (2) enter into collaborative projects with coordinated planning, financing, and implementation, (3) rate project spatial data based on highly valued resources and assets, and (4) use collected/integrated data to drive executive reporting dashboards. The pilot program, scheduled to be completed in August 2020, seeks to support shared stewardship implementation with on-the-ground cross-boundary collaboration and prioritization.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: JOHN ERIKSON
COMMITTEE STAFF: KEITH WOOD

In February 2020, the Urban and Community Forestry Committee (UCFC), along with NASF staff, held a Capitol Hill briefing on the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program. The group met virtually with partners over a two-day period in June. Some action items from the meeting included reviewing and approving Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARs) changes, updates to 2014 National UCF Program Guidance, and changes to Tree City USA Growth Award activities.

Served on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s (SFI) Urban Forest Certification task group. The group, made up of urban and community forestry professionals from the U.S. and Canada, has been tasked with developing recommendations for SFI on urban forestry standards.

Helped secure digital access to the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City Bulletins for state UCF programs and led discussions in changing standards for 2020 Tree City USA applications. One key change made in 2020 due to COVID-19 was dropping the requirement for Tree Cities to observe Arbor Day with community events.

Attended Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) meetings and events and provided input on the SUFC strategic plan and SUFC House Appropriations testimony.

Worked closely with regional state forest association committees through regular conference calls and virtual meetings.

Participated in regular communication with USDA Forest Service staff in regards to the agency’s new UCF program assistant director position, reinvigorating the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Committee.
Presented at several meetings throughout the year, Staff member Rick Cantrell reviewed grant construction (mass timber). (domestic and international), tariffs, and commercial to have access to key markets, such as bioenergy number of issues to ensure forest products continue appropriately manage their forests.

In 2020, the committee continued work with the Wood Products Alliance and other partners on a number of issues to ensure forest products continue to have access to key markets, such as bioenergy (domestic and international), tariffs, and commercial construction (mass timber).

FMC also

- Continued its participation in the “Keeping Forests as Forests Initiative” by working through its Forest Markets Working Group and on a “Building Sustainably with Mass Timber” workshop in New Orleans that attracted builders and architects.

- Staff member Rick Cantrell reviewed grant proposals for the 2020 Wood Innovation Grants program administered by the USDA Forest Service. In 2020, the program awarded $7.62 million in support of wood product innovation to help create jobs, revitalize local economies, and support sustainable forest land management. Thirty-five business, nonprofit, university and tribal partners in 19 states and Puerto Rico will match the federal grant funds with an additional $131 million.

- Developed and submitted comments on the SFI forest certification standards during their standard revision process.

- Presented at several meetings throughout the year, including:
  - Society of American Foresters annual meeting (in partnership with Clemson University)
  - South Carolina Tree Farm Committee meeting
  - Southern Region Extension Forestry Economic Summit webinar
  - Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) fall meeting (as well as assisted the SGSF’s Services, Utilization and Marketing Committee in the update of their white paper on forest certification programs)

- Northeast-Midwest StateForesters Alliance (NMSFA) Utilization and Marketing Committee meeting.

The committee also continued publishing a free, internationally distributed weekly newsletter, ‘Forest Markets News’, highlighting forest markets opportunities and challenges, working forests and their contributions to society and new technology that can lead to new markets for wood products.

**FOREST MARKETS COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** SCOTT BISSETTE

**COMMITTEE STAFF:** RICK CANTRELL

The NASF-Forest Markets Committee (FMC) seeks to maintain and expand markets for the broad array of forest products, including wood products, bioenergy, and ecosystem services. Robust markets for forest products help keep forests as forests and provide landowners with the financial resources they need to appropriately manage their forests.

In 2020, the committee continued work with the Wood Products Alliance and other partners on a number of issues to ensure forest products continue to have access to key markets, such as bioenergy (domestic and international), tariffs, and commercial construction (mass timber).

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**FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** JOE FOX

**COMMITTEE STAFF:** MARVIN BROWN

A major task for the Forest Resource Management Committee (FRMC) this year was updating three NASF policy statements on climate change, forestland owner taxation, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Policy statements represent state-forester consensus on key federal issues and how they should be addressed. As a rule, they are to sunset, be renewed as is, or updated every five years.

NASF and regional state forestry association policy staff work closely with Congress and federal agencies. Their job is to help communicate how the organization feels about various federal regulation or statute changes. Often, they must do so on a short deadline. Having policy statements prepared is key for staff to be able to provide timely and comprehensive responses to press, congressional, and other inquiries related to state forester positions.

Given Congress’ increased attention to climate change in 2020, it was important to update NASF’s 2015 policy statement on the issue with new climate-smart opportunities and science. Congress and the Trump administration, both, have also been interested in tree planting initiatives; and for this reason, the paper helps formulate NASF’s views on tree planting as well.

In 2017, Congress made major changes to federal tax policies that needed to be acknowledged in an updated policy statement outlining how federal tax policies can be improved to support forestland owners and their working forests. Since the ESA paper was adopted by state foresters in 2015, several regulatory amendments have been made, prompting an update to that paper too.

Another important committee task has been continuing to work with federal partners to modernize the Forest Stewardship Program. A new allocation formula was approved by the NASF Executive Committee in December. FRMC’s work has focused on establishing priority areas and modern measures for monitoring and reporting on-the-ground accomplishments. The revised program will require all federal Forest Stewardship dollars to be spent within these priority areas. It also will put a greater emphasis on true performance measures, as opposed to more one-dimensional measures like "acres treated."

Also in the past year:

- FRMC helped to summarize the significant changes under consideration and develop a NASF response to the Council on Environmental Quality proposed rule changes for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

- FRMC provided representation to the Joint Forestry Team (JFT), made up of four partners: NASF, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Through JFT, NASF worked to increase conservation district involvement in the 10-year revisions process for state Forest Action Plans, promote programs that focus on underused landowners, and respond to proposed revisions of NRCS CAP-10 plan, which qualify forestland owners for NRCS cost-share programs.

- FRMC hosted several virtual meetings for state foresters to discuss the aforementioned policy statements and changes to the national Forest Stewardship Program and allocation formula.

**FOREST SCIENCE & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** ROB DAVIES

**COMMITTEE STAFF:** BOB SIMPSON

The Forest Science and Health Committee (FSHC) continues to provide expertise in all areas of forest health and sustainability, including invasive species management, forest inventory and monitoring, forest research, and international forest policy.

In 2020, the FSHC continued to work with its partners and stakeholders who share the same strategic goals and values regarding forest health in the U.S. These partners and stakeholders include USDA Forest Service staff in Forest Health Protection (FHP), International Programs, and Research and Development including Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Research.

Also in the past year:


- FSHC participated in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administrator’s forestry sector meeting on behalf of state and private forestry. The meeting’s discussion covered invasive pests monitoring, detection, and eradication. APHIS’ proposed deregulation of the emerald ash borer (EAB), and the impacts of inter-state movement of firewood.

- FSHC convened the USDA Forest Service FHP Metrics Modernization Work Group at the request of the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA). Forest Health Committee with the approval of the NASF Executive Committee. The work group was tasked with exploring how state forestry agencies might more accurately (and realistically) report their annual forest health actions and accomplishments to federal agencies for budgeting justification.

- FSHC virtually convened its fifth annual partners and stakeholders meeting with representation from key agencies and organizations. At the meeting, committee members and guests presented new and pertinent information and discussed ways in which all parties may work together more cooperatively to meet mutual strategic goals.
Striving to Deliver Exceptional Value to Members

NASF builds broad support for state foresters through strategically focused policy, leveraging key partnerships, effective communications, and robust education efforts.

At its core, NASF is a member-driven organization. All of NASF’s activities are guided by a strategic plan approved by its members, and in turn, all the resources invested by its members are targeted to meet member needs. In 2020, NASF put its newest strategic plan to work.

A world-class staff team manages the day-to-day operations of NASF and routinely reaches across organizational boundaries to deliver results. Teamwork and a strong customer service ethic are ingrained in the culture of NASF and its allied regional organizations—the Council of Western State Foresters, the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance, and the Southern Group of State Foresters.

Our First Virtual Annual Meeting

For 99 years, NASF’s annual meeting has been held in person. This year, the NASF Executive Committee has made the difficult but unanimous decision to take the 2020 NASF Annual Meeting online. NASF is grateful to the Pennsylvania, Washington, and Louisiana state foresters and their teams for volunteering to host the 2021, 2022, and 2023 NASF Annual Meetings, respectively.

The NASF Awards Committee will announce the association’s 2020 current achievement awardees during this year’s virtual meeting. A press release announcing this year’s winners will be published in NASF’s Newsroom and formal presentation of their awards will be made in-person at NASF’s 2021 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. A second press release will announce the new 2020-2021 NASF Executive Committee members.

NASF resolutions, which are voted on at annual meetings, are the strongest public statements state foresters can make. Policymakers pay attention to these consensus positions and there is clear evidence that NASF resolutions are helping influence public policy. Learn more about NASF resolutions and policies in the “Where We Stand” section of www.stateforesters.org.

Centennial Challenge Celebration Continues

NASF is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020 and 2021 with a Centennial Challenge campaign, honoring both the work of the association in providing a unified voice for state and private forestry in the U.S., as well as the tremendous social, environmental, and economic contributions of state forestry agencies nationwide.

As part of the celebration, each state and territorial forestry agency has planned a unique “100”-themed event, program, or initiative (called a “challenge”) to help the association commemorate 100 years of state and private forestry. Already, 15 states and territories have completed their Centennial Challenges.

To date, NASF has highlighted Centennial Challenges at NASF100.org, on social media and NASF’s blog, at virtual meetings and events, and in National Woodland Owners Association Magazine articles. State and territorial contributions to the campaign will also be featured in a forthcoming Forest History Society multi-page magazine spread and NASF’s 100-year history book, which is due to be published in mid-2021.

NASF also intends to hold a launch party for the opening of the Stately Treasures state tree tour at the National Arboretum next spring. If you can’t join us then in Washington, D.C., you can still help celebrate NASF’s centennial by supporting your state or territory’s Centennial Challenge. Head to www.NASF100.org for more on how; or if you’re from Hawaii, New York, or Arkansas, turn the page!
100 YEARS PROTECTING FORESTS

2019-2020 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) worked in 2020 to help landowners plant stream buffers along New York’s tributaries. Through the Buffer in a Bag program, more than 550 residents have planted more than 17,000 trees along stream banks to provide erosion control, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat. For its Centennial Challenge, New York highlighted 100 of its stream buffer plantings in 2020. Check out the DEC’s #NASF100 video for photo evidence!

ARKANSAS: For its Centennial Challenge, the Arkansas Forestry Division created and published 100 social media posts highlighting 100 species of trees in Arkansas. Check out installment #45: the slippery elm (Ulmus rubra), so named for its slippery (and medicinal) inner bark. You can follow along as the Arkansas Forestry Division profiles all 100 trees on Twitter (@ARDepartmentAgriculture) and Facebook (@ArkansasForestryDivision).

HAWAII: The Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife is commemorating NASF’s 100th anniversary by planting 100 ‘ulu trees across three of the state’s islands. ‘Ulu or breadfruit trees (Artocarpus altilis) are among the most bioculturally important trees in the state. They provide nutrient-rich fruit; wood for canoes, art, and fuel; sap for glue and medicine; bark for cloth; and leaves for leis.

Over their 50-year lifespans, these 100 ‘ulu trees will mitigate 7.7 million gallons of stormwater runoff, remove 10,000 pounds of pollutants from the atmosphere, store 1.3 million pounds of carbon in their wood, and yield 5 million pounds of fruit valued at $2 million. Now that’s a forward-looking Centennial Challenge!

FY 2019 NASF FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Year Ending September 30, 2019

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ending September 30, 2019

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<td>EXPENSES</td>
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HEADQUARTERS STAFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jay Farrell
jfarrell@stateforesters.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Whitney Forman-Cook
wforman-cook@stateforesters.org

POLICY DIRECTOR
Robyn Whitney
rwhitney@stateforesters.org

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
Rafael Chapman
rchapman@stateforesters.org

FISCAL SPECIALIST
Olivia Reynolds
oreynolds@stateforesters.org

OFFICE MANAGER
Tonya Beckman
tbeckman@stateforesters.org

OUR MISSION
NASF is the voice of State Foresters, influencing policy and leading efforts to enhance the social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees and forests

OUR VISION
People’s lives are better and communities are stronger because America’s trees and forests are resilient and productive

CONTACT INFORMATION
National Association of State Foresters
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 540
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-5415
www.stateforesters.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: @stateforesters

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2019-2020 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS ANNUAL REPORT
ANNUALLY, STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES:

- Offer **270,000 technical assists** to forest landowners;

- Train more than **62,000 firefighters** and protect **1.59 billion acres** from wildfires;

- Provide technical urban and community forestry assistance to more than **8,500 communities**;

- Employ more than **27,000 individuals** who work year-round to conserve, protect, and enhance America’s forests.

SOURCE: INDUSTRY INSIGHTS, 2018 NASF STATE FORESTRY STATISTICS SURVEY