Serving as NASF president during this most unusual year has been an honor and an awesome challenge. At no time in the century-long history of NASF has it been more important for state foresters to have a national association to rely on.

Through NASF, we shared our recommendations with a new administration and Congress, and were even successful in influencing legislation and policies most important to state forestry. More than ever before, we know the value of communications. We learned that virtual meetings can reach more people, but are no substitute for building the relationships so critical to our work.

As president, I had the privilege of getting to know the NASF staff. For us, they make connections, build relationships, and anticipate issues in amazing ways many NASF members never see. Member value is a key concept in NASF’s strategic plan and I can say without hesitation that NASF staff delivers it every day.

I was thrilled to be president when the association brought on three new employees. Most recently, former Florida State Forester and NASF President Jim Karels joined the NASF field staff as fire director in June. Dan Smith retired from the post after 14 years of exceptional service. Former Kentucky State Forester James Wright took on the newly created position of forestry partnership coordinator at the end of 2020, just a few weeks before Communications Coordinator Hannah Wagner joined the NASF Washington office.

Our federal partners have made staffing changes, too. Former Arizona and Washington State Forester Vicki Christiansen announced her retirement as USDA Forest Service chief in June. State foresters valued her clear vision for shared stewardship and are confident her successor, Chief Randy Moore, will adopt her commitment to cross-boundary, active forest management. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also installed a new chief, Terry Cosby, who as Ohio’s state conservationist helped establish the national Joint Forestry Team among NRCS, NASF, the Forest Service, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

I feel strongly that state foresters are well-represented by our association. With state foresters’ continued involvement in association affairs, I also believe NASF is well-positioned to accomplish great things for state and private forestry in the next hundred years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you! And please read on to learn more about the awesome work NASF accomplished in 2021.

Joe Fox
Arkansas State Forester
NASF President, 2019-2020
Letter from NASF Executive Director Jay Farrell

Like the rest of the world this year, NASF navigated COVID isolation and remote work (including a remote annual meeting). We learned that relaxed dress codes, flexible schedules, and less commuting were workable and welcome changes.

Somewhat surprisingly, we also learned that we missed the office. In a strategic move, the Washington-based staff now occupies a larger space that allows for future growth, showcases our values with the use of wood, and provides remote conferencing capabilities.

Early in the year, NASF leadership connected with incoming Biden administration officials and new congressional leadership to demonstrate how state foresters contribute to national forestry priorities. Increasing federal investments in forest management, accelerating the national Cohesive Strategy for wildfire management, supporting state Forest Action Plans, and implementing forest-based climate solutions were among NASF’s key recommendations.

NASF also helped to commemorate a terrific accomplishment in 2021: the release of state and territorial forestry agencies’ enhanced Forest Action Plans. To celebrate the enormous effort that went into revising all 59 Forest Action Plans, NASF released a four-part video series about how these plans are put to work. One of the videos, featuring Montana State Forester Sonya Germann, was showcased before an international audience at a virtual United Nations Forum on Forestry meeting.

In spring, video was again utilized by the NASF Forest Resource Management Committee, which partnered with the National Association of Conservation Districts’ Forest Resource Policy Group to host four virtual learning sessions on topics ranging from forest carbon markets to assisting underserved forest landowners.

This summer, NASF completed its own Centennial Challenge as part of the association’s Centennial Challenge Campaign. While state forestry agencies hosted unique “100”-themed events, programs, or initiatives throughout 2021, NASF was planning a launch party to mark the opening of the Stately Treasures collection at the National Arboretum. The Stately Treasures self-guided tour – unveiled this August – includes stops at the official “state trees” of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Thanks to our state forester members, the NASF staff had the support it needed to not just endure a difficult year, but to make it a great one. We look forward to working with you all in the new year!

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.

CHAIR
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Former State Forester of Texas

VICE CHAIR FOR INVESTMENTS
MICHAEL BUCK
Former State Forester of Hawaii

VICE CHAIR OF AUDITS
LARRY KOTCHMAN
Former State Forester of North Dakota

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THOMAS CLAEYS
State Forester of North Dakota

GENE KODAMA
Former State Forester of South Carolina

SCOTT PHILLIPS
State Forester of South Carolina

101 YEARS PROTECTING FORESTS

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. This year’s Harvard fellows were Wendy Burnett (Georgia Forestry Commission), Kristin Garrison (Colorado State Forest Service), and Jacob Donellan, Jared Karns, and Hughes Simpson (Texas A&M Forest Service).

GENERATING INTEREST AND INVESTMENT IN FORESTRY
In 2021, 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
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. This year, the NASF Foundation photo fellow was Hans Isaacson. Hans traveled across Michigan and New York state with the help of state forestry agency employees Kathleen Lawey (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) and Andrew Randazzo and Jane Raffaldi (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation).

The NASF Foundation also secured a summer intern for NASF, Mikayla Manthiram. As the James Hubbard Intern for Policy and Communications, Mikayla contributed to the NASF Blog, assisted with congressional hearing coverage, updated the NASF’s congressional contact list, and conducted research.
COMMUNICATING: Outreach & Marketing

BUILDING A FOLLOWING WITH ORIGINAL CONTENT AND STRATEGIC OUTREACH

In 2021, NASF published 14 press releases and 25 original blog posts, comprehensively updated all of the NASF-hosted state forestry agencies’ webpages, and maintained NASF100.org as an online clearinghouse for Centennial Challenges. At the beginning of the year, the association also published a four-part video series on state forestry agencies and the value of their work. All three NASF regions are featured in the series’ footage and Montana State Forester Sonya Germann starred in one of films detailing Forest Action Plans.

NASF increased its following and boosted engagement across all of its social media platforms in 2021 with branded infographics and state-sourced imagery. It also added a Flickr account to its social media portfolio, where the association now houses NASF Foundation Photo Fellow photography captured across 18 states.

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 reveal of states’ 10-year Forest Action Plan revisions, how state-to-landowner assistance helps reduce wildfire risk, and the latest report (co-produced by NASF) on prescribed fire use in the U.S.

The association and its members also provided background on dozens of news stories, were spotlighted on cable television and radio, and quoted by international news outlets including the Associated Press, National Geographic, and the New York Times, as well as Beltway publications like E&E News.

REFINING ONLINE PRESENCE TO ADVANCE STATE FORESTER INTERESTS

NASF kicked off 2021 by developing detailed recommendations for the incoming Biden administration. If adopted, NASF argued, these recommendations would provide much-needed support for state forestry agencies’ work at a time when state budgets are still reeling from COVID-19 response. In March, as is customary, NASF issued its online suite of annual appropriations one-pagers, which justify funding level asks for federal cooperative forestry programs.

NASF worked with state forester liaison Ellen Shultzabarger of Pennsylvania to boost the relevance of NASF’s policy positions and the reputation of state foresters in Washington, D.C., with sustained and strategic messaging throughout 2021.

Throughout the year, the association published official talking points, briefing materials, and one-pagers on its website to support policy priorities ranging from forest-based solutions for climate change and the U.S. economy to forestry success stories from Ohio and beyond. NASF also updated its webpage dedicated to shared stewardship with the addition of eight new state agreements.

In late 2021 and into 2022, NASF plans to release a new three-part video series that illustrates the importance of the human-tree bond with meaningful stories about different – but equally valuable – relationships people enjoy with trees.

In NASF’s South region, the association profiled the tremendous losses forestland-owning families experienced after Hurricane Michael destroyed their timber stands and left their land ripe for wildfire. In the West region, NASF traveled to Hawaii to explore how the cultural significance of the coconut tree has both changed and stayed consistent over centuries. In the Northeast-Midwest region, NASF is headed to Wisconsin to show how a family’s devotion to state champion trees has enriched the lives of an entire community.

NASF by the Numbers*

Facebook: 9,690+ Followers
Twitter: 10,600+ Followers
LinkedIn: 730+ Followers
Instagram: 1,560+ Followers
Weekly Newsletter: 2,600+ Subscribers

*Current as of August 4, 2021

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The communications team is also excited to release reports on NASF’s 2020 biennial survey data, forest carbon crediting and markets, and state tree nurseries in the coming months.

LEADING IN DELIVERY OF SHARED CAMPAIGNS, AWARDS PROGRAMS, AND NOW: CONVENTIONS

In May, NASF, Ad Council, and the USDA Forest Service relaunched the Be Outdoor Safe campaign with new imagery and messaging. The first Be Outdoor Safe public service announcements were created in 2020 to encourage Americans to follow tips (available at BeOutdoorSafe.org) for safe and responsible outdoor recreation.

NASF also launched the nominations periods for the 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Awards and 2022 Smokey Bear Awards this year. Both awards programs serve important roles in marketing the value of wildfire prevention and mitigation nationwide. Notably, the 2020 and 2021 Smokey Bear Award winners will be honored this September at the 2021 NASF Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. The 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Award recipients were announced in March.

Thanks to NASF, wildfire prevention coordinators, communicators, and leaders from across North America will virtually join the NASF Annual Meeting this fall for their own gathering. Together with the USDA Forest Service Region 9 and the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Great Lakes Compact Prevention Committees, the NASF will host the first annual International Wildfire Prevention Workshop in September. Workshop participants will: (1) receive training in prevention communications; (2) learn how wildfire cause data is collected, analyzed, and used; and (3) hear from leaders in wildfire prevention who have adapted their tactics to engage target audiences and foster behavior change in both virtual and in-person environments.

PRIORITIZING STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES AND STATE FOREST ACTION PLANS

Leading up to the extended deadline for submitting 10-year Forest Action Plan revisions, NASF made updates to its Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revision Toolkit for state forestry agencies. In January, the association went live with a new communications toolkit for NASF members, this time, complete with key messages, video and graphic assets, and social media sample posts and best practices specific to Forest Action Plans.

NASF created additional member value by regularly providing state forestry agency staff with free and useful communications resources, capacity building opportunities, and news most relevant to their work.

At the outset of 2021, NASF’s Executive Committee established policy priorities for the association. With guidance from state forester liaisons Bill Crapser of Wyoming and George Geissler of Washington, the association worked diligently to advocate for these priorities and the interests of state forestry agencies.
SUPPORTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES
NASF actively supports the USDA Forest Service’s suite of State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs, including 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.

NASF met with the Biden administration early in 2021 to discuss the association’s appropriations priorities and was pleased to see robust increases in both the President’s Budget Request and the House fiscal year (FY) 2022 Interior Appropriations Bill for S&PF programs of $20 million and $58 million, respectively, compared to the previous year.

In May, NASF President Joe Fox testified virtually before the Senate Agriculture Committee on Federal, State, and Private Forestlands: Opportunities for Addressing Climate Change. In his testimony, the Arkansas state forester stressed those most important to state foresters and their agencies. Chief Christiansen explained how the Forest Stewardship Program helps private forest landowners achieve climate solutions, the value of state-federal Shared Stewardship Agreements, and the critical role that the Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Health programs play in slowing the spread of invasive forest pests, like the emerald ash borer.

VOICE OF STATE FORESTERS HEARD LOUD ON CAPITOL HILL

In his testimony, the Arkansas state forester stressed that “Forest markets – for both wood and carbon credits – are critical to maintaining the health and sustainability of forests in the U.S.” He also explained that “To maintain our forests as carbon sinks, we can’t let them be destroyed by out-of-control wildfires. We must reduce wildfire fuel loads in our forests.”

The FY22 House Interior Appropriations Bill clearly recognizes the benefits of state forestry agencies working with the Forest Service in shared stewardship. The bill would direct the Forest Service to continue working with state foresters to identify priority landscape-scale projects, including wildfire mitigation and forest restoration work, to protect and support human communities and natural ecosystems. It also supports using National Forest System funding to implement cross-boundary, shared stewardship projects.

In mid-April, during a hearing of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christianson provided glowing testimony on the efficacy of S&PF programs, including tracking of all active wildland fire resources, and (4) enable real-time smoke modeling for wildland fire managers and public health officials.

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:

- Forest-based Solutions for America. In NASF’s policy recommendations to the Biden administration, the association advocates for a holistic “all lands, all hands” approach to forest management.
- Increased appropriations for the Forest Legacy Program. After the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act – which NASF advocated for – Congress appropriated over $94 million for the Forest Legacy Program in FY21, an increase of roughly $30 million over the prior year.
- Additional appropriations for the Forest Stewardship Program. NASF led a coalition letter signed by over 50 organizations asking appropriators to fund the Forest Stewardship Program at $30 million (including $22 million for program work under the new budget structure) in FY22.
- Greater funding support for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. NASF co-led a coalition letter calling for appropriators to support the program at no less than $93.5 million in FY22.
- No change to the identification of non-industrial private forest land. In response to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) proposed guidance for identifying non-industrial private forest land (NIFP), NASF submitted official comments detailing how the proposal “would have broad ramifications, including effects on state landowner assistance programs.”
- The definition of climate-smart forestry. In written comments to USDA regarding the “Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” NASF advocated for defining “climate-smart forestry” as forest management that maximizes the carbon benefits of healthy and resilient working forests. USDA subsequently released its Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy: 90-Day Progress Report in which the Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, and Urban and Community Forestry programs were cited as mechanisms for building climate resilience.

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• Passage of the Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act, introduced by Sens. Bennet (D-CO) and Wyden (D-OR) and Reps. Crow (D-CA) and Simpson (R-ID). This bill would establish a new, $60-billion account to fund collaborative forest restoration projects. If enacted, it would provide a unique opportunity for state forestry agencies to apply for funding to implement collaborative restoration projects that utilize existing cooperative forestry programs and authorities, like Good Neighbor Authority.

• Passage of the Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act, introduced by Rep. Welch (D-VT). This bill would make invasive species management a priority for federal agencies and provide new funding to boost coordinated efforts for combating non-native insects and disease-causing pathogens.

• Passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. If passed, this bill could protect one-third of the U.S.’s vulnerable fish and wildlife species while creating jobs that support outdoor-, agriculture-, and forestry-based economies. NASF has supported the Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife since the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act was introduced in the 115th Congress.

• Passage of the Disaster Reforestation Act, introduced by Reps. Sewell (D-AL) and Carter (R-GA). This bill would help forest landowners across the U.S. recover from timber losses caused by natural disasters by amending the federal tax code to allow deductions for lost timber. Creating this safety net would help keep privately owned forests economically viable and capable of producing environmental benefits for all Americans.

• Passage of the National Prescribed Fire Act, introduced by Sens. Wyden (D-OR), Manchin (D-WV), Cantwell (D-WA), and Feinstein (D-CA) and Reps. Schrier (D-WA), Simpson (R-ID), and Schrader (D-OR). The National Prescribed Fire Act would allow state foresters to increase their use of prescribed fire for improved forest health and reduced wildfire fuels and smoke emissions.

• Correct the precedent set by the Cottonwood decision. NASF submitted public comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding its proposed revisions to consultation regulations under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed rule addresses the precedent set by Cottonwood Environmental Law Center v. U.S. Forest Service, a ruling that presents significant challenges for managing National Forest System lands.
In 2021, the NASF Wildland Fire Committee (WFC) saw a fire year unlike any other during a pandemic. In response, the WFC, along with the state fire chiefs, managers, and supervisors (CMS), helped to develop Interagency COVID-19 Wildland Fire Response Plans, which detailed protocols for safe wildfire prevention, mitigation, and suppression activities for both the 2020 and 2021 fire years.

In January, NASF published the 2020 National Prescribed Fire Use Report based on 2019 data. This edition of the report found that, for the first time, the total forest and rangeland acreage treated with prescribed fire eclipsed 10 million acres. Specifically, 10,003,541 acres were treated in 2019—an increase of 28% over the 2011 total. Later in 2021, three state forestry representatives from Minnesota, Colorado, and California represented NASF in the revision of the NWCG Cooperator Aviation Standards for Interagency Fire Suppression for Type 2 and Type 3 helicopters. And in June, the WFC developed NASF recommendations on wildland fire research needs that WFC Chair and Washington State Forester George Geissler presented to the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

The NASF Fire Director Jim Karels, the CMS chairs, and revised the national UCF program one-pager. In 2021, the UCFC: contributed to comments submitted on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s Forest Carbon Standards revision process.

The next triennial survey and report on forestry and rangeland prescribed fire use across the U.S. This iteration of the WFC and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils’ prescribed fire reports will be based on 2020 data collected (again) from all 50 states. The 2021 report is expected to be completed in December 2021.

The U.S. Fire Administration’s “America’s Burning, Wildland Urban Interface: A Call to Action” report. This report — initiated by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and supported by the Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Fire Administration — builds on the success of past America’s Burning papers with 13 recommendations for mitigating wildland fire impacts on communities nationwide. The final report is slated for release in fall 2021.

The NASF Senior Director of Fire Technology Keith Smith engaged in two major projects:

- Shared Wildfire Risk Mitigation Pilot. The Department of the Interior’s Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) worked with NASF in 2021 to pilot formal ways to illustrate collaboration and shared stewardship in wildfire fuels mitigation work. The effort included data capture, data integration, and enhanced storytelling using dashboards.

- Fire Response Boundaries. In 2020, the NASF and the Forest Service began collecting “fire response boundaries” in the NASF’s South and Northeast-Midwest regions with the goal of providing these states with key information related to fire response, including wildfire risk.

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 necessary for active forest management.

The focus of 2021 for the Forest Resource Management Committee (FRMC) was forest carbon. Numerous legislative proposals were released during the year in recognition of the important role forests and forest products play in mitigating the effects of climate change.

Early in the year, the FRMC formed a subgroup of state forestry experts to provide guidance to NASF members on forest carbon. By year’s end, the group will have released a series of presentations and a list of recommendations for state forestry agencies on how they might help private landowners participate in forest carbon markets.

The presentation series details NASF’s recommendations, common forest carbon trading terminology and practices, and several existing carbon programs. A fifth session addresses how state forestry agencies can communicate about forest carbon sequestration and the many other benefits of active forest management.

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To this end in 2021 the FMC, worked with the Wood Products Alliance and other partners to ensure access to key forest product markets; served on the South’s Keeping Forests as Forests Initiative Forest Markets Working Group; and participated in the Building Sustainably with Mass Timber workshop in New Orleans. Additionally, the FMC:

- Contributed to comments submitted on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s forest certification standards revision process.

- Partnered with Clemson University to develop and deliver a presentation, “No Markets, No Money, No Management, No Conservation,” at the Society of American Foresters’ annual meeting.

- Provided an update on forest markets and the work of the FMC to the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee and the Northeast-Midwest Forest Markets Committee.

- Assisted the Southern Group of State Foresters’ Services, Utilization and Marketing Committee in updating a white paper on forest certification programs and presented an update on FMC activities at their fall meeting.

The FMC Staff Rick Cantrell reviewed proposals for the Forest Service’s 2020 Wood Innovation Grants Program, which ultimately awarded $7.62 million to 35 business, nonprofit, university, and tribal partners in 19 states and Puerto Rico. The FMC staff also continued publishing a free weekly newsletter, “Forest Markets News,” to highlight forest markets opportunities and challenges, working forests and their contributions to society, and new technology that can lead to new markets for wood products.

The U.S. Fire Administration’s “America’s Burning, Wildland Urban Interface: A Call to Action” report. This report — initiated by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and supported by the Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Fire Administration — builds on the success of past America’s Burning papers with 13 recommendations for mitigating wildland fire impacts on communities nationwide. The final report is slated for release in fall 2021.
Beyond carbon, the FRMC was busy developing comments and informing NASF communications on National Environmental Policy Act implementation rules, Endangered Species Act issues, federal lands policy, and more. The FRMC has also continued its work to modernize the Forest Stewardship Program and address state tree nursery concerns.

At the end of 2020, the NASF and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) created a contract position to advance the efficient delivery of USDA conservation programs. In this position, the NASF Forestry Partnership Coordinator (FPC) James Wright works to enhance state-level coordination among state forestry agencies, NRCS, the Forest Service, and conservation districts to improve delivery of technical and financial assistance to forest landowners.

The FPC has conducted surveys and identified a handful of states to focus his efforts. In Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Maine, and Tennessee, the FPC is assisting with developing or enhancing cooperative agreements. In Alabama and Massachusetts, the FPC is working to initiate new agreements. Also in the past year:

- The FPC participated in Joint Forestry Team meetings and provided guidance on NRCS CAP-106 plan harmonization with state-produced forest management plans. In response, the NRCS has changed its planning process so that most state plans qualify landowners for financial assistance. These changes are expected to take effect October 1, 2021.
- The FPC presented at several meetings, including the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) summer meeting; the SGSF Forest Management Committee meeting; the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance Cooperative Forest Management Committee meeting; the Council of Western State Foresters annual meeting; the National Association of Conservation Districts Forest Resource Policy Group meeting; and the Forest Service Region 8 and 9 Stewardship Coordinators meeting.

The FPC contributed to a success story highlighting the partnership of the Ohio NRCS and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. A second success story on the forestry partnership in Virginia is forthcoming.

**FOREST SCIENCE & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR: BOB DAVIES**

**COMMITTEE STAFF: BOB SIMPSON**

The Forest Science and Health Committee (FSHC) offers expertise in all areas of forest health and sustainability, including invasive species management, forest inventory and monitoring, forest research, and international forest policy. In 2021, 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, International Programs, and Research and Development. The committee also:

- Submitted recommendations on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in U.S. forest management. The FSHC’s paper supported the use of USDA-authorized GMOs in the restoration and protection of U.S. tree species affected by invasive species.
- Participated in a forestry sector meeting hosted by the administrator of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. At the meeting, the FSHC presented state and private forestry concerns regarding invasive pest monitoring, detection, and eradication. They also discussed the benefits of interstate cooperation on firewood movement and provided updates on the use of biocontrols for the emerald ash borer (EAB), spotted lantern fly, and Asian longhorn beetle.
- Facilitated the Forest Service Forest Health Program Metrics Modernization Guidance Document Task Group. Comprised of state forest health professionals and a Forest Service representative, the task group was charged with developing a document (aligned with the Metrics Modernization recommendations) to assist state forestry personnel in reporting their annual forest health accomplishments.
- Virtually convened the FSHC Fifth Annual Partners and Stakeholders Meeting. Key agencies and organizations met with the committee to learn from presentations on EAB deregulation, EAB biocontrol research and release data, the evolving science of eDNA, and the use of GMOs for tree recovery, such as the American chestnut.

**EXECUTING:**

**Management & Operations**

NASF is the only organization that speaks with one clear national voice for all state foresters—and we’re strong in the eyes of Congress, federal agencies, policymakers, and influential non-governmental organizations because of it.
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.

In late 2020 and 2021, NASF added a new member to its Washington office team and welcomed two familiar faces to its field staff. Hannah Wagner, the association’s communications coordinator, manages NASF’s social media channels, writes posts for NASF’s blog, assists in the administration of NASF’s three awards programs, and contributes to state forestry campaign work, including the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention campaign. She joined the Washington office staff in January.

James Wright, a former Kentucky state forester, began working remotely as the new forestry partnership coordinator in September 2020. James connects state forestry agencies with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service state offices across the nation to promote collaboration and improve delivery of technical and financial assistance to private forest landowners.

Jim Karels, a former Florida state forester, NASF president, and NASF Wildland Fire Committee chair, accepted the position of NASF fire director in June. Jim reports to the chair of the Wildland Fire Committee and works with the fire directors of various federal and state land management agencies to coordinate and support wildland fire and disaster operations on federal, state, and private lands.

### 2021 ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES 101 YEARS OF PROTECTING FORESTS

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. During this year’s meeting in Pittsburgh, the NASF Awards Committee will honor the 2020 and 2021 NASF Award recipients and announce the association’s 2021-2025 award name designees. Two press releases, one on this year’s awardees and award name designees, and another announcing the new 2021-2022 NASF Executive Committee members, will be disseminated from Pittsburgh the week of September 6.

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 policies in the “Where We Stand” section of www.stateforesters.org.

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMES TO A CLOSE

NASF celebrated 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, as well as the tremendous social, environmental, and economic contributions of state forestry agencies nationwide. As part of the celebration, state and territorial forestry agencies planned unique “100”-themed events, programs, or initiatives (called “challenges”). Already, 33 states and territories have completed their Centennial Challenges. Another 16 are slated for completion before the close of 2021.

**virginia Surpasses Goal of Protecting 100 Ash Trees from Invasive Pest**

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) completed the NASF Centennial Challenge by treating over 150 ash trees against the emerald ash borer (EAB). EAB has already killed more than 40 million ash trees in the Midwest, and poses serious threats to ecosystems and neighborhoods. The majority of VDOF’s treatments were conducted in central Virginia, an area experiencing “peak” EAB population levels.

**WASHINGTON DOUBLES DOWN ON CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE**

For its Centennial Challenge, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and Natural Resources (DNR) planted 237 new trees across the state’s Capitol Campus. The Washington DNR purchased many of the trees, and the DES will maintain them in harmony with the original landscape plan created by the Olmsted Brothers circa 1920.

**TEXAS HOSTS 100 HEALTHY TREES, HEALTHY LIVES EVENTS**

The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) celebrated NASF’s anniversary by hosting 100 Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives events between September 2019 and September 2021. With podcasts, workshops, tours, and trainings, TFS helped to bring health care providers, local governments, and other state forestry organizations together to expand research on the many ways trees improve human and community health.

**MINNESOTA COMPLETES “100 DAYS OF TREES”**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry completed “100 Days of Trees,” a 100-day Twitter photo-sharing campaign that capitalized on fall color excitement and fun forestry facts, for its Centennial Challenge. If you followed along, you would have learned that the Christmas tree industry in Minnesota accounts for about $30 million in annual sales, and that every year in Minnesota, three trees are planted for each one harvested.
Over the last two years, 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 were also featured in a Forest History Society multi-page magazine spread, NASF’s 2020 annual report, and a 100-year history book to be published this fall.

For its own Centennial Challenge, NASF held a launch party in August to mark the opening of the Stately Treasures collection at the National Arboretum. The Stately Treasures self-guided tour includes stops at the official “state trees” of all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is an evolution of the Grove of State Trees, a project initiated by the USDA and state foresters in 1990.

**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.

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**FY 2020 NASF FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

**SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending September 30, 2020</th>
<th>TOTAL ASSETS</th>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES</th>
<th>TOTAL NET ASSETS</th>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,420,622</td>
<td>$300,445</td>
<td>$2,120,177</td>
<td>$2,420,622</td>
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</table>

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending September 30, 2020</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Forestry Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,864,793</td>
<td>$2,667,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contributions</td>
<td>$40,758</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Meetings &amp; Conferences</td>
<td>$44,120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$550,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASF Educational Materials</td>
<td>$241,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$20,401</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
<td>$3,581,042</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

**REVENUE SOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending September 30, 2020</th>
<th>Revenue Sources</th>
<th>Expenses by Functional Area</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grants 77%</td>
<td>Forestry Program 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings 1%</td>
<td>Program Meetings 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Contributions 1%</td>
<td>Educational Materials 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Materials 6%</td>
<td>General and Administration 16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2020, despite a pandemic, state forestry agencies:

- **Offered 250,000 technical assists** to forest landowners;
- Trained more than **45,000 firefighters** and protected **1.57 billion acres** against wildfires;
- Provided technical urban and community forestry assistance to more than **8,000 communities**;
- Employed more than **26,000 individuals** who work year-round to conserve, protect, and enhance America’s forests.