



GIVING FORESTS CREDIT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

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LETTER FROM NASF PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER MARTIN



Past NASF presidents shared with me that serving in this capacity was a highlight of their careers. I can now wholeheartedly confirm this is true! The opportunity to serve world-class state leaders at the national level has been both humbling and an honor. Working together, our association made a real difference in a transformational year for forestry.

In my role as president, I had the privilege of working closely with the NASF staff team and seeing the details of how our association works. Their commitment, passion, and focus keep NASF running like a well-oiled machine. Our Washington Office, remote, and committee staff are highly respected by key decision-makers and regularly make significant contributions on the behalf of State Foresters. As a NASF member, I can say without hesitation that our association delivers exceptional member value, far beyond what most members see.

As NASF president, I had a greater appreciation of the critical importance of member engagement in the association. State Foresters' expertise and their relationships with policymakers and partners helped make the accomplishments in this report happen. Together, we helped influence historic levels of federal investments in the forestry sector. Together, we maintained influence and credibility because members contributed their time to NASF committees, the policy and communications teams, and the annual meeting.

In July, I had the opportunity to [deliver testimony on behalf of NASF](#) to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry in Washington, D.C. Along with several other members of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, I testified to the importance of past Farm Bill Forestry Titles and the many opportunities we have to conserve and enhance America's forests through future Farm Bills. For me, this was another career highlight. For NASF, it was an opportunity to inform national decisions that can help State Foresters better serve the public and America's forests.

Like the forest resource we serve, the growth and sustainability of our association requires ongoing stewardship that can never be taken for granted. I was grateful for the members that stepped up this year to fill leadership vacancies and engage new members in the association. I was also excited to see NASF welcome new staff to increase its influence on Capitol Hill and meet new strategic planning and compliance responsibilities. Our association is well-positioned for future growth.

I thank all State Foresters and our many partners for your support of me, the NASF staff team, and the association. As you read this report, I hope you agree that together we made a real difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher R. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christopher Martin
Connecticut State Forester
2021-22 NASF President

LETTER FROM NASF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAY FARRELL



This year's annual report reflects the work of an association driven by a member-defined strategic plan. While the plan focused our goals, the pandemic and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) influenced how we worked and what we worked on.

Legacies of the pandemic include crowded forests, exponential growth in online ordering, and new sustainability concerns. The BIL reframed forestry funding from millions to billions. Carbon credits, wood skyscrapers and catastrophic wildfires were in the news. "Giving Forests Credit" is an appropriate theme for a year where forests were recognized in big ways.

Against this backdrop, NASF leadership and committees were forward looking. A major focus was BIL funding. The final law included \$200 million of new funding to support state-defined Forest Action Plan implementation, achieving a long-standing NASF goal. Another win was the new \$1 billion Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. Experts from the NASF community helped launch this program in record time, with [funding now available](#) to support at-risk communities.

The next Farm Bill was another strategic area of focus. NASF President Chris Martin [delivered testimony on past and future Farm Bills](#) before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry in July, while other NASF Executive Committee members advocated for the forthcoming Farm Bill Forestry Title in meetings with USDA. As NASF committees and policy team developed a Farm Bill platform, NASF worked with key partners as co-lead of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition.

NASF also partnered with USDA to convene a reforestation summit in June, bringing leading experts to NASF's Washington Office in the Hall of the States to discuss barriers to forestry solutions for climate change, post-wildfire restoration, carbon credit generation, and sustainability efforts.

NASF's growing suite of communications tools amplified shared messaging, informed policymakers, and connected our members and partners. We debuted the short film series [Tree Stories](#), with "Forgotten Storm," "Kumu Niu," and "Tree Hunter" showing the diverse connections between forests and people. The NASF Forest Carbon Network, [launched in March](#), was a valuable resource for forest managers working in the forest carbon space. The association's [latest reports](#), including "Communities at Risk" and "State Foresters by the Numbers," provided insights found nowhere else.

Throughout the year, the Smokey Bear and Wildfire Mitigation Awards programs and their accompanying campaigns recognized excellence in addressing the nation's wildfire crisis. And in April, a [high-profile NBC news story](#) echoed NASF calls for more private landowner assistance for wildfire reduction efforts, and even featured a quote from NASF President Chris Martin.

Finally, this was a year for welcoming new members, new staff, new energy, and new ideas – all the makings of a great report next year! Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jay Farrell
NASF Executive Director



MEET OUR MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Christopher Martin
Vice President: Kacey KC
Treasurer: Scott Phillips
Past President: Joe Fox
Chair, Council of Western State Foresters: Thomas Claeys
Chair, Southern Group of State Foresters: Rob Farrell
President, Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance: Ellen Shultzabarger

NASF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Forest Markets: Russell Bozeman
Forest Resource Management: Tim Lowrimore
Forest Science & Health: Peter Church
Urban & Community Forestry: John Erixson
Wildland Fire: George Geissler

STATE FORESTER LIASIONS

Communications Team: Ellen Shultzabarger
Policy Team: Bill Crapser and George Geissler

MEMBERS

Alabama: Rick Oates
Alaska: Helge Eng
American Samoa: Denis Sene, Jr.
Arizona: David Tenney
Arkansas: Joe Fox
California: Joe Tyler
Colorado: Matt McCombs
Connecticut: Christopher Martin
Delaware: Michael Valenti
District of Columbia: Earl Eutsler
Fed. States of Micronesia: Marlyter Silbanuz
Florida: Erin Albury
Georgia: Tim Lowrimore
Guam: Christine Fejeran
Hawaii: David Smith
Idaho: Craig Foss
Illinois: Tom Gargrave*
Indiana: John Seifert
Iowa: Jeff Goerndt
Kansas: Jason Hartman
Kentucky: Brandon Howard
Louisiana: Wade Dubea
Maine: Patty Cormier
Maryland: Anne Hairston-Strang*
Massachusetts: Peter Church
Michigan: Jeff Stampfly
Minnesota: Patty Thielen
Mississippi: Russell Bozeman
Missouri: Justine Gartner
Montana: Shawn Thomas*

Nebraska: John Erixson
Nevada: Kacey KC
New Hampshire: Patrick Hackley
New Jersey: John Sacco
New Mexico: Laura McCarthy
New York: Jeffrey Rider*
North Carolina: Scott Bissette
North Dakota: Thomas Claeys
Northern Mariana Islands: Jack Ogumoro
Ohio: Daniel Balsar
Oklahoma: Mark Goeller
Oregon: Cal Mukumoto
Pennsylvania: Ellen Shultzabarger
Puerto Rico: Darien Lopez
Rep. of Palau: River Thomas
Rep. of the Marshall Islands: Iva Reimers Roberto
Rhode Island: Tee Jay Boudreau
South Carolina: Scott Phillips
South Dakota: Marcus Warnke
Tennessee: David Arnold
Texas: Al Davis*
U.S. Virgin Islands: Terrence "Positive" Nelson
Utah: Jamie Barnes
Vermont: Michael Snyder
Virginia: Rob Farrell
Washington: George Geissler
West Virginia: Tom Cover
Wisconsin: Heather Berklund
Wyoming: Bill Crapser

Current as of August 25, 2022 | *Acting State Forester



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS FOUNDATION

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

TOM BOGGUS

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

SECRETARY-TREASURER

ELLEN SHULTZABARGER

State Forester of Pennsylvania

FOUNDATION BOARD

MEMBERS

EARL EUTSLER

State Forester of the District
of Columbia

FORREST BOE

Former State Forester
of Minnesota

CHRIS MAISCH

Former State Forester of Alaska

GEORGE GEISSLER

State Forester of Washington

JIM KARELS

Former State Forester of Florida

FOUNDATION MEMBERS- AT-LARGE

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

State Forester of Connecticut

DON VANHASSENT

Former State Forester of
Maryland

DEBBIE BEGALLE

Former State Forester of Michigan

JEFF WHITNEY

Former State Forester of Arizona

KACEY KC

State Forester of Nevada

THOMAS CLAEYS

State Forester of North Dakota

GENE KODAMA

Former State Forester of
South Carolina

SCOTT PHILLIPS

State Forester of South Carolina

FOUNDATION STAFF

KATIE FORMAN-COOK

Executive Director

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.

In 2022, three leaders in state forestry participated in the program: Archie Gray, forestry assistance bureau chief for the Idaho Department of Lands; Anne Hairston-Strang, acting state forester of Maryland; and DJ Sene, state forester of American Samoa.

GENERATING INTEREST AND INVESTMENT IN FORESTRY

In the first quarter of fiscal year 2022, the foundation continued its support of NASF's centennial campaign with a generous grant. The campaign culminated with a 28-page report profiling each state and territory's Centennial Challenge. "State Forestry Marks a Century: A Centennial Challenge Campaign" will be published in print and on [NASF's website](#) in September 2022.

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's NASF Foundation photo fellow will travel over the fall and winter months to the Southwest and Pacific Northwest.

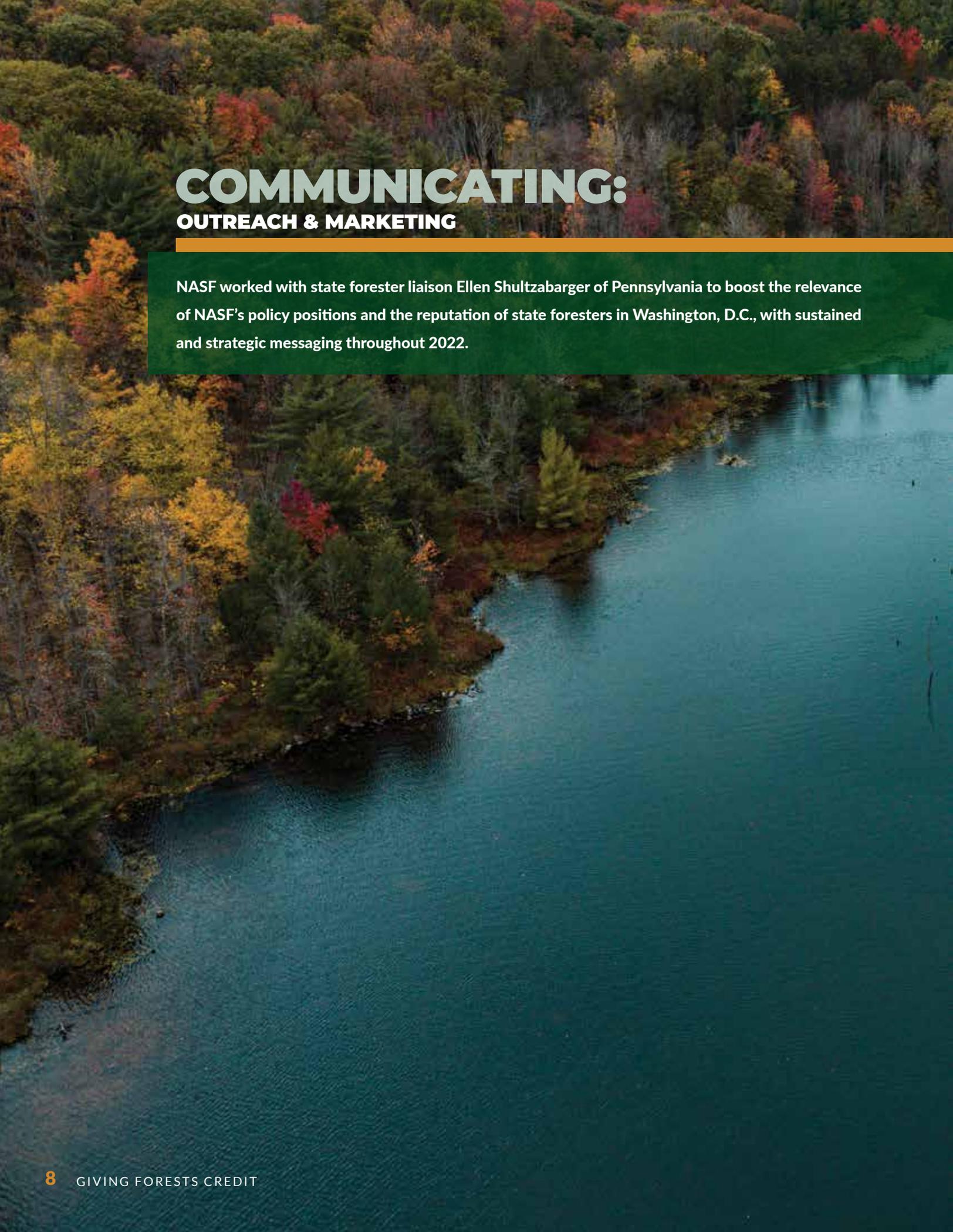
The NASF Foundation also secured a summer intern for NASF, Grant Peterson. Over the course of three months, Grant contributed to the NASF blog, assisted with congressional hearing coverage, updated the NASF's congressional contact list, conducted research, and created social media content.



Aaron Burden for NASF



Hans Isaacson for NASF

An aerial photograph of a forest with a river. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant reds and oranges, while others are still green. The river is a deep blue-green color, reflecting the sky and the surrounding forest. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

COMMUNICATING: OUTREACH & MARKETING

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 2022.

BUILDING A FOLLOWING WITH ORIGINAL CONTENT AND STRATEGIC OUTREACH

In 2022, NASF published [20 press releases](#) and [35 original blog posts](#), updated all 59 [NASF-hosted state forestry agencies' webpages](#), and maintained [NASF100.org](#) as an online clearinghouse for Centennial Challenges. The association also published a three-part video series called Tree Stories, featuring footage from all three NASF regions.



Forgotten Storm

NASF debuted Tree Stories in fall 2021 with a tree tale from the South. "[Forgotten Storm](#)" profiles the tremendous losses forestland-owning families experienced after Hurricane Michael destroyed their timber stands and left their land ripe for wildfire.



Kumu Niu

In the West region, we traveled to Hawaii to explore how the cultural significance of the coconut tree has both changed and stayed consistent over centuries. "[Kumu Niu](#)" is set on the University of Hawai'i's West O'ahu campus where a community group prepares to plant a new grove of coconut trees, or "niu."



Tree Hunter

In the Northeast-Midwest region, NASF visited Wisconsin to show how a family's devotion to state champion trees has enriched the lives of an entire community. "[Tree Hunter](#)" follows Bob Sanfelippo on a journey across his home state in search of champion trees in urban and community settings.

NASF by the Numbers*

 Facebook: **9,900+** Followers

 Twitter: **11,000+** Followers

 LinkedIn: **1,050+** Followers

 Instagram: **1,770+** Followers

 Weekly Newsletter: **2,600+** Subscribers

*Current as of August 25, 2022

each issue. This year's articles [highlighted how forest landowners can manage their woodlands to fight climate change](#), [the top management priorities of forest landowners](#), [how forest landowners can provide the nation with clean drinking water](#), and [ways that forest product markets offer woodland owners flexibility in turning a profit](#).

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 NBC, Associated Press, National Geographic, and Bloomberg, as well as Beltway publications like E&E News.

COMMUNICATING TO ADVANCE STATE FORESTER INTERESTS

In January, NASF [was recognized with the USDA Forest Service Chief's Award](#) for its work in support of the USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH) program. That same month, NASF pledged its support [in a press release](#) for the USDA Forest Service's newly released [10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#). NASF contributed to the development of the strategy and was a crucial player in its rollout.

Also at the outset of 2022, the NASF communications team [released its latest biennial survey findings](#) in a report called "[State Foresters by the Numbers](#)." The survey confirmed, among other important findings, that state forestry agencies continue to play key roles in protecting and enhancing America's forested landscapes even in the face of modern challenges, including COVID-19, catastrophic wildfire, and economic uncertainty.

Aaron Burden for NASF

Aaron Burden for NASF



A few months later, in March 2022, NASF [developed a webpage](#) to house the latest reports, NASF webinars, and news on forest carbon credit programs and markets. Among the [clearinghouse's resources](#) is a [briefer on forest carbon markets](#) that serves as a practical, educational resource for forestry agency staffs.

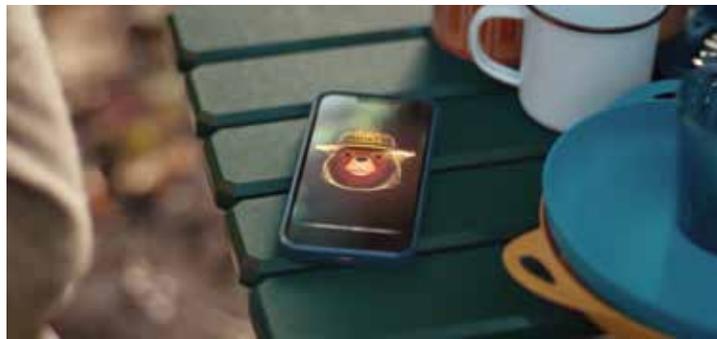
NASF's "[Enhancing Forest Resilience and the Role of Forests in Dealing with Climate Change](#)," a white paper resource available on the webpage, offers recommendations for increasing carbon storage, improving forest biomass utilization, and mitigating the effects of climate change with federal forestry programs.

The start of summer in the District was marked by the release of NASF's [annual appropriations one-pagers](#), which justify funding level asks for federal cooperative forestry programs. Throughout the year, the association also published official talking points, briefing materials, and one-pagers on its website to support policy priorities ranging from [state urban and community forestry programs](#) to forestry partnership success stories from [Arkansas](#) and [Virginia](#).

DELIVERING SHARED WILDFIRE CAMPAIGNS, AWARDS PROGRAMS, AND TRAININGS

NASF kicked off fiscal year 2022 by holding a Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) to train state emergency responders on multi-jurisdictional and all-hazard issues, including wildfire response. Forty trainees from 12 U.S. states participated in the course, this time held in North Carolina.

"CIMC participants learn how to optimize their effectiveness as part of an incident management team with instruction from experienced coaches and relevant scenario-based training," said **NASF Fire Director Jim Karels**. "Equipped with the skills they need to plan for and actively manage complex incidents, CIMC alumni can more safely and successfully perform their duties."



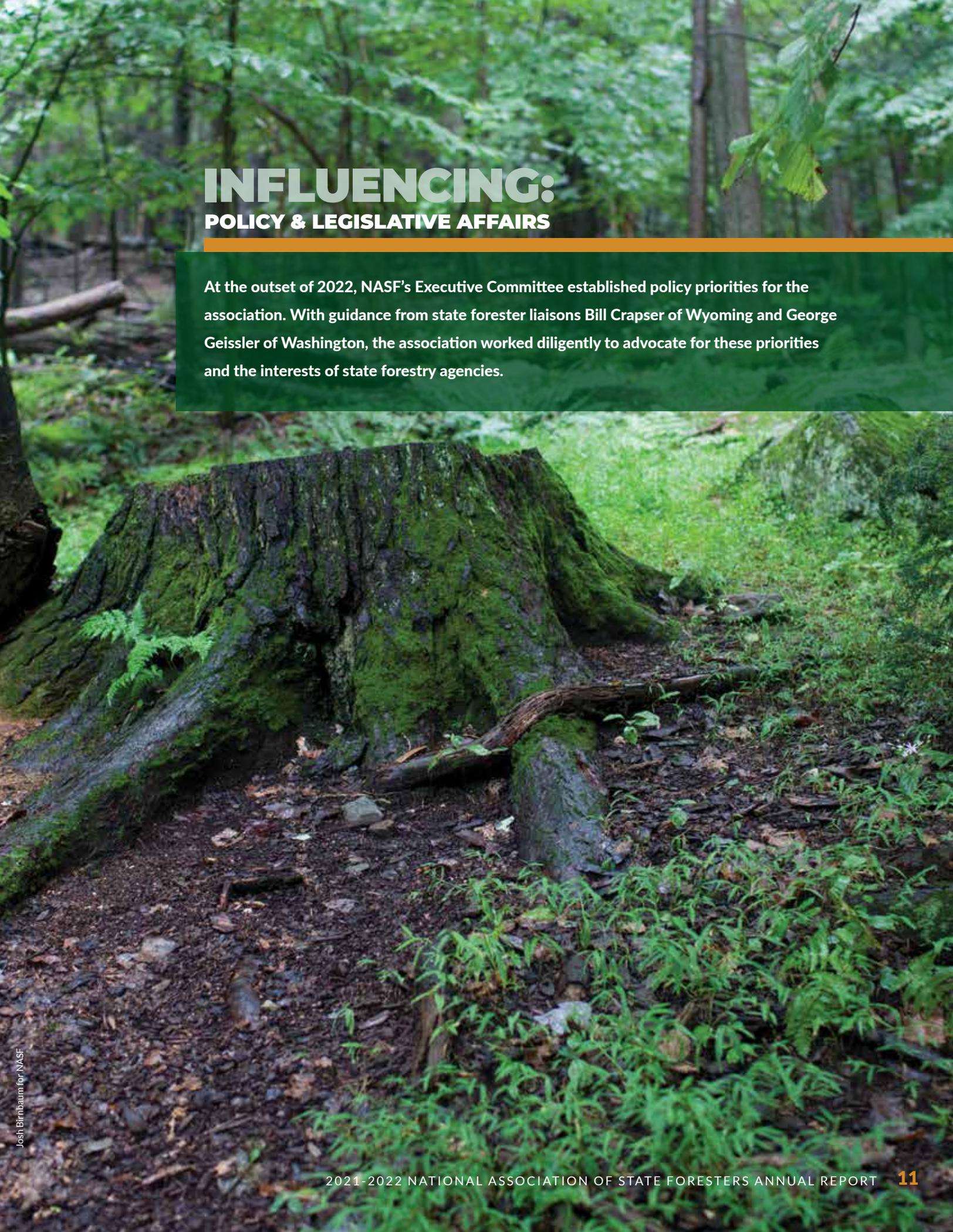
As of 2022, NASF has trained 138 teams at 31 [CIMC sessions](#) held in Arizona, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Michigan, Montana, Maine, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Washington. The course is delivered up to twice a year (the location rotates among the three state forester regions) and can be completed within a week. The next and last course in 2022 will be held in San Diego this December.

The team behind the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention program – that is, NASF, the USDA Forest Service, and Ad Council – [released the campaign's 2022 public service announcements](#) in March. In both digital and radio spots, Smokey's new (but fictional) AI Assistant gives answers to some of the top questions Americans have about outdoor fire safety.

In August, the Smokey crew [launched the nominations period](#) for the 2023 Smokey Bear Awards; and next month, in September 2022, NASF will partner with the Forest Service, the National Fire Protection Association, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs to open the nominations period for 2023 [Wildfire Mitigation Awards](#).

Both [awards programs](#) serve important roles in marketing the value of wildfire prevention and mitigation nationwide. Notably, the [2022 Smokey Bear Award winner](#) will be honored this September at the 2022 NASF Annual Meeting in Stevenson, Washington. The [2022 Wildfire Mitigation Award recipients](#) were announced in March.





INFLUENCING: POLICY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

At the outset of 2022, 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 (FIA), State Fire Assistance, and Volunteer Fire Assistance.

A BOOST FOR FOREST LEGACY

Congress continued its support for the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – a program [NASF advocated for](#) in 2020. After a slight reduction in funding in FY22, the House and Senate proposed over \$93 million for the Forest Legacy program in FY23, an increase of roughly \$5 million over FY22 appropriations and roughly a \$30-million increase over pre-GAOA funding levels.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP

The FY23 House and Senate Interior Appropriations Bills clearly recognize the benefits of state forestry agencies working with the Forest Service within a shared stewardship framework. The bills encourage the Forest Service to

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 President's Budget	FY 2023 House Mark	FY 2023 Senate Mark	FY 2023 NASF Recom.
FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM	\$21.00	\$11.90	\$12.00	\$17.90	\$15.65	\$12.00	\$22.00
STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE	\$82.00	\$73.43	\$75.00	\$73.43	\$78.00	\$75.00	\$79.00
VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$21.00
URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY	\$32.00	\$31.91	\$36.00	\$31.10	\$42.00	\$36.00	\$38.00
LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$21.00	\$20.17	\$15.00	\$20.00
FOREST HEALTH ON COOPERATIVE LANDS	\$44.00	\$30.75	\$32.00	\$36.75	\$34.75	\$33.00	\$39.43
FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	\$77.00	\$17.62	\$22.20	\$22.20	\$37.70	\$27.20	\$32.40
FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM	\$63.99	\$94.25	\$88.88	\$94.26	\$93.30	\$93.71	\$128.00

In 2022, NASF [celebrated the fiscal year \(FY\) 2022 spending bill becoming law and](#) continued its advocacy work [in support of robust S&PF funding in FY23](#) with the Biden administration and House and Senate appropriators. The association was pleased to see both branches propose or maintain significant increases for state forester priority programs in FY23.

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP AND FIA

For the first time in at least a decade, the Forest Stewardship Program received a proposed increase of over \$3 million over enacted FY22 levels in the FY23 House bill. In the same bill, the House proposed an increase of \$15 million for the FIA program.

NASF has taken a lead role in joining forces with key partners on a sustained advocacy effort for these two programs in particular. Over 55 organizations have joined us in support of the Forest Stewardship Program, and a coalition of over 80 organizations led by NASF supports increased funding for FIA. While there is much work to do, these efforts are starting to yield results.

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. The House bill's language also supports the use of National Forest System funding to implement projects jointly developed by states and the Forest Service under this framework.

VOICE OF STATE FORESTERS HEARD LOUD ON CAPITOL HILL

In July, [NASF President Christopher Martin testified in-person before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry](#) in a hearing titled "A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Forestry."

In his testimony, the Connecticut state forester stressed NASF support for (1) authorizing counties and federally recognized tribes to retain and expend [good neighbor authority \(GNA\)](#) timber sale revenues and (2) restoring the cross-boundary nature of GNA by removing a 2018 Farm Bill requirement that GNA project revenues are spent solely on federal lands.



“Wildfires in the West may be top of mind, but managing wildfire is truly a national call-to-action that spans all landscapes and every state in this country. All of the nation’s state foresters stand ready to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the Forest Service on implementing this national strategy,” said **NASF President and Connecticut State Forester Christopher Martin**.



Leslie Robertson for NASF

Since Congress created GNA with the 2014 Farm Bill, the authority has allowed the Forest Service to partner with states on federal forest restoration and management projects, facilitating critical work to improve species habitat, enhance watersheds, and reduce hazardous wildfire fuels. As of July 2022, at least 36 states have broken ground on over 130 GNA projects. Through these GNA projects, states are contributing to the restoration of federal forests on a scale never before realized.

Restoring the cross-boundary nature of GNA will allow state, tribal, county, and other lands adjacent to federal lands – all of which are essential to the health and productivity of National Forests – to be restored as a part of comprehensive landscapes with GNA revenues.

President Martin also highlighted the importance of returning flexibility to the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program to ensure that the highest priority needs across landscapes as identified in state Forest Action Plans are addressed, regardless of community size. To this end, President Martin recommended striking the 2018 Farm Bill requirement that excluded larger communities (with populations greater than 50,000) from LSR eligibility.

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:

TEN-YEAR WILDFIRE CRISIS STRATEGY

NASF worked closely with the Forest Service and its partners in 2022 to develop a long-range, first-of-its-kind plan to protect, conserve, and enhance America’s forested landscapes most threatened by catastrophic wildfire.

[“Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America’s For-](#)

[ests”](#) provides a phased approach to reducing wildfire risk in our communities, watersheds, habitats, and recreational areas nationwide, while boosting the health and resilience of America’s forested landscapes. NASF contributed to the development of the strategy and was a crucial player in its rollout.

PASSAGE OF THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA)

In August, NASF, along with a host of other forest sector partners, were successful in advocating for unprecedented federal investment in forest restoration and wildfire resilience. The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act will provide funding to state agencies, local communities, and non-governmental organizations that will help create thousands of jobs, restore millions of acres of forest, reduce wildfire risk, rebuild vital infrastructure critical to economic recovery, and deliver assistance to urban areas, benefiting diverse and often underserved communities.

The IRA package provides FY23-26 funding to expand and enhance forestry and conservation practices to mitigate or address climate change, including:

- \$1.5 billion in support for the Urban and Community Forestry program;
- \$700 million in support for the Forest Legacy program;
- \$450 million to support competitive grants and cost-share payments to private landowners utilizing LSR program authorities;
- \$100 million in support of the Wood Innovation Grant program;
- \$1.8 billion for hazardous fuel reduction projects on National Forest Systems lands within the wildland-urban interface;
- \$100 million for more efficient and effective environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act; and
- \$19.85 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (\$8.5 billion), the Conservation Stewardship Program (\$3.25 billion), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (\$1.4 billion), and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (\$6.75 billion).

Hans Isaacson for NASF



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)

NASF was successful in securing \$200 million over the next five years in flexible funding to states for implementing the highest priorities identified in state [Forest Action Plans](#). In addition, and on top of regular annual appropriations for these programs, the State Fire Assistance Program will receive \$17.6 million and the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program will receive \$4 million annually through FY26.

In addition to securing a BIL match requirement waiver for state forestry agencies, NASF worked closely with the Forest Service to co-develop program guidance and strategies for a number of BIL provisions, including (1) the Forest Health provision for Invasive Species Detection, Prevention and Eradication, (2) the Temporary Skidder Bridge Program, and (3) the National Reforestation Strategy.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PROGRAM (CWDG)

NASF worked closely with the Forest Service and the Intertribal Timber Council to develop program guidance for the \$1-billion [CWDG program](#) created by the BIL in 2022. CWDGs will benefit at-risk communities most threatened by catastrophic wildfire by providing funding to create and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans throughout the country.

PROTECTING STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY FUNDING WITH THE RETURN OF EARMARKS

FY22 was the first year since 2011 that Congress implemented Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending (also known as “earmarks”). Among

the eligible Budget Line Items (BLIs) for earmarks were several State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs.

While both the House-passed and Senate-proposed Interior Appropriations bills for FY22 included earmarks, each chamber proposed a different method for funding them. NASF was successful in advocating for [funding S&PF program earmarks in FY22 and FY23 through a separate “Forest Resource Information Analysis” BLI](#), which did not result in any decreases in base S&PF program funding.

PASSAGE OF THE RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

In April 2022, the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(RAWA\)](#) passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works by a vote of 15-5. Later, in June 2022, RAWA passed on the House floor with a final passage vote of 231 to 190.

If passed by both chambers and signed into law, this bill would help protect one-third of the vulnerable fish and wildlife species in the U.S. all while creating jobs that support outdoor-, agriculture-, and forestry-based economies. NASF has supported the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife since RAWA was introduced in the 115th Congress.

NO CHANGE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF NON-INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND

In response to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) proposed guidance on identifying non-industrial private forest land (NIPF), NASF submitted [official comments](#) in January 2021 detailing how the proposal “would have broad ramifications, including effects on state landowner assistance programs.”

Over a year later, and after continued advocacy by NASF and partner organizations, the Biden administration announced in May 2022 that NRCS will not adopt the guidance it proposed in its December 2020 notice.

CORRECTING THE PRECEDENT SET BY THE COTTONWOOD DECISION

NASF continued its advocacy efforts to address the harmful 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 late July, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing which included a vote on a bipartisan amendment to S. 2561. The amendment, offered by Senators Manchin (D-WV) and Daines (R-MT), passed on a 16-4 bipartisan vote and marked a major step forward in resolving the Cottonwood issue. [NASF's support for a Cottonwood fix](#) was referenced by Senator Daines during the hearing.

A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, a firefighter wearing a yellow jacket and a white helmet is walking through the trees, carrying a red fire extinguisher. The background shows a large fire burning among tall evergreen trees, with thick smoke and bright orange flames. The scene is hazy and dramatic.

PARTICIPATING:

CONVENING & PARTNERING

NASF plays a critical role as convener of agencies and organizations within forestry and wildland fire circles. Through coalitions, collaborative work with partners, and NASF committees, state foresters promote the full range of values forests and trees contribute to our society.

WILDLAND FIRE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: GEORGE GEISLER

COMMITTEE STAFF: JIM KARELS

The 2022 NASF Wildland Fire Committee (WFC) worked through a year of wildfires that never let up. On the ground, state fire compacts and state-to-state fire agreements helped reduce the threat of wildfire to our communities and forests by providing emergency fire resources when and where they were needed most. The 2022 release of the latest version of the Incident Qualifications System (version 7.0) helped, too. It included minor bug fixes in addition to updates for integration with IRWIN and IROC.

At the national level, the WFC chair, WFC state forester members from all three NASF regions, representatives of the regional state forester associations, and NASF Fire Director Jim Karels worked together with the USDA Forest Service to develop the [Community Wildfire Defense Grant \(CWDG\) program](#). The WFC and regional staff also worked cooperatively with the Department of Interior and the Forest Service to implement the Fire “Slip on Tanker” program. This program, also created by the BIL, will complement the CWDG and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs by helping rural fire departments outfit wildfire tanker trucks to aid in fire suppression efforts.

Additionally, the WFC and CMS group helped NASF’s interagency wildland fire partners transition to utilizing Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT). This process will continue into 2023, with full implementation expected in spring 2024. The WFC has recommended that the [Complex Incident Management Course \(CIMC\)](#), developed by NASF and implemented by a cadre of state forestry agency personnel for over 20 years, will continue as the primary training for CIMT and Type I qualifications.

NASF Senior Director of Fire Technology Keith Smith contributed to two multi-year data projects in 2022. The first is focused on identifying response boundary data for local and volunteer fire departments. With this spatial data, state and federal wildfire managers will be able to:

- More accurately collect occurrence record reporting for INFORM
- Better prepare for and justify annual appropriation requests for federal programs like Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)

- More easily identify the number of fire departments eligible for VFA assistance
- More easily identify VFA-eligible fire departments in higher wildfire risk areas
- Improve processes for reviewing and rating applications for VFA grant assistance

Another VFA-related project, called the VFA Report Portal, will help state foresters determine strategies for helping local governments better “live with wildfire.” In partnership with the Forest Service, this NASF project will build local first-responder capacity through grant funding, the transfer of surplus equipment, and training. It will also satisfy the association’s goal of fully deploying a VFA performance measure.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: JOHN ERIXSON

COMMITTEE STAFF: KEITH WOOD

The NASF Urban and Community Forestry Committee (UCFC) works with organizations that represent community-based tree planting and care and seeks opportunities to leverage national programs to maximize local results. In 2022, the UCFC:

- Provided input to NASF staff on legislation, such as the Healthy Streets Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Neighborhood Trees Act.
- Represented NASF UCF and regional state forester association UCF committees on Trillion Trees ([1t.org](#)) topics.
- Updated a supplemental [UCF program one-pager](#) and wrote [a blog post](#) about the importance of state UCF programs.
- Contributed to NASF’s “[Urban and Community Forestry Under the Landscape Scale Restoration Program](#)” white paper, published in April 2022.
- Served on the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative’s \(SFI\) Urban Forest Certification](#) standard task group.
- Worked with the Southern Group of State Foresters UCF committee on the [Urban Forest Strike Teams program](#).
- Worked closely with the Arbor Day Foundation to deliver Tree Cities programs and improve data collection on these programs through the Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS).
- Wrote [a blog post](#) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day.
- Participated in Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition

(SUFC) meetings and led a work group to establish a new membership program for SUFC.

- Worked closely with regional state forester association committees through regular conference calls and virtual meetings to develop the national coordinators meeting agenda for the [2021 Partners in Community Forestry conference](#).
- Helped operationalize the NASF stormwater performance measure for fiscal year (FY) 2022 reporting in CARS.
- Helped develop the request for proposals for 2022 State Urban Forest Resilience projects; in addition to evaluating the 2022 applications and [announcing the 2022 grantees](#).
- Drafted a policy on workforce diversity, recruitment, and retention for NASF Executive Committee review.

FOREST MARKETS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: RUSSELL BOZEMAN

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 necessary for active forest management. To this end, in 2022 the FMC:

- Worked with the NASF Forest Resource Management Committee, the National Association of Conservation Districts Forestry Resource Policy Group, and the Joint Forestry Team to develop and host a shared meeting in Columbus, Ohio.
- Worked with NASF leadership and Erin Albury, the state forester for Florida, to develop and submit a letter in support of adopting the newest version of the International Building Codes that allow the use of wood in tall buildings.
- Wrote [a blog post](#) in support of National Forest Products Week titled “Let’s Grow, America!”
- Provided updates to the Southern Group of State Foresters’ Services, Utilization, & Marketing Committee, as well as the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance’s Forest Markets & Utilization Committee.
- Provided official review of the new USDA Forest Service National Utilization and Marketing WebApp.
- Evaluated the 2022 proposals for the Forest Service’s [Wood Innovation Grants Program](#). In 2022, this program awarded more than \$32 million to wood innovations and community wood projects. An additional

\$93 million in partner funds were leveraged as well, bringing the total investment in the 2022 projects to more than \$125 million for 99 projects.

The FMC Staff Rick Cantrell also continued publishing a free weekly newsletter 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 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: FORREST BOE (through June 2022) & TIM LOWRIMORE (starting August 2022)

COMMITTEE STAFF: MARVIN BROWN

It was another active year for the Forest Resource Management Committee (FRMC). Climate change mitigation, forest carbon markets, and the finalization of the Forest Stewardship program modernization effort topped the committee’s 2022 to-dos.

Climate Change and an Acceleration in Tree Planting:

Tree planting is now widely endorsed as a method for sequestering additional carbon and mitigating the effects of climate change. Anticipating greater demand for state tree nursery stocks, FRMC implemented an updated version of the NASF survey of state forestry nursery operations and published the results in early 2022. FRMC also worked with the USDA Forest Service to determine how Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds for reforestation should be allocated; and to this end, helped sponsor a seminar in June that drew tree planting experts from the federal, state, academic, non-profit, and private sectors.

Climate Change and Forest Carbon Markets:

In 2021, FRMC began assembling state forestry staff experts to look at what role agencies could play in helping landowners participate in forest carbon markets. By the start of 2022, the [NASF Forest Carbon Network](#) was firing on all cylinders, offering state staff at all levels access to the best information available to help landowners navigate generating and selling credits.

Modernizing the Forest Stewardship Program:

After several years of planning and negotiation, NASF and the Forest Service agreed to implement substantial changes to the Forest Stewardship program that will help state forestry agencies more clearly demonstrate its value to policy makers and appropriators. To facilitate implemen-



Rick Cantrell for NASF

tation, Forest Service and state forestry agency staff are currently working to update the program's National Standards and Guidelines.

Also in 2022, NASF's Forestry Partnership Coordinator (FPC) James Wright continued to advance the delivery of USDA Farm Bill Conservation programs by providing guidance on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical service agreements. This year, new agreements or agreement extensions among state NRCS offices and state forestry agencies were signed in Arizona, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and Connecticut. Many of the new agreements are cooperative agreements, which don't require state matching funds.

Additionally, the FPC:

- Presented at several meetings held by NASF, the Southern Group of State Foresters, the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance, the Forest Service Cooperative Forestry National Leadership Team, the Joint Forestry Team, and Forest Service Regions 4 and 8.
- Provided input to enhance state-level coordination among NRCS, NASF, and other forestry partners as a member of the Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program Guidance Committee and the Joint Forestry Team.
- Contributed two success stories highlighting NRCS and state forestry agency collaboration in [Arkansas](#) and [Virginia](#) to NASF's blog.

FOREST SCIENCE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR: ROB DAVIES (through April 2022) & PETER CHURCH (starting May 2022)

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 2022, despite complications posed by COVID-19, the FSHC:

- **Developed now approved reporting procedures and guidance for the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection (FHP) program metrics modernization.** At the request of the NASF Executive Committee following their approval of the metrics modernization report and recommendations in 2020, the FSHC established a Forest Service-NASF task group to provide state forestry agencies guidance on how to more accurately and effectively report annual Forest Health Protection grant accomplishments. The Executive Committee and the Forest Health Protection (FHP) program have since accepted the guidance; it will go into effect in 2022.
- **Represented NASF on official *Lymantria dispar* common name change.** The Entomological Society of America (ESA) has taken on the challenge of changing common insect names found to be inappropriate or offensive. The FSHC represented NASF on the ESA executive steering work group tasked with determining a new common name for *Lymantria dispar*. Ultimately "spongy moth" was agreed to by the steering work group and adopted by ESA.
- **Worked with the FHP program to carry out implementation of a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provision.** FSHC conducted a set of collaborative sessions to develop a recommended investment strategy for the Invasive Species Detection, Prevention, and Eradication provision of the BIL. The committee's task group determined that \$7 million would be divided among the three NASF regions and "high priority regional projects" and/or areas of focus would be selected annually through a process co-led by the regional FHP staff and the regional state forester association forest health committees.

Rob Davies, then New York state forester and FSHC chair, retired at the close of April 2022. As the chair of FSHC, Rob facilitated several key committee successes, including the development of a NASF position on the use of [genetically modified organisms](#) use against invasive forest pests.

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.



Mike Lawrence for Art Council

DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL MEMBER VALUE

NASF builds broad support for state foresters through strategically focused policy, key partnerships, effective communications, and robust education efforts. At its core, NASF is a member-driven organization. All NASF 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.

A world-class staff team manages the day-to-day operations of NASF and routinely reaches across organizational boundaries to deliver results. In late 2021 and 2022, NASF added three new members to its Washington Office team: Grants Coordinator [Zoe Fergau](#), Policy Coordinator [Eli Lewis](#), and Communications Coordinator [Emilie Austin](#).

2022 ANNUAL MEETING 'GIVES FORESTS CREDIT'

NASF is grateful to the Washington, Louisiana, and Rhode Island state foresters and their teams for volunteering to host the 2022, 2023, and 2024 NASF Annual Meetings, respectively. Our annual meetings are attended by federal leaders, key policymakers, and trusted partners, and routinely serve as unprecedented opportunities for state foresters to network with their colleagues.

During this year's meeting in Stevenson, Washington, the NASF Awards Committee will honor the 2022 NASF Award recipients. Two press releases, one on this year's awardees and another announcing the 2022-2023 NASF Executive Committee members, will be disseminated from Stevenson the week of September 19.



Jay Farrell for NASF



A third press release sent from Stevenson will enumerate the association's 2022 resolutions, which are voted on at annual meetings. NASF resolutions 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 CAMPAIGN BOOKENDED WITH TWO PUBLICATIONS

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, NASF's 59 forestry agency members planned unique "100"-themed events, programs, or initiatives (called "challenges"). NASF will release a summary report profiling each of these challenges in September 2022.

Since last year's annual report, NASF also published its 100-year history as a 140-page book. The publication offers a foreword by NASF Executive Director Jay Farrell, an introduction from NASF Communications Director Whitney Forman-Cook, six chapters, and three appendices. Hard copies are available upon request.



SIXTEEN NEW PAPER PRODUCTS HIT THE STATE FORESTERS STORE

In 2022, NASF added six new coloring sheets, a [coloring sheet multi-pack](#), five new 20" inch by 30" inch posters, a [poster multi-pack](#), and three new wildfire prevention how-to flyers to the State Foresters Store (www.stateforesters.org/store).

The store's new collection of Smokey Bear coloring sheets and posters feature the work of up-and-coming artists like Benny Maulana, who created the [Anime Smokey design](#), and Muhammad Holidin, the creator of [Americana Smokey](#). Two multi-pack offerings – one with coloring sheets and one with posters – give our customers the option of sampling each artistic take on the bear we all know and love.

Enhanced and updated wildfire prevention flyers have been long-requested additions to the store. In June, NASF released three: one on [recreating outdoors safely](#), another on [safe debris burning](#), and a two-page, double-sided flyer on [campfire safety](#).

FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR GREATER OUTCOMES

Shortly after the 2021 NASF Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, the association [announced its status as a full-fledged member of #forestproud](#). The #forestproud platform is the forest sector's greatest communications asset. It creates original and compelling content for social media – like gifs, videos, graphics, and written stories – that help boost public trust in forestry professionals and active forest management.

In February, NASF [announced it had joined the national Source Water Collaborative](#), a group comprised of federal, state, and local partners from across the country committed to protecting sources of drinking water (such as lakes, rivers, streams, and aquifers). As a member, NASF will share its expertise in forest management and promote national programs and policies that help protect sources of drinking water through forestry.

FY2021 NASF FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ending September 30, 2021

TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,420,622
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 300,445
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,120,177
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$2,420,622

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ending September 30, 2021

REVENUE

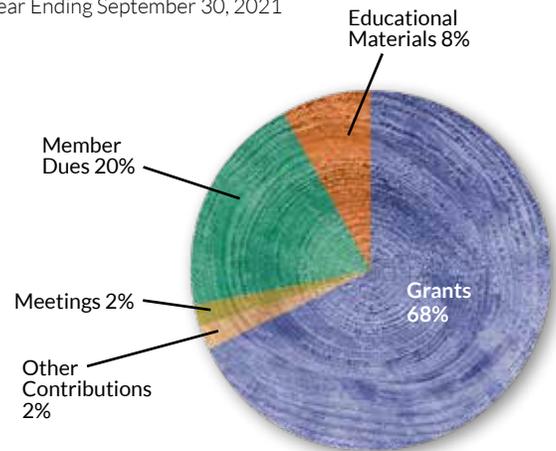
Grants	\$1,898,515
Other Contributions	\$66,804
Annual Meetings & Conferences	\$64,657
Membership Dues	\$550,955
NASF Educational Materials	\$215,541
Other Income	\$27,712
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,824,184

EXPENSES

Forestry Program	\$1,620,606
NASF Educational Materials	\$168,535
Program Meetings	\$168,674
General & Administration	\$924,805
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,882,620

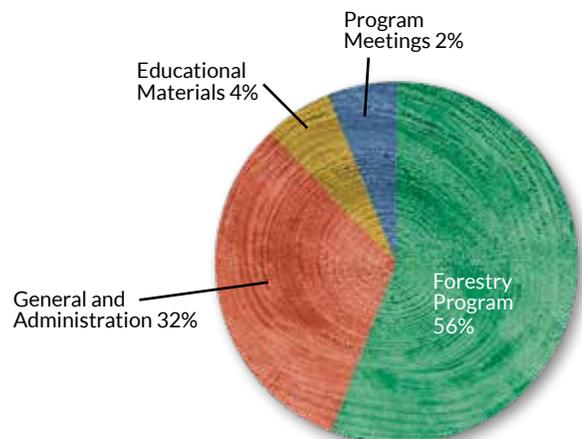
REVENUE SOURCES

Year Ending September 30, 2021



EXPENSES BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

Year Ending September 30, 2021



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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ON AVERAGE EACH YEAR, STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES:

Provide **250,000 technical assists**
to forest landowners;

Train more than **45,000 firefighters**
and protect **1.57 billion acres** against wildfires;

Advise more than **8,000 communities** on urban
and community forestry;

Employ more than **26,000 individuals** who
work year-round to conserve, protect, and enhance
America's forests.

Source: Industry Insights, 2020 NASF State Forestry Statistics Survey

