

NASF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03: In Support of the Recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission

ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION: NASF Executive Committee and NASF Wildland Fire Committee

ISSUE OF CONCERN:

Last fall, the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission completed its Congressionally mandated task of reviewing existing wildfire systems and recommending a holistic range of policy solutions to address the ongoing wildfire crisis, including mitigation, management, and postfire rehabilitation and recovery. As attention turns to the implementation of this suite of recommendations, Congress and the Administration should be made of aware of the National Association of State Foresters' firm support of the work of the Wildfire Fire Mitigation and Management Commission and its desire to see swift and efficient enactment of comprehensive wildfire policy reforms, particularly those recommendations directly related to the roles, work and expertise of State Foresters and the agencies they lead.

BACKGROUND:

The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission was established in late 2021 by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58) and was tasked by Congress with a broad scope of reviewing existing wildfire systems and recommending a holistic range of policy solutions to address the ongoing wildfire crisis. State Foresters actively participated in the effort as members of the Commission. In January 2023, the Commission released its report specific to wildland fire aviation resources which included 8 findings and 19 recommendations. In September 2023, the Commission concluded its work, issuing its final report and an accompanying 148 consensus recommendations.

Based on the parameters of actionable and timely, requiring Congressional action, resulting in significant changes, and reflecting new approaches, the National Association of State Foresters -- through each of its subject matter committees --subsequently reviewed all 148 of the Commission's recommendations to identify and aggregate those recommendations on which to focus its advocacy efforts.

The purpose of this resolution is to equip and empower our members with a clear statement of support for the full recommendations of the Commission as well as those recommendations identified by the National Association of State Foresters as key advocacy priorities.

RESOLUTION:

The members of the National Association of State Foresters support the package of recommendations in the following documents. (Documents attached separately.)

- "Aerial Equipment Strategy Report", Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (January 2023)
- "ON FIRE: The Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission", Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (September 2023)

The members of the National Association of State Foresters adopt the recommendations and accompanying narrative in the following document as official policy positions. (Document attached separately.)

- "Holistic Policy Guidebook for Addressing the Wildfire Crisis", National Association of State Foresters (September 2024)

NASF action:

(X) approved

Date of Action: September 24, 2024