

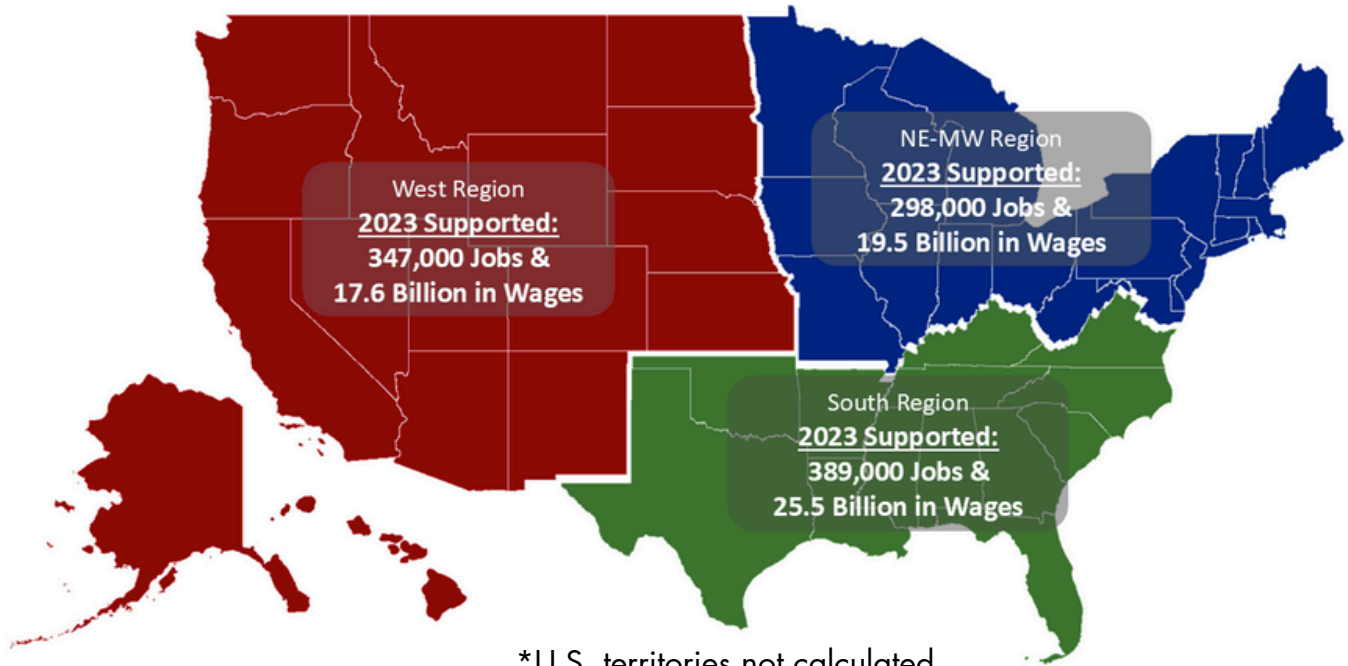


Supporting America’s Private Forest Landowners Through the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is the primary federal mechanism for supporting the nearly 60 percent of U.S. forestland that is privately owned and managed by more than 10 million landowners. The Forest Stewardship Program is facing a dire funding situation, leaving our nation’s farmers, ranchers, and forest owners without adequate support and putting our nation’s forests at risk. The National Association of State Foresters strongly recommends robust funding for the Forest Stewardship Program at no less than \$22 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

Empowering forest owners is the key to ensuring the health, productivity, and resilience of the nation’s forested lands. These forests – representing over 420 million acres – provide clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife, forest products, recreational opportunities, and more. **FSP eliminates barriers for rural Americans to maximize forest values and outcomes for the benefit of their communities, their states, and the nation.** Without additional resources, the program will see nearly 7 million acres leave the program over the next three years.

Management Activity through Forest Stewardship Planning and Technical Assistance generates over one million jobs and \$62 billion in wages nationwide (2023)



On average, state forestry agencies match federal investments 2:1, which means the impact of federal dollars delivered through FSP have significantly amplified on-the-ground impacts.

Support through FSP in the form of technical assistance, professional forestry advice and education is a gateway to other landowner cost-share assistance programming. FSP is the gateway to NRCS’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), state programs, and partner programs that help landowners keep their forests working, intact, and creating or sustaining vital ecosystem services.