



Meeting the Wildfire Crisis with Critical State Capacity: State Fire Assistance (SFA)

To fully and adequately fight fires and keep our homes and communities safe, the National Association of State Foresters requests a total of \$85 million for the State Fire Assistance (SFA) Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. With roots extending back to the Weeks Act of 1911, SFA is an important federal mechanism for assisting states and local fire departments in responding to wildland fires and in conducting land management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-federal lands.

It is imperative that Congress continues to fund the work of fighting fires on the ground.

As of April 2025, we have already seen more than 881,000 acres burned across the country with the majority of our fire year, including the western fire season, still ahead of us. Inhibitive costs of management leads to overgrown conditions that spreads wildfire faster and across ownerships.

SFA does what state dollars cannot do alone. The majority of state constitutions set a high bar for spending state dollars on private land management. For example, not all landowners can afford the requisite tree thinning needed to reduce hazardous fuels. SFA helps train state and local emergency responders who are typically first to arrive at a wildland fire incident. The program is critical to equip them with the tools, training and resources they need to put wildland fires out safely and efficiently.

520,000

acres of hazardous fuels treatment

834

community wildfire plans and assessments

4,440+

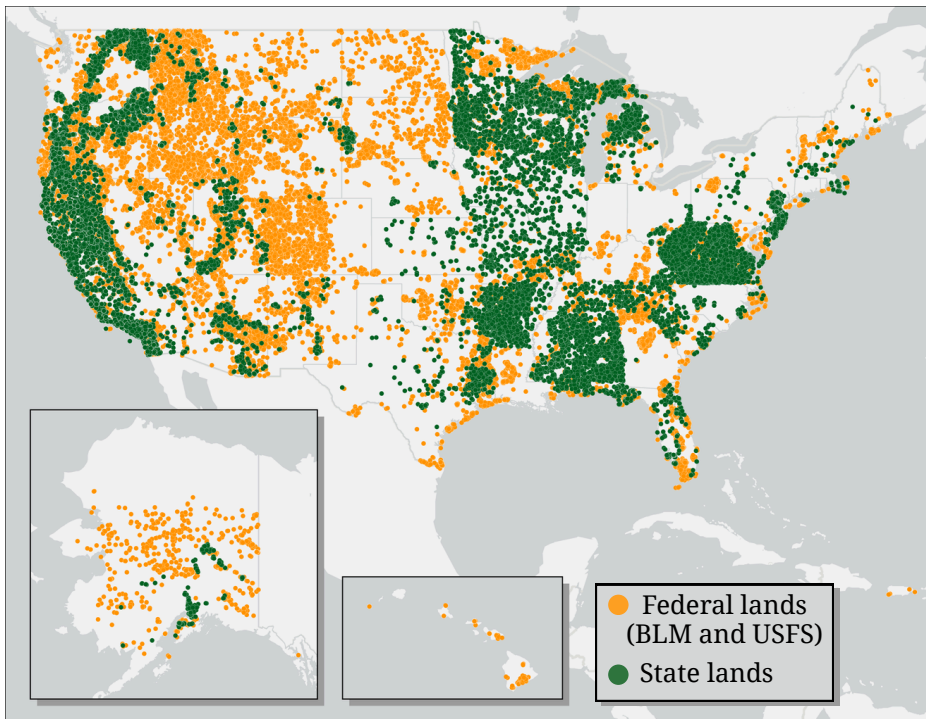
wildfire prevention projects

8,800+

positively impacted communities

26,200

wildland firefighters trained



The map above illustrates the volume of forestland managed by state forestry agencies for wildfire risk reduction, demonstrating their key role in supplementing federal management efforts.

Note: State data is under recorded. Not all state data is reflected.

The localized support provided by SFA is crucial as approximately 80 percent of wildland fires burn within state and local fire department jurisdictions. Even with wildland fires on federal lands, SFA-supported crews and apparatus are often the first to arrive for initial attack.

The need for increased funding for fire suppression on federal lands has broad support. The need to increase fire suppression funding for state and private lands—where many fires that impact federal lands begin—is just as urgent.

With that in mind, in FY 2026, we urge you to provide no less than \$85 million for the State Fire Assistance program.