

FOREST ACTION PLAN REVISIONS AND HOW CONSERVATION DISTRICTS CAN HELP

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

WHAT STATE FORESTERS DO

Hand-in-hand with private landowners, state foresters manage and protect state and private forests, which comprise about two-thirds of the nation's forests.

- **Deliver technical management assistance to forestland owners.** In 2018, state forestry agencies provided nearly 270,000 technical assists to landowners. State forestry agencies are the primary source of forest management advice for family forest owners.
- **Deliver technical tree care and planning assistance to communities.** In 2018, 8,502 communities received this assistance from state forestry agencies.
- **Employ thousands of professionals nationwide.** In 2018, they employed 27,179 individuals.
- **Spent \$2.9 billion in 2018.** The majority of these expenditures (68%) are related to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and suppression.
- **Responsible for wildfire protection on 1.59 billion acres.** State forestry agencies trained 62,000 firefighters in 2018. NASF members also provide funding for fire suppression equipment and helped establish and/or expand 20,000 volunteer fire departments.



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WHAT NASF DOES

Established in 1920, the National Association of State Foresters is a non-profit organization composed of the directors of forestry agencies in the states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

We advocate for federal legislation and national policies that promote the health, resilience, and productivity of forests across the country, as well as for the professionals that conserve, enhance, and protect our forest resources.



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FOREST ACTION PLANS

With the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress tasked the states and territories with assessing the condition of trees and forests within their boundaries, regardless of ownership, and developing strategies to: conserve working forest landscapes, protect forests from harm, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

The resulting state Forest Action Plans—completed in 2010 and reviewed in 2015 by all 59 states and territories—offer practical and comprehensive roadmaps for investing federal, state, local, and private resources where they can be most effective in achieving national conservation goals.



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FOREST ACTION PLAN 10-YEAR REVISIONS

Comprehensive revisions of these plans are required at least every 10 years. To date, the majority of states have only made minor revisions to their plans, so nearly all will conduct revisions by June 2020.



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HEALTHY FORESTS DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.

Healthy forests in America are critical to public health and well-being and are part of our national infrastructure just like roads and bridges. They filter our air and water, provide jobs and a wealth of paper and wood products, and are places where our children and grandchildren enjoy wildlife and nature.

These benefits we enjoy from our forests don't happen by chance. Forest Action Plans in every state and territory are guiding the work of forestry professionals and supporting the goals of family forest owners to manage and conserve forests with future generations in mind.



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FORESTS ARE UNDER THREAT AND NEED PROTECTION.

Forest Action Plans offer proactive strategies that state forestry agencies can actually use.

These plans are invaluable at a time when tree mortality is on the rise, wildfires continue to increase in size and intensity, and ecosystems struggle to adapt to climate change disturbances.



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FOREST ACTION PLANS ARE THE RIGHT KIND OF SOLUTION.

Today there are increasing pressures to do more with less, as budgets shrink and priorities change. Forest Action Plans target resources efficiently in these tough economic times. They feature state-specific strategies based on local expertise and extensive public input.

Considered together, Forest Action Plans provide a national plan for investing state, federal, and other resources where there is the greatest need.



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WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

All of the issues we face in forest management are intertwined with the others. Success depends on healthy partnerships between local landowners, state agencies, federal and tribal landowners, private organizations, and other government entities, like conservation districts.



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Learn more at stateforesters.org



State Forest Action Plans:

An Overview and Explanation of 10-year Revisions

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to require every state forestry agency to prepare a "Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy."

The resulting state Forest Action Plans—as they are more commonly referred to—were completed in 2010 and reviewed in 2015 by all 59 states and territories. Each of these plans offers a practical and comprehensive road map for how a state's forest resources can be most effectively managed.



Conserve



Protect



Enhance

Comprehensive revisions by the majority of states have been completed by 2015.

Forest Action Plans require stakeholder engagement. Community Wildfire Protection Plans, diversity of stakeholder involvement, and Coordinating Committees are key components.

Most states have broadened their Forest Action Plans to ensure their Forest Action Plans worked closely with the recreation groups, and

States are not limited in the process. Forests provide protection, wildlife habitat, support millions of jobs, and to be a stakeholder in the process.



Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions: Resources for Urban and Community Forestry



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TOOLKIT RESOURCES

- 10-year revision guidelines and check lists
- Deadlines (the final being June 2020)
- Helpful documents (guides to communicating about Forest Action Plans, what to include in the revisions, how to implement in the plans, etc.)
- State forestry agency contacts for plan revisions



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WHERE DISTRICTS COME IN:

Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions

- 1** Forest Action Plans require state forestry agencies to coordinate with other agencies and solicit stakeholder engagement.
- 2** Most states have broadened their coordination with stakeholders well beyond what is required to ensure their Forest Action Plans reflect the values and priorities of their residents.
- 3** States are not limited in the ways they involve stakeholders and agencies in the 10-year revision process.



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HOW DISTRICTS CAN GET INVOLVED:

Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions

- 1** Many state forestry agencies hold public meetings and/or publish surveys soliciting stakeholder feedback. Find out what's happening in your state.
- 2** Your state's Forest Action Plan revision lead has all the details. Turnover happens, so if at first you don't succeed, try again.
- 3** Your state forester is invested in your work. If you haven't already, reach out with a phone call or an email.



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THANK YOU

FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

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