FOREST ACTION PLAN REVISIONS AND HOW CONSERVATION DISTRICTS CAN HELP

Whitney Forman-Cook
Communications Director
National Association of State Foresters



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.





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.



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.

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.



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.

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.



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.

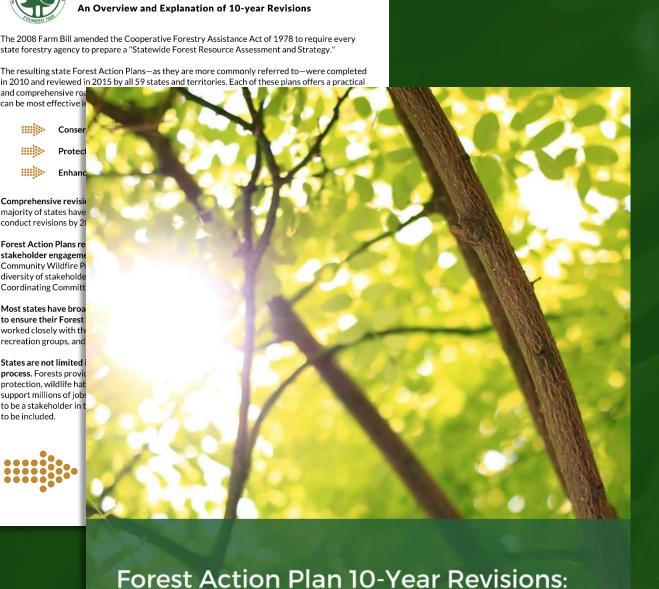
Considered together, Forest Action Plans provide a national plan for investing state, federal, and other resources where there is the greatest need.



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.





Resources for Urban and

ATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

Community Forestry

Learn more at stateforesters.org

State Forest Action Plans:

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



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.

HOW DISTRICTS CAN GET INVOLVED:

Forest Action Plan 10-Year Revisions

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





