



## The effective management and conservation of public and private forestland is essential to the health and sustainability of ecosystems across our country.

The U.S. contains hundreds of millions of acres of public forests, but more than half of the forestland in our country is privately owned and managed. It is critical that private land managers of all kinds in every part of the country are provided with the resources and tools needed to effectively manage forests under their care. Conservation districts play a key role in managing forestland across the country, and NACD is actively engaged with Congress, federal agencies, and other partners to empower land managers to improve forest health. As a member of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, NACD worked to develop recommendations for the upcoming farm bill and will continue working with our partners to advance these priorities.

Each month, NACD publishes Forestry Notes, a monthly newsletter that highlights district-led forestry projects and partnerships to address modern forestry challenges. As a member of the Joint Forestry Team, NACD also works closely with the USDA's Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters, and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service to strengthen the interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance on working forests, farms, and ranches. More information about these and other resources can be found on NACD's website.



### Forestry Management Priorities:

Maintaining healthy forests serves several important functions, including mitigating wildfires, preventing pest and disease outbreaks, improving water quality, preventing soil erosion, increasing carbon sequestration, and protecting wildlife habitats. To maintain and enhance our forest resources, it is critical for Congress to support:

- **Site appropriate silvicultural techniques** and advanced, science-based forest management practices to promote the growth and maintenance of healthy, diverse forests.
- **Good Neighbor Authority** allows the Forest Service to work with states to administer critical management practices that keep forests healthy and productive.
- **Stewardship Agreements** allows the Forest Service to contract with nonfederal partners to manage National Forests.
- **State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Programs** provide technical and financial assistance to resource managers to sustain our nation's forests, protect communities from wildfires, and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.
- **Accelerating long-term and resilient tree establishment.**



### Wildfire Management Priorities:

The frequency and intensity of wildfires has increased significantly across the United States. Recent fires have destroyed land and infrastructure, depleted soil, increased flood risks, and decimated wildlife habitats.

NACD worked closely with federal agencies to conduct listening sessions across the Western United States to identify effective wildfire mitigation solutions and publish a Community Wildfire Desk Guide and Toolkit to share strategies and tools with stakeholders. NACD and districts across the country are also working closely with federal agencies and other partners to administer programs to help communities prepare for and mitigate wildfires. Recent freezes in Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding, including for Community Wildfire Defense projects, have affected the implementation of critical wildfire mitigation measures. To help mitigate and respond to wildfires, NACD encourages Congress to:

- Support wildfire mitigation and management activities on public forests and rangelands.
- Reauthorize and strengthen Forest Service programs and bolster workforce capacity at the federal and local levels.
- Improve Post-Disaster Landowner Assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.
- Support the use of appropriate prescribed burning and silvicultural treatments.
- Increase pre- and post-fire grazing on at-risk public lands.

### Urban Forestry Priorities:

Urban forestry is an important component of our nation's forest health, providing a wide range of benefits for millions of Americans. The trees, vegetation, and green spaces that make up America's urban forests support water quality, economic activity, resilience, and clean soil and air. To support sustainable urban forestry, NACD encourages Congress to:

- **Support increasing tree canopy cover** to ensure urban forests benefit neighborhoods across cities.
- **Support increasing staffing** and training within the Forest Service and partner organizations to plant and manage urban trees.
- **Support locally led** urban forestry projects.

#### About NACD

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents a nationwide network of 3,000 conservation districts and their state/territory associations, working with millions of landowners and farmers to manage and protect private and public working lands in the United States. Districts are local units of government that help put locally-led, voluntary, and incentive-based conservation programs into action.

#### Contact

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