

# Support the Forest Health Management Program on Cooperative Lands



Asian longhorned beetle

## ABOUT NASF

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is comprised of the directors of state and territorial forestry agencies and the District of Columbia.

NASF represents state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to optimize social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees and forests.

Learn more at [www.stateforesters.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)

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Leverages state efforts to restore forest landscapes and improve their long-term health and resilience. Fights the spread of tree-killing insects such as emerald ash borer, southern pine beetle, Asian longhorned beetle and sudden oak death. Offers technical support and funding assistance to states for prevention, detection, and control of nationally harmful insects, pathogens and invasive plants impacting urban and rural forests. Projects are based on the highest national priority needs including forest restoration and reducing wildfire risk.

About 71.7 million acres of forests are at risk of damage from insects, and diseases according to USDA Forest Service's 2013-2027 National Forest Insect and Disease Risk Map. Damage to our country's forests puts homes and livelihoods in danger from increased risk of wildfire as well as stressors on individual and community health.

**In 2015, almost half a million acres of state and private lands were treated for invasive species and nearly 50,000 acres were treated for other pests.**

Forest pests know no boundaries. By addressing problems on private lands, infestations on federal lands can be minimized and vice versa. In addition, these invasives and pests can have national impacts on watersheds and wildlife and economic impacts including increased risk of fire.

## **NASF FY17 Recommendation: \$48 million**

*FY12 Enacted.*

- In 2014 the Alaska Division of Forestry and partners awarded Forest Health Management grants to 12 organizations to expand the fight against invasive plants in Alaska. The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD) hired two technicians who inventoried the communities of Tyonek, Beluga, Alexander Creek and Skwentna. The project surveyed 100 miles of roads and eight remote landing strips for invasive and damaging plants. Previously unknown infestations of high-ranking invasive plants such as orange hawkweed were discovered. The district is working to develop an invasive plant management plan to begin eradication efforts.
- In California, the historic drought has led to the deaths of at least 22 million trees. In addition, exotic pests remain a significant threat to California's forests. In 2015, the state utilized Forest Health Program funding to:
  - Hold trainings for more than 2,000 government and forest industry personnel and private citizens;
  - Complete forest health surveys on nearly 2 million acres of forest land;
  - Implement early detection and rapid response actions resulting in management of invasive plants on approximately 500 acres.
- Many New Mexicans make their homes in forested areas where catastrophic fire and epidemic insect and pathogen outbreaks are a real threat. Through the Western Bark Beetle Initiative, landowners are reimbursed for forest thinning treatments that have wide-ranging benefits for all New Mexicans. By taking advantage of this USDA Forest Service-funded cost share program, New Mexico's landowners become responsible forest stewards.
- The Kansas Forest Service, along with the Plant Protection & Weed Control division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, utilizes Forest Health Protection funds to survey and monitor for damaging tree pests such as thousand cankers disease, pine wilt and the emerald ash borer. Since 2014, more than 150 traps have been deployed across eastern Kansas to detect for the presence of emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that threatens the more than 56 million ash trees in the rural and community forests of Kansas. In 2015, funds provided surveys for 32 sites at high-risk container yards for new exotic plant pest species that are potentially harmful to forestry and agriculture. In addition, funds were used to help support a firewood inspections to monitor the potential man-caused spread of emerald ash borer.