

Support the Forest Legacy Program



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

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Provides critical federal assistance to states, private landowners, and conservation groups to **protect working forests** through permanent conservation easements and fee acquisitions.

Working forests play an important role to sustain the economic, ecological, and social well-being of America's rural and urban areas through the jobs they support and the benefits they provide, such as wildfire threat reduction, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation space.

NASF FY17 and FY18 Recommendation: \$62 million

Level enacted in FY16. NASF also recommends language requiring USDA Forest Service coordinate with State Foresters prior to selection of permanent conservation easements and acquisitions due to land management and tax implications.

NASF supports the Forest Legacy Program being fully funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As such, program funding should be considered part of mandatory spending and not count against the discretionary budget cap.

- In FY14, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), in partnership with the Trust for Public Lands, acquired a conservation easement for 6,800 acres of crucial habitat, preserving the land as an intact block of working forest habitat. The land is located in northern Idaho's McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor (MLWC) and will protect environmentally sensitive, high-value forestlands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

Idaho's Forest Action Plan identifies the forests within the MLWC as very high priority for benefiting forest products markets. Ten commercial mills are located within a two-hour haul distance from project lands, underscoring the value of forest products as a source of jobs and revenue. The easement property contains highly productive forests capable of supplying 2.5 mm board feet of merchantable timber annually.

Thanks to the Forest Legacy Program, Stimson Lumber Company will continue to manage this land under an easement restricting development and subdivision, ensuring that the land will forever remain in active timber production while protecting wildlife habitat and providing free public recreation.

- In Minnesota, the purchase and donation of 2,751 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was the culmination of a multi-year effort of the Forest Legacy Partnership to ensure sustainable forestry, protect wildlife habitat and guarantee public access on industrial forestlands across northern Minnesota.

The land will maintain the integrity of a large block of habitat for white-tailed deer, black bear, timber wolf and ruffed grouse. The property contains mixed forests of pine, hardwoods, small ponds and wetlands and shoreline on Camp Lake. The land also includes more than five miles of snowmobile trails. The donation will provide expanded opportunities for hunting, fishing, paddling along undeveloped shoreline, hiking, bird watching and many other outdoor recreation activities. The land will be managed as working forest by MN DNR that provides for timber production, wildlife habitat and recreational activities.

- In Wisconsin, the 21,189 acre Brule St. Croix Part 2 conservation easement project, located in Douglas and Bayfield counties, is a part of the largest conservation initiative to date in Wisconsin. The project used Forest Legacy Program funds to protect a total of 65,868 acres of globally rare pine barrens community found across the property.

The project is helping conserve lands for forest resources, water quality, habitat and recreation. The land provides for public access and includes a segment of the North County National Scenic Trail.