

Report to Southern Group of State Foresters

June 2024



NORTHEAST-MIDWEST
**STATE FORESTERS
ALLIANCE**

Summer Meeting

The NMSFA summer meeting is scheduled for June 24-27 in Bartlett, NH. This year's meeting will feature sessions on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) implementation, proforestation, Forestry Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program strategies, and much more. Visit www.nmsfa.org/events to learn more. The Communications Committee is joining State Foresters for the summer meeting on June 25. The committee will break out for its annual meeting on June 26 and discuss constituent communications, media coverage, and outreach activities.

Projects and Initiatives

State Forester Guide

NMSFA recently completed a State Forester Guide aimed at helping new State Foresters learn about the Alliance and how it benefits state forestry agencies throughout the region. The guide features sections on NMSFA structure and governance, partners, funding, committees, and meetings. A State Forester directory and acronym guide are also included in the document.

NMSFA Monthly Newsletter

NMSFA launched its monthly newsletter in March. The Alliance will be sharing important dates, forestry program information, committee updates, news from member states, and much more each month.

UCF IRA Success Stories

NMSFA is collecting Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) IRA success stories that can be expanded upon by the Alliance, media outlets, NASF, US Forest Service, and other partners to create newsletter stories, blog posts, fact sheets, media releases, and other communications products. In addition to facts and data, the Alliance is collecting the human impact of these projects and highlighting the people involved in creating these successes. Visit arcg.is/euzqD0 to view the success story survey.

Underserved Landowners Toolkit

The Alliance is working on an underserved landowners toolkit project with Welsummer Consulting. The project will provide accessible data about three underserved landowner groups including their attitudes, values, and preferences related to their woodlands and tools and resources for state forestry agencies to support outreach and programs designed for each of these groups.

State Utilization and Marketing Capacity Project

NMSFA expects to receive \$500,000 via the Inflation Reduction Act to support utilization and marketing capacity at the state level. A workgroup of Forest Markets and Utilization Committee (FMUC) members developed a workplan for the project that focuses on the following five components:

- Provide state access to several trade journals and pricing reports including *Random Lengths*, *Log Street Journal*, *Hardwood Review*, and *Hardwood Market Report*
- Incorporate speakers and trainers into FMUC annual, in-person meetings to provide technical information and market updates
- Document the importance of forestry and the forest products industry in the region and provide an updated analysis for comparison between pre- and post-COVID and with other regions and other industries using 2022 IMPLAN data
- Create a virtual wood basket analysis training and provide additional content
- Update "U&M Bootcamp" materials to train new state utilization and marketing staff

FY24 Officers

President: Tee Jay Boudreau (RI)

Vice President: Earl Eutsler (DC)

Treasurer: Heather Berklund (WI)

Past President: Chris Martin (CT)

New State Foresters

Illinois: Ken Jolly

Missouri: Michael Bill

Upcoming Meetings

Forest Fire Supervisors Committee

June 11-13 | Spencer, IN

Summer meeting with Communications Committee

June 24-27 | Bartlett, NH

Public Land Management Committee

October 1-3 | Concord, NH

Fall meeting

November 12-14 | Lisle, IL
Morton Arboretum

Report to Southern Group of State Foresters

June 2024



NORTHEAST-MIDWEST
STATE FORESTERS
ALLIANCE

Projects and Initiatives Continued

Landscape Software Pilot Program

The Alliance anticipates receiving funding from the US Forest Service to develop a 24-month pilot program that will deploy Landscape Conservation Software (Landscape) to four Forest Legacy programs in Region 9 and three others nationally. Participating programs will explore record-keeping and reporting tools that can help them effectively and efficiently implement conservation acquisitions and stewardship activities through the Forest Legacy Program. At the end of the pilot period, the Alliance will document feedback from states on the effectiveness of Landscape and share that information with the broader Forest Legacy community.

Committee Highlights

Communications Committee

The committee is meeting on June 26 in Bartlett, NH. Agenda items for the meeting include constituent communications, a local media roundtable, and an outreach activity sharing session.

Cooperative Forest Management Committee

The committee met May 7-9 in Providence, RI. Agenda items for the meeting included incorporating climate/carbon into forest stewardship plans, presentation of the Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year award, and all things BIL and IRA.

Forest Fire Supervisors Committee

The committee is meeting June 11-13 in Spencer, IN. Agenda items for the meeting include fire technology updates, development of reporting and permitting systems, and multiple partner updates.

Forest Inventory and Analysis Committee

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Committee met January 17-18 in Philadelphia, PA and discussed many important topics including how significant budget reductions are challenging US Forest Service FIA Program implementation and the difficulties associated with hiring new FIA staff and filling vacancies. Attendees also discussed identifying efficiencies and priority needs to help support timely delivery of FIA information including allowing state staff and/or contractors to collect plot data and allowing states and other partners to take the lead in developing focused reports such as topic specific dashboards and story maps.

Forest Health Committee

The Forest Health Committee met March 26-28, in Bangor, ME. Attendees learned about forest health issues in member states, browntail moth research, remote sensing, and much more. Committee members discussed how invasive plants fit into the forest health landscape.

Forest Legacy Committee

The Forest Legacy Committee meets biennially and will host its next meeting in 2025.

Forest Markets and Utilization Committee

The Forest Markets and Utilization Committee met April 9-11 in Springfield, MO and discussed old growth and mature forest policy, wood innovations grants, FIA updates, and much more.

Forest Resource Planning Committee

The committee met May 21-23 in Rangeley, ME. Agenda items for the meeting included defining and managing for old growth/old growth characteristics, climate change, State Forest Action Plans five-year review, and partner updates.

Public Land Management Committee

The committee recently completed a participation survey to assess member interest in endangered species, forest certification, and sustainable recreation subcommittees. The Public Land Management Committee's annual meeting is scheduled for October 1-3 in Concord, NH.

Urban and Community Forestry Committee

The committee met May 7-9 in Portsmouth, NH. Agenda items for the meeting included an emerging issues discussion, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Urban and Community Forestry Sustainability Standard, and partner updates.

NMSFA Staff Contact Information

Ian MacFarlane, Executive Director
Ian@northeasternforests.org

Jill Holton Arrasmith, Communications Director
Jill@nmsfa.org

Mandie Huerta, Administrative Coordinator
Mandie@nmsfa.org