

# Report to Southern Group of State Foresters

## June 2025



NORTHEAST-MIDWEST  
**STATE FORESTERS  
ALLIANCE**

Photo by Leslie Robertson for the National Association of State Foresters

### Summer Meeting

NMSFA is hosting its summer meeting June 23-26 at the DC Urban Forestry Division offices in Washington, DC. The meeting will focus on responding and adapting to the evolving federal landscape. State Foresters will discuss the transformational changes happening at the federal level and how states and NMSFA can best prepare to move forward with their work. Go to [www.nmsfa.org](http://www.nmsfa.org) to learn more.

### Internal Matters

#### **FY25 Grants**

NMSFA plans to apply for its Fiscal Year 2025 operations and Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy grants from US Forest Service Region 9. The Alliance expects reduced funding levels.

#### **2026 Meetings**

The Alliance is delaying committing to contracts for in-person meetings until more information on FY25/26 funding is known.

#### **Contract Positions**

NMSFA posted a Policy and Program Implementation Contractor position earlier this year. Due to federal funding uncertainties, the Alliance has decided to hold on moving forward with filling this position until stable funding is in place.

Northeast Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Coordinator Larry Mastic is planning to retire soon. The Alliance intends to begin recruiting in the coming months depending on funding stability.

#### **Bookkeeping Contractor**

NMSFA is in the process of switching its bookkeeping functions from NASF to a contracted accounting firm. NASF staff is aiding in this transition.

### Projects and Initiatives

#### **Landscape Software Pilot Program**

The Alliance's 24-month Dendroyka "Landscape" conservation software pilot program is well underway. Four state Forest Legacy programs in Region 9 and three others nationally are taking part in the pilot. Participants are now exploring record-keeping and reporting tools that can help them effectively and efficiently implement conservation acquisition, monitoring, and stewardship activities. The most recent training call was held on May 1. The expansion of this pilot program to 10 additional states is currently on hold due to uncertainties with Inflation Reduction Act funding.

#### **Underserved Landowners Toolkit**

Work is moving forward on the Alliance's underserved landowners toolkit project. Recently, project contractor Welsummer Consulting hosted listening sessions where 25 participants representing 16 states shared their goals and challenges, ideas for useful tools or resources, and information about individuals and organizations already doing great work with underserved landowners. Welsummer also surveyed states about landowner priorities, and they identified beginning landowners, landowners living in high poverty areas, and veterans as the

### FY25 Officers

**President:** Earl Eutsler (DC)

**Vice President:** Heather Berklund (WI)

**Treasurer:** Patrick Hackley (NH)

**Past President:** Tee Jay Boudreau (RI)

### Upcoming Meetings

**Forest Legacy Committee**

June 3-5 | Windsor Locks, CT

**Forest Fire Supervisors Committee**

June 10-12 | Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Summer meeting**

June 23-26 | Washington, DC

**Public Land Management Committee**

October | Virtual

**Fall meeting**

November 4-6 | Pittsburgh, PA

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landowner groups for which tools and resources to support outreach and engagement should be developed.

### State Utilization and Marketing Capacity Project

Work is progressing on several facets of the NMSFA state utilization and marketing capacity project. The Alliance has provided state forestry agencies with access to several trade journals and pricing reports including *Random Lengths*, *Log Street Journal*, *Hardwood Review*, and *Hardwood Market Report*. Steve Bick was contracted to speak about project flow in forestry at the 2025 Forest Markets and Utilization Committee meeting. Michigan State University has hired a postdoc to manage its contracted work on a study documenting the importance of forestry and the forest products industry in the region and providing an updated analysis for comparison between pre- and post-COVID and with other regions and other industries.

### NMSFA Website

NMSFA selected a contractor for a new website, and the site is currently in the design phase. The Alliance plans to launch its new website this summer.

### Committee Guide

NMSFA distributed its new Committee Member Guide in February. Go to [www.nmsfa.org](http://www.nmsfa.org) to read the guide.

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## Committee Updates

### Communications Committee

The committee is planning a virtual meeting later this summer. Potential agenda items for the meeting include print vs digital communications, skills sharing, and a forest management messaging toolkit.

### Cooperative Forest Management Committee

The committee met May 6-8 in Concord, NH. Agenda items for the meeting included forest carbon tradeoffs, federal updates, and tree farm status and updates from states. The field tour featured stops at an award-winning tree farm and the New Hampshire State Nursery.

### Forest Fire Supervisors Committee

The committee is meeting June 10-12 in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Agenda items for the meeting include an Eastern Area Incident Management Teams update, UAS program updates and potential for a committee, and an equipment demonstration field day.

### Forest Health Committee

The Forest Health Committee met March 18-20 in Minneapolis, MN and discussed forest health metrics reporting, the forest health needs list, university partnerships, and much more. The field tour featured stops at Como Park Conservatory and the University of Minnesota.

### Forest Inventory and Analysis Committee

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Committee met February 25-27 in Omaha, NE and discussed how states engage with the FIA program, priorities for the national FIA program, the NASF FIA Strategic Vision and FIA Blue Ribbon Work Group, and much more. The field tour featured stops at Urban Slab and Timber and Omaha Wood Company.

### Forest Legacy Committee

The committee is meeting June 3-5 in Windsor Locks, CT. Agenda items for the meeting include Landscape pilot demo and panel discussion, FLP administration and core program requirements, and the how-to of easement property stewardship.

### Forest Markets and Utilization Committee

The Forest Markets and Utilization Committee met April 8-10 in New Haven, CT and discussed issues impacting logging in Connecticut, project flow in forestry, the NE-MW forest products industry economic contribution project, and more. The field tour featured stops at Quantum Organics, American Distilling & Manufacturing Co., CT DEEP Portland Sawmill, Kroon Hale, and Yale School of Forestry.

### Forest Resource Planning Committee

The committee met May 20-22 in Ocean City, MD. Agenda items for the meeting included US Forest Service updates; CANOPY: an effective tool for identifying forest disturbances from satellite imagery; and estimating potential forest impacts: latest updates to available wildland urban interface, forest fragmentation, and landscape pattern data.

### Public Land Management Committee

The committee is currently planning its agenda for a virtual meeting in October.

### Urban and Community Forestry Committee

The committee met May 13-15 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Agenda items for the meeting included subcommittee progress reports, US Forest Service updates, and the final UCF Committee strategic planning session.