



January 26, 2026

Letter to be submitted electronically to: <https://www.regulations.gov>

RE: FS-2025-0034 – Notice of Intent for Environmental Assessment for Post-Fire Recovery Actions on National Forest System Lands.

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a nationwide environmental assessment (EA) for post-fire recovery actions on National Forest System lands.

NASF, established in 1920, represents the heads of the state forestry agencies in all fifty states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Our members are either directly responsible for or the primary deliverers of sustainable forest management on three hundred million acres of family, state, and locally owned forest land. In many areas of the country, state forestry agencies assist in the management of federal forest lands.

Another critical role of state forestry agencies is providing wildfire protection on more than 1.1 billion acres nationwide and often assisting in managing wildfires on federal lands. Fires and their effects do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries and continue to impact landscapes and communities for years. A speedy and adequate recovery on National Forest System lands is critical to lessen the long-term ecological and economic impacts of wildfires.

We applaud the USDA Forest Service's (Forest Service) efforts to more efficiently and effectively implement post-fire recovery actions and support the following purposes outlined in the NOI:

- Mitigate hazards to infrastructure;
- Reduce combustible materials, such as trees damaged by fire, and woody debris;
- Harvest fire-killed and damaged trees before they lose their economic value; and
- Establish restored forest conditions after a fire.

According to the NOI, this EA will analyze actions that are common to post-fire recovery while still requiring site-specific scoping, documentation, and decisions on a project-by-project basis. Specifically, the proposed action includes “mechanical and non-mechanical hazardous fuels reduction, hazardous tree removal, timber salvage, reforestation, and use of natural materials to restore water and soil systems. Maintenance or reconstruction of permanent roads and trails, or construction or removal of temporary roads, is proposed where necessary to enable post-fire recovery actions and reduce risk to infrastructure, people, and the environment.” NASF supports the use of all these actions where appropriate and recognizes that determining the appropriate recovery action for any individual fire will need to be made on a project-by-project basis. We

support strong engagement with state and local government partners and communities to prepare in advance for post-fire recovery and during the site-specific Environmental Analysis.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing more details in the draft EA and continuing to partner with the Forest Service to plan for, respond to, and recover from fire and its impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Hartman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Hartman
President, National Association of State Foresters
Kansas State Forester