



National Association of State Foresters

State Forestry Policies for Carbon Benefits

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Overview

- NASF Background & Policies
- State Foresters & Forest Action Plans
- Fundamentals for Enhancing Public Benefits
- Conclusions





Many Members, One Voice

- Represent State Foresters at national level
- Policy, Communications, Partnerships
- Diversity = Strength





NASF Positions

- Resolutions = strongest NASF positions
- 2013-1 (green building) and 2015-3 (climate)
- **Invest in & promote: active forest management, urban trees, wood products, diverse forest products markets, favorable tax policy, reliable measurement (FIA)**
- **Keep forests as forests**



STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES

Provide the fundamental infrastructure that produces public benefits derived from forests: environmental, social, economic

- State Forests & tree seedling nurseries
- Professional assistance to private landowners
- Wildfire, insect, & disease prevention/suppression
- BMP & tax incentive programs
- Logger training, landowner education, public outreach
- Federal/private program delivery: FIA, Forest Stewardship, Tree Farm, EQIP, etc.



STATE FORESTERS: FOREST ACTION PLANS

National support for state-specific strategies is essential

- ❑ 59 states and U.S. territories have Forest Action Plans in place (forestactionplans.org)
- ❑ State-specific priorities and strategies ... but a powerful national framework and “strategic plan” for the nation’s forests

WEST TERRITORIES (not shown)
American Samoa | Guam | Palau |
Federated States of Micronesia | Northern Mariana Islands |
Republic of the Marshall Islands

SOUTH TERRITORIES (not shown)
Puerto Rico | U.S. Virgin Islands



STATE FORESTERS: FOREST ACTION PLANS

National support for state-specific strategies is essential

Learning from clean water ...

State-specific BMP programs work to achieve a national goal ... clean water (CWA)

“One-size fits all” approaches for carbon will not work

State BMP programs and Forest Action Plans are successful models for achieving national goals



STATE FORESTERS: FOREST ACTION PLANS

National support for state-specific strategies is essential

Carbon examples from Arizona's Forest Action Plan

Loss of carbon through the uncontrolled burning of forests by wildfire can be mitigated or reduced through forest thinning activities ...

Carbon sequestration can be increased through management activities that increase growth rates ...



Carbon Fundamentals

Trees, forests, wood products provide carbon benefits

- **Urban trees, rural forests, and wood products store carbon**
- **Trees release oxygen, wildfires release carbon**
- **Forest mgt. enhances carbon benefits & reduces fire threats**
- **Wood products markets support forest mgt.**



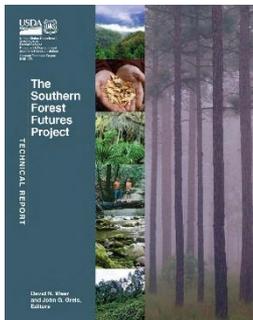
Multiple Public Benefits Can be Enhanced

Keep forests as forests and working forests working

- **Forests provide multiple public benefits**
 - ❑ Clean air, clean water, wood/paper, renewable energy/biomass, recreation, wildlife habitat, carbon/climate, jobs
- **56% of U.S. forests are privately owned**
 - ❑ Owners need incentives to manage and retain forests
- **Public forests face forest health/fire risks**
 - ❑ Need policy/budget/political support for active mgt.
- **Forest products industry a top 10 manufacturing employer in 47 states**
 - ❑ Mostly supplied by private forests



Forest Retention - Stemming Conversion in the South



- Total forest losses {across the South by 2060} are forecasted to range from 11 million to 23 million acres, depending on the rate of population growth and the future of timber markets—low population growth with strong timber markets would yield the smallest losses (Southern Forest Futures Report, 2012)

- Conversion, fragmentation and parcelization are recognized as a primary threat in every Southern State Forest Action Plan

The future of Georgia's forests is imperiled by forest fragmentation and parcelization...Urbanization and resulting forest land losses place extraordinary stresses on wildlife and biodiversity...conversion of forest land to urban use is the greatest threat to the sustainability of Georgia's water quality and quantity. **GEORGIA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES**

- Key Solution: strong markets and return on investment to landowners to incentivize keeping forests as forests and enable forest management.



Enhancing Benefits (incl. carbon)

Focus on forest mgt., retention, & markets

- **Active forest mgt. & reforestation/afforestation**
- **Insects, disease, and fire**
- **Urban tree canopy**
- **Markets & wood products**
- **Measurement (FIA)**



Using carbon objectives to further sustainable forestry goals

- State forestry agencies provide fundamental infrastructure for forest mgt. & protection
- Strong forest products markets/carbon markets incentivize:
 - active management
 - fuels reduction
 - forest retention
- Recognizing the carbon benefits of sustainable forestry creates a positive feedback loop...more investment in forestry means more acres of trees absorbing carbon





CONCLUSIONS

- **Focus on the fundamentals** that enhance resilience & retention (active forest mgt., landowner assistance, planting, markets, measurement, etc.)
- **Enhance support for the state forestry agency infrastructure** that supports forest management & protection
- **National policies must support state flexibility** – state BMP programs offer a model for a national approach to carbon policy
- **Support implementation of state-specific Forest Action Plans** that collectively serve as a national strategic plan for forests
- **Target solutions to landowner needs** – private forests need incentives, public forests need budget/political support



Thank you!

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forestactionplans.org

