



The effective management and conservation of public and private forestland is essential to the health and sustainability of ecosystems across our country. While the U.S. contains hundreds of millions of acres of public forests, more than half of forestland in our country is privately owned. It is critical that both public land managers and private landowners are provided with the resources and tools necessary to effectively manage forestland. Healthy U.S. forests also absorb a huge amount of carbon dioxide, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps to combat climate change. Conservation districts play a key role in managing forestland across the country and NACD is actively engaging with members, Congress, and federal agencies to address barriers to forest health.

Each month, NACD works with USDA's U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to publish Forestry Notes, a monthly newsletter that highlights district-led forestry projects and partnership-focused solutions to modern forestry challenges. In addition to the monthly publication, NACD also serves with these partners and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service on the Joint Forestry Team. This team works to improve interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance on working forests, farms, and ranches. NACD also worked with federal agencies to publish Friends of the Forest, a comprehensive survey of forestry activity completed by conservation districts. More information about these and other resources can be found on NACD's website.

Forestry Management Priorities:

Maintaining healthy forests serves several important functions, including increasing carbon sequestration, preventing pest and disease outbreaks, mitigating wildfires, producing sustainable timber products, preventing soil erosion, and protecting wildlife habitats. It is critical that Congress provides support for:

- **Site appropriate silvicultural techniques** and advanced, scientifically-proven forest management practices to promote the growth and maintenance of healthy, diverse forests.
- **Good Neighbor Authority**, which allows the U.S. Forest Service to work with states to conduct critical management work that keep forests healthy and productive.
- **Stewardship Agreements**, which allow the U.S. Forest Service to contract with nonfederal partners to manage National Forests.





Wildfire Management Priorities:

The frequency and intensity of wildfires has dramatically increased across the United States, destroying large areas of land, depleting soil, increasing flood risks, and decimating wildlife habitats. NACD worked with federal agencies to conduct listening sessions across the western United States to identify effective mitigation solutions and published a Community Wildfire Desk Guide and Toolkit to provide stakeholders with strategies to prevent and respond to wildfires. Additional information and resources can be found on NACD's website. To help mitigate and respond to wildfires, NACD encourages Congress to:

- Support wildfire prevention and management on public forests and rangelands.
- Advance legislation that expedites the U.S. Forest Service's ability to move projects forward by clarifying Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- Support the use of appropriate prescribed burning and silvicultural treatments.
- Increase pre- and post-fire grazing on at-risk public lands.

