

NAFSR Program of Work for 2025-2026

Our annual meeting in February 2025 highlighted many topics and issues that we determined important for our focus over the next 1-2 years. As we embark on our program of work for this year, we can anchor our work in our Core Tenets to help guide our time and efforts.

The final Core Tenets draft included a crosswalk with NAFSR's existing statement (Beliefs and Values) to ensure those ideas are still reflected.

Core Tenets:

To protect the needs of the American public and the nation's forest and grassland resources, we support:

1. Keeping public lands in America's public hands, for the benefit of all Americans to provide goods and services, clean water, wildlife habitat and access to vast spaces for recreation, hunting, fishing, and more.
2. Professionally and actively managing the national forests and grasslands for a wide range of benefits to society; including reducing wildfire risks and maintaining resilient landscapes, while providing outdoor recreation opportunities, clean water, wildlife conservation, and sustainable timber harvest.
3. Protecting unique areas and landscapes, such as designated wilderness, monuments, and other special landscapes to maintain their unique character.
4. Partnering with state, private, and tribal landowners, and other organizations, to address forest health needs and opportunities to achieve and maintain healthy and resilient forested landscapes, across boundaries.
5. Actively and meaningfully involving the public as a key element of effective management planning and decision-making.
6. Supporting a workforce from varied backgrounds and disciplines that represent the various resource management needs and communities served by the Forest Service.
7. Promoting the technical training for a skilled workforce to accomplish the critical work expected by Congress, the Administration and the public.
8. Supporting research to ensure that land managers have access to published, credible or peer reviewed science resources and tools to assist them in sustaining our nation's forests and grasslands.

Focus Areas (*Team Lead)

Employee Care (Earl Stewart*, Bill Avey, Cheryl Probert, Susan Skalski, Don Howlett, Marisue Hilliard, Mary Beth LePore)

Response to Fire Legislation S441. (Jerry Perez*, Mike Dudley, Jeanne Wade Evans, Cheryl Probert, Frank Beum). Team has developed documents regarding this legislation, including summary taking points for the Board and Membership.

Core Tenets (Teresa Benson*, Ralph Crawford, Tim DeCoster, Marisue Hilliard
Team has completed DRAFT for review)

Communications (Debbie Hollen*, Frank Beum, Rich Guldin, Becki Heath, Marisue Hilliard, Nora Rasure; Support members: Kevin Martin, Cindy Miner, Stephanie Johnson, Lenise Lago)
The role of the communications workgroup is to provide connection and interconnection and advice between the focus area workgroups, standing committees and board leadership.

Known & Emerging Issues (Tim DeCoster*, Bill Avey, Gene Blankenbaker, Bill Timko) NAFSR will continue to monitor for emerging issues. When issues are brought up, leadership (Steve & Becki) will determine if they warrant close watch or additional action and will make assignments as appropriate.

Keeping Public Lands Public. (Jack Troyer*) will track this issue and ask for team member help when needed.

Ongoing Work

- Congressional Relationships and legislation tracking (Doug Crandall)
- American Wildlife Conservation Partners (Kevin Martin)
- [Forest Climate Working Group](#) (Rich Guldin)
- Recruit new members (All Board members)
- [2025 NAFSR Accomplishment Report](#) (Steve Ellis)
- Quarterly Meeting Agendas (Vice Chair with rotating Board members)
- Membership Recruitment/Engagement (Nora Rasure)
- 2026 Student Congress (Cheryl Probert)

Staffing- Standing Committees and Leads Standing Committees

- Standing committees may be established by the Board to further our mission and objectives. Members with relevant experience and interest will form committee membership as appropriate. NAFSR membership is not required to serve on committees.
- Committees are responsible for tracking legislation or Executive Orders that relate to their topic area.
- Current Committees and Chairs are listed below:

Climate (Rich Guldin)
Restoration (Bill Avey)
Recreation (Nora Rasure)
Fire (Mike Dudley)
Recognition (Tim DeCoster)

Standing Leads

- A “Standing Lead” is a member of the Board, or a designated person approved by the Board, who has a passion and current understanding in a given subject area. They know how to navigate the subject within the current organization and bring forward on how to have NAFSR engage. The Lead has responsibility for how to handle and manage the issue and obtain Board approval.
- Subject areas and standing leads are listed below:

CEQ and NEPA (Jerry Perez)
Endangered Species Act (Marisue Hilliard)
Legislation (Doug Crandall)

If you have comments/questions or would like to contribute your expertise in any of these areas, you can [Contact the Board](#) through the NAFSR website. Click on embedded web links for further information.