

NAFSR Program of Work for 2026-2027

As we embark on our program of work for this year, we anchor our work in our Core Tenets to guide our time and efforts.

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.

The NAFSR Board will focus on the following work for 2026-27 through Standing Committees. All committees and teams will work together to develop documents regarding pertinent legislation, including summary talking points for the Board and Membership.

Standing Committees and Standing Committee Chair¹

Current Standing Committees, Chairs and key issue assignments/legislation/representation are listed below:

- Restoration (TBD): Fix Our Forests Act; “Wildfire Resilience Coalition”; Roadless Rule.
- Recreation (Nora Rasure): Great American Outdoors Act; Legacy Restoration Fund.
- Fire (Mike Dudley): Fire Organization Consolidation; Fire Funding fix.
- Recognition (Tim DeCoster)

The POW Team proposes to the Board add the following teams to the Standing Committees:

Communications (Debbie Hollen)) The role of the communications workgroup is to provide connection and interconnection and advice between the focus area workgroups, standing committees and board leadership. Key work includes development of an increased NAFSR social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn).

Employee Care (Mary Beth LePore Stewart). Key work includes development of a MOU with the WO/USFS to provide mentors/advisors to employees through NAFSR. Continue to develop reference materials and help guides for employees.

¹ 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.

The following work will be handled with an Ad Hoc² team:

Keeping Public Lands Public (Jack Troyer): Jack will lead our advocacy and awareness efforts at, “Keeping Public Lands in America’s Hands”. He will track this issue and ask for team member help when needed.

Standing Leads³

- **Legislation Response** (Doug Crandall). Congressional Relationships and legislation tracking. Doug will call on SMEs as needed in his outreach to the Hill.
- Other Subject areas and standing leads are listed below:

2028 USFS Retiree Reunion (Tim DeCoster and Bill Disbrow)
CEQ and NEPA (Jerry Perez)
Endangered Species Act (Marisue Hilliard)
American Wildlife Conservation Partners (Kevin Martin)

EMERGING Legislation and ISSUES that NAFSR will consider response to includes:

- Roadless Rule
- Travel Management Rule
- Transportation Bill
- Farm Bill
- Agency Reorganization
- Congressional Review Act
- New OPM personnel policies
- Fire Organization and Policy
- 2027 Fire Funding Fix

Ongoing Work

- Recruit new members (All Board members)
- 2026 NAFSR Accomplishment Report (Bill Avey)

² When there are events or issues that require us to provide an engagement strategy and resolution that is outside Standing Committees prerogative, an Ad Hoc Team can be assembled.

³ 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.

- Quarterly Meeting Agendas (Vice Chair with rotating Board members)
- Membership Recruitment/Engagement (Nora Rasure)
- 2027 Student Congress (Cheryl Probert)
- PLF Rep (Debbie Hollen)
- FS Museum board Rep (Frank Beum)

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.

POW Version 5.0 – Final approved 5/19/26 Board Meeting