

# State Forest Action Plans

## *Protecting Forests, Now and in the Future*

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



**Description:** In 2010, each State forestry agency nationwide consulted with key stakeholders and the public to develop a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy, now known as a Forest Action Plan. This document outlines the State's important issues, opportunities, and strategies, which meets requirements of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) (as amended by the 2008 Farm Bill) for the State to be eligible for CFAA-authorized funds. The CFAA ensures that Federal and State programs target shared management priorities to achieve meaningful outcomes. Forest Action Plans help target resources efficiently to address forest threats, preserving a natural legacy for future generations.

**Key Issues:** Across the 20 Northeast and Midwest States and the District of Columbia, the most common issues and goals raised in Forest Action Plans are these:

- Keeping forests as forests
- Forest ecosystem health and productivity
- Urban and community forest health and sustainability
- The forest products industry and markets
- Water, biodiversity, recreation, and other ecosystem services
- Sustainable forest management across ownerships
- Climate change
- Wildfire threats to forests, public safety, and property
- State and private capacity for forestry
- Awareness of and support for forests

**Accomplishments:** The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) has an important role in fostering collaboration among all three branches of the U.S. Forest Service, the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), and other partners to support State forestry agencies as they carry out their Forest Action Plans. NA S&PF contributions in 2011 include:

- Completed a regional summary of State Forest Action plans, and compiled and shared lessons learned, data gaps, and multistate priority issues and areas. State Forest Action Plans and the regional-level summary are available at <http://www.forestationplans.org>.
- Used Forest Action Plan priorities to guide NA S&PF competitive allocation investments.
- Supported communications training and helped promote State Forest Action Plans.
- Provided GIS support to help States outline priority areas for the Forest Stewardship Program.
- NA S&PF field office staff delivered one-on-one technical assistance across all programs.

**Future Direction:** NA S&PF will continue to help States implement their Forest Action Plans. The plans will be a key consideration as NA S&PF revises its strategic plan in Fiscal Year 2012. NA S&PF will also collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region, Northern Research Station, and NAASF to support landscape-scale conservation, such as providing assistance for issues and areas identified in State Forest Action Plans that span multiple States. In addition, NA S&PF continues to compile and provide forest resource information and to fill data gaps for future updates to State Forest Action Plans.

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