



FORESTS IN THE FARM BILL

The undersigned organizations represent a broad set of interests and expertise in forestry and conservation. We have worked together for over 20 years to collaboratively build consensus policy solutions for the Farm Bill. We have partnered again to steer the Forests in the Farm Bill (FIFB) Coalition to collectively lend our contributions on forest management, conservation, economy, and health for consideration by Congress regarding the next Farm Bill.

The FIFB Coalition represents millions of Americans who care deeply about the health and vitality of our forests. We are a diverse coalition of more than a hundred organizations representing a range of interests across the forest sector, including forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest industry, and natural resource professionals.

On behalf of the Forests in the FIFB Coalition, we offer a set of recommendations focused on improving the forest-related sections of the Farm Bill to enhance the many critical benefits offered by our nation's forests. Farm Bill programs provide tools, resources, and information to support federal, state, local, Tribal, and private forest owners. Improving these resources would better enable critical forest management practices that reduce risk and increase resilience to wildfire, protect water supplies, improve wildlife habitat, and support forest products and environmental markets to bolster rural economies.

Opportunities for Congress to Address in the 2023 Farm Bill

- Encourage decision-making criteria to address access barriers underserved forest owners experience across Farm Bill programs to ensure participation is equitable and just.
- Reauthorize key conservation programs that support active land stewardship, with improvements that increase efficiency and outcome-based delivery.
- Increase cross-boundary, landscape-scale efforts that support meeting climate-mitigation goals and help combat the wildfire crisis.
- Increase research and innovative funding support for growing and evolving forest products and environmental markets industries.
- Support administrative flexibility to grow federal and non-federal partners' capacity to deliver technical assistance and implement partner-driven landscape-scale projects.

We welcome the opportunity to dive deeper into our recommendations and seek collaborative opportunities to engage and offer our thoughts and expertise.

Sincerely,

American Forest Foundation
National Association of State Foresters
National Wild Turkey Federation

