



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TRUST LANDS
RESOLUTION 2026-03**

**ADVANCING FOREST HEALTH THROUGH
COORDINATED LANDSCAPE SCALE MANAGEMENT**

Whereas, the member states of the National Association of State Trust Lands (“NASTL”) are collectively the second largest landowner in the United States and manage trust lands, minerals, and waterways through their respective states;

Whereas, members of NASTL have congressional and state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for the multi-generational benefit of trust beneficiaries, including public education, through economic development, conservation, recreation, and other trust and public purposes as provided by their respective mandates;

Whereas, watersheds, wildfire, insects, disease, and invasive species cross ownership boundaries, making forest conditions highly interconnected across state, federal, tribal, and private lands;

Whereas, increasing wildfire risk and declining forest health threaten public safety, infrastructure, natural resources, and the ability of trust land managers to provide stable, long-term revenue;

Whereas, active forest management, including thinning, prescribed fire, harvest, reforestation, and restoration, is essential to reduce hazardous fuels, improve resilience, and support rural economies;

Whereas, effective outcomes depend on coordinated, cross-boundary planning and implementation supported by tools such as Good Neighbor Authority and shared stewardship;

Whereas, NASTL member states with forested lands fulfill their constitutional mandates through the sustainable management of forest resources that are often surrounded by U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management forested lands and management policies on those federal lands heavily impact forested trust land management;

Whereas, NASTL member states and the Forest Service have engaged in collaborative landscape-scale forest management projects under Good Neighbor Authority provisions of the Farm Bill for decades;

Whereas, Good Neighbor Authority allows States to work in true partnership with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to accomplish restoration goals and stimulate the rural economy through responsible land management, timber production, and forestry products production;

Whereas, States have invested substantial resources to match federal efforts, and are providing staff to help administer restoration projects and facilitate timber sales and production;

Whereas, use of Good Neighbor Authority has led to an increase in treated acres to greatly decrease wildfire risk and substantially increase in timber outputs since inception;

Whereas, private landowners and the forest products sector provide critical capacity, markets, and infrastructure to implement treatments and utilize forest products;

Whereas, federal efforts such as the Fix Our Forests Act seek to increase the pace and scale of restoration, strengthen management authorities, and improve cross-boundary collaboration; and

Whereas, coordinated landscape-scale management supports economic development, stabilizes timber supply, sustains infrastructure, and protects ecosystem services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. NASTL supports policies, programs, and funding that increase the pace and scale of active forest management across all ownerships to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and protect trust assets and communities;
2. NASTL supports the proposed “Fix Our Forest Act” (H.R. 471 / S. 1462) provisions to streamline environmental reviews for hazardous fuel projects by expanding categorical exclusions up to 10,000 acres;
3. NASTL supports the proposed “Fix Our Forest Act” (H.R. 471 / S. 1462) which would establish a national strategy to address the critical shortage of tree seedlings by increasing capacity at federal, state, tribal and private nurseries;
4. NASTL supports full use and targeted improvement of Good Neighbor Authority to enable state trust land agencies, in partnership with all eligible entities, to implement cross-boundary projects on federal lands that benefit adjacent trust lands;
5. NASTL supports Shared Stewardship and similar frameworks that align priorities, coordinate investments, and advance landscape-scale forest health and wildfire risk reduction;
6. NASTL supports the goals of the Fix Our Forests Act and other federal efforts to expand restoration, modernize authorities, improve coordination, and provide sustained funding;
7. NASTL encourages member states to expand partnerships across jurisdictions to implement cross-boundary projects that align ecological outcomes with trust revenue mandates;

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8. NASTL urges the United States Congress, federal agencies, and state legislatures to recognize and engage state trust land managers as key partners in forest health policy and implementation; and
9. NASTL encourages the United States Congress to support and pass the 2026 Fix Our Forest Act (H.R. 471 / S. 1462) that would improve State Trust managers sustainable forest management activities on state trust lands in support of public education and other public institutions.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2026.



Kris Hess, President, NASTL



Joseph Heringer, Secretary, NASTL

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2028
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*