



## AFRC in DC - Advocating for the Forest Service

### Forest Management and Roads Funding

- Forest Management Appropriations – Forest Products, Hazardous Fuels Increased the Forest Products line item funding to \$373 million in FY20, and industry is seeking a \$17M increase in FY21. Increased Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding to \$445M in FY20, a \$70M increase since FY16.
- National Forest Service Timber Sale Target Requesting continued increases in USFS national timber sale targets after the USFS hit 3.3 BBF in FY19. Industry is advocating for 4.2 BBF in FY21 and an eventual goal of reaching 6.2 BBF (the national harvest if all forest plans were fully implemented).
- Forest Service Maintenance Backlog. Helped secure historic investment to address ~\$5 billion USFS deferred maintenance backlog through Great American Outdoors Act, including roads (~\$1.4B over 5 years, of which ~\$500M can be directed at roads). Supported proposed increase in mandatory USFS highway funding in House Transportation bill, increasing from \$20M/year to \$50M/year.
- Roads Appropriations - Capital Improvement & Maintenance (CI&M), Roads Seeking a \$40M increase in USFS Roads funding in FY21 appropriations, would bring program to \$260M.
- Forest Management/Fire Funding Reforms Secured legal authorities to streamline federal forest management projects (see highlights below) and helped end the disruptive practice of fire borrowing beginning in 2020 as part of the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

### Congressional Support for Utilizing and Streamlining Existing Forest Service Authorities

- Improved efficiencies, regulatory streamlining Supporting the Forest Service's Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) process to reduce the time and cost of project planning, environmental reviews, and required consultations – including proposed NEPA regulations (comments submitted).
- Utilizing Existing and New Authorities Encouraging widespread, consistent utilization of the 3,000-acre Insect and Disease Categorical Exclusion (CE), Action/No Action, Designation by Prescription (DxP) and other authorities across every region and forest – including administrative CE for roadside salvage.
- Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Promoting the successful use of GNA agreements by states to increase forest management treatments and encourage additional authorities for counties under GNA.

### Advocating for Common Sense Forest Management Reforms

- Cottonwood/Additional Authorities Needed Working to secure a legislative or regulatory fix ([see letter to Administration](#)) to the nonsensical Ninth Circuit *Cottonwood* decision, which is impacting forest management and restoration efforts across the West. Further reforms also needed to streamline NEPA review process and litigation.
- Regional Priorities Working with USFS on fix to 21” “eastside screens” rule that impacts the ability of the USFS to implement needed forest management projects on the ground ([see comment letter](#)). Secured legal settlement with US Fish and Wildlife Service to reevaluate Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat designation – final rule expected in late 2020. Supported House Appropriations Report language encouraging the development of more balanced Forest Plans in the Northwest Forest Plan area.