

NASCA RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Date: March 2008

Resolution Sponsor: Montana

Contact information (please provide phone number and email address):

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Title: Support for State and Private Forestry Programs

Subject:

Seventy Three percent of the nation's timberland is privately owned. The State and Private Forestry Programs provide a broad range of support that address the protection, wise use and management of forested lands. Programs provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from forest pests, invasive species and wildland fires. However annual funding for the State and Private Forestry programs has been declining for the last several years.

Action requested to be taken by NASCA:

NASCA goes on record as supporting State and Private Forestry programs and supports increasing funding for the programs through the Fiscal Year 2009 Interior Appropriations Bill.

Supporting material and/or documentation:

Critical Programs in State and Private Forestry include:

Forest Health Management - direct and implement measures to prevent, retard or suppress unwanted, native and nonnative invasive insects, pathogens and plants affecting trees and forests.

Cooperative Fire Assistance - provides state forestry agencies with assistance in delivering a coordinated wildfire response and in complying with national safety and training standards allowing State and local crews to be deployed on federal fires and other emergency or disaster situations. The program also assists states with hazard assessments, fuels treatment projects and public education efforts.

Forest Stewardship - provides technical assistance, through state forestry agency partners, to non-industrial private forest owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management.

Forest Legacy - supports state efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands through voluntary land acquisition.

Urban and Community Forestry - provides technical and financial assistance to help improve the livability of cities and communities through managing urban forest resources to promote a healthy ecosystem.