

# NAUFRP Research Chair Report

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Since the last NAUFRP Executive Committee in March 2022, progress has continued developing new ideas to address the national challenges associated with declining forest and forest products R&D funding and capacity identified at the 2020-21 U.S. Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit. Our committee has continued following up on several key objectives:

1. **Conduct a national survey of forest managers across the U.S.** responsible for significant forest properties to identify the highest-priority regional and national forest management problems that they face. We intend to develop a large sample of foresters from state agencies, USFS National Forest System, large private forest owners/managers, family forest owners, and forest managers from environmental NGOs. Results from this survey will be published identifying the highest-priority problems for use by forest research funding agencies, policy makers, and political leaders. We propose periodically updating the survey at least every five years to ensure that the priorities are always relatively current. The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities is funding implementation of first survey during 2022-23 to establish the initial survey in support of the overall effort.
2. **Task an existing or develop new organization with the mission to:**
  - a. Communicate, coordinate, and collaboratively advocate for sustained and increased support from all national research funding agencies and organizations (e.g., NIFA, USDA, NSF, etc.) to address top regional and national forest management problems identified by the national survey,
  - b. Ensure that policy makers and political leaders are aware of the most important, on-the-ground, problems facing forest managers and support their solution through research and other support.
  - c. Monitor and report progress of nation's R&D organizations in addressing top national and regional forest management problems identified in the national survey, and
  - d. Conduct and maintain a periodic national survey of high-priority regional and national forest management problems in the U.S.

Toward this end, presentations on the overall idea were made to NCASI and the SAF Board this summer. The SAF Board was enthusiastic about the idea and voted to continue working with us on the possibility of hosting an effort with the above four functions. One suggestion raised by both SAF and NCASI during our discussions was the need to solicit support and funding from a wide variety of forest-based organizations to increase the credibility of the survey information and support the advocacy effort required by the host organization; leading to objective #3.

3. **Develop a coalition of national forest-based organizations** willing to support and financially contribute to supporting the above effort. Potential contributing national forest stakeholder organizations include:

- American Tree Farm System
- American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA)
- Forest Resources Association (FRA)
- National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
- National Association of Forest Owners (NAFO)
- National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)
- National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)
- National Forest Foundation
- National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA)
- Society of American Foresters (SAF)
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- American Forest Foundation (AFF)
- U.S. Endowment for Forests & Communities
- USDA Forest Service

We are currently developing a brochure and presentation describing our overall goals with the intent to begin approaching the above organizations about the overall idea.

As always, we are seeking advice, feedback, and new participants in this effort. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please contact Bob Wagner at [rgwagner@purdue.edu](mailto:rgwagner@purdue.edu) or 207-949-4067.