

**Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters
Forest Health Committee**

CHARTER

Mission/Purpose

The twenty (20) states that comprise the Northeastern Area (NA) support 23% of the nation's rural forest lands and are home to more than 43% of the nation's population. Rural and urban forests contribute to local economies and are valued for the goods (e.g., timber and non-timber forest products) and services (e.g., clean water, wildlife habitat, and urban quality of life) that they provide. Our rural and urban forests in the east represent some of the most diverse forest types in North America. This diversity also makes our forests and trees home to a host of native forest health pests. Their proximity to nearly half of the US population and major centers of trade and commerce place our forests and trees at high risk to introduction of new exotic insects and pathogens. Recent examples include: Asian longhorned beetle; emerald ash borer, sudden oak death, and sirex woodwasp.

Native and invasive pests will continue to be major issues as global trade increases and new exotic pests that threaten our forest and tree resources are introduced. Successful detection and eradication of new pest introductions will require a collaborative response by all state and federal agencies. Managing established exotic insects, pathogens and plants, and addressing native pest outbreaks will also require a multi-state or regional response as these pests do not know jurisdictional boundaries.

The purposes of the Forest Health Committee of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) are to:

- Provide technical input, advice, and recommendations to NAASF on current and emerging forest and tree pest issues (native and exotic invasives).
- Promote better understanding, greater emphasis, and support for forest health and invasive pest issues in the twenty (20) states comprising the Northeastern Area.
- Strengthen communications between the forest health community, NAASF, and partners.

This committee is established and operates under the NAASF bylaws.

Operating Guidelines

The Forest Health Committee will operate through the existing forest health program network and infrastructure in the Northeastern Area. Each NA field office area holds a forest health cooperators meeting annually to review and discuss the forest health programs across the field office areas, identify forest health issues, and get updates on new forest health technologies, methods, and information.

Other Forest Health Committee business during the course of the year will be conducted via conference calls and through email on an as needed basis. However, there will be at least one conference call of the full committee annually to review the committee's annual report, and to develop the upcoming year's work plan and budget, all of which will be presented at the NAASF annual meeting for approval.

The Forest Health Committee will annually hold a full committee meeting. The host meeting site will be rotated among the three area field office regions. Within each region, the meeting location will also rotate among the states.

The Forest Health Committee shall have a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, and be representative of the respective NA field office areas (i.e., the committee leadership will be comprised of one person from each field office area). Each will serve a two (2) year term followed by a rotation schedule where the Chair leaves service, the Vice-Chair becomes the Chair, the Secretary become the Vice-Chair, and a new Secretary is selected by the committee membership representing that field office area. The term for these positions will begin with the new federal fiscal year (October 1) and end two years hence at the end of the second federal fiscal year (September 30). If the Chair or Vice-Chair positions become vacant, the rotation schedule will be followed and the new occupants will serve out the remaining terms. A new Secretary will be selected from a state in the appropriate NA field office area. If the Secretary position becomes vacant, a new Secretary will be selected from the appropriate NA field office area. Only state staff can serve as Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary.

The Forest Health Committee Chair shall preside at the meetings and conference calls of the committee. The Chair shall also act as the official committee representative during NAASF meetings and present the annual committee report, work plan, and budget for the upcoming year. The Chair will also attend the annual field office cooperator's meetings.

The Vice-Chair, in the absence of the Chair, shall preside at committee meetings and conference calls and act for and assist the Chair in conducting the affairs of the committee as requested.

The Secretary shall keep notes of meetings and conference calls, act as the custodian of the committee's files, and perform other duties as requested by the Chair. The Secretary shall maintain a mailing list of the committee members and distribute notes of meetings and conference calls to the entire committee membership. The Secretary shall prepare a written annual report of the committee's activities for the Chair to present at the NAASF annual meeting. A copy shall be forwarded to NAASF executive staff for inclusion in the official NAASF records.

The Forest Health Committee is advisory to NAASF and no actions of the committee related to the positions and actions of NAASF are final until approved by NAASF. Annual committee work plans and a budget needed to support the work of the committee shall be prepared by the committee and will be reviewed and approved by NAASF, as per the NAASF bylaws.

Should a situation arise in which forest health federal funds are available to the Forest Health Committee for dissemination, the role of the committee will be to make recommendations to NAASF for expenditure of those funds for any proposed or ongoing projects. NAASF is the decision-making body in such unique situations.

Membership and Liaisons

The Forest Health Committee membership will consist of one (1) person representing the forest health program in each of the twenty (20) states, one (1) USDA Forest Service forest health representative from each of the three Northeastern Area field offices (Durham, Morgantown, and St Paul) and Area office (Newtown Square), and one (1) State Forester Liaison. The only committee members eligible to vote are state staff. The State Forester Liaison is considered an ex officio member and is therefore not eligible to vote. Each state has one (1) vote.

The Forest Health Committee may add ex-officio (non-voting) members representing additional external partners (e.g., federal, state, tribal, and university) on an as needed basis by simple majority of the committee. Non-voting members may be afforded voting rights by approval of the NAASF.

APPROVED:

President, NAASF

Date