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Arkansas State Forester Joe Fox Elected President of National Association of State Foresters

Little Rock, AR – At their annual meeting today, the nation’s state and territorial foresters elected Arkansas State Forester Joe Fox as the President of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF).

As Arkansas’s State Forester, Joe Fox directs the Forestry Division of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. He joined the Division in May of 2012. Preceding the appointment to State Forester, he was the Director of Conservation Forestry for the Arkansas Field Office of The Nature Conservancy where he directed and promoted conservation forestry project development, conservation planning, and forest land acquisition throughout the state.

“I am honored to represent State Foresters and Arkansas as President of NASF,” said Fox. “Wise forest management and safe wildland fire operations are central to our collective work and dependent on our collective capacity. My greatest hope for this year is that we are able to build greater collaboration and communication within the forestry community. Together we can achieve so much more for our forested landscapes.”

Fox is a native Arkansan who worked as a procurement forester in a family-owned lumber business in Pine Bluff and Sheridan for over twenty years. He is a former president of the Arkansas Forestry Association and former chairman of the Arkansas Forestry Commission. He previously served as the Vice President of NASF and is the Chair of its Forest Resource Management Committee. He holds two bachelor’s degrees from North Carolina State University in forestry and agricultural economics.

As his first order of business, Fox appointed the following NASF members to chair the association's foundational committees:

- **FOREST MARKETS COMMITTEE**
Chair: Scott Bissette, Assistant Agriculture Commissioner for the North Carolina Forest Service
- **FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
Chair: Forrest Boe, State Forester for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry
- **FOREST SCIENCE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**
Chair: Rob Davies, State Forester for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-Division of Lands and Forests
- **URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE**
Chair: John Erixson, State Forester for the Nebraska Forest Service
- **WILDLAND FIRE COMMITTEE**
Chair: George Geissler, State Forester for the Washington Department of Natural Resources

To learn more about NASF, its members, and foundational committees, visit www.stateforesters.org/who-we-are.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov.