

## State of America's Forests Project – Overview

The 2017-2018 edition of the State of America's Forests is a project aimed at producing authoritative, reliable, and current data critical to success in decision making. It is a comprehensive examination that takes the **best** and **latest** published data and transforms it into intuitive products that will assess the current state of our forests, the opportunities and challenges for conservation and sustainable management, the sectors' roles in those efforts and areas of potential collaboration, and trends over the years.

The State of America's Forests will be an online geospatial data hub that compiles and integrates relevant information presented in a format that allows efficient searching, summary understandings, and stories that highlight the value of our forest resources.

This project will showcase existing research power within government agencies, universities and other institutions. Adding value to published information by enhancing data in a way that leads to intuitive, quick and easy interpretation. Specific products include:

- website built on interactive maps, charts, graphs and images
- videos and animations,
- story maps

Currently, three preliminary story maps have already been produced related to wildfire, fragmentation, and certified forests.

## Short description of preliminary Story Maps

Produced story maps are still under review and have not been published, nor released yet. The State of America's Forest work could be presented in a briefing to show some of these preliminary products. They include:

**Wildfires** – this story map presents the latest statistics and data of wildland fires in the U.S. An assessment of trends, magnitude of affected regions, potential risks, causes, and fire suppression costs based on scientific published information. The story starts with a video that summarizes all compiled data in 3 minutes, followed by interactive maps that allow the reader to explore information at different scales. The story also includes imagines charts and graphs for easier explanation of data. Original data sources include: the Forest Service, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (Monitoring trends in Burn Severity), the National Association of State Foresters, NASA, and the National Interagency Fire Center.

**Certified Forests** – this story map compiles data on forest certification by the three certification schemes that operate in the U.S.: The Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council, and the Tree Farm system. This is the first time that a complete geospatial dataset is produced along with an interactive map that show certified forests by state, year, and certification scheme.

**Forest Fragmentation** – this story map is part of a larger story on forest treats. The work created in this product intends to add value to the original source of information, the Forest Service Forestry Sciences Laboratory, by: simplifying information, bringing up core messages in a concise manner, creating simple maps that quickly deliver a message, and providing attractive visuals to capture readers' attention.