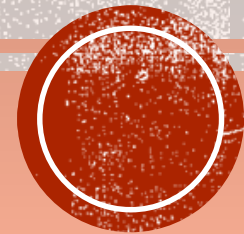


STATE PERSPECTIVES NEEDS & CHALLENGES

FIA Users Group Meeting – Madison, WI

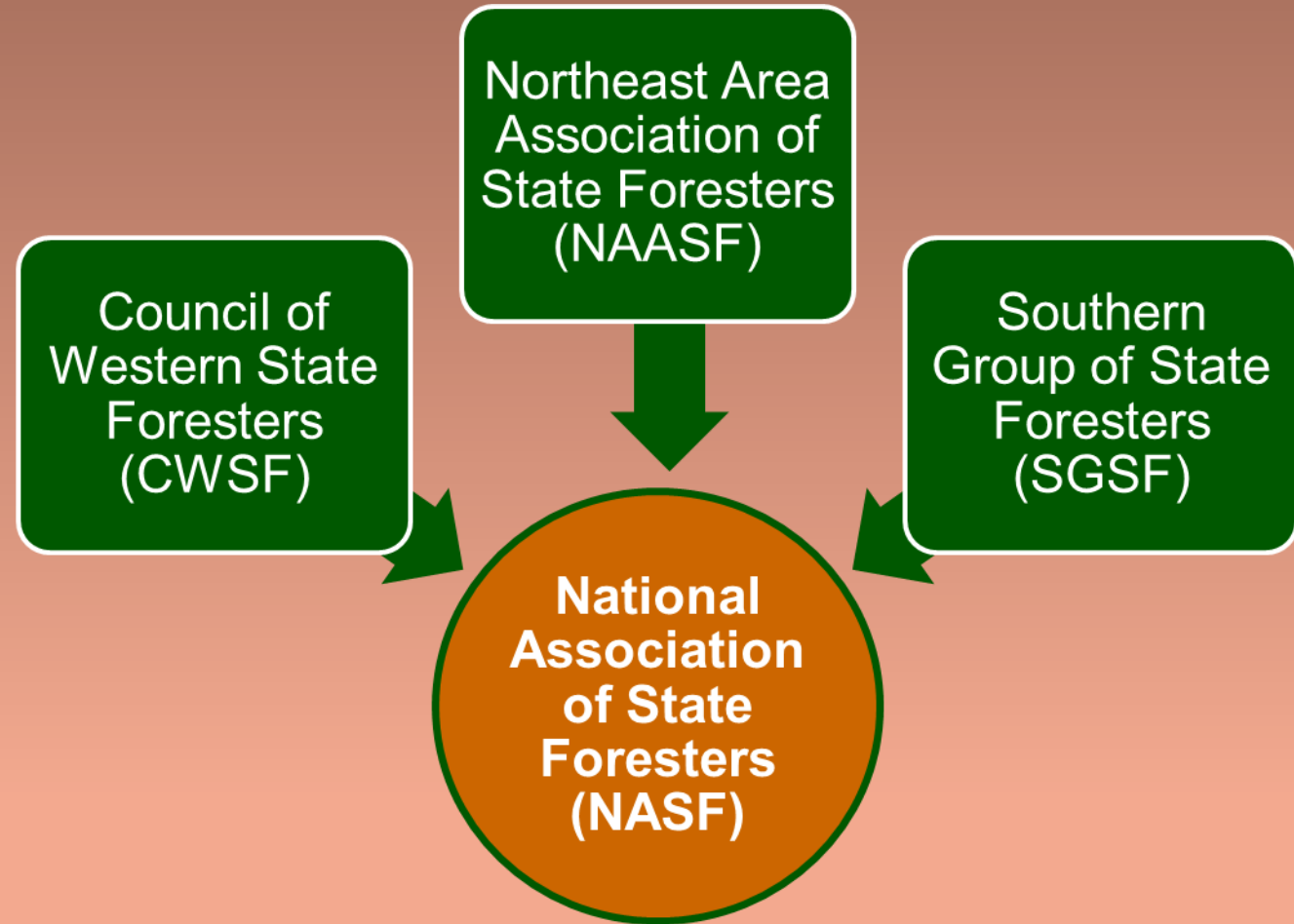
April 4-5, 2017

John “Chris” Maisch - Presenting



ABOUT NASF

- The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is a 59 member organization with one voice. Three regional groups.
- Represents State and Territorial Forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests.
- Established a working committee to address fiscal and programmatic needs of the FIA program at the national level.



PARTNERSHIPS AND MOU

- Active participant in the 2012 Farm Bill and commented extensively on the national level strategic plan for FIA
- Signing a new MOU this month between NASF and USFS-FIA that highlights the state role in the program and our mutual interests
- State Foresters will continue to participate in FIA-related committees at the various organizational levels of the FIA program, which include national and regional programmatic discussions as well as state-level operational discussions
- Continuously strive to increase efficiency in program delivery, in particular recognizing and supporting elements where State Forestry organizations have the ability and desire to provide added benefit and efficiency, and support state efforts to increase internal technical program capacity.



STATE ROLES

- Contribute upwards of 10% of program funding annually (over \$7 million).
- This is voluntary. It is an investment intended to benefit the public in our respective states and those in industry who drive economic stimulus and job creation.
- 17 States do base data collection
- States conduct TPO surveys, in many places without funding
- States provide office space, lodging, and resources for federal crews
- Relationship bridge to landowners, industries, academia and other partners



LOOKING FORWARD

- FIA being asked to do more (urban, carbon, TPO, NWOS...) BUT we also know that Federal budget is tighter and State budgets are tighter.
- Leaves us with three “courses of response” as we see it, and would like to share some potential approaches to each. They are not mutually exclusive, and we hopefully are already doing all three:



LOOKING FORWARD

1) Be more efficient with what we have

- Use state crews where the state has the desire/ability
 - Not all states are created equal...use them where it makes sense
 - Don't take states for granted...a state wanting to be involved doesn't mean they should have to pay for it...the savings are in the efficiency, not in finding someone to do the work for free/discount
- Use single person crews and other personnel arrangements where possible to achieve efficiency, but not at the expense of safety
- Are FIA dollars going to FIA work?
 - Station overheads – keep tabs on these and understand why they are so variable across the country (from 7 to 15%)
 - Special projects/non-FIA research detailers - Even if other R&D budget is going down, FIA funding emphasis should be on base program until fully delivered, then additional items from Strategic Vision



LOOKING FORWARD

2) Find more resources

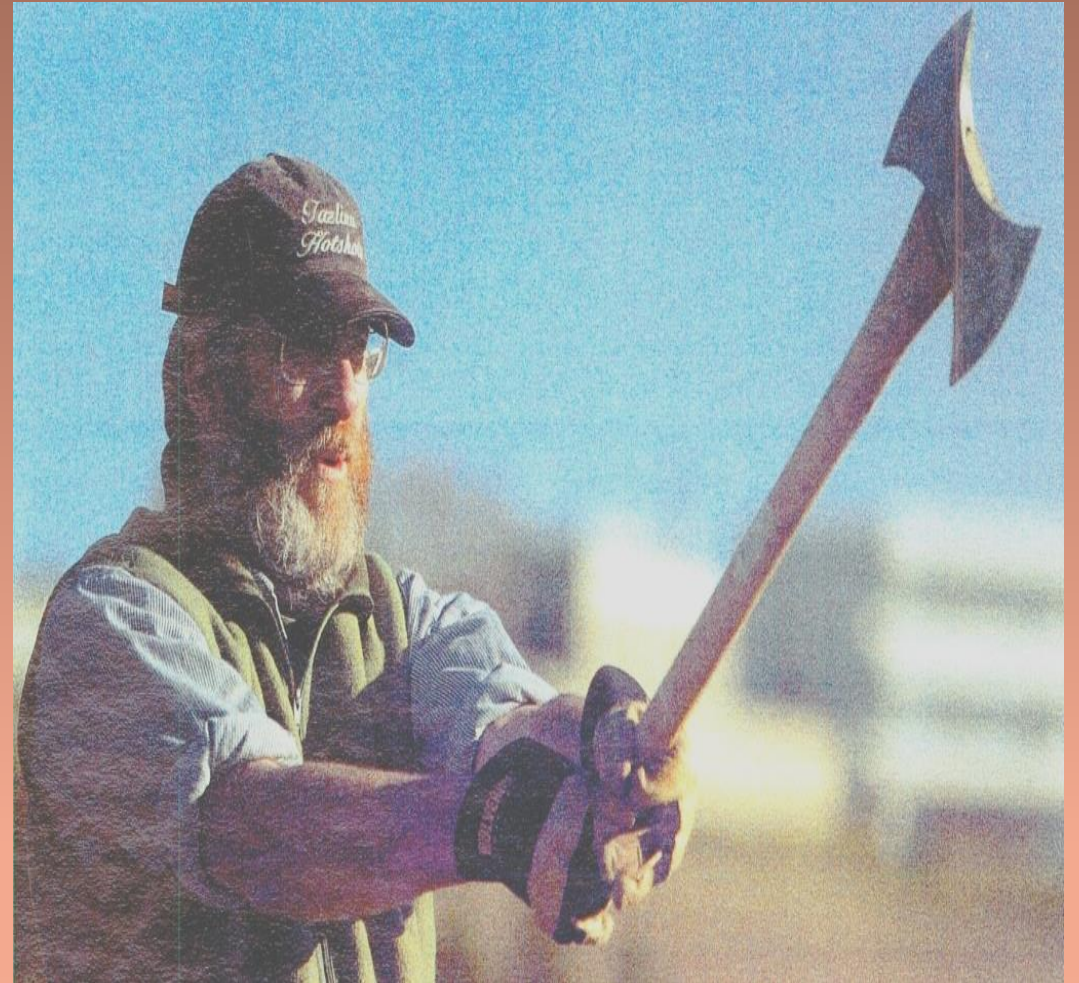
- Explore new partners – users of FIA data (EPA, USFWS, major cities, others?)
- National Forest System
- Research projects that are wanting specialized data – if you're adding to the workload in the field, you need to pay for it
- Users of FIA data being willing to contribute during lean times, rather than see the program fall off. We all benefit.



LOOKING FORWARD

3) Make tough choices

- It's better to do a few things well, than a whole bunch of things just so-so
- NASF Strategic Vision on priorities
 - Base cycle in all states is first priority, along with sustaining TPO and NWOS
 - Urban FIA, Enhanced TPO, Forest Health Macroplot where appropriate are secondary priorities



LOOKING FORWARD

- NASF and our member states are ready to support FIA in moving forward. We encourage doing so in a way that makes the most efficient use of the resources that we have, and focuses them in a finite number of endeavors where we can be successful.

