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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS  
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

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December 24, 2012

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorization is requested for the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands to expend \$8,800 for membership dues in the National Association of State Foresters upon Governor & Council approval through September 30, 2013. 100% General Funds

Funds are available in account titled, Forests and Lands Administration, as follows:

03-35-35-351010-35000000-026-500251 Organizational Dues FY2013 \$8,800

**EXPLANATION**

Membership in the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is beneficial to the State of New Hampshire by providing a forum for sharing information and problem solving; allowing members to identify and discuss emerging issues and trends, and share ideas on innovative approaches to topics from forest sustainability to agency management. Only NASF members have the license authority to use Smokey Bear images in wildfire prevention materials and programs.

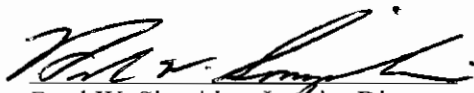
1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? NASF has been in existence since 1920 and NH has always been a member.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? No, there is not.
3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? All 50 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the US Territories are all members of the organization. Our agency is the only NH state agency that is a member.






4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc) Membership dues are standard. All states pay the same amount of dues.
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership? NASF keeps members informed on national legislation and administrative policies affecting state and private forest lands. NASF is one of the leading organizations that provides support at the federal level for forestry programs such as the Farm Bill that provides funding to the States. The division receives about 17% of its budget from these federal programs.
6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? Yes If so, is the cost included? Yes Explain in detail. Information is disseminated to members through various communication methods including: member updates, website, publications, and action alerts.
7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain. No, but members have received federal funds through NASF for their states.
8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Yes Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips. Travel costs for members to attend committee meetings, trainings, partner organizations meetings, meeting with the US Forest Service, etc. Examples this past year include costs for two administrative staff to attend Federal Grant Compliance training and the director's travel costs to attend two meetings.
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization) The State Forester (division director) is a member, committee member, voting member and can be an officer.
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if Agency did not belong to this organization. The State Forester would not have the support needed on national issues related to State and Private forest lands that affect New Hampshire. In addition, we would not be allowed to use Smokey Bear for fire prevention.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brad W. Simpkins, Interim Director

Concurred,

  
Philip A. Bryce, Acting Commissioner



National Association of State Foresters

444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 540  
Washington, DC 20001

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
10/1/2012	031

Bill To
Brad Simpkins Division of Forest & Lands P.O. Box 1856 172 Pembroke Road Concord, NH 13302-1856

P.O. No.	Terms	Project
	60 Days	

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	Fiscal Year 2013 Membership Dues for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013	8,800.00	8,800.00
		<b>Total</b>	\$8,800.00



# {A Value Proposition} Benefits of Membership in NASF



The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is a non-profit organization that represents state, U.S. territory, and District of Columbia forestry agencies at the national level. NASF is a member-driven organization that promotes the role of State and Territorial Foresters in managing and protecting the nation's forest resources. NASF is the principal advocate for dedicated federal investment in state and private forestry activities among policymakers and the public through a wide range of educational, advocacy, and outreach activities.

## {STRENGTH in numbers}

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NASF members – and the states and territories they represent – receive an extraordinary return on investment on NASF dues, which are among the lowest of comparable national organizations. More than 80% of the funding for NASF activities is from non-dues sources and NASF consistently delivers funding and cost-savings results that exceed dues investments. One State Forester calculated that every dollar of NASF dues returned more than \$100 to the state.

### Benchmarking and idea-sharing

NASF provides a forum for sharing information and problem solving that translates into member savings of both time and money. NASF provides many venues for members to identify and discuss emerging issues and trends (even before they are apparent to most) and share ideas on innovative approaches to topics ranging from forest sustainability to agency management. NASF also gathers and disseminates forestry statistics information that allows states and territories to benchmark their agency capacity and programs against others in their region or nationwide.

### News and information aggregation

NASF keeps members informed on national legislation and administrative policies affecting state and private forest lands so that State Foresters will know what's in the pipeline and be prepared to deal with it. Information goes out to NASF members through several communications vehicles:

- \* NASF Washington Weekly Report: an e-newsletter that contains a collection of brief items of interest to NASF constituents, including congressional activities, forestry-related news and upcoming events, and interactive links to other content.
- \* Action Alerts: real-time internal alerts to members to prompt action on a specific legislative priority.
- \* Member Updates: regular briefings from the Executive Director on significant activities related to policy, communications and partners that reflect NASF staff and committee accomplishments.
- \* Website and Publications: extensive and continually updated library of briefing papers, official letters, reports, brochures, testimony, and resolutions that present NASF priorities and demonstrate member expertise.

NASF is STRENGTH in numbers.  
NASF is your NATIONAL voice.  
NASF is MEMBER-driven.

} NASF IS VALUE.

### {STRENGTH in numbers}

#### Partnerships and Coalitions

NASF leverages a large network of agencies, organizations and individuals at the national level and around the world to build value for NASF members and achieve results that promote healthy and sustainable forests. By working closely with the nation's most influential forestry and conservation leaders, NASF magnifies the voice and priorities of our members. The following are examples of coalitions where NASF leadership has delivered strategic results that specifically benefit our members:

- \* Forestry in the Farm Bill Coalition
- \* Forest Climate Working Group
- \* Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions
- \* Roundtable on Sustainable Forests
- \* Continental Dialogue on Non-native Forest Insects and Diseases
- \* Joint Forestry Team

#### Wildfire Suppression Resource Coordination

NASF employs two full-time professionals who represent the states when national fire suppression needs are assessed and crews are mobilized. The NASF Fire Director reports to the chair of the NASF Forest Fire Protection Committee, and works with the Fire Directors of the various federal land-managing agencies as well as the National Weather Service and the Office of Aircraft Services (part of the Department of the Interior). These agencies work together to coordinate and support wildland fire and disaster operations on federal, state and private lands across the country.

The NASF National Fire Plan Manager provides technical support with a myriad of applications and science/technology-based environments that help states track resources, training and qualification data related to wildland fire and other all-risk events, including the Incident Qualification System (IQS) and the Resource Order and Status System (ROSS). NASF membership in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) ensures that state needs are represented in the standards and specifications that are developed for the wildfire community.

Other NASF benefits include economic analysis and advocacy that help members justify and defend public safety funding and equipment in their states. Only members in good standing have full access to the array of wildland fire support and representation that NASF affords.

#### Extended Staff

NASF professional staff provide members with expertise in legislation, policy, natural resource, and communications issues. They provide technical information to enable NASF members to act as informed advocates for legislation, policies, and funding benefiting their states or territories. They also help NASF members to gain a broad array of contacts that allow them to do their job more effectively at home.

#### Regional Representation

Membership in NASF enables and supports the ability of NASF members and their staff to participate in regional state forestry organizations (Council of Western State Foresters, Southern Group of State Foresters, Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters).



## {your NATIONAL voice}

NASF provides a unified voice representing all states and territories on forestry issues before Congress and the Administration. Within NASF, each member has an equal voice. The collective influence of NASF ensures beneficial national policies for all members, secures federal funding for state and territorial forestry programs, and promotes equitable distribution of federal dollars.

### Congressional Testimony

Every year, NASF is requested by Congress to testify on a variety of topics because we represent a credible source of subject matter experts. NASF testimony directly benefits all members and provides an opportunity to bring State and Territory specific examples to the national stage. Although topics vary depending on proposed legislation, at a minimum NASF will testify on appropriations recommendations and support for Forest Service State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs. In 2008, NASF testimony and advocacy efforts helped reverse a proposed 58% budget cut to the S&PF program, resulting in increases in 2009 and 2010.

### Federal Appropriations

Federal funding is a critical component of many NASF member budgets. NASF is the leading advocate for federal funding supporting State and Territorial forestry agencies. A core mission of NASF is to build federal appropriations support for our members by educating Congress, leveraging partner organizations, and establishing coalition efforts. In 2009, NASF efforts contributed to hundreds of millions of dollars in new federal funding available or proposed to support NASF members:

- \* Appropriations: \$40 million increase for S&PF  
\$282 million new fire suppression contingency fund
- \* Economic Stimulus: \$250 million for S&PF
- \* Climate adaptation: \$40 million (est.) for S&PF

### Direct Financial Support

Through NASF, members may receive grants that provide direct funding support for priority needs. For example, the 2008 Farm Bill required Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies for States and Territories to remain eligible for federal funding under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. To support this effort, NASF secured external funding and provided grants to members averaging more than four times their annual dues investment. This one example more than returned the cost of NASF dues to members and is an unparalleled return on investment for membership associations. Only NASF members in good standing are eligible for grant funding or eligible to use tools supported by grant funding.

### Smokey Bear

Membership in NASF provides states with the authority to use Smokey Bear, the national symbol of fire prevention, and participate in the management of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention program with the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council. Only NASF members in good standing have the license authority to use Smokey Bear images in wildfire prevention materials.

## {MEMBER-driven }

Because NASF is a member-driven organization, the resources invested by members – dues and time – are well targeted to meet the needs of State and Territorial Foresters. All NASF activities and resource allocation decisions are guided by a Strategic Plan approved by all members.

### Governance and Professional Development

State and Territorial Foresters provide leadership for the association as committee chairs and by serving on the Executive Committee, which guides the association's long-range strategic plans, provides daily oversight, and ensures accountability. Committees provide members with an opportunity to focus their expertise on targeted forestry issues, learn from colleagues, influence national policy positions, assist in the NASF organizational process, and network with the nation's leading experts. Leadership in NASF committees provides professional development that helps State Foresters be more effective leaders in their own agency and foster new leadership among newer State Foresters.

### Harvard Fellowship

Through the NASF Foundation, NASF members may receive full scholarships to attend senior executive training at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The direct value exceeds the NASF annual dues investment, and the professional development benefits that accrue to the State or Territory are immeasurable.

### Annual Meeting

Unlike many associations, NASF delivers an annual meeting that is focused on conducting the critical business of its members. Dialogue with senior Administration officials, formal

agreements with federal agencies and conservation partners, and member resolutions that influence key policy issues are examples of past outcomes. As the only single gathering of all State and Territorial Foresters, together with the nation's most influential policymakers impacting state and private forestry, the NASF Annual Meeting provides an unparalleled networking and learning opportunity for members.

### Participation in External Forums and Events

Travel grants from NASF pay for state agency personnel to attend regional and national meetings that advance state and territorial forestry agency priorities and provide numerous opportunities to network with colleagues and leading representatives from federal agencies and key conservation organizations.

### International Forestry

While most of NASF's efforts focus on domestic forestry issues, NASF also monitors and proactively addresses global policies that may impact state and private forest management in the United States. NASF leadership is recognized and requested by the U.S. State Department and the Forest Service at meetings such as the World Forestry Congress and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests sponsored by the United Nations. These meetings provide international travel opportunities for NASF members where expenses are paid and State and Territorial issues can be highlighted on a world stage.

## { your dues DO MATTER }

The National Association of State Foresters is a lean organization that accomplishes a lot for its members with very little resources. Nonpayment of dues by even one member would have a damaging impact on NASF budgets. Please remember that the results NASF delivers are more important than ever during difficult budget times – this is when State and Territorial Foresters need NASF representation the most.

For more information, contact:

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