

Forestry Professionals

A key stakeholder group in forest issues, policies and management planning



The Issue

Public agencies and other decision-making groups often seek input and advice from stakeholders as they evaluate forest resource issues and develop related policies and management plans. Forestry professionals sometimes are among these participants due to their affiliation with more commonly identified stakeholder groups (e.g., forest industry, forest landowners). However, these individuals are rarely called upon to represent the professional forestry perspective independent of their employer or client interests. This independence is important because when they represent these interests, forestry professionals in both the public and private sector may be unable or unwilling to offer their full and candid views about important forest issues.

The result is missed opportunities to tap highly relevant expertise and experience, as well as a limited voice for a key group that must deal directly with policies and plans shaped by stakeholders who lack the unique, independent insights of the professional forestry community.

The Professional Response

Recognizing these missed opportunities and voices, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) stands able and willing to represent the professional forestry perspective when stakeholder input is sought. SAF has about 14,000 members and includes field foresters, researchers, administrators and educators who work for federal, state or local governments; for universities; for small and large landowners; and for small businesses and large corporations.

Although we come from "all walks of forestry," we pledge that our professional views and other input will be consistent with the SAF mission to:

- advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry;
- enhance the competency of its members; establish professional excellence;
- use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

Please contact your state or local SAF chapter when stakeholder input is sought!

Contact information is available at http://www.eforester.org/lu/chapter_sites.cfm

or by calling SAF (toll free) at 866-897-8720

Who We Are

Since 1900, the Society of American Foresters has provided access to information and networking opportunities to prepare members for the challenges and the changes that face natural resource professionals.



SAF Core Values are:

1. Forests are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare,
2. Forests must be sustained through simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs,
3. Foresters are dedicated to sound forest management and conservation, and
4. Foresters serve landowners and society by providing sound knowledge and professional management skills

Mission Statement

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. **The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.** SAF is a nonprofit organization meeting the requirements of 501 (c) (3). SAF members include natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students.

SAF Code of Ethics

On joining the Society of American Foresters, members assume a special responsibility to the profession and to society by promising to uphold and abide by the following:

Principles and Pledges

1. Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.
2. Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.
3. Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.
4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.
5. Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.
6. Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.

Adapted from: <http://www.safnet.org/who/howeare.cfm>