

Charter of the Joint Forestry Team (NASF-NACD-NRCS-FS)

Team Sponsors: The Joint Forestry Team (JFT) is sponsored by the Presidents of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); and the Chiefs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA Forest Service (FS).

Purpose: The purpose of the JFT is to enhance the coordinated interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance for working forests, farms, and ranches. The JFT seeks to find ways to improve the sustainability of the nation's forests in order to provide optimum levels of public benefits and ecosystem services.

Duration of Charter: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024. The sponsors will review the team's accomplishments and future needs to determine whether to extend the Team's charter beyond 2024.

Objectives: The JFT fulfills its purpose by taking appropriate actions that facilitate and encourage implementation of the national memorandum of understanding (MOU) at all levels of the sponsoring agencies/organizations and with other cooperators. The original MOU was signed in September 2008, and updated MOUs have been signed in 2013 and 2018. To implement the MOU, the JFT strives to:

- 1) Understand barriers to providing coordinated interagency assistance
- 2) Identify opportunities to remove barriers
- 3) Propose actions to leadership
- 4) Report on team activities to respective agencies/organizations
- 5) Use communications tools, such as the JFT website (www.jointforestryteam.org) and web conferences, to deliver timely and important information and resources to field personnel and conservation partners.
- 6) Evaluate and/or incorporate feedback

Team Members, Team Leader, and Staff Assistance: The Joint Forestry Team shall be composed of a total of 12 members with three leadership representatives each from the NASF (State Forester members), NACD (Conservation District Official members), NRCS, and FS. Rotation of JFT members is at the discretion of each organization; however, to maintain continuity, it is requested that only one member per organization per year rotates off the team.

NACD shall provide the Chair until December 31, 2019, followed by this rotation: 2020-FS; 2021-NASF; 2022-NRCS; 2023-NACD; 2024-FS. The Chair and a Vice Chair shall be designated by their respective organizations. The Vice Chair will become the next year's Chair.

Staff assistance for JFT meetings, reports, and other activities will be designated by NASF, NACD, NRCS, and FS. NACD will serve as staff lead.

Team Operating Guidelines: The following guidelines will govern how the Joint Forestry Team conducts its meetings:

- **Meeting Schedule:** The JFT will meet at least once annually (face-to-face) with the Presidents of the NASF and NACD and the Chiefs of the NRCS and FS (or their representatives). The annual meeting is to be held every other year at the NACD Annual Meeting, and alternating years at the NASF Annual Meeting and in Washington D.C., depending on availability of the Chiefs. The JFT will organize a field meeting every other year at a location that highlights coordinated interagency forestry efforts. The JFT will conduct other team meetings with some regularity as needed (audio/video conference calls are preferred for efficiency).
- **Meeting Agenda:** An agenda will be developed by the Chair and JFT staff lead and sent to the members before each meeting. The Chair will solicit agenda items at least four weeks prior to each meeting.
- **Meeting Leader:** The Chair will conduct all meetings. The Vice Chair will serve in this capacity in the absence of the Chair.
- **Chair or Vice Chair:** The Chair will serve as primary contact for members and will maintain a repository of cooperative correspondence and products.
- **Meeting Facilitation and Notes:** Facilitation and note taking services will be provided by staff designated by NASF, NACD, NRCS, and FS. Notes will be provided to members within one week following each meeting.
- **Communication with Agencies/Organizations:** At the conclusion of each meeting the JFT and staff will develop a “team communiqué” that members will use to communicate the team’s activities and recommendations to their respective agencies/organizations. JFT members will report to the team on feedback received from their agencies/organizations. The JFT will report on its activities at least once annually at the face-to-face meetings with executive leadership. JFT staff will coordinate communication deliverables with the respective communication staff from NASF, NACD, NRCS and FS.

Team Charter Approved by:

<hr/> Jeremy Peters CEO National Association of Conservation Districts	<hr/> Greg Josten President National Association of State Foresters	<hr/> Vicki Christiansen Chief USDA Forest Service	<hr/> Kevin Norton Associate Chief USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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