

NESAF POLICY PROCESS SURVEY

October 2009

Dear Member,

NESAF is at the confluence of two great needs: lawmakers are in need of sound, objective guidance from natural resource professionals in a time when there are many demands on our resources; and our members are in need of an organization in which they can be more involved and more proactive. We're inviting you to help us restructure the policy process within NESAF to meet both of these needs.

Over the past few months we've heard from many of you. You've told us that you want more in your organization; more than an association; more opportunity to be involved; more ability to be heard and to affect forestry in New England. And you're right. There's nothing that we'd like more than to be a stronger organization that provides more value to our members and that has a respected voice in New England. We're redesigning our policy process to make use of our ability to have on-the-go, issue specific input from leaders in our field; leaders like you.

New England needs your input. As a chapter of the largest scientific and educational association of foresters in the United States, NESAF aims to be the 'go-to' organization that lawmakers turn to for guidance on sound forest management. We want to improve the effectiveness of forestry regulations and laws in encouraging and ensuring excellent forestry by educating policy makers, advocacy groups, and the public on practical aspects of forestry. It's about what we stand for as natural resource professionals, sharing what we have learned as scientists, and providing the leadership to advance the forestry science, education, technology and practice of forestry in New England.

This NESAF Policy Process Survey was first made available to members in July of 2009 for the purpose of soliciting feedback from our members on how they would like us to approach sensitive policy issues. Our interest in your feedback is ongoing. The first invitation for member participation was sent to members via email. A second announcement was made in the October News Quarterly for those who prefer a hard copy option. Please feel free to submit your comments on these issues at any time to our Policy Chair, Peter Howland. Current contact information can be found at www.nesaf.org.

Sincerely,

The NESAF Policy Process Subcommittee

Peter Howland - Policy Chair

Peter L. Greeno - Membership Chair

Roger Dziengesleski - Council Representative

Ronald Lemin, Jr – Chairman (Ex officio)

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1. Are you a member of New England SAF (NESAF)?

Answer	Select One
Yes	
No	

2. If yes, how many years have you been a member of NESAF?

Enter a number in years only.

3. How many years have you been working in a natural resource profession?

Enter a number in years only.

4. What other natural resource organizations are you a member of?

Enter a separate organization on each line.

5. How familiar are you with NESAF Position Statements?

Answer	Select One
I have never read a NESAF Position Statement	
I have read one NESEAF Position Statement	
I have read more than one NESAF Position Statement	

6. Should NESAF prepare position statements on issues that are important to our members?

Answer	Select One
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Why?

Enter a text response

8. In your opinion, what purpose do NESAF Position Statements serve?

#	Answer	Select One
1	A position statement is a policy that governs NESAF membership in order to promote sound forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A position statement is not a policy, rather it is a statement that promotes sound forestry through education	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. If you selected "other" please explain:

Enter a text response

10. How do you feel members should be involved in the position statement development process? Select all that apply.

#	Answer	Select One
1	Members should be given the opportunity to comment on Position Statements before they are passed	
2	Members should rely on their elected NESAF state representatives to review NESAF position statements	
3	NESAF position statements should be sent to the state divisions for comment	
4	Members should be invited to serve on short term committees that assist the policy committee on the preparation of NESAF position statements	
5	Other	

11. How can our Policy Committee best serve its members? Select all that apply.

#	Answer	Select all that apply
1	Our Policy Committee should prepare position statements to inform MEMBERS of our stance on current issues	
2	Our Policy Committee should prepare position statements to inform NONMEMBERS of our stance on current issues	
3	Our Policy Committee should keep members informed of current issues through mechanisms other than position statements	
4	Our Policy Committee should be serving in other forest based organizations and boards where our input is needed	
5	Other (please specify)	

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that NESAF should have a position statement on each of the following issues?

#	Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Local Regulation of Forest Practices					
2	Farm Bill Programs					
3	Wilderness and Recreation Values					
4	Forest Roads					
5	Federal and State Forest Management					
6	Private Forest Management					
7	Herbicide Use					
8	Biomass Harvesting					
9	Clearcutting					
10	Carbon Sequestration					
11	Wildland Fire					
12	High-Grading					
13	Climate Change					
14	Other					

13. If you selected other, please explain:

Enter a text response

14. SAF National recently considered a position statement on high-grading. Would you be supportive of a NESAF position statement on high-grading?

#	Answer	Select One
1	Yes, I would support a NESAF position statement on high-grading	
2	No, I would not support a NESAF position statement on high-grading	

15. THANK YOU! Please feel free to add any additional comments here or contact our policy chair, Peter Howland, at petehowland47@gmail.com

Enter a text response