



Federal Forest Policy: Impacts on the Northern Forest

Notes from September 16, 2025 [Webinar](#)

Executive Orders and Administrative Actions

- Increasing timber harvests on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land by 25% over 2024 levels and ramping up domestic production of wood products
- Investigating the importation of forest products and recommending policies to strength our domestic supply chain
- (Proposed) Rescinding the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation rule which would open lands to road construction, timber harvesting, and mining
- (Proposed) Rescinding the 2009 Endangerment Finding which would eliminate the legal basis to regulate greenhouse gas emissions
- Revoking regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which is designed to ensure that the federal government assesses the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions
- (Proposed) Reorganizing the USDA which would further decrease staff, close office and forest research stations, and consolidate Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) to a Colorado hub
 - Region 9 has already lost 42% of its staff, most of any region in the U.S.
 - Note: Bartlett Experimental Forest has 80 years of continuous monitoring data, unique in nation for its longevity
- Slowing (ex. Forest Legacy Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund), rescinding (ex. Maine Tech Hubs, Regional Conservation Partnership Program), or canceling grants and grant programs (ex. Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Program)

One Big Beautiful Bill

- Restoring funding for Forest Legacy Program at \$100M
- Reinstating 100% bonus depreciation for trucks and trailers that are purchased, reducing a business's taxable income in the first year
- Increasing state and local state tax deductions (SALT) to \$40,000, allowing taxpayers to reduce their federal taxable income
- Increasing the federal estate tax exemption to \$15M per individual, effective on January 1, 2026
- Continuing investment tax credit for commercial biomass
- Eliminating \$2,000 residential wood heat tax credit for wood pellet boilers and furnaces, effective January 1, 2026

Trade Policy and Tariffs (as of 9/16/25)

- Doubling of duties on Canadian softwood lumber imports, increasing the combined rate from 14.5% to 35% over the summer
 - International Trade Court reviews duties each year, unrelated to tariffs
 - Softwood lumber agreement expired in 2016 which led to the introduction of duties because of Canadian's manufacturing advantage
- Increasing cost of harvesting equipment by 30% due to tariffs on steel and electronics

- Ramping up Canadian manufacturing February and March to get ahead of tariffs to ensure wood had a place to go
 - Lots of movement across the U.S.-Canada border
- Still no tariffs on finished wood products coming into the U.S. from Canada due to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement which went into effect in 2020, replacing the Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Implementing the *European Union Deforestation Regulation* which directs large EU businesses (starting on December 30, 2025) and small EU businesses (starting on June 30, 2026) to prove that imported wood products do not contribute to deforestation

New Legislation

- (Proposed) H.R. 471 Fix Our Forests Act which would streamline forest management by expediting environmental review with the overall goal of reducing wildfire risks
- (Proposed) S. 509 Future Logging Careers Act would allow 16-year-olds to work in their family's logging business under parental supervision – something already possible on farms but illegal in the logging industry
 - Would also ensure that use of the most dangerous equipment, such as manual chainsaws, is still prohibited until the age of 18
- (Proposed) S.2399 Loggers Economic Assistance and Relief Act would establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and hauling businesses due to major natural disasters
- An updated Farm Bill needs to be codified, contains many titles that impact our forests
- Rulemaking open with regard to treatment of low-grade wood equal under the Renewable Fuel Standard

Other Topics

- (Proposed) Consolidating wildland fire service delivery under one agency called U.S. Wildland Fire Service to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and reduce costs
 - Likely to occur in April 2026
- Implementing a policy directive from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, so default code will no longer shut engines down in logging equipment or trucks