

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 make recommendations that result in 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, 2010 to December 31, 2014. The sponsors will review the team's accomplishments and future needs to determine whether to extend the Team's charter beyond 2014.

Team Accomplishments (2007-2009): The JFT was formally chartered by the sponsoring organizations in November 2007. During its first two years the JFT has made considerable progress in removing barriers to the delivery of coordinated interagency assistance to private landowners. A key accomplishment has been the development of the national "joint forestry" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was approved by the sponsors on September 29, 2008. The team and the MOU agencies/organizations have begun implementation of the MOU, including its 17 joint and 47 individual organization actions.

Objectives: The JFT fulfills its purpose by taking appropriate actions that facilitate and encourage implementation of the national MOU at all levels of the sponsoring agencies/organizations and with other cooperators. To implement the MOU, the JFT strives to:

- 1) Understand barriers to providing coordinated interagency assistance
- 2) Identify opportunities to remove barriers
- 3) Recommend 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.

NRCS shall provide the team leader until December 31, 2009, followed by this rotation: 2010-NACD; 2011-FS; 2012-NASF; 2013-NRCS; NACD-2014. The team leader and an alternate team leader shall be selected by the JFT members. The alternate team leader will become the incoming team leader.

Staff assistance for JFT meetings, reports, and other activities will be provided by the National Forester for NRCS and other staff designated by NASF, NACD, NRCS, and FS.

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) and 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 team leader and JFT staff and sent to the members before each meeting. The team leader will solicit agenda items at least four weeks prior to each meeting.
- **Meeting Leader:** The team leader will conduct all meetings. The alternate leader will serve in this capacity in the absence of the team leader.
- **Leader or Alternate Leader:** The team leader 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 the National Forester for NRCS or other 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 communique” 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.

Team Charter Approved by:

STEVE ROBINSON	LEAH MACSWORDS	THOMAS L. TIDWELL	DAVE WHITE
President	President	Chief	Chief
National	National Association of	USDA	USDA
Association of	State Foresters	Forest Service	Natural Resources
Conservation Districts			Conservation Service
Date	Date	Date	Date