



9TH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS

EQUITY & CLIMATE

WASHINGTON, DC | JULY 15 - 18, 2025

INTRODUCING THE

NINTH

AMERICAN
FOREST CONGRESS

JULY 15-18, 2025 WASHINGTON, DC

*BRIDGING MOVEMENTS TO
ADVANCE EQUITY & CLIMATE*



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WHAT IS A FOREST CONGRESS?

The American Forest Congress is a proud tradition that has influenced the direction of forest conservation and management in America for more than a century. Since the first American Forest Congress in 1882 to the most recent in 2022, these seminal events have led directly to major outcomes in the forestry sector, including the creation of the U.S. Forest Service, the establishment of the eastern National Forests, new community-based and collaborative approaches to forestry, and efforts to ensure women and allies lead the way in diversifying leadership within the forest community.

WHEN & WHERE?

July 15-18, 2025, at the Omni Shoreham in Washington, DC

WHY NOW?

Rising global temperatures have rapidly impacted the nation's forests, challenging our traditional strategies for adaptation. There is an urgent need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and focus on the vital role forests play in providing natural climate solutions. With a small window to act, America's forests, and the diverse communities that depend upon them, must advance fresh approaches that overcome obstacles, such as political polarization and historic injustice, to build an inclusive, collaborative and unified course of action.

The themes of *Equity & Climate* highlight the Congress's first-of-its kind commitment to bring together diverse voices—including environmental experts, policy- and changemakers, Indigenous and underserved community members, industry leaders and others—to collectively respond to climate change and develop a path for measurable impact within the forestry sector and beyond.

PROCESS & APPROACH

Unlike traditional conferences, the 9th American Forest Congress will be an interactive forum to co-create solutions, culminating in actionable resolutions across five key pathways: forest health and resilience; reforestation; sustainable forest products; land stewardship; and equity. The Congress will also foster opportunities for shared learning, innovation, and network and career building for participants.

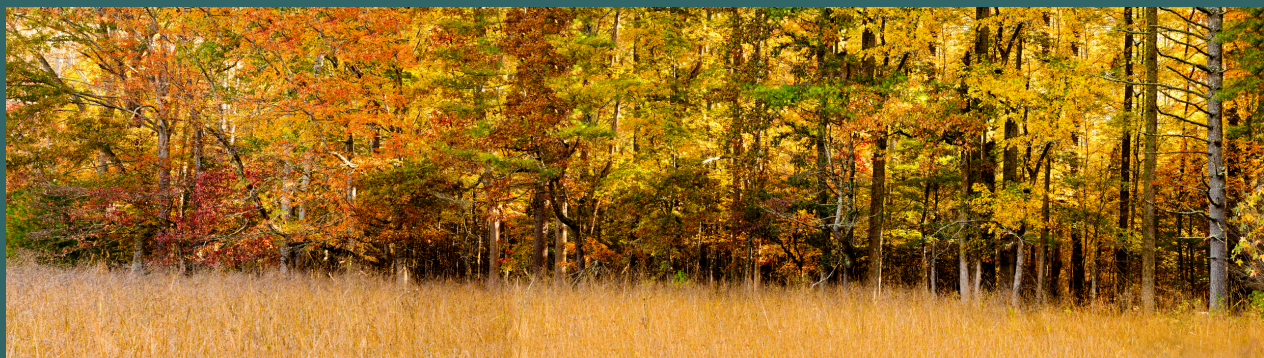
A diverse Steering Committee representing over a dozen organizations and institutions has guided planning for the Congress to leverage partnerships, build from past Congresses, and engage changemakers, educators, and influencers across sectors. Their guidance will be complemented with opportunities, prior to the Congress, for additional partners to share ideas and perspectives, building a collaborative agenda.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

There are two primary ways to get involved with the Congress: participating in a Pathway Workshop and engaging in our nominations process to attend the 9th American Forest Congress.

Pathway Workshops

The Steering Committee will host Pathway Workshops to build consensus around key issues and opportunities facing our field; these Workshops will inform the content and structure of the Congress in July. The Committee seeks participants with expertise or influence in forestry and related fields; representation from all geographic regions; multiple sectors (e.g., industry, government, tribal representation, NGOs) for well-rounded discussions; youth and emerging leaders; and new voices offering fresh perspectives and diverse viewpoints. Workshops will be held in the Spring of 2025. More details to come.



Nominations for the Congress

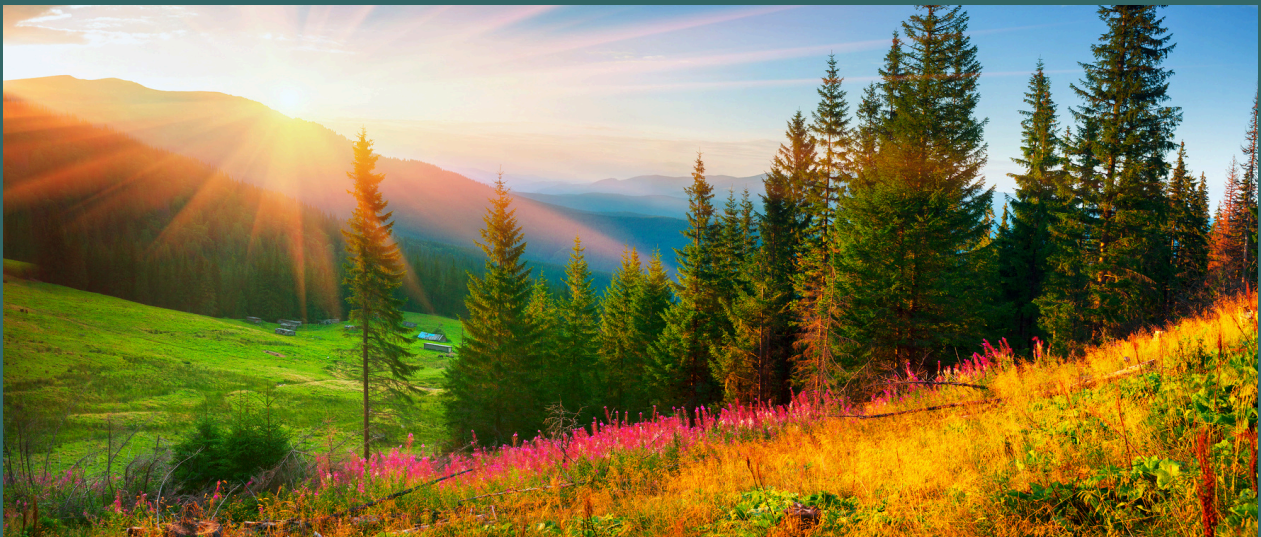
The Congress welcomes all who are dedicated to fostering opportunities for connection, inspiration, and driving change to benefit forests and the people who depend on them now and in the future. A broad nomination process for Congress attendance will occur through an online platform beginning in mid-November 2024, offering individuals an opportunity to nominate themselves or their colleagues to participate.

The nominations will be reviewed to ensure diverse participation and perspectives at the Congress. The Steering Committee is committed to balancing representation across various sectors, regions, and perspectives. The Committee reserves the ability to limit participation from any one organization or to respond to overall capacity constraints.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

This 9th American Forest Congress must lead to the right forestry actions, done the right way, at the right scale, with an urgency that meets this moment. The Congress is not the endpoint of the work—rather, it is a launchpad. Success will ultimately be measured by our ability to elevate our shared vision and mobilize the forest community to accelerate on-the-ground progress toward a climate-resilient and equitable forest sector.

The Steering Committee expects to engage a diverse suite of partners in the run up to the Congress. The Committee encourages partners with ideas, content or perspectives relevant to the Congress to reach out by email: ForestCongress@americanforests.org.



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TERRY BAKER

Chief Executive Officer, Society of American Foresters

JAD DALEY

President and Chief Executive Officer, American Forests

CODY DESAUTEL

Executive Director of Colville Tribes and President of Intertribal Timber Council

DAVID DREHER

Senior Manager, Public Lands Policy, National Wildlife Federation

GARY DUNNING

Executive Director, The Forest School and The Forests Dialogue, Yale School of the Environment

CRISTINA EISENBERG

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