



Statement on the SPEED Act of 2025

Contact: Shannon McCabe, ACF Executive Director

shannon@acf-foresters.org

703-548-0990

November 11, 2025 - The Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) commends Chairman Bruce Westerman and Congressman Jared Golden for introducing the bipartisan SPEED Act of 2025. This legislation represents a pragmatic and long-overdue modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that will make federal environmental reviews more efficient, predictable, and effective.

For too long, duplicative and uncertain permitting processes have slowed forest management projects, delayed conservation practices, and discouraged private landowner participation in federal programs. These delays not only increase costs but also allow forest health challenges, from insect infestations to wildfire risks, to worsen.

By clarifying the scope of reviews, aligning federal processes with state and tribal standards, and establishing clear timelines, the SPEED Act will help ensure that landowners and consulting foresters can implement timely, science-based management that benefits rural economies, wildlife habitat, and ecological resilience. ACF urges swift passage of the SPEED Act so that America's consulting foresters can continue to provide the expertise and capacity needed to care for our nation's forests, both public and private. Should amendments be considered, we recommend clarifying that research must be peer-reviewed in Section 107 and excepting forest management activities from being considered major federal actions when such management is proposed by federal land management agencies. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional information on these amendments or our overall support of the legislation.

"The Association of Consulting Foresters applauds Chairman Westerman and Congressman Golden for their leadership on the bipartisan SPEED Act of 2025. Consulting foresters are on the ground every day helping public and private landowners make informed, sustainable management decisions, but those efforts can be delayed by duplicative and uncertain federal reviews. The SPEED Act restores efficiency and predictability to the permitting process, ensuring that forest management, conservation, and wildfire risk reduction projects can move forward in a timely way. This legislation is a win for landowners, rural communities, and the health of America's forests." — Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director, Association of Consulting Foresters

About the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF):

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) is a professional organization representing independent professional consulting foresters. We are dedicated to advancing the practice of professional consulting forestry and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and ethics among our members who help landowners achieve their goals for healthy, productive, and sustainable forests. Visit www.acf-foresters.org to learn more.