AWWG Recommendations:
Stewardship Contracting Authority

- Expand stewardship contracting authority to other federal agencies, and expand land management goals to include limited road maintenance work enhancing public safety and recreational access.

AWWG Recommendations:
Healthy Forest Reserve Program

- Reauthorize the Healthy Forest Reserve Program at no less than $12 million annually.
- Expand eligibility to include state-identified Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

For more information, please visit www.trcp.org/farmbill or contact Alex Maggos (amaggos@trcp.org)

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

- Grants the Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authority to enter agreements to increase forest and rangeland resiliency to insects, disease, flood, fire, and other natural pressures.
- Allows USFS and BLM to consider the value of natural resources removed, i.e. timber, when budgeting for a restoration project.
- Authority is part of the Healthy Forests Initiative to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and provide a source of income and employment for local and rural communities.

HEALTHY FOREST RESERVE PROGRAM

- The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) helps landowners restore, enhance, and protect private forestland with 10-year restoration agreements and 30-year or permanent easements.

Forestry

AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE WORKING GROUP
Sportsmen’s Priorities for Conservation and Access in the 2018 Farm Bill
Sportsmen’s Priorities for Conservation and Access in the 2018 Farm Bill

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

- Good Neighbor Authority supports partnerships between the USFS, BLM, and state and local natural resource agencies to restore watersheds, enhance rangelands, and improve forest management activities on public lands.

- Covered activities include treating insect- and disease-infected trees, reducing hazardous fuels, and other activities improving fish and wildlife habitat.

WILDFIRE FUNDING

- Increasing frequency and severity of wildfires are eroding the Forest Service budget, as more funds divert from USFS programs towards fire suppression.

- At current pace, fire suppression would take up 67% of Forest Service budget by 2021.

- In 2015, wildfire suppression costs totaled a record $2.6 billion, and 2017 will almost certainly surpass that amount.

AWWG Recommendations: Good Neighbor Authority

- Expand GNA by removing the exception for forest road maintenance to allow for access to project areas for restoration work.

AWWG Recommendations: Fire Funding

- Freeze the rolling ten-year average used to calculate fire suppression funding, which erodes the USFS budget

- Tap into disaster funding for extraordinarily costly fires, including those calculated in the 10-year average.

Additional AWWG Recommendations

- Grant USDA Secretary waiver authority to allow designated wildlife practices on non-federal public land, where restoration of such land benefit eligible lands.

- Support post-harvest flooding of agricultural fields in areas of high historic wetland loss.

- Promote prescribed fire and grazing to benefit wildlife

- Support native vegetation for conservation practices on private lands