

New York Society of American Foresters Position Statement on Empire Forests for the Future Initiative, Empire Forest Incentive Program.

Position:

The New York Society of American Foresters supports incentives that conserve private forestland, including funding for public programs designed to encourage the retention and sustainable management of private forestland. Those programs could include landowner technical assistance, education, and incentive programs focused on the importance of investing in and managing private forests.

Issue: Governor Andrew M Cuomo in his 2108-19 Executive Budget on January 16, 2018 (<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy19/exec/fy19artVIIs/TEDArticleVII.pdf>) proposed adding a new Title 25 under Article 9 of the ECL to provide payments to landowners for forest management practices under the forest incentive program.

Back Ground:

Issue one of the 2010 NYS Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy (FRAS) is “Keeping Forests as Forests”. Many strategies to encourage landowners to retain forests are discussed, including reducing the burden of real property taxes, developing landowner incentives, providing landowner assistance and increasing funding for cost sharing programs.

References:

Widmann, Richard H.; Crawford, Sloane; Kurtz, Cassandra M.; Nelson, Mark D.; Miles, Patrick D.; Morin, Randall S.; Riemann, Rachel. 2015. New York Forests, 2012. Resource Bulletin NRS-98. Newtown Square, PA: U.S Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 128 p.

SAF Positions Statement on Loss of US Private Forestland

New York Department of Environmental Conservation [NY DEC]. N.d.b. New York's forest resource assessment and strategy, 2010-2015. Albany, NY: New York Department of Environment and Conservation. http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/fras070110.pdf

Approved by the NY Society of American Foresters Executive Committee on