

MAFWA Director's Meeting

IL DNR Office of Resource Conservation Overview 2025

The Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is responsible for the management of Illinois' wildlife, fish, and forest resources, along with stewardship and restoration of natural lands. The ORC manages fish and wildlife populations through hunting and fishing regulations based on scientific data. The ORC also promotes the state's hunting and fishing heritage. Primary funding comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, supported by Federal Fish and Wildlife Funds, State Wildlife Grant Funds, Illinois Forestry Development Funds and Natural Areas Acquisition Funds. The Office also works with the Federal Government and other agencies to remediate lands contaminated by industrial discharges or accidental release of pollutants. The Office administers the state portion of Federal Farm Bill programs including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and others. Regulation of state-endangered and threatened species is included among the responsibilities of the Office.

-Division of Fisheries-

Hatcheries

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) operates three fish hatcheries that are strategically located to serve various regions across the state: Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery in central Illinois, Little Grassy Fish Hatchery in the southern part of the state, and LaSalle Fish Hatchery in the north. These facilities play a vital role in supporting the health and diversity of Illinois' aquatic ecosystems by breeding, raising, and stocking millions of fish each year.

- In 2024, the hatchery system collectively produced and stocked an impressive total of 22,843,125 fish, representing 19 different species, into public waters across Illinois. This effort not only enhances recreational fishing opportunities but also contributes to the conservation of native fish populations. Among the most popular initiatives is the semi-annual catchable trout program, which provides stocked trout to designated fishing areas in both the spring and fall. In 2024, this program benefited over 60,000 licensed anglers and their families, offering memorable fishing experiences and supporting local economies through tourism and outdoor recreation.

Urban and Community Fishing Program

Chicago/Northern Illinois

- A total of 22,000 individuals participated in the Northern Illinois Urban and Community Fishing Program in 2024.
- 101 summer fishing clinics were held with 2,615 participants.
- 19 additional fishing and fishing skill programs were held for 1,967 participants.
- N. IL UCFP staff participated in 25 non-fishing events and programs, including special events like Family Day at Chicago White Sox stadium, Evanston's Summer Solstice Festival, Soil and Water District Conservation Days and several Cops and Bobbers fishing derbies. A total of 17,418 participants attended.
- 300 rods and 2,500 pieces of terminal tackle (hooks, bobbers, swivels) were distributed to N. IL Access to Fishing/Tackle loaner sites.
- A new, summer fishing program format, Open Fishing, was tested at over a dozen public sites in N. IL. This format involves staff setting up an IDNR themed display at public fishing sites and fishing with local families and anglers without registration. Over 1,500 people attended open fishing clinics in 2024.
- UCFP coordinator Frank Sladek presented at the International Biodiversity Teach In, where he discussed local biodiversity and the importance of ethical angling practices with international elementary school students. His presentation was seen by students in 10 countries.

Central Illinois

- A total of 21,629 individuals participated in the Central Illinois Urban Fishing Program during the year.
- 236 angler education seminars were held in the summer with a total of 4,383 participants
- Special Event Outreach Fishing Programs had 1,600 participants
- The Conservation World Pond had 55 clinics with a total of 1,541 participants during the Illinois State Fair
- 33 School Fishing Programs were held either as in school or after school PTA fishing had 1,869 participants
- Volunteer instructors had a combined 2,607 participants
- Aquatic Outreach Programs had 2,847 participants
- In conjunction with Allerton 4H park in Monticello, a new outreach event, namely, Family Fishing Camp was held 4 times over the year that had a total of approximately, 800 participants.

Southern Illinois

- Southern Illinois Urban Fishing Program had a total of 35,861 people that participated and 14,000 fished
- Approximately 4,500 people attended the 35th Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair held at Pere Marquette State Park

- Southern Illinois Urban Program was involved in many large events including the Collinsville Boat Show, Du Quoin State Fair, National Hunting and Fishing Days, Special Olympics at Du Quoin, & Youth Police Camp

Regions

Southern Illinois

- Fisheries managers sampled 65 impoundments to determine fish population status and evaluate management actions. An intensive basin survey also was completed for the Mississippi South (Clear Ck) and Cache River.
- Fisheries managers worked cooperatively with Federal partners, municipalities, and private entities to place fish habitat structures at 16 lakes in southern Illinois, including Cedar Lake, Lake Kinkaid, Lake Murphysboro, Pyramid State Recreational Area lakes, Sam Parr Lake, Forbes Lake, Vernor Lake, and Newton Lake.
 - Over 550 recycled Christmas tree structures were constructed and placed in Rend Lake with the Assistance of the Army Corp of Engineers and the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club.
 - 215 recycled Christmas tree structures were placed at 9 sites in East Fork Lake.
 - 110 cedar tree structures were constructed and placed at 15 sites and 150 stake beds at 50 sites in Crab Orchard Lake with the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Blue Heron Boat Club, and an enthusiastic angler.

Central Illinois

- Fisheries managers sampled 60 impoundments to determine fish population status and evaluate management actions.
- The Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance (LSFHA) comprised of staff from the IDNR and USACE, local businesses, fishing clubs, and volunteers continues to enhance the quality of the Lake Shelbyville fishery for anglers and the economic benefit of local communities.
 - The LSFHA built and placed an additional 75 cube structures (PVC/field tile cubes), 120 artificial stumps, and 1,400 tons of rock pile reefs in Lake Shelbyville and planted 300 trees along the shoreline.
 - Eastern Illinois University and IDNR Fisheries constructed and placed 150 channel catfish spawning boxes as part of a research project looking to increase natural reproduction of channel catfish in reservoirs.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

- The IDNR continues to be a major partner in the Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. IDNR staff and partners continue to work above and below the Corps of Engineers' electric barrier system to monitor and prevent the upstream migration of invasive carp in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).
- Contracted harvest efforts continue to suppress densities of invasive carp above the Starved Rock Lock and Dam.

- From 2010 to 2024, 1,909,027 individual invasive carps (94% Silver carp) were removed by contracted fishers. The total estimated weight of invasive carp removed is 7,900 tons (15,800,000 pounds).
- No invasive carp have been collected in Lockport or Brandon Road pools since the inception of this project in 2010.
- The leading edge of the invasive carp population remains near Rock Run Rookery in Dresden Island pool (approximate river mile 281; 46 miles from Lake Michigan). No appreciable change has been found in the leading edge over the past 14 years.
- Contracted commercial fishers have removed more than 30 million pounds of invasive carp from below Starved Rock since late 2019.

Mississippi and Ohio Basin

- The IDNR is coordinating with neighboring states to achieve management and control of invasive carp in the Mississippi and Ohio River drainages.
- A program modeled after the Illinois River contracting with commercial fishers for the harvest of invasive carp was launched on the Wabash and Ohio Rivers in 2022 and has removed over 10 million pounds of invasive carp.
- A program to support removal via payments to processors for local pickups of invasive carp has resulted in over 12 million pounds of invasive carp removed in 2024.

Lake Michigan Program

- Charter and non-charter recreational anglers last year expended 275,775 angler-hours to harvest 5,249 yellow perch and 112,415 trout and salmon from the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan.

Illinois River

- In conjunction with the state hatchery system, the Illinois River was stocked with 10.2 million Sauger (0 - 1.3 inch), 1.1 million Largemouth Bass (0.1 inch), 107,007 Smallmouth Bass (0.1 - 4.3 inch) and 2,060 Northern Pike (1.85 inch) in 2024.
- Recent appropriations for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have offered an alternative funding mechanism to implement ecosystem restoration projects throughout the Upper Mississippi River System. This has resulted in many new projects involving IDNR biologists, including the Liverpool Side Channel project aimed to restore overwintering and side-channel habitat.

Statewide Fisheries Management

- Fisheries managers sampled 39 impoundments to determine fish population status and evaluate management actions. Intensive basin surveys also were completed for the

Upper Illinois River (17 station in R2). One site on Aux Sable Creek produced both State-threatened River Redhorse and State Endangered Greater Redhorse.

- Fisheries managers conducted numerous spring Muskellunge surveys and collected aging structures from a subset of waterbodies in order to evaluate these important fisheries. Additionally, all fish collected were marked with PIT tags as part of a mark-recapture study to develop population size estimates.
- In a tri-agency program between Illinois DNR, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) , and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), fisheries managers collected fish samples within the City of Chicago to evaluate the current fish consumption advisories for these important urban fisheries.
- In a cooperative project that has been conducted annually since 2007, artificial fish habitats were placed at various sites throughout Braidwood Lake in 2024.
- Intensive basin surveys were completed for the Mississippi Central and Mary's River basin. Fish surveys were completed on Carlyle Lake and the lower Kaskaskia River.

-Division of Wildlife Resources-

2024-2025 Deer Season Harvest

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 170,758 deer during all 2024-2025 archery and firearm seasons, which concluded Jan. 19. The preliminary total for 2024-2025 compares with a total harvest of 160,313 deer for all seasons in 2023-2024.

- During the 2024-2025 deer seasons, hunters took 46.27% females and 53.72% males.
- **Archery deer hunters** took a preliminary total of 73,598 deer during the season that began Oct. 1 and concluded Jan. 19. The total archery harvest during the 2023-2024 season was 71,226 deer.
- **Youth deer hunters** harvested a preliminary total of 4,057 deer during the three-day Illinois youth deer season Oct. 12-14, compared to 4,576 in 2023.
- **Firearm season hunters** took a preliminary total of 82,496 deer during the firearm season Nov. 22-24 and Dec. 5-8. This compares to a harvest of 76,494 deer taken during the 2024 firearm season.
- **Muzzleloader hunters** harvested a preliminary total of 2,832 deer during the muzzleloader-only season Dec. 13-15, compared with a harvest of 3,378 deer during the 2023 muzzleloader season.
- **Late-winter seasons:** The 2024-2025 late-winter antlerless-only and special chronic wasting disease (CWD) deer seasons concluded Jan. 19 with a combined preliminary harvest total for both seasons of 7,775 deer. Season dates for the seven-day late-winter and CWD seasons were Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19. During the same seasons in 2023-2024, a total of 4,639 deer were taken.
Eighteen northern Illinois counties were open to the special CWD season, which is used to assist in slowing the spread of chronic wasting disease in the Illinois deer herd. And 27 counties were open for the late-winter antlerless season in 2024-2025 compared to

23 counties in 2023-2024. Counties that are at or below their individual deer population goal for two consecutive years may be removed from the late-winter season.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD prevalence and distribution continues to increase. During the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (FY24), a total of 11,343 usable samples were collected across Illinois, yielding a total of 459 CWD positive cases.

- Disease prevalence in CWD counties for adult deer was 7.2% The prevalence rate for hunter-harvested adult males (8.9% continues to be higher than that of adult females (5.0%).
- Counties that produced CWD positive deer included Boone (20), Bureau (1), Carroll (21), DeKalb (10), DuPage (1), Ford (1), Grundy (43), Jo Daviess (62), Kane (10), Kankakee (8), Kendall (8), Lake (2), LaSalle (58), Lee (8), Livingston (15), McHenry (49), Ogle (45), Stephenson (52), Will (10), Winnebago (12).
- Rates of CWD infection in adult deer removed by IDNR sharpshooting and hunter harvest were 7.3% and 3.7%, respectively. Thus, targeted removal of infected deer by sharpshooting continues to be an effective method for managing CWD across northern Illinois.

CWD was detected in 4 additional counties in 2025, Putnam, Marshall, Adams, and Peoria. Adams is particularly disconcerting as it is not contiguous with the rest of the endemic counties and is part of Illinois' deer hunting "Golden Triangle."

2025 Turkey Harvest

Spring 2025

- Illinois turkey hunters harvested a preliminary record total of 18,189 wild turkeys during the 2025 spring turkey season. This year's total compares with the previous record total of 17,208 turkeys harvested in 2024. The 2025 total includes the record youth spring turkey season harvest of 2,099 birds, which compares with the previous record of 2,010 birds set in 2024.

Fall Archery 2024

- Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary record statewide total of 1,045 wild turkeys during the 2024-2025 fall archery turkey season. The total compares last year's harvest of 803 and the 5-year average of 763 birds harvested. The previous record total for fall archery season was in 2015 when 851 turkeys were taken.

Fall Shotgun 2024

- Turkey hunters in Illinois harvested 292 wild turkeys during the 2024 fall firearm season Oct. 19-27, up 10% from the previous year's harvest. The record harvest was set in 2005 when 1,218 birds were harvested.

Bobcat Hunting

The 2024-2025 Illinois bobcat season concluded Feb. 15 with 649 bobcats harvested by hunters and trappers.

- A total of 415 (61.6%) of bobcats were taken by hunting, while trapping accounted for 234 (34.7%) of the harvest. Twenty-five (3.7%) were salvaged by permit holders from circumstances such as roadkill.
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) issued 2,000 bobcat permits in the 2024-2025 bobcat lottery out of 9,200 applicants.

Bobcat permits issued were increased from 1,000 to 2,000 for the 2024-25 season. Research from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale indicated the Illinois bobcat population could support an increased annual harvest without causing the population to decline.

-Private Lands-

Illinois Recreational Access Program

With nearly 97% of the land in Illinois is privately owned land, finding a place to enjoy the great outdoors is becoming more difficult. Developed in 2011 from its first Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) grant, the IDNR launched its first public access program, the IL Recreational Access Program (IRAP).

In 2024, IRAP had over 29,000 acres under lease in 51 counties for spring turkey, archery deer, youth firearm deer, squirrel, rabbit, quail, pheasant and waterfowl hunting. Several sites are also available for pond and riverbank fishing as well. In addition to outdoor access, IRAP provides new and updated habitat management plans for the landowners, that are specifically written to provide a diverse habitat to improve Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan targeted species and are written in cooperation with IDNR, USDA and SWCDs. IRAP plays an important role in implementing plan habitat projects on leased acres by providing guidance, manpower and up to a 60% cost-share to implement needed habitat improvement projects. Most management practices include nonnative invasive species control, timber stand improvement, prairie prep/planting, tree plantings, and prescribed burning.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides landowners with an IDNR-approved management plan preferential tax treatment on the enrolled acres in exchange for the landowner's commitment to conservation habitat work on the CSP acreage. Landcover in the program must be unimproved and generally consists of a combination of is forest, grassland, wetland, and lake/pond. Recommended management practices vary depending on landcover and vegetative composition but most commonly include nonnative invasive species control and timber stand improvement in terrestrial lands and fish stocking/structure construction in

aquatic habitats. There are 2,532 active CSP enrollments in 93 Illinois counties amassing 104,985 acres.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a successful private lands partnership between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

Illinois CREP offers financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of long-term conservation easements that improve water quality, capture nutrient runoff, reduce stream sedimentation and establish critical fish and wildlife habitat on private lands within Illinois and Kaskaskia River Watersheds. IDNR is currently processing 50 new easement enrollments that will establish conservation practices and wildlife habitat on 3000 acres of frequently flooded cropland and environmentally sensitive acres. Established in 1998, Illinois CREP has recorded over 1300 conservation easements, totaling 90,000 acres.

-Division of Natural Heritage-

- The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory was started in 1978 to identify high quality natural communities, essential habitat for endangered species, unique assemblages of plants and animals, and unique geologic features. Throughout 2024, the Division of Natural Heritage conducted a review of all natural community boundaries and grades. This is the first comprehensive assessment of natural community data by DNR staff since the Inventory's inception.
- In 2025, Illinois will complete a required five-year revision to the list of Illinois endangered and threatened species. Throughout 2024, the Division of Natural Heritage provided data to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board members and other petitioners to support species changes.
- The recovery of species on Illinois endangered and threatened species list continues to be reenergized. In 2024, the Office of Resource Conservation initiated a peer review process for species status assessments and planning documents that include conservation strategies to ensure that these documents reflect the diverse perspectives in the Office and Department before they are finalized.
- The Office of Resource Conservation hosted several regional meetings this year including the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors; MAFWAs Public Lands, Private Lands, and Wildlife Diversity Committees; and Endangered Species Coordinators from Midwestern states and US Fish Wildlife Service.

-Wildlife Action Plan-

The Department has continued the comprehensive review and revision of the Illinois State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). We have evaluated over 2,800 wildlife species and over 2,900 plant species for inclusion in the SWAP. Over 1,000 of these species (743 wildlife, 343 plant species) met the criteria as either Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) or Species of Greatest Information Need (SGIN) in Illinois. Maintaining and enhancing the viability of populations of these species in Illinois is the primary goal of the SWAP. We have also reviewed and revised information on the distribution and condition of habitats, threats and stressors to SGCN and habitats, and are currently working to revise our habitat based Campaigns and Conservation Opportunity Areas.

Implementation of the SWAP by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is focused on conservation assessment and natural community (habitat) management conducted by staff of the Office of Resource Conservation and with assistance from many conservation partners. We use State and Federal funding from the State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG) to support these efforts.

We have 12 active Formula SWG and 2 active Competitive SWG Projects along with 3 F-SWG and 2 C-SWG under review by USFWS OCI at this time (plus 1 approved F-SWG Project starting later this year). Collectively these Projects support survey, monitoring and research efforts for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) amphibians, bats, birds, fishes, insects, snakes, turtles, and mussels (in wadeable streams) that would not otherwise occur in Illinois. These surveys allow us to conduct conservation assessments to inform state and federal listing decisions under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act. They also assist with developing species management and recovery strategies and planning for land stewardship and other activities that avoids or minimizes “take” of Threatened or Endangered Species.

State Wildlife Grant Projects also provide contractual funds for managing Natural Areas including high-quality Natural Communities and specific suitable habitats for state-listed endangered and threatened species. These activities are designed to maintain, enhance, or restore landscape features that provide habitat for SGCN primarily on public land managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and on lands protected in programs of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

-Illinois Nature Preserves Commission-

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30/6), the Commission has certain powers and duties, including approval for dedication of nature preserves and registration of land and water reserves in the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The Commission, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR),

protects lands in perpetuity for landowners such as the IDNR, forest preserve and park districts, not-for-profit organizations, corporations, land trusts, and individuals. Lands protected include high quality natural communities, habitats that support endangered and threatened species, geological features, and archaeological sites.

The INPC is a public-private partnership that has been successful for over 60 years and is supported by staff members employed by the IDNR. In calendar year 2024, the INPC permanently protected 18 sites, including 9 new, or additions to, nature preserves and 9 new, or additions to, land and water reserves. The total acreage dedicated was 772 and the total registered was 704. Adding these 18 sites into the Illinois Nature Preserves System brings the statewide, total number of dedicated Illinois nature preserves to 420 comprising 64,011 acres, and the total number of registered land and water reserves to 213 with 59,653 acres. Altogether, at the end of 2024, there were 633 sites comprising 123,664 acres.

-Division of Forest Resources-

IDNR Nursery Program (Mason Nursery)

For FY25, the IDNR Nursery Program produced 900,000 native bare-root trees and shrubs of 32 different species. Additional production included 2,000 native containerized trees and shrubs of 30 different species; 3,500 containerized native wildflowers and prairie grasses of 40 different species; 1,895 pounds of cleaned wildflower seed of 55 different species; 150 pounds of cleaned prairie grass seed of 3 different species. The Mason Nursery also produced 700 pounds of Monarch/Pollinator native wildflower seed mix consisting of 30 different species. Over 1,300 orders for this plant material were processed from individuals and groups across Illinois with the majority being private landowners interested in habitat restoration. Mason Nursery also hosted the University of Illinois, Extension Specialists and Master Naturalists meetings from across Illinois on four separate occasions with tours and conference room training.

Illinois Forestry Development Act (IFDA) Forest Management Program

IFDA requires landowners to have an IDNR-approved forest management plan. Illinois has 10,238 forest management plans covering 585,370 acres. This equates to approximately 15% of non-industrial private forestland in Illinois being managed for wildlife, timber, recreation, clean water, carbon, and long-term forest health. Recommended forest management practices vary parcel to parcel. Enrolled parcels receive a reduced property tax rate. A total of 20,782 acres of forest improvement practices were completed on FDA properties during the year.

Illinois Forest Legacy Program (IFLP)

The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between the IDNR and the USDA Forest Service to identify and acquire environmentally important and threatened forests in Illinois. The Division of Forestry maintains federal eligibility and conducts annual monitoring of approved Legacy easements annually. Illinois has seven IFLP properties under easement totaling 558 acres.

Illinois Forest Health Program (IFHP)

IDNR implements its Forest Health Program in partnership with Morton Arboretum. The Forest Health Program deploys monitoring traps for walnut twig beetle (WTB), and exotic bark beetles and wood-boring insects on over 100 sites annually. In addition, aerial and visual surveys are conducted for native and exotic insects and diseases including, but not limited to, spotted lanternfly (SLF), elm zigzag sawfly (EZZSF), insect defoliators, oak wilt, bur oak blight, stress and weather-related diseases and events (i.e. tornadoes, flooding, derechos, ice storms). On-going statewide field sampling for detection of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in runoff water originating from retail outlets for protection of urban and rural forests continues. The Program responded to over 100 diagnostic inquiries regarding identification, and management of forest pests and diseases. Numerous in-person and virtual seminars, conferences, field training events, pod casts, webinars, advanced training classes were conducted for forest health issues, and the *Illinois Forest Health Highlights* (IFHH) and timely pest and disease alerts were provided for over 1,300 IDNR foresters, arborists and urban and municipal foresters, private owners, and other allied green industry members.

Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCFP)

IDNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program touched 10.5 million Illinois residents through community, guidance, programing, and financial assistance. This outreach included directing \$7,556,126 in federal dollars to Illinois communities and counties, to invest in community tree planting, urban forest management, expertise, and outreach and to improve local government capacity to grow and manage their public forest infrastructure. Illinois is among the top two states in the nation in Tree City USA communities (214) and number one in the nation for Tree City USA Growth Awarded communities (108).

Illinois Forest Utilization & Marketing Program (IFUP)

DNR Forestry bonded/licensed 338 timber buyers during the year. Approximately 70 sawmills and a few dozen additional hobby mills are currently operating in the state. Verified sales of timber products, primarily as hardwood logs from private forests, were reported at 57.4 Million Board Feet for the year. Top species harvested were Black Walnut, White Oak and Red Oak. The total economic value of the forest products industries in Illinois, including all primary and secondary sectors, is estimated at \$23 billion annually. The IFUP partners with Stewardship and other forestry programs to expand the multiple-use philosophy of forest management which includes wildlife, timber, carbon, protected species, recreation, soil, and water conservation.

Wildland Fire Programs

IDNR staff conducts prescribed burning on approximately 20,000 acres per year. IDNR Forestry deployed on five interagency assignments during the most recent fire season to Oregon, Montana, and Minnesota. Illinois also has a representative on the NASF Wildland Fire Committee and a representative on the Big Rivers Fire Compact. All expenses and salaries incurred during assistance to other states are reimbursed by the U.S. Forest Service.