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**To:** [ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu)  
**Cc:** [Claeys, Thomas](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Woody Plant Improvement and Horticulture Research from ND Forest Service  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 12:37:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[SBARE Letter of Support from NDFS for Horticulture Research.pdf](#)

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SBARE members,

Enclosed you will find a letter of support from the North Dakota Forest Service, in regards to woody plant improvement and horticulture research at North Dakota State University. As you will read in the letter, this research has a broad impact across all of North Dakota's forest resources, which we as an agency have a mission to care for, protect, and improve for present and future generations.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thanks, and have a great weekend!

**Beth Hill**

Outreach and Education Manager / ND Forest Service  
Project Learning Tree & Project WILD State Coordinator

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# NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE

*"To care for, protect and improve forests and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations."*

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OCT 18 2021

VP Agricultural Affairs

October 15, 2021

Dear SBARE Members,

The mission of the North Dakota Forest Service is to *care for, protect, and improve our forest resources for present and future generations*. The agency achieves this mission through the administration of seven statewide program areas. Strategic goals and priorities for the agency are derived through formal engagement with partners, stakeholders, and the general public.

In 2020, the North Dakota Forest Service published the updated *North Dakota Forest Action Plan*. Required as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill, **Forest Action Plans** serve as strategic frameworks to outline priority forest resources, designate important issues, and identify strategies to address challenges and opportunities.

North Dakota's forest resources face tremendous pressures as outlined in two of the key priority issues identified in the plan: (1) mitigating the loss of species from invasive tree and forest pests/diseases (ex. Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, pine wilt disease) and (2) enhancing species diversity to reduce vulnerability to biotic and abiotic pressures. To address these issues, support for research directed toward woody plant improvement and horticulture is greatly needed in North Dakota.

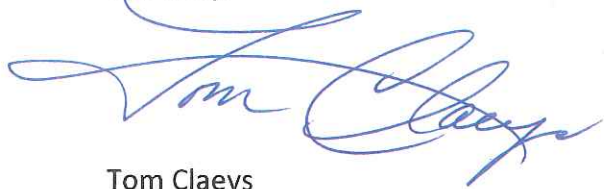
Woody plant improvement and horticulture research has a broad impact across North Dakota's forests, conservation tree plantings, and community tree resources. Trees enhance rural vitality and quality of life by providing key ecological services for residents, farmers, and ranchers. Field windbreaks reduce soil erosion during years of drought, reduce water evaporation from adjacent cropland, and increase crop yields. Tree plantings stabilize streambanks, filter water runoff from adjacent agricultural lands, protect livestock from inclement weather events, provide wildlife habitat, and protect rural homes and roads from wind and snow accumulation. Trees within communities provide many benefits including: reduced winter heating and summer cooling costs, ecological services like CO<sup>2</sup> sequestration and storm water runoff mitigation, wind and snow protection, and enhanced quality of life.

Specific benefits from educational outreach, woody plant improvement research, and horticulture research include:

- Greater number of cultivars available and increased tree diversity with improved hardiness, pest/disease resistance, and tolerance to unpredictable weather-related events.
- Enhanced form/growth rates for the northern Great Plains.
- A more diverse and resilient green infrastructure for small and large communities, farmers, and ranchers.
- New economic opportunities for local retail and production nurseries.
- Enhanced ecological services to the citizens of North Dakota.

We urge your consideration of the many beneficial impacts that woody plant improvement and horticulture research provides and how that research enhances the quality of life of North Dakotans. We advocate support for the ND Agricultural Experiment Stations and NDSU Extension and encourage you to maintain the resources needed for their continued success.

Sincerely,



Tom Claeys  
State Forester