



National Forests are far more than just scenic places. They are also major economic drivers. Do you have a story about how a National Forest or Grassland has impacted your career, livelihood, or understanding of the economies of public lands?

Maybe you've worked with the Forest Service and come away with unique insight. Or you've lived in a gateway town and have seen how climate events, like wildfire and heatwaves, have affected you and your community. Or you're a rancher who relies on a National Grassland for grazing, a researcher who conducts work on forestlands, a fly fishing guide who's benefited from access, or a firefighter who's contending with staffing shortages.

If so, we'd love to hear from you. The [National Forest Foundation](#) is seeking a personal essay for the Summer/Fall 2025 issue of our magazine, *Light & Seed*, which will focus on the economic impact of National Forests and Grasslands and the communities that rely on them.

We'll prioritize stories that exhibit some kind of narrative arc, in which an experience has brought you new understanding or appreciation. After a recent redesign, the magazine now has a deeper focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. We encourage writers of all backgrounds and experiences to pitch us. Past issues can be found on our [website](#), and past examples of essays can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Please include the following in your pitch: A story hed and subhed; two paragraphs that give a sense of your voice (feel free to include a potential lede); the availability of high-quality photos; and any relevant clips.

Specs: 1,000 words, pay is \$1,000, pitches due Monday, November 18. Send to Erin Vivid Riley at erinvriley@gmail.com.