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www.fsx.org.

P.O. Box 793
Lincoln, CA 95648

November 25, 2013

Dear: Idaho Legislative Federal Lands Interim Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Chuck Winder and Rep. Lawrence Denney

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is sharing the enclosed materials to correct an impression left by a panel member at your October 28, 2013 committee public meeting.

I was informed that a presentation by a Timber Interest panel member implied we do not support collaborative forest restoration work.

NAFSR is supportive of cooperative, collaborative forest and rangeland work in Idaho and across our nation with the goal of improving forest and grassland conditions for the purpose of helping the economy of local communities, the protection of watersheds and the improvement of wildlife habitat.

Resilient National Forests and National Grassland conditions are essential to providing multiple benefits realized through practical and intelligent approaches.

Enclosed references underscoring support for collaborative restoration are:

1. NAFSR April 12, 2013 Congressional testimony on Fiscal Year 2014 Administration's proposed budget. On page 4 you see our strong commitment for collaborative restoration efforts.
2. An April 12, 2013 letter to U.S. House and U.S. Senate Appropriation Committees, where NAFSR and 150 organizations, governments strongly supporting funding of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.
3. A description of National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) who we are, what we do. And a detailed description of "What We Believe! What We Advocate".

Sincerely,

Darrel L. Kenops,
Executive Director, National Association of Forest Service Retirees

**Statement of
HANK KASHDAN
Legislative Director - National Association of Forest Service Retirees
Recommendations to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Fiscal Year 2014 Budget for the United States Forest Service
April 12, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) respectfully submits the following statement for the record to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2014 budget for the United States Forest Service. I am Hank Kashdan, Legislative Director for NAFSR. I retired from the Forest Service in December, 2010 having served as Associate Chief immediately prior to retirement. Let me first express NAFSR's gratitude for this opportunity to provide recommendations to the Subcommittee as it considers the budget for the Forest Service. The NAFSR organization is a national, nonprofit organization of former Forest Service employees and associates. Members of the Association possess a unique body of knowledge, expertise and experience in the management of the National Forests, other public lands, forestry research, state and private forestry assistance, agency history, laws and regulations, and international forestry. Members of NAFSR are devoted to contributing to understanding and resolving natural resource issues through education, independent and cooperative analysis, and periodic review and critiques of agency policies and programs.

First, NAFSR would like to express its appreciation to the Subcommittee for its clear commitment to preserving the core multiple use programs of the Forest Service during continually more challenging deliberations on the federal budget. Despite these challenges we believe the enacted budgets for the Forest Service do reflect Congress's appreciation of the importance of the Forest Service mission in managing the America's precious natural resources. As the budgetary pressure further impacts discretionary funding, we are confident that with your support, the Forest Service will continue its ability to steward the nation's forests and grasslands and maintain a Forest and Rangeland Research program that is among the best in the world, and maintain a viable State and Private Forestry program that is essential to working with Tribal, State, and local partners.

Mr. Chairman, NAFSR would like to specifically note your personal attention and oversight of how the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has funded its "off the top" programs, which until your attention, were continually facing increased assessments against Forest Service funds. We also appreciate the recent attention of your staff in addressing retiree concerns about the USDA "one logo" policy that would potentially have resulted in the elimination of the Forest Service shield.

Unlike in our past congressional statements, we will focus only minimally on specific funding levels. Rather, in appreciation of the reality that federal budgets will continue to be challenging, NAFSR will focus this testimony on issues that can "stretch" existing funds as far as possible and make use of available or proposed authorities that can improve efficiency. This statement will address the following issues:

1. Wildfire Suppression Funding
2. Stewardship Contracting Authority
3. Collaborative Restoration Efforts

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING

Unlike the previous three years, the calendar year 2012 wildfire season once again demonstrated the significant vulnerability of Forest Service programs to the impacts of funding transfers to pay for suppression. Coming on the heels of enactment of the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME), the unfortunate result of three “below normal” fires seasons in calendar years 2009-2011, was that many who worked so hard to minimize fire funding transfer impacts, had difficulty keeping continued focus on how fire transfers can seriously affect agency programs, partnerships, and accomplishments. Although well-conceived we reluctantly acknowledge that FLAME has been completely ineffective in avoiding the impacts of fire transfers. Although Congress acted to “repay” \$400 million of the \$440 million transferred in 2012, the simple fact is that once again, agency programs were halted, delayed and cancelled at the time in the field season when most on-the-ground accomplishment is achieved. This situation once again reminds NAFSR of the challenges employees and external partners face in being confident that the Forest Service will actually have the capability to accomplish its program of work under the present circumstances. Although NAFSR, as part of a broad spectrum of interested parties continues to support the FLAME Act, we realize that the core provision that allows the carryover and retention of prior year unobligated balances is simply unrealistic in today’s budgetary environment.

The wildfire suppression funding authority and transfer process simply **MUST** be changed! A review of the President’s Budget clearly shows how the current process of funding wildfire suppression is affecting other agency programs. Clearly the increasingly costly 10-year average budgeting process has had a significant effect on maintaining a viable hazardous fuels program (reduced a staggering \$115.8 million in the President’s Budget), which is one of the key programs for reducing suppression costs over the long term. With agency operating budgets likely to continue a gradual decline and wildfire suppression expenditures continuing to increase, the resulting impacts of funding transfers will only continue to increase. We suggest the Subcommittee work closely with authorizing committees to address this issue. We make two immediate recommendations, neither of which is mutually exclusive.

1. Implement a “FEMA Funding Process” – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is routinely funded to respond to declared emergencies using a Disaster Relief Fund. Although FEMA prepares estimated emergency response funding needs, in fiscal years where these estimates are exceeded, the process for the Administration to request additional funds, and Congress enacting such funding with an emergency designation, is generally accomplished with minimal controversy. Strong consideration should be given to including wildfire suppression emergencies within the Disaster Relief Funding process for both the Forest Service and the United States Department of the Interior (DOI). NAFSR recognizes that this effort would involve close coordination with authorizing committees, and enactment of this authority would likely be at the discretion of such committees. In light of this, NAFSR recommends the Subcommittee consider the following recommendation as a short term interim measure.

2. Enact a Transfer Authority Similar to DOI – Although the wildfire suppression transfer authorities available to both the Forest Service and DOI are similar, there is a key difference that results in the impacts of such transfers being far greater in the case of the Forest Service. Simply put, appropriations language provides DOI with the authority to transfer funds “available to the Secretary,” while the Forest Service is authorized to only transfer funds “available to the Forest Service.” We note that approximately eight years ago, your Subcommittee marked-up changed language which provided that wildfire suppression funds may be transferred from “funds available to the Secretary [Agriculture].” This language did not successfully survive a House floor vote, and at the time, the most vociferous objections came from USDA. We understand that this wording change did get considered by USDA recently as one of several potential options. We urge the Subcommittee to once again consider including this change in Appropriations language as at least an interim measure until a “FEMA type” approach can be accomplished.

With potential funding for the Forest Service continuing to be challenging, the single most potentially damaging vulnerability to on-the-ground accomplishment, is the process of paying for wildfire suppression. We encourage your Subcommittee to consider our recommendations for addressing this issue. We realize there are other actions that could be considered, such as funding FLAME as a mandatory program. Our members have sound expertise in this area, and are ready to assist in any way possible in evaluating any option.

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, NAFSR deeply appreciates your continued support for the agency’s use of Stewardship contracting authority. We further recognize the existence of House rules that make an extension of this authority difficult within the appropriations process. NAFSR is part of an “across the board” coalition of parties working hard to make this authority permanent. Although there are several opportunities for permanent authority, if not only an extension, from “standalone bills” to inclusion in potential legislation such as the Farm Bill, we continually see these opportunities getting delayed just short of the finish line. Meanwhile the authority to execute Stewardship contracts will expire on September 30. We are hopeful that should the opportunity arise for the Subcommittee to support continued use of this authority, that you will actively be a champion for this incredibly valuable and efficient tool.

As part of the dialog on future Stewardship contracting authority, multiple issues are raised, that on the surface could be viewed as a “show stopper” for continued use. These include advocacy for payments to counties of receipts not generated as a result of use of this tool, contractor liability, budget scoring, etc. We are confident that these issues can all be successfully resolved as part of ongoing deliberations about future enhancements to stewardship contracting authority. For now, the clear core issue is taking any action necessary to make the existing authority permanent or least extended. In this environment of declining budgets, stewardship contracting authority is an efficient tool available to the agency to increase restoration accomplishment and leverage the willingness of partners to provide support, whether through funding or in-kind contribution to achieve restoration objectives.

COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION EFFORTS

With significant funding reductions proposed in the Forest Service 2014 budget for key programs the loss of any authority to accomplish on-the-ground work has major impacts. There are currently multiple authorities either available now or being considered that can stretch the "federal dollar" further in accomplishing on the ground work. In addition to stewardship contracting authority discussed above, other examples include:

Collaborative Landscape Restoration Fund: NAFSR urges full funding support for this effort. We believe this program is a model of collaboration that efficiently leverages limited federal funds with non-federal and private resources; encourages utilization of forest restoration by-products to benefit local rural economies and improve forest health; facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including reducing the risk of large wildfire; and demonstrates the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve forest and watershed health objectives. This program is already demonstrating improved on-the-ground performance through work with partners at all levels.

Streamlined Analysis and Appeals: In July 2012, NAFSR provided testimony that lent qualified support to H.R. 6089, Healthy Forest Management Act, which is currently being considered. NAFSR was highly supportive of some provisions in this bill which included:

- Making the Good Neighbor Authority permanent
- Expanding the use of categorical exclusions
- Applying analysis, appeals, and judicial review procedures found in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to all hazardous fuels reduction projects.

In the future, should the Subcommittee have the opportunity to include and/or expand such authorities as part of the appropriations process, we are hopeful this can be accomplished. With budget challenges clearly facing the agency for years to come, any effort to reduce process and increase environmental analysis and appeals efficiency will be critically needed.

We also note the President's Budget proposes a \$15.1 million reduction in Landownership Management. This line item an essential aspect of collaborative relationships as it enables the Forest Service to be good neighbors, especially to intermingled land owners and communities. We encourage the Subcommittee to fund this line item at no less than the FY2013 level.

CONCLUSION

This concludes our written statement for the record. NAFSR members have extensive knowledge of many programs not addressed in this statement. We are ready to assist at any time. We again thank the Subcommittee for its support of the Forest Service multiple use mission.

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James P. Moran, Ranking
Member
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking
Member
Subcommittee on the Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund in the FY 2014 Appropriation

Dear Chairmen Simpson and Reed and Ranking Members Moran and Murkowski:

The undersigned 151 organizations and governments are writing to express our strong support for funding of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund at the FY 2013 enacted level in the FY 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriation. Our organizations and governments are actively engaged in collaborative projects that provide for science-based forest restoration, support wood-using businesses, and provide local jobs. We recognize the need for fiscal discipline in the FY 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriation Bill and we respectfully suggest that the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program provides an unprecedented level of accountability and partner engagement to ensure that forest management occurs in places where people and the environment will strongly benefit.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Program is fiscally sound in several ways: the Program leverages federal resources with non-federal and private resources; encourages utilization of forest restoration by-products to benefit local rural economies and improve forest health; facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; and demonstrates the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve forest and watershed health objectives. In the first three years of the program, FY 2010-2012, the cumulative outputs generated by the projects included: 94.1 million cubic feet of timber; 7,949 jobs created or maintained; \$290 million labor income; 383,000 acres of hazardous fuels reduction to protect communities; 229,000 acres of fire prone forest restoration; and 6,000 miles of road conditions improved to reduce sediment in streams.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is forging a path to productive management of National Forests and we urge you to maintain funding at no less than \$40 million for the program in FY 2014.

Sincerely,

National

Darin Schroeder
Vice President of Conservation Advocacy
American Bird Conservancy

Scott Steen
CEO
American Forests

Tom Martin
President & CEO
American Forest Foundation

Holly Endersby
Interim Executive Director
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Bruce Ward
Founder and senior adviser
Choose Outdoors

Peter Nelson
Senior Policy Advisor for Federal Lands
Defenders of Wildlife

Michael DeBonis
Executive Director
Forest Guild

John Heissenbuttel
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Darrel L Kenops
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

George Thornton
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National Wild Turkey Federation

Nick Prough
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Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

Michael T Goergen Jr.
Executive Vice President and CEO
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Robert J. Bendick
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The Nature Conservancy

Anne Merwin
Director of Wilderness Policy
The Wilderness Society

Western

Martin Goebel
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Sustainable Northwest

Susan Jane Brown
Staff Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center

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Salem Saloom
Saloom Properties, LLC

Arizona

Tom Mackin
President
Arizona Wildlife Federation

Rob Davis
President
Forest Energy Corporation

Edward Smith
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Donald Falk
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Marlin Johnson
Chief Forester
Pioneer Forest Products

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Ricky Chastain
Deputy Director
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Doug Fletcher
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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

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Scott Simon
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The Nature Conservancy

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Amador Fire Safe Council

Katherine K. Evatt
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Burney/Hat Creek Colaborative Forest

Max Rodriguez
Chairman
County of Madera

Mark T. Smith
Forester
Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

Kent Duysen for Sierra Forest Products
President
Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

Steve Haze
Executive Director / 1st Vice President - YSRC&D Council
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Charles M. Ashley
local landowner
Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

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Jerry Jensen
Forestry consultant
Yss, Yosemite Stanislas Collaborative Solutions

Colorado

Megan R Davis
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Boulder County

Renzo DelPiccolo
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Keith Worley
Forester
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Dr. Merrill R. Kaufmann
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Summer Grimes
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Gali Beh
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Greg Newman
Ecologist
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Terra Lenihan
Communications
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Ft. Collins Audubon Society

Connie McLain
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Cinny Green
Co-leader Northern Rio Grande Broadband
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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Jefferson Conservation District

G. Thomas Mainwaring
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Lynn Hoyt
Executive Board Chair
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Stu Krebs
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Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research

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Chair
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Shirley Black
Regional Agent / Manager of Administration
State Wildlife

Walt Blackburn
Governor's Liaison Officer
Front Range Roundtable

Van Blakeslee
Professor
Front Range Roundtable

Jim Brink
Front Range Roundtable Coordinator
Front Range Roundtable

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Front Range Roundtable

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Front Range Roundtable

Margaret A. Calkins
Wildlife Coordinator
Front Range Roundtable

Jim Calkins
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Ken Emory
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Clearwater Basin Collaborative

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Framing Our Community

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Maryland Ornithological Society

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The Nature Conservancy of MS

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Southwestern Crown Collaborative

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Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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Barela Timber Mgmt. Co., Inc.

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Chimayo Conservation Corps

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Executive Director
Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation

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Cottonwood Gulch Foundation

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Environmental Education Association of New Mexico

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CEO
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New Mexico Forest Industry Association

Mark Meyers
Forester
New Mexico State Land Office

Ronald Loehman
Conservation Chairman
New Mexico Trout

Brent Racher
Owner/Manager
Restoration Solutions, LLC

Ben Thomas
Program Director
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

David Torney
President
Round Ideas Institute

Thomas Jervis
President
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society

Toner Mitchell
President
Truchas Chapter Trout Unlimited

Kim L. Roland

Linda Starr

North Carolina

Len Pardue
President, board of directors
Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society

Robert Cherry
President
High Country Audubon Society

Bob Gale
Ecologist & Public Lands Director
Western North Carolina Alliance

Oregon

Mike Billman
President
Blue Mountain Forest Partners

Jon Skidmore
Assistant City Manager
City of Bend

Chuck Willer
Executive Director
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Commissioner, Deschutes County
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Phil Chang
COIC Natural Resource Program Administrator
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

Ruth Williamson
Bend Park and Recreation District Board Member
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Dominick DellaSala
Chief Scientist
Geos Institute

James K. Walls
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Lake County Resources Initiative

Dan Shoun
Lake County Commissioner
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Clair Thomas
Chewaucan Biophysical Monitoring Project Lead
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Quicksilver Contracting Co.

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Elliott Glass
Regional Biologist
National Wild Turkey Federation

Tennessee

Ken Smith
Professor
University of the South

Texas

Joetta Hawthorne
Executive Director
Council for Environmental Education

Utah

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49 Degrees North Ski Area

Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest

Mike Petersen
Executive Director
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Philip Rigdon
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Yakama Nation

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Other

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George McKinley
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Robert G. Samsky
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Lemhi Valley Audubon Society

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Bill Hinton
Executive Director
Horton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History

Elliot Glass
Regional Director
National Wildlife Federation

Tennessee

Kim Smith
Professor
University of the South

Texas

Joseph H. Williams
Executive Director
Council for Environment Education

Utah

James Cahn
Executive Director
Wild Utah Project

Washington

John F. Jager
President
Evergreen Northwest Area

David Wynn
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest

Mike Peterson
Executive Director
The Land Council



The Lookout

Newsletter of the National Association of Forest
Service Retirees

"Sustaining the Heritage"



The National Association of Forest Service Retirees mission is to serve as a non-partisan, independent, professional, science-based organization drawing on the combined knowledge and experience of members experienced in the fields of natural resources management and allied fields of research, state and private forestry, international forestry and administration. (April 26, 2013 there are 664 members in 35 States, Puerto Rico & D.C.)

"Complexity of natural resources management options now and in the future call for a better focus on experience & science. Collectively NAFSR Members, Associate Members strive to provide sound evaluation, timely advice and work for solutions."

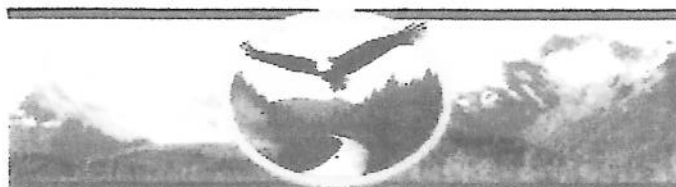
Website: www.fsx.org NAFSR Board Chair Jim Golden, Executive Director: Darrel L. Kenops

Provide sound, timely advice and public education on issues to leaders and citizens.

- **Assist the Forest Service to accomplish its missions. Prepare independent reports.**
- **Serve as a contact point, partner where we work with other organizations & citizens.**
- **Facilitate communication among NAFSR members who wish to stay current.**
- **Recognize Forest Service units, teams & individuals with "John R. McGuire Award"**

2013 Work Priorities (a sample of projects, activities)

- ***NAFSR testimony on Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Forest Service Budget.**
- ***NAFSR work with 15-20 organizations/coalitions on issues of importance, mutual interest.**
- ***Establish NAFSR/Regional Forester/Retiree Crisis Wildfire Communication Network.**
- ***Team with federal sector retiree's to work on International Conservation Corps projects.**
- ***Build NAFSR organizational capacity to meet demands, achieve 1,000 members level.**
- ***Serve as a core team member, wildfire funding issues, with a 95 member coalition.**
- ***Working with partners to seek U.S. Forest Service "Permanent Stewardship Authority"**





What We Believe! What We Advocate!

- Our nation's forests are assets that contribute significantly to the long-term well-being of the American people. They must be protected, maintained, and restored where needed for sustainability, to assure their benefits are available to future generations.
- The National Forests and Grasslands are unique parts of our total forest and rangeland resource. They benefit the whole nation and have particular significance to rural communities within and adjacent to them. Within their statutory mandates, these lands should be managed so they are assets both nationally and to these local communities.
- The long-term management of the National Forest System under the provisions of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the planning requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 helps to insure that these lands best meet the needs of the American people.
- Proper protection and management of the National Forests and Grasslands require an adequately financed and staffed, professional, interdisciplinary organization.
- Leadership of the U.S. Forest Service is best served by career professionals with demonstrated natural resource management experience and organizational management skills. This helps to insure that the Congress, the Administration, and others will receive sound, non-partisan advice on resource management issues.
- The integration of the four principal elements of the Forest Service mission – National Forest System Management, Research, State and Private Forestry, and International Forestry– has a proven record of insuring that the best scientific and technical information is available to and used by all people involved in the protection and management of our nation's forest and rangeland resources.
- Our nation's forests and rangelands are under pressure from increasing demands for goods and services, increasing development in the wildland-urban interface, and are affected by changing climate. At the same time, forest research in the private sector and at universities is declining. Continued support and expansion of Forest Service research programs are essential to ensuring the scientific foundation needed to respond to these pressures and changes is available.
- Our nation's forests and rangelands are a mix of ownerships across the landscape. The management and use of Federal and State Parks and Forests interact with the management and use of private forest lands and adjacent communities. It is essential that forest management programs, particularly programs for the protection of forests from fire and other threats, be closely integrated. Adequate funding of the State and Private Forestry program helps to ensure that state agencies are adequately financed to meet their responsibilities and to provide the needed integration.
- We live in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. It is essential that land managers and research scientists have the capability to maintain contacts with their counterparts around the world and participate actively in international forestry activities.
- Maintaining an adequate system of roads and trails, and recreation and administrative facilities is essential both to protecting forests and watersheds and to helping provide economic stability and opportunity for local communities, to meeting the American people's needs for outdoor recreation, and for proper protection and management of forests and rangelands.
- Fire has played a role in shaping the characteristics of many of our forests and rangelands. Our climate is changing and is different than that which shaped our forests and rangelands prior to European settlement. A significant portion of our population of 300 million people lives in or near our forests and rangelands and is dependent upon our National Forests for clean water and for other resources. Smoke from wildfires affects air quality

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over wide areas. These factors make return to "natural" fire regimes impracticable in much of the country. Never-the-less, carefully prescribed fire can be a useful tool in the protection and management of our forests and rangelands. Resource managers should use the full range of management tools, including prescribed fire, to establish and protect resilient forests and rangelands that can adapt to changing conditions.

- Given the demands of our growing population and concerns for public health and well-being, the Congress has enacted a vast body of environmental law. Management of wildfires and their consequences must meet the requirements of these laws, particularly, the Multiple Use - Sustained Yield Act mandate to maintain the productivity of the land and the requirements of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to protect the quality of our air and water.
- When fire is used to obtain resources benefits, it is essential that the decision reflect Forest Land Management Plan direction; that it be supported with a sound assessment and balancing of both the anticipated resource benefits and the probable adverse impacts, and be based on a documented judgment that the fire can reasonably be expected to remain within prescription until extinguished.
- Forest Land Management Plans help to insure that management of National Forest System lands is consistent with statutory direction and responsive to the current needs of the people. Planning efforts have been hindered by continued efforts to re-do planning regulations. As a result, many plans are long overdue for revision. Priority should be given to bringing Land Management Plans up to date.
- Thrifty, resilient forests play an important role in carbon sequestration and should be a part of our Nation's strategy for addressing climate change. Maintaining the productivity of our forests was one of the purposes for which the National Forests were established. Prompt rehabilitation of damaged watersheds and reforestation with appropriate species is essential to fulfilling these purposes.
- Controlling tree density (stocking) and fuel levels through active management can make forests more resilient and reduce their vulnerability to the otherwise catastrophic effects of insects, disease, and fire. Not every acre needs to be treated, but creating a mix of managed stands across the landscape can contribute significantly to the sustainability of the whole forest.
- Funding for treatment of excess fuels is important, but given the magnitude of the needed work and demands on the federal budget, the only way to get on top of the problem is to utilize the economic values of the material that needs to be removed to help cover the cost of removal. Its use can contribute to meeting our needs for wood products and energy. Research has and can continue to develop economic uses for material not currently marketable. However, needed investments in plants and infrastructure will be forthcoming only if investors believe the National Forests will be a reliable source of supply. Consistent, adequately funded programs are essential for businesses to make the investments to do the work efficiently and thus minimize the cost to the government of doing these restoration treatments.
- The current budget approach for funding fire suppression is seriously disrupting the essential programs of the Forest Service, including management of the National Forest System, Research, State and Private Forestry, and International Forestry. It is reducing the capacity for cooperative programs with other agencies. The costs of suppressing wildfires should be separated from the regular budgets of the Forest Service and other land management agencies.
- ***Caring for the Land and Serving People*** remains a valid and essential role for the U.S. Forest Service.

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees is made up of men and women who spent their careers involved with the management of our Nation's forests and rangelands. Members believe in the statutory Multiple Use - Sustained Yield mandate for management and use of the National Forest System and they maintain their interest and support for sound, science-based management of our nation's forest and rangelands.

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Sustaining the Heritage

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