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www.fsx.org/nafsrpg.html

Date: March 24, 2009

P.O. Box 793
Lincoln, CA 95648

To: NAFSR Members

From: Darrel L. Kenops, Executive Director/CEO

Subject: NAFSR Membership March, 2009 Update

Greetings. It's been an active early spring. Following is information on our recent activities.

1) March 19th Board Chair George Leonard testified on our behalf before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Committee of Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives on the subject of "Restoring the Federal Public Lands Workforce". He provided important background information, perspective and our NAFSR recommendations.

a) restore a level of funding to the agency that is commensurate with the work that needs to be done;

b) look carefully at the procedural requirements for implementing projects so that worthwhile projects can be accomplished in a timely matter,

c) consider providing a threshold that must be met before providing an appeal right to people who have not taken advantage of opportunities to actively participate in project development.

d) urge that the tradition of professional, career leadership of the agency be continued.

He also submitted NAFSR member Steve Eubanks statement as recent retiree.

We have posted George's full testimony, Steve Eubanks, Partnership for Public Service and NFFE testimony on our website www.fsx.org under the reports and letters section. National Park Service, BLM and U.S. Forest Service representatives testified.

2) Board Chair George Leonard played a leadership role in a wide ranging coalition to inform and encourage Congress to act on the need to separate large wildfire suppression costs from the constrained U.S. Forest Service Budget.

He worked with the retired Chiefs to prepare a letter to support these wildfire suppression cost budget process changes. As a result the coalition sent thank you letters to House and Senate leaders who are now acting on this need. The House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 1401, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act tomorrow. The U.S. Senate S. 561 companion proposed legislation vote to support this proposal should occur shortly after the House vote.

3) We are quickly approaching and in some areas are beginning the 2009 wildfire season. Our Fire Management Committee Chair Al West and his colleagues along with George Leonard have been in a dialogue with senior U.S. Forest Service leaders on fire policy and its implementation. A recent early March, 2009 Lookout Newsletter outlines some of their work. Meanwhile as your Executive Director, I was invited to a recent Idaho Forest Supervisors meeting to dialogue with R-4 Intermountain Region Fire Director Mike Dudley and all assembled on the upcoming 2009 fire season direction which is evolving and final guidelines are expected in the near future.

4) George is preparing the next draft of our U.S. Forest Service FY 2010 Proposed Budget National Association of Forest Service Retirees testimony. George will be testifying at the hearings. With the recently passed economic stimulus bill and FY 2009 Omnibus Budget Bill he is sorting out our earlier proposed testimony and making needed adjustments or enhancements.

5) We have sent in our 2009 Forest Service Reunion, September 7-11, 2009 Reunion, Missoula, MT NAFSR booth reservation. If you'd like to help with our booth let me know and we'll work on the details. Appreciate our members' assistance in staffing our booth operations.

6) Thanks to Board Member Ron Stewart who is leaving as his term of Board service has been met. Ron has been very helpful to our activities and projects, some like the analysis and recommendation on the Sierra National Forests Plan were important to get needed changes incorporated. Ron will continue to be active and helpful which we appreciate.

Welcome to Larry Payne who is moving onto the Board as one of our National Representatives. Larry recently retired as U.S. Forest Service Director of Cooperative Forestry in our National Office. Larry is a very experienced and well respected leader who has a varied U.S. Forest Service career filled with significant accomplishments in National Forest Systems and State and Private Forestry Mission areas.

That's All for now.

Best Regards!

Darrel L. Kenops

Executive Director/CEO

National Association of Forest Service Retirees.

NAFSR is a private, independent, non-partisan, non-profit association, whose members believe in the U.S. Forest Service and its Missions! Members dedicated their careers to protecting, developing and managing the nation's National Forest System lands and advising and cooperating here and around the world on such matters.