

Date: May 16, 2011

To: NAFSR Members

From: Darrel L. Kenops CEO/Executive Director

Subject: Update on May/June, 2011 NAFSR activity/opportunities

Thanks for all who helped on our NAFSR National Forest Management Act(NFMA) proposed Forest Plan regulations public comments. They are reaching beyond our membership. We are receiving compliments on what you and our team did to prepare our May 6th comments, now posted on our webpage.

1. May 10-12, 2011 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) Meeting, Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. The main focus was discussion, action planning on a) USDA Secretary Vilsack "All Lands, All Hands" policy and b) Wildfire Management Cohesive Strategy.

I shared with State Foresters, Regional Foresters, Station Directors and other attendees like the Western Governor Association representative our NAFSR FY 2012 Proposed U.S. Forest Service Budget testimony, NFMA Forest Plan regulation public comments and NAFSR membership brochure which describes who we are and what we do. Interesting conversation and informal dialogue and idea's exchange.

A representative from the Southern Group of State Foresters and Shoshone County, Idaho County Commissioners, Idaho's Lt. Governor, WFLC/National Association of State Foresters representatives, Associate Deputy Chief-State and Private Forestry and regional State and Private Forestry coordinators also received this information.

2. We received news releases from the NYC Association of Fire Chief's (New York State) of concern to members on their request of Congress and other leaders to support the NYC Fire Chief's recommendation to move Emergency Support Functions-#4 Firefighting now with USDA to the U.S. Fire Administration.

In researching this I was reminded of USDA-USFS drift into Incident Command leadership and staffing of non-fire emergencies like the Shuttle disaster, chicken flu outbreaks and other non-fire situations. It is time to shift these functions and U.S. Fire Administration is able to handle this switch.

Our view is there should be a sigh of relief if this transfer is done. With tighter budgets, continuing complexity of work demands this move takes off some of the pressure off the Agency. We will not get involved in this proposed switch unless significant new information surfaces needing our attention. calling for reassessment.

3. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Lands was released May 13th for a 45 day public comment period. NAFSR Fire Committee Chair Al West is asking for comments from our committee and members by June 3, 2011. General members please send your comments you wish to share with our NAFSR Fire Committee to John Combes and/or me and we'll get them to Al and his committee.

There are a series of meeting starting tomorrow in Boise, Idaho where NAFSR Director Jack Lavin will attend on our behalf. Al West will participate in the June 7 Santa Barbara, CA meeting. A complete list of meeting, electronic, surface mail contacts, and DEIS are available at http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/eis_info.html and further information can be found on U.S. Forest Service Fire and Aviation National Website.

4. Meeting locations and information for the proposed USFS Colorado Roadless Rule is available. The public comment period closes July 14th, 2011. See the U.S. Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation tab on the U.S. Forest Service website for complete details.

Upcoming meetings are: Denver- May 17, 4-6 pm; Pueblo-May 19, 6 to 8 pm; Steamboat Springs-May 25, 6 to 8 pm; Ft. Collins-May 26, 6 to 8 pm; Washington D.C.-June 2, 2 to 4 pm; Monte Vista-June 7, 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Durango-June 8, 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Montrose-June 15, 6:30 to 9 pm; Glenwood Springs June 16, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

5. June 1 & 2, 2011, the College of the Siskiyous and The National Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire are hosting a 2011 Resource Summit. The non-profit "Northern California Resource Center is a sponsor.

NAFSR members are helping to organizing this conference and some are on the Program. Objectives are 1) Hear from key individuals about their vision of Western Forest Restoration; 2) Learn about new tools available to reduce or eliminate catastrophic wildfires; 3) Explore new strategies that will succeed in a period of high fire danger with limited funds to deal with the challenges we face; 4) Form a coalition of key players advocating responsible fire management that can support each others actions and have a real impact on national decisions on wildfire management.

This summit represents California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah. Access the College of the Siskiyous or www.californiaresourcecenter.org websites for further information.

6. We are signing onto to two soon to be released coalition letters. One focuses on the "Government Litigation Saving Act" the second letter is from the American Forest Foundation supporting USDA Secretary Vilsack's "Green Building Strategy". In the "Green Building Strategy" letter you'll see recommendations which will help forest lands stay forested and trigger, if successful, needed active forest management to improve forest conditions.

This is all for now! Best regards! Darrel