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Date: May 9, 2011

To: NAFSR Members, Interested elected, community leaders and citizens

From: Darrel L. Kenops CEO/Executive Director

On May 6th we sent in our official National Forest Management Act Proposed Forest Plan Regulations comments. I and our Board thank members who sent in comments, provided review, analysis insights for consideration. Our Ad Hoc Committee, Ron Stewart-Chair, Dick Pfilf, and Steve Eubanks were very helpful from the start developing comments to the Notice of Intent up to last weeks submission.

You remember well many prodigious efforts of past planning attempts under past regulations, so bringing your experience forward is helpful and essential to arrive at a set of planning regulations that can be implemented, affordable and effective, true to the basic mission of National Forests and National Grasslands!

While we have concerns, we are not critical of the many U.S. Forest Service people involved in developing this proposed rule. We understand from personal, career experiences the challenges of preparing such a proposal with the many social, biological, economic, political and philosophical interests that must be considered.

However, there appears to be a drift of planning direction away from the National Forest Management Act, Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act and Organic Act of 1897. All are important statutes which chartered the basic reasons for establishing "Forest Reserves" now known as National Forests and their mission. A long standing mission of sustaining the production of renewable natural resources for the benefit of our citizens.

For almost 40 years, the intense debate over the uses and future of National Forests and National Grasslands has raged at the expense of these forests and grasslands, the people and communities dependent on them.

We hope our comments serve as a catalyst for increased, informed discussions by various groups focused on the mission of the National Forests and National Grasslands and how to accomplish their statutory missions before existing management gridlock results in further loss of these important forests and grasslands.