

Date: 2/2/2011

To: NAFSR Members

From: Darrel L. Kenops CEO/Executive Director, National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Subject: NAFSR 2010-2011 Work Plan Update

Greetings, I want to bring you up to date on our Work Plan progress and activities since July, 2010.

Board Chair Jim Golden and his committee recently prepared, Board approved on a 17-0 vote, revised Constitution and By-Laws. I am busy "starting up" the Board Standing Committees outlined in our revised By-Laws. The Board Standing Committee chairs, and co-chairs are:

- * Board Advisory Committee: Gail Kimbell & Dale Bosworth;
- * Membership & Member Services: Jack Lavin & Jerry Jensen; *Development: Larry Payne;
- * Liaison: George Leonard & Tom Hamilton; *Communication: John Marker & Bob Averill;
- * Awards & Nominations; Jane Kollmeyer & Marlin Johnson; *Fire Management-AI West.

Soon the Board will designate a Vice Chair. These actions put in place an improved framework important to sustaining today's and future NAFSR operations and activities. It is essential to remain vital, meet demands. It will help us reach our goals by 2014 to double membership and increase significantly resources, pro bono support and member volunteer involvement in important projects, events and activities.

Welcome to Southern Region R-8 representative and Board Member Gerald Coutant who is replacing Board Member Ralph Mumme. Ralph we thank you for all of your work and support of NAFSR activities, programs and representational responsibilities.

Welcome to new Board Member Hank Kashdan, recently retired Associate Chief. Recruited by past Board Chair George Leonard, he and George are teaming to contact and update D.C. based organizations, the Chief, Congress and other partners working with us on NAFSR activities and priorities. Hank has accepted our offer to fill our newly established Legislative Director position.

They are scoping work needed on 2011 and 2012 U.S. Forest Service budget matters and proposals. Hank will represent us March 30th at the "International Year of the Forest" Congressional event. He is connecting with the Farm Bill Coalition who is working on 2012 Farm Bill reauthorization.

Since summer NAFSR Members, your Board and Officers/Staff have cooperated on, addressed a variety of issues, opportunities, worked with cooperative partners and appeared in event venues to represent NAFSR. Also past NAFSR and partner efforts in 2009 have taken hold in 2010. Some examples are:

- * Approved a 2011 "Friends of Northern Arizona Forests" project on Aspen Cloning where this local sponsor and a local NAFSR representative working with the local District ranger use/match funds and support from the National Forest Foundation and NAFSR. This builds from a 2010 project we jointly worked on with these partners to restore Coconino National Forest area Aspen Stands.

- * "John R. McGuire Award" Committee Chair Stan Tixier, Ted Stubblefield and their committee members are actively searching and fielding nominations for our NAFSR 2011 "John R. McGuire Award".

- * With the National Alliance of Forest Landowners in the lead, we signed on letters, Board Member Tom Hamilton signed on the scientists letter concerned with EPA's approach in establishing a "Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule" which not only impacts wood biomass utilization in alternative energy facilities/existing and planning forest products facilities, but could seriously impact sustainable forest and rangeland management needs across private and public sector lands. EPA recently stood back and suspended implementing a "Tailoring Rule" for 3 years while continuing work to bring practical, workable, science based strategies, rules into place.

- * With Nature Conservancy in the lead we signed onto a coalition letter in 2009 to the Honorable Ranking

Member Mike Simpson to seek his support for robust FY 2010 funding for U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction in concert with implementing Forest Landscape Restoration statute P.L. 111-11. This encouragement helping U.S. Forest Service efforts in 2010 to implement important fuels reduction projects across the West.

* All West and our Fire Management Committee submitted comments/recommendations on the court driven issue of "Aerial Application of Retardants on National Forest System Lands. And our committee continues to track a wide range of fire management issues and situations. They will be meeting March 3rd with senior U.S. Forest Service leaders to discuss our broad range of fire management topics/issues of concern.

* With American Wildlife Conservation Partners Coalition in the lead we signed on a statement concerning the current Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the Huron-Manistee National Forest Planning staff due to a court decision on the conflict between hunting and semi-primitive/primitive area recreation uses. It's an issue with nationwide implications.

* Member Bruce Courtright offered and pro bono represented us at a recent national meeting called and hosted by the International Code Council, National Association of RC&D' Councils, and National Association of Home Builders who along over 100 organizations concerned about "this growing problem of larger, more devastating WUI fires, that are destroying more and more homes and costing taxpayers billions of dollars." This newly formed "National Wildland Urban Interface Council" now moves forward to address the issues.

* Member Lyle Laverty offered and pro bono represented use using work of our NAFSR NFMA Forest Plan Regulation Ad Hoc Committee led by Ron Stewart, in discussions with the American Recreation Coalition and Chief's Office Forest Planning staff concerned with how recreation will be handled in the proposed regulation.

* Members John Marker and Steve Eubanks represented us at the annual "Rural Voices on Conservation Coalition" policy meeting in Portland, Oregon. This is the third such meeting were we participated. This month our Legislative Director/ Board Member Hank Kashdan is meeting with Sustainable Northwest staff who lead this coalition while they are in D.C.

* Board Member John Marker was invited and has now become a National Association of Smokejumpers Board Member thereby linking the two organizations more directly than in the past.

Looking forward, we await release of the "Cohesive Strategy on Wildfire Management" and proposed NFMA Forest Planning Rule, both initiatives where we have provided comments and advice. The final work on two of our projects: "Reforestation Backlog" and updating of our October, 2002 "Forest Health and Fire: An Overview and Evaluation" publication is close to completion, final review, release for Board and Members use.

We are inviting Member "Lookout Newsletter" and "NAFSR Website" articles based on your experiences in International Forestry and Weeks Act as we celebrate in 2011, the "International Year of the Forest" and 100th anniversary of the Weeks Act that was not only important to establishing eastern National Forests but has been used nationwide by numerous National Forests to meet land adjustment, community and stewardship goals.

We are considering participation ,using our joint exhibit booth, with "National Museum of U.S. Forest Service History" partners at the 2011 Society of American Foresters National Convention. We need to work in 2011 to clarify our sponsorship with retirees and others preparing for the 2012 U.S. Forest Service National Reunion in Colorado.

We need to forge a stronger relationship with U.S. Forest Service related non-profit organizations including developing mutually agreed to projects, emphasis, activities which supports the U.S. Forest Service Missions as well as being seen as a respected as a productive independent voice; constructive critic and reliable partner.

We need to set our 2011 NAFSR Annual NAFSR General Membership and Board Meeting. We are using a "free" telephone conference call service to discuss with the Board, committees and partners projects and activities.

Recently many of you offered to volunteer your time and talents to assist NAFSR in 2011 in projects, activities, events and committee work. Secretary-Treasurer John Combes and I are working this list so we can match your interests to the work we have to do.

Finally we encourage each of you to bring new members/associate members into NAFSR. Remember first year memberships are complimentary!

Thanks go to the continuing leadership and work of John Combes, Secretary-Treasurer, Ken While, Webmaster, and John Marker, Lookout Newsletter, and all Board and members who help us in many ways, to serve our members, answer questions, address concerns from a wide variety of sources and interests.

It is an important fact that your Board, Officers, Staff and those actively participating in projects and events are doing so on a largely on a "pro bono" basis and are not compensated except on a very limited basis on travel and services provided. So we increasingly need to look to broaden our resource basis beyond those provided by dues and a few yearly donations. So your active volunteers contributions and efforts are greatly appreciated. They are key to achieving the results we seek.

We need to significantly ramp up and are depending on each member to help us get the word out about who we are, what we do and why we are important to the U.S. Forest Service, forestry and natural resources management in our Nation and around the World. Help us increase our capacity to meet demands and requests.

"Sustain the Heritage" Thanks!! Best regards!! Darrel