

The LOOKOUT

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Updates:

The Planning Rule

NAFSR members and committees are involved in a number of national forest and Forest Service issues as we open the year 2012. The Planning Regulation Committee continues to talk with the WO Planning Staff about NAFSR's concerns with the new planning regulation. The Forest Service has called for nominations for the National Planning Advisory Committee, and Dr. Ron Stewart will be NAFSR's nomination.

Fire Issues:

On February 14 of this year the NAFSR Fire Committee will hold a one day meeting in Sacramento, CA with Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard and Fire and Aviation Director Tom Harbour to discuss a wide range of fire management issues important to retirees and NAFSR. This will be the fourth year of one day meetings with the FS fire leadership. Committee Chair Al West has expressed his appreciation of Jim and Tom taking the time from their very full schedules to meet with NAFSR members.

Forest Service and Dr. Suess::

Recently there has been considerable discussion among many retirees about Forest Service involvement in forth coming movie titled "The Lorax" based upon Dr. Suess's character of the same name. CEO Darrel Kenops contacted the Chief's Office about this concern and received the following response from Joe Meade, the Chief's Retiree Liaison:

A Happy New Year's Wish to our NAFSR Colleagues:

Thank you for your thoughtful comments on the US Forest Service's PSA partnership with the Ad Council and Universal Pictures highlighting the upcoming movie The Lorax, based on the classic 1971 Dr Suess children's book of the same name.

Our overall conservation education goal in partnering with the Lorax is to get our nation's kids outdoors. Childhood obesity rates are at an all time high and our increasingly urbanized population, over 80%, is becoming more and more disconnected with our country's great outdoors. A major movie production that will be seen by millions of children and their parents will help bridge this growing divide while instilling a lifelong love of nature in new and returning visitors to our nation's Forests and Grasslands.

I understand a few folks have expressed concern that the message of the Lorax poses an either/or scenario: either you're against cutting down any trees or you're a shortsighted industrialist like the Onceler who chops down every tree in sight. My personal feeling is that the Lorax's message is about sustainable timber harvesting, not doing away with timber harvesting as a whole. As I understand it, in looking at the illustrations in the Lorax, most of the structures in the town portrayed in the book are indeed made with wood products too.

Before we signed on to this partnership, Chief Tidwell had the opportunity to review the draft movie script and was gratified to see that the movie's themes are personal responsibility, forest health and sustainability -- concepts that environmentalists and

the timber industry alike can agree on. A number of our other partners -- including the American Forest Foundation, American Forests, and the National Association of State Foresters -- seem to support this assessment by signaling their support for the movie's release this year.

Thank you again for your message and continued involvement in agency activities.

In closing, we thought it might be helpful to provide you with a couple of links to the movie trailer and the PSAs that have been developed with Universal Pictures, the Ad Council and the Forest Service in support of our Discover the Forest program:

<http://www.adcouncil.org/Our-Work/Current-Work/Family-Community/Discovering-Nature>

<http://www.theloraxmovie.com/index.php>

Again I look forward to working together here in the New Year ahead! Yours /S/ Joe

NAFSR Membership: We have a new member. Rupert Cutler, former Under Secretary of Agriculture in the 1970's has joined us as an associate member. Rupert, welcome to NAFSR and we look forward to your being a part of our retirees group. Your comments, suggestions and observations are welcome, just get on line and visit with us.

Evergreen Essays: Mike Petersen Is Wrong: Editor's comment concerning Mike Petersen's response to Tom Bonnicksen's essay, Forest: "Death of a Forest: Why We Should Care." This is an interesting exchange of opinions about forestry, and national forest management. Mike and Jim Petersen are not related and both see the forests differently. Jim Petersen is the editor of Evergreen Internet magazine, and a journalist with callused hands from working in the woods and on ranches. He has been producing Evergreen in print form and Internet form for almost 30 years. Mike Petersen has strong feelings about the forests and his lived in his part of the Northwest for many years. Also in this edition are articles by Barry Wynsma, a NAFSR member and recent retiree, reflecting on the Forest Service and its challenges today. To read these articles go to:<http://evergreenmagazine.com/> . For those of you without these infernal machines drop me a line with your address and I'll print out a copy for you.

Why Join NAFSR?

Recently Darrel was asked by the Intermountain Society of American Foresters to furnish an article about NAFSR for its newsletter. Here is Darrel's essay that is a good summary of our organization's development which may be new to some of our "younger" members.

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

BENEFITS, IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREES MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT!

INTRODUCTION: The idea to establish the National Association of Forest Service Retirees grew from U.S. Forest Service retiree conversations, concerns about issues impacting the "outfit" including frustrations surrounding its decisions and approaches on some issues, and the need to support the long term, enduring, statutory based U.S. Forest Service Mission!

These conversations resulted in the first official NAFSR meeting in Washington D.C. November 18, 2000 where charter NAFSR Board Chair Doug Leisz led the discussion, with those assembled, on a NAFSR Charter, tax exempt status and business matters related to establishing, operating an Association.

Dick Pfilf volunteered and served as our charter NAFSR Executive Director and John Combes agreed to serve as our charter Secretary/Treasurer. At that time we had 55 dues paying members. As of January, 2012 we have over 500 members and our next goal is to achieve a membership of 1,000.

They established a set of NAFSR Charter Principles. Central to these principles is our foundation as an independent,

non-partisan, non-profit Association that supports the U.S. Forest Service statutory mission. We engage issues, opportunities where our voice and involvement can make a difference, have impact, add value!

For over a decade NAFSR has exercised an important role on a series of matters affecting U.S. Forest Service mission delivery and effectiveness. Examples are: a) independent assessment and recommendations for our Congressional testimony on the Administration's annual Fiscal Year proposed U.S. Forest Service budget; b) constructive critique and independent advice on a wide variety of U.S. Forest Service issues, initiatives and challenges; and c) recognizing outstanding work by "on duty" U.S. Forest Service colleagues thru the "John R. McGuire Award".

All who have worked for the U.S. Forest Service, at all levels, field to senior positions, folks who worked in National Forest Systems, Research & Development, State & Private Forestry and International Forestry in any capacity can join us. All who worked in Administrative positions are encouraged to join us.

First year NAFSR membership is complementary! Free! We seek to educate, inform, and provide input on natural resource issues and opportunities! We do not work on employee/retiree benefits questions, issues as there are well established associations which serve this function.

NAFSR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

*An easy, organized way to join hands with fellow retirees, associates, and allies in providing a focused, informed, positive influence on the U.S. Forest Service mission and future of the "outfit". Provides a way to keep up on issues and developments involving the U.S. Forest Service natural resources and community engagement.

*Belonging to a national association with credibility due to retiree's knowledge and experiences. Colleagues who can be relied upon to promote fair, insightful, recommendations and useful critique on U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Congressional and Administration initiatives, issues, actions and proposals.

*To be a helpful and willing NAFSR volunteer to move our mission forward, participating in work plans and activities. A champion, helpmate for field sponsored NAFSR cooperative work projects in concert with a variety of partners.

*To stay connected with old friends, colleagues across the nation and nearby. And to receive NAFSR's periodic "Lookout Newsletters", Chief's Office Notes, NAFSR legislative outreach notices, and access to our Website www.fsx.org

*An opportunity to stay involved in those interests you've spent a lifetime working on. An avenue to keep learning, renew friendships and create new ones.

*To be a NAFSR voice, source of information based on science and practical "field" experiences. A strategic resource for neighbors, general public, community, and elected leaders not available from other sources.

CONCLUSION: In a recent conversation with charter NAFSR Board Chair Doug Leisz, he emphasized the U.S. Forest Service cannot do it themselves. They need our help!

He said NAFSR is designed to provide outside support and comment. NAFSR is an actionable organization, designed to do things! We can help retain important traditions. An association seen by the "outfit" and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary's Office, as interested in maintaining responsible, effective, positive relationships.

Recent past Board Chair George Leonard in reflecting on NAFSR membership benefits said, "for many retirees our

career with the U.S. Forest Service was never "just a job". "We were proud of the role we played in "Caring For The Land, Serving People".

"Whether involved in management, research and development, State & Private Forestry, in administrative programs or International Forestry, we knew we were making a contribution to our country, our world and especially to the rural forest-dependent communities where we lived and worked."

"NAFSR Membership allows you to add your voice, support efforts to continue the dynamic statutory Multiple Use-Sustained Yield U.S. Forest Service mission". "Our combined voices provide valuable support for adequate budgets, sound land management planning regulations and rational wildland fire management policies as well as shaping other key topics and issues."

Current NAFSR Board Chair James (Jim) W. Golden carries on our tradition of working on issues of importance. The most recent one he led was on our NAFSR concerns about "Reforestation Needs" due to the many recent years of wildfire experience.

Jim and recently elected NAFSR Vice-Chair Larry Payne provide overall leadership in keeping our NAFSR Board and Officers focused on immediate priorities as well as setting the stage for our Association's long range development and vitality.

On our NAFSR website you'll find documents outlining "Charter Principles", "What We Believe, What We Advocate" and "Advice on Advice". You'll see there too an ongoing thread of NAFSR interests, activities and progress reports to our NAFSR Members and those interested in our activities. Come join in!! Join us as we make our way forward! We send our best regards your way! NAFSR Board and Officers

Terry Seyden:

In the last edition Terry Syden's Forest Service News service was featured. Since then the value of North Carolina based news service has become one of my most important news sources about what is happening with the Forest Service across the United States. If you haven't given it a look, take a minute and type Seyden News Service into you search engine.

The next edition is planned for late February or early March. New items for the newsletter are welcome. Have a good Winter.

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