

Bill Timko

Hi retirees. It is an honor to serve on the Board. I am Bill Timko; new Board member, DC contact for NAFSR, President of the DC Retirees, and retiree since June 2014. I will share a little about myself.

My freshman college roommate introduced me to forestry when I found his studies more interesting than my own. I graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Forest Resource Management in 1974. Finding a job in forestry was difficult at that time so I accepted an opportunity to get a masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and graduated in 1976. Harold "Andy" Anderson, Forest Service retiree and Visiting Professor, encouraged me to consider a Forest Service career through his numerous stories of Forest Service life.

I began my Forest Service journey as a seasonal presale forestry technician on the Red River Ranger District, Nez Perce NF. I spent a few months in the unemployment line until the BLM offered me a permanent position as a forester on the Alsea Area, Salem District. Several months later the Lewis and Clark NF asked me to transfer to the FS in land management planning.

I took the bait and spent the next four years working on unit plans, RARE II and the new NFMA planning regulations. In 1981 I transferred to the Northern Region Office as a regional planner working on the new forest plans, FORPLAN, RPA, and linking budgets to forest plans.

I achieved one of my goals of being a District Ranger when I moved to the Big Timber RD on the Gallatin NF in 1986. I still believe the DR is one of the best positions in the agency. While ranger I had the opportunity to work on: the social and environmental aspects of platinum mining and approved a three-mile adit to the ore body, the conflicts of domestic sheep grazing in Big Horn sheep and grizzly bear habitat, and the challenges of landscape scale restoration.

I transferred to the Washington Office, Timber Management, in 1991 as Assistant Budget Coordinator responsible for developing and presenting the annual budget and allocating annual appropriations to the regions. I was promoted to Budget Coordinator and worked on numerous policy issues and special projects. During this assignment I was detailed to the Office of the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Acting Deputy Director of Recreation, and spent six months as a staff member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

I was promoted to Deputy Director of Forest Management in 2000 and worked on the combination of Rangeland and Forest Management, Forest Service Transformation Teams 1, 2 and 3, initiated the first student hiring at the SAF Convention, and led the development and implementation of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration and stewardship contracting authorities. In addition, during my 15 years as Deputy

Director of Forest Management I had 7 different Directors and 8 Acting Directors, which is one of my most memorable experiences.

Pam and I travelled this journey together and decided to remain in Virginia. We have a son in Nevada and daughter in Maryland. We take every opportunity to hike and explore the great southwest when visiting our son and enjoy the beaches with our daughter. In addition to my NAFSR duties, I am currently volunteering for the Bahamas in developing a national forest plan.