

## Our New Executive Director – Sam Foster

As we announced last month, Corbin Newman stepped down as the Executive Director of NAFSR effective June 1. This is a difficult and time-consuming position and we appreciate the great job he did for the past two years.

We now have a new Executive Director. His name is Dr. G. Sam Foster and he comes to us with a broad background of training and experience. Sam has a BS and MS in Forestry from the University of Tennessee and a PhD in Forestry from Oregon State University. He is a career-long member of the Society of American Foresters.

Sam has 40 years of experience including twelve years in private forest industry, three years at Mississippi State University, twenty-three years with the US Forest Service, and two years as a Consultant. The experience in industry included three companies, Weyerhaeuser Co., Crown Zellerbach Co., and International Forest Seed Co./Hilleshog AB (Sweden), with direct experience mainly in the SE and PNW of the US as well as Sweden, Canada, and three other countries.

He then moved to the USFS, first with the Southern Research Station, next to the Washington Office, and finally to the Rocky Mountain Research Station where he was the Station Director for seven years.

Although he worked directly for Research & Development for his tenure in the USFS, Sam gained a lot of experience nationwide in National Forest System, State & Private Forestry, and International Programs through several Details, various cross-Deputy work assignments, and just everyday work style. Finally, he worked for Mississippi State University where he was Dean of the College of Forestry and Director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Sam is very excited about serving NAFSR as the Executive Director. He joined as a member a couple of years before his retirement in 2014. Eternally curious and interested in all issues related to natural resources and his beloved USFS, Sam is ready to dive in and help us be an Association that services its members well.

He works well collaboratively, is inclusive by nature, and is very interested in drawing in retirees, especially recent ones, from across the agency including all Deputy Areas and grade levels. NAFSR is a place for FS retirees to gather and work together to help our Agency. Most of us now have some time on our hands to focus on issues of interest to us and he wants our Association to be welcoming to all our talents and focus areas. Come join us as he gets to know NAFSR better and help to propel us as a powerful Association.

