



Board of Directors

www.nafsr.org

P.O. Box 273362
Fort Collins, CO 80527

James Caswell, Chair

Larry Payne, Vice Chair

*Corbin Newman
(Executive Director)*

James Golden, Past Chair

Dale Bosworth

Steven Eubanks

Malcolm "Mac" Gramley

Pete Griffin

Marlin Johnson

Hank Kashdan

Abigail Kimbell

Jane Kollmeyer

Ranotta McNair

R. Max Peterson

F. Dale Robertson

Michael Rogers

Ronald Scott

Richard Stem

Tom Thompson

Jack Troyer

Rich Guldin

*Johnny Hodges
(Secretary/Treasurer)*

March 16, 2017

Dear Senator Daines and Senator Tester,

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is a professional and science-based organization with members consisting of Forest Service retirees and associates.

We write in this instance to support the bipartisan bicameral legislation introduced by US Senators Steve Daines (R-MT), Jon Tester (D-MT) and former U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT) in the 114th Congress to statutorily repeal the Cottonwood decision.

The implications of Cottonwood extend beyond National Forests with critical Lynx habitat. There are similar lawsuits and multiple NOIs directed at numerous projects and the court's decision may extend the range of the Cottonwood ruling beyond the 9th Circuit.

There is now greater uncertainty as to whether project implementation can proceed even when Lynx critical habitat consultation has been completed. In addition, the 9th Circuit decision challenges USDA's long standing position regarding the nature of Forest Plans.

NAFSR is pleased to support this bipartisan legislation and join the ranks of the diverse stakeholders who support congressional action to repeal the Cottonwood decision.

James L. Caswell

James L. Caswell, Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees