



Board of Directors
James Caswell, Chair

www.nafsr.org.

P.O. Box 273362
Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Larry Payne, Vice
Chair

January 8, 2018

G. Sam Foster,
Executive Director

Honorable Secretary Sonny Perdue
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

James Golden, Past
Chair

Johnny Hodges,
Secretary

We recently had the opportunity to view your end of the year challenge to the employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Even though there was a certain amount of angst as folks tried to understand your intention with the OneUSDA concept, the idea of bringing forth a stronger “team” effort within the Department to accomplish the mission and provide service to the American public is commendable. We applaud your personal approach and your goal.

Richard Stem

Tom Thompson

Marlin Johnson

Jack Troyer

Steven Eubanks

We wrote to you previously with ideas about how the Forest Service could play a stronger and more integral part of the Department’s emphasis on creating jobs and strengthening the economic viability of rural America as proposed in Executive Order 13790. We will continue to share ideas with you as opportunities allow. We truly appreciate the strong interest in and the support you have given to the Forest Service as Secretary.

Michael Rogers

Ranotta McNair

On February 1, 1905 when the responsibility for management of the forest reserves was transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture from the Department of Interior, Secretary Wilson sent a five-page letter to Gifford Pinchot, who was the Chief Forester for the Bureau of Forestry in the Department at the time, giving him direction to implement fully the provisions of the “Transfer Act”. The letter also created the new agency within the Department identified as the **Forest Service**.

Malcolm “Mac”
Gramley

Ronald Scott

Pete Griffin

Rich Guldin

The Forest Service is proudly anchored in the Department of Agriculture and that relationship is symbolized in the agency’s shield which helps to sustain our heritage. It represents and reflects to the public the agency and department’s identity of excellence in professionalism, service to the public, science based management, and leadership in conservation of natural resources, both nationally and internationally.

Hank Kashdan

Jane Kollmeyer

Bill Timko

Our association members spent their careers working for the Forest Service and were proud to be a part of the United States Department of Agriculture. As you point out in your message, and as we all recognize, it is more important today than ever to face the challenges of this century by working together more closely and more effectively. We believe the Forest Service has been and will continue to be a leader in doing exactly that, no matter

Lee Nightingale

Susan Giannettino

Chiefs Emeritus

R. Max Peterson
F. Dale Robertson
Dale Bosworth
Abigail Kimbell

NAFSR --- *Sustaining the Heritage*

what the challenge or crisis. The people in the agency do this at all levels of the organization, but without question most importantly at the field level.

We have been there and know that most of the real work gets done at the field level and nothing gets done there today without working with partners, cooperators, communities, state and local governments, and other federal entities. From the fireline to forest restoration projects to the recreation trail improvement to the range or watershed project, everything depends on working together. The recreating public and folks in the rural communities understand this. They likely won't understand OneUSDA, but they do understand collaboration and helping one another get things done.

As retirees who still care greatly about the heritage of the Forest Service and the great natural resources of our nation, we pledge to do all we can to help as you work to strengthen the Department's effectiveness, efficiency, and customer service. We will work to communicate that support within our organization and the communities and states where we live, but we also hope that leadership in the Department and the agency will do all they can to strengthen our field capacity and ability to accomplish more work on the ground. Again, thank you for your leadership and for your appreciation, respect, and support of the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

James L. Caswell

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

Cc: Forest Service Chief, Tony Tooke