

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Board of Directors Priorities

CY 2016

Every year the NAFSR Board of Directors lays out the priorities to direct its efforts for the year. This document contains the priorities for 2016. The priorities listed below are not meant to limit the action of the Board but rather to guide our energies. It is our intent to be focused, yet flexible, in order to take action on emerging issues and opportunities. Our priorities fall into three broad categories: Advocacy, Membership, and Relationships.

Advocacy

This area of priority goes directly to the heart of one of our association's beliefs: **What We Believe! What We Advocate!** The following are the priorities that will guide our advocacy in 2016.

Funding Catastrophic Fire Suppression - Much like 2015, this will remain one of our top priorities for action. We will vigorously seek a solution to fund catastrophic fire suppression costs outside of the regular Forest Service budget while leaving the Agency's budget intact. The monies no longer used for suppression can be directed to land management actions to rehabilitate and restore lands to a condition that reduces the occurrence of large, uncharacteristic, catastrophic fire.

Restoration and Related Policy/Process Reform - This priority area, while separate, has been politically tied closely to the suppression funding issue above. We will look to highlight overall restoration and rehabilitation needs and the attendant policy and process changes which can help accelerate land treatment. This includes reform to regulatory, environmental and administrative processes.

Keeping Public Lands Public- This priority is to continue to be vigilant in threats to National Forest System Lands and other federal public lands. This can take the form of legislation to give away or take control of federal lands and/or illegal action to appropriate federal lands into private or local government control.

Multiple Use and Agency Mission- As budgets tighten and programs are reduced, we must continue to stand up for all mission areas for the Agency as well for the importance of the multiple uses on National Forests.

Transition of New Administration - A key opportunity to advocate for the above will be planning for and engaging the new administration on the key issues and our core beliefs.

Members

Services - Improve our service by working with members to determine their expectations for our organization and by exploring how our organization may provide added value for our members, such as serving as a clearing house for national volunteer and employment opportunities.

Communication and Involvement - Increase the communication of relevant information to members through direct communication and through a redesigned and updated website. Seek to engage membership in the nomination of Board members and officers.

Expanding Membership - The effectiveness of our organization is tied in part to the diversity and size of our membership. Growing our membership will help to keep our organization current and relevant as well as growing our influence.

Relationships

Forest Service - It is crucial to strengthen our relationship with the Agency to which we devoted our careers. This is needed if we are to influence the Agency on matters that are basic to our purpose. Doing so will enhance communication of current issues and policies, create opportunities for utilization member expertise and skills, and garner support for our organizations efforts.

Seeking a MOU with the Forest Service might be a mechanism to formalize that relationship. In addition, continuation of annual meeting by Board members with Regional Foresters and Station Directors, coordination during fire seasons and our annual John R. McGuire award are strengthening that relationship.

Coalitions - To accomplish our basic role of advocacy and influence, coalitions in today's world are the most powerful method. We will participate and serve as critical partners with existing coalitions that have formed around our priority advocacy areas listed above such as the Fire Funding Coalition, the American Wildlife Conservation Partners and an emerging coalition forming around forest management reform.

In addition, we will seek new relationships to address emerging issues. One such effort will be to create a coalition of federal land management retiree organizations such as the Public Lands Foundation.

