



# The Lookout

Newsletter of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees

“Sustaining the Heritage”



**June 2016**

A change of leadership at NAFSR began earlier this year when I decided it was time for new energy to lead the organization. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to help lead NAFSR over the past 6 ½ years. Challenges certainly remain! Paying attention to the events in Washington DC and keeping our members engaged with the “big picture” issues that shape the future of the National Forests and the Forest Service is important. So too is mobilizing the resources to get our top priorities accomplished. We must remain relevant by recruiting newly retired members. And maintaining our “friend and watchdog” relationship with the Forest Service is absolutely critical for NAFSR. I am happy knowing that I left NAFSR in a little better shape than when I started, with a focus more on the future than on the past. Jim Caswell, longtime FS leader and most recently retired Director of the BLM has accepted the Chair position for NAFSR. He is well qualified to take on this task! Read more about our new Chair on page 11.

In this issue of “The Lookout” we remember Jack Ward Thomas with a nice piece by Al Sample. And our “Old Smokey” friend Les Joslin once again contributes a thoughtful reflection on the brand and the code of the west. It sounds so familiar! Tommy Thompson writes on politics, the FS and this upcoming election, with a message of hope. Also, two new books were brought to our attention.

Folks in the Southern region have let us know that they are busy planning for the 2018 FS reunion in Ashville, North Carolina. It will be a fabulous setting for another great event!

Have a great summer!

*Jim Golden*  
Interim Editor

## **Riding for the Brand: The Code of the West And the Future of the U.S. Forest Service**

There’s a sayin’ in cattle country  
--it’s called “Ridin’ for the Brand.”

It’s known by all cowpunchers  
who are any kind of hand.  
“Ridin’ for the brand means loyalty  
to the outfit where you work.  
It means true dedication—  
to a job you never shirk.

--American Cowboy  
January-February 2003, page 81

Old Smokeys know what it means to “ride for the brand.” That’s how the U.S. Forest Service at its best operates.

Others know, too, because to “ride for the brand” is part of American history—at least part of the history of the American West which is replete with phrases that spoke to the best men and women of the region.

“Riding for the brand,” in the words of western writer Louis L’ Amour, was “an expression of loyalty to a man’s employer or the particular outfit he rode for. It was considered a compliment of the highest order in an almost feudal society. If a man did not like a ranch or the way they conducted their affairs he was free to quit, and many did, but if he stayed on, he gave loyalty and expected it.”

“Riding for the brand,” of course, was born of the cattle ranching business. The brand on a ranch’s cattle is—a “ranch’s trademark and represents pride, duty, and stewardship while inspiring loyalty, dedication, and cowboy camaraderie,” according to the Montana Bunkhouses website. “When you rode for the brand, it meant that you had signed on for the mission, that you had committed, that you were a dedicated team player. If you weren’t then you had no business being on the team’s payroll,” as Nathan S. Collier put it on his NSC Blog. *(Continued next page)*

The U.S. Forest Service has a brand: the Pine Tree Shield that Old Smokeys proudly wore during their careers, and along with other Forest Service retirees early in 2013 defiantly defended from being scrapped by its parent Department of Agriculture. They were still riding for the brand!

“Riding for the brand” is part of “The Code of the West” that the state of Wyoming adopted as its official state code in 2010 and that retired economic investor Jim Owen outlined as 10 principles in his 2004 book *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn From the Code of the West*.

#### The Code of the West

- Live Each Day with Courage
- Take Pride in Your Work
- Always Finish What You Start
- Do What Has to Be Done
- Be Tough, Be Fair
- When You Make a Promise, Keep It
- Ride for the Brand
- Talk Less and Say More
- Remember That Some Things Are Not For Sale
- Know Where to Draw the Line

The Code of the West remains good medicine. Owen is focused on introducing the code to schoolchildren throughout the country, and the code is prominently featured in the atrium of the new University of Wyoming College of Business building. That business school has also incorporated the Code of the West into several of its business ethics courses, Jeremy Pelzer reported in the March 7, 2010, *Casper Star Tribune*. ““We use it as a framework to help our students think about how they would conduct themselves in the business world,’ said Brent Hathaway, said dean of the UW College of Business. ‘It’s just become ingrained in our coursework and how we try to behave ourselves—it just made sense to kind of have that as an inspirational code that we want to live by.’”

The recent history of the U.S. Forest Service strongly suggests that a return to basic American precepts embodied “The Code of the West”—and to “Riding for the Brand” in particular—is absolutely essential to save the Forest Service as an agency and the National Forest System entrusted to it.

The Forest Service doesn’t need to “rebrand” itself to curry favor with the American people. It needs instead to “rebuild” itself into an “agency to match the mountains” comprising dedicated forest officers ready, willing, and able to “ride for the brand” that served the National Forest System and its citizen-owners so well during its first century of service.

*NAFSR thanks Les Joslin and the Old Smokeys. Prepared from multiple sources including Jeremy Pelzer, “Riding for the brand: State lawmakers instill Code of the West,” in the March 7, 2010, Casper Star-Tribune; Nathan S. Collier, “Riding for the Brand,” in the March 8, 2010, NSC Blog; and Megan Jedlicka, Colorado State University Extension Agent, “Ride for the Brand,” in the November 2, 2013, Sterling Journal-Advocate.*

# Remembrance: Jack Ward Thomas, And the Importance of Ethical Leadership

By Al Sample



**Jack Ward Thomas, 13<sup>th</sup> Chief, 1934 -2016**

*"We don't just manage land--we're supposed to be leaders. Conservation leaders. Leaders in protecting and improving the land...with a broad view of natural resource leadership, and that includes people, because people are part of ecosystems." JWT*

As a veteran of many campfires, Jack Ward Thomas knew how to spin a good yarn. One story that he loved to tell involved an Army helicopter sent to transport him from a wildfire incident command center to an airport and back to Washington. As a young lieutenant scurried under the helicopter's still-rotating blades to escort Jack, with his white hair whipping wildly in the prop wash, Jack noticed the four stars on the aircraft's door. It had not taken long for the Army to ascertain the equivalent rank of the Chief of the US Forest Service.

"I see you brought the general's chopper for me," shouted Jack over the whine of the jet engines. "No, sir," replied the lieutenant, "that's your copter, sir." Sensing an opening, the lieutenant asked, "Sir, permission to speak candidly, sir?" Bemused, Jack immediately answered, "Sure, son, what's on your mind?" At sharp attention and with a crisp salute, the lieutenant stated, "Sir, you need a haircut, sir."

Jack Ward Thomas never asked to be Chief of the Forest Service. He didn't seek the position, and he accepted it only reluctantly when it was offered. His wife Margaret was terminally ill with cancer at the time and he felt that his place was at home with her in LaGrande, Oregon. It was only after her urging that he agreed, and he assumed the job after Margaret's passing.

Jack was essentially drafted to serve as Chief by Vice President Al Gore following the 1993 Northwest Forest Summit. Jack had led a team of scientists and forest managers in the development of a range of planning options to protect the habitat of the northern spotted owl, with each option carrying a different probability of the species' long-term viability. Facing questioning by the President of the United States, the Vice President, and several members of President Clinton's cabinet, Jack was just Jack. His responses to their carefully crafted questions were short, direct, and candid to the point of being blunt.

The politicos were smitten. "Why isn't this guy Chief of the Forest Service?" Gore asked. In a matter of a few weeks, Jack was on his way to Washington to serve as the 13th Chief.

Being Chief didn't change Jack's frank and direct style. To the employees of the Forest Service his basic policy admonition was "Tell the truth, and obey the law." In the dozens of Congressional hearings in which he was called to testify, he had little patience for politicians' grandstanding, posturing, and theatrical attacks on the integrity of the men and women of the US Forest Service—and he wasn't shy about showing it. *(continued next page)*

He bruised more than a few egos on the Hill, but it earned him the loyalty and admiration of the thousands of Forest Service scientists and land managers that he so capably and honestly represented.

So it was all the more poignant when toward the end of his tenure as Chief in 1996, Jack stepped to the podium at one of the infamous 6 AM “Chief’s Breakfast” gatherings at the Society of American Foresters annual meeting, and opened with the words, “I’m here to apologize to all of you, because I’ve failed you.” In that large and crowded room, one could have heard a pin drop. “I know very well why I was brought in as Chief,” he continued, “and since I had never managed more than a 20-person research team before, I knew it wasn’t because of my administrative skills.”

Jack felt he had been tapped at a critical juncture in the history of the Forest Service to be a visionary leader, to be someone who could effectuate a transformation of the agency and help restore its century-old reputation as the nation’s leading forest conservation organization. But in 1995, Congress had enacted a “timber salvage rider” to make salvage sales on the National Forests immune from legal or administrative challenge. The rider was attached to an important and time-sensitive appropriations bill, and President Clinton felt compelled to sign it. Thus began a period of what many in the environmental community characterized as “logging without laws.” It was suspected that more than a few old timber sales that had been halted under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, or the Endangered Species Act were being re-packaged as salvage sales and pushed ahead.

As a result, Jack observed, “every citizens group in the country had [Council of Environmental Quality director] Katy McGinty’s phone number on their speed dial.” Jack felt he had been expected to focus on the “blue sky,” the long-term, big-picture vision for the future of the National Forests and the US Forest Service. Instead he found himself summoned to the White House almost daily to personally review and approve or disapprove lists of individual salvage sales proposed under the terms of the timber salvage rider. And now, at the end of his term as Chief, he felt he had never had the chance to articulate the inspiring vision that would carry this proud and capable agency into a successful future.

Presently the US Forest Service is reviewing, evaluating, and revising the Northwest Forest Plan that Jack and the other members of the “Gang of Four” (and hundreds of agency staff) developed two decades ago. The changes taking place are a validation of the “adaptive management” approach they pioneered—taking actions, monitoring and evaluating the results, and then readjusting plans based on knowledge gained and “lessons learned.” The Forest Service and its multitude of stakeholders are gradually relinquishing their hold on old assumptions that forest ecosystems are stable and predictable, and embracing new models that acknowledge the variability of these ecosystems in response to human actions. Jack demonstrated that it was possible to provide strong and moral leadership, while still having the good sense to modify one’s prior views and adapt to new knowledge. His personal ethic became an organizational standard, and that will remain his legacy. *(Continued next page)*

Jack served as Chief of the Forest Service during four of the most tumultuous years in an agency whose century-long history is full of drama. As Jack mused near the end of his tenure, "Someone had to be the 13th Chief, so I guess it was me." In spite of his misgivings, Jack's three years as Chief were in fact a turning point for the agency. His unwavering commitment to ethical leadership was an inspiration to all who served under him or had the privilege of working with him. There are many young leaders in the Forest Service and beyond who benefit unknowingly from the high standard of professional integrity that Jack Ward Thomas established, even those who never had the privilege of reveling in one of Jack's yarns around the campfire. *(Al Sample is a president emeritus of the Pinchot Institute.)*



**1994 elk hunt in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.**

*This photo, by James Applegate, was taken at the top of the Minam River drainage, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Jack did manage to get away from his job as USFS Chief in Washington, DC, to join Bill Brown and various companions now and then in the backcountry areas of the West. When Jack left northeast Oregon to move to Washington, DC, Brown told him to "remember where he came from" and where he was going back to. In short, "Don't get a fat head." At the end of this trip, Brown escorted Jack to be picked up by a plane at the La Grande, Oregon, airport. He said, "It is good to remember where you came from and, God willing, where you will end up when you turn back into a pumpkin." Thomas replied that he couldn't wait for "pumpkin time."*

# ***Politics, Perspective, and Patience***

By Tom L. Thompson

It is 2016 and indeed another major election year is upon us. The seemingly endless debates, political ads, daily updates of polls, quotes and misquotes, and unrelenting projections will most certainly dominate the news for months to come. As we listen to the phone messages, promises, debating, pledges, and self-praises that are ongoing and forthcoming, I am inclined to reflect a bit on where we find ourselves as a nation. Usually one might say “I think I’ve been to this movie before”, but I am not sure that I remember an election as strange as this one seems to be shaping up. It almost reminds me of an episode of “The Apprentice”.

We all have observed a lot over our years. One thing our country has generally never lacked in our nation’s two hundred and forty year history is leadership from quality leaders who have stepped forward especially in challenging times. For the most part, leaders have always done what they thought was best for the country and the people---all the people! Today, without question, there are huge issues and huge differences that need to be addressed. Even though those of us who have spent our lives working with and managing our natural resources see critical issues in our discipline and area of specific interest, we know these issues would not likely to be anywhere near the top of the nation’s most pressing issues and concerns.

Having said that, it is abundantly clear that elections and presidents do have significant influence over what the Forest Service does or doesn’t do. This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Forest Reserve System’s establishment in 1891. So it is indeed fitting to remember that it is politics that created our public lands system. Politics and administrations have continued to shape the protection, use, and condition of those lands and resources in large part.

Without question it was one particular president named Theodore Roosevelt whose conservation legacy will always be most dominant because without him and a young forester named Gifford Pinchot, the system of National Forests and Grasslands that we have today would not exist. It was their vision, their energy, and their political will that still allows us to continue to search for the “greatest good for the greatest number in the long run” on a vast system of public lands scattered across all but eight states nationwide.



A PRACTICAL FORESTER  
(A subject that had attention all through Mr. Roosevelt's Presidency.)  
From the Pioneer Press (St. Paul)

In the attached summary table, one can see how over the 110 year history of the Forest Service the political pendulum has swung back and forth repeatedly. From the period 1901-1953, there were 24 years of Republican administrations and 28 years of Democrat administrations. From 1953 through this present administration’s tenure there will have been 36 years Republican and 28 years Democrat. So for the total 116 years, there have been 60 Republican years and 56 Democrat years.

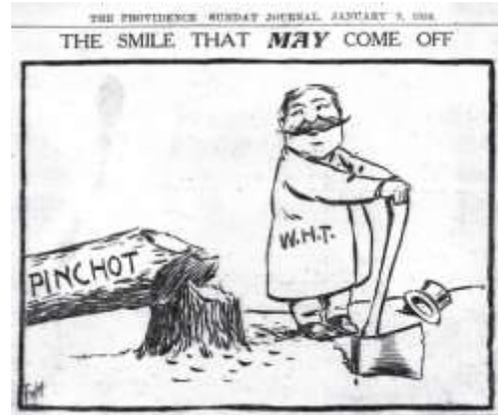
Looking at the history of the Forest Service and the statutes, designations, policies, programs, appointments, regulations, rules, and budgets that have shaped the agency, it not difficult to see that nearly all that is done or has been done can be tracked back to something political or legislative. We each probably have our own opinion of how politics and parties have fared during our “outfits” history based on performance and our individual values and interests. That is something that I would not ever venture to deal with in this forum. Suffice it to say that there have been changing emphasis and shifting priorities in a democratic society and these ought to reflect society’s desire.

The political environment today has changed and that also has changed and influenced the Forest Service. As I reflect on that reality I have come to recognize five significant changes that most influence how elections and politics have changed today’s reality.

- **In the world today, and perhaps for the last quarter century or so, there has been a much greater political influence on the pulse of the outfit. The era of electronic communications, immediate access, social media, layers of processes and procedures, and very focused special interests have forever changed how business is done.**
- **Over the history of the Forest Service there have always been members of Congress, from both major parties, who have been leaders, almost to the statesmen level, who were willing to work in the general public’s interest on legislation, both authorization and appropriation, in the natural resource area. Today, there are few.**
- **Partisan politics in the extreme has become the norm. Forces seem to be pulling us apart and little attention or effort is being made by leaders to bring politicians or a divided public closer together. Ideology seems to be the driving factor in most debates, votes, and rhetoric. Willingness or ability to compromise seems to be lacking in today’s political world.**
- **Natural resource issues don’t rise to the level of importance in Congress or with an Administration nearly to the degree that social, economic, security, or defense issues do. Most substantive legislation affecting the Forest Service has come when there was bipartisan spirit and an administration and congress that understood the importance of compromise and the public good served by professional management and protection of our public lands.**
- **The Congress has been almost at a complete impasse when it comes to getting a timely and thoughtful budget passed. Inability or lack of interest in actually following the budget process results in never ending continuing resolutions. This perpetual budget uncertainty impacts program sustainability and efficiency, and it also certainly has a negative impact on employees.**

On the positive side, in spite of the difficulties, important work is still being done by dedicated people. There continues to be good collaboration among partners and communities. Most importantly, we are still a democracy and each of us has an opportunity to express our own wishes and desires with our vote and through our Congressional representatives. Even though we are a diverse and complex society, we have a strong underpinning with our constitutional framework as a nation. We have a heritage of fairness and justice that guides our lives, interactions, and business.

On the positive side, in spite of the difficulties, important work is still being done by dedicated people. There continues to be good collaboration among partners and communities. Most importantly, we are still a democracy and each of us has an opportunity to express our own wishes and desires with our vote and through our Congressional representatives. Even though we are a diverse and complex society, we have a strong underpinning with our constitutional framework as a nation. We have a heritage of fairness and justice that guides our lives, interactions, and business.



All of us who spent our years working for the agency understand the importance of being responsive and connected to the political processes, but we also have learned that it is wise to be careful not to let politics drive or overly influence our quest to “Care for the Land and Serve the People”. Many of our Chiefs have had to walk a narrow line to ensure that politics did not do harm to our mission and purpose. Overall, I believe our agency has a good reputation for not being swayed by the leaning toward one side or the other. However, many of us have in our memories times when this was stretched nearly to the point of breaking.

Retiree’s voices are important in the conversations that occur when politicians are attempting to sort out their positions on issues. We are fortunate that NAFSR (National Association of Forest Service Retirees) is engaged and has the patience and desire to represent all of us in trying to be the voice of reason and experience in support of what the agency does. Thank goodness, politics is not the most important thing in our lives. As retirees, family, friends, fishing, fixing things, and fun with the grandkids almost always rate out higher than worrying about politics, but we certainly do care greatly about where our nation is headed.

Hopefully, when this year comes to a close we will have elected national leadership that will be able to guide our nation in the right direction and represent us all no matter what our leanings. We can only hope that whoever is elected as President this year will be a leader who has the character, credibility, and courage to take on the challenges we face as a nation.

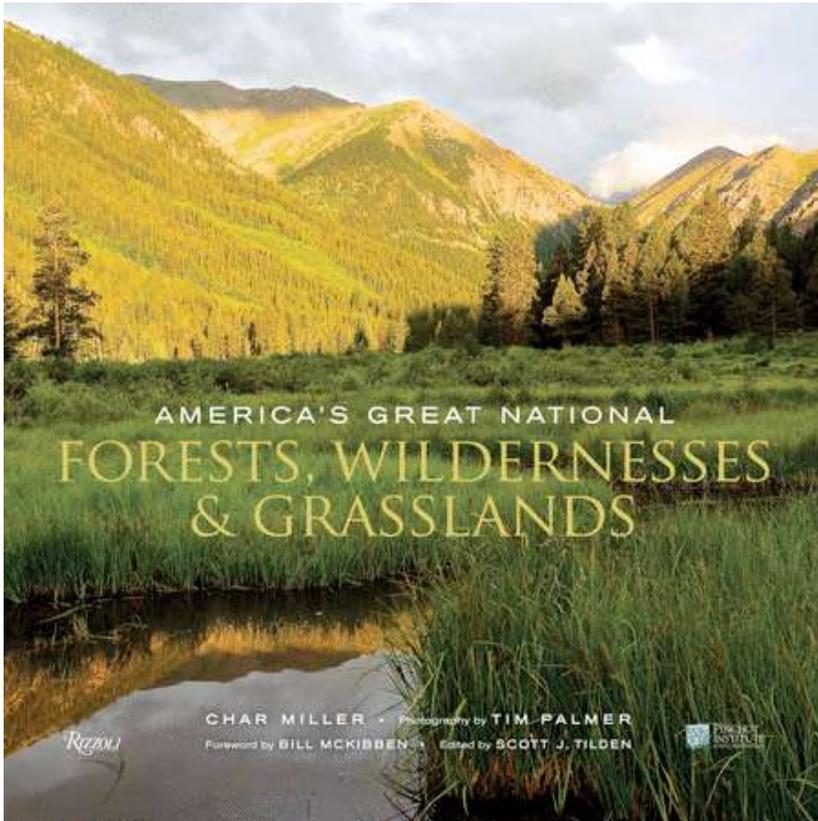


Table of Political Pendulum from 1901-2017

<b>Summary of swinging political pendulum over the history of the Forest Service</b>				
<b>President</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Secretary of Agriculture</b>	<b>Forester/Chief</b>
Roosevelt, T	1901-09	R	Wilson	Pinchot
Taft	1909-13	R	Wilson	Pinchot-Graves
Wilson	1913-21	D	Houston-Meredith	Graves-Greeley
Harding	1921-23	R	Wallace	Greeley
Coolidge	1923-29	R	Wallace-Fore-Jardine	Greeley-Stuart
Hoover	1929-33	R	Hyde	Stuart
Roosevelt, F	1933-45	D	Wallace-Wickard	Stuart-Silcox
Truman	1945-53	D	Wickard-Anderson-Brannan	<i>Clapp-Watts-McArdle</i>
Eisenhower	1953-61	R	Benson	McArdle
Kennedy	1961-63	D	Freeman	Cliff
Johnson	1963-69	D	Freeman	Cliff
Nixon	1969-73	R	Hardin-Butz	Cliff-McGuire
Ford	1973-77	R	Butz-Knebel	McGuire
Carter	1977-81	D	Bergland	McGuire-Peterson
Reagan	1981-89	R	Block-Lyng	Peterson-Robertson
Bush, G	1989-93	R	Yuetter-Madigan	Robertson
Clinton	1993-01	D	Espy-Glickman	Thomas-Dombeck
Bush, GW	2001-09	R	Veneman-Johanns-Schafer	Bosworth-Kimbell
Obama	2009-17	D	Vilsack	Kimbell-Tidwell
<p>Total 116 years 56 years Democrat and 60 years Republican</p>				

## America's Great National Forests, Wildernesses, & Grasslands

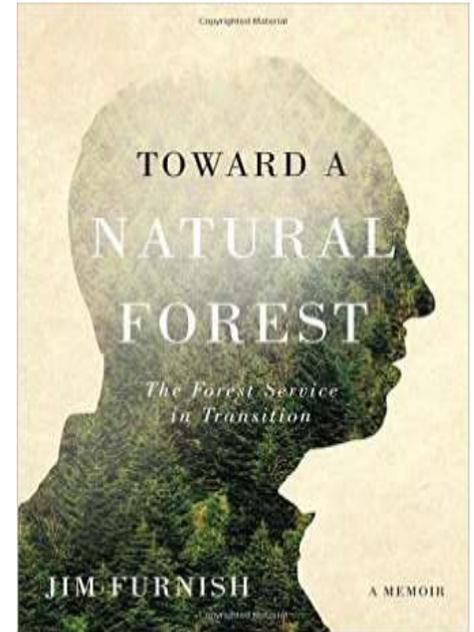
By Char Miller



For more than a century, America's national forests have proved an environmental gift and cultural treasure. Under the management of the U.S. Forest Service, which was founded in 1905, this system of public lands encompasses 193 million acres of mountains, prairies, rivers, and canyons from California to New Hampshire, Puerto Rico to Alaska. With a scenic and natural heritage that rivals that of our celebrated national parks, whose focus is on preservation, the national forests are utilitarian, lands of many uses by many users, offering all Americans access to the great outdoors of our entire nation. Officially published with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, AMERICA'S GREAT NATIONAL FORESTS, WILDERNESSES, & GRASSLANDS highlights 30 of the most notable national forests across the country, while also celebrating more than 100 different forests, wildernesses, and grasslands in 44 states. While the term "national forests" conjures images of distant wildernesses, it's important to note that most Americans live within a few hours of a national forest.

The book is divided into 7 regions—the East and Midwest, the South, the Southwest and Great Basin, the Southern Rockies, the Northern Rockies, California, and the Pacific Northwest and Alaska—to give a comprehensive overview of our nation's varied terrain. [Click here for more info!](#)

## Jim Furnish Memoir Published



**Jim Furnish** joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1965, enthusiastic and naive, proud to be part of such a storied and accomplished agency. Nothing could have prepared him for the crisis that would soon rock the agency to its foundation, as a burgeoning environmental movement challenged the Forest Service's legacy and legitimacy.

"Toward a Natural Forest" offers an insider's view of this tumultuous time in the history of the Forest Service, presenting twin tales of transformation, both within the agency and within the author's evolving environmental consciousness. While stewarding our national forests with the best of intentions, had the Forest Service diminished their natural essence and ecological values? How could one man confront the crisis while remaining loyal to his employer?

[Click here to read more!](#)

## **New NAFSR Board Chair Jim Caswell**

Current Board Chair Jim Golden decided to step down in May after over 6 years at the helm of NAFSR. Interim chair Larry Payne then initiated a successful search for a new Chair culminating in Jim Caswell accepting the Board Chair position for NAFSR.

Jim has a great variety of Forest Service and public land management experience and he is an accomplished leader. He was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the US Senate as the 16th Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He served in that position from August of 2007 to January 20th, 2009.

Before his confirmation as BLM Director, Jim served as Administrator of the Idaho state Office Species Conservation, which was established in 2000 by the state legislature to bring a policy focus to endangered species issues and to coordinate state and federal efforts on endangered species management in Idaho. During his six plus years as Administrator he served at the pleasure of Governors Kempthorne, Risch, and Otter.

Jim spent 33 years holding various positions within BLM, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Forest Service, 12 of those years serving as forest supervisor on the Clearwater and Targhee National Forest. He was also deputy forest supervisor on the Boise National Forest and acting deputy regional forester in Missoula, Montana. Jim also served on the Umatilla, Umpqua, and Willamette National Forests.

A Vietnam veteran and 1967 graduate of Michigan State University, Jim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry. He and his wife Susan, have been married 46 years and have three grown children--two daughters and a son--as well as four grandchildren.

Outgoing Chair Jim Golden said "Jim has a great understanding of conservation policy and his leadership ability will benefit NAFSR". In his message to the board last week, Jim Caswell says "Thanks to everyone for the honor and privilege of filling the seat on the board vacated by Jim Golden. Jim leaves big shoes and I will do my best to make the transition as smooth and seamless as possible. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and working with each of you."

Welcome Jim!

### **HELP WANTED!**

We continue to look for someone interested in taking over the production of "The Lookout", NAFSR's newsletter. Collect stories of interest to members, communicate NAFSR internal news, and work with the NAFSR Board of Directors for guidance and assistance. The Lookout is published quarterly. Current editor is willing to help with your transition! If interested, contact us at [nafsr200@gmail.com](mailto:nafsr200@gmail.com)

## A Note from the NAFSR Board

Since we are at the mid-point of 2016 it is a good time to restate our Program of Work and make any necessary adjustments. There are also likely to be some changes in emphasis on some of the items with the addition of our new Chairperson and some new Board Members. At our next annual meeting in late October we will develop the NAFSR 2017 Program of Work. Currently, the major items on our Program of Work are as follows:

- 1) Identify Forest Restoration Needs
- 2) Pursue a national Fire Funding Solution
- 3) Pursue Active Forest Management Legislation
- 4) Testify before Congress regarding the Forest Service Budget
- 5) Continue annual meeting with the Forest Service Chief
- 6) Continue annual meetings with Deputy Chief for S&PF focused on fire management
- 7) Present the annual John R. McGuire Award to a selected Forest Service employee
- 8) The remaining items of work are internal and operational tasks

As an organization we have achieved many positive effects on most of these items. The first three items are quite complex and require significant ongoing effort. We work closely with many partners, such as American Wildlife Conservation Partners, on the Forest Restoration, Fire Funding, and Active Management issues. However, we need more help from our members to identify forest restoration needs. If any of you have the interest and time to help on this issue, please let us know. We highly value your assistance and thoughts on this particular goal.

**If You Have Not Yet  
Paid Your NAFSR Dues  
for 2016, PLEASE Send  
It In ASAP**

**We will be purging our membership  
list soon of those regular members  
that have not paid!**

**Then you won't receive  
"The Lookout"!**

## NAFSR Website Redesign

NAFSR's board of directors has been working with a contractor to redesign and update our website, fsx.org.

Over the years it has lost its luster and utility. We are now in the process of bringing the site up to current standards, and we hope to have it ready for use in the next few months.

We'll notify all of our members when it's ready!

# It's Not Too Early to Plan for the Forest Service Reunion 2018!



Forest Service retirees, employees, and friends from throughout the U. S. will gather in Asheville, North Carolina September 24 – 28, 2018, for a week of renewing friendships and visiting the birthplace of forestry in the U.S. The Crown Plaza Resort – Asheville has been chosen as the venue. This facility has 11 meeting rooms and 34,000 square feet of meeting space including a large Expo Center. It is 1 mile from Asheville city center with a free shuttle van.

As most of you know, Asheville has a lot of forestry history, including the Cradle of Forestry, the Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock Park, Mount Mitchell, and a host of other field trip opportunities. The Reunion will continue to provide maximum time for visiting and socializing with friends we have not seen for a while.

We expect the registration process to be operational by September 2016. More information will be distributed when it is ready. Although hotel reservations cannot be made early, (hotel reservations cannot be made until one year prior to the Reunion), everyone is encouraged to submit their registrations as soon as the process and forms are ready, even during 2016 or 2017. This will give your team information about the number of attendees to better prepare for an outstanding reunion.

Information will be available through the FS Retiree Newsletters and email distribution lists and the web site, <http://2018.fsreunions.org>

Your leadership team is: Dave Jolly, Chair; Liz Agpaoa, Deputy Chair / CFO: and Sid Haggard, Deputy Chair.



*The Lookout is the newsletter of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. It is produced by Jim Golden, acting temporary interim editor. Contact us at [nafsr2000@gmail.com](mailto:nafsr2000@gmail.com)*