



National Association of Forest Service Retirees 2018 Accomplishment Report

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees just concluded our yearly Board of Director's meeting. What follows is a brief summary report to the membership and Regional Retiree Associations highlighting our accomplishments for calendar year 2018.

Your NAFSR Board is a great group of dedicated retirees. They have experience in all areas of the agency and are working hard to represent the interests of our members, support the Forest Service whenever possible, and advocate for conservation and active management of the National Forests and Grasslands.

Calendar year 2018 was a busy and very productive year for our Association. The Board developed and prioritized a robust "Program of Work" during our Board meeting a year ago. At the time we could not have imagined how the year would unfold nor the opportunities that would present themselves. I am pleased to report that your Board with the assistance of a number of our members completed all our priorities both operational and strategic. We have assessed current new and ongoing issues that we believe merit our attention in the coming year and have agreed on new priorities for CY 2019-2020.

Again, we believe NAFSR had a very successful 2018. We are relevant, working on the right things and in the right way. We have unprecedented access within the Department and the Forest Service. Folks are listening. We can and are making a difference, but it is only through the support of our "membership" that we have the capacity to represent and accomplish our mission and purpose. Thanks for your support.

I invite you to review your Association's CY 2018 accomplishments:

1. Refocused on our main purpose as an advocacy group.
2. Redesigned our Plan of Work with a lead assigned to each issue. The lead will recruit additional help if needed.
3. Fire Funding was a major issue in 2018. We identified key people to work on this issue and it resulted in success.
4. Added new board members – Greg Griffith from R-3 and Don Howlett from R-9, as well as two Chiefs Emeritus – Mike Dombeck and Tom Tidwell.
5. Reached out to the Department of Agriculture to join the task force on rural prosperity - nothing has yet happened with the task force.
6. Several Board members met with Secretary Perdue in April and September.
7. Sent several letters to Secretary Perdue on a variety of issues including -
 - a. Criteria for selection of the new Chief.
 - b. Job Corp closures.
 - c. As a follow-up to our April 30 meeting we established teams to develop recommendations regarding reforms.
8. In response to Secretary Perdue, we produced the 44-page report, "Sustaining the Forest Service" dated September 12, 2018. The report focuses on four major topics – 1) CEQ Regulations Reform 2) EADM Process /NEPA regulation Reform 3) ESA Reform and 4) Forest Service Culture.
9. Phil Aune gave a talk to Back Country Horsemen at their national meeting.
10. Conducted a Membership Survey in October.
11. Regarding Jim Hubbard's nomination as Under Secretary -
 - a. We produced a set of questions for Jim Hubbard's nomination as Under Secretary and gave them to the appropriate senators.
 - b. Wrote a letter of support for the nomination of Jim Hubbard as Under Secretary.
 - c. Visited with Senator Daines (MT) regarding confirmation hearings on Jim Hubbard.
12. At the FS National Reunion, we joined with the National Museum of Forest Service History to present the first "Doug Leisz Leadership Award".
13. We worked with other organizations in developing letters of support for -
 - a. Farm Bill
 - b. Federal Land Transfer and Facilitation Act (FLTFA) authorization
 - c. Re-authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
14. EADM (Environmental Analysis Decision Making) – Board members attended 7 of 9 regional meetings around the country. We continue to be involved in the on-going process.
15. Continue to study both quantitative and qualitative data on the losses in non-fire Work Force Capacity the USFS has experienced.

16. Anne Zimmermann attended the North American Wildlife Meeting in Roanoke, VA on behalf of the Board and provided a written report.
17. Jack Troyer authored a commentary on ESA reform which was published in the January 2019 issue of the Journal of Forestry.
18. Working on a new retiree outreach initiative.
19. Jim Caswell and Sam Foster attended the Public Lands Foundation's Student Congress in August. NAFSR will fully participate in the 2020 Student Congress. Jim has talked to the Chief about this topic on three different occasions.
20. Wrote a "Thank You Letter" to Congressman Westerman, the only Congressional Representative that is a Forester, for his excellent Op Ed on the Budget Process.
21. Decision is to drop the idea of a Facebook page for NAFSR.
22. Little support for learning the use of Twitter from our members so we are ending any further efforts.
23. National FS Reunion – The 2018 reunion is complete. Preparation for the 2021 reunion in South Lake Tahoe is ongoing. We will provide liaison and support as needed.
24. MOU with FS – No interest from the Chief in an MOU. Decision is to drop for now.
25. Executive Director Search – The Board decided not to fill the Executive Director position at this time.
26. Decision not to publish a newsletter, but we will publish an Annual Accomplishment Report for our members.

If you are not a member of NAFSR, go to our website – www.nafsr.org to join. Annual dues are complimentary for 2019, then \$25 annually or \$250 for a Lifetime Membership.