

## **Knowledge Transfer Project**

NAFSR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA Forest Service to provide a framework for cooperation on our mutual interests.

Signed by Chief Tom Schultz and NAFSR Chair Bill Avey, this agreement formalizes something NAFSR retirees have done informally for years: sharing decades of institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and lessons learned with the current generation of Forest Service employees.

As experienced employees retire and exit the agency, as they have done in the last 18 months at an unprecedented rate, the Forest Service loses irreplaceable know-how.

This MOU is intended to facilitate a more structured path for retirees to stay connected, mentor, and support remaining employees – and those new to the agency - as they tackle wildfire, forest health, recreation access, leadership, and supervision with more limited resources than in recent years.

As a next step to put the new MOU into action, the NAFSR Employee Care Team is working with the Forest Service Workforce Development Team to set up a pilot knowledge transfer project to begin in Fall 2026.

The pilot will focus on supervisory skills, pairing retired supervisors with employees attending New Supervisor Training (NST).

Each pair will meet virtually over the course several months, using suggested topics and discussion guides to support each discussion session. Volunteer retired supervisors would be asked to share their time and experience to help new supervisors navigate their new roles and challenges during the training period.

More details on the pilot and how to participate will be forthcoming to NAFSR members soon!

Meanwhile, please consider this upcoming volunteer opportunity to share your time, experience, and expertise to assist a new Forest Service supervisor.

Volunteers for projects under the NAFSR-FS MOU must be NAFSR members (or may join NAFSR if not already a member). They will also be asked to register as a volunteer via [Volunteer.gov](https://www.volunteer.gov).

We look forward to more opportunities for collaboration between NAFSR and Forest Service!