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Route To:

Subject: Membership in Professional Societies

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and WO Staff

As stewards of the Nation's forests and rangelands, it is imperative that we constructively respond to the many challenges of understanding, protecting, and managing a wide variety of resources and values. To meet these various challenges, we must have a diverse and highly qualified cadre of natural resource, social science, and other professionals to assure that our management approaches are based on the best science. Over the last few years, the focus on threats to forest and range conservation that cross property boundaries has prompted tremendous changes in the basic framework of resource management principles. More than ever, it is important for professionals to continue to learn, enhance our resource knowledge, and develop innovative approaches to cooperatively conserve this Nation's natural resources.

I believe that membership, involvement, and participation in professional societies are more important now than ever before in keeping abreast of the ever-changing demands that we all face. Professional societies provide an excellent opportunity for us to come together with professionals from other agencies, organizations, and interests. They provide a forum to discuss evolving resource issues, learn from others, and cooperatively develop solutions to common problems. All of us are looking for ways to work more in a collaborative spirit and it is obvious that the wide array of professional societies offer a ready-made answer.

There are as many choices of societies as there are disciplines and interests in the Forest Service. I support your involvement in professional societies and encourage you not only to belong, but also to be proactive in your involvement. Forest Service employees are viewed as leaders within our professions. Through participation and involvement with professionals from other federal and state agencies, tribes, and the private sector, we will be more adept in continuing the essential resource leadership role in managing the Nation's forests and rangelands.

With supervisor approval, I support the reasonable use of official time and resources for participation by Forest Service employees in local, state, and national activities of professional societies. It is important to remind you that membership and participation in non-federal organizations must comply with ethics laws and regulations, i.e., the Forest Service cannot pay membership dues and employees interested in serving as an officer of a non-Federal organization cannot do so in an official capacity. Contact your Primary Ethics Advisor for assistance. If you are active in a professional society, I applaud your commitment and dedication. If you are not, I hope you will consider the importance of society membership in your continued professional growth.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

