

IMSAF
is proud to be co-host of the
**2008 SAF National
Convention**
Forestry in a Climate of Change

Wednesday-Saturday
November 5-8
Reno, Nevada

Newsletter
**Intermountain
Society of American
Foresters**
June 2008



WELCOME! This is our first edition of the 2008 Intermountain Society of American Foresters Newsletter! For our next 2008 newsletter submit your materials and articles to editor Darrel L. Kenops, dkenops@msn.com by July 26th, 2008 Thanks!!
Darrel L. Kenops, IMSAF Newsletter Editor

NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA GOVERNORS SIGN TAHOE BASIN FIRE COMMISSION EMERGENCY DISASTER PROCLAMATIONS

May 27th Nevada, California Governors sign Tahoe Basin Emergency Disaster Proclamations including implementing decisions which consider their California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commissioners Report which detailed 48 findings and 90 recommendations.

The Commission was established as a result of the impact of the 2007 Angora Wildfire which destroyed many homes and affected important watershed and forest conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Both Governors and respective Congressional delegations are requesting President Bush sign a federal emergency disaster declaration so needed resources and timely coordinated actions can be initiated.

During the Commission's hearings and fact finding period, local Fire District Chief's, community elected leaders, State and Federal governments made important changes so immediate fire protection measures on private land could proceed while in-depth work to get at underlying causes for the current untenable situation were assessed.

U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Line Officers highlighted needed actions. Most important

were: a) remove impediments and redundant, complex planning processes so forest fuels work can be done efficiently and effectively, b) address roles and responsibilities of regulatory agencies to improve permitting processes and cooperative agreements, c) provide sufficient funding thru partnerships and collaborative relationships to achieve priority and long term work across Tahoe Basin forested watersheds and landscapes, d) increase prescribed fire burn days and improve air quality and meteorological information and collection protocols, e) reduce current permitting processes for mechanized equipment in "Stream Environment Zones" and allow temporary roads which can be reclaimed so priority forest fuels treatments lead to greater protection for watershed and stream courses.

Technical workshops, assessment reports and hearing were conducted. Further information is available on the following websites <http://resources.ca.gov> www.tahoescience.org

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RETIREES CALL FOR U.S. FOREST SERVICE FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET CHANGES

National Association of Forest Retirees (NAFSR) call for important, needed changes to Administration's U.S. Forest Service Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Budget. The U.S. Forest Service is in a serious budget pinch due to growing wildfire suppression costs that can only be spent from their constrained budget. This affects all U.S. Forest Service program, activities and partnerships.

NAFSR recommends the FY 2008 allocated budget figure with added government pay increases and other costs totaling \$77 million serve as the base for FY 2009 funding. They go onto recommend increases above this baseline funding doing the following:

- segregate fire suppression costs from other discretionary programs of the U.S. Forest Service and fully fund the National Fire Plan;



- add \$10 million to each of these important program areas-land management planning, inventory and monitoring, wildlife and fisheries, landownership management, State and Private Forestry Program, and forest health on federal lands, add \$ 5 million for forest health on co-op lands;
- add \$10 million for conventional sales or stewardship contracts based on assessed opportunities to market forest materials for wood products, energy and other uses;
- add \$20 million for recreation, wilderness and heritage management
- add \$15 million for vegetation and watershed management and require the U.S. Forest Service to improve monitoring so as to promptly reforest areas in need;
- add 20 million to research budgets with an emphasis on response to climate change and economic uses for small diameter trees;

- add \$25 million for capital improvements and retain restrictions on contacting out.

NAFSR members see these as essential action because National Forests and Grasslands should be an asset for the American people. Now, in too many instances, overstocked, insect-infested, poorly maintained and understaffed Forests, including Ranger Districts, are becoming a liability. The integrated and primary U.S. Forest Service Missions of National Forest Systems lands, State and Private Forestry, Research and International Forestry contribute significantly to our Nation and World who expect this premiere agency to be a forestry, natural resources management leaders.

Further background data and rationale for these recommendations can be found in the "Letters and Reports" section of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees website at www.fsx.org

2008 WILDFIRE SEASON "APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE" POLICY TEST UNDERWAY

Federal agencies are implementing a 2008 wildfire season policy called "Appropriate Management Response" on a test basis in various field locations on USDA Forest Service and USDI Natural Resource agencies and Indian Trust agency lands. Recently the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, established in 2002, recommended "Appropriate Management Response" be allowed across federal lands based on the overarching approved Forest Management Plans which set direction for all activities.

Because of the lateness of this April, 2008 decision federal agencies have set specific field test sites to assess this policy's impact. "Appropriate Management Response" goal is to "allow for a full spectrum of management responses to

wildfire on federal lands commensurate with public and firefighter safety, the current and predicted risks, values to be protected and land management objectives." Expect specific field test site announcements soon!

For further information access the Wildland Fire Leadership Council website at www.forestsandrangelands.gov Use keyword search-Appropriate Management Response-to view additional comments and critiques on various related entries which are listed. The Western Institute for the Study of the Environment website www.westinstenv.org is another reference site.

OREGON U.S. REP. GREG WALDEN CALLS FOR HEALTHY FOREST STATUTE IMPROVEMENTS

Oregon U.S. Rep. Greg Walden promotes Healthy Forest Statute legislative improvements. U.S. Congressional Representative Greg Walden (R-OR) is introducing legislation to give federal foresters and local communities necessary tools to address areas identified by federal agencies at the highest risk of catastrophic wildfire.

This update to current Healthy Forest law is needed because of frustrations of foresters and communities are facing to get needed work done in a timely fashion. He said "where the current bipartisan Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 has been used, it has reduced the

incidence and severity of fire". However, nearly 40 million acres have been burned in this country since HFRA was signed into law."

"Enough is enough. It is time to act and provide federal forests the additional tools they need to maintain healthy forests." "It is senseless to standby as forests burn up every year, emitting massive amounts of carbon, destroying watersheds and wildlife, and threatening our homes."



For full news release and information see this website
<http://walden.house.gov>

WESTERN U.S. SENATORS ENCOURAGE U.S. FOREST SERVICE CHIEF GAIL KIMBELL TO HELP MAINTAIN COMMUNITY BASED FOREST PRODUCTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Western U.S. Senators signed a April 2, 2008 bipartisan letter encouraging U.S. Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell to maintain strong working relationships with private sector partners as maintaining federal forests are aided every step of the way by such long term, community based partners!

They observed more sawmills have closed across the West in a three month period from December, 2007 until now than were recorded during the entire lumber market collapse of 1979-1981. "Forest managers are losing our

private partners at an unprecedented rate and it is imperative that your agency act expeditiously to affect this trend" they said.

This letter was signed by lead authors Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) and they were joined by Wayne Allard (R-CO), Larry Craig (R-ID), Mike Crapo (R-ID), John Thune (R-SD), Jon Tester (D-MT), Michael Enzi (R-WY), Ken Salazar (D-CO) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) The full letter can be found at www.amforest.org

UPDATE ON LIVESTOCK WATER RIGHTS IN UTAH-HOUSE BILL 208

The Livestock Water Rights Bill in Utah-House Bill (H.B.) 208 was signed into law by Governor Huntsman in April. This law provides that "Only a beneficial user may acquire a livestock watering right after May 5, 2008. A "beneficial user" is defined in law as the person that owns the grazing permit, who has to file such a request with the state engineer for livestock water use certificate.

This user has to demonstrate they "own" a grazing permit for the allotment to which the livestock watering right is appurtenant. If the watering right is not used, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food shall sever the

watering right from the allotment and sell that right at a public auction to a person who demonstrates an ability to divert the water and use the water right.

The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and State of Utah continue to discuss this law's implications on the management of livestock grazing on federally managed land. More information is available from Erin O-Conner, Director, Strategic Communications, U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Ogden Utah.

SAF 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS UPDATE

SAF 2008 National Convention News and Update from General Convention Committee Co-Chair's Lynn Sprague and Tad Mason. By now you have received our "Forestry in a Climate of Change" highlight booklet, invitation and 2008 National Convention registration materials. "The Biggest Little City in the World", Reno, Nevada and its fun provide relaxing opportunities await you.

Our Intermountain, Northern California and Southern California Society of American Foresters National Convention hosts and colleagues are really looking forward to greeting and meeting with you at this important time for Forestry in America and our World.

SAF's 2008 National Convention learning and fun activities abound which will help you keep your 21st Century edge, networks and professional friendships!

Forestry professionals and their allies thrive and are key leaders who can and do provide great public service and problem solving skills in these very dramatic times. We'd

like to share a sampler of these learning opportunities to catch your interest and spur your participation.

*May 27th the Governors of California and Nevada approved Tahoe Basin Fire Commission recommendations by approving emergency disaster proclamations for the Lake Tahoe area and communities. The 2007 Angora Wildfire affected forest, watershed, community values and people's lives! At SAF 2008 you have an opportunity to learn about this situation so sign up early for the Angora Wildfire Tour! Learn how a highly regulated forest, watershed and community situation is adapting and changing thru actions now being implemented by practitioners and community leaders with these day to day responsibilities.

* Bureau of Land Management Director Jim Caswell will set the larger context in his Sierra Nevada and Great Basin-In a Climate of Change" presentation. From tours of the Angora Fire to technical sessions where landscape strategies are underway in Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystem,



Aspen Management and Ecology, the 6.5 million Sage Steppe ecosystem project and from other forest landscape case examples, you can learn the latest in restoration approaches and practices. A three day Restoration Workshop on "Implementing Forest Restoration" covers every aspect including use of 21st Century tools and technology -this is another excellent learning venue open to you!

*Tribal Forestry on nearly 19 million acres of Indian forestlands under a trust responsibility of the United States and federally recognized American Indian Tribes is evolving in important ways. American Indian Tribal forestry approaches are being used as positive models for sustainable management of forest resources. Join us to learn about merging modern science with traditional knowledge.

*Economic and Business Trends and Opportunities will be set in context by Bill Schafer, Senior Vice-President of Business Development, Range Fuels. Wood energy, accelerating research on cellulosic fuels and super "green

products" to help our Nation achieve energy security is one major driver of change to be explored at SAF 2008. Connecting these and other business trends holds promise to bring together forest and watershed health, wildfire and community solutions thru new and important problem solving approaches and improved technologies.

There is much more to experience at SAF 2008! So we hope to see you at our Ice Breaker and many social and leisure time activities which are fun and stimulating. See you in Reno, Nevada, November 5-9, 2008. Vote Absentee ballot so you'll not miss a minute of reconnecting with friends and colleagues, and meeting new people involved in important forestry, natural resources and business sectors.

For Intermountain SAF Members wishing to be on-site volunteers contact our volunteer committee co-chairs Karen Jones at (530) 478-5859 or karenjones@fs.fed.us or Frank Roth at (801) 625-5269 or froth@fs.ed.us

SAF DISTRICT IV COUNCIL REP. ROD BREVIG'S MARCH, 2008 COUNCIL REPORT

SAF's Headquarters property sale potential buyer, Nation's Academy, is working with county zoning and other issues while our SAF HQ Relocation Committee Chair and Past SAF President and his colleagues continue their work on new office options. Based on criteria the Council approved our new SAF HQ be located in the Washington D.C. area which includes Maryland and Northern Virginia.

Insurance agents are working with SAF CEO Michael Goergen in assessing supplemental insurance for chapter, state, division and national field trips. All SAF units need to identify and plan activities, not included in the national blanket policy, as far ahead as possible so coverage can be low or even at no additional cost with adequate pre-planning and communication with an agent. Check with Oregon SAF for more information. Our national office will develop a check list for units for working with insurance agents. At this time SAF will not buy a national supplemental insurance policy for field trips.

Fellow Awards and recognition is important. Council agreed local units will be notified of elected Fellows and certificates for awards proper recognition of new Fellows by their local units. A special Fellows Breakfast is scheduled for SAF 2008 National Convention, Reno, NV!

Standard Minimum By-Laws Council approved revisions are available for local units. The biggest change is for

electronic voting options. Refer to <http://www.safnet.org/members-pw/leadertools.cfm>

New Continuing Forestry education (CFE) requirements process concerns and confusion are addressed in the Forestry Source, April, 2008.

A Federal Employee participation in SAF leadership positions letter has been co-signed by a number of allied professional societies and sent to the Office of Government Ethics. In meetings with this office it is clear we need to change the underlying statutes. Michael Goergen and his professional society colleagues will seek to develop new legislation. A copy of SAF's letter can be found at http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/documentes/oge_ethics_121707.pdf

Mark your calendar and register early to attend SAF's 2008 National Convention in Reno, NV November 5-9, 2008. This years "Forestry in a Climate of Change" theme provides many excellent learning opportunities and fun activities with colleagues and friends. By now you should have the early registration and program booklet as well as the capability to register on line at SAF's website. Thanks to our Intermountain SAF National Convention working volunteers!!



INTERMOUNTAIN SAF POLICY, MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

(Editor's note: thanks to Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy Chair for policy information, Carol McKernon for membership information, local SAF leaders and other newsletter contributors.)

Idaho's Roadless Rule Petition remains under review in Washington D.C. Idaho's SAF Chapters took a position recently supporting the Forest Service proposal to adopt the Idaho Roadless Rule in response to a petition by the State of Idaho for the management direction of 9.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest Lands in Idaho.

SAF, the U.S. Forest Service and State of Idaho advocates for reduction of significant risk situation before they become imminent threats to local communities and water supplies and this is better achieved with additional flexibility beyond that provided by the 2002 Roadless Rule. SAF supports implementing limited but necessary projects to allow the Forest Service to be a good neighbor for adjacent landowners and communities, and to help insure continued forest health and protection for life and property.

Our policy position can be found at www.iesaf.org Jay can be reached at jayo@unidaho.edu

Wildfire Emergency Funding H.R. 5541 has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on

Natural Resources. The U.S. Rep, Rahall II (D-WV) Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act) has strong bi-partisan support and is backed by 37 organizations. This legislation helps address the current problem of catastrophic wildfire costs gobbling up USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management constrained budgets which affects all the these federal agency's programs. More information on this proposed legislation can be found by contacting Allyson Groff or Blake Androff at (202) 226-9019 or <http://resoucescommittee.house.gov> To review the National Association of Forest Service Retirees Wildfire Suppression Cost Issue Paper is found in their "Letters and Reports" website www.fsx.org

On April 16th local SAF unit colleagues listened to Carol Hunter, Vice-President of Communication and Division Service for Rocky Mountain Power presentation on Utah's Carbon Reduction Initiative on Biomass in the renewable energy portfolio.

Carol discussed the role of biomass in recently passed legislation titled "Utah's Carbon Reduction Initiative" and how energy industry is looking into expanding its renewable energy portfolio.

UTAH FOREST NEWS REPORTS ON WORLD'S OLDEST PONDEROSA PINE – IT IS LOCATED IN UTAH!

Thank you *Utah Forest News*, Cooperative Extension Service, Utah State University for your article titled "World's Oldest Ponderosa Pine Found In Utah." USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, at Shrub Sciences lab, Provo, Utah research botanist Stan Kitchen who as he was examining tree growth rings for drought, wildfire and climate changes made this discovery. He

found the world's oldest ponderosa pine to be about 950 years old. Utah has three other tree species in real old tree categories. Two pinyon pines at 1,101 and 973 years old, and a Douglas-fire at 843 years old and possibly an aspen over 300 years old. Full article will be posted soon at: <http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/Reading/UFNIndex.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS IN INTERMOUNTAIN SAF

(additional details may be found on our website @ <http://www.usu.edu/saf/meetings.html>)

DATE (S)	EVENT	LOCATION
Friday, August 15	A Day in the Woods with Dr. Jim Long	Logan, Utah
Thursday, September 4	Seventh Annual Timber Harvest Tour	Richfield, Utah
Friday-Saturday, September 12-13	Site Visit and Review of the Warm Fire, Kaibab National Forest, and the Prescribed Fire Program on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park	Jacob Lake, Arizona
Wednesday-Saturday, November 5-8	Forestry in a Climate of Change 2008 SAF National Convention	Reno, Nevada



IMSAF LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

(phone numbers and email addresses are available to members @ <http://www.safnet.org/members/directories.cfm>)

Intermountain Society Officers (2008)	
Chair (2007-08)	Tim Beaty
Past Chair	Bob Maynard
Chair Elect (Chair in 2009-10)	John Shaw
Policy Chair	Lynn Sprague
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SAF Council	
Intermountain SAF is represented by District IV	Rod Brevig



2008 National Convention IMSAF Officers / Volunteers	
Convention General	Lynn Sprague
Convention Program	Rod Brevig
Arrangements	Dick Pfilf
Arrangements	Donna Lamb
Convention Program	Dennis Mengel
Technical Tours	Roland Shaw
Technical Tours	Skip Ritter
Forester's Fund	Walt Rogers
Local Publicity	Darrel Kenops
Convention Committee Chair	Dennis Mengel
Convention Committee	John Shaw
Convention Committee	Skip Ritter
Convention Committee	Tim Beaty

Editors Comments and Disclaimers

I will edit for brevity and clarity and do take responsibility for such edits, Please contact me if you have concerns, corrections and (better yet) news you feel we should cover. My contact information is Darrel L. Kenops, dkenops@msn.com, (208) 884-1076.

Thank You, Darrel L. Kenops