



Intermountain Society of American Foresters

Editors Comments and Disclaimers

This newsletter is posted on our website and sent by e-mail to members with e-mail addresses. Those without e-mail addresses receive by surface mail. This conserves IMSAF operating budgets. I edit for brevity and clarity and take responsibilities for them. Contact me with your concerns, corrections and (better yet) news you wish us to cover. Darrel L. Kenops, dkenops@msn.com, (208) 884-1076. Thank You, Darrel L. Kenops

Deadline for submission of articles to the next newsletter is Jan. 15, 2012.

GREETINGS FROM IMSAF CHAIR JOHN ROBERTS



by John Roberts, IMSAF Chair

As usual, SAF's National Convention renewed my enthusiasm for SAF and for forestry on a grander scale! We get bogged down in our daily routines and obstacles, no matter how great our forestry careers are. A trip to the Convention never fails to give me a sense of our presence in today's world. SAF's role in important conversations about America's energy future and security of people living in the West is having a great effect and our voice is being heard.

The Society is turning its attention onto its own business as well. Our professional society is at a crossroad that may well change our future. As the demands of resource management and professionals who care for our forests change, our society changes. The Council has hired consultants to help us evaluate how we will change. Should we change the meaning of our organization to include a wider range of resource professionals?

If we choose this course, we may grow into a much larger organization which must respond to a wider range of issues and a diverse group of professionals. As the American Medical Association supports surgeons and psychologists alike, we might support foresters, hydrologists, environmental scientists under the same tent.

A decision not to change would be recognition that SAF is the heart and soul of forestry, SAF will undoubtedly shrink in size, reducing its ability to serve and influence, but focusing on its excellence on a smaller but more clearly defined role as serving as foresters. It will survive, but will have to adjust to a smaller presence and to providing less support to members.

The House of Society Delegates (HSD), as the voice of membership, attempted in Honolulu to give Council direction in this decision. I certainly felt unprepared to convey our position to other Chairs, (who make up HSD). I certainly did not get on the plane in Honolulu with thoughts of making such major changes to the Society.

As Tim Beatty and I attend next year's HSD in Spokane, WA, we will again be asked what our IMSAF membership might wish for the future of SAF. I hope each of you will give this matter the consideration it deserves. In the next year I hope we can have enough of a conversation to come to some consensus of where we think the Society should be heading. HSD and the Council are looking for the sense of membership in this matter.



SNAKE RIVER SAF CHAPTER CHAIR RICK THOLEN COMMENTS ON IDAHO'S DRAFT 2012 ENERGY PLAN

by Rick Tholen, Chair, Snake River SAF Chapter

To: Idaho Interim Legislative Committee Drafting the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan
From: Society of American Foresters, Snake River Chapter
Date: October 31, 2011
Subject: Comments on the Draft 2012 Idaho Energy Plan

We applaud the inclusion of renewable energy actions suggested in the Draft 2012 Idaho Energy Plan. We believe the forestry sector in Idaho can make important contributions to all three of the "pillars" described in the plan through the use of forest woody biomass to produce heat, fuel and electricity.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) supports policies that promote utilization of forest biomass, together with those that assist communities, forest owners, public forest managers, and local entrepreneurs in accomplishing urgent wildfire prevention and forest health improvement projects. In the western states, including Idaho, expanded opportunities to increase utilization of forest biomass are needed to help reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuels and restore healthy forest conditions, particularly on public lands. America's forests provide watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and numerous forest products, as well as employment and recreational opportunities that our citizens depend on and enjoy. Therefore, it is in our national interest to reduce the threat of wildfire, control insect and disease damage, and improve forest health, thereby ensuring that the nation's forests will continue to provide these benefits for generations to come.

Increased utilization of forest biomass will also help improve the nation's energy security by providing an abundant, renewable fuel resource as a substitute for imported fossil fuels in public utility and industrial power generation facilities, as well as a potential domestic source of transportation fuels. Ensuring that the necessary research and technology is provided to develop cost-effective production, delivery and processing systems and new value-added products will lead to increased utilization of forest biomass. Currently, much of the potentially available forest biomass is not economical to harvest because it is distant from existing power generation facilities or other markets. Other barriers that discourage the removal and use of forest biomass must be identified and mitigated to the extent possible. To promote increased utilization of this energy resource, public agency policies must facilitate siting and permitting of biomass-using facilities, encourage long-term power purchase agreements, and authorize contracts to supply forest biomass in dependable quantities sufficient to attract investment in both processing facilities and delivery systems.

SAF supports strategies and policies, including those authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (PL 109-190), that promote development of economically viable forest biomass production, delivery, and processing capabilities in regions where the needs and opportunities are greatest. Public energy and natural resource agencies, and private sector organizations, are encouraged to expand their capabilities and adopt both nationwide and state-specific strategies to increase utilization of forest biomass, including providing support for demonstration projects, funding for targeted research and development opportunities, and inclusion of forest biomass as a qualifying fuel in federal and state renewable energy portfolio policies.

The unhealthy condition of many of the nation's public forests is an issue that is currently being addressed with urgency by forest managers. On western public lands, many of the silvicultural treatments prescribed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health will generate large volumes of forest biomass. Increased utilization of this material through investment in processing facilities and development of viable markets for biomass-based fuels would contribute to improved forest health, reduce the costs and risks of controlling wildfire, and augment the nation's renewable sources of energy.



The United States currently utilizes forest biomass to provide about 3% of the nation's total energy needs. Most of this energy generation is accomplished by direct combustion to provide steam for heating and electricity generation. At the same time, the United States has been increasingly dependent on foreign sources of petroleum. The use of renewable energy sources, including forest biomass, has the potential to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. Other uses of forest biomass for energy or energy fuels can augment non-renewable energy sources including conversion to ethanol to replace transportation fuels, partial combustion to produce a synthetic gas similar to natural gas, and co-firing in power boilers with coal, oil, or gas.

Increased utilization of forest biomass will provide forest managers with the ability to alleviate hazardous fuel and wildfire conditions on western public lands, and improve the quality and productivity of forests in the eastern and southern states, while providing a valuable alternative source of energy to help meet the nation's electrical power generation and transportation fuel requirements.

In Idaho, the Idaho Department of Lands has recently adopted the Idaho Forest Action Plan which outlines conditions in Idaho forests and recommends actions that dovetail well with the renewable energy policy contained in the Draft 2012 Idaho Energy Plan.

The Society of American Foresters, Snake River Chapter is dedicated to improving the condition of Idaho forests and is committed to working with other partners to make biomass energy a reality in Idaho. We believe that the further development of renewable biomass energy infrastructure in Idaho will not only improve our energy independence, but it will also improve the health of our forests and the economic wellbeing of our communities. Incorporating biomass energy into the Draft 2012 Idaho Energy Plan is an important first step in making this dream a reality.

RESTORING THE WEST CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

by Mike Kuhns, Professor and Extension Forester, Utah State University; and Doug Page, IMSAF Communications Chair

Over 200 attended the 2011 Restoring the West Conference (RTW), and given the federal travel restrictions this year, that was an exceptional crowd. The overarching topic was "Sustaining Forests, Woodlands, and Communities through Biomass Use." Talks dealt with harvesting, utilization, pinyon-juniper ecology and silviculture, bio-energy, marketing, collaboration, biochar, policy, etc. If you missed the conference, or just missed a talk or two, they are now available online. The archived conference is now available at <http://forestry.usu.edu/htm/video/conferences/rtw-2011/>, with abstracts at <https://forestry.usu.edu/htm/video/conferences/rtw-2011/abstracts/>. Links to recorded, edited talks are included. Just click and the talks will start playing. For future information, you can add your email address to USU's RTW Conference email list by visiting <http://forestry.usu.edu/htm/subscribe>.

WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION REVEALS FIRST EVER STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WEST'S FORESTS!

by Diane Denenberg, WFLC Staff

In mid-November, the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) gathered to discuss their new publication titled "Across the Western Landscape: Priority Issues and Strategies for Western Forests". This strategy reveals detailed findings, trends, issues and opportunities. It's focused on priority outcomes addressing landscape-scale issues, guiding cooperation among WFLC member organizations toward conservation, protection and enhancement of our western forests.

Beth Pendleton, U.S. Forest Service Alaska Regional Forester and Federal Co-lead for WFLC said, "... the WFLC facilitates rich dialogue with concrete outcomes. If we want to have an impact across the landscape we must bring all partners together, including federal, state, tribal and private landowners".



Nebraska State Forester Scott Josiah, and State Co-lead for WFLC said "the discussions among state and federal forestry leaders were productive, open, candid. It is clear that forests and their management across all land ownerships are essential to solve larger economic and environmental challenges."

This publication, report and "Five Year Strategic Plan" is available at www.wflcweb.org.

WFLC comprises 34 members across the West: 23 western State and Pacific Island forestry agencies directors; 11 U.S. Forest Service members, which include 7 western USFS Regional Foresters, 3 western USFS Research Station Directors, and the USFS Forest Products Lab Director. WFLC mission promotes science-based forest management serving the values of society and ensures health and sustainability of western forests.

USDI-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR ROBERT V. ABBEY RELEASES BLM's 15 YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.

from the BLM NLCS strategy at: www.blm.gov, contributed by Doug Page, BLM

November 21st, Director Abby introduced this strategy saying; "When I became Director, the BLM set a far-reaching goal: to become the premier land management agency in the United States. The BLM has come a long way since its early days managing the public lands left over from the Homestead and Railroad Acts".

". . . BLM recently completed a strategy of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) to help further its Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, section 102 (43 USC 1701) (a) (8) responsibilities. . . . particularly in the preservation of certain public lands that have been designated by Congress or the President in recognition of their outstanding natural and cultural values."

Bipartisan passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 permanently established the NLCS within the BLM. "The BLM's NLCS represents a conservation model different from those used by other agencies within the U.S. Department of Interior, a model that many of the public particularly appreciate."

"The BLM recognizes a great measure of whether we achieve our goal to become the premier land management agency in the United States will be how we manage the NLCS. . . . The BLM is committed to ensuring these lands and their values are kept intact and their integrity maintained through the use of sound conservation principles and wise collaborative management that promotes compatible use and enjoyment of these lands. This strategy is an important step towards achieving that goal."

SAF COUNCIL DISTRICT # 4 REPORT

by Lynn Sprague, District #4 SAF Council Representative

SAF President Roger Dziengeleski led a 2 day SAF Council meeting during SAF's 2011 National Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition SAF Council and national SAF staff participated in the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meetings to listen to and discuss with SAF's "grassroots" leaders SAF members and national level issues, concerns, opportunities and recommendations.

Council approved two position statements, "Federal Tax Treatment of Private Forest Land" and "Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program. They also approved a charter for the Committee on World Forestry, following a discussion on SAF's role in International Forestry. Council discussed SAF's strategic planning efforts, which to date have not yielded significant results, using concepts from Jim Collins book titled "Good to Great"

Mr. Collins disciplined process is helping to guide SAF's focus on core values, mission, members' experiences and steps needed to get from a "good to a great organization". Our goal is to commit to a pathway that will define SAF in the 21st Century as a "great organization".



Phil Aune, General Chair, 2012 SAF National Convention in Spokane, Washington, October 24-28, 2012, mark your calendars. The Convention theme is "Resilient Forests, Communities and Economies". Spokane is a wonderful venue for our outstanding event and has great lodging and nearby field trip opportunities.

Council approved Salt Lake City, Utah as the location for SAF's 2014 National Convention. It will be held in conjunction with the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). We, Intermountain Society of American Foresters is invited to host, so stay tuned as our IMSAF Executive Committee considers this and responds to the invitation.

SAF's tiered membership dues structure is in place. Members should by now have your new 2012 dues invoices displaying the three tiers available that range from \$97 to \$270 per year. Membership renewals can be done at these website qcommerce@safnet.org or qcommerce@eforester.org

Members who wish to change their tier may do so. Golden Members are assigned to the "Silver Tier" level. Golden Members who wish to receive a hard copy of the Journal of Forestry will need to pay an additional \$35 annual fee. State Society and Chapter dues will be an additional expense. A \$20 discount is available to members who recruit new members. The discount will be available for up to 5 years as long as the new member keeps his annual dues current and the new members get a \$30 annual discount.

Greg Brown provided a progress report for the task force developing a proposal to adopt new SAF accreditation for natural resources management or terrestrial ecosystem management curriculum. Most SAF and Council members appear to embrace the notion of enhancing our capacity through adoption of a broader accredited natural resource curriculum. There would be no effect on current accredited programs, but is in addition to them.

Non-dues revenue opportunities and issues were discussed and the Finance Committee was asked to develop an action plan for approval at the March, 2012 Council meeting in Detroit, MI. SAF's budget situation is improving, largely but cutting costs, but we are still operating at a deficit. The cost savings made is a credit to SAF National Staff! Given the current economic situation, additional revenues are needed to help SAF and its members, programs, and units accomplish SAF mission objectives.

Staff has been cut as far as it can and further cuts will cause major loss in capacity. We need to grow our organization through increased membership and non-dues revenues!

SAF continues to have buyers interested in the property surrounding SAF headquarters office. We are looking at options to help maximize our asset value of our organization, while maintaining our headquarters office.

We have a new SAF District 4 Council representative. Welcome Johnny Hodges, CF from Ft. Collins, CO His contact information is: e-mail jah16@live.com, Home phone is #970-226-6890, cell phone #970-218-3394.

Welcome to our incoming 2012 SAF Vice-President Joann Meyer Cox!

As I close out my term as your SAF National Council representative, I thank each of you for your support. For staying involved with SAF and helping out on the many events and activities at the Chapter and Intermountain SAF levels. Best wishes to Johnny and Joann as they assume key SAF leadership positions! I know they will appreciate your support as I have. See you at our local and IMSAF meetings and events.



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS NOVEMBER 15TH HEARING

by your IMSAF Newsletter Editor

This November 15th, the U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held an interesting oversight hearing titled, "Forest Service Regulatory Roadblocks to Productive Land Use and Recreation: Proposed Planning Rule, Special Use Permits, and Travel Management". The focus was on "regulatory actions stifle economic viability, jobs and access to National Forests".

From multiple user concerns, including grazing, timber and ski areas to travel management and the proposed National Forest Management Act Forest Planning regulations and Colorado water law, the hearing touched on wide ranging issues, especially in the West, including some folks from Idaho testifying, this hearing brings you up to date on current issues of concern.

You can access this hearing the U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resources Committee webpage: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=267922>.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

by your IMSAF Newsletter Editor

Some interesting notes recently appeared in my inbox, opportunities to engage events, learning materials and such. So let's begin.

Snake River Chapter and the Inland Empire SAF "Forestry Day at the Idaho Legislature" is scheduled in Boise, Idaho for February 16, 2012. The new State Forester of Idaho David Grechele will discuss the State of Idaho's forests and his team's agenda for the next 3 to 4 years. Convention and registration info at: <http://www.idahoforestpartners.org/ConfDesc2012.html>.

A recent National Association of Conservation Districts newsletter contained some interesting forestry information, including how forest management played a role in the large Arizona 2011 Wallowa wildfire. You can access this newsletter at:

www.nacdnet.org/news/publications/forestrynotes/ForestryNotes_November11.pdf

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS OF INTEREST

- *The Historical Stability of Nevada's Pinyon-Juniper Forest* by Ronald M. Lanner and Penny Frazier [http://www.phytologia.org/93\(3\)360-387LannerPinyonJuniperNevada.pdf](http://www.phytologia.org/93(3)360-387LannerPinyonJuniperNevada.pdf)
- *Evergreen Magazine: Why Implementation Procedures of Federal Environmental Laws Must Be Reformed* http://evergreenmagazine.com/web/Why_Implementation_Procedures_Of_Federal_Environmental_Laws_Must_Be_Reformed.html
- Summit County, Colorado – Article and Video: *Experts Surprised by Intense Fires in Beetle-Killed Stands* <http://summitcountyvoice.com/2011/10/22/fire-experts-surprised-by-intense-fires-in-beetle-killed-stands/>
- *Unprecedented Change vs. Inferring From History: Bark Beetles and Fire*, Larry Harrel <http://ncfp.wordpress.com/2011/09/19/unprecedented-change-vs-inferring-from-history-bark-beetles-and-fire/>
- Southern Oregon's 'red zone'. . . http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/10/post_32.html

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE FOLLOW-UP ARTICLES TO "OUR DYING FORESTS"

Burning Wood to Save West's Trees

by Brandon Loomis, Friday, October 14, 2011

Beaver • Putting wood chips to work could be the West's best hope at saving its forests. . . .



<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/52537370-78/biomass-chips-energy-forests.html.csp>

Experts: Fire up Incentives for Utah Forest Energy

by Brandon Loomis, Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Logan • Utah's woods are loaded with energy potential that land managers want to tap to create an economic incentive for thinning sick forests. Trouble is, woody biomass comes up a loser in federal tax and energy policy. . . .

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/52738303-90/utah-wood-forests-biomass.html.csp>

UPCOMING 2012 MEETINGS AND EVENTS (more will be posted on our website as these meetings develop)

February 1 - From Forest to Market: Potential Roles of Biomass Energy and Wood Products in Supporting Forest Restoration - Boise, Idaho

February 16 - Idaho Forestry Day at the Legislature, Boise, Idaho

April 27-28 - Intermountain Society Annual Meeting - Logan, Utah

June 7-8 - Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership - Ely, Nevada

September 19-20 - Southern Utah Biomass Days - Beaver, Utah

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 am - Snake River Chapter meets in Boise at Elmer's Restaurant

October 8-12, 2014 - SAF National Convention - this event is currently being planned to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah and to be jointly hosted by IMSAF and IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations, <http://www.iufro.org/>).



USU SAF Student Chapter created this mural of the historic "Doc's Cabin" for Home Coming Week's street painting activity. The cabin is located on USU's Experimental Forest east of Logan.