

## 2004 National Convention

Canadian Institute of  
Forestry/Institut forestier du  
Canada (CIF/IFC) Conference  
and the Society of American  
Foresters (SAF) 2004 Annual  
Convention

October 2-6, 2004  
Shaw Conference Centre  
Edmonton Alberta Canada

## Newsletter

# Intermountain Society of American Foresters

Winter 2003 / 2004



Edited by Doug Page

The below is the current line up for 2004 Intermountain SAF officers. Several key positions are still vacant and in need of volunteers. Please contact any of the Chairs or Chair Elects if you wish to volunteer.

### Intermountain Society Officers for 2004

Chair: Rod Brevig  
Chair Elect: vacant  
Past Chair: Chuck Slaughter  
Policy Chair: Bob Maynard  
Secretary Treasurer: John Roberts  
CFE Contact: Fred Baker  
Meetings / Program Chair: vacant  
Awards Chair: Rod Brevig  
Science Chair: James N. Long  
Media Relations Project Coordinator: Rod Brevig  
Communications Chair / Web Manager: Doug Page  
Newsletter Editor: vacant

### Snake River Chapter Officers for 2004

Chair: Walt Rogers  
Secretary-Treasurer: Steve Patterson  
Policy Chair: Bob Maynard  
Education Chair: John Roberts  
Program Chair: Dennis Mengel  
Membership Chair: Rod Brevig

### Nevada Chapter Officers for 2004

Chair: Roland Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer: Norman H. Ritter

### Utah Chapter Officers for 2004

Chair: Mike Kuhns  
Past Chair: Mark Brunson  
Chair Elect: John Shaw  
Secretary-Treasurer/ Membership Chair: Darren McAvoy  
Science / Technology Chair: Terry Sharik

### Utah State University Student Officers for 2004

None listed

### University of Nevada - Reno Student Officers for 2004

None listed

### SAF HONORS NATION'S BEST FIELD FORESTERS

Snake River Chapter Member Steve Patterson Receives Award



The Society of American Foresters (SAF) has recognized 11 foresters with its Presidential Field Forester Awards. Initiated by SAF past-president Fred Ebel, the awards recognize foresters who have displayed uncommon talent and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management. "Forester practitioners are the true foundation of our profession," says Ebel. "They often operate in complete anonymity, yet their actions are the single most important contribution to the viability and understanding of our profession. This is where forestry truly happens and it is important that we recognize those who perform the art and science of forestry each and every day."

Given the regional differences in forestry, the award recipients are selected from each of the 11 SAF voting districts. This year's recipient from Region IV (inclusive of Intermountain SAF) was Stephen E. Patterson of McCall, Idaho, forest silviculturist for the Payette National Forest. The awards were presented at the 2003 SAF National Convention in October in Buffalo, New York.

For more information about the award winners, visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm>.

**COUNCIL NOTES, JULY 2003**

Submitted by Marlin Johnson, District IV Council Member

Since I last wrote, Council has been busy with several issues. Of course you've already heard, but Council selected Michael Goergen as SAF's new Executive VP replacing Bill Banzahf. We have commented on new Forest Service planning rules, the National Fire Plan funding, proposals for Categorical Exclusions for small timber sales, and provided Testimony on Capitol Hill regarding forest health.

Individually and as a Council as a whole, we are concentrating on getting the 2003 Strategic Plan implemented at the State Society and Chapter level. If you have not by now seen the Plan, look it up on the SAF web site or ask one of your officers for a copy. Later this year I will be asking your leadership for a synopsis of what you have accomplished in each of the outcomes in the Strategic Plan. There is also an approved Strategic Plan for 2004, so I encourage all of you, but especially you Chair-Elects and Committee Chairs, to become familiar with it and start incorporating it into your plans for 2004.

At the June Council meeting we affirmed recommendations of the Professional Recognition Committee for recipients of most of the national awards. You will soon be seeing those names, perhaps at the Buffalo Convention if you can make it there.

Council also:

Discussed Competitive Sourcing in the Federal Government without reaching a conclusion on what SAF's position should be.

This will come up again at a future meeting.

Approved a new Accreditation Handbook.

Made plans to fund the 2004 Leadership Academy.

Agreed to have a 2004 issue of the Journal of Forestry dealing with old-growth.

Established a committee with the objective of maintaining contact with the Renewable Natural Resource Center regarding development of joint property interests at Wild Acres.

Council has discussed membership issues and is making efforts to retain current members and recruit new ones. It would be great if each of you could go out and recruit just one new member! We want to be "A Vital, Diverse Membership" (Strategic Outcome #1) and retaining and recruiting members is a part each member needs to do, not just Council.

As always I like to hear from you about what SAF needs to be doing. You can contact me via e-mail at [Forester1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Forester1@worldnet.att.net)

**NEWS FROM THE UTAH CHAPTER**

Submitted by Mark Brunson, Department of Environment & Society, Utah State University

Members of the Utah chapter will have noticed that we haven't been very active the past 12 months. There are lots of reasons why, including scheduling difficulties, communications breakdowns, loss of officers, and just plain having too many things on our plates. Nonetheless, SAF is too important an organization in our part of the country not to keep active, so I wanted to update you on where things stand, and what we hope to accomplish yet this year.

First of all, we have a different set of officers than the last time we met at Bear Lake. At that meeting, the Intermountain SAF voted to change the length of terms of office from one year to two. Therefore I'm serving a second year as Chair. If you don't know me, my work focuses on the human dimension of forest and range management, especially understanding how the public views natural resources and why. I've been an SAF member since 1989, and came to Utah in 1992.

Our Chair-Elect is Mike Kuhns, professor and forestry Extension specialist in the Department of Forest, Range, and Wildlife Sciences at Utah State. Mike also arrived in Cache Valley in 1992, and he's been an officer of both the Wasatch Front and Great Plains chapters.

Darren McAvoy has taken over as our Secretary/Treasurer. Darren directs the Forest Landowner Education Program, part of USU Extension. He came to Utah State in the mid-1990s from Sandpoint, Idaho, where he had been working as a forestry consultant, and completed a Master's degree in journalism and video production before signing on with the landowner education program.

Astute readers will notice that all three of our current officers work at Utah State University. (At least we each live in a different Cache Valley community.) If this concentration of leadership in one geographic area bothers you ... it should. And there's an excellent remedy to the problem: Simply volunteer to fill a position!

If anyone has meeting ideas or would like to present a program, please contact me (435-797-2458, [Mark.Brunson@usu.edu](mailto:Mark.Brunson@usu.edu)) or Mike (435-797-4056, [Mike.Kuhns@usu.edu](mailto:Mike.Kuhns@usu.edu)). Your thoughts will be greatly appreciated.

**INSECT & DISEASE CONDITIONS IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

Submitted by Steve Munson, Entomologist, USDA-Forest Service, Ogden, Utah

As we enter our 5<sup>th</sup> year of drought, insect activity has not only increased in the Intermountain west but throughout all of our western states. Several species of bark beetles have caused significant mortality affecting several host species including lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce and pinyon pine. Populations of mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, spruce beetle and pinyon ips have continued to spread affecting large landscapes throughout the Region.

Spruce beetle populations remain at outbreak levels in central and southern Utah. Over 50 percent of the mature spruce trees have been lost (225,000 acres) due to spruce beetle in Utah. In western Wyoming, a spruce beetle outbreak continues to spread from the Shoshone National Forest and is now in portions of Yellowstone National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. In 2002, spruce beetle mortality occurred on nearly 29,000 acres in the Intermountain Region affecting approximately 136,000 trees.

Lodgepole, limber, whitebark, ponderosa and western white pine mortality has increased as a result of mountain pine beetle attacks. Of the areas sketch mapped by aerial observers, over 1,217,000 trees were killed on approximately 127,400 acres.



However, both figures are underestimates due to the extreme fire season, which limited access to many of the affected sites. The largest outbreak is in southern Idaho affecting the Sawtooth National Recreation area and the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Another outbreak in northern Utah continues to spread along the Mirror Lake Highway corridor on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains on the Ashley National Forest.

Most of the Douglas-fir beetle caused mortality is occurring in southeastern Idaho affecting 9,700 acres on the Targhee National Forest and in western Wyoming where 3,700 acres of Douglas-fir mortality occurred on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.



The largest outbreak of pinyon ips ever recorded is affecting pinyon pine in many of our western states including Nevada, Utah, Colorado, California, New Mexico and Arizona. Some counties in the affected states estimate that over 25-30% of their pinyon component has died as a result of the infestation. Population increases are driven by the extended drought and overstocked sites.



Other bark beetle populations that have increased include Jeffrey pine beetle in western Nevada on Jeffrey pine, fir engraver beetle in Idaho and Utah affecting primarily white and grand fir, and western pine beetle in southern Idaho affecting ponderosa pine.

Although Douglas-fir tussock moth defoliation has decreased in the Intermountain Region, western spruce budworm populations have increased particularly in southern Idaho on the Targhee and Boise National Forests.

White pine blister rust, an introduced disease, continues to expand its range. The disease has recently been discovered in eastern Nevada affecting limber pine. Unfortunately this disease

will also affect bristlecone pine, Nevada's state tree which in research studies is very susceptible to this pathogen.

Most of the increase in bark beetle activity is due to two factors, the prolonged drought and susceptible landscapes of preferred host trees. If the prolonged drought continues, we expect bark beetle activity to increase. If drought conditions improve and we return to normal or above normal levels of moisture, some bark beetle populations will decline. However, susceptible landscapes still remain and outbreaks of various species of bark beetles will continue throughout the Intermountain Region.

**UTAH FOREST HEALTH ISSUES FIELD TOUR**

Submitted by A. Joel Frandsen, State Forester, Utah

On July 10-11, 2003, staff members from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands conducted a field tour of Utah's forest health issues for the Division's Advisory Council, Congressional staff members, local legislators and community leaders, and members of the media. The tour came only a few weeks following the release of the Division's report, "Forest Health in Utah," and was intended to build on the current public interest in forest health issues stemming from the President's Healthy Forests Initiative and the Western Governors' Association's recent Forest Health Summit.



Tour participants get a panoramic view of the spruce beetle epidemic.

The tour focused on the vicinity of Cedar Mountain in Southern Utah, which suffers from several forest health issues such as drought, overstocked trees, aspen decline, extreme wildfire hazard, and insects and disease -- especially spruce beetle infestation. Guests were introduced to the biology of the spruce beetle, the conditions leading to the infestation, and the far-reaching effects of the devastation, including wildfire hazard and harm to the rural economy. The Division folks called it the "Shock and Awe" tour.



Forest Health Coordinator Colleen Keyes presents an up-close lesson on spruce beetle biology.



Mitigation work on federal lands has been encumbered by the efforts of some environmental groups. As a result, spruce beetles have ravaged thousands of acres of spruce trees in this area, as well as along the Wasatch Plateau. The spruce beetle has caused around 49% mortality of spruce trees statewide, but in south-central Utah, certain areas have experienced 80-90% mortality of the spruce component. Private forest landowners are attempting mitigation of the spruce beetle and other problems through timber sales, mechanical and chemical treatments.

Response to the issues presented in the tour was favorable. Participants found the tour extremely informative, and departed with a new understanding of the serious issues confronting forest health in Utah. They urged us to continue our efforts in bringing these issues to the attention of lawmakers and the general public.

### RED TREE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

Submitted by Karl Fuelling, Forest Silviculturist, Sawtooth National Forest

The Red Tree Project is on the Sawtooth National Forest, Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). The SNRA is currently experiencing a bark beetle epidemic, with an estimated 845,000 trees killed by mountain pine beetle in 2002. A need to treat the fuels around the wildland/urban interface was identified in the fall of 2001 and analysis on the project began in January 2002. A Decision Notice was signed in June 2003. The project is designed to treat 2465 acres in the Sawtooth Valley, stretching from the Crooked Creek area approx. 4 miles west of Stanley to Smiley Creek, approx. 25 miles south of Stanley. Treatments will be around private lands, FS campgrounds and administrative sites, and summer home sites. Treatments include thinning, group selection, clearcuts, and pruning in lodgepole pine stands and mowing in sagebrush flats.

Timber sales around Crooked Creek, Iron Creek, the Stanley Administrative site, and along the powerline near Redfish Lake are planned this fall. Sales will be composed of posts, poles and sawtimber. Sagebrush mowing in the Smiley Creek area is also planned.

Next year additional timber sales in the Redfish Lake area, Pettit Lake, Valley View and Smiley Creek are planned, along with removing conifers encroaching into sagebrush flats.

### FORESTERS AND BIOLOGISTS DISCUSS LYNX MANAGEMENT ON THE CARIBOU-TARGHEE NF

Submitted by John Shaw, USDA Forest Service, Ogden, Utah

In early July, over 30 foresters, wildlife biologists, and ecologists from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other organizations met in Island Park, Idaho to discuss forest management options in areas considered to be Canada lynx habitat. The workshop included two days of field tours, and pre- and post-tour presentation and discussion sessions led by biologists Larry Dickerson, from the Chubbock, Idaho office of USFWS, and Mark Orme, from the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF).

The lynx was listed as a threatened species in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. The Island Park area is one of several areas where George, a radio-collared lynx, is known to have visited regularly in recent years. Lodgepole pine

forests in the vicinity include a large percentage of young stands, due to harvesting from the early 1960s through early 1990s and the 1988 Yellowstone fires. Young, dense stands of lodgepole pine provide ideal habitat for snowshoe hares, which are the primary prey of lynx.

Four main topics emerged during the workshop: mapping of Lynx Analysis Units, including vegetation types that constitute primary and secondary habitat; definition of suitable snowshoe hare habitat; definition of suitable lynx habitat; and the ability of the Island Park area to support resident or breeding lynx. Aspects of all four topics affect potential forest management activities, such as precommercial and commercial thinning, and regeneration harvests. Since the listing of the lynx as a threatened species, interagency management guidelines have prohibited precommercial thinning in stands that are, or will potentially be, suitable habitat for snowshoe hares.



This young lodgepole pine stand is just entering its prime as snowshoe hare habitat, and is a good candidate for precommercial thinning before lower limbs self-prune.

The mapping issue primarily concerned decisions about which vegetation types have the potential to support lynx and their prey. There was debate among the group about the relative value of drier forest types, such as some Douglas-fir types and lodgepole pine stands that are effectively climax types on volcanic soils. The group also discussed approaches to achieve consistent mapping of vegetation types across the Yellowstone National Park – CTNF boundary.

Field trip stops included several stands that represented a range of quality as snowshoe hare habitat. Dr. Kevin McKelvey, Greg McDaniel, and Dr. John Shaw, from the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, and Dr. Karen Hodges, from the University of Montana, discussed results of their research in stands used by snowshoe hares. Hares prefer very dense conditions, but must abandon stands to avoid predators if the trees are short enough to be completely, or almost completely, covered by mid-winter snow pack. Stands must be of sufficient density and extend 3 or



more feet above the maximum snow level to provide suitable habitat through the winter. Past and ongoing research is helping to define the ranges of stand density and height that define the window during which young stands provide the best habitat conditions. Suitable lynx habitat includes a much wider range of conditions, because different stand structures provide value as denning habitat, travel cover, or habitat for alternate prey, such as squirrels.

The group appeared to share the opinion that more science is needed to determine if the Island Park area and other parts of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem provide the kind of habitat necessary for lynx to thrive there. There are historical records of lynx in the area, including old George, but no one knows for sure if these secretive cats were making a good living or had dispersed to the area from better habitat from farther north.

The workshop concluded with the creation of a list of tasks and research needs that would help answer many of the questions that were brought up during two days in the field. The large and diverse group of professionals present at the workshop worked hard to develop a plan of action that will promote good forest management and provide habitat for the Canada lynx well into the future.

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#### TOP TEN FORESTRY ADVANCES

Source: SAF's website, <http://www.safnet.org>

One-third of the United States is covered with forests. How have they been doing over the past century? The country has more trees now than it did in 1920 on approximately the same amount of forestland. It also has the largest legally protected wilderness system in the world, while at the same time sustaining a highly productive and efficient wood products industry. The Society of American Foresters, the national scientific and educational organization of the forestry profession, has compiled a "top ten" list of forestry-related advances in the United States over the past century.

**Reforestation.** Until the 1920s, forests were generally logged and abandoned. Now, across the country an average of 1.7 billion seedlings are planted annually. That translates into 6 seedlings planted for every tree harvested. In addition, billions of additional seedlings are regenerated naturally.

**Fire protection.** At the turn of the century, wildfires annually burned across 20 to 50 million acres of the country each year, with devastating loss of life and property. Through education, prevention, and control, that amount has been reduced to about 2 to 5 million acres a year - a reduction of 90% - while fire's contributions to forest health have also been studied and better understood.

**Affordable products and reduction in waste.** Today, advanced technology allows us to use every part of the tree for products. In addition to lumber and paper coming from the trunk of the tree, bark, resins, cellulose, scraps, and even sawdust are turned into products that range from camera cases to medicines to rugs.

**The return of wildlife.** Species such as whitetail deer, wild turkeys, and wood ducks were almost extinct at the turn of the century. Wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement has resulted in flourishing populations of these and other species we now take almost for granted. Now, foresters are working with

other professionals to improve habitats and ensure survival of other wildlife species.

**Wilderness protection.** America's first wilderness areas were established by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1920s. Forty years later, the Wilderness Act of 1964 gave legal protection to 9 million acres of wilderness. There are now 95 million acres in the wilderness system, and 149 million more acres of land in parks, wildlife refuges, and other special, set-aside places. No other country in the world comes close to this amount of legally designated set-aside land.

**Urban forestry.** Municipal ordinances, civic participation, and the growth of urban forestry have resulted in the planting and maintenance of millions of trees in our country's cities and towns, enhancing quality of life while saving energy costs and usage.

**Research.** Decisions made about U.S. forests a century ago were based on what worked in Europe. Since then, forest scientists in the United States have conducted research to control insect and disease, improve growth rates, enhance soil and water conditions, and to understand other variables that have made our forests among the most productive, sustainable, and healthy in the world.

**Satellite imagery and other technology.** Through such technology as satellite imagery, foresters can monitor the health of the forest, target management activities, map fire outbreak, and identify wildlife and fish habitat for protection.

**Recreation.** An increasing population, the prevalence of the automobile and more leisure time have combined to increase demands for places to go for all types of recreation in a forest - hiking, birding, off-road vehicle riding, and much more. Visitor days (1 person for 12 hours) to federal sites alone totaled 600 million in 1989.

**Professional education.** A century ago, there were no professional forestry schools in the United States. Now, the Society of American Foresters accredits 101 programs of study at 48 universities to offer specialized forestry education to their students. In addition, 26 programs of study at 25 institutions are recognized by SAF to offer two-year associates' degrees. Biology, math, computer science, communications, ethics, and other courses prepare students to deal with the art and science of caring for the forest.

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#### USDA PARTNERS WITH FORESTERS TO ASSIST FOREST LANDOWNERS

The US Department of Agriculture announced today a cooperative partnership with the Society of American Foresters that will increase options available to landowners seeking forestry assistance.

USDA and SAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that officially recognizes that a person who is a Certified Forester according to the standards set by SAF also meets the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) competency standards for providing assistance in the areas of forestry and agroforestry. The agreement recognizes that SAF can recommend CF's to USDA for consideration as Technical Service



Providers as required in the 2002 Farm Bill's conservation programs.

"Although this agreement solidifies a mutually beneficial relationship between NRCS and SAF, the agreement benefits landowners most of all," says Michael T. Goergen Jr., SAF's executive vice-president and CEO. "This agreement will allow the Society's Certified Foresters to be more efficiently recognized for NRCS certification as Technical Service Providers so they can deliver timely and expert forestry advice and recommendations to private landowners and others."

The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the availability of technical assistance to private landowners by encouraging the use of third parties--called Technical Service Providers (TSP)--to assist the USDA in delivering conservation technical assistance services to farmers, ranchers, and others. Landowners may use either NRCS employees or an outside party who is certified as a TSP for help in developing and implementing conservation practices. If they choose to use a TSP, NRCS will reimburse the landowner for some or all of the costs of the TSP's services, provided the landowner and TSP follow guidelines outlined by NRCS.

The MOU does not exclude SAF members who are not CF's from providing technical services. However, having the CF credential will move CF's more efficiently through the TSP certification process.

The signing ceremony was held at the USDA's Washington office on July 17. In addition to Goergen, signatories of the MOU will be Mark Rey, USDA under secretary of natural resources and environment, and Jessica Strother, a member of the SAF Certification Review Board, which has oversight for the Certified Forester program.

**SAF CODE OF ETHICS**

**Preamble**

Service to society is the cornerstone of any profession. The profession of forestry serves society by fostering stewardship of the world's forests. Because forests provide valuable resources and perform critical ecological functions, they are vital to the wellbeing of both society and the biosphere.

Members of the Society of American Foresters have a deep and enduring love for the land, and are inspired by the profession's historic traditions, such as Gifford Pinchot's utilitarianism and Aldo Leopold's ecological conscience. In their various roles as practitioners, teachers, researchers, advisers, and administrators, foresters seek to sustain and protect a variety of forest uses and attributes, such as aesthetic values, air and water quality, biodiversity, recreation, timber production, and wildlife habitat.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives. Compliance with the code demonstrates members' respect for the land and their commitment to the long-term management of ecosystems, and ensures just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

On joining the Society of American Foresters, members assume a special responsibility to the profession and to society by promising to uphold and abide by the following:

**Principles and Pledges**

Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.

Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.

Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.

Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.

Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.

Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.

**Note From the Editor**

Thanks to all who submitted information for this newsletter. I apologize for the delay. I had a family emergency that necessitated three weeks of my time this summer, and between that and trying to catch up on my regular work. . . .

**-doug-**

