



Sky Islands Forester

Newsletter of the Southwest Section

Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

September 3, 2007

NAU Student**New Mexico** Northern Arizona** Palo Verde**Southern Arizona** NMHU Student ** Chapters



...from the Chair

*David Borland
Southwest Section Chair*

It is the Dog Days of Summer, as I was sitting under a large (>24-in) piñon pine, I reflected on how lucky it is to be a Forester and how cool it is to be outside under the shade.

I just received my Journal of Forestry, July/August 2007, and want to thank our Executive Vice-President Michael Goergen Jr. on the summary of the article everyone should review: The State of American Forests, (online at: www.safnet.org/aboutforestry/StateOfAmericasForests.pdf). The summary reveals optimism and the role of natural resource professionals for the future. Also in the latest JoF, notice that on page 273 that the White Mountain Stewardship Contract (AZ) was mentioned by Dale Bosworth, former Chief of the USFS.

Membership is down for SWSAF at this time and I challenge our membership to recruit new members. I just recruited a new member who is working as a Forestry Intern for the BLM. Welcome Jack Moy to the NAU student chapter as he starts at NAU this fall as a junior.

The Section needs Forest Policy Committee members to assist John Hinz, our current Policy Committee Chair, especially in New Mexico. Please contact me or your Chapter chair if you are interested in this very important committee.

Special recognition goes to Molly Pitts, our Secretary/Treasurer for SWSAF. Molly has been involved with not only SAF but also the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association, Southwest Sustainable Forest Partnership, and The (AZ) Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council, not to mention raising two sons

and taking care of her husband Jim, who is also a Forester.

Special recognition also goes out to the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute and two SAF members: Ken Smith, Director, and Kent Reid, Forester.

I would especially want to thank Craig Wilcox for his dedication and excellent production of our SWSAF newsletter, *Sky Islands Forester*. My special thanks also to New Mexico State Forestry as a whole since several employees are SAF members and have been quite active.

Elections for Chair-Elect for SWSAF will be conducted this fall. Have you thought about serving? I encourage you to step up and run for office, a truly gratifying way to serve your profession and our society. Even if you choose not to run, there are other ways to serve. See the Organization page on the SWSAF website for a list of communities.

Upcoming Events:

AMPF-SWSAF Please consider going on this trip, Just ask John Baumberger (jbaum@signalpeak.net) the importance! XXI Reunion AMPF/SWSAF travel to El Paso 10/2, return to El Paso 10/7; travel in country from Chihuahua to Parral.

Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership (co-sponsored by New Mexico Chapter), Inn of the Mountain Gods, Ruidoso, NM. November 5-7, 2007. Smallwood Entrepreneurial Conference: Southwest Woodland Species Management and Opportunities (contact Carmen Austin at: CarmelitaM.Austin@state.nm.us or Molly Pitts at: mollypitts@nawpa.org)

National Convention - Portland, October 29-30, Chair-elect Mike Williams and I will be representing you at the House of Society delegates meeting.
<http://www.safconvention.org/natcon-07/>

National Convention 2010 – Albuquerque, last held here in 1996. There has been a request from the National SAF and Council for SWSAF to host the 2010 national convention in Albuquerque!!! I, as Chair, and Mike Williams, Chair-elect, sent a response to the Executive Vice-President on the pros and cons of hosting this monumental task which would provide a huge opportunity for SWSAF.

Meeting in Tucson with Association of Fire Ecology <http://www.humboldt.edu/swfire/overview.html> The Executive Committee (SWSAF) will vote on co-sponsoring event. Please send in your comments if you would like SAF to be a co-sponsor and also hold a SWSAF meeting in conjunction with this meeting.

Please consider and nominate a fellow Forester for the awards we have established for SWSAF. Contact your Chapter Chair, Al Hendricks, Mary Stuever or myself.

Finally, what tree is always unhappy? The Blue Spruce! As always, I welcome your questions and comments. Call or send me an email at (505) 438-7523 or david_borland@nm.blm.gov.

Council Report, August 2007

Lyle Laverty, District IV Council Representative

Highlights from June 2007 SAF Council Meeting

SAF Council met June 9-10 at the National Office in Bethesda. The agenda included a number of topics that may be of interest to our district members. I have summarized them below, but if you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-490-6878 or contact me at coloradoparks@aol.com.

Convention, October 23-27, 2007, in Portland, Oregon: The program and activities are lining up to be of importance to ALL SAF members. Plan to attend to network with colleagues from all over the country, learn new things, and become more engaged in the practice and science of forestry. I look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to make plans to attend this year's convention.

Electronic Elections: The national elections this year will use electronic balloting. For those members without e-mail addresses, paper ballots will be mailed. Michael Goergen assured council that there is complete security with voting on-line and members will vote on both national candidates and council representatives (as scheduled). If divisions, states, or chapters want to utilize electronic voting, notify the national office. There will be a small charge. Please notify Amy Ziadi at ziadia@safnet.org with your current e-mail address if needed.

Insurance: The insurance agent for SAF presented the requirements for insurance for SAF activities that are not

covered in the SAF blanket policy. Executive committees at all levels need to get the information from Marianne Hughes at the national office at 866-897-8720. In summary, any meetings that include field trips and/or non-members, serve liquor, go off-site for a portion of the meeting, include group transportation (buses, vans) or other activities of risk are likely to require a separate policy. Please get more information from Marianne. SAF will prepare additional information and a Q&A document.

Membership: Council has discussed membership, office holding, and voting rights for more than a year. At the June meeting, council considered recommending constitutional changes including:

- To retain five existing membership categories: Professional Member, Conditional Professional, Technician, Associate, and Student and establish a subscriber option outside of membership.
- All members would vote in national elections and others that apply.
- International members would be part of the five categories as appropriate.
- Fellows and honorary members would be recognition within the categories as appropriate.
- No change in requirements to hold offices.

Council has yet to decide when the constitutional changes will be presented to the membership for a vote.

Student Representation: Last year, council voted to change the student representation in SAF governance. Council added a student representative, and established a Student Executive Committee with student representatives from each district, one of which will be the council representative and a chair of the National Student Congress (NSC) of all student chapter chairs. The first meeting of the NSC will be held at the convention in October. Council also retained the National Student Assembly.

Global Climate Change: SAF will consider a position on global climate change and forests. This is an important policy effort and a task force has been established to make recommendations. Past President John Helms and Michael Goergen testified at Senate and House committee hearings recently. See the SAF website (http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatement_s.cfm) to read the testimony. SAF is recognized as a leader in this discussion/debate.

Center for Diversity: Council voted to approve SAF participation and leadership of a center to organize workforce diversity efforts, involving SAF, forestry employers, and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP). This center will seek outside funding for its programs: recruitment and education, professional education, and professional retention.

Leadership Academy Steering Committee: Council voted to establish a new Leadership Academy Steering

Committee to analyze and make recommendations about the academy. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let me know.

Specialized Accreditation of Urban Forestry Programs: Council approved the standards for the accreditation of urban forestry programs, and additional representation categories to the accreditation committee. Terry Clark has more information and can be contacted via e-mail at clarkt@safnet.org or by calling 301-897-9720, ext. 123.

2010 National Convention: The Council approved the recommendation from staff to select Albuquerque as the site for the 2010 Convention.

If you have any comments or concerns, please give me a call. My direct work number is 303-866-3173. You can email any comments, questions or suggestions to me at coloradoparks@aol.com

Lyle Laverty
District 4 Council Representative

Membership

The Membership-guy Attends His Calendar – Part II *Denver Hospodarsky, Membership Chair*

In the Spring newsletter, I talked about what we all need to do to retain our current members, especially those who may have let their membership lapse as the June 30 membership renewal deadline approached. Well, the membership purge date is now past and the Section is still short of its membership goal for the year, with only four months to recruit about 40 members. I know we can meet our goal for this year, just as we did last year, if we all work toward recruitment of these future members of our professional Society.

I am confident we can reach our goal for several reasons. First, the two student chapters in our Section, New Mexico Highlands University and Northern Arizona University (NAU), have initiated new crops of forestry students and potential student members of the Society. The student chapter advisors at these schools will both be working hard to persuade new students of the benefits of membership. It is a rewarding but challenging task to convince students who often know little about forestry, let alone SAF, to plunk down their membership dues. Those that do often do so based purely on the trust they place in their faculty advisor to steer them right as they aspire to become a forester. This recruitment is only made easier by more senior students who have already recognized the benefits of membership.

Second, after a summer hiatus from membership duties in order to do field work, we are resuming our efforts in making membership presentations to national forest leadership teams in Arizona and New Mexico. We also

plan presentations to some BLM and state forestry leaders. Elysia Zarate, NAU Student Chapter president, and I made two presentations last Spring and will continue this Fall as arrangements can be confirmed. If your unit would like to be the recipient of this presentation, please contact me at the address below. Elysia and I will be glad to come talk with you and your group.

Finally, I am confident in the commitment and abilities of each of you to recruit a member into SAF. As I said last Spring, member-based recruitment is truly the most effective tool we have to meet our Section's membership goal. Who better than we members – all of us – to know of the many personal and professional benefits that membership provides; who better can speak of these from the heart and personal experience? Indeed, your personal testimony is the most powerful recruitment tool ever invented for the purpose. Please take the opportunity to use it during these next four months and RECRUIT A MEMBER.

denver.hospodarsky@nau.edu
928-527-8497

Passing of Friends and Foresters



John H. (Jack) Dieterich

John (Jack) H. Dieterich 1929- 2007. A native of Missouri, Jack was a Project leader for the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Station located on the Arizona State University Campus, Tempe. Instrumental in getting fire effect research implemented in the Southwest, his field of

expertise was interpreting information developed from research guidelines that could be used by state and federal land management agencies. Involved in many symposia on fire research in the U.S. and Mexico, he was a United Nations consultant in the Republic of Chile, the Philippines and the People's Republic of Mongolia. Jack retired from the Forest Service in 1983.

In 1997 he was elected to Fellow of the Society of America Foresters. He followed his professional career with volunteer commitment at Frank Elementary School in Guadalupe, AZ, as a reading mentor to first-grade students. Jack is survived by Mary, his wife of 59 years; a sister, Shirley Rowley, of Arvada, CO; and brother Herbert R. Dieterich of Laramie, WY.

A memorial celebration is planned for the weekend of September 23, 2007. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the John (Jack) Dieterich Fire Science Scholarship at Northern Arizona University School of

Forestry; PO Box 15018; Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5018.
Published in The Arizona Republic on 6/22/2007.

Joe Price

Contributed by Alan Kelso

Joe died peacefully last night in Albuquerque. He worked on the Cibola National Forest in Timber Management, then Forestry, from 1983 to 2004, with the final tour on the Sandia Ranger District. He continued to work in the state and private forestry arena in the East (Sandia) Mountains after retirement, always focused on helping people avoid losses from catastrophic fire. Prior to Sandia, Joe ran the timber program on the Mount Taylor District, Grants, NM. From 1981 to 1983, he preceded me as the Timber Reconnaissance Staff (Sale Prep) on the Hebo District, Suislaw National Forest, on the Oregon Coast. He earlier was the Resource Staff at Hebo, supervising Lands, Recreation, Volunteers, and four resource specialists in the large timber program.

Joe was a graduate of Duke University in Forestry about 1966. He was a Society of American Foresters member for 41 years. Joe's legacy is evident on the ground at Sandia. With help from many others, there was an active timber sale and fuelbreak program which provides a foundation for many years of work ahead. He recognized the potential of catastrophic damage to Albuquerque's mountain playground and worked to protect it through active management.

He also recognized the value of the aspen resource, which was declining rapidly. Now there are vigorous stands of aspen over 10 feet tall, a rare sight in the Southwest. When you look at the middle of the east side of the Sandias and see the bright green in the spring or the golden leaves in the fall, think of our departed friend who left his mark.

Online Election for Fall 2007

At the June Council meeting, Council changed the SAF bylaws to allow additional time for units to submit candidate information. Previously, the bylaws stated that the national ballot was to be mailed by September 1. That has been changed to October 1. Council did discuss a later date. However; there needs to be ample time for the Tellers Committee to audit the paper ballots and notify the candidates. New Council representatives and the incoming Vice-President are invited to the December Council meeting.

If the Sections and Chapters who wish to utilize this service need to submit local unit election information by September 4, possibly changing local election timelines, it may not be possible for some units. However, this will allow us to place all the information online and on one ballot.

The National SAF web provider has created a template that will list information about local candidates.

That format is as follows:

- Campaign Statement: (200-word limit)
- Current Professional Position
- SAF Activities
- Professional Accomplishments
- Community Activities

The format will allow a picture of the candidate and it is not required for each topic to have information. The complexity of regional and local structures prevents us from customizing the above items for each unit. The online system will also be able to handle membership referendum votes (e.g. bylaw changes). The following timeline has been established:

September 4 - Candidate information is due to the national office including the contact information for a local unit representative. Information can be sent to me at murgial@safnet.org

September 5-28 - Information is formatted and placed online.

October 1 - E-mails are sent to members for both national and local elections. Each member will receive a different URL which only works with that member's password and ID.

October 5 - The national office will send mailing labels to the unit representative. The labels will contain only those individuals that did not receive an electronic ballot. Each unit will send a paper ballot to these individuals.

November 5 - The online voting system closes and national paper ballots must be postmarked no later than November 5. Local units do not have to make paper ballots due November 5. Units may want to consider a later date for paper ballots since labels will be sent October 5.

November 6-8 - Online election results are e-mailed to unit representatives.

November 9 or 12 - National Tellers Committee audits paper ballots. The online votes will not be audited.

November 12-December 16 - Units will be invoiced for electronic voting.

This is a new process for everyone, and we may face a couple of bumps along the way. We'll learn from the bumps and refine the process for next year. Hopefully, in the coming years, we can get both the national and all local unit elections in sync. Remember, if the unit cannot meet the deadline, the unit can use the online voting system in the future. Please call with any questions.

Louise Murgia, CF, Director, Field Services, SAF, 866-897-8720 ext. 118 or murgial@safnet.org

Chapter News

New Mexico Chapter and NMHU Student Chapter

Chair, Kim Paul CF k.paul@state.nm.us

Student Chapter Chair, Marcy Torres

September 15: Ken Smith with the Forest and Woodland Restoration Institute will lead a tour of the Pritzlaff Ranch 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Lunch will be served.) People will get to see thinnings and prescribed burn results that were harvested under EQUIP and WUI cost-share programs. We will also show them stands that were marked using the Goshawk and ERI/restoration guidelines. We will also show attendees the new Collaborative Forest Restoration Program wildlife monitoring protocol that we use on pre-treatment inventories. Finally, we will host this in conjunction with the SAF NMHU student chapter at Highlands. The Pritzlaff Ranch is about six miles up Hwy 266; for specific directions and RSVPs, please contact Josie Lujan at 505-426-2080.

October 3-7: XXI Reunion AMPF/SWSAF travel to El Paso 10/2, return to El Paso 10/7; travel in country from Chihuahua to Parral.

November 5-7: Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership: Inn of the Mountain Gods, Ruidoso, NM. Smallwood Entrepreneurial Conference: Southwest Woodland Species Management and Opportunities, NM Chapter will help with registration.

December: Habitat for Humanity Day/Christmas Party

Southern Arizona Chapter

Chapter Chair, Martin Devere CF,

martin.devere@deverelimited.com

Thursday, September 13: Chapter meeting will be at the Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Road. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. Meeting should be finished around 1:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Martin Devere, VAYCOR Fiber LLC, who will present an overview of corporate activities to reclaim fiber from pulp sludge. The company is collaborating with pulp mills in five states.

November 15: Next scheduled chapter meeting, same time and place. If you have any questions contact Bob Magon, Secretary/Treasurer at 520-749-7715 or bmagon@fs.fed.us

Northern Arizona Chapter and Northern Arizona University Student Chapter

Chapter Chair, JJ Smith, jj.smith@nau.edu

Student Chapter Chair, Elysia Zarate

JJ Smith hosted the Summer Social/Back-to-School BBQ at his home west of Flagstaff on Saturday, August 11th. The approximately 25 people in attendance were hosted to a mouth-watering assortment of homemade Mexican dishes and *muchas cervezas* for those with an inclination to quench their thirst. A good time was had by all at this '07-'08 Kickoff Event...thanks to the thunderstorms keeping their distance! Regular monthly meetings for both Chapters will start up in September.

SWSAF Professional Recognition Program

Program Description

The SWSAF has developed a program to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions to the science, education, technology and/or practice of professional forestry. Contributions may have been local, regional, or national in scope and through one's employment, within the SAF, or through personal endeavors. Recipients within the forestry profession must have been actively involved in the SAF at the Chapter, Multi-state Society, or National levels.

These awards are intended to be presented annually unless no nomination is submitted. The efforts being recognized must have occurred during the most recent three (3) years and a portion of the noteworthy accomplishments having occurred within the preceding year.

Written nominations should be submitted to Chair of the Professional Recognition Committee by September 30. Final selection of award recipients will be done by the SWSAF Executive Committee and awards will be presented at the SWSAF Spring meeting.

Young Forester of the Year goes to an SAF member who has been a professional for less than 10 years and is less than 35 years of age. Though not yet a leader in the profession, the recipient should demonstrate considerable initiative, significant accomplishments, and active participation in the SAF. Achievements can be local, regional, or national in scope and through employment, SAF activities, or through personal endeavors.

Forester of the Year goes to an SAF member who has made substantial contributions to the advancement of professional forestry. Achievements must have been local, regional, or national in scope through employment, SAF, or through personal endeavors.

Outstanding Contribution to Forestry recognizes an SAF member who has made outstanding advances in education and research, or in the development of new concepts and policies for land management. Achievements must have been local, regional, or national in scope and through employment, SAF, or through personal endeavors.

Forest Manager of the Year goes to an SAF member in a management or supervisory position who displays strong support for and involvement in SAF. The recipient must have, through words and actions, encouraged others in his/her organization to become involved in SAF.

Outstanding Contribution to Forestry from Outside the Profession goes to an individual from outside the

forestry profession who has shown strong respect for conservation of forest resources, but is not a member of SAF. Achievements must have been local, regional, or national in scope and through one's employment or through personal endeavors. The efforts being recognized need not have been entirely within the preceding year, but must have occurred during the most recent three (3) years.

Field Forester of the Year goes to an SAF member who has made outstanding contributions to the forestry profession at the field level. Contributions shall have been involved with project development and implementation, and shall have directly resulted in improvements to the condition of forest resources. Achievements must have been local or regional in scope, through employment and/or through personal endeavors. The efforts being recognized need not have been entirely within the preceding year, but must have occurred during the most recent three (3) years.

Contact Professional Recognition Committee Chair Mary Stuever at sse@nmia.com.

Forest Insect & Disease News: 2007 - Year of the Defoliator

Dave Conklin **Southwest Bugs and Cruds (Volume 4)**

Believe it or not, last year I almost wrote a Bugs and Cruds piece entitled "2006: Year of the Defoliator." Fortunately, I came up with another idea for that article, because 2007 has turned out to be an even better year for defoliators (assuming you like defoliators) than 2006.

Last year saw a very impressive outbreak of Douglas fir tussock moth ("Tussie the Terrible") in Albuquerque's backyard, the Sandia Mountains. Heavy defoliation occurred in several hundred acres of mixed conifer, and was very noticeable along the popular Scenic Crest Highway. The last major outbreak of this insect in the Southwest occurred almost 30 years ago. The 2006 tussock moth outbreak (which was preceded by more limited activity in 2004 and 2005 on the west side of the Sandias) was the biggest, by far, since the late 1970s. Although activity appears to have decreased in the Sandias this year (and good tree recovery has been observed), a new tussock moth outbreak erupted on the Santa Clara Pueblo in northern New Mexico.

Loopers, which have been on the march in the Sacramento Mountains of southern New Mexico the past few years, expanded their domain again in 2007 (see last edition of "Bugs and Cruds"). The Village of Cloudcroft has been especially concerned with this situation, given that unsightly damage is literally at their doorstep. The Forest Service is gearing up for an aerial spray project (using BT, a bacterial agent specific to moths and butterflies) to "protect" the village and

surrounding National Forest. A late Fall application is planned to avoid harming the checker-spot butterfly, a sensitive species. Stay tuned.

Although our 2007 aerial surveys are still in progress, Dan Ryerson ("the Bird"), our chief aerial observer in New Mexico, has reported high levels of western spruce budworm ("Bad-Worm Bud") defoliation in many parts of the state.

As impressive as these insect outbreaks may be, the critter affecting the most total acreage in 2007 (and my nomination for the coveted "Defoliator of the Year" award) is a fungal disease. Piñon needle cast has discolored host trees throughout their range in the Sacramento Mountains, and throughout much of the Gila National Forest. Symptoms are typically expressed from the bottom of the crown upwards. Entire woodland landscapes had a straw-colored, "ghost-like" appearance this past Spring (often "peppered" with bright green junipers) in many portions of the Lincoln NF and Mescalero Apache Nation.

Piñon needle cast has also been found this year in scattered locations of central New Mexico, and as far north as Raton. Several fungal experts have been consulted to help us identify the particular species involved; so far we can say that it resembles the genus *Dothistroma*. A similar, although somewhat less severe, outbreak of piñon needle cast occurred in the Region in the early 1990s. Like most trees defoliated by insects, we expect that most piñons affected by this disease will recover. Although some trees may succumb within severely affected areas, homeowners should be advised to be patient: this is not piñon *lps*, despite the change of color!

Hardwoods, especially aspen, have also had their share of defoliation in 2007. A major player in this arena has been the nearly ubiquitous western tent caterpillar. Although aspens can tolerate a year or two of heavy defoliation, repeated years of damage become especially taxing to energy reserves. Adding insult to injury, fungal diseases often affect aspen foliage in the late summer. Although aspen is a relatively short-lived tree, we've been seeing elevated levels of mortality this year in northern New Mexico. Of course aspen decline and mortality – associated with both biotic and abiotic agents – has been well documented in Arizona the past few years, and in Colorado last year.

Although we're only a little more than mid-way through the year, it seems that 2007 may be hard to beat when it comes to needle and leaf munching, at least in the New Mexico side of the Region. Come to think of it, the entire new millennium has been quite a thrill, insect and disease-wise, starting with those spectacular pine bark beetle outbreaks. Will spruce beetle be the next big thing? A huge windthrow event recently occurred in the Sangre de Cristos, home of much of the Region's spruce-fir type. For the present, though, defoliators rule.

Forester's Log: Southwest Fire Fighters

© Mary Stuever, July 2007

It is approaching nine p.m. and I am tiptoeing through a tangle of fire gear strewn out along the Fire Management warehouse dock. Excited chatter surrounds me as Fort Apache Crews #11 and #12 repack their two-week packs and organize their field gear into day packs.

"I still need two more squad bosses." The speaker is Victoria Burnette, and she is the SWFF (pronounced "Swift") coordinator for the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

I mentally go through a list of fire leadership staff in our department. I already have employees in Oregon, Utah, Arizona, and these crews are heading for Nevada. I make a few more cell phone calls.

The Southwest Fire Fighters (SWFF) are the backbone of our firefighting operations in Arizona and New Mexico. Classified as "emergency" fire fighters, these folks only get paid when they are assigned to a fire incident. The 20-person "hand-line" crews are sponsored by a wildland firefighting agency such as a local Bureau of Indian Affairs office or Forest Service Ranger District.

Each crew consists of a crew representative, who handles the administrative aspects of keeping firefighters productively working on the fire line; a crew boss, who is in charge of the crew; three squad bosses, who each supervise five other firefighters; and 15 firefighters. Only six of these firefighters can be "rookies" who have not yet worked on fires actively burning. Among the more experienced firefighters, a few need to be cross-trained as sawyers.

Many rural communities throughout Arizona and New Mexico have organized SWFF crews, but the majority of the crews come from the area's reservations. On Fort Apache Reservation where sixty percent of Apache adults are unemployed, getting SWFF crews organized and dispatched to fires is an important and critical job. For many, the only income they will earn all year will come from this seasonal work.

Each spring prospective firefighters take physical fitness tests, medical exams, drug tests and training to ensure they qualify for the fire season. Their experience and training is logged in national databases, and anyone who does not meet set standards is not allowed to participate.

The warehouse manager is distributing gear, lunches, and making sure the crew boss has the right number of first aid kits and other essential crew gear. I talk to some other squad bosses and try to get leads on who else might be available. We send runners to see if we can find someone with the right qualifications. Since the crew

won't be going out until five a.m. the next day, someone who is taking a mandatory day-off might be eligible to join this group. Eventually we complete the manifest, a formal listing of the crew members.

I gather the crew and go over the mandatory safety briefing. I work through a list of behavioral dos and don'ts based on past experiences and common sense. The crew bosses will establish a strong regimen of discipline. Participating on a fire crew is similar to being on a short-term military assignment. I insure the firefighters understand the consequences of breaking the rules. Most serious infractions result in a lifelong ban from participating in the program, in addition to any legal implications.

More importantly I share a message the firefighters do not always hear. I remind the Apache crews that their people have a long tradition of understanding fire, a tradition that goes back before there were federal agencies and Meals-Ready-to-Eat. I tell the crews that, despite all of our attention to safety standards and guidelines, they do risk their lives. I point out that they are part of a long line of organized Apache crews who have traversed the country over the past five decades fighting fires. I am honored to have the opportunity to send them on their way.

The firefighters pack up and head home to catch a few hours sleep before the bus departs. As the warehouse dock empties out, I consult with the dispatchers, Victoria, and my notes. Tomorrow there will be another crew request, and we are already trying line up the next set of squad bosses.

The Forester's Log is a monthly column written by forester Mary Stuever. Mary can be contacted at sse@nmia.com.



Thousands of firefighters across the nation work on "emergency" firefighter hand crews. Many of the Southwest Fire Fighters (SWFF) crews come from area reservations. (Photo by Mack Nosie)

PJ Daugherty Testifies for SAF to Congress

Excerpts:

Historical practices have created vast areas of unhealthy forest ecosystems in the western United States. The overly dense conditions, exacerbated by drought, have increased bark beetle mortality and the size and frequency of stand-replacing crown fires. These interconnected symptoms warn society of the jeopardy of losing these forest ecosystems.

Although it has become increasingly apparent that an ounce of prevention activity is worth a pound of suppression funds, federal land-management agencies continue to allocate vastly more funds to suppression activities than to prefire hazard reduction. Without large-scale implementation of fire-hazard reduction treatments, the costs of uncharacteristic crown fires in western forests will continue to increase. In a study conducted with Ph.D. candidate, Gary Snider, and Dr. Brent Wood, we examined the economic rationality of continuing the policy of emphasizing fire suppression activities over restoration-based fire-hazard reduction treatments. We conducted an avoided-cost analysis to answer the question of how much can we invest in prevention to avoid the continued cost of large fire suppression and rehabilitation. We compared treatment plus fire suppression costs to the cost of fire suppression without treatments over 40 years for southwestern forests. This avoided-cost analysis estimates the amount one could invest in treatments to avoid future suppression costs for large fires. We only included the variable costs directly associated with large fire suppression; we assumed that fixed preparedness cost would continue. We assumed no increase in average number and size of large fires or in average per-acre fire suppression cost. We did not include losses and damages associated with structures, private land value, and other infrastructure associated with the wildland-urban interface in the avoided costs. We did not include changes in ecological and social values associated with restoration-based treatments. We essentially assumed that there is no difference between the value of a burned and restored forest. Using these very conservative economic values, we found that avoided future costs justifies spending \$238–\$601/acre for hazard reduction treatments in the southwest. We conclude that the policy of under funding hazard reduction treatments does not represent traditional economic behavior, because funding hazard reduction would pay for itself by lowering future fire suppression costs.

There are no risk-free management actions. Indeed, under present forest conditions, the no-action or go-slow alternative may very well be the most risky of all. Our results indicate that the ever-increasing ecological and economic costs resulting from high severity, ecosystem scale fires in the southwest far exceed the cost to society of proactive restoration-based thinning treatments. The current sociopolitical condition of continuing to spend dollars on fire suppression while

implementing limited treatment of high-risk forest areas represents an irrational ecological and economic decision. We no longer face the question of whether society will spend the money or not. We are going to pay, one way or another, unless we make the unlikely choice not to spend money trying to fight and contain unnatural crown fires. We now face the choice of how we are going to spend the money and what are we likely to obtain from that expenditure. If we invest in restoration-based hazardous fuel treatments, we invest in the future; we invest in healthy, sustainable ecosystems for our children and grandchildren. By not investing in restoration-based fuel treatments, we continue the depreciation of our forests, increasing the risk of radical shifts in their structure and function because of uncharacteristic crown fire. This lack of investment indicates that our nation lacks a clear vision and policies that promote the sustainable management of the nation's public and private forests as an integrated and high priority.

Given these choices, it makes a great deal of economic sense to conduct forest restoration on a large scale today to retain future ecological and economic values. Our analysis shows that the fire suppression costs that can be avoided in the future are sufficiently large by themselves to justify restoration-based fuel treatment expenditures today.

Recommendations

- Significantly increase the investment in active forest restoration and management to achieve healthy, sustainable ecosystems for our children and grandchildren.
- Increase active management on Federal forestlands in collaboration with state and private forest lands to promote sustainable forestry.
- Develop a national policy on sustainable forests to clarify and enhance the roles of federal, state, and local governments in relation to sustainable forests, promoting regional collaboration, joint planning and coordinated action.

Peter Daugherty joined the Oregon Department of Forestry as the Director of the Private Forests Program on January 1, 2007. Prior to joining ODF, Daugherty was an associate professor of Forest Management and Ecological Economics at Northern Arizona University (NAU), where he worked from 1991 through 2006.

Arizona Governor Releases Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests

Governor Janet Napolitano released the Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests, a comprehensive, 20-year plan to improve the health of

Arizona's forests, bolster the sustainable use of forest resources for economic development, and reduce fire danger in the state's forested areas. The new strategy is the product of nearly two years of work between the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council and Forest Health Oversight Council.

The state strategy addresses forest health in a comprehensive, statewide manner. The new report aims to move beyond the different divisions of land managers – federal, state and private – and focus Arizona's forests on a single statewide vision. The Statewide Strategy identifies the steps needed to increase the rate of forest restoration in Arizona, and presents localized areas of action for Arizona's diverse forest landscapes.

The 20-year vision outlines five key strategies to restore the state's forestlands, including:

- Increasing the human and financial resources dedicated to forest restoration and community protection
- Coordinating and implementing action at the "landscape scale"
- Increasing the efficiency of restoration, fire management and community protection activities
- Encouraging ecologically sustainable, forest-based economic activities
- Increasing public awareness of the need for forest health

The recommendations set action targets for federal, state and local governments, as well as private landowners.

The Governor also combined the Forest Health Advisory Council and Forest Health Oversight Council into a new, unified Forest Health Council. The new Forest Health Council will be charged with implementation of the Statewide Strategy and will continue to serve in an advisory role on forest health issues.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov

Meetings



REGISTER AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT SOUTHWEST TRADITION! AMPF-SWSAF XXI Reunion, Chihuahua, Mexico. Ecosystems of the Semi-Desert, October 3-7, 2007. Registration due by September 15 for a guaranteed spot.

Itinerary:

- 📅 **October 3** Meet in El Paso, Texas and travel to Ciudad Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. Overnight in Chihuahua. (Some participants may choose to travel to El Paso on October 2)
- 📅 **October 4** Travel to Parral with stops in Lázaro Cárdenas, Delicias and Salaiques. Overnight in Parral
- 📅 **October 5** Technical Session and Cultural Tour. Overnight in Parral.
- 📅 **October 6** Return to Chihuahua with a stop at a game ranch. Open afternoon for shopping, etc. Banquet and closing ceremonies. Overnight in Chihuahua.
- 📅 **October 7** Travel to El Paso, Texas and return home.

If you are interested in presenting a technical paper or poster, contact Dr. R. Kent Reid, technical session coordinator, at 505-426-2145 or rkreid@nmhu.edu.

All travelers will need a passport and visa. It will greatly speed up our entry into Mexico if you acquire a Mexican visa beforehand by visiting your 'local' Mexican Consulate. They are located in Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque and El Paso.

The travel coordinators are Bob Partido (505-898-7696) for NM and Duane Bennett (520-803-2838) for AZ; contact these individuals for assistance in planning your travel arrangements to El Paso. If you have questions or need more information, contact the AMPF-SWSAF Biennial Reunion Planning Committee: Chuck Hagerdon, at 505-287-8833 (work) or 505-287-2303 (home); or Bob Partido. The Call for Papers, a detailed itinerary, and registration forms can be found on the SWSAF website: <http://www2.for.nau.edu/swsaf/>

Society of American Foresters 2007 National Convention. SAF: Sustaining America's Forests. Portland, OR. October 23-27.

Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership Smallwood Entrepreneurial Conference: Southwest Woodland Species Management and Opportunities, November 5-7, 2007, Inn of the Mountain Gods, Ruidoso, NM. SWSAF Chapter will cosponsor and help with registration.

Association for Fire Ecology, Fire in the Southwest: Integrating Fire into Management of Changing Ecosystems January 28-31, 2008. Holiday Inn, Tucson Airport. Call for papers open until October 19, 2007. For information: www.humboldt.edu/swfire (The SWSAF is considering becoming a sponsor and having our Winter/Spring Section meeting there, so stay tuned!)

Fall 2010 National SAF Convention, Albuquerque. Yes, we have been asked by the National Office. This may be official soon. Let Dave know what you think!

The Sky Islands Forester is now primarily sent via the internet. Paper copies will be continued to be mailed to those members who prefer or who do not have email. Mailing and email addresses are provided by the National SAF Office and not maintained by the editor. Corrections to addresses can be done on the safnet.org website. Next edition is scheduled for December 2007. Chapter and committee reports will be greatly appreciated. **Southwest Section website can be found at: <http://www2.for.nau.edu/swsaf/>**

WANTED: *Foresters who are interested in writing a column on Southwestern forestry for the newsletter! Many possible topics: forest history, southwestern silviculture, ecology, fire, book reviews, forest policy and editorials.*

Thanks to Dave Borland, Dave Conklin, Denver Hospodarsky, Lyle Laverty, Mary Stuever, Alan Kelso, Louise Murgia, Mack Nosie, Kim Paul, Martin Devere, Diane Drobka and Al Hendricks for their contributions to this issue.

Send articles, letters, photos and announcements to:
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225 West 100 South
Pima, AZ 85543
or send e-mail to: sw4ester@yahoo.com



The AMPF/SWSAF XX Biennial Reunion in 2005 included a field trip to the Coronado National Forest. Join us in Chihuahua for our XXI Reunion!

**SKY ISLANDS FORESTER
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
c/o Craig Wilcox
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Pima, AZ 85543**

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