

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**FOREST RESOURCES**  
PROGRAMS

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

George Hopper



As a new year commences, I am optimistic about the course of our organization. With the passing of 2008 to 2009, NAUFRP welcomes new leadership. Hal Salwasser, our incoming president, has laid out innovative action items that will carry us forward to accomplish more together than we can ever achieve working alone. This indeed has been the hallmark of NAUFRP from the beginning. The results of what we achieved over the last year provide evidence of the same. This report, from our committee chairs, is submitted as an annual report for 2008 to summarize the year and set the course for the future.

The Washington Update newsletter from Randy Nuckolls has provided continuous information over the last year. This newsletter was initiated in 2007 and has proven to be a reliable source on current information on budget issues, especially McIntire-Stennis and RREA appropriations. Randy has also kept us abreast of the funds available for NRI. Recently, he sent us the most up-to-date information on the transition team that will be taking leadership in Washington under the new administration.

On March 4, the second Dean's on the Hill event was held with 28 deans from 24 states participating. We were extremely effective in delivering the NAUFRP requests for 2009 and articulating the national agenda for research and education as it applies to forest resources. The reception on the hill, co-hosted with the ECOP Forestry Task Force, was very well attended by congressional members, staff, and forestry leaders in both the public and private sector. Other activities in our nation's capitol included our full and active participation in shaping policy with the FARM Bill, Create 21, and the NASULGC Budget Advocacy Committee and the USDA - Forest Resource Advisory Committee.

Last year, a small grant's program internal to NAUFRP was created to help further advance our mission. The guidelines were developed and approved. Three projects were funded at the Reno meeting.

Our funding requests for 2009 were \$30 million for McIntire-Stennis, \$8 million for RREA, and \$257 million for NRI. In all cases, the funding lines set as priorities were increased. We are waiting on the final numbers for 2009, pending the outcome of the continuing resolution. Related to funding, we have strengthened our alliances with partner agencies. Our personal visits to the office of OMB were well received. The visits made to the senate and house appropriation staffs for agriculture and interior were also worthwhile. The extra efforts spent with the NRI staff, personal visits, and the continuing action plan that is reported within the annual report will pay dividends for forestry research in the future. We must stay the course on this effort with due diligence and resolve.

It has been an honor to serve as your president for the last two years. I appreciate your efforts as we advance forest resources together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Hopper". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

George Hopper, President

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Tim White

	Budget	Income	Expenses	Cash on hand
Carry over 2007		79,168		
NAUFRP 2008	117,603	128,900	116,563	
December 2008				91,500
Carry over 2008		91,500		
NAUFRP 2009	128,863			
Projected income		106,000		

NAUFRP's approved operating budget for 2008 was \$117,603. Cash carried forward from 2007 was \$79,168. Income in 2008 was \$128,900 from member dues, federal grants, interest and a contribution from NASULGC for the Congressional Reception held in March. In 2008, NAUFRP Received \$21,121 for reimbursable expenses from the CSREES grant held by the University of Vermont for McIntire-Stennis Strategic Planning and the USDA Forest Service Grant for Outlook Planning. All federal grants have now been closed. Actual 2008 expenses were \$116,563. Cash on hand that will be carried forward into Calendar Year 2009 is \$91,500.



*George Hopper received the NAUFRP President's Plaque from President-Elect Hal Salwassser at the Annual Meeting on November 5 in Reno, Nevada.*

*Oregon State University College of Forestry and the Extension Forestry Program is the winner of the 2008 Family Forests Education Award presented by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs and the National Woodland Owners Association.*





# RESEARCH REPORT

Mike Kelly



Activities during the past year on the part of the Research Chair focused in two areas. The first area of activity was the development of the McIntire-Stennis and RREA one page documents and talking points used by the Executive Committee members during their annual visit with members of Congress and their support staff. These same materials were also provided to the membership along with a letter template that could be adapted for submitting the materials to key members of the Congressional delegation of each state. These visits and letters did have a positive impact leading to an increase in the level of funding proposed by both the House and Senate for McIntire-Stennis. Unfortunately, this increase has been made uncertain by the fact that Congress has yet to pass an appropriations bill for most of the federal agencies. Hopefully a decision on the remaining spending bills will be made in early 2009 and the gains we have worked for will be realized. In any event, we have once again fended off another Administration proposal that would have negatively impacted the formula based approach to the allocation of McIntire-Stennis funds.

The second area of activity was a meeting with NRI national program leaders (NPLs). During the course of this meeting we learned that CSREES had just finished developing the RFAs for NRI for 2009. The NRI folks noted that they had changed the name of some cluster titles to include "forestry" and that some programs have also added "forests" in their title. They also told us that the RFAs for future years are developed approximately two years in advance of their release.

The NAUFRP delegation suggested a number of ways that NAUFRP could provide useful input to both the planning and execution of the NRI program. The suggestions were:

- The NAUFRP McIntire-Stennis plan could be used to help plan future RFAs for NRI. (The NRI leaders were aware of the NAUFRP McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan and thought it had received considerable attention within CSREES. They also suggested that the document was used to formulate some RFAs for 2009.)
- CSREES could solicit panelists/program reviewers by contacting the NAUFRP e-mail list or NAUFRP deans and directors.
- Forest resources could be set up as its own panel. (This was quickly dismissed by the NPLs with the rationale that this made "forestry funding" more vulnerable to the whims of future budgeting decisions, and that when imbedded with other topic areas its long-term survival was more certain.)
- The NRI system for reviewers could be inbred based on the system they use to develop panels. (They did not disagree; in fact one NPL mentioned he had a "short list" of reviewers, approximately 80 out of 50,000 on the list of reviewers that he went to most of the time).

The NAUFRP delegation pointed to the last two years of CSREES funding, which was approximately \$7-\$8 million per year for "forest-related" research out of the \$190 million NRI budget, even though the Senate appropriations bill language states 10 percent of the total should go to forestry. There was some discussion of this with the group, with one NPL noting that unless the appropriations bill provides an increase in funding, they do not pay any attention to "language".



Further observations arising from the conversation were:

- CSREES said that they have narrowed programs substantially to be able to show bang-for-buck to Congress. They also are going to fewer, larger funded programs to be more inclusive.
- We asked how CSREES can seek to ensure 10 percent of NRI goes to “forests” in a competitive program where presumably the best proposals get funded. They said that mainly what they do is make opportunities available through appropriate programs and through continuing communication. Nothing definitive.
- They made it very clear that the NPLs write/draft the RFAs. They take into account stakeholder input (such as our meeting with them), but then the NRI national program leaders write a first draft together. The process seems to be:
  - Each NPL solicits stakeholder input throughout the year,
  - Congress submits an annual report on areas of interest if there are new monies,
  - The Administration submits ideas in President’s Budget,
  - All NPLs meet and review/compare/draft RFAs in January each year,
  - First draft of RFAs goes to CSREES leadership with a list of stakeholders whose input was included, and
  - Revisions are made and RFAs are finalized.

Based on the above information, it appears that late November of each year is the best time for NAUFRP input. The following were identified as action items for which the National Research Chair should provide leadership with the goal of ensuring clear and effective stakeholder input:

- Orchestrate a coordinated effort each year to update and refine research recommendations taken from the McIntire-Stennis plan (this could mean working with our faculties and stakeholders and then collating/prioritizing).
- Boil information down to key points and associate these points with specific panels, programs, and RFAs.
- To encourage coordinated input, send NAUFRP priorities and key points to FRAC.
- Send multiple letters in November to NPLs with short key messages related to that NPL’s programs only and copy these to the appropriate deputy.
- Follow-up with phone calls to NPLs.
- Send another set of letters (timed to precede choice of NRI panelists and reviewers) to NPLs encouraging them to select NAUFRP faculty from our listserv, offering the help of deans/directors and re-iterating our key messages.
- Consider developing a standing list (updated each year) of faculty that are qualified and willing to serve on a panel. Rather than offer to help find panelists for the NPLs through our listserv (a process that could take a while for responses), we could simply supply them with a strong short list of “volunteers.” This would allow us to manage the list—keeping it up to date—with the ability to track whether scientists are being asked to serve.
- Follow-up each year with two team visits of 3-4 NAUFRP representatives with NPLs to reinforce our interest (late November and at the time of the Executive Committee meeting are suggested as appropriate times).
- Make it clear to faculty that service on federal review panels is valued and submission of proposals to NRI is important, despite past experiences. Also, that there is value in participating in CSREES Grantwriting Workshops.



# EDUCATION REPORT

Daniel E. Keathley

The Food Agriculture Education Information System (FAEIS) is once again conducting their annual survey of undergraduate and graduate student enrollments. It is important that every program is reporting and the data are being presented in a way that separates forestry majors from other broad natural resource programs. It is often hard to make this distinction in the data and that is a detriment to forestry education. Many universities are now reporting large numbers of students in colleges with which forestry and traditional agriculture programs are affiliated, but in truth the number of students in agriculture and forestry is just a small portion of what is reported, sometimes less than half. It is important that actual numbers of forestry students are visible in these data as we seek continued assistance from USDA for our educational programs.

To that end, we have received a grant of \$5,000 from CSREES to identify priority undergraduate education needs in forestry and will be holding a symposium to address this topic. The issues to be explored go beyond just examining the curriculum and will focus on how we attract the best and brightest students into forestry; new approaches to increasing the diversity in our programs; striking the proper balance between utilization, ecology, and environmental services; adding rigor to the coverage of the human dimensions of forest management; and seeking ways to integrate the programs across all areas of natural resources without becoming an inch deep and mile wide.

It is exciting to report the establishment of a National Needs Fellowship Program designed to address the technical expertise shortage areas that were identified by NAUFRP. This fellowship program is a collaborative effort between CSREES and the USDA Forest Service. A commitment has been made to fund this program for ten years at roughly \$500,000 per year. For FY 2008, three projects were funded (Oregon State, University of Montana, and North Carolina State University) with total funding of \$537,000. Please encourage your faculty to participate in this new program.





# EXTENSION REPORT

Joseph McNeel

## **Renewable Resources Extension Act Funding for FY 2009:**

The RREA allocation should remain the same as in previous years (around \$4 million), although with a continuing resolution in place, it is difficult to be sure. We've seen no change in funding level as proposed by both sides of Congress, so the consensus among political experts is that the 2009 RREA allocation will remain at or near the \$4 million mark. While there has been some success with gaining small increases in the RREA allocation in the last few years, the NAUFRP goal of an \$8 million allocation has not been achieved. NAUFRP and other natural resource-based educational associations will continue to lobby for greater funding of the RREA Program.

## **The Second National Focus Fund RFP Awards:**

The USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) has awarded \$297,000 to four land-grant university extension services to carry out new and innovative extension programs for landowners who own or manage forest and rangeland resources. The review team evaluated eight proposals representing efforts at 28 different universities. Award recipients included the following projects:

- University of Massachusetts - "FREMO: A Peer-to-Peer Networking Approach" - \$63,500
- University of Connecticut - "Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials: Continued and Enhanced Efforts to integrate the Forest Resource into NEMO Education Programs" - \$63,500
- University of Georgia - "Creation of a Forest-Based Bioenergy Community of Practice" - \$85,000
- Oregon State University - "eXtension Community of Practice: Rangeland Stewardship and Health" - \$85,000

These RREA National Focus Fund projects are designed to expand comprehensive extension programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources on a national, regional, or multi-institutional scale through better program coordination, innovative technologies, and extension models that can be easily replicated at other institutions. For more detail on these projects and the RREA National Focus Fund Program, contact Eric Norland at 202-401-5971 or by email at [ENORLAND@CSREES.USDA.GOV](mailto:ENORLAND@CSREES.USDA.GOV).

## **ECOP Invitational Roundtable on Working Forests and Rangelands:**

In 2001, the Extension Directors' Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) established the Forestry and Natural Resources Task Force to address forest and rangeland program funding issues at USDA CSREES. The task force was comprised of an Extension Director from each of the land grant university regions, leadership from the Forest Service – Cooperative Forestry, and university associations of academic leaders in forest and rangeland programs.



# EXTENSION REPORT (CONTINUED)

Joseph McNeel

The Task Force was charged with four objectives: 1) Reauthorization of the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills; 2) Increase funding for RREA; 3) Foster stronger working relationships with other Federal Agencies and national forestry and rangeland organizations; and 4) Explore and develop alternative funding sources in support of natural resources programs.

The Task Force was terminated as of December 31, 2008, having achieved some of the objectives. Throughout the life of the Task Force, the members clearly understood and endorsed the fact that the nation's forest and rangeland resources were at risk and that no single agency or organization was equipped with the necessary resources to fully address the issues and make progress toward their solutions. This principle served to initiate the conception and development of a Roundtable event as both a capstone of the Task Force's efforts and to "set the table" for discussion and development of new and innovative collaborations to address and make real progress on the issues facing the nation's working forests and rangelands.

The resulting Invitational Roundtable, scheduled for November 19th and 20th in Washington, DC, served as the "close-out" effort of the ECOP Forestry and Natural Resources Task Force, with invitations extended to key federal agencies (CSREES, NRCS, FS, BLM, EPA), ECOP Task Force members, NAUFPR, AF&PA, American Forests, the American Forest Foundation, the Society of American Foresters, the Society for Range Management, and others).

The final discussion revolved around the next steps that needed to be taken by roundtable participants and others to move key ideas forward. Proposed next steps developed during the meeting included:

- Share the work of the Invitational Roundtable with other groups in the Washington, DC area.
- Bring together the leadership of various groups and coalitions to meet with the corporate world to discuss the importance of the working lands issues to them and why they should be interested and concerned.
- Participants should take the outputs from the roundtable back to their individual organizations and present them to their leadership to determine what, if, and how their organizations might either pursue some of the bold steps individually or work collaboratively with others.

Most participants were not in a position to commit their organizations to any specific actions. However, the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP) and the Board on Natural Resources (BNR) of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges committed to continuing their involvement in collaboration with other organizations to help move the working lands agenda forward.

A more detailed report will be available later this spring and we will continue to update NAUFRP and other groups interested in developing new and innovative collaborations to address and make real progress on the issues facing the nation's working forests and rangelands.



## AFRI Evolves...

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is creating a new research, education, and extension program called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) as part of the recent Farm Bill. AFRI combines elements of the former National Research Initiative and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems programs and serves as the new core competitive grant program for research, education, and extension. Total AFRI funding is anticipated to be approximately \$190 million, with no less than 30 percent of these funds will be made available for integrated research, education, and extension.

Grants will be awarded to address priorities in the following areas:

1. Plant health and production and plant products;
2. Animal health and production and animal products;
3. Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- 4. Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;**
5. Agriculture systems and technology; and
6. Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Of the AFRI funds allocated to research activities, 60 percent will be allocated for fundamental (or basic) research, and 40 percent toward applied research. Of the AFRI funds allocated to fundamental research, not less than 30 percent will be directed toward research by multidisciplinary teams. In addition, of the total amount appropriated for AFRI, not less than 30 percent will be used for integrated programs.

Most important from the perspective of our Extension Programs is that the CSREES administration believes that Natural Resource Extension programming will play a significant role in the AFRI Program.

## Coming Events:

*Seeing the Forest Beyond the Trees: New Possibilities and Expectations for Products and Services From Small-Scale Forestry, Morgantown, West Virginia, June 5 – 13, 2009:*

This symposium is sponsored by the Small-Scale Forestry working group of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), a group dedicated to promoting research and education regarding forests under small-holder tenure. This is one of the few IUFRO groups that has developed its own peer-reviewed research journal Small-Scale Forestry (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/120445/>). Participants of the symposium will include researchers and practitioners in economics, sociology, agriculture, and forestry. For more information, please visit the symposium website at: <http://ssf09.com/>, or contact Dr. Dave McGill ([dmcgill@wvu.edu](mailto:dmcgill@wvu.edu); 304-293-2941 x 2474).

*7th Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference Scheduled for June 27th - June 30th, 2010 in Fairbanks, Alaska!*

This conference will offer opportunities to develop multi-state projects around topics of your choice. Tours will focus on climate change, energy, natural resource use and community development. For more information about the conference or to get more information about the call for papers, contact Mike Reichenbach, the current ANREP President, at [reich027@umn.edu](mailto:reich027@umn.edu).



# BUDGET ADVOCACY REPORT

Dick Brinker

The Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) is one of two standing committees of the NASULGC Board on Agriculture's Policy Board of Directors. For each fiscal year, the BAC prepares annual budget recommendations and supporting materials for agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs covered under various titles of the Farm Bill of interest to the Board on Agriculture Assembly and related entities. NAUFRP has a seat at the table to submit budget recommendations into the federal budgeting process.

The BAC met twice during the past year and on conference calls for six other meetings. At these meetings, the twenty members present and prioritize budget requests. Our NAUFRP priorities that were supported by the BAC have been to increase formula funded programs, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research funding, and the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA). We have had some success in the past few years to increase McIntire-Stennis, but little luck with increases for RREA.

This current year is somewhat of a change in direction and approach with the passage of the Farm Bill 2008. For FY 2010, the CSREES desired to structure the budgets around four issue areas:

1. Sustaining production of agricultural bio-feed stocks for bio-fuels and bioproducts,
2. Consequences and contributions of agricultural practices in global climate change,
3. Human nutrition, and
4. Assuring availability, quality, and diversity of a well-educated agricultural workforce.

After considerable discussion by the BAC members and Cornerstone, our lobbying group, these four issues were pretty difficult to translate into budget lines that would be carried to Congress. Thus, the BAC will also be carrying forward a group of priority budget issues similar to past formula funded programs. We expect to include McIntire-Stennis and RREA formula funding in these issues being carried to Capitol Hill by the Cornerstone Group.

Discussion of BAC priority areas for the FY 2011 budget is already underway. The issues that we plan to carry to BAC for the FY 2011 Federal Budget will come from our McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan and I am hopeful that our issues will be accepted as a BAC budgeting priority. Your input to our Chair, Hal Salwasser or to me as your BAC Rep is always welcomed, so please get involved in our NAUFRP discussions on our federal funding needs.



# FORESTRY RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dick Brinker

The purpose of the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC) is to provide recommendations and advice on forestry research to the Secretary of Agriculture. FRAC consists of members appointed by the Secretary and membership is drawn from four organizational areas: federal, professional forestry, state, and nongovernmental organizations. FRAC convenes annually and presents recommendations to the Secretary.

The membership is chartered at 20 members, but generally maintains 16 to 18 members, as nominations from each of the sectors are not always forthcoming. However, we have been able to keep the academic representation fully populated, so we definitely show up at the table! The FRAC is currently in the process of being re-chartered within the USDA, a process that is conducted bi-annually. Once the new charter is approved by the Secretary, USDA new appointments will be made to the Council.

During the past fiscal year, the FRAC presented two recommendations to the Secretary. The first issue related to the National Research Initiative (NRI). We have seen the emphasis in forestry research diminish over the past several years; funding from the competitive NRI Program to support forest science research has dwindled to between \$6 and \$16 million, depending on how the research is defined. Therefore we recommended that the NRI form an Integrated Natural Resource Management Project to address a coherent and coordinated research effort toward forest and natural resource science. This request has been submitted on past reports, and with the passage of the Farm Bill 2008, the NRI will be evolving to the Agriculture and Food Research Institute (AFRI), so I doubt that we will see any movement on this issue.

The second recommendation was to explore an increased emphasis on Applied Research Partnerships. The FRAC reviewed several research initiatives that involved federal, state, private and NGO scientists and saw effective delivery, relevance, and timeliness of scientific findings. Thus, the FRAC recommended that the USDA Forest Service R&D and Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) undertake a study of how to increase emphasis on partnership formation to influence the successful application of research results.

The FRAC will meet in early February 2009 to discuss forestry research issues that are managed by the USDA, and plan our recommendations for 2009. We will have our new members, a new Farm Bill, and a new federal administration. I am optimistic that we will continue to have a positive impact on the direction of forestry research, and I welcome your ideas and suggestions at any time during the year.



# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Barry Goldfarb

NASULGC is developing a new program called the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative to develop:

- Higher education institutions in Africa that advance Africa's human resource needs, increase the development of new knowledge and technology, provide opportunities for historically disadvantaged populations, and are engaged in Africa's economic, social and political development.
- Higher education institutions in the United States knowledgeable about African affairs and deeply engaged in Africa, with strong relationships, involving both students and faculty, with African institutions of higher education.

The Initiative plans to support this vision by developing:

- A well-funded, long-term program that provides competitively awarded resources for mutually beneficial African-U.S. higher education collaboration within a time-frame consistent with successful institutional capacity development.
- An interactive web portal for stakeholders to share information and learn from each other's experiences, discuss issues relevant to increasing the development capacity of their institutions, and collaborate on advocacy.

The fields of focus are:

- agriculture, environment and natural resources
- engineering
- science and technology
- health
- education and teacher training
- business, management, and economics

The Initiative has also identified seven provisional capacity building priorities:

- faculty development
- curriculum and teaching capacity development
- institutional leadership and management, marketing, advocacy and fundraising capacity development
- research, technology and problem solving capacity development
- financial diversification and resource mobilization capacity development
- improvement of teaching and research facilities and equipment (not buildings), and
- development of linkages with private, public and NGO institutions globally, regionally and locally.

In May, the Initiative received a \$100,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop the grant-making framework (particularly the agricultural component). The U.S. Agency for International Development has also committed \$1 million for 20 planning grants of \$50,000 each. These funds will not be disbursed until the program framework has been finalized. The goal is to announce the RFA for these planning grant proposals in November 2008.

For more information on the initiative, see: <http://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=911&srcid=1063>. To take part in the E-consultation process on the initiative, see: <http://www.africa-initiative.org/>



# DIVERSITY REPORT

George Brown

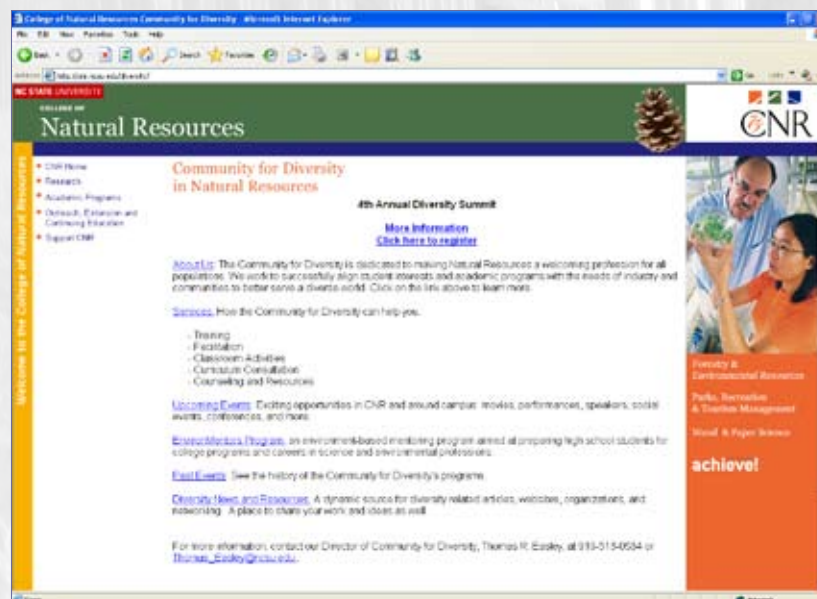
Three years ago, we initiated a major effort to coordinate diversity efforts among all natural resource professions. The initial plan was presented and approved at the NAUFRP General Assembly at the Edmonton meeting. Since then, several individuals have reviewed and commented on the plan for a "National Center for Workforce Diversity". The plan was subsequently approved by the SAF Council meeting in June, 2007. Now that it has been approved by both SAF Council and the NAUFRP Executive Committee, we need to move forward and start working at bringing in additional partners. Our proposed actions have also been reviewed by Forest Service and CSREES personnel, who have pledged their support.

To attain innovative ideas and to make better use of our Diversity Ambassadors at the SAF National convention, the SAF Diversity Committee assisted with a Student Diversity Summit at this year's convention. These Ambassadors were augmented by the addition of the SAF Student Leadership Team and additional students from Southern and Alabama A&M Universities. Approximately 30 of the brightest students at the Convention addressed questions which had been developed and tested on a focus group of Alabama A&M University students. Results from these two groups will be compiled and compared to the results from a similar Diversity Summit of professionals to be hosted by NAUFRP and SAF in Washington, DC next summer. These professionals and a select group of students will form "Team Diversity". The objective of the summit will be to identify action items for both the short term (one year) and long term (five years) for increasing the diversity of all of our professions by a joint, coordinated effort. We need to identify those items that we will work on and accomplish within a specified time frame. A joint invitation from NAUFRP and SAF will be used to invite the additional partners.

The second step planned is the creation of a diversity website. Rather than developing our own, we are working with NCSU to expand their site to better serve our needs. To this end, the Community for Diversity at NCSU (<http://communityfordiversity.ncsu.edu>) has developed their web site to include information and articles that will be helpful to all.

Additional articles and information are being solicited. If you have read an article that you found to be useful pertaining to diversity issues, please send the information to Thomas Easley ([thomas\\_easley@ncsu.edu](mailto:thomas_easley@ncsu.edu)).

Any ideas on new initiatives or how to improve our efforts are welcome.





# A-TR LIAISON REPORT

Perry Brown

There are several McIntire-Stennis related items for the attention of NAUFRP members. The program is healthy and poised for growth, but we will need to quickly gain a sense of the priorities and perspectives of a new administration and a markedly changed Congress.

- Additional copies of the McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan are available for those who might be able to use them. Contact Perry Brown.
- Currently the Federal Government is operating on a Continuing Resolution, but both the House and Senate have recommended an increase in McIntire-Stennis funds of approximately \$1.2 million for FY 2009. Thus, if a budget gets passed in March it is likely that we will see an increase in funding to over \$26 million.
- The Farm Bill contains a language change to make 1890 institutions eligible for McIntire-Stennis funding. This addition of additional eligible institutions does not change the state by state allocation, but it could affect the allocation within a state. Those states with 1890 institutions that meet the programmatic requirements for McIntire-Stennis funding will need to determine the apportionment of the allocation within their state. States already with multiple forestry programs such as Michigan and California provide examples of how such apportionment might occur.
- In September, Washington Counsel Randy Nuckolls and Perry Brown met with the OMB examiner who oversees McIntire-Stennis and clearly made the point that a competitive program for McIntire-Stennis is only feasible if there are substantial new funds. It also was made clear that in many states McIntire-Stennis is administered as a competitive program within the university or responsible program. Once this hurdle was jumped, discussion focused on possibilities for multi-state projects as part of the McIntire-Stennis program. OMB has been very interested in this topic and it is one addressed within the McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan. It is an issue that will need discussion over the next several months.
- In early December, as A-TR Liaison, Perry Brown will meet with CSREES staff to discuss issues surrounding the McIntire-Stennis program and to set an agenda for an upcoming M-S A-TR meeting.
- A McIntire-Stennis A-TR meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2009 in Arlington, VA. Invitation to this meeting has been sent to all A-TR's.



# SAF FOREST TECHNOLOGY ACCREDITATION REPORT

Alan Ek

The Executive Committee recently called for a review of the SAF approved program for forest technology educational program accreditation. The Task Force report and Standards, Procedures and Guidelines for Accrediting Educational Programs in Forest Technology (FT) are posted on the SAF website at [http://www.safnet.org/education/accreditation\\_resources.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/education/accreditation_resources.cfm). A committee consisting of Alan Ek, Bruce Bare, David Newman, Dan Keathley and Tim White examined these materials and reported as follows.

The FT accreditation program is designed like that already existing for four year baccalaureate programs with sections covering application, review processes and seven standards including curriculum, faculty, students, etc. Major review comments centered around the fact that the SAF documentation makes little mention of preparing students for transferring to four year B.S. programs, should that become their interest. Additionally, the committee urged care in distinguishing the two types of degrees many community colleges offer: (1) a two year technical forestry program aimed at placing graduates in jobs after two years in school, and (2) a two year pre-university program (typically named Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS, AA, or AS degrees)) aimed at preparing AAS holders to transfer to a four year institution to pursue a B.S. degree.

There is confusion among (1) and (2) and NAUFRP programs see numerous transfer applications in which the students were insufficiently aware of the difference... resulting in their taking courses that do not transfer well and a lack of basic first and second year coursework in biology, botany, chemistry, math, etc., that would aid transferring. It would be helpful to address this problem in the accreditation process.

SAF accreditation for FT programs is directed at offerings like (1) above. It would help if these programs were clearly advertised as such to keep them distinct from four year B.S. programs. Graduates of technology programs can apply for admission to four year schools along with AAS students, but they must meet the same entrance requirements. Meeting both the AAS degree requirements and the forest technology degree requirements in two years may be a challenge. Thus early advising to insure an understanding of the appropriate degree is crucial.

The review did see opportunity for coordination. Two year program courses might be designed to match some freshman or sophomore offerings or needs of four year programs, especially basic forestry field skill courses and introductory courses, e.g., dendrology. Additionally, four year programs might consider creating courses that might facilitate their instruction at two year institutions. Further, both four year and two year programs might cooperate to more fully articulate formal 2+2 programs and/or transfer guides. There are also opportunities for sharing information on scholarship support, summer jobs and internships, field training sites, etc. The committee urged that consideration of two to four year program linkages and coordination be explicitly requested and included in FT program reviews.



# FOREST RESOURCES AS RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Alan Ek

These notes were compiled developed by the below ad hoc subgroup while participating in the USDA / REE Energy Summit September 29-30, 2008 in Washington, D.C. The subgroup meeting was initiated in light of the heavy focus on agriculture during the Summit; we sensed a lack of consideration of forest resources and forest industry potentials in the Summit agenda. The group took this step to assemble ideas, issues, and direction on forest resources as renewable energy.

AF&PA and its Agenda 2020 would seem the likely lead on this subject but they were not present. What are the AF&PA interests? Forest industry could use a meeting somewhat like this on renewable energy strategy and partnerships, but big/key players are needed and the atmosphere must be respectful of diverse interests. Might seek lead role by Tom Dorr, USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Other:

- Researchers really want to advise on the science
- A strategy for forest based renewable energy is important.
- Concern is for feedstock for use as CHP, biofuels, and existing product mix.
- The stakes are:
  - supply infrastructure (procurement and logging capacity),
  - competition for materials, and
  - environmental issues (forest certification, environmental review of projects) and these vary by region.
- The Canadian situation is like the U.S. national forests (in terms of large public ownerships, access to timber for new entries, land tenure law).
- Tax credits / subsidies for fuels vary by state.
- Second generation fuels will focus on cellulose and therefore focus more on forests. Long term the focus will be increasingly on cellulose and biofuels.
- Forest health issues intersect with feedstock interests.
- The proposed meeting should stay away from conversion methodologies...these will evolve and likely become diverse.
- The integration of renewable energy into forest based industry should increase the competitive nature of the industry.
- An evolving question is "How do we supply energy to rural communities?"

Common issues may be:

- mixed raw materials, by species and quality;
- the quality and type of feedstock;
- procuring long-term supply;
- scale as it affects the feasibility of processing, say to biofuels;
- diverse forest ownership (federal, state, county, industry (TIMOs, REITs), NIPF);
- state legislation/policy;
- federal legislation/policy; and
- changes in legislation/policy;

Note the USFS has prepared a biomass transition brief for the new administration.



Other common issues as they relate to research are:

- climate change/carbon sequestration;
- environmental quality;
- water quality; and
- air quality (guidelines lacking for small wood burning entities; may have variable emissions across the nation).

Perhaps we need a forestry view of Tom Potter's presentation. The forestry view might be to keep options open.

*Example: the British Columbia situation is a current focus on pellets, lots of hydro power capability, a looming carbon tax, and massive bark beetle damage on the way.*

*Example: the New York situation has focused on counties with a major cooperative extension effort.*

So who would be partners in a meeting and subsequent effort? The driving agencies are the EPA and the DOE. The driving issues are climate change, energy independence, and jobs. State foresters may be positioned in many cases to play a lead role.

Venues coming up for further discussion of this subject and these notes include:

*NAUFRP meeting, November, 2008 in Reno, NV...A. Ek to bring it to the agenda.*

*Dean's Tour in January in Florida...will consider at above NAUFRP meeting.*

Ultimately, the strategy needs to involve:

- existing forest industry;
- potential new forest based energy industry;
- the states (state foresters);
- the US Forest Service, notably R&D;
- university forestry programs; and
- others?

## FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Alan Ek

At their November 4th meeting in Reno, NV, the NAUFRP Executive Committee approved a motion by At-Large member Alan Ek for membership in the Forest History Society (FHS). This step will also initiate the archiving and availability of NAUFRP history and proceedings through the FHS. The intent is to provide a full and organized set of archives on the NAUFRP role in forestry research and education since forestry school based efforts began under various organizational names a number of decades ago.



# GRADUATE LEVEL TRAINING REPORT

USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service with the U.S. Forest Service have funded three training grants to address human capital development needs in the area of Forest Resources. This is an investment in training to build competence in students to meet the science, management, leadership and complex human resource needs of the natural resources and forestry domain.

There were ten proposals, with requests for a total of \$2,307,991, submitted in the FY 2008 program cycle of the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program, to address the targeted expertise shortage area of Forest Resources. In the FY 2008 program cycle, a special emphasis on forest resources was made possible by supplemental funds provided under a reimbursable agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The funds for awards (\$227,273.00) from USFS combined with the USDA-CSREES NNF appropriations were used to jointly make three awards to support: five students at the Master's level with two Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTA) and six students at the doctoral level with two IRTAs.

By leveraging funds in the reimbursable agreement with the Forest Service, Research and Development, the National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowships Grants Program was able to offset the effect of increased stipends and support student training to meet expertise shortage areas in food and agriculture, including forest resources. This year's grantees with joint funding are:

- University of Montana, \$236,000: GRADUATE TRAINING IN MULTI-SCALE ANALYSIS OF FOREST DISTURBANCE ECOLOGY.
- North Carolina State University, \$172,000: GRADUATE EDUCATION IN FOREST RESOURCE DECISION SCIENCES: PREPARING PROFESSIONALS TO MEET GLOBAL NEEDS.
- Oregon State University, \$129,000: TEAM-ORIENTED GRADUATE TRAINING IN FOREST RESOURCES UTILIZATION AND ADVANCED FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS MARKETING.

Additionally two awards, funded in other targeted expertise shortage areas, will also lead to increased human capital in the natural resources and forestry domain. These awards will train four (4) students at the doctoral level with two IRTAs and two (2) Master's level students.

- North Carolina State University, \$172,000: A PROPOSAL TO TRAIN SCIENTISTS IN THE ECONOMICS OF FOREST PRODUCTS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND AGRICULTURE.
- University of Vermont, \$236,000: FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD: BUILDING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS.

More Information can be had from <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/nnf/nnf.html>.



# SOUTHERN REGION REPORT

Steve Bullard

Southern NAUFRP begins each calendar year with the electronic distribution of a “comparative data survey.” The survey form collects information on numbers of graduate and undergraduate students, stipend levels, faculty numbers and salaries by rank, etc. In 2008, completed responses were received from 13 member institutions. The data (for FY 07/09) were compiled in a spreadsheet, which was shared with each of the programs that responded.

Many Southern NAUFRP representatives attended a leadership tour in late 2007 that was hosted by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, at Amelia Island, FL, where an important discussion took place on the need to enhance the numbers, diversity, and quality of undergraduates in forestry in the region. The University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky co-hosted a one-day facilitated discussion in Knoxville in March 2008 to discuss ideas and develop action steps for collaborative recruiting efforts. Dave Walters of the Tennessee Division of Forestry facilitated the meeting, which was attended by representatives from 11 forestry schools in the region, plus the NAUFRP Diversity Chair (George Brown) and the SAF Executive VP and CEO (Michael Goergen). One of the action steps involves a website clearing house where ideas and actions can be shared on a continuing basis – progress to date can be seen at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/forestry/recruiting/>. A steering committee of faculty, staff, and admin members from SNAUFRP schools is helping to guide the actions of the group, and regional meetings will be scheduled in the future. In recent weeks, the Southern Research Station has committed \$10,000 to help defray post-doctoral expenses for this effort, and the NAUFRP Executive Committee has allocated \$2,000 to help develop a survey instrument for undergraduate recruiting. Updates on this activity will be made at the national leadership tour at Amelia Island in January 2009, and at the SNAUFRP meeting in May 2009.

Southern NAUFRP was asked to “weigh in” on the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and in March 2008 a letter calling for new language that would redefine renewable biomass was prepared and faxed to eight members of Congress in key positions.

The 2008 annual meeting of Southern NAUFRP was held in April in Chicago, in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual meeting. Partners who participated with reports included Frank Stewart and Scott Jones (both with FLA), Brendan Davis (FLA’s newly hired government affairs specialist), Ken Arney (Forest Service S&PF and SRS reports), and Bill Hubbard (SREF). One of the discussions from the Chicago meeting that will continue in 2009 is the potential for arranging a southwide meeting of University Development officers.

Keith Belli, Department Head from the University of Tennessee, will be the Chair of SNAUFRP for calendar years 2009 and 2010.



