

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**UNIVERSITY
FOREST
RESOURCES
PROGRAMS**

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

George Hopper



It's hard to believe we are looking head-on at 2008. How time flies—this association of forestry deans, directors, and department heads has been effective in the past, and we have so much to do for the future. I encourage everyone to remain active in NAUFRP; together we will accomplish so much more than we can individually. Our funding goals are unified for McStennis, RREA, and NRI. Our issues of curricula, employment of graduates, enrollment, and faculty workloads are areas we have great opportunities to discuss and work together in planning for the future. The undergraduate summit led by Dan Keathley will address many of these issues. Our research and outreach plans are in place, and we will make progress using these plans for direction.

We had an active year in 2007 marketing our vision, pursuing funding options, and starting new initiatives.

In 2007, we began a Washington Update Newsletter, distributed bimonthly, to keep members updated on current legislation and funding opportunities. The Executive Committee had two conference calls in May and October, respectively, to discuss strategies. One conference call was held with the General Assembly in July. We will continue these communication strategies this year.

We hosted the "Dean's on the Hill" reception to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of NAUFRP. There were 32 representatives from 26 states in attendance. Everyone is encouraged to assemble again this year on March 3-5 in D.C. for a similar effort.

Members Donald DeHayes, Margaret Gale, J. Michael Kelly, and Perry Brown completed the much anticipated McIntyre-Stennis Strategic Plan. This strategic plan, entitled "Sustaining Healthy and Productive Forests: An Investment in America's Competitive Position in the Global Market" calls for a new vision and mission for the 45-year-old research program. The plan is divided into three major sections; guiding principles for a robust program of research and graduate education, a bold research and graduate education agenda highlighting emerging areas of knowledge, and a funding strategy and recommendation that moves toward meeting the needs. This plan gives everyone in NAUFRP the opportunity to present, with a unified voice, the need for continued funding and the importance of this program. In FY08, we were successful in obtaining a 12.5% funding increase over the 2006 level for McIntire-Stennis, which is a move in the right direction.

NAUFRP defined a Vision for America's Forests for the 21st Century. This vision statement includes a renewed commitment to promoting shared and balanced values among all constituents, applying the "best" science to create lasting forests, and advancing a new stewardship ethic that ensures our forests remain as forests. The vision was distributed last year in the "Hill" visits and with agencies. It will be further distributed in 2008.

We also have been active in shaping policy that will ensure healthy forests for future generations. Our participation with the Farm Bill, FRAC, and energy from biomass are a few

examples. While we have had success with funding for McIntire-Stennis, funding received for RREA and NRI has been more of a challenge. We must continue to work together to ensure that our legislators understand the importance of these programs in furthering educational opportunities for graduate students and increasing the knowledge base which sustain our resources.

We have also continued to discuss funding through NAUFRP members for a competitive grants for climate change research with USFS. This will be beneficial for recruiting new graduate students into our programs. We are also working to garner funds for graduate education. A National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants Program has been planned, and the RFP will be announced shortly from CSREES.

Finally, an undergraduate education summit is an opportunity to discuss shared concerns of enrollment decline, adapting curricula to meet the needs of industries and agencies alike, and employment. I hope several of you will attend the National Resources Education Conference in Oregon on March 13-15.

Thank you for your participation in the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs. Together we can make an impact on the future of natural resources.



George Hopper, President
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tim White

	Budget	Income	Expenses	Cash on hand
Carry over 2006		54,488		
NAUFRP 2007	106,000	143,368	118,684	
December 2007				79,168
Carry over 2007		79,168		
NAUFRP 2008	117,603			
Projected income		116,463		

Income in 2007 was received from member dues, federal grants, interest, and a contribution from AF&PA. Overages in CY2007 were primarily in special events: the Congressional reception and the IUFRO Conference. In 2007, NAUFRP received \$32,500 for reimbursable expenses (Executive Liaison, Washington Counsel, Executive Committee travel, meeting and printing 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. Almost \$7,000 remains in the Accounts Receivable from the Forest Service Grant. This amount will be tracked but will not be reflected in the Reconciliation of Income and Expenses until it is invoiced and deposited into NAUFRP accounts.

RESEARCH REPORT

Mike Kelly



During the past year my efforts as NAUFRP Research Chair have focused in two areas. First was the completion of the McIntire-Stennis strategic plan, Sustaining Healthy and Productive Forests: An Investment in America's Competitive Position in the Global Marketplace. Under the excellent guidance of Perry Brown, this document has now been completed and distributed to the membership as well as our CSREES and Forest Service partners. Individual members need to consider this plan as they formulate new research initiatives at their local institutions and as they interact with members of Congress from their state. This document will play an important role in our continued efforts to increase the M-S appropriation.

My second effort on your behalf was directed to following up on an invitation from Dr. Colien Hefferan of CSREES to open a dialogue on the creation of a "CAP Project" focused on the forest and making use of the priorities identified in the M-S strategic plan. To make a long story short, after several e-mail and personal conversations with CSREES personnel it became clear that a "CAP Project" was not the way to go. As an alternative, a draft project prospectus was prepared with the assistance of Al Ek and presented to Dr. Hefferan during the NAUFRP Executive Committee meeting in Portland. Based on that discussion with Dr. Hefferan, the prospectus was revised with further input from Al Ek, and comments from Peg Gale, and Randy Nuchols. The revised prospectus was submitted to Dr. Hefferan's office in early November. The submitted proposal suggest creating a competitively funded program area under NRI that will focus on "A New Science of Integration" as identified in the M-S strategic plan. The rationale for proposing this topic stems, in part, from a joint memo on FY2009 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities issued by John Marburger, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Stephen McMillin, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget. This memo states that "agencies should target research on a deeper understanding of complex biological systems through multi-disciplinary collaborations aimed at new and improved measurement and management tools..." and that "agencies should focus research at the interface of life, physical, and computational sciences." This administrative directive combined with the directions to the CSREES administrator contained in S.1859 "to increase the percentage of NRI funding directed to forestry and natural resource topics" provides an excellent mechanism to propose a portion of the funding allocated for the NRI competitive grant program be focused specifically on the forest. If this proposal is accepted, a new forestry and natural resources competitive grants program can be established under the auspices of NRI rather than invading the M-S base, as has been suggested by the President, or waiting for the provision of new M-S funds. While this is far from a done deal, there are reasons to be hopeful that this new approach will be adopted in the near future.

In the meantime, it is essential that NAUFRP members become more involved with the NRI review process. We have the potential to improve our position with the current programs if we have faculty serving on the panels that review forest-related proposals in the current funding cycle. Please encourage your faculty to volunteer their services by registering online with CSREES-NRI.

EDUCATION REPORT

Daniel E. Keathley

The Food and Agriculture Education System (FAEIS) is continuing data collection and monitoring of enrollment trends in natural resource majors, as well as beginning efforts to examine graduate enrollments in agricultural majors. Their first effort has been with animal science graduate programs. It examines doctoral and M.Sc. programs, with data on total enrollment and also gives information on enrollment sorted by race and gender.

The main focus in education has been on beginning an examination of forestry undergraduate education needs for the future. The Executive Committee has identified a range of questions including: why students often do not elect to major in forestry to how to include environmental services; what is the proper balance between forestry as ecology versus utilization and management; how does accreditation fit with the need for flexibility in attracting students and staying abreast of rapidly changing knowledge and technology; and how can we bring the growing knowledge of ways in which people learn into forestry curricula? Discussion of these issues is expected to form a portion of the agenda for the 7th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources that is scheduled for March 13-15, 2008 at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. John Gordon will present a keynote address on "Preparing Future Natural Resource Leaders". The other keynote speaker will be Jerry Franklin, who will speak on "Preparing Resource Professionals for an Uncertain World". Mark your calendars and plan on participating in this important event. The web site for registration is: <http://uenr.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>



EXTENSION REPORT

Joseph McNeel

Florida Forest Stewardship Program Awarded Family Forests Education Award

This award, sponsored jointly by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association, is presented annually to the educational institution deemed to have delivered the most effective education program benefiting family forest landowners.

Five excellent programs were considered this year and it was a close decision.

The winner for 2007 was the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences School of Forest Resources and Conservation. As noted by one of the reviewers, "This program has nice breadth covering the range of issues important to private forest lands. They have strong partner involvement and an effort towards general quantitative impacts associated with changing attitudes and behaviors." The award was received by Dr. Tim White, Director of the IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation, at the annual NAUFRP Meeting held this fall in Portland, Oregon.

ECOP Forestry Task Force pairs up with NAUFRP to host legislative reception

This spring, NAUFRP and the ECOP Forestry Task Force will collaborate to host a "Capitol Hill" briefing and reception for Congressional Senators, Representatives, and their staffs. The program is scheduled for March 4 in Washington and will focus on informing key legislators about the importance of the Renewable Resources Extension Act and the McIntire-Stennis Act in supporting extension and applied research efforts across the country. For more information about the briefing and reception, contact Terri Bates (naufrp@verison.net).

Opportunity for Extension to team up with State Forestry Programs?

Recent changes in the funding strategy of the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program has led to a competitive program that is regionally based and restricted to state forestry agencies. However, the program has tremendous opportunities for partnering and collaboration and there is a role for Extension partners in almost every state. Further discussion of this new program and how it might lead to closer ties between state forestry agencies and extension natural resource programs will be a component of the next NAUFRP general session, scheduled for March 5 in Washington, DC.



*2007 Family Forests Education Award
Joe McNeel (l), NAUFRP Extension Chair and Director, Division of Forestry, West Virginia University; and Keith Argow (r), President, National Woodland Owners Association present an award to the University of Florida. Accepting the award on behalf of the university is Tim White, Director, School of Forest Resources and Conservation.*

POLICY REPORT

Steven B. Daley Laursen

NAUFRP has participated with the *Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition* for over a year as our vehicle for forestry and natural resource advocacy in the Forestry and Conservation Titles of the Farm Bill. The Coalition advocates that our nation's private forests are viewed as a vital part of the rural landscape and economy, to improve the effectiveness of programs for private forest conservation and management, and to increase resources for these programs. Many of the items we have lobbied for in the Forestry and Conservation Titles are apparently intact and broadly supported. One exciting development is the likely support for State Sustainable Forestry Action Plans, direct kin to their predecessor State Sustainable Wildlife Management Plans. Visit the *Forests in the Farm Bill* Web site for the fact sheet (www.sref.info/spotlight/Forests_In_Farm_Bill_final.pdf).

In October, 30 different environmental, sustainable agriculture and wildlife groups launched a "commit to conservation" campaign, asking organization members to call Senate offices and ask for \$5 billion in new spending for conservation. The groups were concerned that conservation may be cut to fund nutrition programs or crop subsidies.

RREA is included for reauthorization in the Farm Bill, but the appropriations level is likely to remain flat, even after a substantial, hard working effort aimed at doubling the appropriation level.

As reported in the NAUFRP Washington newsletters, the Research Title is very reflective of CREATE-21 (in the spirit of integrated activity but not in the substantial and broad changes in structure as originally proposed by NASULGC). If this passes, there will be an increase in communications and collaboration across the REE realm of USDA, but no wholesale reorganization of leadership, agency structure and resource allocation. The new research title language influenced by the CREATE-21 proposal will be broadly supported.

McIntire-Stennis "reinforcement language" is in the Research Title. This language does not speak directly to appropriation, but restates the importance of the research engine in the nation's university natural resources and forestry programs.

NAUFRP has worked off and on with leadership in the USFS Research Branch on priorities for forestry and natural resources-related research, technology transfer and education in the Farm Bill. The Energy Bill is a likely location for programs and appropriations in this regard.

There is chatter in Washington, D.C. appropriations circles that the Energy and Water appropriations bill might contain one of the small handfuls of federally-funded programs that sees a sizeable boost in funding in FY2008. If this happens, the Department of Energy is predicted to send out a rapid-fire solicitation for biomass research projects led by universities. This is a direct result of discussions in both the Energy-related committees and the Farm Bill-related committees. It behooves our Forestry, NR and Agriculture departments and colleges to be ready for such a solicitation and to tie proposals to theme in our new NAUFRP vision for America's Forests and our new McIntire-Stennis strategic plan. It also make sense for our biomass-related faculty to consider proposals in cooperation with USFS Research Stations. The latter has "lobbied" hard for more funding to woody biomass research and may have hands on much of the money distributed in RFPs.

BUDGET ADVOCACY REPORT

Dick Brinker

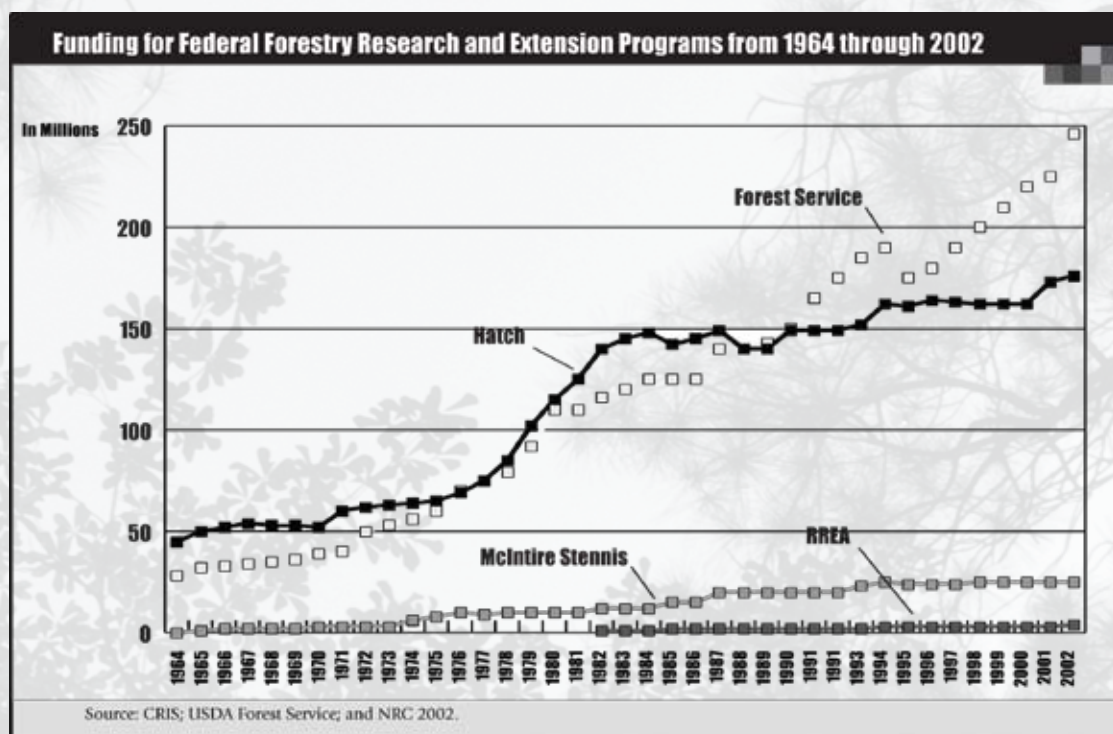
The Budget Advocacy Committee (BAC) met several times this past year to discuss federal funding priorities. The BAC is a relatively large committee that has members from many segments of the Land-Grant system. Representatives from 1962, 1890, and 1994 L-G systems all come with a number of priorities for the lobbying firm, Cornerstone Group, to pursue on behalf of the BAC.

This past year, we submitted three priority items for the BAC to consider for inclusion in the lobbying agenda. These were in priority order:

1. McIntire-Stennis Funding - \$30 million
2. RREA - \$8 million
3. National Research Initiative – seek a separate forest resources research panel.

Compared to the FY 2006 Budget, we did pretty well on Priority #1; we did not receive our \$30 million request, but did receive an increase in the McIntire-Stennis formula funding for FY 2008. Priority #2, RREA funding made no progress and remained stationary at \$4 million. Priority #3, seeking an NRI, Forest Resources Panel did not get BAC consideration, as the rationale was that BAC does not support how to manage USDA programs, but seeks funding for the total program.

For the FY '09 budget requests, we have submitted our two top priorities as we did for FY '08. For the FY '08 budget, Cornerstone promoted 14 priorities to Congress, and feels this was too broad and too many. Therefore, a priority streamlining process was undertaken at the November meeting in New York. At this meeting, RREA at \$8 million was one of two items that fell off the list as a BAC priority. I certainly did not support this priority reduction, but it passed none-the-less. The BAC will next meet in February in Washington, DC and further discuss priorities for the FY '09 budget, and it will be important for NAUFRP that the BAC keeps our #1 priority in their list of funding requests. Stay tuned!



FORESTRY RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dick Brinker

America's forests continue to have unrealized potential to help the U.S. become energy independent, fight climate change, maintain a strong U.S. economy, and provide great places for recreation. To tap this potential, the USDA needs an integrated portfolio of long- and short-term research that encompasses technology development, dissemination, and deployment. At its 2008 meeting, the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC) reviewed recent USDA research efforts to explore this potential. Research activities and initiatives in biofuels/bioenergy, ecosystem services, climate change, and nanotechnology are making important progress toward effectively addressing our nation's needs from our forests. We recommend two steps to continue making progress to address the nation's forest research needs:

National Research Initiative

FRAC recognizes that the National Research Initiative (NRI) has made significant contributions to the science of natural resource management. In the past year, between \$6 and \$16 million was awarded to fund grant proposals pertinent to forest and natural resource science. However, upon examining the awards list, FRAC notes a lack of a coherent, coordinated research strategy to address pressing issues. An integrated approach would be more effective in addressing this and other forest science issues. **We therefore recommend that the NRI form an Integrated Natural Resource Management Project for this purpose.** Stakeholders for this project can be drawn from a number of sources concerned with the potential economic opportunities and environmental impacts associated with increased fiber utilization for forest-based biofuels and other bio-based products. These stakeholder groups should be enlisted to identify a qualified pool of scientists to review request for applications and make up proposal pre-screening and scientific review panels.

Applied Research Partnerships

FRAC reviewed several research initiatives involving partnerships among federal, state, private and NGO scientists. Partnerships can result in more effective delivery, relevance, and timeliness of science findings, as well as increased application of research results to forest planning and management. Broad-based partnerships, when established at the earliest project planning stages, facilitate participation of forest managers and other stakeholders in the development and prioritization of research questions. Such an approach builds increased ownership of the research and results among all parties. **We recommend that USDA Forest Service R & D and Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service undertake a study of how to increase the emphasis on partnership formation to influence the successful application of research results.** We believe that the effectiveness of the competitive grant component of federal research can be greatly enhanced by improving our understanding of successful models of stakeholder involvement in all stages of the scientific process.

CREATE-21 REPORT

C.P. Patrick Reid

The 2 years+ of the CREATE-21 Committee are encapsulated in the respective research titles of the House and Senate as the passage of the final Farm Bill has been delayed in the Senate (last action on November 2, 2007). The House passed HB 2419 on July 27, 2007. The research title of that bill is essentially the language incorporated in the revised version of HB 2398 that includes almost entirely the recommendations of the C-21 committee. Both the Senate and House removed any attempt to incorporate reorganization of Forest Service Research, ARS or ERS. The House and Senate versions of C-21 recommendations have considerable similarities but differ somewhat in the organizational structure of what now exists as CSREES and the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). For example, the House version creates a National Agricultural Research Program Office that would include CSREES and its REE mission, establishes the NIFA (including all competitive grant programs), and establishes six Program Offices (institutes), each with a Director (one of those offices would be Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, & Environment). It furthers merges NRI and IFARS and protects mandatory funding at \$200 million per year.

The Senate version creates NIFA, including both competitive and capacity programs, and replaces CSREES. Under the NIFA Director would be four offices differing from the six program offices in the House. These four offices are structured more by type of funds (e.g. capacity, competitive (fundamental, applied, education) rather than program areas. The House version includes enhancements for 1890's, 1994's, small 1862's and AASCARR, but these were not included in the Senate mark-up. For more detailed information, go to www.Thomas.gov and search under HB 2419 and S 2302. Also see details, summaries and comparisons at www.create-21.org/advocacy.htm. In summary, the following borrowed language from Senate Report 110-220 provides an overview of the basic objectives of the research title:

The main objectives of the research title in this legislation are to increase competitive grant opportunities for basic and applied agricultural research and to strengthen the research, extension and education components administered by USDA through the land-grant university system. The critical piece of the research title that attempts to solve these issues is the transformation of CSREES into a National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The re-structuring of CSREES into NIFA includes the creation of offices at NIFA dedicated to basic or fundamental research, applied research, education programs, and the infrastructure, or land-grant network. These offices will increase the visibility of competitive programs at USDA's research agencies, and will strengthen infrastructure programs at the land-grant system.



DIVERSITY REPORT

George Brown

Two years ago, we initiated a major effort to coordinate diversity efforts among all natural resource professions. The initial plan was presented and approved in 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". Because this is a joint effort with SAF, coordination is required for the formation of "Team Diversity". SAF president Marvin Brown was asked at the October, 2006 Executive meeting what SAF's plans were for future actions. As a result, NAUFRP was put on the agenda for the SAF Council meeting in June, 2007. The "Plan" was presented to the SAF Council, discussed by them and they accepted it unanimously. The Plan has now been approved by both SAF Council and the NAUFRP Executive Committee. The next step is to bring in additional partners. Our proposed actions have also been reviewed by Forest Service and CSREES personnel, who have pledged their support.



The next step is to form "Team Diversity". This will be completed by inviting prospective partners from groups such as federal agencies, professional societies and employers involved in all natural resource areas to attend a two day summit in Washington, DC. The objective of the summit is to initiate a strategic plan for increasing the diversity of all natural resource professions through a coordinated effort. One of the most common comments of the plan is that it involves too many actions and needs prioritization. This could be used as a starting point for the strategic plan—select the highest priority items and assign responsibilities with due dates. Items to be worked on and accomplished within a specified time frame need to be identified. A joint invitation from NAUFRP and SAF will be used to invite the additional partners.

The second step is the creation of a diversity Web site. Rather than developing a site, an expansion of NCSU's site, the Community for Diversity, includes information and articles that will be helpful to all. The url is <http://communityfordiversity.ncsu.edu>. 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 Celeste Richie (celeste_richie@ncsu.edu).

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

SOUTHERN REGION REPORT

Steven Bullard

In the southern region, there are several current, region-wide activities that are participated in by most of the members of NAUFRP.

In the area of extension, for example, most NAUFRP members in the southern region participate actively in the Southern Regional Extension Forestry network (www.sref.info). Through this network a regional project is currently underway to inventory audiences and media being used to reach them in the region, and to summarize what is known about relative effectiveness of various media for communicating with important audience types. This assessment will include extension forestry programs as well as state and federal programs for outreach and science delivery in the South.

Another region-wide activity involving most NAUFRP members in the southern region is the Southern Forestry Research Partnership (www.sfrponline.net). At SFRP's most recent meeting, several members of Southern NAUFRP outlined plans to work together in developing a proposal for competitive funding in the region for monetizing ecosystem services. If funded, this work will involve NAUFRP member institutions and others in developing and delivering workable vehicles to recognize and reward forest products and services that have not been widely monetized in the past.

In the area of teaching, curriculum, and enrollment trends, many representatives of forestry programs in NAUFRP's southern region met in early November for the biennial Southern Forestry Leadership Tour. This meeting involves university Deans and Department Heads, leaders from the USDA Forest Service's three branches (State and Private Forestry, the Southern Research Station, and the National Forest System), and leaders from the Southern Group of State Foresters, NGOs, REITs, TIMOs and forest industry. At the November meeting, presentations were made involving curriculum changes that are underway in the region, as well as enrollment trends. In the coming months, several NAUFRP member institutions in the region will be working to develop enrollment ideas and materials for use throughout the region. Input is also being solicited for a web site being developed at NC State (www.forestrycareers.org).



In early January, 2008, NAUFRP members in the southern region will be receiving the "comparative data survey"—a comprehensive survey of research, teaching, and service inputs that is conducted each year in the region. The survey includes salary data by faculty rank, graduate student stipend levels, undergraduate enrollments, federal and state research, teaching, and extension budgets, and other information that is useful for comparative purposes. In 2007, data were received from 12 institutions in the region, who then received the full set of data from other responding programs.

The next meeting of NAUFRP member representatives from the southern region will be in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual conference (www.forestlandowners.com). In 2008, the conference will be held in Chicago, April 8-11.

WESTERN REGION REPORT

Douglas D. Piirto

Western region members have met twice in 2007. Fourteen members representing eight western universities, three USDA Forest Service Research stations, and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition attended a two-day meeting at Utah State University in Logan Utah on June 28-29, 2007. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Terry Sharik and Dr. Nat Frazier. Discussion focused on enrollment trends, collaboration with WFLC, research funding, Farm Bill, and planning for the Fall 2007 Portland NAUFRP and SAF national convention. A seminar and field trip on Intermountain Bioregional Planning were key highlights of the June 2007 WNAUFRP meeting.

Members of western region also had a lunch meeting on October 23, 2007 at the NAUFRP/SAF October 2007 national convention.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Margaret 'Peg' R. Gale

The North Central and Northeast regional NAUFRP representatives again had a combined meeting to discuss the potential for an annual meeting.

The suggestions for this meeting and others in the future were:

- Have Michael Rains, Acting Director of the Northern Research Station, Ann Bartuska (Forest Service, Research), and possibly Colien Hefferan (USDA-CSREES) present their views on how universities can contribute to national efforts and also whether the two regional groups should merge as the two Forest Service Research stations merged into the Northern Research Station.
- Invite state foresters to get feedback on how NAUFRP can contribute to state and regional research and education efforts.
- Have a follow-up discussion on the 7th Biennial conference on Education in Natural Resources to be held at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR - March 13-15, 2008.
- Have a panel discussion on how faculty at universities are successful at funding, sharing notes on successes.
- Share notes on successful legislative strategies.

The group also discussed putting together a database on tuition, fees, salaries, etc. for regional universities and to maintain these as best as possible for the coming years.

