



State of Montana
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

Montana SAF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2010 from 1 to 4 PM

Location: Southwest Land Office Conference Room, DNRC Forestry Division, Missoula, MT

In Attendance – Dennis Davaz, Bob Logar, Jim Benedict, Tim Spoelma, Peter Kolb, Amy Helena, Steve Hayes, Holly McKenzie, Todd Morgan, Jason Brandt, Scott Kuehn, Chris Keyes, Bob Harrington, and Gordy Sanders

Call to Order – Dennis Davaz

- Dennis reported there was no need to reimburse the students for registration to the October 2009 SAF National Convention. They were sponsored by Stimson Lumber.
- The committee approved reimbursing Dennis \$100.18 for expenses at the Leadership Conference.

Approval of Past Minutes – October 7th, 2009, DNRC conference room in Missoula.

- Minutes were approved with the following change. Under the Libby Chapter Report, Russ Geutraux's Fellow nomination was postponed.

Secretary / Treasurer's Report – Bob Logar

**Society of American Foresters
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2009**

	Total Net Assets
Montana State Chapter	\$11,770.94
Flathead Chapter	\$16,350.43
Eastside Chapter	\$5,244.95
Missoula Chapter	\$3,616.52
Libby Chapter	<u>\$5,173.25</u>
Total	\$42,156.09

➤ **East Side Report** – Dennis Davaz

The chair and secretary/treasurer position are still vacant. A search is on to fill them. Dennis and Bob will continue to act until they are filled. The meetings will be rotated throughout the chapter. Tim Egan will host the next meeting in Dillon during May.

➤ **Flathead Chapter Report** – Marc Spratt

New officers assumed their positions in January 2010. Monthly meetings have been held in January, February and March. While no clear agreement has arisen regarding membership, it is

clear that a majority of forestry professionals in the Flathead are not members, or active members, of SAF. Discussions are ongoing related to how to stimulate membership by practicing professionals. Recognizing the need to inform a broad audience on forest management issues, the Flathead Chapter has embarked on a program of public information meetings. The most recent and well-attended public meeting was held January 21, 2010 at the Flathead Valley Community College under the guise of a broader symposium schedule titled "Re-Powering the Flathead". The title of the symposium was "Forest Biomass to Energy". The next presentation will be in April discussing Tribal historical and present fire management practices.

In February, the Flathead Chapter examined the current curriculums for Forestry education FVCC, CSKT and U of M CFC. Christina Reyla, FVCC, Adrian Leighton Salish Kootenai College and Beth Dodson, U of M CFC all made excellent presentations and encouraged support from SAF. Professor Dodson, in particular, made time in her schedule on short notice to make an excellent presentation that was very much appreciated. Differences in perspective were obvious among employment sectors and institutions and between practicing professionals and educators. Ongoing discussions are anticipated with these programs. This meeting also had good attendance. Four members of the Chapter attended the Leadership Training in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.

In March, the Chapter meeting focused on planning for the remainder of the year and issues of interest to the membership. This meeting had the least attendance. Given the attendance at educational meetings compared to "business" meetings, targeted educational meetings that also engage the public are going to be emphasized in the future. Ongoing efforts are focused on increasing the membership and demonstrating the necessity of managed forests in the face of increasing multifaceted use.

Planned Upcoming Events:

April 15, 2010 – Fire on the Land – A Tribal Perspective

May 3 – 8, 2010 – Family Forestry Expo. Outreach to the schools and public regarding forest management issues.

May 13, 2010 – Potential Joint meeting with Libby Chapter. Meeting place, time and subject are yet to be confirmed.

Tentatively, no chapter meetings will be held in June, July and August.

Financial Report:

D. A. Davidson Savings Acct \$12,447.48 as of 1/21/2010

1st Interstate Checking Acct \$2,388.79 as of Today

Total of \$14,836.27 in both accounts - no outstanding bills

➤ **Libby Chapter Report** – Jim Benedict

Libby Chapter: Events 2009-2010

Nov. 2009: Chris Schnept, Idaho Extension Forester: Gave talk and presentation on White Pine and White pine Blister Rust.

Dec. 2009: Mark White, Libby District Historian and Archeologist: Gave talk and presentation on Historic conditions of the Yaak Area previous to 1910.

Jan. 2010; Ron Carter and Lee Disney, on entrepreneur invention a Gasification Module that can use bio mass utilization, including small pieces, it mobile and can return power to grid system.

Feb. 2010: Chuck Roady, from Stoltz Lumber of co-gen type plant for biomass utilization at the mill, and return large portions of power to the grid.

Also in Feb.: Chapter work day of thinning and piling in J Neils Park.

Mar. 2010: Jerry Brown, DNRC (retired area biologist) gave a presentation on over thirty years of observing wildlife, big game and fur bearing animals in the Kootenai NF area.

Apr. 2010: Had a presentation on Forest Soils lined up but fell thru....searching for another topic and speaker, possibly the new Lincoln County Planner to talk about what's next for Libby-Lincoln Co. area.

Also in April, chapter workday in the JNeils Park (likely in Folf disc course area, removing a few trees)

May 2010: Becky Timmons, Forest (Kootenai) Archeologist: topic not set in stone, possibly RR logging in Flower Creek of the Libby District of the Kootenai NF.

Also May 2010: Chapter will sponsor 5th grade tours in Libby and Troy. Lead by April Rainy in Libby and Russ Gautreaux in Troy.

June 2010: still to be confirmed, Jason Bain from the Fort Missoula Museum to discuss with chapter the current 1910 exhibit and insights and future projects for the Ft. Missoula Museum.

➤ **Missoula Chapter Report** – Chris Keyes

Chapter Leadership

During the January meeting the Missoula chapter welcomed its 2010 officers: Chris Keyes (Chair), Amy Helena (Chair-Elect), and Tim Spoelma (Secretary/Treasurer).

Leadership Academy

Officers Amy Helena and Tim Spoelma attended the recent leadership training at Camp Lutherhaven near Coeur d'Alene in February. The meeting's theme was "Revitalizing Membership through Active Leadership"; presentations focused on SAF's structure and operations, bridging generational gaps among foresters, and effective communication strategies. SAF's National Policy Director, Erica Rhoad, explained how SAF works among our nation's leaders in Washington, D.C. to influence forest policy and how members can work at local levels to influence policy and educate the public. Student Chapter members from UM and WSU described their efforts and strategies to recruit members.

Chapter Attendance

Attendance at monthly meetings continues to be strong, despite the closure of the Stone Container mill and other assorted bad news about the forest economy. Or perhaps because of it? During the first quarter of 2010 our attendance has averaged 45 members. Partly the numbers are due to increased student participation (see below), but mostly they are due to strong turnout of regular members. Presentations during the past year have been diverse, including both controversial topics of local interest and non-controversial but interesting international travelogues.

Student Participation

Tim Spoelma and Amy Helena attended the Student Chapter meeting on March 2, where Tim gave a presentation about DNRC's forest management program. State Chair Dennis Davaz and Missoula chapter member Glenn Koepke also attended and along with Tim and Amy discussed getting a mentoring program for students with the Missoula Chapter up and running. During first quarter 2010 the UM chapter has participated in Missoula chapter meetings on a substantial and consistent basis. The group, which meets twice monthly, began the practice of holding its every-other meeting in association with our chapter meeting (basically at one of our round tables), conducting business during our mixer and enjoying the presentation afterward. The Missoula chapter endorses this. During the most recent meeting students mixed in with regular chapter members after holding their group meeting. Missoula chapter members were reminded to make contact with those students who are taking the first step of assimilation. This informal mixing may facilitate mentoring pairings in the future.

State Meeting

Preparations for the SAF Montana State Meeting (Double Tree Hotel, Missoula, April 22-23) have been a preoccupation since the beginning of the quarter. About a dozen chapter members have taken on various responsibilities to carry the event out. With Inland Empire SAF focusing their annual meeting entirely on a retrospective of the 1910 fires and targeting a national audience, our chapter has focused the Montana meeting on contemporary issues with an emphasis on meeting the needs of Montana SAF members. 25 speakers will present on diverse and timely subjects over a compact 2-day period. Many speakers are local to the Missoula area and provide SAF members with an opportunity to become acquainted with new researchers at the University of Montana and the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. However, local talent is complemented with speakers from Arkansas, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. With an emphasis on reducing costs and maximizing value to SAF members, the cost for SAF members is \$135 or \$85 for one day. The negotiated lodging at the Doubletree is \$84, less than the government rate. Registration is due April 10; \$20 late fee applied thereafter. Registration materials and details are at the SAF-MT website: (<http://www.cfc.umt.edu/hosting/saf/>).

- **Student Chapter Report** – Stephen Mohr – No report

Past Chair and Awards Committee Report – Holly McKenzie

Forward any nominees to Holly for Field Forester of Year, Outstanding SAF Citizen, Communicator of Year, Life-Time Achievement and 50 Year awards. The committee approved paying the registration and dinners for Bob Pfister, Roger Lund, Robert Rainy and Nils Troedsson 2009 50 Year Award recipients for the April 2010 MT SAF State meeting in Missoula. Holly will contact recipients and send them registration forms to fill out.

Policy Committee Report – Gordy Sanders & Todd Morgan –

The SAF CFP meeting (March 10-11 in Bethesda, MD) was attended by all the current CFP members. Two of us are from the west, Todd Morgan and Marcia Patton-Mallory with USFS and Western Forestry Leadership Coalition in Denver.

Several SAF position statements are up for renewal: 1) state programs to credential foresters, 2) use of silviculture to achieve & maintain forest health on public lands, 3) biomass, and 4) public regulation of private lands (as related to high grading).

The “use of silviculture” should be of particular interest to MT-SAF members since it is the national position based on “sustainable forest management requires active forest management” jointly crafted by MT & Inland Empire SAF. This position will likely be revised with less content related specifically to fire & fuels, a greater concentration on more sustainable forest conditions (social & economic sustainability as well as ecological) in general, a more inclusive list of silvicultural practices beyond thinning & Rx fire, and some more recent references/citations. Anthony Scardina of USFS is the lead CFP member and I will be working with him on the revisions. Input from MT-SAF, Exec Committee & science chair in particular, would be greatly appreciated.

The “biomass” position may also be of interest as SAF seeks to have the (more inclusive) Farm Bill definition recognized as the national definition rather than the Energy Bill & other definitions that exclude biomass from most public forests and much of private working forests.

The Forest Service’s proposed 2011 budget was also discussed and the apparent lack of accountability/deliverables/well-defined outputs was noted. Other legislative items that were discussed include renewing/amending Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HR 4233), legislation by Udall & Risch (S 2798) related to insect & disease outbreaks on federal lands, Senator Tester’s Bill (S 1470), Senator Wyden’s eastside of Oregon bill (S 2895), and Equal Access to Justice Act legislation (HR 4717).

In conjunction with the CFP meeting, Erica Rhoad and I visited with staffers from MT’s Congressional Delegation. We feel this went well insofar as I was introduced as a professional source for local & regional information related to timber harvest and the forest industry as well as other forestry-related items. Erica and I thanked Senator Tester’s staff for listening to SAF’s feedback on his bill and making several of the changes SAF suggested. As my earlier email indicated, there is probably more progress than can be made with Tester’s staff regarding the purpose & need for restoration as well as the durability of restoration treatments and need for stand re-entry. Senator Baucus’ and Representative Rehberg’s staff were also receptive to our visit, pretty knowledgeable on Tester’s bill & SAF’s comments, but seemed to have other major issues (health care and appropriations) taking near-term priority.

I can forward along the minutes of the CFP meeting and/or boil them down for folks if wanted.

Communications Report –Jason Brandt –

- To start I would like to announce my resignation as the Communications Chair for the Montana Society of American Foresters as of March 31, 2010.
- Overall the MTSAF contact lists are in pretty good shape having just been updated with the latest list from National with the help of Steve Hayes, MTSAF Membership Chair.
- As for the contact lists I have created a shared account so that for the time being Steve Hayes has access to them so that in case I am not around when someone steps up to the Communications post they can get the list from Steve. If the individual taking over is using Microsoft Office Outlook software – the switch should be as simple as sharing or sending the information cards on the individuals by chapter, this may also work with other programs as well I just have not tried it.

- With the State meeting fast approaching the media will need to be contacted in the next couple weeks. I have created a media contact list that for the most part should be up to date and contains the relevant media contact information for distribution.
- As for my replacement I can only suggest maybe talking to Bev Yelczyn who has since moved back to Montana and was the Communications Chair prior to me. She was an outstanding Communications Chair for the Montana SAF and I feel would be a good option to look into.
- Steve Hayes will act until a replacement is found.

Newsletter Report – Peter Kolb – No report

Membership Report – Steve Hayes

Below is the most recent Montana SAF membership.

Chapter	#Members	not paid for2010	net membership
Eastside	60	10	50
Flathead	51	6	45
Libby	28	4	24
Missoula	134	26	108
Montana	10	2	8
U of M Students	<u>27</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>
	310	66	244

Steve Hayes will send the “not paid for 2010” membership list to Chapter Chairs, so that contacts can be made encouraging members to re-up.

Mentor Report – Vacant –

Through discussions with Students Chapter members at the Leadership Academy in Coeur d’Alene, one of the most important programs that the MTSAF can revitalize for them is the Mentor Program. There was Executive Committee discussion that university faculty should lead the Mentor effort. Dennis will work with Ron Wakimoto and Beth Dodson to do this. It was agreed that a Mentor Sign-up Sheet will be passed out during the Business Meeting at our Annual Meeting on April 23.

Foresters Fund Report – Gordy Sanders –

The SAF Foresters Fund approved \$950 for the “Forestry Day at Fort Missoula”. Scott Kuehn is the project manager.

Historian Report – Scott Kuehn –

ARBOR DAY

On **Friday, April 23**, from 3:00-4:00, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) will help celebrate **Arbor Day**. The SAF will plant trees at the Forestry Interpretive Area, located at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

FORESTRY DAY at FORT MISSOULA

On **Saturday, April 24th**, the Society of American Foresters, in association with the University of Montana Woodsman Team and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, is hosting **Forestry Day at Fort Missoula**. The day's events will include a one-of-a-kind Pro/Am Logging Show where professional and collegiate lumberjacks (and lumberjills) from throughout the Northwest and Canada compete.

Saturday's events include: Cross-cut sawing, Wood chopping, Axe throwing, and Hot Saws. (Hot saws are 10% chain saw and 90% alcohol and nitro-burning, fire-breathing monsters!)

There will also be demonstrations of antique logging equipment, horse drawn high wheel logging demonstrations, steam-powered sawmill operations, antique farm and logging equipment and engines, chain saw carving, plus many more forestry displays. Climb to the top of a forest fire lookout. Watch live demonstrations of one of the last operating steam-powered sawmill.

This is the 14th year the SAF has hosted Forestry Day and the 32nd year the UM Woodsman Team has competed. Activities run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for seniors and \$1.00 Students. (Saturday only) All of the activities will be held at the SAF Forestry Interpretive Area and the Garrett Grothen Arena at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. For more information, visit our web site at: www.forestrydays.com, or call Scott Kuehn at (406) 546-9304 or montanaforester@yahoo.com.

We've recently acquired an old set of High Wheels that were north of Missoula and could be seen from I-90 for years. They are 110 years old and all the old Oak was really rotten and they fell apart as soon as we touched them.

The Vo-Tech is donating a 1956 Cat D4 that has only 1 hour on it.

Science and Technology Report – John Goodburn –

Nothing to add at this time.

Website Report – Sherri McWilliams –

Website Report – The website's main focus so far has been to list officers, announcements, meeting minutes/agendas/registration forms, position papers, events on the calendar, and the SAF application form. Is there any other content that we should/could be posting?

We have never updated the "look" of the site, and I think it is time. I have a nice template that I could use to create a new site. I would need some high quality photos (for the header and maybe a slideshow) and a point person I could work with to help with decisions and content collection if needed.

Education Report– Cindy Bertek –

Project Learning Tree (PLT) – PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase youths' understanding of our complex environment, to stimulate critical and creative thinking, to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues, and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

PLT and SAF have a great connection. Many of the PLT activities are forestry related. They are easy to use and to teach others to use. SAF members who have a love for teaching children and teachers about the forest can be trained in the use of the PLT materials or even become PLT Facilitators. SAF members can also volunteer to give short presentations at PLT workshops. It makes the lesson really hit home when someone with experience presents information at a workshop about forest insects, tree growth, and habitats.

Project Learning Tree in Montana completed its second year since its reentry into the state. In 2009 84 Educators were trained in the use of PLT materials at 8 workshops, 22 new Facilitators (Those who train PLT teachers) were trained. We have a total of 46 Facilitators and an additional 105 trained Educators.

A participant in PLT applied and awarded Montana's first *Greenworks!* grant. Holly McKenzie of SAF, TF, and Women and Timber is doing great work with the program. Glacier Gateway grade school is completing the project "Native Trees for Shade and Beauty!" The project includes the planting of native trees to green up the playground area and provide future shade for students. With the PLT *Greenworks!* grant and matching funds from Plum Creek Foundation, 450 seedlings and ten (6 to 10 foot) native sapling size trees will be planted. The older students will help with digging holes to plant the larger root balls of the saplings.

We just received the new PLT *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* supplement that will build on 10 PreK activities found in the Activity Guide and include song and other techniques for young children.

We have several Educator workshops and one Facilitator workshop planned for 2010. The Facilitator workshop will be in Bozeman and was requested by a group of retired professionals.

Forest Stewardship

There are six Forest Stewardship Workshops scheduled for 2010.

Thompson Falls May 6-7 & 14, Bozeman June 3-4 & 11, Roundup July 29-30 & August 6, Potomac August 19-20 & 27, and Helena September 9-10 & 17. The additional sixth workshop is in Helmville on May 20-21 & 28.

The Master Forest Steward Program will be presenting several topic specific workshops through the summer and fall. Locations and dates can be found at www.cfc.umt.edu/extenisonforestry/calendar/htm. The Forestry Mini-College will also be offered in the fall at the UM.

Natural Resources Youth Camp for 14-18 year olds will be held July 11-16 at Lubrecht.

Forest Stewardship Short Course - Forests as a Resource-Miles City, April 16, sponsored by MSU Extension Forestry and MT DNRC. For forest range owners: an afternoon of forest and range with Dr. Clayton Marlow, MSU; Cindy Bertek, MSU Extension Forestry; and Chris Pileski, DNRC, and an evening dinner and social.

Forest Landowner Conference-Coping with Montana's Forest Health Crisis on Privately Owned Forests- Helena, April 19, Sponsored by: NW Management, MT Forest Stewardship Foundation, MT DNRC, and SAF

MLA-BMP/SMZ Workshops – Libby May 10, Kalispell May 11, Missoula May 12, Libby May 13, Harlowton May 14.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dennis provided a DRAFT Outline of Broad Topic Areas for Opinion-Editorials from the MTSAF for 2010 and a DRAFT “Rules of Engagement” for Opinion Editorials. Both were developed based on feedback from SAF members. Much of the DRAFT topics focused on “Forest Restoration”. Dennis reviewed the by-laws and our current position statements and concluded that since there isn’t a unified SAF position regarding the term “Forest Restoration”, that there may be widespread differences among SAF members as to what the term means. He also added that until a unified position statement is developed, consistent with our by-laws, that it would be inappropriate for opinions to be published by the SAF about the topic. Gordy Sanders concurred with this and added that there are simultaneous discussions being held at the National level to develop a position statement through the Committee on Forest Policy or development of a white paper on the subject by our Science and Technology board. Gordy will talk with Jay O’Laughlin, the Policy Chair for the IESAF and folks at National about this issue and keep the MTSAF Executive Committee informed as to what level in SAF will initiate the position (unit, joint unit, or national). For now, Dennis will review the Draft Broad Topic Areas and decide on whether there is relevance without including the theme of “Restoration”. He encouraged feedback from the committee on both Drafts.

Dennis drafted and the committee approved the following letter of support for the National Museum of Forest Service History proposed addition of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula.

Mr. Dave Stack, Executive Director
National Museum of Forest Service History
P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, Montana 59806

3-29-10

Dear Dave:

On behalf of the Montana Society of American Foresters, I am pleased to endorse the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH), dedicated to preserving and interpreting the entire history of the U.S. Forest Service, its cooperators and partners. The addition of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula will greatly benefit our state, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for the stewardship of our abundant natural resources in Montana.

When visitors step outside the Center’s doors, they will be a short drive from some of the greatest recreational opportunities in our state: Bitterroot, Clearwater and Lolo National Forests; Selway Bitterroot and Welcome Creek Wilderness Areas; the Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Areas; and the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. These federal lands are maintained for the benefit of all Americans, but local governments and communities are uniquely dependent upon and have an intimate knowledge of these landscapes. At the Center, visitors will also gain a greater understanding of the issues that have shaped our local communities, as well as the role of active forest management in the years ahead.

Historical evidence indicates that our forested landscapes in the northern Rockies, and the resources that they provide to surrounding human populations, can change very rapidly. Explosive insect epidemics and

catastrophic wildfires in recent years are but two examples. Active forest management is a tool that can moderate these changes and many others. It also provides vital, renewable, carbon neutral resources to our society and does not need to be exclusive of other forest values such as wildlife, clean water, recreation and remote and rustic experiences. The Society of American Foresters is strongly committed to caring for our natural resources while simultaneously meeting environmental, economic, and community aspirations and needs.

Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. It is *the* national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States, with a mission to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of our profession to ensure the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

The Montana Society of American Foresters (MTSAF) represents more than 350 members across the state, including natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEO's, administrators, educators, and students. We are one of the most active and involved units of the SAF, providing important contributions in forest policy and identifying emerging issues in forestry.

We look forward to working with the NMFSA to pursue its vision for national conservation legacy education, historical preservation and remembrance of the significant deeds and people that define the very meaning of conservation.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Davaz, Chair
Montana Society of American Foresters

Next Meeting Date – Wednesday April 21, 2010 6:30 PM at the Doubletree Hotel Missoula.

Adjourn – 4:30 PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by: _____
Robert Logar, Secretary/Treasurer