Society of American Foresters 2012 Executive Leadership Meeting

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Society of American Foresters

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Overview

- SAF Involvement in Policy
- Private Land Policy Initiatives
- Public Lands Policy Initiatives
- We Want You to Get Involved
- Questions



Why is SAF involved in policy?

- SAF at all levels has the responsibility to provide scientific knowledge and professional opinion within its expertise to public and private sector policymakers and to the general public.
- Members and units of the Society are encouraged to participate responsibly in SAF forest policy activities
- Committee on Forest Policy





Work Closely with Partners to Stay Attune to Developing Issues

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Work on Private and Public Lands Issues Keeps Us Busy





2012 Farm Bill Activities

SAF Priorities:

- 1.Strengthening Research and Education Programs
- 2. Combating Invasive Species
- 3. Supporting Forest Market Opportunities
- 4.Improving Forest Conservation Programs



SAF Farm Bill Challenges

- Imploding Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction
- Competing for Dollars with Agriculture Interests
- Contending with Uncertainty, Leaked Outline of Proposal that Was Favorable to Forestry and Conservation But.......

Working on Specifics of Recommendations





Three Pronged Strategy

Appeal to United States Supreme Court

Pursue Legislative Fix

Amendment to Appropriations Bill



United States Supreme Court

- Request for Review made by State of Oregon Accepted Pending Opinion of Solicitor General
- May Warrant Review Due to Conflicting Opinion
- Buoyed by Amicus Brief Signed by 26 State Attorney Generals
- Encourage Agencies to Contact Solicitor General



HR 2451 and S. 1369

- Introduced Concurrently in House and Senate
- Boasts Bipartisan Support in House and Senate
- Designed to Assist with Appropriations Strategy
- Dedicated SAF Members Attracted Cosponsors
- Continued to Gain Cosponsors Over the Recess



Senate Appropriations Strategy

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

- Viewed as the Most Viable Option
- Achieved Objective of Getting Language Added
- Committed Support from Congress
- Concerted Effort for Administration Awareness



Technical Symposium

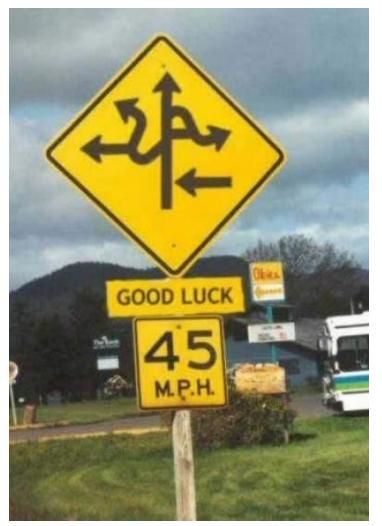
Administrative, Legal, and Scientific Panels

- Planned in Response to NEDC v. Decker But....
- Designed to Highlight Contributions of Responsible Forest Management to Water Quality in 40 years of CWA
- Honorable Benjamin H. Grumbles Will Provide Keynote Address



Appropriations

- Key Players
 - -President's Budget
 - -The House
 - -The Senate





Appropriations FY 2012

- Signed \$1 Trillion Dollar Omnibus Spending Bill on December 23rd, 2011
- Appropriated \$4.6 Billion for USFS and \$1.1 Billion for BLM Both Reductions from FY 2011

 Included Pre-Decisional Objections Process, an Equal Access to Justice Transparency, and a Temporary Continuation of Silviculture Exemption



Appropriations

Positive Steps but We Need to Keep Working

- Release of President's 2013 Budget Expected Soon
- Request from President for Agencies to Reduce Funding Requests by 5-10%
- Continue to Monitor Budget Negotiation with Opportunities for SAF to Provide Testimony
- Assume Leadership Role Re-Authorization of Stewardship Contracting Expiring in 2013



Forest Service Planning Rule

- Released DEIS in Feb 2011
- Assembled Team of 8 SAF Members to Respond
- Advocated for a simple, flexible and adaptable rule. Needs to stretch funds. Most importantly it needs to be practical and implementable!
- Support for Nominations to FACA Planning Rule Committee



Forest Service Planning Rule

What the SAF Team Found:

- Lack of consideration for the need of sustainable forest management.
- 2. Lack of commitment to rural communities and private-sector partners.
- 3. Misplaced focus on viable species populations
- 4.Lack of consistency between projects and forest plans, the implied complexity of forest plans and the need for best available science.





Current Policy Items of Interest

- NEPA Comments
 - Council on Environmental Quality Document Designed to Enhance Efficiency in EA and EIS
 - SAF Committee on Forest Policy Members will Provide Comments to CEQ on Guidance
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Coalition
 - SAF is a Steering Committee member along with American Forests, The Nature Conservancy, Sustainable Northwest, and the Wilderness Society

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Congressional Briefings

2012: Election Year

- November 6, 2012
 - Presidential Election
 - Congressional Election:
 - In the Senate: 33 of the 100 seats will be voted on.
 Of those seats, 23 are Democrats, 10 are
 Republican, and 2 are Independent.
 - In the House: 18 Democrats and 10 Republicans are retiring. 25 seats are needed for Democrats to regain control of the House.



Why should YOU get involved?

- We need your help!
- Laws & regulations from the local to the federal level will be made with or without your input

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- Forests & forest management are in the limelight
- If we don't inform policy makers and politicians, WHO WILL??

Questions?

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Give Us a Call We are Here to Serve You!

