



NAUFRP NEWS

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

Creating Knowledge – Developing Leaders

December 2024 Issue 6

President’s Message-Katy Kavanagh

Dear NAUFRP Members,

As I conclude my tenure as President of NAUFRP, I reflect on the significant challenges and opportunities we have faced together. The most existential crisis we face is climate change, which ironically has brought a renewed sense of relevance to our forestry programs. Whether through emerging wildfire impacts, carbon sequestration, or the sustainable use of wood in the built environment, our forestry research programs are integral to addressing this global issue. NAUFRP has the potential to lead in sharing innovative ideas and practices that emerge from our universities with our partners and stakeholders.



The realm of higher education is evolving rapidly. We are encountering the integration of AI into our educational programs. This is transforming not only what we teach but also how and to whom we teach. The COVID-19 pandemic opened the door to online education, and it continues to expand. Institutions are strategically aiming to double their already robust online enrollment, a

trend we see mirrored across many universities. This shift means we are now competing for the same pool of students, with stipends and graduate student tuition becoming critical factors.

I encourage everyone to think deeply about these issues. During this period of change, the more we share information and collaborate on solutions, the stronger we will be. My message to you is to continue sharing information, debating the issues, and being active members of this body. NAUFRP has only begun to tap into its potential, and we have a tremendous future ahead under the guidance of Dennis and Linda.

Thank you for your support and dedication over the past two years. It has been an honor to serve as your President.

Warm regards and Happy Holidays,

Kathleen Kavanagh

Outgoing President, NAUFRP

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Meetings

- **March 4-5 2025 NAUFRP Executive Committee Washington, DC (in-person and virtual)**
- **June 2025, Southern NAUFRP, Biloxi, MS**

Washington Update—Randy Nuckolls, Washington Counsel

President-Elect Trump has moved quickly to make public the names of his Cabinet who will be officially sent to Congress once he is sworn in on January 20th. The nominees include Brooke Rollins for Secretary of Agriculture, Governor Doug Burgum for Secretary of Interior, and former NY Congressman Lee Zeldin for EPA Administrator. For a complete list of nominees please go to the Dentons policy blog at

<https://www.policysoapbox.com/trump-transition-tracker/presidential-appointments/>.

The 119th Congress will be sworn in on January 3, 2025 with 53 Republican Senators and 47 Democrats or Independents who caucus with Democrats. The new Senate Majority Leader will be John Thune of South Dakota, taking over as the Republican leader from Mitch McConnell, the longest serving party leader in the history of the Senate. McConnell became Republican Senate leader in 2007.

The Republicans will continue a razor thin majority in the House of Representatives in the new Congress with 220 Republicans to 215 Democrats. The House will elect its Speaker on December 3rd and current Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana hopes to maintain his Speakership despite such a slim margin, and with a handful of hard right Members

(Washington Report continued on page 9)

Committee Work

Communications—Todd Petty

Two-page NAUFRP Handout: A final version of the NAUFRP overview and membership benefits document was completed in spring 2024. The content is targeted to leaders at member institutions and potential future members. The document describes overall mission, structure, and member benefits. The document should be a valuable resource to regional directors for approaching institutions in their regions that are not active NAUFRP members.

NAUFRP Booth at SAF – September 2024 – Loveland, CO: For the first time, NAUFRP sponsored an informational booth at the national SAF meeting. Promotional materials were created and distributed to increase awareness of NAUFRP. It is likely that we will continue to sponsor a table at future SAF meetings. A decision on this will be made at the spring 2025 executive committee meeting.

Website Update: The website requires an overhaul, and it will be a priority for 2025. The communications committee will work with NAUFRP leadership to decide on which revisions are most needed and establish a budget for revisions. Several important ideas include updates to MS project descriptions, a map of Forestry Programs and schools that receive McIntire-Stennis support, and a map of university experimental forests.

Identifying other communications priorities: The 2-page informational handout, the SAF booth and Website revisions were high priorities for 2024 and 2025. We will spend time at the spring executive committee meeting identifying 1-2 additional communications priorities for 2025-2026.

Diversity —Zhu Hua Ning

NAUFRP diversity committee finalized the criteria and call for nominations for the **Dr. Yeon-Su Kim Champion Award**. The NAUFRP Executive Committee approved them at its Sept 16th meeting. This Award is to honor an individual, a program, or an organization that has demonstrated sustained dedication to inclusive excellence, promoting a sense of belonging, and achievement in equal access at the NAUFRP member organizations and beyond. The award embodies the spirit of Dr. Yeon-Su Kim and other champions of inclusion that made lasting, significant impacts in forestry and natural resources education. Award will be presented to the awardee (or a representative of a program or organization) at the NAUFRP General Assembly in person or virtually. Award includes plaque, \$1,000 cash prize, plus travel support for the awardee to attend the NAUFRP General Assembly. The first call for nominations will be sent out in Feb 2025. Individuals or organizations who are affiliated with a NAUFRP institution are eligible. Self-nomination is also accepted. Nomination packets should include a nomination letter, a letter of support to the nomination, and other supporting materials that demonstrate the impacts of the efforts. Award criteria include demonstrating sustained impact and leadership towards inclusive excellence, promoting a sense of belonging, and achievement in equal access in forestry and natural resources. Examples of efforts that merit nomination of this award:

- ◇ Developing effective partnerships to jointly implement related efforts.
- ◇ Organizing impactful, supportive trainings and events.
- ◇ Helping others to navigate in a culture with ever evolving and sometimes challenging spaces.
- ◇ Facing adverse situations with equanimity and displayed resilience in trying times.
- ◇ Integrating diverse perspectives and transforming conflict into collaboration and cooperation to work towards a common goal.
- ◇ Motivating others and leverage differences to promote innovation.
- ◇ Working tirelessly to create a safe and equitable working environment.

Continued on page 6

2023-2024

NAUFRP Executive Committee

[Kathleen \(Katy\) Kavanagh](#), President
Oregon State University

[Janaki R. Alavalapati](#), Past-President
Auburn University

[Dennis Becker](#), President-Elect
University of Idaho

[Robert Burns](#), Secretary-Treasurer
West Virginia University

National Committee Chairs
[Todd Petty](#), Communications
University of Georgia

[Zhu Hua Ning](#), Diversity
Southern University

[Andrew Storer](#), Education
Michigan Technological University

[Jeff Stringer](#), Extension
University of Kentucky

[Don Hodges](#), International
University of Tennessee

[Myron Floyd](#), Policy
North Carolina State University

[Rich Kobe](#), Research
Michigan State University

Regional Committee Chairs
[Michael Blazier](#), Southern
University of Arkansas

[Bill Hubbard](#), Northeastern
University of Maryland

[Charles Goebel](#), Western
University of Idaho

[Zhao Ma](#), North Central
Purdue University

At-Large
[Erin Kelly](#)
Cal Poly Humboldt University

[David Newman](#),
SUNY-College of Environmental
Sciences & Forestry

BNR/BAC Representative
[Linda Nagel](#)
Utah State University

1890 Land Grant Representative
[Kozma Naka](#)
Alabama A&M University

NAUFRP Washington Counsel
[C. Randall Nuckolls](#)

NAUFRP Executive Liaison
[Terri Bates](#)

Workforce Diversity in Forestry and Related Natural Resources – An Opportunity to Engage

Wes Burger, Dean and Director
Steve Bullard, Associate Dean and Associate Director
College of Forest Resources / Forest and Wildlife Research Center
Mississippi State University

In 2022, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities created the U.S. Forest and Wood Products Inclusion Council with three initial objectives: (1) Complete a comprehensive research and survey process to understand diversity barriers and workforce challenges; (2) Launch a series of “Learning Labs” to share diversity and inclusion best practices from forestry and wood products leaders; and (3) Build a “Community of Practice,” where practitioners and advocates can share, learn together, and continuously strengthen approaches to develop a more diverse workforce.

University academic programs, both graduate and undergraduate, are the first point of entry for many professional careers in forestry and related natural resources. We therefore encourage NAUFRP leaders to engage in the actions and future plans of the Inclusion Council. [You can read more about the initiative at usinclusioncouncil.org/about, and you can become involved by joining the movement for inclusive forestry at usinclusioncouncil.org/get-involved/.]

NAUFRP members should be involved in local as well as national efforts to enhance the diversity of our degree programs – our universities are the pipeline to many professional opportunities where a more diverse workforce is needed. In the past 50 years, we have made substantial progress in the diversity of our students, faculty, and staff, but we still have much work to do in specific disciplines, including forestry. For success going forward, including all subdisciplines at NAUFRP institutions, we believe our efforts must be:

Interdependent – We must work together across the sector, including universities, state and federal agencies, and industry, to ensure we benefit fully from synergy and resources. We believe the Inclusion Council is an outstanding approach for ensuring all sectors are involved in this work.

Comprehensive – Based on a review of decades of research and practice, faculty and administrators at Mississippi State University identified 8 critical issues that must be addressed comprehensively to successfully enhance the diversity of undergraduate programs in forestry and related natural resources. Promising practices are also summarized in the March 2024 *Journal of Forestry* article <https://academic.oup.com/jof/article/122/2/107/7428713>.

Effective – We must continuously evaluate the efforts and programs we put in place to enhance diversity, and we must share the knowledge gained, so we are increasingly effective in our practices and actions. The Inclusion Council’s Learning Labs and the Community of Practice outlined above will help ensure we learn and grow in effectiveness in the future.

Sustained – In the past 5 decades, work to enhance the diversity of forestry and related natural resources undergraduate programs has been conducted with “feast and famine” funding. Excellent, effective programs have been developed, articles published, and workshops held, but we have not sustained the programming efforts to make long-term differences in our enrollment in subdisciplines like forestry. Working together, we must find the resources necessary to sustain effective programs.

In the College of Forest Resources at MSU, we’re committed to a goal of achieving an undergraduate enrollment that reflects the demographics of our state’s high school graduating class by 2030. Other universities have similar goals, but we have yet to work together intentionally to accomplish our highly related diversity goals. We invite you to engage actively at the national level by joining the Inclusion Council, and we also encourage NAUFRP leaders to contact us, so we can ensure you’re kept abreast of efforts underway in an expanding network of NAUFRP member institutions. Please let us know you’d like to be involved by emailing WBurger@msstate.edu and/or Steve.Bullard@msstate.edu.

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Treasurer/Secretary Report—Robert Burns

As Secretary/Treasurer of NAUFRP I have the unique opportunity to serve both the NAUFRP membership and the NAUFRP leadership team. As we close out the year 2024, I would like to share some facts about NAUFRP and who we are. I have been able to see how NAUFRP plans and executes its strategies and how it selects annual goals and how it achieves them. I am greatly impressed with the stability on the NAUFRP Executive Committee and the NAUFRP leadership and the passion with which the membership, partners, and other constituents work together to support our Land Grant universities and their faculty and students. We are a member-serving entity solely dedicated to ensuring the successes and issues impacting the nation's land grant universities are heard on Capitol Hill, by our federal grant-giving partners, by university leaders, and by partner entities such as the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU), the Society of American Foresters (SAF), the National Association of Fisheries and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) and more. The NAUFRP budget has remained relatively stable over the past decade, but we can do better! One of our goals for 2025 is to engage all land grant universities to ensure NAUFRP is relevant nationwide. We will seek to increase the number of paid member land grant universities, which will increase NAUFRP's ability to communicate effectively across the higher education, federal and state landscapes. Member dues are used judiciously to achieve the member-supported goals and initiatives, such as participation in the AgInnovation Research Roadmap; coordination and cooperation with the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching/Administrative Heads Section (CARET), and especially, working through our Washington Council (Randy Nuckolls) navigating and understanding current and future implications of Washington policy on forestry and natural resources ecosystems. NAUFRP will continue to lobby Congressional members to drive home the criticality of forestry and natural resources to our nation.

Robert C. Burns, Treasurer/Secretary

APLU Liaison — Linda Nagel

The final Fiscal Year 2025 Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Annual Appropriations Request (including McIntire-Stennis) can be found [here](#). This request is developed by the [Budget and Advocacy Committee](#) (BAC) of the [Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities](#) (APLU) each year, with NAUFRP representation on the BAC. See Summary Table below.

Update on APLU Strategic Roadmaps:

-The BAC continues the "APLU BAA Vision" effort. Dennis Becker and Linda Nagel provided edits and "stories" showcasing forestlands, wildfires, air quality, water resources and drought, and the importance of forestry as a solution for consideration in the final document.

-*agInnovation Research Strategy* (formerly the Experiment Station Section, ESS)

The draft 2025-2035 agInnovation Research Roadmap is out. See drafts of the Executive Summary, and 3 pillars: Water Resilience, Climate Solutions and Sustainable Food Systems. Find more here: <https://www.aginnovation.info/>

Additional APLU-related activities:

-CFERR: *Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources, Board on Natural Resources* – Rep Linda Nagel. CFERR held a Webinar on September 26th on

Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Natural Resources: Impacts on 2025 and Beyond. Andrew Storer was a panelist. A CFERR In-Person Meeting was held during the APLU Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL on November 10th, and the CFERR Annual Meeting was held virtually on December 2nd

-*Capacity Funding Awareness Campaign* – Rep Dennis Becker. The BAA entered into a consulting contract to help develop a Capacity Building Awareness campaign that would be a major funding priority for FY26. Two primary goals of this work are to: 1) Advocate for the continuity and stability of federal capacity funding, emphasizing the importance of long-term commitments to support ongoing research activities, infrastructure maintenance, and capacity-building initiatives, and highlight the risks associated with funding fluctuations or uncertainty, which can disrupt research programs and impede progress; and 2) Tailor the messaging to resonate with policymakers, funding agencies, and other stakeholders involved in decision-making, and use language that emphasizes the strategic importance of agricultural research capacity to national priorities such as food security, public health, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness.

-The CARET/AHS (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching/Administrative Heads Section) meeting will be held in Washington, DC, February 23-26, 2025

****See Page 10 for Table from the APLU BAA Unified Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Request***

Regional Corner

Northeast —

Leadership Changes

University of Maine – **Adam Daigneault**, Director, School of Forest Resources

University of Vermont – **Peter Newman**, Dean, The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

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North Central — Zhao Ma/Rich Kobe

• Zhao Ma (Purdue) is now serving as the NAUFRP North Central Region Chair. Thanks and congrats Zhao!

Leadership Changes:

- University of Minnesota is conducting a search for a Department Head
- Purdue University – **Zhao Ma**, is now serving as Interim Dept Head
- Michigan Tech – **David Flaspohler**, has been appointed Dean (after serving as Interim Dean)

Other updates

- University of Minnesota is hiring tribal faculty; returning school forest to Fond du Lac Tribe

Michigan State is conducting three tenure stream searches: sustainable bioproducts, forest pathology, and tribal / indigenous natural resource management.

- Forestry and natural resources program enrollments are stable or trending positive

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South — Michael Blazier

- A **comparative data survey** of all SNAUFRP universities was conducted and completed in 2024. Nine universities responded, and key findings highlighted that average enrollments were 408 and 134 for undergraduate and graduate programs, respectively. For undergraduates, 57% of them were male and 43% were female, and for graduate students 48% were categorized as male and 52% female. Average teaching, research, and extension expenditures for 2023 of responding universities were \$5.0 million, \$8.8 million, and \$1.6 million, respectively.

- There were unit head changes over the year, with **Joe Knight** becoming department head at Virginia Tech, **Todd Petty** dean at University of Georgia, **Jingxin Wang** becoming department head at North Carolina State University. **Kyle Barrett** and **Paul Jackson** took on interim director roles at Clemson and Louisiana Tech, respectively.

- Multiple SNAUFRP units had new buildings completed or funded this year. **Oklahoma State University's** forestry and natural resources department moved into a new Agriculture building. **Louisiana State University's** School of Renewable Natural Resources is currently renovating its building. **Mississippi State University** is developing an annex to its Thompson Hall heavily fea-

turing glulam and CLT. **University of Arkansas at Monticello** received state funding to construct an Arkansas Forest Health Research Center on its campus.

- The SNAUFRP group will meet in June 2025 in tandem with the Southern Group of State Foresters annual meeting held in Biloxi, MS.

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West — Charles Goebel

Members of the NAUFRP Western Region met for our summer meeting on July 15-16 in Corvallis, Oregon. The 2024 Summer Meeting was hosted by Oregon State University (OSU) with members from Cal Poly Humboldt, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Idaho. The meeting included a field tour of OSU & US Forest Service research on forest disturbances in marbled murrelet habitat in Coastal Range, a discussion of ecologically oriented silvicultural methods at McDonald and Dunn Research Forests, and tour of the Tall Wood Design Institute. Members also discussed activities for the upcoming year including opportunities for further collaboration & information needs and developing annual enrollment survey and program details for western members.

Other news from around the region include several *leaderships changes*. At Northern Arizona University, Dr. **David Auty** has been appointed Executive Director of the School of Forestry, while Dr. **Parwinder Grewal** has joined the University of Hawaii-Manoa as Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Additionally, Dr. **Carl Seielstad** is now serving as the Chair of the University of Montana's Department of Forest Management and Dr. **Christopher Keyes** has joined the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University as Department Head.

Innovations in Mass Timber Solutions Symposium -- NC State University Raleigh NC (October 28-29):

This inaugural event, that spanned both industry and academia, aimed to develop a road map for innovation in mass timber solutions for wood utilization education and research. Through site visits, presentations, and facilitated discussion, participants explored the development and application of mass timber and cross-laminated timber. Invited speakers included Dr. Pat Layton (Director, Wood Utilization + Design Institute Clemson University), Philip Tidwell (Assistant Professor of Architecture, UC Berkeley), Jessica Scarlett (Regional Director, WoodWorks, Wood Products Council), and Thomas Mende (President and CEO, Binderholz Timber LL). Participants included faculty, students, and industry representatives. The symposium was hosted by the College of Natural Resources, College of Engineering and the College of Design at NC State University and was sponsored by Jordan Lumber, Weyerhaeuser, NC Forestry Association, and Enviva.

Committee Work, *continued*

Diversity *continued from pg 2*

- ◇ Modeling state of the art recruiting, mentoring and support of access to enhance inclusive excellence and a sense of belonging.
- ◇ Translating a vision of inclusive excellence into achievable milestones and communicating them effectively.

Nomination/application timeline:

- Feb 20: Award announcement/call for nominations.
- March 20: Send reminder for nominations.
- April 30: Nomination packet submission deadline
- May 3-14: Nomination packets review by the NAUFRP DEI committee and select top nominee/applicant.
- May 17: Committee recommends the awardee to the NAUFRP executive committee.
- June 1: NAUFRP informs the awardee.
- October: Present the award to the awardee at the NAUFRP General Assembly.

Education—Andrew Storer

The use of Artificial Intelligence tools in higher education is rapidly emerging and evolving, and this year has seen a focus on the impacts and opportunities relating to AI tools, especially generative AI. Mickey Jarvi and Andrew Storer gave a presentation entitled “The challenges and opportunities that Artificial Intelligence presents to natural resource education” at the Biennial Conference in Undergraduate Education in Natural Resources (BCUENR). As a follow up to this presentation, the education committee and NAUFRP provided a workshop entitled “AI in forestry education - opportunities and challenges” at the NAUFRP General Assembly in Loveland CO. This provided a venue for sharing of information and discussing the impacts of AI on forestry education. The goals of the workshop were to compare notes and discuss how our programs, units and institutions are prepared for the new world of AI, identify gaps in our integration of AI into our programs, and to identify areas where the Education Committee can assist programs. The response of attendees was enthusiastic, and many good conversations took place during the workshop.

As a community it is important to embrace the opportunities as we prepare students for a workforce in which AI will be omnipresent, and it is also exciting to contemplate and prepare for what the next generation of AI tools will enable us to do to help ensure the success of faculty and our students. The education committee anticipates continued work in this area with the goals of providing opportunities to enhance the incorporation of AI into academic programs and addressing some of the opportunities and challenges that AI presents.

Other Education news:

The education committee chair, Andrew Storer (Michigan Tech), continues to serve on the Education Policy Review Committee (EPRC) of SAF and was reappointed in December 2023. The focus of the EPRC has been in preparing a case to be recognized by CHEA –

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Recognition by CHEA will increase the visibility of accreditation of forestry programs, as well as ensuring that SAF accreditation meets the set of criteria that CHEA lays out for accrediting agencies. EPRC members have reviewed the various sections of the application for this recognition.

At the NAUFRP General Assembly in Loveland, CO, Terry Sharik led a conversation about the data he and Tara Bal are working with to prepare a manuscript that includes a 10-year update of national Natural Resources enrollment trends. This allowed attendees to provide input into understanding some of the trends that were observed in the data, which will strengthen the discussion in the manuscript.

International—Don Hodges

IUFRO International Council – Each Country with IUFRO members is allowed one representative on the IUFRO International Council (IC). The IC is the ultimate decision-making body of IUFRO, approving all officers within the organization, changes in policy and regulations, and advising their country on matters related to IUFRO. IUFRO lists more than 110 member organizations in the U.S. At the end of the 26th IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm in June 2024, the terms of the current IC members ended, and each country has been asked to elect a country representative and alternate for 2024-2029. Specifically, “You are kindly requested to make this nomination following a democratic and transparent process by consulting with all Member Organizations in your country.”

Historically, the U.S. representative has been the Chair of the NAUFRP International Committee and the alternate from the USDA Forest Service. Because the current NAUFRP International Chair is on the IUFRO Board, they cannot serve on the IUFRO IC, necessitating a vote of the NAUFRP members.

The outgoing IC representative is Robert Burns, West Virginia, who is a member of the NAUFRP International Committee. There is no limit, however, on serving multiple terms. IUFRO Also requested that all Member Organizations check if the list of IUFRO Member Organizations includes updated information about their organization (name/Head/Director/location, etc.). Any corrections can be sent to IUFRO HQ (schimpf@iufro.org).

Future IUFRO meetings

-2027 All-Division IUFRO Conference; Edmonton, Alberta – August 9-13, 2027 (<https://iufro2027.com>)

(Continued on page 7)

Committee Work, *continued*

International *continued from pg 6*

-27th IUFRO World Congress; Nairobi, Kenya; August 5-11, 2029

International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA - <https://ifsa.net>)

-Local Committees – The IFSA officers are hoping to increase the number of 'local committees' (student organizations at individual schools) in North America (currently five in Canada and six in the U.S.). The groups can be for graduate and undergraduate students and involve local activities, as well as regional and international conferences. b. The IFSA officers continue to discuss partnership opportunities with NAUFRP similar to those they enjoy with IUFRO (e.g., sponsorship for IFSA involvement at IUFRO conferences and committees).

Policy—Myron Floyd

NAUFRP and Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition

NAUFRP signed on with other organizations in endorsing the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition's letter to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. To highlight the importance of university forestry and natural resource programs in workforce preparation and research, NAUFRP specifically requested the inclusion of language acknowledging "universities and forestry programs" in the letter. NAUFRP received confirmation that NAUFRP's suggested language would be incorporated into the final version before its submission to Congress.

Farm Bill Priorities

Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP's Washington Liaison, reported on Farm Bill priorities for the upcoming congressional session. Among the key requests is support for the Research Facilities Program Act, which APLU aims to include in the Farm Bill. This proposal seeks \$2.5 billion in mandatory federal funding over five years to enhance research infrastructure.

Forestry Research and Advisory Council (FRAC)

NAUFRP executive committee members Myron Floyd and Adrian Leighton represent the NAUFRP on the Forestry Research and Advisory Council (FRAC), which reconvened in November 2023 after a seven-year hiatus. Key agenda items included a recommendation amend the McIntire-Stennis legislation to allow tuition remission for graduate students. The recommendation included a proposal to increase McIntire-Stennis funding to \$50 million to support tuition assistance. FRAC is evaluating alignment with APLU's \$46 million funding recommendation to ensure unified advocacy efforts.

NAUFRP's continued advocacy ensures university forestry and natural resources programs remain a priority in national legislation. Members are encouraged to stay engaged as these initiatives progress through the next congressional session.

2024 Family Forest Education Program Award Winners: University of Idaho Forest Stewardship Program and Purdue University Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner Course

Excellence in Family Forests Education Programs are jointly recognized each year by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP) and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). Awards for excellence are presented for both an Individual Project and a Comprehensive Program that exhibits excellence in education programming benefitting family forest owners across the U.S. Projects and Programs nominated address critical family forest ownership issues using a wide range of educational approaches and programs.



Idaho Master Forest Steward Bonnie Thomson teaching on tree planting techniques at Successful Tree Planting, held March 2019 in Plummer.

The Comprehensive Program Award

Idaho Forest Stewardship Program developed and hosted by University of Idaho Extension Forestry The 2024 series of comprehensive educational seminars, workshops and field experiences span the entire state of Idaho.

Timely and diverse topics were created in collaboration with University of Idaho Extension, local county Extensionists, and augmented through partnerships with the USDA Forest Service, Washington State University, and Idaho Tree Farm Program.

The Individual Program Award

"Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner Course" developed and hosted by Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension The Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner course provides forest landowners eight learning sessions designed to introduce them to the biology and management of forests, and the resources and professional assistance they can access to help them form their property management goals and pursue their objectives. Field experiences are integrated into the course to provide in-person, hands-on connections with the biology and management of Indiana forests. Connections made during the course and field tours introduce landowners to the foresters and other natural resource professionals who can help them with the management of their forestland.

The Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner course provides forest landowners eight learning sessions designed to introduce them to the biology and management of forests, and the resources and professional assistance they can access to help them form their property management goals and pursue their objectives. Field experiences are integrated into the course to provide in-person, hands-on connections with the biology and management of Indiana forests. Connections made during the course and field tours introduce landowners to the foresters and other natural resource professionals who can help them with the management of their forestland.



Field Day

Committee Work, *continued*

Extension—Bill Hubbard

I am excited to take over the reins of the national Extension Chair from Dr. Jeff Stringer. I have had the pleasure to work with Jeff over the last twenty years and wish him all the best in retirement. His leadership at Kentucky and in NAUFRP has benefited both groups tremendously and I feel honored to accept the challenge of filling this new role. It was gratifying to see the resolution NAUFRP presented on behalf of Jeff's service to the organization too at the recent NAUFRP General Assembly meeting at the Society of American Foresters' meeting earlier this fall. We will be sure to lean on Jeff in several ways now that he will have all this time on his hands!

For those who do not know me, I am currently an assistant director with University of Maryland Extension. This is my third position in my 35-year Extension career. I started as an Extension forester in forest management and urban forestry at the University of Florida, then moved to a regional, multi-state position which was funded by the 13 Southern 1862 land grant universities and the USDA Forest Service. The host institution for this position, Regional Extension Forester, was the University of Georgia in Athens, but I spent a great deal of time traveling the South and working with the South's forestry programs. I've been at the University of Maryland now for six years and while I work across a number of environmental, natural resources and even Sea Grant programs, my love and appreciation for forests and forestry has not been diminished.

My goals as Extension Chair with NAUFRP are simple: they are to represent the Extension perspective on the NAUFRP Board and to promote the value and importance of our Extension programs every chance I get. I'd love to hear from you and get your perspectives on how we can continue the great work that Dr. Stringer has contributed to the cause!

IUFRO Extension and Knowledge Exchange (EKE) Working Party News

Several IUFRO EKE (IUFRO 9.01.03 WP) members attended the World Forestry Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in June of 2025 and held a business meeting where officers were selected for new or repeating terms. Discussion on next meeting venues, website updates, newsletter enhancements, and communications improvements was held. Several action items have progressed since the meeting including a more robust newsletter, listserv and updated website (<https://www.iufro-eke.org/>). EKE will also be co-sponsoring our next working party meeting with IUFRO's Small Scale Forestry Working Party (IUFRO 3.08 WP) in Everett, Washington from September 8-10, 2025 (an optional field trip will be held following the meeting). More information on IUFRO EKE can be found at <https://www.iufro-eke.org/> or by contacting Bill Hubbard to be added to our listserv. (whubbard@umd.edu).

Extension in the States/Regions

The North East Forest Resources Extension Council (NEFREC) met in early December in the Hartford, Connecti-

cut region to share information and updates, hear from key partners and investigate opportunities to work together. The group also had an opportunity for a woods walk that included reviewing local land use history, land ownership patterns, upland silviculture topics and more. Extension representatives providing reports at the meeting included Cornell University, Penn State University, the University of Connecticut, University of Maine, University of Vermont and the University of Maryland, Contact Tom Worthley (thomas.worthley@uconn.edu) or Bill Hubbard (whubbard@umd.edu) for more information and a copy of the state reports or membership in NEFREC.

Extension at SAF

Extension foresters from several universities met in Loveland in early fall at the national Society of American Foresters. With over 15 universities attending, it was one of the better attended meetings in several years. The meeting included updates from our NIFA, Forest Service and SAF leadership representatives as well as a presentation and discussion from Colorado's state forester. Key topics discussed included ideas for expanded Extension work in wildland fire education, timber taxation, and overall landowner outreach. As always, a valuable part of the meeting is sharing updates from the states and regions including new people and programs. Many opportunities to collaborate exist. Please contact Diomides Zamora (Diomides.Zamora@usda.gov) for more information on the meeting results or to be added to the national Extension forester's listserv.

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David Newman, SUNY, recognized for his many years of service to NAUFRP, September 17, 2024, Loveland, CO

Washington Update, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

unhappy that he has pushed through the House “must pass” legislation by adding bills to the so-called “Suspension Calendar” where bills cannot be amended and require a 2/3s majority vote. This method for passing legislation requires Johnson to only bring bills to the floor that can gain substantial Democratic support.

Speaker Johnson’s efforts to move quickly in the 119th Congress to start the process of passing legislation supported by President-Elect Trump, such as a Budget Reconciliation bill will be made more difficult by the absence of several members including Matt Gaetz of Florida who resigned, and other Members who Trump plans to officially nominate after January 20th. Johnson will not be able to lose more than one or two Republican votes and still move the Trump agenda in the House, or otherwise he must get some offsetting Democratic votes.

Finally, on December 17th the leadership of the lame duck 118th Congress announced a final bill to extend current federal funding for FY 25 until March 14th. The Republican leadership in the House and Senate preferred a Continuing Resolution that continues current funding levels only until March, so that the new Republican Majority in both the House and Senate can work with President Trump make changes, most likely spending reductions, in many discretionary accounts for the remainder of FY 25 past March 14th. The Continuing Resolution will also be the vehicle to carry several other major legislative proposals including \$100 Billion in Disaster Relief to states hard hit by past hurricanes, a one year extension of the Farm Bill, \$10 billion in additional funding to hard pressed farm communities, several health care program “extenders” and various other must pass measure. Congress will attempt to get that legislation passed by the House and Senate prior to the current expiration of the existing Continuing Resolution on December 20th. That will be the last action of the 118th Congress before adjourning for the Christmas holidays.

NAUFRP and other higher education programs must be aggressive in 2025 in making the case for the value of research programs at the Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies to Congress and the Trump Administration. The new Administration and many Republican members of Congress are supportive of efforts to cut back on federal agency programs, employees and spending. While the so-called Department of Government of Government Efficiency, led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, is only advisory to the Trump Administration and Congress, its goal is to target for elimination or significant downsizing many federal agencies and programs. NAUFRP will continue to work with APLU and other higher education organizations, forestry and agriculture advocacy groups to tell the story about the importance of federal forestry and natural resources programs.

Happy New Year to all NAUFRP members. I look forward to working with you in 2025.

Best,

Randy Nuckolls
Washington Counsel

APLU Report Continued From 4

APLU BAA FY 2025 Ag Appropriations Request (In Thousands)

Appropriations Accounts	U.S. Code	FY 2022	FY 2023 Omnibus	FY 2024 House/Senate*	FY 2025 BAA Request
RESEARCH					
Hatch Act	7 U.S.C. 361a-i	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$300,000
Evans-Allen Research (1890 Research)	7 U.S.C. 3222	\$80,000	\$89,000	\$89,000	\$113,000
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$17,500
McIntire-Stennis	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7	\$36,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$46,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	7 U.S.C. 450i(b)	\$445,000	\$455,000	\$455,000*	\$500,000
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM					
Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c)	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of P.L. 93 471	\$320,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$420,000
Extension Services at 1890 Universities	7 U.S.C. 3221	\$65,000	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$92,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	\$9,500	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$17,500
Smith-Lever 3(d)	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	\$90,455	\$91,250	\$91,250	\$95,000
EDUCATION					
Women and Minorities in STEM (WAMS)	7 U.S.C. 5925	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$17,500
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Research Facilities Act (RFA)	7 U.S.C. 390	\$ -	\$2,000	\$2,000*	\$500,000
GLOBAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION					
Partnerships for Capacity	7 U.S.C. 3292	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$10,000
International Agricultural Competitive Grants	7 U.S.C. 3292b	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$5,000

*\$2 million for RFA and a \$5 million increase for AFRI was in the final Senate bill.



President Katy Kavanagh recognized for her leadership service, Loveland CO. Left, Dennis Becker, President-Elect, University of Idaho

Committee Work, *continued*

Research—Rich Kobe

At the Loveland meeting and follow-up, members filled out the NAUFRP Research Committee, with Rich Kobe serving as Chair. Members are: Dave Auty (NAU), Nate Nibbelink (UGA), and Myron Floyd (NCSU).

One of the major goals of the Research Committee is to further the work of the past Research Committee (Chaired by Bob Wagner) in addressing forestry R&D funding and capacity.

* NAUFRP together with SAF and the US Endowment interviewed and surveyed forestry stakeholders about research priorities. The social science research was carried out by Emily (Huff) Silver of Michigan State in collaboration with Bob Wagner.

* A Summit in June 2023 followed the national survey.

* SAF is convening a consortium to identify and communicate ongoing priorities.

The Research Committee will stay engaged in these efforts and generally promote a more systematic approach to identify research priorities, simultaneously addressing forestry R & D funding and capacity.



NAUFRP Retired Friends, NAUFRP-SAF Leadership Reception, Loveland, CO Terry Sharik (left), Michigan Tech and Perry Brown (right), University of Montana

West Virginia University Update

School of Natural Resources & the Environment

Academic Transformation

- Division for Land-Grant Engagement
 - WVU Extension
 - Center for Community Engagement
 - Davis College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
 - School of Agriculture & Food Systems
 - School for Community & Economic Development
 - **School of Natural Resources & the Environment** - 33 faculty



Amy Welsh,
Director,
School of Natural Resources & the Environment

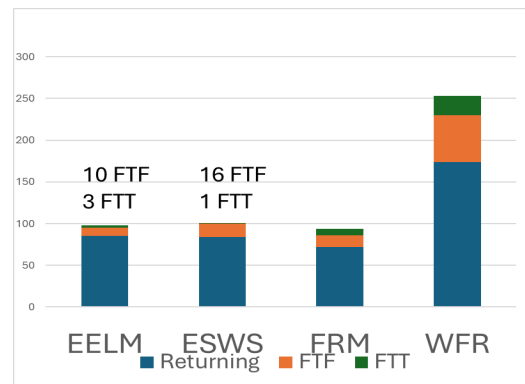
School of Natural Resources & the Environment

- B.S. Environmental, Energy & Land Management
- B.S. Environmental, Soil & Water Sciences
- B.S.F. Forest Resources & Conservation*
- B.S. Wildlife & Fisheries Resources
- MSF Forestry
- MS Wildlife & Fisheries Resources
- PhD Natural Resources Sciences
- GIS Certificate

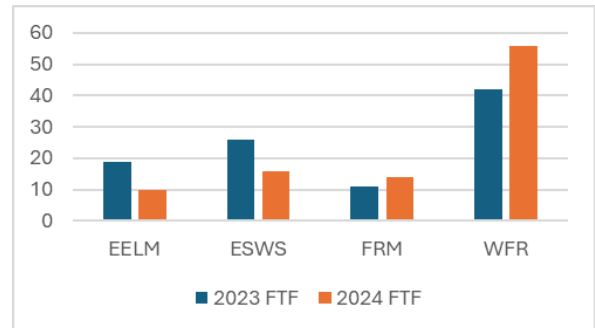
* Final name still being determined

West Virginia University Update Continued

2024 Undergraduate Enrollment



FTF 2023 vs. 2024



Research Highlights

- Total Expenditures for FY 24: \$4,526,889
- Total for Forestry: \$1,290,758
- Hardwood Cross Laminated Timbers for Energy Efficient Modular Homes, \$1.2 million, Pls Denes & McNeel