



NAUFRP NEWS

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

Creating Knowledge – Developing Leaders

July 2021 Issue 1

President’s Message-Janaki Alavalapati

Dear NAUFRP family, Hope you and your students, staff, and faculty are doing well. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. As you are aware, NAUFRP sets itself apart from other associations with a goal of advancing the land-grant mission by creating tomorrow’s professionals through quality education, generating new knowledge and techniques through peer reviewed research, and providing science-based solutions to sustainably conserve and manage our forests and other natural resources. NAUFRP’s strengths are you and your thoughts. With its 4 regional committees and several functional committees (see the link <http://naufrp.org/> for more details), NAUFRP offers a range of opportunities for each of you to get involved. In addition, our Executive Liaison, Ms. Terri Bates, and Washington Counsel, Mr. Randy Nuckolls, provide great help and support for us to partner with a range of governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations. As such, our association’s informal and formal col-



laborations/partnerships are wide and deep. For example, we work with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in getting additional attention and funding support to our McIntire-Stennis, RREA, and other relevant initiatives. Our association provides a means to disseminate your information and opportunities to our membership. In addition, our Executive Committee meets twice a year (March and October/November) and the General Assembly meets once a year in October/November to discuss critical issues and formulate plans to address them. NAUFRP uses the March Executive Committee as an opportunity to visit with key congressional offices to educate them and garner their support to our programs. Please remember that the impact of our association depends on your engagement, your thoughts, and your creativity. I hope you will find this newsletter useful. I want to thank Dr. Red Baker and Ms. Terri Bates for their leadership to bring this out to us. I will take this opportunity to wish you and your teams an enjoyable and safe summer!

Best regards,

[Janaki Alavalapati](#), Dean, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University & President of NAUFRP

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Meetings

- NAUFRP Executive Committee October 4-5, 2021 Washington, D.C. (In-person and membership invited)
- NAUFRP Fall General Assembly November 3, 2021 Virtual 1:00-4:00 EST

Washington Update—Randy Nuckolls

While most of the attention in Congress remains on negotiations to adopt legislation to authorize the traditional and human infrastructure proposal of President Biden, the House has started the process of approving the twelve annual appropriations bills to fund the various agencies of the federal government.

Before breaking for the 4th of July recess, the House Appropriations Committee completed its work on the FY 22 Agriculture and Interior Appropriations bills. There was good news in both bills for programs of particular interest in NAUFRP members.

In the Agriculture appropriations bill, the McIntire/Stennis Program received an increase from \$36 to \$38 million, while the Hatch program was increased from \$259 million to \$265 million, and the AFRI Competitive Grant Program received an increase from \$435 million to \$450 million. In the Interior Bill, the Cooperative Research Units received an increase from \$25 million to \$27,506,000.

	FY21 Enacted (\$ millions)	NAUFRP/APLU FY22 Request	Biden Admin FY22 Request	House Mark FY22
McStennis	36.0	39.0	45.78	38.0
AFRI	435.0	370.0	700.0	450.0
RREA	4.06	4.06	4.06	4.06

The Agriculture Appropriations bill report can be found here: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210630/112874/HMKP-117-AP00-20210630-SD005.pdf>.

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Committee Work

Communications—Red Baker

Welcome to this first edition of our new NAUFRP newsletter. Our objective is to provide a venue to communicate more frequently and directly with the broader NAUFRP membership about issues of interest to you and your institutions. In addition to the newsletter, the communications committee has continued to seek ways to enhance visibility for the McIntire

See McIntire-Stennis Research Projects at NAUFRP institutions summarized at [McIntire-Stennis Projects – National Association of University Forest Resource Programs \(naufrp.org\)](#)

Stennis and RREA programs. The one-page summaries that have been shared by many of your institutions are very helpful for communicating with policy makers, local/national stakeholders, and partners about the great work being conducted through these critical capacity funds. Your communications committee will continue to work to provide this information to help increase the support for these programs at the federal level.

Diversity—Yeonsu Kim

The National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP) is seeking your input to establish a point-of-contact at your institution, share ideas/resources, and set goals

for the committee in the coming year.

The survey is very short and will only take 5 -10 minutes of your time. Thank you in advance for your help and personal commitment to advancing diversity and excellence in our profession.

Please contact Yeon-Su Kim (School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University; ysk@nau.edu with a subject line 'NAUFRP Diversity') if you have any questions.

<https://forms.gle/L8WkNaa9NQUHiP6k9>

Education—Andrew Storer

The Education Committee chair continues to participate in the Educational Policy Review Committee of the Society of American Foresters. Currently the main work of this committee is focused on the revisions to the SAF accreditation standards. The committee has the goal of finalizing a draft of the revised standards in the coming months, and key issues relating to these standards are brought to the NAUFRP executive committee for further stakeholder input. In addition, a request for feedback about the status of teacher tours relating to forestry from the Florida Forestry Association was distributed. Responses were collected by state and made available. A number of states have tours or workshops that aim to increase visibility of forestry to teachers and help integrate forestry topics into K-12 classrooms.

The committee is available for new members with a goal of holding quar-

terly committee meetings to discuss issues in forestry education. Please contact the chair if you are interested in participating.

Extension—Jeff Stringer

The call for nominations for the 2021 Family Forest Education Awards presented by NAUFRP and National Woodland Owners Association was sent out in March, circulated via NAUFRP, NIFA, and through three regional forestry Extension groups. This year's Individual Project Award is focusing on programming and education resources developed in response to the pandemic in 2020. The Comprehensive Program award is also available showcasing family forest education work over a 5 year period. Awards will be virtually announced at this Fall's NAUFRP general session associated with the SAF National Meeting. The Extension Committee has attended meetings and/or maintained communications with Southern Region Forestry Extension (SREF) and the Northern and the North Central Forestry Extension groups in 2021.

Policy—Dennis Becker

The majority of activities over the past few months have focused on tracking natural resource and environmental initiatives of the Biden administration. NAUFRP is an active member of the Forest Climate Working Group (FCWG) and the Food and Agriculture Climate

(Committees Continued on page 3)

Regional Corner

Northeast, Nancy Mathews

University of Vermont: Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Vermont Forestry Program was able to safely maintain high-impact learning opportunities, such as forestry field labs, *See more Northeast news on page 5.*

North Central, Rich Kobe — The North Central group of NAUFRP has been meeting quarterly. Not surprisingly, much of our recent conversation has focused on sharing experiences on adapting teaching (especially field courses) for the pandemic. We also have discussed collaborating to offer online courses for more specialized

subjects, though this discussion has been paused until the pandemic dust settles. We initiated a discussion to plan a visit of NAUFRP NC institutions to the USFS Northern Station in Madison, WI, with a view towards increasing communication with the USFS on research and identifying areas where we can collaborate towards common goals.

South, Hans Williams — Southern NAUFRP met June 16th in Williamsburg, VA in conjunction with the Forest Landowners Association annual meeting June 15-17. *See more Southern news on page 5.*

West, Charles Goebel — The Western NAUFRP group will be meeting virtually for the 2021 Summer Meeting on August 11. Please email Charles

Goebel (cgoebel@uidaho.edu) for more information.

During the summer of 2020, Dr. Tom Deluca was appointed the new Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, and Dr. Alan Townsend was appointed the new Dean of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana.



Committee Work (cont.)

Policy cont.... Alliance (FACA), both of which have been active formulating requests and responding to legislation. Dennis Becker accepted an invitation and presented to the Republican caucus of the House Natural Resource Committee on April 30 to comment on the Trillion Tree Act and related wildfire topics. The Policy Committee has joined partners in signing support letters for annual appropriation requests.

Research—Bob Wagner

The NAUFRP Research Committee focused on two projects over the past year to address challenges with forest and forest products research funding and capacity in the U.S: 1) Leading a U.S. Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit, and 2) Quantifying changes in Ph.D. expertise in forest resources from U.S. university programs over the past four decades (1978 to 2017). The following progress was made on both projects:

U.S. Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit The forest and forest products research and development (R&D) capacity of the U.S. measured in scientist years and funding has eroded substantially during the past three decades. Unless new approaches are developed, there is likely to be continued erosion of the nation's forest and forest products R&D capacity that can reduce global competitiveness of the U.S. for-

est products sector, as well as threaten the management and sustainability of our nation's forests.

To address this concern, we proposed holding a Forest and Forest Products R&D Capacity Summit during May 2020 to bring leaders from state, private, federal, and university forestry organizations together to discuss the problem and strategize better approaches to cooperatively identify, communicate, coordinate, and advocate for forest and forest products R&D priorities, capacities, and funding. [Read More. NAUFRP-Research-Chair-Report-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

Changes in forest resources Ph.D. expertise from U.S. university programs over four decades (1978 to 2017) Given the significant reduction in forest and forest products R&D capacity that has occurred over the past three decades, we were curious whether expertise among forest resources disciplines also was changing while this reduction in national R&D capacity was occurring. In addition to overall capacity, changes in subject matter expertise can affect the kind of capability that is available to address specific problems that forest resource managers face across the country.

To address this question, we examined changes in forest resources expertise in the U.S. over the past several decades as measured by changes [Read More NAUFRP-Research-Chair-Report-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

APLU Liaison — Linda Nagel

The [Budget and Advocacy Committee](#) (BAC) of the [Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities](#) (APLU) meets monthly to discuss federal appropriations and advocacy strategies. At each meeting, [Cornerstone Government Affairs](#) provides an update on appropriations of particular relevance to agriculture and natural resources. Cornerstone and APLU think President Biden's \$2T Infrastructure Package, with \$40B proposed for research infrastructure, could be a good sign for the proposed \$11.5B Agricultural Research Infrastructure Investment Fund through NIFA, proposed by APLU. Information about the APLU infrastructure initiative can be found [here](#). The Growing Climate Solutions Act was reintroduced and passed with bipartisan support on April 22, 2021 by the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. More can be found [here](#). APLU recently joined the [Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance](#) (FACA), with APLU's Doug Steele (Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources) serving on the FACA Steering Committee. Forests and wood products are one of six focal areas for FACA, with numerous opportunities for forestry and natural resources to engage. More information can be found at: [Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance Joint Policy Recommendations](#) (51 pages) and [Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance Carbon Bank Recommendations](#) (8 pages). The APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Strategic Realignment Implementation Committee (NAUFRP was represented on this committee) completed its charge to make a recommendation on the advocacy strategy for NIFA that would facilitate streamlined language as part of the APLU [Unified Ask](#) and build a broader NIFA coalition. The proposal has been sent to the APLU Budget and Advocacy Committee.

NAUFRP Executive Committee

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[Kathleen \(Katy\) Kavanagh](#), President-Elect
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Colorado State University

Alton Thompson
1890 Land Grant Universities Rep

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

NAUFRP Executive Liaison
[Terri Bates](#)

Partner News

Society of American Foresters (SAF), Terry Baker, Chief Executive Officer

It is an honor to be a part of NAUFRP's first newsletter. I see accreditation as a four-way agreement between SAF, academic institutions, students, and employers to set the standard of graduating professionals' ability to steward forests for the greatest good. SAF is nearing completion of its multi-year, comprehensive review and revision of its four accreditation standards—Forest Technology, Forestry, Natural Resource and Ecosystem Management (NREM), and Urban Forestry. The new *Accreditation Handbook* and *Visiting Team Manual* will be published later this year. Forested landscapes along the urban to wildland gradient are a fundamental source of global health and human welfare. We encourage those NAUFRP member institutions whose natural resource-related programs aren't yet SAF accredited to explore the possibilities and advantages of programmatic accreditation with us.

SAF continues its efforts to increase the awareness and importance of forest related research. Our Board of Directors recently approved a new position statement, "Forest Sector Research and Development." SAF also led efforts to gather support for FY 2022 funding for the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Signed by 50 organizations, the letter advocates for \$93.5 million (\$32.4 million in program funding) for FY 2022. Additionally, SAF recently submitted public comments in response to the Federal Register notice related to USDA's role in the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. With the help of a dedicated group of our volunteers, SAF's comments highlight how active management and the continued and expanded use of forest products are all complementary to the Administration's focus on "climate-smart" forestry.

National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP), Lisette Waits, President, Department Head Fish and Wildlife Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho

The NAUFWP completed a diversity and equity survey of members in February 2021. Twenty-six of thirty-eight current members responded to the 75 question survey. Results were presented at our March 2021 meeting, and a white paper report will be shared by the end of the summer. We also have a variety of diversity resources available on our [website](#).

A draft of the North American Waterfowl Professional Education Plan (NAWPEP) was submitted to NAUFWP for review and comment. We provided comments in June 2021, and the plan can be reviewed at this [website](#).

NAUFWP completed a member survey of scientific expertise in these seven broad categories of management interest for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AWFA): wildlife health, climate change, invasive species, emergent technologies, Interjurisdictional cooperation, human dimensions, and species conservation.

(Washington Update continued from page 1)

The Interior Appropriations bill report can be found here: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210701/112878/HMKP-117-AP00-20210701-SD002.pdf>

When the House returns in mid-July they will work to complete passage of the FY 22 appropriations bills on the floor of the House before the August recess. Of course, we are a long way away from final FY 22 numbers. The Senate has not yet announced a schedule for Committee action on FY Appro-

priation bills. It is highly likely that once again a Continuing Resolution will need to be adopted to fund government agencies past the end of the current fiscal year on September 30th until the House and Senate reach an agreement on final numbers for each FY 22 appropriations bill, or roll all the bills into a final Omnibus Appropriations bill toward the end of the year. There are still major negotiations ahead on the infrastructure bill, on a potential reconciliation bill in the Senate, and Congress must somewhere along the way once again increase the debt ceiling.

In Memorium

Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, a long-time member of the NAUFRP Executive Committee, passed away unexpectedly on March 4th. He dedicated three decades of his life to Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge and leaves behind a legacy as a scholar, dedicated teacher and mentor,



champion for African American students, and was a strong advocate who exemplified Southern University's mission to provide excellence in teaching, research, and service. The Southern University System Foundation has established a memorial scholarship Fund in his honor. See tinyurl.com/ve-4dydpa.

Arnett C. Mace, Jr., who served as the University of Georgia's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost and was previously dean of the Warnell School



of Forestry and Natural Resources died April 12th at the age of 83. Arnett served as NAUFRP President 1988-1989. See <https://tinyurl.com/2cvk2jpa>

Academic Position announcements



www.naufrp.org/job-announcements/

Regional News

From the South

The Emmett F. Thompson Deanship — Auburn University

The Auburn University [School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences](#) has announced the Emmett F. Thompson Deanship in honor of the founding



dean of the Auburn School of Forestry.

“The Emmett F. Thompson Deanship

will benefit the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences by elevating the school’s status, positioning it to become a college, launching new initiatives, continuing a culture of excellence and helping to recruit and retain highly qualified deans in the future,” said Dean Janaki Alavalapati. [READ MORE The-Emmett-F-Thompson-Deanship.pdf \(naufwp.org\)](#)

Oklahoma State University—Dr. Jim Ansley Update from OSU-NREM Department, May 2021: Forestry faculty (Omkar Joshi, Rod Will, Lu Zhai, and Bryan Murray) in the Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM) Department at Oklahoma State University are doing research funded by a Sun Grant on productivity, economics, public social acceptance, and habitat suitability of sweetgum and hybrid sweetgum grown in short rotation woody crop (SRWC) systems. Compared to other candidate SRWC species in our region, sweetgum grows well on upland, lower productivity sites not suitable for agriculture, and produces feedstock without resins and other compounds inherent to conifers. The focus of this research is hybrid sweetgum genotypes, that can produce yields three to four times greater than that of native sweetgum and regenerate by resprouting after harvesting. Therefore,

multiple rotations of hybrid sweetgum likely can be cultivated from a single planting. Link : <http://www.nrem.okstate.edu> [READ MORE...Southern-NAUFRP-News.pdf](#)

Stephen F. Austin State University—Dr. Hans Williams

Dr. Christopher Schalk, assistant professor of forest wildlife management has received national recognition for his research investigating the effect of erosion control mats on snakes. His work, initiated in 2018 thanks to a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife, found that erosion control mats constructed of woven natural fibers without fixed edges appear to be the least likely to cause ensnarement. Additional research found that installation methods also effect entanglement. Snakes were less likely to attempt to pass through erosion control mesh with a buried edge treatment versus an exposed edge. He was recently interviewed by Stormwater magazine regarding his research. Link: <https://www.sfasu.edu/10028.asp>

Thanks to a Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stephen F. Austin State University’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture is moving forward with the establishment of a silvopasture demonstration area at the Walter C. Todd Agricultural Research Center.

Link: <https://www.sfasu.edu/about-sfa/newsroom/2020/sfas-arthur-temple-college-forestry-and-agriculture-establish-silvopasture>

From the Northeast (cont...)

as well as sustain high student engagement in our Forestry Club through a combination of virtual and in-person (outdoor) events during the 2020-2021 academic year. In addition, a new club, “Femmes in Forestry” was co-founded this past year by several undergraduate and graduate forestry students to support female, trans, non-

binary, and gender non-conforming individuals within the field of forestry. Total student enrollment in the Forestry major for Fall 2021 is 87 students, which represents the highest total in over three decades. This likely reflects gap-year enrollees and transfers, as well as continued growth and interest for this major at UVM.

West Virginia University: The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging to our faculty members. Although we do not see any drastic decrease of our faculty’s research productivity, they have expressed their concerns and the impacts of the COVID-19 restrictions. The West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources (WVU DFNR) received approximately \$4.21 million in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and approximately \$13.05 million in the 2020-2021 fiscal year in external research grants in total, contributed by five programs within the DFNR. Current external grant funding sources include 50% funded by USDA, 17% WV state agencies, 16% US DOE/DOI/DOJ/DOD/EPA, 5% NSF, and 12% from other funding resources. Major project activities of funded projects are in sustainable bioenergy and biomaterials (USDA NIFA and DOE); recreation uses, monitoring and assessments (US Forest Service, USGS); wildlife and fisheries, ecology and biology (various agencies); and water and environmental sciences (NSF EPSCoR, EPA). Specifically, the WVU DFNR have received two notable projects in fiscal year 2020-2021: [The Mid-Atlantic Sustainable Biomass For Value-Added Products Consortium \(MASBio\)](#) (\$10,000,000) led by Dr. Jingxin Wang from USDA NIFA, and [National Visitor Use Monitoring \(NVUM\) for Recreational Systems on Public Lands in Us Forest Service Region 6](#) (\$850,000) led by Dr. Robert Burns (funding from the US Forest Service. More recently, we have been able to establish a new university level research center - [Center for Sustainable Biomaterials and Bioenergy](#) to further develop our sustainable forest and biomass research programs and promote the regional bioeconomy.

More Meetings:

National Association of University Fish & Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP):

Aug 18, 2021 Fall Open Forum: 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)- 4:00 pm Eastern Time

Sep 21, 2021 Fall Business Meeting: 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)- 3:00 Eastern Time

Contact Lisette Waits for ZOOM link at lwaits@uidaho.edu

Society of American Foresters Annual Convention: [SAF National Convention \(eforester.org\)](#)