



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

OCT 24 2018

Mr. James Caswell
Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
Post Office Box 273362
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527

Dear Mr. Caswell:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 2018, regarding recommendations to enhance rural prosperity and healthy environments through active land management.

I greatly appreciated our meeting and conversations in Asheville, North Carolina, in September with the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. The thoughtful information and ideas included in the documents you provided are valid and timely points regarding Agency culture, Council on Environmental Quality regulations, Endangered Species Act reform, and the environmental analysis and decision-making process.

Your continued dedication to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is a true asset to the Agency. I value your perspectives on the significant challenges and opportunities before us, and I have asked the agency to follow up with you on your recommendations and our progress on implementing reforms.

I look forward to our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary