



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 12 2019

The Honorable James Caswell
Chair
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
Post Office Box 273362
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80527

Dear Chairman Caswell:

Thank you for your letter regarding management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service National Forest System lands. I appreciate you sharing the report, "Increasing Workforce Capacity," which details the National Association of Forest Service Retirees' research and recommendations on areas where the Forest Service can target capacity building and process improvements. Information sharing is key to building partnerships and working toward a common goal.

I share your interest in ensuring that the Forest Service targets its limited resources to areas that are of high priority for the Agency and its customers. This includes assessing and changing organizational processes and reducing administrative burdens where possible to improve organizational performance, improving workforce and workplace management, and effectively delivering our multi-purpose mission.

The Forest Service is reviewing the details of your recommendations and considering them as part of the fiscal year 2020 Human Capital Planning submission. Your analysis is also being considered for other ideas that may help with streamlining and modernizing the way we handle our business operations and better enable the Agency to focus on its mission delivery.

I look forward to continued cooperation with the National Association of Forest Service Retirees.

Sincerely,

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

Sonny Perdue
Secretary