

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREES

## Recreation Committee

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is a non-profit dedicated to advocating and supporting the USDA-Forest Service mission of public land stewardship. NAFSR represents retirees throughout the country with a multitude of skills and thousands of years of combined experience managing 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands.

Outdoor recreation on our public lands is vitally important today and into the future for individuals, communities, our nation and to the USDA-Forest Service. Outdoor recreation continues to serve as a primary gateway to connect people and communities to their National Forests & Grasslands.

Outdoor recreation visits on federal lands and waters are at an all-time high and there is no evidence of this tapering off. Since February 2020, over 81% of Americans say they have spent time recreating outside and 31% were doing so for the first time. In response to the growing demand, NAFSR established the Recreation Committee as one of its key standing committees. NAFSR believes that the intrinsic value of public land recreation includes economic growth, environmental health and social equity. NAFSR recognizes the scale of this work extends beyond the public land boundary to communities and society at large. There is a growing need to address the challenges of today's increased user numbers and the public demand for more recreational opportunities. The USDA-Forest Service's ability to sustain the public's recreation investments and opportunities is limited due to fewer staff, limited funding, and increased regulatory or legislative burdens.

NAFSR's core work is focused on influencing legislation, elected officials, and organizations in support of the USDA-Forest Service mission to deliver and provide quality outdoor recreation for current and future users, communities, and our nation.

NAFSR's Recreation Committee is working:

- To build strong coalitions and develop key relationships with external organizations and partners in support of providing recreation opportunities and influence related legislation.
- To educate and influence Congressional contacts about agency needs for annual appropriations, capacity issues, staffing needs, etc.
- To identify developing "recreation" legislation and respond when warranted.
- To become a trusted external supporting voice for the USDA-Forest Service in support of outdoor recreation.
- To develop and maintain a working relationship with the USDA-Forest Service Chief, the Recreation, Heritage and Visitor Resource Director and Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Director and their staff in support of outdoor recreation.

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