



April 2017

Washington, D.C. Updates

Senate Confirms Perdue

On April 24, the U.S. Senate confirmed former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as President Trump's Secretary of Agriculture by a bipartisan vote of 87-11. The Perdue confirmation rounds out President Trump's Cabinet and comes three months after the nomination was announced in January. The lack of a confirmed Secretary has slowed the transition process at the Department of Agriculture, including the U.S. Forest Service. With a Secretary now in place there should be more progress on other key personnel decisions, including a nominee for the critical Undersecretary of Natural Resources and Environment position.

Most of the eleven "no" votes came from Democratic Senators from the Northeast, although Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) also opposed the Perdue confirmation. In a press release announcing his vote, Senator Wyden cited concerns with Perdue's position on the Secure Rural Schools (county payments) program and reporting of animal welfare violations. The rest of the Northwest Senate Delegation voted to confirm Perdue. AFRC is looking forward to working with Secretary Perdue to increase active forest management to restore the health of our federal forests and rural communities.

Appropriations

On April 28, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund federal programs and services for an additional week, through May 5. The Congress passed a six-month CR at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, which was set to expire on April 28. The one-week CR funds the government at FY 2016 levels and provides the Congress an additional week to enact appropriations legislation for the remainder of FY 2017.

On April 30, Congressional leaders reportedly reached a \$1 trillion budget deal to fund the government through the end of September. The 1,600 page bill must be passed before May 5 to avert a government shutdown. However, reports suggest the funding measure will pass easily in the House and Senate as it contains increases to defense and domestic programs that Congressional leaders support over another stopgap measure. Late last week, President Trump dropped a demand that Congress provide funding to begin construction of a border wall – one of his signature campaign issues. AFRC will be analyzing the massive budget deal and its implications for land management agencies and will provide an update in May's newsletter. The good news is that the budget deal would increase the Forest Products line item by \$8 million, which, if responsibly implemented, should result in additional active management, raw materials to local mills, and jobs.

In the meantime, the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act continues to dominate the Congressional agenda. President Trump was pushing for a vote in the House after weeks of negotiations with conservative and moderate factions within the Republican caucus. Most reports indicate that the Administration has won over a handful of the votes it needs to reach a majority, but still lacks the necessary votes. President Trump had hoped to show progress on this key campaign pledge before the end of his first 100 days in office. A vote in the House of Representatives could come as early as the first week of May.

Bernhardt Tapped as Interior Deputy Secretary

On April 28, President Trump nominated David Bernhardt to be the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt, a Colorado native who served in the George W. Bush Administration as Interior Solicitor and Deputy Solicitor, initially led the Interior transition team in the weeks following Trump's election victory.

During his time at Interior, Bernhardt had exposure to many high-profile Northwest natural resource issues, including the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions for the O&C lands. In recent years, Bernhardt has served as the chairman of the natural resources department at the law and lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Prior to his service in the Bush Administration, he served as staff to former Colorado Congressman Scott McInnis, who was one of the key players behind the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

Bernhardt's nomination will now proceed to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and then to the full Senate for a confirmation vote. In 2006, the Senate approved his nomination to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior by voice vote. AFRC looks forward to working with Secretary Zinke, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt, and other DOI leadership to address some of the long-standing challenges to active forest management.

Secure Rural Schools and PILT

On May 2, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing to review the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) and the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) programs. Witnesses will include personnel from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. Local elected officials will also be well represented on the panel including Mike Manus, Pend Oreille County Commissioner (Wash.), and Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County Commissioner (Idaho). Mark Haggerty of Headwaters Economics, a Bozeman, Montana-based natural resources think tank, will also testify.

Support for PILT remains strong, particularly across the Interior West where the Federal government owns large percentages of land in many states. SRS expired 18-months ago and counties received their last payments under that program over a year ago. Many members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee support another reauthorization of the program as dozens of Western counties face fiscal calamity if the program is not reauthorized. Unfortunately, Congress has yet to take action on comprehensive forest management reforms despite numerous promises that SRS would provide temporary "bridge" payments until a sustainable level of harvest was restored on federal forests.

Support for SRS payments has also grown in states that benefited from the formula change that was adopted in the mid-2000's as the political cost of securing a previous reauthorization of the program. States like Oregon, Washington, and California that once received the highest payments under the program – which were tied directly to past timber harvest revenues – have seen their payments decline significantly over the past decade. Meanwhile, states with lower historic timber revenues, including Utah, Montana, and Nevada, have seen their payments increase under the formula change.

The witness list and a link to a webcast of the hearing, which kicks off at 10:00 am (EST)/7:00 am(PST), is available at the [Committee website](#). /*Heath Heikkila*

New Oversight of the Antiquities Act

On April 26, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) requiring Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review certain national monument designations made under the Antiquities Act since 1996. The Secretary is required to report back to the President within 45 days (early June) summarizing the findings of the report and providing any recommendations for any “Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate.” AFRC will send a letter to Secretary Zinke requesting that he review President Obama’s expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southwest Oregon, which occurred on January 12, 2017.

On May 2, the House Natural Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing entitled, “Examining the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act.” Knox Marshall of Murphy Company will testify before the Committee about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The Association of O&C Counties and AFRC also provided written testimony to the Committee. AFRC’s testimony can be found by clicking [here](#) or visiting: www.amforest.org. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 am (EST) and can be streamed by visiting the [Committee website](#). /*Travis Joseph*

AFRC 2017 Annual Meeting – Building Success

AFRC held its 2017 Annual Meeting at Skamania Lodge from April 18 – 20. Nearly 160 people from the forest products industry, land management agencies, elected officials, and other local and regional leaders attended the meeting. It was one of AFRC’s largest annual meetings ever. AFRC president, Travis Joseph, opened the meeting by charting out the association’s vision for 2017. Heath Heikkila, AFRC’s Government Affairs Director, and Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition based in Washington, D.C. provided updates on the political landscape, national Forest Service and BLM accomplishments, legislative priorities and opportunities in the current Congress, and Trump Administration personnel.

Senator Steve Daines (MT), a champion of active forest management in the U.S. Senate and member of the powerful Agriculture and Energy and Natural Resources committees, delivered remarks via video. Senator Daines highlighted his bipartisan efforts to find a permanent fix to fire borrowing, legislatively fix the disastrous Cottonwood decision, and pass meaningful forest management reforms – focusing specifically on relief from frivolous lawsuits.

AFRC's Western Oregon Field Forester, Andy Geissler, moderated a "success" panel to highlight the implementation of new management tools (or creatively using existing tools) on the ground. Patty Grantham of the Klamath National Forest discussed the Westside Fire Recovery project; Carolyn Napper of the Mount Shasta Ranger District talked about success in using the Farm Bill insect and disease categorical exclusion and how the Forest is seeking to replicate those successes on the Shasta Trinity; James Rudisill of the McKenzie River Ranger District explained how he and his team are using silvicultural tools to sustainably manage their timber resources through both even-aged and uneven-aged regeneration systems on the Willamette National Forest; and Peg Polichio provided a comprehensive overview of Idaho's use of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), which has been one of the most successful models for GNA in the nation.

Before lunch, Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) Executive Director Paul Barnum gave an overview of exciting new projects and opportunities with cross-laminated timber (CLT) in the Pacific Northwest, including possible use of CLT in future upgrades to and expansion of the Portland International Airport. OFRI's Inka Bajandas also updated the audience on AFRC's Habitat for Humanity sponsored home in Springfield, Oregon. The home will be completed and dedicated later this summer. A video of the project can be found [here: http://amforest.org/build-a-house-frame-a-future-trailer/](http://amforest.org/build-a-house-frame-a-future-trailer/)

Newly elected Hilary Franz, Washington's Commissioner of Public Lands, gave an energized and impassioned afternoon keynote address. Hilary (she reminded participants she prefers being addressed by her first name rather than any formal title) outlined her priorities for the Department of Natural Resources, which include: 1) forest health; 2) wildfire prevention and control; and 3) economic development in hard-pressed timber dependent rural communities. Hilary is optimistic about DNR's role as a source of raw materials for AFRC's member mills which provide jobs and local taxes, as well as revenue to support county government and schools. She promised to work to bridge the communication gap between DNR's constituents, spoke of the importance of telling the story of our positive environmental impact, and urged us to "think, dream and act big."

In the afternoon, AFRC's General Counsel Lawson Fite moderated a legal panel that included Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Ray Haupt, Pend Oreille County Commissioner Mike Manus, and Lincoln County Commissioner Mark Peck. The panel discussed the ways AFRC and county governments work together to defend active forest management projects in court to ensure good projects are executed, revenues are generated for local services and the U.S. Treasury, jobs in the community are saved or created, and the local infrastructure has access to the raw materials it needs to stay in business.

As is custom at AFRC's annual meeting, the day concluded with regional "breakout sessions" providing participants with an opportunity to meet directly with Forest Service and BLM leadership in Regions 1, 4, 5, and 6 to discuss local issues, obstacles, and solutions.

Zoltan van Heyningen, of the U.S. Lumber Coalition, opened Thursday morning with a presentation focused on the U.S. – Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement and recent negotiations.

Senator Maria Cantwell (WA), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, keynoted the morning session. Senator Cantwell covered a range of topics from the need to proactively address federal forest health issues before insect outbreaks and catastrophic fires devastate the landscape; a dry forest Pine pilot to accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration on millions of acres in the West; new opportunities with CLT, biomass, and residuals; the future of the Secure Rural Schools program; and prospects for a comprehensive legislative package to address fire borrowing and other forest management reforms. Senator Cantwell's remarks were well received, and much appreciated, by AFRC's members.

Nick Smith, Executive Director of Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (HFHC) closed the meeting after updating participants on HFHC's grassroots campaigns throughout the Pacific Northwest, California, the Rocky Mountain region, and Great Lakes. Smith underscored the importance of not only reaching out to the broader public to help educate and inform non-industry interests about our work, but also to engage and organize the tens of thousands of workers within the forest products industry.

AFRC extends its thanks and appreciation to all speakers and presenters at the annual meeting. Their active participation, energy, and ideas helped make the annual meeting a success. We look forward to another productive, substantive, and engaging annual meeting in the Spring of 2018.
/Travis Joseph

Big Win! D.C. Circuit Finds AFRC Has Standing, Restores Challenge to NSO Critical Habitat

On April 11, a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit [ruled](#) that AFRC has standing to challenge the 9.5 million acre critical habitat designation for the northern spotted owl. The D.C. Circuit reversed District Court Judge Leon, who had dismissed the suit for lack of standing in September 2015. The challenged rule increased critical habitat by over 4 million acres, or 80%, and designated substantial amounts of the Northwest Forest Plan "Matrix" lands as critical habitat. AFRC, Carpenters Industrial Council, Siskiyou County (CA), Lewis, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties (WA), and others filed the suit. The suit raised multiple fatal flaws with the massive new critical habitat designation, including reliance on erroneous modeling techniques and untested and unreliable predictions, failure to account for barred owl impact, and reliance on an erroneous Economic Analysis. (See AFRC [March 2013 Newsletter](#)). Mark Rutzick brought the suit for AFRC and briefed and [argued](#) the appeal on our behalf.

The D.C. Circuit panel, consisting of two G.W. Bush appointees and one Obama appointee, unanimously found the Fish & Wildlife Service's designation "will likely cause a decrease in the supply of timber from designated forest lands. The Service's argument to the contrary belies the text, purpose, and operation of the Final Rule designating the critical habitat in this case. Not to mention, it defies basic common sense." The court differentiated this case from the ruling in [Swanson Group Manufacturing v. Jewell](#), where the D.C. Circuit dismissed [AFRC's](#) and others' case to enforce a government duty to sell a certain amount of timber, because here AFRC provided sufficient detail about members' harm from the critical habitat designation. The court also emphasized that harm to businesses was sufficient to confer standing: "Economic harm to a business clearly constitutes an injury-in-fact. And the amount is irrelevant. A dollar of

economic harm is still an injury-in-fact for standing purposes.” [Media coverage](#) quoted AFRC’s statement that many of the issues with the current critical habitat rule can be addressed “by making sure the rule is scientifically supported.”

The case now returns to the district court for a decision on the merits. The D.C. Circuit’s decision is an important step toward ensuring that regulations related to the northern spotted owl are based on sound science. The focus of this ruling was recognizing that these regulations have social and economic consequences. The court found that the industry has been injured by the critical habitat rule and has the right to bring suit. It’s a good day for common sense in our legal system. */Lawson Fite*

AFRC Files Amicus Brief on Supreme Court Intervention Case

The Supreme Court case [Town of Chester v. Laroe Estates, Inc.](#) presents an esoteric-sounding question: Whether intervenors participating in a lawsuit as of right under [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24\(a\)](#) must have [Article III standing](#) (as three circuits have held), or whether [Article III of the Constitution](#) is satisfied so long as there is a valid case or controversy between the named parties (as seven circuits have held). But the resolution of this question will determine whether it is easier or harder for AFRC and its members to support needed forestry projects in the courts, or support welcome regulatory decisions. If Article III standing is required to intervene, then it becomes very hard for a timber purchaser to intervene in support of a project, since the project will *benefit* the purchaser and an actual *injury* is usually required to show standing.

On April 3, AFRC, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Public Lands Council, and International Association of Geophysical Contractors, filed an [amicus brief](#) arguing that standing is not independently required for a defendant-intervenor. The [National Association of Home Builders](#) and [Constitutional Accountability Center](#) also weighed in.

The Supreme Court held [oral argument](#) April 17 and is expected to issue a decision by the end of June. The Justices’ questioning appeared to indicate that the Court was aware of the issues raised by AFRC’s brief. It was also the [first](#) set of cases argued in front of Justice Neil Gorsuch (AFRC [January 2017 Newsletter](#)), who was sworn in April 10. Justice Gorsuch actively participated.

We appreciate the work of the [Western Resources Legal Center](#), which prepared the brief, and the support our allies in this case. */Lawson Fite*

Ninth Circuit Affirms Win on the Porcupine Project

On March 31, the Ninth Circuit issued an unpublished opinion and affirmed the district court’s decision to allow the Porcupine Project on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to proceed. The case was heard before Circuit Judges Tallman and Watford, and Chief District Judge Guirola (from the Southern District of Mississippi).

The Ninth Circuit agreed that the project complied with the snag standards under the National Forest Management Act, and the Forest Service took a “hard look” at the project’s anticipated

effects on snag numbers, the Forest Service considered all reasonable project alternatives, and the Forest Service properly analyzed the cumulative impacts of the project together with other actions, deferring to the Forest Service's and Fish and Wildlife's expertise to assess impacts. The Ninth Circuit also rejected Conservation Congress's argument that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) instead of an Environmental Assessment was required. First, the Ninth Circuit explained that an EIS is not required simply because there was "some" uncertainty over the project's anticipated effects; rather, the project's effects must be "highly" uncertain to warrant the preparation of an EIS. Second, the Ninth Circuit held that Conservation Congress failed to show that the limited amount of logging in areas designated as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl would "significantly" affect the environment.

AFRC members Franklin Logging and Timber Products are purchasers of the sales. As reported in AFRC's [June 2015 Newsletter](#), AFRC filed an amicus brief in opposition to Conservation Congress's emergency motion for an injunction pending appeal on behalf of Franklin Logging, Inc., and its affiliates Shasta Green, Inc. and Franklin Logging Transportation, Inc. /Sara Ghafouri

AFRC Moves to Intervene in Lava Project

On April 6, AFRC, and members Associated California Loggers and Loggers Association of Northern California, moved to intervene to support the Lava Project. Last year, Conservation Congress brought a lawsuit against the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service challenging the Lava Project on the Modoc National Forest within the Doublehead and Big Valley Ranger Districts. The case is assigned to Judge England in the Eastern District of California. The project involves treatment of 8,390 acres of eastside pine and mixed conifer types highly susceptible to stand-replacing fire. The total estimated volume is 12.1 million board feet, with sales to occur in late 2017 and 2018. ACL and LANC members will likely harvest the timber, and AFRC members will mill it.

Conservation Congress's complaint focuses on impacts to the northern spotted owl and the gray wolf, alleging the need for an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an Environmental Assessment, the need for a new biological assessment and biological opinion for the northern spotted owl, and the need to reinstate consultation regarding the impacts of project on the gray wolf. This case is one of the first to challenge a project based on the effects on the gray wolf.

/Sara Ghafouri

Idaho Panhandle and Colville Forest Updates

AFRC members and staff met with personnel from the Idaho Panhandle Forest on April 10 and the Colville Forest on April 11 to review regularly scheduled green timber sale programs and receive updates on a variety of topics. Both Forests sold salvage sales in FY16 from wildfires that burned in 2015. While salvage efforts are wrapping up, some volume remains for the coming operating season. Both Forests are on target to hit FY17 timber targets: 54.3 million board feet (MMBF) for the Panhandle and 60.8 MMBF for the Colville. For perspective, the Panhandle's timber program will support at least 650 direct jobs and the Colville's program will support 730 direct jobs, to say nothing of indirect job creation or economic impacts in the local communities. Both Forests are also looking at Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects in the

coming years to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and provide additive timber sale volume in out years.

Idaho Panhandle

The Panhandle has been very effective using tools provided in the 2014 Farm Bill. Specifically, the Priest Lake District and their collaborative group have worked to finalize a project under the Farm Bill 603 provision which allows the use of a 3,000 acre categorical exclusion in watersheds designated at risk due to insect and disease. The Jasper Mountain project will have projects in both FY17 and FY18 that will harvest approximately 26 MMBF and create over 300 direct jobs.

The Panhandle is also one of four Idaho National Forests that is working on projects under the GNA. The State of Idaho, the forest products industry, and the Forest Service have combined to form a successful partnership for implementing projects on National Forests to help increase the pace and scale of restoration. The Hanna Flats project is scheduled for implementation in FY19 and will yield 12 MMBF and create an additional 140 direct jobs. Other GNA projects are currently being planned on the Nez Perce/Clearwater, Payette, and Boise National Forests. AFRC would like to thank all of those in Idaho involved with the GNA program and encourages other states to look at replicating the template they are using.

The Panhandle sold nearly 60 MMBF of fire salvage wood in FY16 including four timber sales from the Tower fire, five sales from the Grizzly fire and one sale from the Marble Mountain fire. At this point, the Tower Fire is 83% complete, the Grizzly Fire is 51% complete, and logging has not yet started on the Marble Fire. At one point 1,700 truckloads of logs were being removed from the burned areas last year. Again, AFRC wants to thank the Idaho Panhandle team for doing such a great job on the salvage efforts.

Colville

The Colville has been successful at analyzing projects at the landscape level. Much of this work has been done in conjunction with the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition. For example, this year three projects will account for 59 MMBF. The planning areas range from 13,235 acres to 25,130 acres with much of the acreage within the planning area receiving forest health treatments.

Fire salvage from the 2015 wildfire season were mostly roadside salvage efforts. The initial salvage sales have sold and operated. But, late in 2016 Vaagen Brothers Lumber approached the Forest Service to put up an additional roadside salvage since the wood quality was holding on slopes that did not see direct sunlight. The Jungle salvage sale was sold in January 2017 and the 1.7 MMBF sale is still being operated. If the wood quality continues to hold, additional roadside salvage may be sold to capture the value of the burnt wood and to make passage on those forest roads safe.

Washington State has been working on developing a GNA agreement with the National Forests. On March 10, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and Region 6 Regional Forester Jim Peña signed a formal agreement to advance statewide efforts at creating and sustaining healthy, resilient national forests, habitat and communities. The agreement provides the agencies with the authorization to share skills and funding in creative and collaborative ways to improve

Washington's public lands across jurisdictions. The Colville is now looking at a project on the northern part of the Forest called the Block of Nine to be its first GNA project.

Holly Hutchins gave an update on the status of the Colville Forest Plan Revision. The Regional Office reviewed the proposed plan and returned it to the Forest in February. The Forest is working on suggested changes and will return the document to the Region in late April. At that time, the Forest will also present to the US Fish and Wildlife (FWS) a Biological Assessment of impacts the plan will have on various wildlife species such as bull trout, caribou, grizzly bear, and wolverines to name a few. The FWS has 135 days to complete a Biological Opinion (BO), however, most Forest Plan Revision BO's have taken the FWS longer to issue.

Hutchins said the best-case scenario is a rollout of the draft final plan by the end of June to mid-August followed by a 60-day objection period, and a 90-day resolution period to be conducted by the Washington Office. However, she said that recent resolution periods have taken over 90 days. Following the resolution process, the Forest will issue the Final Record of Decision (ROD). Using these timeframes, the ROD will most likely not be issued until early 2018.

The next meetings on these Forests will be field trips this summer to look at planned and ongoing projects. /Tom Partin

Siuslaw National Forest Annual Report

The Siuslaw National Forest has released its 2016 Annual Report. The [report](#) summarizes several of the Forest's accomplishments from the previous year. Included in this year's report are acres of land restored, miles of trails maintained, and recreation fees collected. The Forest also quantified the revenue generated from the sale of timber products that will be reinvested into restoration. While a portion of the revenue generated from the sale of this timber was indeed, as the Annual Report indicates, reinvested into restoration projects, another portion will be disseminated to rural counties in order to fund the essential services they provide. While this value is not quantified in the Annual Report, it is of vital importance to keeping local counties afloat through difficult and uncertain fiduciary times.

Unfortunately, the Forest also did not include the actual amount of timber *volume* provided to the local milling industry. While the dollar value generated from the sale of timber is important, of equal importance is the raw material itself. The value of the logs that the Siuslaw sells each year extends beyond just the dollar amount returned. One of the Forest Service's fundamental missions is to provide for the needs of the country's present and future generations; and in 2017 the need for wood products is on the rise. AFRC's member companies manufacture the raw material that the Forest Service sells each year into everything from 2x4's, to plywood, to engineered wood products. In 2016, the Siuslaw's contribution to this supply was nearly 27 million board feet of timber.

In 2017, the Siuslaw plans to offer 40 million board feet. We hope that the Forest will incorporate this value in their 2017 Annual Report as its provision is critically important for the local timber industry, the communities they support, and the wood products needs of all of the Forest Service's customers. /Andy Geissler

Washington Hardwoods Annual Symposium – June 15

The Washington Hardwoods Commission Annual Symposium will be held on June 15 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Olympia, Washington. The Symposium will include presentations from the Forest Service, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington State University, Department of Natural Resources, and include a field trip to the Capitol State Forest. Registration is available online [here](#), or by visiting: <http://wahardwoodscomm.com/>.

New AFRC Executive Officers and Board Members

On April 20, AFRC's Board of Directors unanimously elected Steve Courtney (Interfor) to a two-year term as Chairman. Ron Schneider (WKO) was elected Vice-Chairman and Doug Cooper (Hampton) was elected Secretary/Treasurer, both two-year terms. AFRC is also pleased to announce the addition of Chris Chase (Timber Products Co.) and Angelo Ververis (Tricon Timber) to the Board of Directors.

On behalf of the AFRC membership and staff, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to AFRC's outgoing Chairman, Cameron Krauss (Seneca). Cameron served as AFRC Chairman with distinction over the last two years and will remain active in the association and continue to serve as Chairman of the Legal Committee. */Travis Joseph*