



Association News

Supreme Court Takes Forest Roads Case

The AFRC reported that the U.S. Supreme Court would review *NEDC v. Brown*, the Ninth Circuit ruling that logging roads are “industrial facilities” subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements of the Clean Water Act. That decision invalidated Environmental Protection Agency regulations that have been in place since 1976. Those rules regulate forest roads as non-point sources under a Best Management Practices (BMP) system.

There are two separate appeals that will be consolidated for argument, the State of Oregon’s (*Decker v. Northwest Environmental Defense Fund*) and industry’s (*Georgia-Pacific West v. NEDC*). The questions the Supreme Court has asked the appellants to address in their briefing focus on whether runoff from logging roads should be regulated as industrial storm water and whether the Ninth Circuit should have deferred to EPA.

Western Governors Make Plea to Congress

The AFRC supported the decision by four members of the Western Governors’ Association — Chairman Gary Herbert (R-Utah) and Vice-Chairman John Hickenlooper (D-Colorado) and Forest Health Lead Governors C.L. “Butch” Otter (R-Idaho) and John Kitzhaber (D-Oregon) — to send a letter July 11 to the Majority and Minority leaders in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives requesting that Congress provide supplemental funding to aid federal, state, and local firefighters battling wildfires this season.

The Governors stated that without supplemental funding, management agencies could be forced to redirect resources from other program budgets.

The Governors also request that Congress:

- Fully fund the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (Flame Act Funds) to ensure emergency suppression costs do not impact federal non-fire budgets and programs.
- Complete and implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.
- Address deficiencies in the nation’s aerial firefighting resources.
- Reform federal land management policies to encourage and expedite active forest and land management to improve forest function and landscape resiliency.

ALC’s New Driving Tool

The ALC’s Trucking Committee has been working with various groups to compile a ‘tool box’ of costing calculators to help ALC members work through their business decisions. To see the latest tool, go to www.nwaa.ws/ALC.aspx.



FSC Appoints Director General

The International Board of Directors of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is pleased to announce that Kim Carstensen has been appointed FSC Director General, starting October 1, 2012.

Kim Carstensen brings to the Forest Stewardship Council an extraordinary track record in multi-stakeholder leadership on complex social and environmental issues. He is an international specialist in a wide range of conservation and development issues who in recent years has focused on global climate issues, a topic of critical importance to FSC. www.fsc.org

ALC Opposed to Caribou Habitat

Last November, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposed designating 375,652 acres (over 600 square miles) of critical habitat for Sothern Selkirk Mountains' population of woodland caribou. The habitat would be located in Boundary and Bonner Counties in Idaho and Pend Oreille County in Washington.

The Associated Logging Contractors (ALC) has submitted comments in opposition to the proposal. The ALC's comments note the impacts to timber harvest — on all lands — and the scientific data from Idaho's scientists in opposition to the designation.