

TO:

RREA Contacts
ANREP Membership
Extension Forestry Program Leaders
Extension Range Management Program Leaders
Extension Fish and Wildlife Program Leaders
NAPFSC Members

CC: ECOP Forestry Task Force

Greetings!

I want to alert you to a very exciting and special project that is being launched by the ECOP Forestry Task Force that has great potential for impacting the RREA budget. A significant feature of this project is that it is co-funded by the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP). As you know, RREA funding must be used to support "expanded extension programs in forest and range resources", which includes programs such as forest and range fish and wildlife resources, forest and range water resources, etc. Thus, this effort relates to all of you and your programs.

The Task Force searched for, interviewed, and appointed two of your colleagues to work as Interns at NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges) on an RREA Congressional Information and Education Project focused on issues related to RREA funding. Over the next several months these interns will spend several weeks here in Washington, DC, summarizing RREA program impacts, building a coalition of organizations willing and interested in supporting higher appropriations for RREA, and making key Congressional contacts throughout the spring and beyond.

The interns are:

- Dr. Mel Baughman, Extension Forester, University of Minnesota Extension Service and Assistant Dean, Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources

- Dr. Nat Frazer, Professor and Chair, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Mel and Nat, under the auspices of the ECOP Forestry Task Force, will be planning, organizing and conducting a variety of efforts to make Congress more aware of the RREA Program that provides resources to support your extension programs.

My purpose in writing is two-fold: 1) to inform you of this effort, and more importantly, 2) to strongly encourage you to respond to any requests that Mel and Nat may have as they prepare for their activities. As their efforts are focused on the Legislative branch, and CSREES is in the Executive branch I cannot be involved in this effort other than to answer questions and requests for information.

Mel and Nat's contact information:

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I appreciate all of the RREA information that you have submitted over the years, and urge you to give attention to Mel and Nat's communiqués. This is an important effort that many of you have long been waiting for!

Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year,
Eric

Eric R. Norland, Ph.D., CF
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