



Hello MT SAF Members and Friends,

I am writing as MT SAF State Chair to invite you to our rescheduled and revised model of our 2020 MT SAF Annual State Meeting, themed "Managing for Change" coming up soon, September 17 - 18 (Thurs – Fri), 2020, in Missoula County.

I hope that you are all healthy and doing relatively well this September, and I wish you the best with all of your activities as we move into the autumn of an obviously odd year. I really must apologize for not keeping better communications with you all in my role as MT SAF state chair this summer, particularly in regards to my slow roll-out of final plans for our state SAF meeting.

In the spirit of our meeting theme "Managing for Change", and responding to emerging coronavirus conditions, we have spent many fretful hours reconsidering potential plans for how to offer a worthwhile meeting, that was safe, but enjoyable. Thanks your patience with me in finalizing plans for our upcoming meeting, which will be a combination of virtual online gathering and outdoor events. Meeting format and timing are different than what had previously been planned, and atypical of previous years. Indoor meeting remains a problematic/concerning option, and therefore we have not planned any indoor meeting events related to the meeting. (Please see the associated agenda/registration flyer).

Activities will begin online Thursday evening (Sept 17, 6-9 pm). We hope that everyone can join us Thursday online via zoom for a panel discussion of "Managing for Change" and our MT SAF business meeting and open forum.

And on Friday, in order to facilitate the opportunity for us foresters to gather together safely, we have planned two separate outdoor activities, (field meeting at Lubrecht Forest and sunset banquet at Fort Missoula Regional Park). The planned schedule (i.e., beginning at 11 am) is intended allow for folks to travel to Missoula Friday morning, and potentially get back home that same night if desired, without staying overnight in Missoula hotel.

Please note that we have created outdoor field activities on Friday, and have dropped any field activities for Saturday, instead ending the meeting with Friday night banquet. While we are not scheduling a Saturday morning UM Alumni Breakfast, we hope to arrange an opportunity yet this autumn for UM Forestry Alumni and Friends to meet with the new Dean of the Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, Alan Townsend, after his arrival at UM later this fall.

Thanks for your patience and your support of the Society of American Foresters, and we hope that many of you can join us for some outdoor sun, shade, and sharing.

Best regards,

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