



Dear SAF Members,

The Montana State Society of American Foresters invites you to attend the 2018 State Meeting in Whitefish, Montana on April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Grouse Mountain Lodge. The theme of this year's program is "Flames, Fuels, and Funding-The New Fire Triangle"; pertinent topics will be discussed on the heels of a particularly difficult fire season.

We're doing something a little different this year and will be hosting a Leadership Conference on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> prior to commencement of the 2018 State Meeting. The Leadership Conference will focus on common qualities of effective leaders, organization, and time management; the leadership session is open to members and non-members alike. Individuals looking to enhance their leadership skills professionally are encouraged to participate as well as those who hold leadership positions within SAF. Please plan on attending both the Annual Meeting and the Leadership Conference to help us make this event a success. The evening of April 12<sup>th</sup> will have an Executive Committee Meeting at Grouse Mountain Lodge followed by an informal social in downtown Whitefish consisting of a tour of Great Northern Brewing & Spotted Bear Spirits.

The main program kicks off on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and will have panel presentations relating to the Fuels, Flames, and Funding theme. Topics include fuels management, reflections on a career as an Incident Commander, Federal Wildfire Funding Reform, Good Neighbor Authority, lessons learned from the 2017 fire season and more! The Friday evening banquet will include delicious food, awards, and a presentation by Dr. Ron Wakimoto, CF titled "Riding an Elephant to a Fire".

A University of Montana Alumni breakfast will be held on Saturday morning with an address by Tom Deluca, Dean of the WA Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. A field tour hosted by the Flathead Economic Policy Center will visit fuels management projects in the wildland urban interface and Whitefish Municipal Watershed.

Bring your outdoor gear or relax in downtown Whitefish for the rest of the weekend and enjoy the many activities the Flathead Valley has to offer!

To register for the 2018 MT SAF State Meeting log on to: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=hvrst>

For Hotel Reservations call Grouse Mountain Lodge at 406-892-2525 or email [info@glacierparkinc.com](mailto:info@glacierparkinc.com) and refer to "Montana Society of American Foresters" to receive the group rate. Room rates are \$89/night for Standard/Golf View Rooms, \$129/night for Corner Suites, and \$159/night for loft suites; taxes not included. MT SAF room blocks are held until March 12<sup>th</sup>, so reserve today. Reduced room rates are available for April 9<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>. For additional questions please contact Jared Richardson: (406) 407-5447, [jared.richardson@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:jared.richardson@weyerhaeuser.com).

# Flames, Fuels, and Funding

Montana Society of American Foresters 2018 Annual Meeting

April 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2018; Grouse Mountain Lodge; Whitefish, MT

## Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup>: Natural Resource Leadership Conference

8:00 AM-Registration & Coffee

8:30 AM-Meeting Kickoff-Patrick Sullivan, Professional Development Center

12:00 PM-Lunch

1:00-SAF Organization (Local Chapter Leadership)

4:00 PM-Adjourn

5:00-6:00 PM-Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 PM-Downtown Whitefish-Great Northern Brewery & Spotted Bear Spirits Tours

## Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting-Flames, Fuels, and Funding

7:00-8:00 AM-Business Meeting

7:30-8:30 AM-Registration & Coffee

8:30-8:40 AM-Housekeeping and Welcome-Jared Richardson-MT SAF Chair

8:40-9:10 AM-Greg Poncin-Opening Kickoff of "Flames, Fuels, and Funding"; a career as an incident manager and perspectives on the current wildfire operating environment

9:15-10:20 AM-Flames Panel (Moderated by Bob Castenanda)

Colin Hardy-Program Manager for Fire, Fuel and Smoke Program at Rocky Mountain Research Station

Jason Parke-Fuels Management on West Kootenai WMA & aftermath of Caribou Fire

10:20-10:40 AM-Morning Break

10:40-12:00 PM-Fuels Panel (Moderated by Ed Levert)

Byron Bonney-Effectiveness of fuels treatments related to the Roaring Lion & Lolo Peak Fires

Mark Finney-Research Scientist, Missoula Fire Lab

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch & Lunch Speaker-Governor Steve Bullock (Invited)

1:30-3:00 PM-Funding Panel (Moderated by Russ Gautreaux)

Neil Simpson-MT DNRC's Good Neighbor Authority program

Danielle Watson-Federal Wildfire Suppression Funding Reform discussion

Sen. Chas Vincent-State of Montana Wildfire Suppression Funding

3:00-3:30 PM Afternoon Break

3:30-4:30 PM-Final Panel (Moderated by Clay Stephenson)

Craig Goodell-National Cohesive Fire Strategy

Dennis Becker-State Funding for Wildfire Suppression in the Western US

5:30-6:30 PM-Evening Social and No Host Bar

6:30 PM Evening Banquet Dinner & presentation by Dr. Ron Wakimoto, CF on wildfire in Bhutan:  
"Riding an Elephant to a Fire"

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip**

6:30-7:30 AM-University of Montana Alumni Breakfast, hosted by Tom DeLuca, Dean of W.A.  
Franke College of Forestry and Conservation

8:00 AM-Field Trip, Whitefish Municipal Projects and Hazardous Fuels Reductions

**CFE Credits Available (pending approval)**