

President's Stump

Happy New Year! This year will test all resource organizations in keeping the government crowd from issuing new regulations which stymie sound forest management. A few forestry-related items from Washington, D.C. include:

- EPA wetlands regulations
- Wild lands land grab
- New Wild & Scenic rivers legislation
- Lost access to USFS and BLM lands
- Eminent domain/condemnation
- Protecting private property rights
- Estate tax rates expire in December

Issues that may challenge forest landowners in 2012 on the state level include:

- Possible reintroduction of wolverine.
- Increase regulations on smoke management from slash burning
- Local assessor oversight on forest ag classification.
- Decreased funding for EQUIP and stewardship projects

CFA is fortunate to have a number of engaged individuals who promote sound, forest management. I would challenge every CFA member to become engaged to insure our elected officials represent our views on resource management.

Video Series

Wes Rutt, Bellvue, with the Colorado Tree Farmers has begun an interesting project and needs our help. Wes has opened a YouTube channel for the Colorado Tree Farmers and hopes to produce a series of short videos that will briefly describe some specific ways forest landowners can improve the health of their forest and keep it sustainable for future generations. Here is a link to the one that he completed recently on thinning: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6dt4D-cgno>

In order to insure that these videos are practical and useful Wes would like to collaborate with forest managers, professional foresters and educators, both active and retired, and forestry contractors. In fact he'd like to work with anyone with an idea that would peak a landowner's interest and help them get started managing their forest.

Wes is looking for people with ideas and the desire to share their expertise. Experience making videos is not required, although it wouldn't hurt, according to Wes. Please contact him at stumpmaker@gmail.com if you would like to contribute to this worthwhile project.