

**Statement of Kenneth C. Kane
Association of Consulting Foresters of America**

Before the

**Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry
House Committee on Agriculture
March 13, 2013**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, on behalf of all members of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and offer a consulting forester's perspective on national forest management and its impacts on rural economies and communities.

ACF is the national association for consulting foresters whose primary work is consulting to the public.

Our members manage more than seventy-five million acres of private forestland in 45 states.

I have been an Association of Consulting Foresters member in good standing since 1989, and have been a practicing forest resource manager since 1983. I am President of Generations Forestry, Inc., located in Kane, Pennsylvania.

From a national perspective, many of our clients and other landowners have significant problems when they own forests adjacent to national forests.

- There is pressure from local taxing entities, School Districts and County Governments to make up for their lost share from national forest timber sale proceeds,
- There is a significant and growing problem caused by insects and diseases coming from non-managed national forests,
- The response to salvage operations from natural disasters such as wildfire and storms is slow; and
- There are resulting changes in forest composition and reduced wildlife habitat.

From a local perspective, I am going to present to you the problems faced by my local community.

Kane, Pennsylvania is a small, rural community located in Northwestern Pennsylvania, on the Allegheny Plateau, at the eastern edge of the Allegheny National Forest. The town of Kane and surrounding area was settled to develop the diverse natural resources of the region. The vast timber resource was harvested utilizing the access provided by railroads in the early twentieth century.

The abundant amount of timber harvesting on the Allegheny Plateau by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company, the Collins Pine Company and other timber barons of the era created an environment for the natural reproduction of a unique Allegheny hardwood forest. The Allegheny hardwood forest type consists of black cherry, white ash and tulip poplar, with sugar maple, red maple and some oak. This unique forest type only exists on 16 million acres in the world.

During September 1923 the United States established the 500,000 acre Allegheny National Forest under policies established by the Weeks Act of 1911. The Weeks Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase “forested, cut-over or denuded lands” for the purposes of watershed protection and timber production.

In the seventy years following the establishment of the Allegheny National Forest, many activities took place to promote the goals of the Weeks Act. The forestry activities were successful to the point that the Allegheny National Forest watershed supplies water to most of the communities downstream and consistently produced over 60 million board feet of timber from 1983 – 1995.

Since 1995 the timber harvest on the Allegheny National Forest has declined to a low of less than 15 million board feet from 2000-2005. The harvest level over the past two years has increased to 30 million board feet.

The Collins Pine Company retained their land on the Allegheny Plateau. Collins Pine obtained International Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in 1995. The FSC third party certification assures sustainability of the resource environmentally, socially and economically through a series of international standards. Collins Pine currently owns 120,000 acres and sustainably harvests the same volume as the Allegheny National Forest on less than a quarter of the acreage.

The long-term impact of the lower harvest on the Allegheny National Forest has created a significant biological and economic impact on the region. The biological impact is a conversion of the unique Allegheny hardwood forest type to a more common Northern hardwood timber type that consists of tree species such as American beech, hard maple and hemlocks, which contain less diversity of flora and

fauna and are more susceptible to invasive insect and disease attack. This conversion typically occurs through major blowdown from wind events.

The economic impact of the lower harvest has led to a decline in the local hardwood lumber industry. Since 1995 the hardwood industry in the Allegheny National Forest region has declined over fifty percent. In the Kane area alone nine sawmills have closed, costing over 100 jobs.

The reduced harvest has affected local townships and schools through the loss of revenue of the 25% Fund, under which 25% of the revenue from national forest timber sales is returned to the state. The revenue to the local townships and school districts has declined 75%. This decline includes revenue provided through the Rural and Secure Schools Act. As a School Director of the Kane area school district for nearly thirty years, I have watched the forest service revenue decline from over 6% of our total budget to less than 1% this year. With increased mandates on public education, this impacts the quality of education for our children. The Kane area school district was forced to establish a national forest allocation fund with money raised from increased taxes on an already stressed rural economy to mitigate the extreme impacts this has to our schools.

The challenge for the future is to prevent the continued biological conversion and the economic decline in the Allegheny National Forest region.

The wind event/blowdown experienced on the Allegheny National Forest is also experienced in National Forests throughout the South. In the West, the threat to under managed National Forests is catastrophic fire.

In order to maintain a healthy relationship between rural communities and National Forests, the National Forests should be managed using sustainable methods. This will assure the long term health of the National Forest, rural communities, the forest products industry and the adjacent private lands.

We appreciate the Subcommittee's attention to this important issue. This concludes my remarks and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

KENNETH C. KANE

Kane, Pennsylvania 16735

EDUCATION: THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Bachelor of Science Degree - 1982
School of Forest Resources

EXPERIENCE:

2/13-Present GENERATIONS FORESTRY, INC., CONSULTING FORESTERS
President-Forester
Providing forest management services to private landowners

10/83 - 1/13 KEITH HORN, INC., CONSULTING FORESTERS
Vice President - Forester
Responsibilities included: All aspects of forest management for private landowners and daily management of the business along with Public Relations; Marketing; and Landowner Education.

1/83-10/83 BAILLIE LUMBER COMPANY
Assistant Manager
Responsibilities included: Production and shipment of over one million board feet of hardwood lumber each month; Supervision of 50 hourly employees on two shifts; and Assisted in construction of expanding production capacity of 40%.

8/81-12/82 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY-Department of Land and Water Resources
Research Technologist
Responsibilities included: Construction, maintenance, and data collection of statewide network of acid precipitation monitoring sites.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- * 2008 - 2012 Northern Region Director, Association of Consulting Foresters
- * 2002- 2012 Chairman, Allegheny Society of American Foresters
- * 1998 - present Member, Pennsylvania Joint Legislative Task Force Advisory Committee
- * 1999 - 2001 Vice Chairman, Allegheny Society of American Foresters
- * 1995 - 1996 Chair-elect, Pennsylvania Division, Allegheny Society of American Foresters.
- * 1994 - 1997 Vice Chairman, Penn Chapter Association of Consulting Foresters
- * 1992 Chairman, Northern Hardwood Chapter, Allegheny Society of American Foresters
- * 1995 Pennsylvania Real Estate License
- * Licensed Commercial Pennsylvania Forest Pesticide Application
- * Tree Farm Coordinator for McKean County
- * Member, Joint Plateau/Northern Hardwoods Chapters, Allegheny Society of American Foresters

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- * 2004 - present Board member, Seneca Highland Intermediate Unit #9
- * 1994-1999, 2001-2004 & Present President, Kane Area School District, Board of Directors
- * 1985 - present Kane Area School District, Board of Directors
 - * University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Advisory Board, April 2005
 - * Past member, P.N.C. Bank Regional Advisory Board
 - * Member, Pennsylvania State University Agriculture Advisory Council
 - * Lector and Eucharistic Minister St. Callistus R.C. Church
 - * Member, Kane Elks Lodge
- * Professional Testimonies: U.S. House of Representatives Resource Committee, PA House of Representatives and PA Game Commission
 - * Expert Witness - Federal and State Court

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2008.

Name: Kenneth C. KINE

Organization you represent (if any): GENERATIONS FORESTRY INC.
ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTER

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2008, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: NA Amount: _____

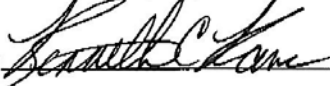
Source: NA Amount: _____

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2008, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: NA Amount: _____

Source: NA Amount: _____

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: X

Signature: 

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: *Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.