SWSAF MEMBER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Please include a digital photo of yourself (JPEG)

Why is Southwest Society of American Foresters (SWSAF) asking members to voluntarily complete this form?

1. Facilitate increased communication between SWSAF members about our individual careers and experiences and foster discussion of ways we can work together to advance the SAF mission;
2. Provide information needed for SWSAF awards and officer nominations; and
3. Help the SAF National Office and the member’s family prepare timely, accurate obituaries for publication in The Forestry Source, local newspapers and other publications deemed appropriate by the family.

Date:  **February 14, 2021**

NAME (include full name and any nickname you are known by):

**Andrew “Andy” Charles Mason**

CURRENT ADDRESS, EMAIL & PHONE:

**P.O. Box 1471, Carefree, AZ 85377; (571) 214-5536 (cell)**

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

**April 29. 1954; Washington, DC**

CURRENT POSITION TITLE (if retired please note with your last career position and organization):

**Director, USDA/U.S. Forest Service National Agroforestry Center (*Retired*)**

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education; include significant continuing education/training programs completed during career):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution & Location | Degree (if applicable) | Completion Date  | Field of Study |
| **Colorado State University,** **Fort Collins, CO****University of Idaho, Moscow, ID** |  **B.S.**  **M.S.** | **May, 1977** **August, 1985** | **Forest Management****Forest Resources** |

A. Personal Statement (why did you choose forestry and your career path?)

**While growing up in suburban New Jersey I developed a passion for outdoor activities, including camping, hiking, canoeing and fishing with my family in the Northeastern US and Canada. I was also active in Boy Scouts, attained Eagle Scout, trekked with a NJ crew through the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and worked for three summers at Sabattis Wilderness Camps in the Adirondacks of New York State. These experiences coupled with encouragement from a middle school Earth Science teacher made we want to go to college in the West and pursue a career in forestry and natural resources.**

B. Career Positions, Experience, including Military (in chronological order starting with most recent; include position titles, organizations, locations, major accomplishments)

**I retired from the U.S. Forest Service in January 2014 with 35 years of service in a wide range of staff, line officer and field positions on national forests in Colorado, Montana, and Washington, the regional office in Alaska, and agency headquarters in Washington DC.**

**From 2007-13, at my last duty station in Washington DC, I served on a two-year detail as National Forester for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) where I worked closely with NRCS leaders and staff, State forestry agencies, and conservation districts to implement new forestry provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill that expanded technical and financial assistance to private forest landowners. During the last four years I served as Director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln, NE and also led a department-wide agroforestry initiative that involved seven USDA agencies and the Secretary’s office.**

**From 2003-07, I served as Director of State & Private Forestry for the Alaska Region where I led a staff of 25 employees and worked with cooperators to deliver a wide range of technical and financial assistance programs (wildland fire, fuels, forest health protection, cooperative forestry) to private landowners, communities and other non-federal entities.**

**From 1998-2003, I served as Director of the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team in Fort Collins, CO, a Washington Office-Detach Unit that delivered forest health technology and services to forest entomologists and pathologists in the Forest Service, State forestry agencies, and others working to address native and non-native forest insect and disease issues throughout the US.**

**From 1993-98, I served on the Colville National Forest in Colville, WA, as Assistant Forest Supervisor and staff officer for forest management, fire, and public affairs.**

**From 1987-93 I was District Ranger for the Sullivan Lake Ranger District, Colville National Forest in Metaline Falls, WA.**

**From 1984-87 I served on the Winthrop Ranger District, Okanogan National Forester in Winthrop, WA, as a District Silviculturist and Asst. Ranger for minerals, range, recreation, special uses, trails, and wilderness.**

**From 1980-84, I served on the Kootenai National Forest in Libby, MT. In the first year I was a forester-trainee on the Libby Ranger District. The last three years I served on the Yaak Ranger District, Troy, MT, as a post-sale and presale forester. During 1980-81 I completed the Continuing Education in Forest Ecology and Silviculture (CEFES) program (one month each at Univ. of MT, Wash State Univ., Univ. of Idaho). and became a certified silviculturist in late 1981.**

**From 1977-1979, I began my professional career as a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service in Steamboat Springs, CO.**

**From 1974-77 I was a seasonal on the Roosevelt NF, primarily on the Redfeather District. During the summer-fall of 1974 I worked on the timber marking crew and in the summer of 1975 on the TSI/chainsaw crew. During the summers of 1976-77 I led the timber marking crew. In the fall of 1977 moved to the Boulder District where I led a timber marking crew focused on a large area of ponderosa pine impacted by the mountain pine beetle.**

C. SAF Experience, Awards/Honors (SAF leadership positions held, service on national committees, awards/honors received)

* **Member since 1978**
* **Certified Forester (1996-present)**
* **Elected Fellow 2015**

**National**

**2019-present – Secretary, Agroforestry Working Group**

**2019 – Technical session presenter at 2019 national convention (Louisville)**

**2017 – Coordinator, Foresters Fund and Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund Raffle & Auction, 2017 National Convention (Albuquerque)**

**2016 – Organized field tour, “Agroforestry in Wisconsin: Trees Working for Sustainable Agriculture” at national convention (Madison)**

**2014-2019 – Served two 3-year terms on SAF’s Certification Review Board**

**2013 – Technical session organizer, moderator, presenter at 2013 national convention (Charleston)**

**2013 – National Capital SAF delegate to House of Society Delegates (Charleston)**

**2012 – Lead author for SAF commentary, “Advancing Agroforestry through Certification of Agroforesters*:* Should the Society of American Foresters Have a Role?” (*Journal of Forestry*, December 2012)**

**2012 – Technical session presenter at national convention (Honolulu)**

**2011 – Technical session presenter at national convention (Albuquerque)**

**2001 – Volunteer Chair for national convention (Denver)**

**1993 – Inland Empire SAF delegate to House of Society Delegates (Indianapolis)**

**1989 – Registration Chair for national convention (Spokane)**

**State/Section**

**2020 – Helped initiate SWSAF Bio-sketch pilot program**

**2018 – Helped initiate SWSAF program to help offset SAF membership dues and established mentors for graduating students.**

**2015 – Co-organizer of Southwest SAF annual meeting, “Urban Trees, Forests, and Water in Phoenix, Arizona, and the Arid Southwest: History, Current Management...the Future?”; Mesa, AZ, February 26-28, 2015. Moderator of session, “Do Trees Belong in Phoenix in 2050?”**

**2014-15 – Visiting Forester at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM for one week each summer. Provided forestry education to many 100s of youth and their adult leaders at the Philmont Demonstration Forest.**

**2013 – Chair, National Capital SAF**

**2013 – Initiated and organized the first-ever Professional Societies Fair in the Washington DC area (SAF and nine other natural resource professional societies participated) for the purpose of recruiting new SAF members and more generally to encourage young natural resource professionals to join a professional society.**

**2012 – Chair Elect, National Capital SAF**

**2012 – Led National Capital SAF exploratory committee for proposed memorial/monument to Gifford Pinchot in DC area (in connection with Pinchot’s 150th birthday in 2015)**

**2007 – CFE Coordinator, Alaska SAF**

**2002-03 – CFE Coordinator, CO-WY SAF**

**1993 – Chair, Inland Empire SAF**

**Chapter**

**1985-86 Chair, Mid-Columbia Chapter, Washington SAF**

**1984 – Chair-elect, Libby Chapter, Montana SAF (I transferred to Washington SAF before serving as Chair)**

D. What are your thoughts on SAF? (What has your membership in SAF meant to you? Is there a particular achievement or experience that stands out as a strong memory.)

**I have a very high regard for SAF for both personal and professional reasons. Throughout my 42 years as a member, SAF has connected me with a wide range of foresters and other professionals, many that have been and continue to be close friends. Similarly, my wife has met many of these same people, and their spouses, who are also friends. I firmly believe that every forester should be a SAF members. SAF does an outstanding job of representing the profession of forestry.**

E. Contributions to Forest Science, Technology, Management (e.g., publications, presentations, other contributions to advancing the SAF mission (to advance sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use our knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic to ensure the continued health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity)

**Coauthored four technical publications:**

* **Agroforestry: USDA Report to America, FY 2011-2012—In-Brief Version, Program Aid 2143-A, October 2013, with Colleen Rossier.**
* **Agroforestry: USDA Report to America, FY 2011-2012—Comprehensive Version, Program Aid 2143-B, November 2013, with Colleen Rossier.**
* **Disturbance Events in America’s Forests: An Analysis of Criterion 3, Indicator 15 of the Montreal Process—Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forestry—2003”, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, FHTET-02-05, with William M. Ciesla, 2005;**
* **“Black Bear Damage to Thinned Timber Stands in Northwest Montana”, *Western Journal of Applied Forestry* 4:10-13, with David L. Adams, 1989.**

**Coauthored three non-technical forestry-related articles:**

* **“The Rangers – They Broke New Ground”, National Museum of Forest Service History, summer 2020 newsletter; with Tom Thompson**
* **“Plains Farms Need Trees; A History of the U.S. Forest Service and Agroforestry”, *The Rendezvous* (newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association), winter 2017; with Sarah Karle**
* **“Protecting the Health of America’s Forests; A Case for Strong Interagency Partnerships”, National Museum of Forest Service History, fall 2016 newsletter; with Bill Ciesla**

F. Additional Information (other personal information you can share that helps SWSAF members understand who you are)

**Appointed to Board of Directors (2015-present), National Museum of Forest Service History. I have a keen interest in the history of the U.S. Forest Service and conservation in America.**

**I am a co-founder of and serve (2019-present) as Secretary for the Southwest Agroforestry Action Network (aka “SWAAN”). Beginning with my last two career assignments as National Forester for NRCS and Director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center, I developed an interest in agroforestry (i.e., the integration of trees, crops, and/or livestock into systems that can provide economically valuable products, make agricultural production more sustainable, and yield other environmental and social benefits). I look for opportunities to help advance the science, practice, and application of agroforestry in the US.**

**My wife, Debbie, and I have been married since 1979 (no children). We enjoy travel, including trips we have taken with family and friends to Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, the Caribbean, and Hawaii. We enjoy growing and utilizing vegetables and fruits from our home garden. I also enjoy hunting and fishing and the processing and cooking of wild meat and fish.**

I authorize the Southwest Society of American Foresters to use the information in my biographical sketch for official SAF purposes.

Signature: /s/ Andrew C. Mason

Date: **February 14, 2021**

SUBMITTAL OF YOUR BIO-SKETCH: Please submit your completed bio-sketch with a photo of yourself (JPEG) to Andy Mason, acmason1954@gmail.com. Your bio-sketch will be web accessible only to current SWSAF members. Contact Andy for questions by email or phone (571-214-5536).

Note: Upon a member’s passing, bio-sketches with their photo and other obituary materials will be e-mailed by the local SAF unit to: Steve Wilent, Editor, The Forestry Source, at wilents@safnet.org. Printed materials can be sent by ‘hard’ mail to: In Memoriam, The Forestry Source, Society of American Foresters, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 315, Washington, DC 20037.