

**Southwest Forest Service Amigos
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 11, 2026
Final Notes**

Those in attendance:

Emily Irwin	Karen Malis-Clark	Jan Polasky
Cyndie Hogg	Dan Winner	Jerry Perez
John Pierson	Rance Irwin	

Special Guest – Bill Disbrow Co-Chair of 2028 USFS Retiree Reunion

Minutes:

The minutes for December 3, 2025 meeting were reviewed. John Pierson moved the minutes be accepted; Cyndie Hogg seconded. The minutes were accepted and approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

The current checking account balance is \$7,901.74 with all checks deposited and cash on hand is \$92.36. For the quarter, our income was \$1,205.87, and expenditure was \$0 for a positive cash flow of \$1,205.87. See Handout #1

Karen Malis-Clark moved the treasure report be accepted, Dan Winner seconded. The treasurer's report was accepted and approved by consensus.

Newsletter

Jan Polasky asked about the newsletter and if there was minimum number of snail mail newsletter. Yes – there needs to be 200 snail mail newsletter to get bulk mailing prices.

Discussion about newsletter included switching from 4x per year to 3x. That a group of our Amigos want a hard copy and if they couldn't get a hard copy would they stay as Amigos. And that the \$20 per year was covering the mailing of the newsletter.

Decision to frame the concerns:

1. Cyndie would find the discussions the Board had about switching to 3 times per year.
2. Randy would provide the cost per hard copy newsletter per Amigos.
 - a. This topic will be included on the June agenda.

2028 USFS Retiree Reunion Madison Wisconsin

Bill Drisbrow, Co-Chair of the 2028 USFS Retiree Reunion in Madison Wisconsin presented information about the planning for the next reunion. The Forest Service museum is now guiding, planning and coordinating the reunions. It was found the regions and retiree groups needed assistance. And some Regions don't have retiree groups or aren't that active.

He is looking for assistance in the planning groups. See Handout #2
Cyndie Hogg agreed to send out information. And would send this handout to the Amigos.

Plan is to keep the reunion at \$350 per participant. But everything is going up. And the food prices are one big unknown.

They want to promote participation. They are already looking for Silent Auction items, including experiences and trips.

Update from National Forest Service Retirees

Jerry Perez, Region 3 rep to NAFSR. They meet 4 times a year with one meeting in person. That happened in February. Focus is on communication. How to get the word out to retirees. They are planning for this year – what do they want to put their energy into.

One item is a formal agreement with the Forest Service on how to provide mentoring without becoming full-time employees.

Second item is saving our public lands.

Third item is Recognition to recognize efforts.

Luncheon Gatherings

Jan Polasky reported on the Central Arizona luncheon that was on 3/10. Smaller gathering but good. Great music. Next one is next November. Jan is planning on going to the museum grand opening in July 2026. If there are any additional items to transport to the museum, coordinate with her.

Karen Malis-Clark said the Northern Arizona Luncheon is planned for April 1st with about 40 signed up. Event to be held at Dead Horse State Park.

Karen also reported that the 1925 Forest Service truck that the Coconino NF has been hosting will be on loan to the Forest Service Museum. Before it goes to Missoula, it will be part of the various car shows that are a part of Route 66 100-year memorial. June 5 will be at the Williams Car Show and then June 6 Flagstaff Car Show.

Quemado Round-Up

John Pierson and Rance Irwin gave an update on the Round-Up May 9-15. Campground is reserved. Fishing is good with water level holding at Quemado Lake. With the dry winter, Gila, Cibola and Apache are going into Stage 1 fire restrictions March 23 and will probably be in Stage 2 by Roundup. So no campfires.

John will share dates with district and forest leadership to encourage participation.

Write up for newsletter/Facebook with agenda will be provided by Rance.

Pavers at Forest Service Museum

Emily Irwin asked if the Board wanted to approve a paver for the museum. Cost is either \$250 or \$500. The Board agreed on a \$500 paver. First would look for donations. Emily would put a can at the Roundup. And some of the Board agreed to donate and then Amigos would fill in the rest if needed.

Jan Polasky would see if a logo could be added or was it just words – letters.

Yearly Taxes

Randy Daniels filed.

Book of Memories

Jan didn't get out for their luncheon but would get books up to Karen for that luncheon. Emily will take to Roundup.

Early Days

So far the sharing of the early days of the Amigos is getting good reviews. Emily will be send a new story to share.

Ranger Roll-Call

Cyndie Hogg gave a update on the Ranger Roll-Call. This is the list of District Rangers from every district in the region. She got the plaques from the Gila and got that typed up. But needs to go through the old book found at the Roundup of the Gila Reserve National Forest and get that added.

She got the pictures of the plaques from the Cibola and is looking for the plaques from the Carson. Karen is helping with a contact from the Carson.

Dates to Remember

04/01/26	No. Arizona Forest Service Retirees Lunch/Gathering
05/9-15/26	Quemado Roundup
06/10/26	Amigos Board Meeting

Cyndie Hogg
Acting Secretary

Draft Notes by Cyndie Hogg 3/15/2026
Final edits / Approved 6/10/2026