

Master Agreement Negotiation Update - May 11, 2009

A meeting was held in preparation for the upcoming Master Agreement Negotiations between the National Federation of Federal Employees (Union) and Forest Service Management. The meeting was held in Denver, CO, April 20-24, 2009 and was facilitated by Matt Jarvinen, Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) Regional Director, Denver, CO. Jean Perata, the FLRA Deputy Regional Director, San Francisco, CA will facilitate negotiations for the July/August session which also will be held in Denver.

The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) provide an opportunity for Union and Management Negotiators to get know each other, (2) receive Interest Based Negotiations Training, (3) develop and define ground rules to be used during the contract negotiations in the July/August session, (4) define roles of team negotiators, (5) finalize the articles that Union and Management proposed to open, and (6) make pre-Negotiation Team Article assignments and define the pre-work process.

The participants for the Union are: (1) Ron Thatcher, Chief Negotiator, (2) Eric Plimmer, (3) Chris Feutrier, (4) Dave Stamey, (5) Lonnie Lewis, (6) Betsy Evans, and (7) Steve Flory, (NFFE Representative). Karen Mora, and Mark Davis are observers. The Union recorder is Melissa Baumann.

The participants for Management are: (1) Jim Reaves, Chief Negotiator, (2) Kim Hickman, (3) David Ferrell, (4) Bill Waterbury, (5) Alison Hill, (6) Paul Bradford, and (7) Jane Eide. Management Team observers are John Esworthy and Deborah Lombardino. Management's recorder is Cathy Neuman.

Both Management and Union Teams got off to a good start in the Denver meeting. Negotiations are scheduled for July 26 thru August 8 in Denver. Each Team member expressed a desire for and commitment to productive negotiations at the July/August session and have the final Master Agreement completed by June of 2010.

/s/Jimmy L. Reaves
Jim Reaves, Chief Negotiator
Management

/s/ Ron Thatcher
Ron Thatcher, Chief Negotiator
Union