



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Fall 2009

President's Message

As I write this, Forest Service Reunion 2009 in Missoula, Montana, is in full swing. Old friends are meeting, stories (some true) are being told, and new friends are being discovered. **Bill Sherk**, our president-elect, will present a gift of \$5,000 from the OldSmokeys to the National Museum of Forest Service History. This gift is from the remaining PNWFSA-hosted Forest Service Reunion 2005 funds. See page 7 for a report on this year's reunion.

By the way, \$3,000 of the remainder of the 2005 reunion funds was given to the High Desert Museum to further Forest Service related exhibits including the High Desert Ranger Station, the July 30 dedication of which is reported on page 5.

As is the case with so many activities of our association, these gifts were initiated by one or more members of the Board of Directors. The Board is made up of very dedicated, purposeful individuals pursuing their assigned tasks. Because of them, the web site is up to date, the newsletter is published four times a year, funds are received, bills are paid, investments are made and monitored, your names and addresses are in an up-to-date data base, records are kept, archives are accessed and maintained, members are recruited, and we receive reminders to pay our dues and provide changes in our personal information. In this view of the Board of Directors, its members act as specialists working alone or in concert with one or two others.

Another view is of these same individuals meeting monthly to collectively manage the business of our association. In my opinion, they as individuals and together as a board are doing an outstanding job on your behalf. Those of us who become president-elect and follow through as president and past-president might, in our ego-driven moments, think that somehow we cause it all to happen. A short reflection robs us of any pretense of truth in that. What happens in the management of the association happens because of the dedication of that list of specialist board members you see every issue on the last page of the newsletter. They deserve nothing less than your thanks and gratitude.

Bruce Hendrickson

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Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: www.oldsmokeys.org

Annual Dues for 2010 are due on January 1. Please see page 9.

Forum

Can the Obama Administration Restore the U.S. Forest Service?

Two separate but intertwined strains of restoration, those of National Forest System resource management policy and U.S. Forest Service practice, beg the attention of the Obama administration, its new Undersecretary and Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, and the new Chief of the Forest Service.

President Obama, of course, has inherited so many major problems—especially in the realms of the nation’s economy and foreign policy—he can hardly be faulted for not taking a direct hand in the matter. Indeed, that’s why he has a cabinet secretary, an undersecretary and a deputy undersecretary, and an agency chief.

Regardless of the policies that guide National Forest System resource management, a restoration of the Forest Service charged with implementing those policies—indeed, a transformative revitalization of the Forest Service into an agency in which talented and dedicated professionals *believe* and in which they *want to serve* in a way that will win back the hearts and minds of the citizen-owners of the National Forest System—is vital. Such restoration was not, unfortunately, emphasized in Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack’s August 14, 2009, speech about a new direction and vision for the nation’s forests and the Forest Service.

I sincerely hope the Obama administration and its Forest Service—in the persons of just-nominated Undersecretary Harris Sherman who might soon be confirmed, new Deputy Undersecretary Jay Jensen, and new Chief Tom Tidwell and his office—possess the leadership qualities to address the myriad difficulties that beset the Forest Service and the perspective to recognize the vital need to focus on restoring the Forest Service as the “Agency to Match the Mountains” called for in my November 2004 e-mail to then-Chief Dale Bosworth and my Spring 2007 feature in this newsletter. To that end, I have sent them copies of that article and of editorials published in this newsletter that address this vital need.

Perhaps the Obama administration and its Forest Service will come through with the reforms today’s beleaguered Forest Service needs to be an agency that implements policies that truly care for the land while it follows practices that truly serve people. The chances improve if those who believe in the Forest Service that was and should be throw in and help out. How about it? As old Smokey says, “If not you, who?” And, I might add, “If not now, when?”

-- Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service Rates as One of the Worst Federal Workplaces

In this year’s *Best Places to Work for the Federal Government* the U.S. Forest Service ranks 206 out of 216 federal agencies—meaning that 95 percent of all federal agencies ranked higher than the Forest Service.

This evaluation uses data from the Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Human Capital Survey, including responses from more than 212,000 civil servants, to produce rankings of employee satisfaction and commitment.

The Forest Service ranks lowest of all U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, and the Department itself ranks 23 out of 30 departments. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ranked 61 out of 216. The Forest Service also ranks lower than U.S. Department of Interior agencies which manage land. The Bureau of Land Management was 150 out of 216, and the Fish and Wildlife Service had the same score as NRCS.

Employee satisfaction increased at 71 percent of federal organizations between 2007 and 2009. During the same time period, employee satisfaction at the Forest Service decreased 11 percent from an index score of 59.9 to 53.3.

These rankings could be a significant barrier to recruiting highly qualified and motivated employees, since prospective employees seeking government service have ready access to them.

And the statistics just keep on flowing.

These statistics reflect the battering the Forest Service has and is taking from politicians bent on discarding sustainable management of our public lands. The urban public has been brainwashed into believing preservation, in its purist form, is the prescription for healthy ecosystems while failing to moderate their own insatiable appetites for increased natural resource based benefits. An impossible combination. Some might describe many of our political leaders as “Dumber than a fence post.” It’s no wonder that Forest Service employees—especially those old enough to see or wise enough to perceive the effects—express frustration when polled.

-- Zane Grey Smith

This page is for expressing your opinions or sharing your ideas.

Send your Forum inputs to the editor: Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or lesjoslin@aol.com.

“I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

— *Attributed to Voltaire*

206 And Rising: Regional Forester Mary Wagner's Response to the U.S. Forest Service's "One of the Worst Federal Workplaces" Ranking in the "Best Places to Work" Survey

206—*It's a number pleasing to no one.*

206 is the Forest Service's ranking out of 216 government agencies in the "Best Places to Work" survey. The disappointing results have caused national, regional and local leadership throughout the agency to take a hard look at what we can do to improve job satisfaction, agency morale, and offer a better place to work.

We all realize changes within our agency in the past few years came quickly and in some areas are still a work in progress. For example, HCM has not worked out as envisioned and we're taking steps to improve the delivery of their services. Nationally, Denny Bschor will lead a team that within 90 days will provide recommendations to fix key problems. Regionally, we will continue to provide classification support and seek other areas where we can make things easier for those engaged in personnel actions.

Other areas will be examined, and when things aren't working right, we'll fix them. The Forest Service should be the Best Place to work, and I am committed to work with you and other leaders in the region to improve our work environment.

One of the joys of the job has been spending time in the past few months visiting our Forests. Your dedication, vision and passionate work are inspiring and impressive.

And it's not just me, who feels this way. The Washington Office's Gloria Manning attended a Get Outdoors Day program hosted by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and went away singing our praises. The Wild Turkey Federation recognized the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, while at the same time, the Siuslaw National Forest and the Blue Mountain Initiative project coordinator, Mark Henjum, were being honored by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation—all for key project work in improving habitat.

And still awards continue. Region 6 employees received four of the seven national celebrating wildflowers/botany awards. These awards honored the likes of David Steinfeld, Scott Riley, Lee Riley, Vicky Erickson, Wayne Rolle, and Alice Smith. These people aren't just award winners, they are national leaders in the botany field.

The Regional Office's Bonnie Lippitt was awarded the distinguished Oregon's Governor Tourism Award for her work in tourism and recreation. Shawne Mohoric received recognition with a "Wings Across America" award. Jeff Pendleton received National Fire Management Officer of the Year.

I use these only as examples—because they are truly reflective of the caliber of people we have, and the accomplishments all of you make on a daily basis. So, thank you—because I know your contributions are valuable and making a difference.

Another recent highlight was participating in the Rose Festival Parade, led by the Wallowa Whitman National Forest's wagon team and pack string. The loud cheers and applause heard along the parade route are indicative of how the public feels about the Forest Service.

I am pleased that Lenise Lago is on-board as our new Deputy Regional Forester, and give thanks to Lisa Freedman for taking the position on until Lenise arrived. Lisa is now our Regional Executive for Economic Recovery and will address all ARRA work for the next two years. Both Lenise and Lisa are exceptional people, and we are fortunate to have them in leadership positions.

As we transition leadership at the national level, recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of Chief Kimbell, and welcoming the leadership of Chief Tidwell, I am reminded that individuals do make an incredible difference in our agency. We wish Gail the very best.

Great employees, great leaders and a great landscape—what more could I ask for?

-- Mary Wagner, Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region

Proposal to Merge Northeastern Area with Eastern Region and U.S. Forest Service Morale Survey Draw OldSmokey Comment

The proposal to merge the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (S&PF) with the Eastern Region of the National Forest System (NFS), announced in the *Federal Register* this spring, elicited strong responses from OldSmokeys. As summarized:

The USDA Forest Service Executive Leadership Team (ELT) proposes to merge the management of the Northeastern Area with the Eastern Region. The desire to obtain organizational consistency across the country has prompted the ELT to combine the two units. This step will enable a more cohesive forest management program to be developed and deployed. One lead organizational unit will provide a powerful, effective suite of Forest Service programs to help improve people's lives and sustain the natural resources in the region.

A survey—this year's *Best Places to Work for the Federal Government* that ranked the Forest Service 206 of 216 federal agencies—also drew OldSmokey fire.

OldSmokeys proved fast on the draw as well as accurate with well-aimed comments to appropriate officials as well as to each other that poured into the *OldSmokeys e-Forum* almost immediately. Some of those follow.

Chief Emeritus Max Peterson

From a real world standpoint it never made much sense to separate NFS and S&PF. It was one of those things that Ed Cliff [Chief, 1962-1972] very reluctantly agreed to as a compromise when a...study pushed by OMB wanted the Forest Service to essen-

tially split into three separate organizations in the field: NFS, Research, and S&PF. Ed agreed to a “trial” in the East to be evaluated within five years. The evaluation was never done but S&PF and NFS were recombined in Atlanta [the Southern Region] many years ago.

That does not mean that I necessarily favor recombining R-9 and NE Area. Such reorganizations, particularly if people are moved to a new combined headquarters, are very costly in terms of transfer of station costs, not to mention severance pay for people who cannot or do not wish to move. Tinkering with organizational charts is a usual sign that an agency finds it easier to be seen as doing something without tackling significant problems that are more difficult to deal with.

I certainly do not have any readymade answers to the startling results of the employee survey that showed the Forest Service near the bottom in a variety of factors. I know it will not be easy to change that because success breeds on success and failure tends to persist.

Bob Schramek

We disregard our history and our past success at our peril. Back in 1960 Herbert Kaufman wrote a book entitled *The Forest Ranger* as part of a study [of the] Forest Service...done with the support and encouragement of Marion Clawson, director of Resources for the Future.

One of the major findings in his study affirmed that the real strength and success of the Forest Service as a federal agency was its very carefully designed organization that placed the real power for independent action in the hands of the district ranger. It seems like every new administration since then has whittled away at this basic foundation and penalized the successful ranger who was willing to stick his neck out to get the job done, even if that meant that his administration of policy was selective and judgmental, or to be blunt, pragmatic to use only the policy tools that actually worked.

It is no surprise to me that morale is down, that work effectiveness is down, and that the average young man or woman who would otherwise desire a public service career now looks askance at the thought of serving in the present-day agency. Centralization for the sake of budget efficiency is killing the Service. If the management team and the politicians can't see the dangers in the present course, the Service has no future!

John Hargrove

Bob Schramek's comments regarding the Forest Service district ranger and centralization in general are dead-on right. The cost of gaining economy by merging/centralization has historically [been] demonstrated [as] the concurrent loss in local effectiveness. All organizations, not only government organizations, experience this consequence of centralizing organizational authority.

It's amazing that folks continue to wonder why centralization always dispirits people. Closely following, demotivated people will sap any remaining strength in the local arms of an organization.

If one wishes to kill any locally-effective organization, don't divide it. Centralize it, and watch the zombies plod about under the burden of far-off authority. Is this an acceptable cost to enable an organization to better meet “higher” (operation under reduced budgets) goals?

Maybe the real goal (whose goals?) is to destroy the Forest Service. If so, we're getting there!

Chuck Hendricks

I have no patience with the idea that tinkering with minutia will solve REAL problems [such as] the deterioration of forest conditions in the West. Come on, let's do something that deals with the real forestry problems in this country.

A Retiring U.S. Forest Service CIO Member Offers Perspective

For 32 years I have believed that the Forest Service is an incredible agency to work for. It is one of the few that, at its very heart, is based on something touchable and loveable, not on pushing paper. The land and the people for whom it is managed are all that matters. Not the President. Not Congress. Not USDA. Not the Chief. Not the auditors or contractors. Not Bus Ops or the CIO. But the land and the people. The rest are just part of how we try to help the land and the people.

The CIO doesn't touch the land or the people. Our job is to support the people who do. We are only one level removed from that precious land.

In everything we do there is one question that **absolutely** must be asked: **How, specifically, is this going to help the land and the people for whom it is managed?** If this question cannot be answered for whatever task, project, initiative, or policy at hand—answered without veering off into the sky or jargon or toys or self-serving rhetoric—then we shouldn't be doing it.

Years ago one of the primary advocates for computerizing the Forest Service was famous for saying that any Ranger District too small to support a Data General was too small to exist at all. I submit that this is backwards, that any computer project too big to support the needs of a District is too big to exist.

It is when the Agency and its staffs forget this that we veer off course and burn out the incredible passion, commitment, wisdom, hearts, and personal lives of those who work for it.

--Terry Spencer

Editor's Note: Terry Spencer retired from the U.S. Forest Service “CIO” (Chief Information Office) on July 3, 2009.

OldSmokeys News



Janeanne Upp, President of the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, welcomed about 70 people to the dedication of the restored “High Desert Ranger Station” at the Museum on July 30, 2009.

--High Desert Museum Photo by Abbott Schlinder

OldSmokeys and High Desert Museum Dedicated High Desert Ranger Station Exhibit on July 30

Thunderheads gathered over the Cascades as about 70 people—many of them OldSmokeys—gathered at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, on July 30, 2009.

They gathered on that hot afternoon to dedicate the Museum’s restored “High Desert Ranger Station” to its new mission of telling the stories of the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service and the vital roles they play in western American life.

The storm held off until the job was done.

The Event

Janeanne Upp, President of the High Desert Museum, welcomed all to the event. Honorary OldSmokey **Bob Boyd**, Western History Curator at the Museum, described the history and purpose of the project that had brought a 1933 one-room district ranger’s office building from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to the Museum.

OldSmokey **John Marker**, representing the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), recognized such distinguished guests as Oregon State Senator Chris Telfer of Bend and Deschutes National Forest Supervisor John Allen.

OldSmokey **Bruce Hendrickson**, President of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA), described PNWFSA’s sponsorship of the project as an organization that contributed \$9,500 and recognized the several OldSmokeys who’d donated thousands of dollars more.

OldSmokey **Les Joslin** reminisced about the restored district ranger’s office in which—at its original Bridgeport, California, location—he began his first Forest Service job in 1962. Then he and President Upp cut a ribbon officially opening the ranger

station exhibit while Bob unveiled a plaque on the front wall of the building that recognizes PNWFSA’s sponsorship of the project and the help of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Intermountain Region.

The Exhibit

“High Desert Ranger Station” is an authentic U.S. Forest Service district ranger’s office. Built four miles northwest of Bridgeport, California, in 1933, it was headquarters of the Bridgeport Ranger District on the old Mono National Forest.

In 1945, that national forest was divided between the Toiyabe National Forest in Region 4 and the Inyo National Forest in Region 5, and the Bridgeport district and ranger station became part of the Toiyabe.

Through 1962, the district ranger and his small staff managed and protected the timber, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation resources of the half-million acre district from this small office.

When a new office was constructed at the Bridgeport Ranger Station that year, the building was moved to the Reese River Ranger Station in central Nevada. In 2008, it was moved to the High Desert Museum where it was restored and put back to work as an exhibit.

Since July 1, 2009, Les and OldSmokeys **George Chesley**, **Stan Kunzman**, and **Dick Connelly** have staffed the station daily from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. OldSmokeys who share their own experiences while telling the National Forest System and Forest Service stories are perfect for this volunteer job, and more are being recruited to augment this slim but dedicated team. Other volunteers are welcome, too. Keeping this ranger station exhibit open and its stories alive is up to volunteers.

Honorary OldSmokey Bob Boyd Thanks OldSmokeys for Generous High Desert Museum Partnership

A Thank You to the OldSmokeys!

Thanks, on behalf of the High Desert Museum, to the membership of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association for their years of continued support and encouragement.

This partnership began with the concept of an exhibit to mark the U.S. Forest Service Centennial in 2005. Century of Service, which opened at the Museum in June, 2005, was the most extensive exhibit in the nation to mark the occasion. It was possible only with the shared memories, artifacts, photographs, and financial generosity of the OldSmokeys.

Century of Service was later on exhibit at the Umatilla County Museum in Pendleton, Oregon, and we hope it travels to other sites in the future.

With dedication of the High Desert Ranger Station on July 30, yet another opportunity for Museum visitors to explore the history of the Forest Service in the High Desert is in place. Staffed by a cadre of OldSmokeys who share their stories with visitors, the High Desert Ranger Station will also serve as a “classroom” for over 40 school groups participating in the Museum’s “Fired Up” program this fall. This historic ranger station’s 550 mile move and restoration was also made possible by both your financial support and the sharing of your memories of service stretching back across the decades.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many of you these past six years. So, please accept my personal thank you for your friendship and confidence in our ability to present your story to over 150,000 visitors each year.

-- Bob Boyd

Curator of Western History High Desert Museum

Damp Weather Didn't Dampen OldSmokeys' Spirits at August 14 Picnic

“I’m still predicting it’s going to clear up,” prognosticated **Vern Clapp** on arrival at a foggy and soggy Wildwood Recreation Area for the annual OldSmokeys summer picnic on August 14 that was enjoyed by 133 OldSmokeys.

The cool, damp weather was overcome by warm fires and warm friendships as OldSmokeys mingled to remember the past and anticipate the future while enjoying a wonderful barbecue served by Dave Dalton and company.

A surprise “party within the party” helped **Doug Porter** celebrate his 70th birthday along with OldSmokeys who sang “Happy Birthday” and gobbled up a beautiful birthday cake.

The weather didn’t “clear up.” But the picnic was fun!

OldSmokeys Donate Additional Funds to National Forest Service History Museum and High Desert Ranger Station Project at High Desert Museum

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association voted at its June 26, 2009, meeting to award another \$5,000 to the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) in Missoula, Montana, and another \$3,000 to the High Desert Ranger Station Project at the High Desert Museum (HDM) in Bend, Oregon, to further the development of each of these U.S. Forest Service heritage projects.

This brings total donations to the NMFSH to \$20,000 and to the HDM to \$12,500. Individual OldSmokeys, of course, have contributed many thousands of dollars more to each of these efforts.

“The principal source of our donated dollars is special PNWFSA projects. The funds do not come from our operating budget or members’ dues,” Treasurer **Vern Clapp** pointed out. “Currently we are using funds from the remaining balance of our 2005 Forest Service reunion and associated silent auction income. We are also using the profits from publishing and selling the centennial book *We Had An Objective In Mind*. These are moneys earned by projects that represent a lot of time and effort by a lot of OldSmokeys.”

“This is sizeable for a retiree group,” OldSmokey **John Marker** commented. “The donations to the NMFSH give PNWFSA a basis to challenge other retiree groups to join with us in getting serious about this museum project. There has never been a time of greater need for the facility than now when so many people lack any understanding of the purpose of the National Forest System or the work of Forest Service people over 100-plus years to achieve this purpose.

“We have built a Forest Service museum at the High Desert Museum. It may not be as grand as the proposed national edifice in Missoula, but it is up and running. It is helping visitors understand the importance of the national forests to the Great Basin. It is also attracting people with fond memories of their Forest Service careers or associations with Forest Service people. Many question how the exhibit was developed. The answer, of course, is with the enthusiasm of the HDM, the PNWFSA, individual OldSmokeys, and friends of the Forest Service.

“I say it’s time for other Forest Service retirees to get serious about the Missoula project, roll up their sleeves, and do the heavy lifting to get the NMFSH up and running as was done with the HDM project,” John continued.

“Our grand kids deserve it. We, the Forest Service old-timers, have done a lot we can be proud of for the nation, and especially the West. But the job isn’t done, and retirement gives us the opportunity to continue to help the forests without all of the paperwork and meetings.”

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Treasurer Vern Clapp for the accurate explanation of the funds donated and to NAFSR representative John Marker for his input to this article.

OldSmokeys Attend 2009 Forest Service Reunion in Missoula; “Where Do We Go From Here?” Proves Apt Theme

A total of 140 OldSmokeys was among the 500-plus U.S. Forest Service retirees and others from all over the United States who gathered at The Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center in Missoula, Montana, for the September 7-11, 2009, Forest Service Reunion co-hosted by the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFHS), the Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association (NRMRA), and the National Smokejumper Association (NSA).

Camaraderie and Concern

All who attended—including the six former chiefs of the Forest Service and the current chief—enjoyed the camaraderie, meetings, tours, and other aspects typical of Forest Service reunions even as they pondered the future of their beloved and beleaguered Outfit—concern for which was reflected in the aptly worded Reunion theme “Where Do We Go From Here?”

That concern was addressed by an unprecedented panel of those six former Forest Service chiefs—three of whom are OldSmokeys—during a Wednesday, September 9, session widely reported in the press. More than 400 retired and current members of the Outfit showed up to listen and ask questions. Among them was Tom Tidwell, who became chief this summer. Although the program included other topics, the “Where Do We Go From Here?” theme reverberated through the five-day reunion.

Chief Tidwell responded to that theme with expressions of optimism about the future of the Forest Service and its restoration of the nation’s forests.

And the word most used to characterize where the Forest Service is headed—toward *restoration* of the nation’s forests—was reflected in the presentations of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees’ John R. McGuire Award and the National Museum of Forest Service History’s Conservation Legacy Award to an individual and an organization, respectively, that have made great strides toward reforestation.

Projects and People

Construction of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula was another principal topic, and funding of that construction benefited from Reunion Store sales, silent auction and general auction receipts, and generous donations. Among the latter was a \$5,000 donation from the OldSmokeys presented by PNWFSA President-elect **Bill Shenk** at the Wednesday evening banquet. The total amount raised for the Museum project at the reunion was still being calculated at press time and will be reported in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

While presenting that check to Gray Reynolds, the Museum president, Bill mentioned that, in addition to previous PNWFSA donations, several individual OldSmokeys have made substantial contributions: two over \$40,000 each, two over \$10,000 each, and two over \$5,000 each. Bill admitted proudly to bragging!

But the essence of reunions is people, and Forest Service

Reunion 2009 provided the 500-plus attendees opportunities to renew the old friendships and relive the old times that *made* the Forest Service careers of most who made the trip to Missoula.

Partners, Praise, and Prospects

In addition to the three sponsoring organizations, reunion exhibitors included U.S. Forest Service Region 5 and Region 10, the National Forest Foundation, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, the Forest History Society, the National Active & Retired Federal Employees, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Montana Wilderness Association, the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, and the Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. Management and Engineering Technologies International (METI), Inc., was on hand to explain its services to government. Vendors included the Western Heritage Company, Mountain Press, and many others who, along with the Reunion Store and silent auction display, added to the festive atmosphere.

Reunions are not easy to pull off, but there was general agreement among attendees of Forest Service Reunion 2009 that Chairman Beryl Johnston and all who worked with him did a superb job.

Just when and where the next Forest Service reunion will be remains an open question. At the Friday morning, September 11, send-off breakfast, Beryl expressed hope that a sponsor for a 2012 reunion would be identified.

Record Turn-out!

OldSmokeys Flock to June 2009 Historic Fish Lake Remount Station Restoration and Maintenance Project

“The fourth annual Historic Fish Lake Remount Station restoration and maintenance project was an outstanding success,” OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** reported. “The June 15 to 19 gathering attracted 18 U.S. Forest Service retirees and two spouses, and all but two were OldSmokeys.” These OldSmokeys were **Rolf Anderson, Joe Brennan, Dick Connelly, Fred Dulti, Dick Grace, Dean Groshong, Bob Hetzer, Wendall Jones, Mike & Sue Kerrick, Bob Leonard, Doug MacDonald, Steve Mealey, Don & Darcey Pederson, Ron Skrip, Woody Williams, and Dick Woodfin**. The non-OldSmokeys were Randy Dunbar and Bill VanVliet.

“This was the largest gathering yet, and on Monday it was augmented by McKenzie River Ranger District and Willamette National Forest SO folks,” Mike said. “Later that afternoon the District held a brainstorming session that will set the stage for the future of the Fish Lake historic site. All the retirees and several other interested partners participated. After that, the District fed all a potluck Mexican dinner.”

The OldSmokeys spent the rest of the week logging 421 volunteer hours on project work. Some of the major jobs done included: completing residing of the west end of the open storage building; removing and replacing the Hall House garage tin roof with a shake roof; cleaning and oiling all the saddles and tack and rodent-proofing the saddle and tack room; cleaning and rodent-proofing the blacksmith room and its attic; rehabili-

tating the door to and rodent-proofing the gas and oil house; replacing the spring house floor; prepping the dispatcher's cabin floor for refinishing; and cutting and removing brush and tree limbs on several sites around the station. Another major job, replacing the post on the gas and oil house, took about 12 hours to accomplish. "All the projects were designed and supervised by the ever-able Jim Denny, famed Fish Lake 'curator,'" Mike emphasized.

OldSmokey Vern Clapp Marks Ten Years of OldSmokeys eNotes

OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** celebrated ten years of OldSmokeys eNotes on July 26, 2009, with—well, what else, yet another OldSmokeys eNote!

Vern's OldSmokeys eNote #1150, entitled simply "10th Anniversary," noted that "the first OldSmokeys eNote was sent out to 210 members back in mid-1999. We are now up to eNote #1151 going out to almost 600 e-literate members (out of 907 total).

"At the same time," Vern continued, "we have sent out 71 OldSmokeys eForums. These were started back in November of 2007. There have been spurts of vigorous opinion and debate. Recently the eForum contributions have been relatively quiet." Could that be because it's summer?

Vern reviewed the difference between eNote and eForum communications.

"ENotes will [continue to] be used for notices, member information, obituaries, Forest Service information, etc."

The "OldSmokey eForum will be used for members' experiences, opinions, and views." Vern then reviewed the eForum parameters. "The OldSmokey eForum will permit an exchange of information and ideas. It will permit members to voice their opinions, ideas, recollections, or as questions. However, it will be operated under some basic guidelines. Any eForum contribution should be:

- Civil—no personal attacks. Respectful of privacy.
- Free of obscenities or abusive language.
- Professional and factual.
- Readable and interesting.
- Brief,
- Non-commercial.

Vern also points out that, as eForum editor, he "reserves the right to edit or not post messages at any time these rules are not followed."

And he made one additional point about eForum submissions. "As a non-profit organization, we are able to express a range of views [about] and support for the Forest Service, but we need to be careful not to use PNWFSA to advocate politically controversial subjects. However, this certainly does not prevent individual members from expressing their personal views in our eForum."

Many OldSmokeys celebrated Vern's ten years of OldSmokeys eNotes with—well, what else, congratulatory e-mails!

Editor's Note: Like the editors of many newspapers, your editor foresees the time when your OldSmokeys Newsletter will become a product of electronic journalism only and no longer be available on the printed page he holds so dear. Time marches on.

OldSmokey Rolf Anderson Reports on We Had An Objective In Mind Book Project

"Our book project, *We Had An Objective In Mind: The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest 1905 to 2005, A Centennial Anthology*, is winding down to a very successful close," OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** reported in early August 2009. "As of the end of July we have sold 1,810 books for a net profit of \$13,463. PNWFSA elected to use \$2,000 of that profit to support the Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center."

The project kicked off in late 2002, spearheaded by Rolf along with OldSmokeys **Phil Hirl**, **Wendall Jones**, **Dave Scott**, and **Pam Wilson**. The initial effort was a review and selection of stories from back issues of *Timberlines* covering the years 1905 to the mid-1970s. New stories were solicited to cover the mid-1970s to 2005. Submissions included stories from two former Chiefs and several Region 6 regional foresters. OldSmokeys **Dick Buscher** and **Dick Connelly** collected and selected the photographs.

The first printing of 1,100 copies was released in July 2005, in time to celebrate the Forest Service Centennial and for the Forest Service Centennial Reunion hosted by the OldSmokeys in Portland in September 2005. The second printing of 750 copies, available in December 2005, brought the total number of copies printed to 1,850.

We Had An Objective In Mind was well-received by OldSmokeys, current Forest Service personnel, and the general public. Feedback included:

- "[This book has] brought back a lot of great memories to the members of our outfit."
- "Overall, the book has a much more positive feel than other books I've read recently about the outfit. It made me feel pride to have been part of a great group of folks. The history captured will be valuable for many years to come. I hope new employees find it and read it."
- "The stories shared provide an insight into the reason so many of us are proud of our careers in this outfit."
- "With all the change the Forest Service is going through right now, this is such a good perspective and grounding opportunity for many of us."

"Along the way we received advice and counsel from numerous OldSmokeys and other friends, and Willamette National Forest Supervisor **Dallas Emch**, an OldSmokey, provided facilities and materials to produce numerous review copies," Rolf recalled.

OldSmokeys and current Forest Service employees who helped sell the book in their local areas include **Rolf Anderson**, **Lee Boecksteigel**, Umatilla National Forest Public Affairs Officer Joani Bosworth, **Dick Connelly**, **Ray Connelly**, Bette



Cooney, Gil Davis, Ken Evans, Bill Fessel, Phil Hirl, Wendall Jones, Ron Ketchum, Kerm Link, Doug Porter, Steve Ricketts, Ray Scharpf, Dave Scott, Ron Skrip, Bob Tokarczyk, John Wilson, Pam Wilson, Buck Woodward, and Ted Yarosh.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Rolf for this wrap-up.

We Had An Objective In Mind No Longer Available By Mail

That's right! The OldSmokeys centennial anthology *We Had An Objective In Mind* has been a great success and is virtually sold out, according to OldSmokey Wendall Jones who, in an August 31, 2009, e-mail to the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, noted that after the September 7 to 11 Forest Service Reunion 2009 in Missoula, Montana, "we may be down to under ten books total."

"If we do get a 'late' mail request and still have a book available," Wendall said, "we will mail it. But we do not want to encourage any more orders."

Even success has its downside!

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Just Won't Quit: After the PCT and the CDT, the GDT!

"I am about 500 kilometers into a 1,000 kilometer trek along the Great Divide Trail from Waterton to Jasper in the Canadian Rockies," peripatetic OldSmokey Jon Stewart reported in an August 26, 2009, e-mail to the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. "I am hiking the CDT's northern cousin. It is much wilder and, mile for mile or kilometer for kilometer, a much more scenic route than the CDT. It involves lots of bushwacking and route finding."

The CDT, of course, is the 3,000-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail along the spine of the Rocky Mountains that Jon began walking during the summer of 2007.

"I did complete my last 350-mile leg of the CDT from Rawlins, Wyoming, to Mack's Inn, Idaho, in July, so am developing a pretty good perspective on the Continental Divide." That was Jon's second walk between Canada and Mexico. His first was the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail that he walked during the summers of 2003 through 2006.

"The GDT is very remote and packed with scenery, history, and wildlife. So far, I have avoided grizzly encounters, but have seen every other major beast—from wolves to wild horses—haunting this corner of North America."

"If all goes well and I avoid any early-season snowfalls, I should arrive in Jasper around the middle of September," Jon observed. "I will tell you about my adventures when I get home after two and one-half months on the trail in a pretty amazing corner of the continent."

So, OldSmokeys, watch this space in the Winter 2010 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for a full report. Who knows? Maybe Jon will tell us where he's going next.

Editor's Note: We eagerly await Jon's book about his legendary backpacking exploits, assuming he'll stop walking long enough to finish writing it!

OldSmokeys Dues Policy is Easy to Follow

Secretary Bev Pratt, Treasurer Vern Clapp, and Membership Chair Bob Devlin, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) officers who administer membership dues, remind OldSmokeys that PNWFSA's dues policy is easy to comply with and that timely compliance helps them be more effective at their jobs.

That policy is spelled out in the PNWFSA Bylaws: "Dues may be paid annually or by a one-time Lifetime membership payment. Annual dues [currently \$20.00] are to be paid at the beginning of each calendar year. Dues for more than one year can be paid at one time. A Lifetime membership [currently \$250.00] covers both the member and the surviving spouse."

That annual dues are due and payable by January 1 of each year is announced in the fall issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* along with a payment coupon that may be clipped and forwarded with your dues payment check. And (except for the Winter 2009 issue on which the printer left it off) your newsletter mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid.

Of course, if that annotation on your newsletter mailing label reads "LT" you are a lifetime member and owe no further dues. What a "no sweat" way to go! Why not become a lifetime member now and never have to think about dues again?

OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2010 Are Due on January 1

It's that time of year again! Annual dues for OldSmokeys who are not lifetime members, but pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association membership fees on a year-to-year basis, are due January 1, 2010.

Members may use the coupon below to pay those dues.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Bill for Collection for 2010 Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$20 are due and payable on January 1, 2010.

Please make your check for \$20 annual dues [or \$250 lifetime dues] payable to PNWFSA and mail to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, OR 97228-5583.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

While you're at it, why not share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the "Letters" section of the next newsletter? Use the space below, and add additional pages if necessary.

OldSmokey Jim Golden is NAFSR Chair

George Leonard, retired Associate Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and long-time Chairman of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), handed the NAFSR reins to OldSmokey **Jim Golden** at the association's September 7, 2009, board and general membership meeting in Missoula, Montana.

Jim, accepting the position, spoke of NAFSR's need to continue "building relationships and building capacity" necessary to continue to play the role George characterized as "a player in natural resource policy." Membership recruitment, Jim and George agree, is essential to both.

Jim retired from the Forest Service in January 2007 as Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region. His career included assignments as district ranger, Wallowa Valley Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; deputy forest supervisor, Deschutes National Forest; and forest supervisor, Coconino National Forest. He lives in Sonora, California, where his wife, Susan Skalski, is Stanislaus National Forest supervisor.

George, who lives in Fairfax, Virginia, will continue an active role in NAFSR's Washington, D.C., operations.

OldSmokey Lyle Laverty Finds Gateway Communities Association

OldSmokey **Lyle Laverty**, a 35-year U.S. Forest Service veteran who served six years as Colorado State Parks Director before becoming Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the second George W. Bush administration, has founded the National Association of Gateway Communities (NAGC) to expand the relationship that cities and towns have with federal agencies that manage public lands.

Step one in this initiative is to improve communications. "Communities don't even know how to get involved in agencies' planning processes," Lyle told state campground association leaders attending a National Association of RV Parks and Campground (ARVC) issues conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2009. "I've had a number of people come to me from Park Service communities saying that they don't even know when the agency is going to do anything until they come and announce a decision."

Lyle, president and CEO of the Denver-based The Laverty Group, cited two reasons for this lack of communications—public land managers who don't participate in the communities and the high turnover of community officials. The new NAGC's goal, he said, will be to openly advocate and "broker" relationships "so that communities can be engaged in planning" on public lands in their areas.

Lyle's career in the Forest Service included service as a district ranger, forest supervisor, and regional forester as well as RO and WO jobs. His last job in Region 6 was Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources director in the RO.

Prepared from a May 18, 2009, Woodall's press release "Laverty Addresses AVRC National Issues Forum" and an OldSmokeys Newsletter editor's discussion with Lyle Laverty at the Forest Service Reunion 2009 in Missoula, Montana.

OldSmokey Les Joslin Profiles Two Pacific Northwest Foresters in Oregon Encyclopedia

Brief biographies of prominent U.S. Forest Service foresters Walter J. "Walt" Perry (1873-1959) and Thornton Taft Munger (1883-1975) have recently been published in the online *Oregon Encyclopedia*.

OldSmokey **Les Joslin** got to know about Perry, who was transferred from the Carson National Forest in New Mexico in 1925 to manage Deschutes National Forest timber, when he edited that forester's autobiography published by Wilderness Associates in 1999 as *Walt Perry: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon*. And he got to know about Munger, founding director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, when he researched and wrote *Ponderosa Promise: A History of U.S. Forest Service Research in Central Oregon*, published by the Research Station in 2007 as PNW-GTR-711.

The *Oregon Encyclopedia* is an authoritative and free source on all things Oregon sponsored by Portland State University with the Oregon Council of Teachers of English and the Oregon Historical Society. See <www.oregonencyclopedia.org>.

Jim Petersen Launches New Website Version of Evergreen Magazine

Jim Petersen, co-founder and executive director of the non-profit Evergreen Foundation, launched the new website version of *Evergreen Magazine* at <www.evergreenmagazine.com> on June 19, 2009.

Evergreen Foundation provides this free service "to provide timely information to individuals, groups and businesses that share our interest in and passion for the health and productivity of our nation's public and privately-owned forests," Jim explained.

Jim, who has published *Evergreen Magazine* since the early 1990s, intends "to operate this site as an electronic news service" with "a constant flow of fresh content" he sees as key to "building a large, well-defined audience" for the magazine's important message.

The website content is intended to follow "*Evergreen's* proven model: facts, photographs that teach, science, analysis and opinion." And, as far as the past of print is concerned, "You will find every *Evergreen* issue published since the early 1990s on this site in PDF format, along with all my speeches and editorials, which you are free to pass along to anyone you think might benefit from reading them."

Jim and the Evergreen Foundation have been a valuable source of information about and a powerful voice in support of the National Forest System.

OldSmokeys can—and should—submit content to <editor@evergreenmagazine.com> and may make tax deductible contributions to support the effort by clicking on the "Join Us" link on the website.

"The national forests could not ask for a better friend," commented OldSmokey **John Marker** on the launching of the new website version of *Evergreen Magazine*.

Forest Service News

Editor's Note: The relief of former Chief Gail Kimbell by Chief Tom Tidwell, announced just two days after the Summer 2009 issue of your quarterly OldSmokeys Newsletter arrived in your mail boxes, is old news. But appointment of a Chief is an important event, and must be documented even if only for the record.

Hail to the Chief!

Tom Tidwell is U.S. Forest Service Chief

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on June 17, 2009, appointed Tom Tidwell, 54, to replace Gail Kimbell as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Sixteenth Chief Kimbell served through July 2, and 17th Chief Tidwell took over on July 3.

"Tom Tidwell's 32 years of experience in our forests and impressive track record of collaboration and problem-solving will help us tackle the great challenges ahead," Vilsack said.

Tidwell spent those 32 Forest Service years in a variety of positions. He began his Forest Service career on the Boise National Forest, and has since worked on eight different national forests in three regions. He has worked at all levels of the agency in a variety of positions including district ranger, forest supervisor, and Legislative Affairs Specialist in the Washington Office. Like Dale Bosworth and Gail Kimbell before him, he was appointed Chief from the Northern Region regional for-ester position.

Tidwell's field experience includes working from the rural areas of Nevada and Idaho all the way to the urban forests in California and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah, where he served as forest supervisor during the 2002 Winter Olympics. He also has extensive fire experience, beginning as a firefighter and accumulating 19 years as an agency administrator responsible for fire suppression decisions.

"We thank Gail Kimbell for her leadership and deep commitment to protecting our nation's forests," Vilsack added. Chief Kimbell retired from the Forest Service in early August.

Prepared from June 17, 2009, U.S. Department of Agriculture News Release "Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Names New Chief for U.S. Forest Service," and Associated Press article "New forest chief..." by Matthew Daly published in the June 19, 2009 issue of Bend, Oregon's daily newspaper, The Bulletin.

And Farewell from the Former Chief...

Former Chief Gail Kimbell Comments on the Sudden Change in Chiefs

"A number of you have asked for some accounting of all this sudden change," former Chief Gail Kimbell wrote to the members of the U.S. Forest Service after Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's June 17 announcement that Chief Tom Tidwell would soon succeed her at the helm of the Forest Service. "Let it suffice to say that the Administration wanted a change. It is sudden. I'll serve as your Chief through July 2, then will move to a new position and will retire in early August."

"The good news for me is two-fold. To have my successor

already announced and to know that it is Tom Tidwell, a tenured and seasoned Forest Service leader, is tremendous news. Tom and I will have some time for transition before he assumes the responsibilities of Chief. The second piece of good news is that I get to rejoin my husband in Missoula, Montana.

"It has been my distinct honor to serve as 16th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. I've had the pleasure to work with incredible people at all levels, in all job series, all across the country, who are highly skilled and dedicated to our mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands. Together we have focused on many of the important issues and conservation challenges of our time. I thank you for the outstanding work in climate change, water, and kids.

"Am I sad? Of course. I cherish my 35+ years in the Forest Service and the relationships with people inside and outside the outfit. But I know you'll continue to keep an eye to the issues of the future and you'll continue in our 104 year history of adapting to the needs of present and future generations. You are an extraordinary group of people. I would do it all over again."

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack Announced New Direction and Vision for Nation's Forests and U.S. Forest Service in August 14 Speech

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack—speaking in Seattle, Washington, on August 14, 2009—outlined his vision for the future of our nation's forests. In his first major speech regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Vilsack set forth a new direction for conservation, management, and restoration of these national treasures.

"Our nation's forestlands, both public and private, are environmental and economic assets that are in critical need of restoration and conservation," said Vilsack. "By using a collaborative management approach with a heavy focus on restoring these natural resources, we can make our forests more resilient to climate change, protect water resources, and improve forest resources while creating jobs and opportunities."

Climate change, catastrophic fires, disease and pests have all led to declining forest health in recent decades. The resulting impact on watersheds, the climate, local economics, wildlife, and recreation, has led the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer a new vision for our nation's forests. By taking forest management in a new direction, the Department will emphasize the role our national forestlands play in contributing to the health and prosperity of the country and reverse the trend of declining forest health.

"Declining forest health and the effects of our changing climate have resulted in an increasing number of catastrophic wildfires and insect outbreaks," said Vilsack. "It's time for a change in the way we view and manage America's forestlands with a eye towards the future. This will require a new approach that engages the American people and stakeholders in conserving and restoring both our national forests and our privately-owned forests. It is essential that we reconnect Americans across the nation with the natural resources and landscapes that

sustain us.”

In addition, the new approach to managing our forests aims to secure the nation’s water supply. Watersheds with a large proportion of forest cover are more likely to be associated with good water quality, with forests protecting soil, moderating streamflow, supporting healthy aquatic systems, and sustaining good water supply.

President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is one component of this new direction that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has already begun to implement. Through the Recovery Act, the Obama administration is funding 512 projects that will create jobs restoring our nation’s private, state and national forests through hazardous fuel reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation, and hazard mitigation activities. Nearly 170 of these projects will help maintain our forests to reduce the potential for fires. Meanwhile, thirty of these projects, funded at \$57 million, will promote the development of biofuels from woody biomass to help private sector businesses establish renewable energy infrastructure, create green jobs and build a new, green economy for the 21st century.

The U.S. Forest Service manages national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres of land, which is an area equivalent to the size of Texas. With over 80 percent of the forest area in the United States outside of the National Forest System, the new vision seeks to increase public-private cooperation regarding the conservation and restoration practices to non-federal forests—state, tribal and private forest lands. The administration’s plan calls for the U.S. Forest Service to play a leading role in the development of new markets to sustain the economic viability for forest stewardship and provide landowners with economic incentives to maintain and restore forests.

National forestlands produce economic benefits from a diverse range of sources including recreation and more than 200 hydroelectric plants operated in national forest watersheds. With more than 192 million visitors to national forests in 2008, local communities throughout the country benefit economically from those who recreate on and near forestlands and high-quality water bodies protected by forested watersheds.

A healthy and prosperous America relies on the health of our nation’s forests:

- Nearly 87 percent of all the country’s fresh water supply originates from forests and agricultural lands and more than 200 million people rely on public and private forests and grasslands for their drinking water;
- 53 percent of the nation’s total water supply originates from public and private forest lands;
- More than 900 cities rely on national forest watersheds;
- 3,400 public water systems serving 66 million people in 33 states are supplied by watersheds that include National Forest System lands;
- Public and private forests in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern states help to protect more than 1,600 drinking water supplies supplying more than four trillion gallons per day to households of more than 52 million Americans;
- 80% of the forest area of the United States is outside the

National Forest System.

- The estimated annual value of water from national forests for in-stream uses is at least \$37 billion.

Prepared from U.S. Department of Agriculture News Release No. 0383.09; used verbatim with style modifications and terminological corrections (e.g., “National Forest System lands” rather than “Forest Service land” for reasons this editor has previously explained).

Harris Sherman is Nominated as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment

President Barack Obama on September 10, 2009, chose Harris Sherman, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, as his second nominee for the position of Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. The post requires Senate confirmation.

The person who fills this position oversees the operations of the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Homer Lee Wilkes, the first nominee for the post, withdrew his nomination in June just after the Summer 2008 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which his nomination was announced went to press. The White House said at the time that Wilkes withdrew for personal reasons.

“Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack praised Sherman for his dedication to conserving and improving the environment in Colorado and beyond,” the Associated Press said. Sherman, 66, is a member of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter’s cabinet.

Prepared from an Associated Press article by Matthew Daly published as “Colorado man tapped to oversee USFS” in the September 11, 2009, issue of the Missoulian.

Summer of Turmoil in Washington, D.C., Produced Little on Major Issues Affecting U.S. Forest Service and National Forests

Except for the Obama administration’s September 10 nomination of Harris Sherman to serve as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, neither the Executive Branch nor the Legislative Branch seem to have accomplished much during the summer of 2009 that addresses major U.S. Forest Service and National Forest System issues.

By press time, Congress had not made significant progress toward passing the proposed Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, also known as the FLAME Act, to address the growing costs of fighting catastrophic wildfires, or toward passing a version of the proposed American Clean Energy and Security Act that would affect—and, it is hoped, *effect*—production of “renewable biomass” on national forests and other federal forest lands. Much pending legislation seems to have been delayed by the partisan turmoil surrounding health care legislation as well as Congress’ summer recess.

Perhaps there will be something to report on these and other issues in the Winter 2010 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Pacific Northwest Region Benefits from Over \$203 Million in Economic Recovery Stimulus Funding

By Tom Knappenberger, Media Liaison, Region 6
Public and Legislative Affairs, for OldSmokeys Newsletter

Roads will be fixed, trails maintained, hazardous fuels reduced, and a new ranger office built in Bend, Oregon—all thanks to national economic recovery stimulus funds.

The Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service has received more than \$203 million of the \$1 billion so far allocated to the Forest Service under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

With less than \$100 million left to be allocated from the \$1.1 billion given the Forest Service, most of the funds are on their way to getting work done. The contractual process is being managed nationally by four Economic Recovery Operation Centers (EROCs) including one in Sandy, Oregon.

The funds have been announced by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in a number of categories, including: abandoned mines; ecosystem restoration; facilities; forest health; hazardous fuels reduction and mitigation; hazardous fuels reduction on state and private lands; related ecosystem and watershed enhancements; roads; trails; and wood-to-energy grants on non-federal lands. The final category is for forest health.

By national forest, the ARRA awards are as follow: Mt. Hood, \$14.5 million (includes statewide Oregon Youth Employment Initiative funds); Deschutes, \$15.2 million; Ochoco, \$2.3 million; Rogue River-Siskiyou, \$41.9 million; Umpqua, \$8.6 million; Regional Office, \$38.2 million (grants and agreements for states, tribes, and the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative); Wallowa-Whitman, \$11.9 million; Malheur, \$19.3 million; Willamette, \$8.8 million; Siuslaw, \$8.7 million; Umatilla, \$6.6 million; Fremont-Winema, \$675,000; Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, \$47,000; Gifford Pinchot, \$12.3 million; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, \$6.9 million; Olympic, \$5.9 million; Okanogan-Wenatchee, \$1 million; Colville, \$346,000.

For more information on individual projects, visit http://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5085932.pdf or simply go to www.fs.fed.us and click on the ARRA links on the home page.

Success stories can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/?category=arra.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Tom for preparing this article.

Ochoco National Forest Struggles with Proposed Reorganization That Could Close Historic Rager Ranger Station

A combination of economic and social criteria is driving a proposed reorganization of the Ochoco National Forest that could lump the Lookout Mountain and Paulina ranger districts and either close historic Rager Ranger Station—72 miles from Prineville—or reduce it to a seasonal and project work station.

Either of these alternatives would base all Ochoco National Forest personnel and operations—those assigned to the SO and to the Prineville Ranger District and the proposed lumped districts—in Prineville. Both alternatives are opposed by the ranching community surrounding Rager Ranger Station.

Reasons given by Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter for possibly closing Rager Ranger Station include improving operational efficiency and the station's remoteness.

"It has been no easy task to design a future organization that meets the needs of the Ochoco National Forest and the publics we serve," Walter wrote in an August 10, 2009, letter to Paulina and Post community members following the July 30 "listening session" with Paulina community members. Citizens in both Paulina—population about 120—and Post—a small post office and store serving surrounding ranchers—oppose closing the district ranger station.

"In our analysis process," Walter continued, "we have considered all the typical things an organization must look at to remain viable, including staffing and retention, administrative costs, budget trends and internal efficiencies. We also considered community services and relationships" and, after the community meeting, the degree to which citizens value a Forest Service presence in their communities.

With regard to economic and social concerns, Ochoco National Forest spokesperson Virginia Gibbons noted "a declining trend in the amount of money we have available to us" and "challenges with filling and keeping positions and people out at Rager Ranger Station" in a July 9, 2009, article in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon's daily newspaper.

Cost-saving estimates for moving personnel from the Rager Ranger Station are not available.

As far as social criteria are concerned, Walter noted that "People don't want the remote districts anymore. With kids in soccer, you can't drive 72 miles after work." Currently, the station houses 10 employees who live and work there, and there are five vacant positions.

Other concerns raised by moving operations to Prineville, Walter observed, are increased commute times for people who work on national forest land around Paulina and reduced staffer contact with the forest. "The more you're out there, the more you see what's on the ground. When it's 72 miles away, you probably won't get out there as often as when it's close."

Community concerns focus on an important Forest Service presence as well as important services. The presence "gives a face to the Forest Service, and you begin to understand each other," a community member said. "It fosters a feeling of cooperation rather than adversaries." And, in addition to resource management, are public safety services. "The ambulance has typically been staffed by Rager [Ranger Station] personnel, Forest Service personnel, so without Rager, we potentially don't have a viable ambulance crew," said Jim Wood, a Post rancher.

These considerations have caused Walter "to pause and consider our original purpose in 'Caring for the Land and Serving People,'" he wrote in the August 10 letter. "Amidst the obvious financial responsibilities that I must adhere to as a line officer, the communities must also have their voice in this process. ...

You want the Forest Service to maintain a presence in your community and many of you feel this is the only manner in which we can rightfully fulfill our mission.”

After community meetings, Walter has concluded that he needs “additional time to review the notes, comments and letters submitted..., read [a] study on other Forest Service reorganization efforts, and reconsider what is being proposed.”

Another aspect of the proposed reorganization, by the way, is moving the Crooked River National Grassland office from its current location in Madras to the Prineville SO.

Eventually, Forest Supervisor Walter must make a decision and send a recommendation to Regional Forester Mary Wagner in Portland, who must make a recommendation to the Chief of the Forest Service in the WO, who must make a final decision.

That decision will determine the fate of remote Rager Ranger Station and its legendary “Rager Rats.”

Prepared from multiple sources including the July 9, 2009, article “Ranger station may close, leaving Paulina an uncertain future,” by Kate Ramsayer in The Bulletin; a July 9 e-mail from Virginia Gibbons, Public Affairs and Fire Education Specialist, Ochoco National Forest and Central Oregon Fire Management Services; and an August 10, 2009, letter from Jeff Walter, Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest, to Paulina and Post, Oregon, residents.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Hosts U.S. Marine Corps “Mule Corps” at Pickle Meadows

Down in Region 4, high on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe half of the lumped Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the U.S. Marine Corps is training members of the armed forces to use mules for operations in Afghanistan where those sure-footed critters—familiar to many OldSmokeys—have been the preferred mode of military transportation for centuries.

“With the U.S. shifting its focus from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Central Asia, this class on pack animals at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center has become important to the new mission,” Tony Perry of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote in July.

“Five donkeys, 24 mules and five sergeant-trainers are stationed at the center for the animal-packing course, which is given eight times a year to Marines, Army soldiers, Navy SEALs and some foreign troops,” Perry reported. “Humvees and helicopters are of limited use in Afghanistan’s mountains. But a 1,000-pound mule or 400-pound donkey can easily carry a load one-third its weight, or more, if necessary.”

Opened in 1951 to train troops for Korean War operations, the Mountain Warfare Training Center at Pickle Meadows, just east of Sonora Pass in eastern California, is set on 47,000 acres of national forest land where Sierra Nevada peaks soar above 10,000 feet. The always-spartan base, which now includes a few corrals among its administrative buildings, barracks, and tents, has trained Marines and other armed forces personnel for mountain warfare ever since.

Prepared from a Los Angeles Times article by Tony Perry published in the July 8, 2009, issue of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper, as “Trading military humvees for mules, U.S. troops train for Afghanistan,” and the editor’s memories of the first ranger district on which he served.

Arsonist Raymond Lee Oyler Gets Death Sentence in Esperanza Fire Murder of Five U.S. Forest Service Firefighters

Raymond Lee Oyler, a mechanic from Beaumont, California, was sentenced to death on June 5, 2009, for starting the October 2006 Esperanza Fire that resulted in the deaths of five U.S. Forest Service firefighters.

The Esperanza Fire was a wind-driven, arson-caused wildfire that was started in a river wash west of Palm Springs, California, on October 26, 2006, and burned an estimated 40,200 acres before containment on October 30.

Arrested on October 31, 2006, for setting two wildfires during the summer of that year, Oyler was later charged with starting the Esperanza Fire. Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco announced on May 9, 2007, that he would seek the death penalty for Oyler, who pleaded not guilty to all charges.

After a week of deliberation, a Riverside Jury on March 6, 2009, returned a verdict of first-degree murder against Oyler for the deaths of the five firefighters killed in the fire. Three months later, Oyler was sentenced to death.

Prepared from multiple sources.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Promulgated Summer “Casual Fridays” Dress Code

Editor’s Note: It’s hard to know exactly what to do with this. So it’s stuck at the end of the “Forest Service News” section. It’s followed by several comments including those of the editor.

The following message from Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, was transmitted “as an OCIO service” to all U.S. Department of Agriculture employees.

“USDA is a positive and professional organization. Your image as a positive and professional employee is reflected through your dress style. Dressing professionally to present a favorable personal appearance is a reflection of you, and, thus, USDA.

“That said, during the summer months, we are promoting ‘casual Fridays.’ Of course, good judgment can be executed. Avoid wearing shorts, short skirts, crop tops, t-shirts, faded or torn blue jeans, exercise clothes, or flip flops. If there is any doubt, supervisors and employees should communicate openly with one another. This is especially true for questions regarding work clothing or protective equipment required for safety and protective purposes. Employees who are members of a bargaining unit should refer to any applicable collective bargaining agreement(s). And, the right to wear appropriate religious dress will be respected in the implementation of this policy.

“If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your servicing Human Resources Department or contact Departmental Administration Director of Human Capital Management, Ms. Jill Crumacker, at 202-690-5991, or email at Jill.Crumacker@USDA.gov.”

See “Casual Fridays” continued on page 22

Feature

Smokey Bear at 65: Still Misunderstood?



By Les Joslin

Smokey Bear, America's "forest fire preventin' bear" and our association's namesake, turned 65 in August. And, on the occasion of his birthday, the perennial critics lined up to take what have become the usual potshots at our venerable bear.

Writing in the *Los Angeles Times* this July, Mike Anton profiled those potshots without adequately analyzing them—without differentiating between fire *prevention*, Smokey's job, and fire *suppression*, not Smokey's job.

There's prevention and there's suppression

What such critics don't seem to understand or want to admit is that it wasn't fire *prevention* policy so much as fire *suppression* policy—born of the 1910 fires that burned some three million acres and killed some 80 firefighters in Idaho and Montana and scared the pants off District Forester William B. Greeley who became Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in 1920—that resulted in today's heavy fuel loads. The half century of near-total suppression that followed, in which many of us participated, is now generally accepted to be a factor—perhaps the main factor—that got us where we are today.

Anton was correct in writing that "Smokey's critics say decades of fire suppression helped create forests unnaturally thick with fuel, setting the stage for the infernos that march across the West every year." But he failed to distinguish between *prevention*—Smokey's job—and *suppression*. So, apparently, did University of Montana forestry professor Ron Wakimoto whom Anton quotes: "The forest conditions we have today are directly the result of that [Smokey Bear] campaign. Historically, it's done its damage by creating a very flammable forest."

Sure, Smokey's fire prevention campaign helped give fire a bad name. But, on balance, he did a lot more good than harm by preventing wildfires that threatened life and property.

There's fire and there's fire

For the past two decades such attacks on Smokey have stemmed from misunderstanding of his wildfire prevention message in an era of increasingly sophisticated fire ecology knowledge and increasingly controversial fire management policy. Many well-intentioned persons who espouse concern for the environment have, on the basis of inadequate understanding of the role of fire in the forest, gone a bit overboard in embracing fire's benefits while rejecting Smokey and his message.

Sure, fire is an important part of many natural forest ecosystems and a vital forest management tool. But fires cannot burn naturally in the unnaturally fuel-rich forests that old methods of fire control—total suppression—inadvertently bequeathed

much of the West.

That's right. Foresters live and learn, too! And fires are rarely, if ever, appropriate in the populated wildland-urban interface in which more and more people in the West—including many who have vilified Smokey and called his message "inappropriate" or worse—choose to live. Just ask folks in the many western communities, large and small, devastated by recent wildfires.

Even professional proponents of "fire use" to reduce fuel accumulations and produce other benefits agree that Smokey's fire prevention message remains valid. "Hey, we don't want people to think they're doing us a favor when they leave the campfire burning," a Montana forest ranger who advocates prudent fire use was quoted in the press almost 20 years ago. I think Professor Wakimoto would go along with that, and with Smokey's wildfire *prevention* message.

"Smokey is still telling the truth."

Ecologists agree and recognize, as Penelope and Charles ReVelle put it in the 1988 edition of their excellent textbook, *The Environment: Issues and Choices for Society*, "Smokey is still telling the truth."

The truth is that Smokey Bear today strives to prevent wildfires caused by human carelessness that threaten lives and property, not natural lightning-caused fires and professionally prescribed fires that—under appropriate conditions and competent management—benefit unpopulated wildlands.

The truth is that Smokey Bear promotes all the right objectives. Times and places have changed. This year's conflagrations in the sometimes fuel-rich and heavily-populated wildland-urban interface as well as more remote timberlands in no way equate to yesteryear's periodic natural fires in pristine forests.

The truth is that *everybody wins* with Smokey.

While wildland fire experts continue to sort out "good" and "bad" fires, Smokey continues to warn against carelessness that threatens communities and wildlands—and forests, natural and commercial.

The challenge is clear

The challenge is clear. Armed with the truth about Smokey Bear, wildland fire professionals must get people off Smokey's back and back on Smokey's side. They can do that by targeting his message, by applying it where it remains valid and vital, by helping people understand that some fires are good and some are bad, by carefully and competently managing the good fires and helping Smokey prevent the bad fires.

We can't afford to retire Smokey at 65. He still has a big job to do. Fire managers are going to need all the help Smokey can give them. And he's going to need all the help he can get.

Inspired by the Los Angeles Times article by Mike Anton published in the July 25, 2009, issue of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon's daily newspaper, under the headline "A simple message to capture fire's complexity: only Smokey," this article incorporates ideas originally published by the writer in "The Truth About Smokey Bear" on the occasion of Smokey's 50th birthday in 1994.

Happy Birthday, Smokey!

Changes *Compiled by Bev Pratt and Vern Clapp*

Albertson, Mary H. – New member: Portland, OR
Burgess, Carolyn T. – Change address: Ashland, OR
Clarke, Edward H. – Deceased June 20, 2009; Theola survives
Coleman, Jerry – Change e-mail:
Crist, Raymond L. Ray – Deceased August 3, 2009
Franks, Don – Change address: Bend, OR
Hays, Hank & Ellen – Change address: Bainbridge Island
Hill, Jack D. – Deceased July 9, 2009; Ann survives
Jessee, Jay & Elizabeth – New members: Stayton, OR
Kellner, Karl J. – Deceased July 22, 2009
Kreimeyer, Victor L. & Roxa – Change e-mail:
Leach, David K. & Anita – New members: Mill City, OR
Lopez, Tina M. – New member: Creswell, OR
Lowery, Bill & Shirley – Change e-mail:
Lysne, Mark & Meliana – New members: John Day, OR
Matecko, Alan J. & Sue – Correct address: Happy Valley, OR
McCurdy, Florence Morris – Deceased June 13, 2008
McCurdy, Ralph Edwin “Mac” – Deceased July 2, 2009
Nichols, Thelma Phyllis Grover – Deceased August 25, 2009
Parmele, Ben – Change telephone:
Riehl, Omer Eugene – Deceased September 11, 2009; Cecillia survives
Sanford, Mary Ann & Phoebe Sanford – New members:
Schlapfer, Ted – Change e-mail: please send to daughter
Simmons, Duane & Gail – New members: Bonney Lake
St. Marie, Diana & Dale – Change e-mail:
Torrence, James F. & Elizabeth – Change e-mail:
Tuininga, Earl – Change e-mail:
Unruh, Bud & Ann – Change e-mail:



HISTORIC ELK LAKE GUARD STATION IN WINTER

Photo by Chris Sabo, USFS

Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

Historic Elk Lake Guard Station, the only visitor contact and service facility on the popular Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway, serves about 5,000 Deschutes National Forest visitors every summer. It has been staffed daily for the past eight visitor seasons by qualified and unformed Passport In Time volunteers serving as U.S. Forest Service information and interpretation specialists.

When visitors ask if the station is open year-round, volunteers frequently show them this photograph to help them understand why it is not.

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Summer 2009 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Mary H. Albertson of Portland, Oregon, retired on January 3, 2008, at the RO in Portland after 37 years of federal service—35 of those years in the U.S. Forest Service and all of those in Region 6.

Jay & Elizabeth Jessee of Stayton, Oregon. Jay retired from the U.S. Forest Service on October 10, 1998, and the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, after a 33-year career in fire management. The first 10 years on the Lassen National Forest in Region 5 were followed by 23 years in Region 6. Jay worked for High Lakes Contractors in Deschutes National Forest campground management from 2001 through 2008. He and Elizabeth now focus on camping and visiting friends.

David K. & Anita Leach of Mill City, Oregon. Dave retired on the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, after 36 years in the U.S. Forest Service—32 of those years in Region 6 and two of those years with the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Tina M. Lopez of Creswell, Oregon.

Mark & Meliana Lynse of John Day, Oregon. Mark retired at the Malheur National Forest SO after 37 years of federal service—all of those years in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6.

Mary Ann & Phoebe Sanford of Portland, Oregon. Mary Ann retired on September 28, 2008, from Fire & Aviation Management in the RO in Portland after 32 years of federal service—31 of those years in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6, all in Oregon. Mary Anne started as a GS-2 survey aide at the South Engineering Zone in Oakridge in 1977, and progressed to an engineering position at the Willamette National Forest SO in Eugene. In 1991 she took a position in Program Development and Budget in the RO, in 1995 moved to Information Resources Management where she developed some of the first websites in Region 6, and in 1997 moved to Fire & Aviation Management. Mary Anne's father is Gordon Sanford, who served in the Forest Service from 1945 to 1975 and was district ranger on Diamond Lake and Rigdon ranger districts.

Duane V. & Gail W. Simmons of Bonney Lake, Washington. Duane retired on the Skykomish Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, after 34.67 years in the U.S. Forest Service, all in Region 6, and 2 years of other federal service.

Della M. Webb of Eugene, Oregon, retired on October 1, 2005, as wilderness and trails coordinator at the Willamette National Forest SO after 31.5 years in the U.S. Forest Service.

Editor's Note: The amount of information on each new member varies with that provided by or obtained from each.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

Donna Kaye Barks died July 20, 2009, at age 60. Donna Kaye Petri was born November 9, 1948, in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and grew up in a military family assigned to Germany, Iceland, and various United States locations. The family moved to Klamath Falls in 1961 where Donna graduated from Henley High School in 1966. Shortly after graduation, she began a successful U.S. Forest Service career on the Winema National Forest. Donna married Clyde Barks in 1975 and they had daughters Shawna and Kimberly. The marriage ended in divorce, but Donna remained close to the Barks family. Later in her career, Donna worked briefly on the Malheur National Forest, and then returned to the Fremont-Winema National Forests. After 38 years, she retired as a contracting officer on January 4, 2007. Survivors include her daughter Kim Barks, her grandson Eric Barks, and her parents Don and Edna Petri.

Edward H. “Ed” Clarke died June 20, 2009, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Ed was born November 16, 1919, in Elmwood, Iowa, and raised on a nearby farm. He attended school in Elmwood, and worked his way through Iowa State College in Ames, where he met Theola Mortvedt, whom he would marry in 1944, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry in 1942. World War II raged, and Ed served in the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator from 1942 through 1945. Their first daughter, Pamela Dee, was born in September 1945 at the naval air station in Melbourne, Florida, while he was stationed there. After the war, Ed pursued graduate studies at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where their second daughter, Margaret Ann, was born in January 1947, then earned a master’s degree at New York State University in Syracuse in 1948. Ed taught forestry at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville before he joined the U.S. Forest Service in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1950. He subsequently served more than five years in Portland, Oregon, and ten years in Washington, D.C., before returning to Portland in 1971 where he retired from the Forest Service in 1980. Ed’s favorite expression was “wood is good.” He and his wife, Tee, lived in Hood River, Oregon, and enjoyed travel throughout the United States and around the world. Survivors include his wife Theola and daughters Pamela Simpson and Margaret Jacobson.

Raymond L. “Ray” Crist died August 3, 2009, at age 69. He was a PNWFSA member. Ray was born August 4, 1940. Survivors include his son, Aaron Crist.

Editor’s Note: Ample information on Ray Crist had not been developed by press time. A more complete “Memories” section on Ray will be published if and when more complete information is obtained. Ray is well remembered by several OldSmokeys in the “Letters” section.

Kenneth Roy “Ken” Eversole died June 30, 2009. Ken was born April 25, 1920, in Bremen, Indiana, was an Eagle Scout, and a U.S. Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Ken married Virginia Rorick in August 1948. Upon graduation from Purdue University, he moved his family to Oregon where he worked for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in Klamath Falls before he began a 30-year career in the U.S. Forest Service.

Over the years, the growing Eversole family lived at many ranger stations in Oregon and Washington. Ken enjoyed everything outdoors. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. Ken was a founding member of Oregon Equestrian Trails, a lifetime member of the Hood River Saddle Club, and a member of the Linn County sheriff’s mounted posse and search and rescue team. Survivors include Virginia; children Linda, Jack, Anne Ferguson, Jean Lorenz, and James; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Charlie Eugene Graham died June 8, 2009, at age 91. Charlie was born March 4, 1918, in Grainola, Oklahoma. He married Gladys E. Linville Towell at Yreka, California, on June 10, 1952. Charlie retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a Deschutes National Forest crew boss for recreation and fire crews. After retirement, he and Gladys had a small farm on the John Day River before returning to live in Bend, Oregon. Survivors include sons Charlie, Vernon, Glen, and David; stepchildren Douglas Towell and Pat Sisson; 30 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and 33 great-great-grandchildren.

Jack D. Hill died July 9, 2009, at age 78. He was a PNWFSA member. Jack was born August 27, 1930, in Hornell, New York. He graduated from Port Dick High School in Binghamton, New York, and then attended the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena, New York, in 1950. He earned a B.S. degree at the College of Forestry, New York State University at Syracuse, in 1953. After working the summer of 1953 on the Ochoco National Forest, Jack was inducted into the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict for two years and then six years as a reservist. Jack received a permanent appointment in the U.S. Forest Service in 1956 to served again on the Prineville District of the Ochoco National Forest. Jack served briefly in Burns, Oregon, on the Snow Mountain Ranger District, then in December 1959 transferred to Baker as an assistant timber staff officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. He transferred to Bend, Oregon, in 1973, and retired there in January 1986 as timber staff officer on the Deschutes National Forest. Jack married Elaine Robinson in 1956. They had four children and later divorced. He married Ann Carnahan, who also worked on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, in 1975, and they joined their two families of six children. Ann was lead contracting officer on the Ochoco National Forest until she retired in 1985. Survivors include Ann; their combined family of Ben, David, and Steven Hill, Sheila Carr, Mike Carnahan, and Monica Weineke; 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Karl J. Kellner died July 22, 2009, at age 94. He was a PNWFSA member. Karl was born January 20, 1915, in Kalispell, Montana, and as a young child moved to California with his parents. They settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Karl attended Cogswell Preparatory School and earned a degree in accounting from Cogswell College. He began a U.S. Forest Service career as a lookout on the Mad River Ranger District, Trinity National Forest, and continued as a warehouseman. Karl married Dorothy Mae Jordan in Reno, Nevada, on New Years Day 1941. Shortly after they were married, Karl enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In 1945, after World War II ended, Karl, Dorothy, and their son Karl, Jr., moved to Redding, California, where he

worked as an accountant on the Shasta Dam project before he resumed his Forest Service career on the Trinity National Forest. That career took him to the Shasta, Six Rivers, and Lassen national forests and the Region 5 RO in San Francisco. During these years, Dorothy and he had two daughters, Judy and Cindy. He transferred to the Region 6 RO in Portland, Oregon, in 1958, and to the WO in 1967, before returning to Montana as head of financial management in the Region 1 RO in Missoula where he retired in 1973. Among numerous awards, Karl received the Presidential Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After 52 years of marriage, Dorothy died in 1993. Survivors include his son Karl Jr.; his daughters Judy and Cindy; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ralph Edwin “Mac” McCurdy died July 2, 2009, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Mac was born June 23, 1920, and had served in the U.S. Forest Service as a timber management assistant and district ranger on the Willamette National Forest and as a fire staff officer on the Umatilla National Forest.

Editor’s Note: Ample information on Mac McCurdy had not been developed by press time. A more complete “Memories” section entry on Mac will be published if and when more complete information is obtained. Mac is well remembered by several OldSmokeys in the “Letters” section.

Leota Roberta McKnight died August 7, 2009, at age 89. Leota Gabbert was born June 12, 1920, in Vibbard, Missouri. She graduated from high school in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, attended Central Missouri State Teachers College in Warrensburg, and taught in Missouri rural schools for eight years after finishing college. She married Leo Ralph McKnight on August 3, 1942. After Leo returned from World War II, the couple moved to Colorado where she worked for the Production Credit Association before, in 1962, she began a U.S. Forest Service career on the Rio Grande National Forest at Monte Vista, Colorado. She later transferred to the Pacific Southwest RO in San Francisco. After her divorce in 1971, she transferred to the WO, and in 1974 transferred to the Umatilla National Forest in Pendleton, Oregon, where she retired in 1984 and remained the rest of her life. Survivors include sons Glen, Gary, and Mark; seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.

Thelma Phyllis Grover Nichols died August 25, 2009, at age 89. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late Earl E. Nichols. Phyllis Grover was born April 20, 1920, in Glyndon, Minnesota, grew up on a small Minnesota farm, attended college in Fargo, North Dakota, and during world War II began a teaching career in the Far West. She met and married Earl in 1948, and they raised their three sons at Forest Service stations up and down the West Coast. They moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1969 when Earl became forest supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest, and remained in Bend as active members of the community and, in particular, Trinity Lutheran Church. Earl and Phyllis celebrated 59 years of marriage prior to his death on August 4, 2008. Survivors include their sons Scot, Craig, and Dane Jeffrey.

Omer Eugene Riehl died September 11, 2009, at age 81. He was a PNWFSA member. Omer was born November 15, 1927, in Portland, Oregon. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and married Cecilia Rose Moll on January 19, 1952. Omer worked for the U.S. Government for over 30 years, serving a short time with the Bureau of Indian Affairs before settling into a U.S. Forest Service career. Survivors include his wife Cecilia; daughters Linda Benson and Colleen Wright; sons Paul, Mark, and Greg; and 12 grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: Ample information on Omer Riehl had not been developed by press time. A more complete “Memories” section entry on Omer will be published if and when more complete information is obtained.

Robert Raymond “Ray” Rock, Sr., died April 27, 2009, at age 87. Ray was born May 13, 1921, in Whitefish, Montana, and was an accountant and auditor for the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife Barbara M.; sons Robert R., Jr., and Mark K.; daughter Cindy Ostrander; stepdaughter Linda Corberly; and stepson Mike Babb.

Phil Simonski died July 13, 2009. He was a former PNWFSA member. Born in the East during the late 1930s, Phil earned a forestry degree at Pennsylvania State University in 1959. He served many years in Region 6 on the Ochoco, Fremont, and Wallowa-Whitman national forests before he retired in the 1980s. After retirement, he and Jackie operated a bed-and-breakfast in the family home in Baker City, where he had a tackle shop and guide service. A world-class fisherman, he was also a top coyote hunter, and the 1998 edition of his book *Coyote Hunting* remains the definitive source on the subject. Phil and Jackie moved to Seal Rock on the Oregon Coast a few years ago, and Phil quickly became expert at harvesting all kinds of edible sea life.

Willard Stokes, Jr. died July 27, 2009, at age 84. Willard was born March 3, 1925, in Elroy, Wisconsin. He was a supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife Gloria; son Will; and daughter Elaine Huxel.

Steven A. “Steve” Uptegrove died August 20, 2009, at age 52 in an on-the-job accident on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest when he was hit by a falling tree while helping law enforcement eradicate an illegal marijuana-growing operation near Unity, Oregon. He was chosen for this job in part because he was experienced in attaching loads of debris to helicopters. Steve was born May 12, 1957, in Portland, Oregon, and grew up in Bend, Oregon, where he graduated from Bend High School in 1975, worked at his parents’ gas station and at Mt. Bachelor ski area, and in 1977 began more than 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service as a Deschutes National Forest firefighter. He also worked on the Malheur National Forest before he moved to Unity in 2006 where he served as station lead and fire engine foreman. Survivors include his wife Hope; son William Doyle; parents Melvin and Ruby Uptegrove; and sister Linda Spittler.

Ida A. Weyerman died November 26, 2008, at age 93. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of the late George Weyerman. *Editor’s Note: No further information is available.*

Letters

Ed Elliott *remembers Donna Barks*

I worked with Donna for about five years when I was a member of one of the Region 6 buying teams before my retirement. Maurica Owen was the team leader and Donna was the assistant leader. Donna had a great sense of humor and everyone enjoyed working with her. During those years we traveled to several states, and everywhere we worked Donna was well-liked.

Family meant a lot to Donna, whether her biological family or her work family.

I learned new things about purchasing from Donna and she was a patient teacher. I last saw her in 2007 when the buying team I used to be on was assigned to the Mt. Hood National Forest SO in Sandy for a fire and I was a trainee in Expanded Dispatch.

Bob Romancier *remembers Ed Clarke*

Sad news about Ed Clarke's death. We worked together at the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in the 70s and he was a good guy—very steady and reliable and interesting. His comments were listened to. I recall one time when Ed was going to be introduced to bank fishing in the Columbia River for king salmon by the station director, **Bob Buckman**. Ed bought a new, heavy (and expensive) rod. Buckman attached a railroad spike as weight to Ed's rod, reared back, and gave a mighty heave to show Ed "how it was done"...and broke Ed's rod in half! The expression on Ed's face was priceless!

Darrell Kenops *remembers Ray Crist*

While serving as Willamette National Forest supervisor, I had the honor of knowing and working with Ray.

Ray was a well respected colleague and community advocate. Many rangers and folks he worked with benefited from his expertise and network of community friends and organizations. He brought great positive energy and help in the good and not so good times.

Through all the Northwest Forest Plan shuffling, many protests, Detroit Reservoir drought times, windstorms and floods of the 1990s which impacted all our Willamette National Forest colleagues, Ray is one who stood ready and steady to help out and made a difference.

I and many others will miss Ray, his smile, energy, and wonderful "Let's get it done" spirit and friendship.

Steve Sorseth *remembers Ray Crist*

Retired recreation forester on the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest, Ray spent a large part of his career at Detroit and was one of the most respected and beloved of all who lived and worked in the area.

Ray was known as the "institutional memory" for not only Detroit's history, but how it fit into the Willamette Forest's history as well. This was due to Ray's passion for recreation as a resource and its importance to the public. He always strove to set the record straight, and he possessed an inordinate ability to recognize cause-and-effect relationships. While I was wilderness coordinator on the Willamette, I received countless buckshot envelopes from Ray with copies of memos 30 years old

that put current issues into context with past social and political struggles. He always had his eyes on the big picture. I considered Ray one of my most valuable advisors throughout my time on the Forest.

Ray held the Forest Service in very high regard, and he went out of his way to show his appreciation for the outfit. He rarely missed a retirement party or going-away party for those he knew, even after he retired.

Ray was also a passionate champion for serving the public. He taught many others who came under his mentorship and supervision about the high calling of customer service and satisfaction. He always volunteered for service projects outside his normal job, even after he retired.

I am saddened to lose a loyal friend, a one-of-a-kind person of character. Ray had a profound effect on all who knew and worked with him.

Wendall Jones *remembers Ray Crist*

Ray Crist arrived at the Detroit Ranger District after I left there as district ranger in 1966. But I have visited the Detroit folks a number of times since retirement. **Steve Sorseth** does an excellent job of recognizing what a great asset he was to Detroit and to the Forest Service. Many ranger districts were blessed with one or more of these career non-pro folks that greatly enhanced the visiting publics' opinion of the Forest Service and its people. That is part of our history that the current employees need to know about and appreciate.

Elton Thomas *remembers Jack Hill*

Sorry to hear of Jack's passing. He was the assistant timber staff on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest when I was a junior forester on the Baker Ranger District in 1967. I remember a timber sale that I put out along the Powder River. Jack gave it a thorough review and we had some good discussions regarding the amount of Grade 4 (as I recall, the grade dealing with knotty pine). I had more than Jack thought should be there. He prevailed, of course. He was a good mentor, and I remember his wife, Ann, too.

Pam Devereaux Wilson *remembers Mac McCurdy*

Mac was my dad's ranger on the Salt Creek Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest when we transferred from the Wenatchee National Forest in June 1959 and then when Salt Creek and Rigdon ranger districts on the Willamette National Forest were combined. I remember him fondly because he told Dad to take a vacation before the fire season began and the family went to Disneyland, our first ever family "summer" vacation. I remember Florence for it seemed to me that she went through life laughing. I didn't know people like that!

Dave Kolb *remembers Mac McCurdy*

Mac and I shared the "pleasure and/or displeasure" of a dual ranger station on Highway 58 in Oakridge [when we both were district rangers on the Willamette National Forest]. Mac and I got along well, but there was always some competition between our staffs. We each had our own warehouses and vehicles, but shared some equipment, office space, clerical workers, and staff housing. This occasionally caused some friction between our principal staffs and other workers on both districts. Real prob-

lems rarely occurred, but there was always an undercurrent of competition and rivalry that concerned both of us. Our two fire control officers were always “in their glory” when the other one had to ask for help when there was a lightning bust or escaped slash fires!

There were five houses above the office that were accessible by an “s” shape drive up the hill to the house fronts. A steeper trail went up the hill to the house rears. There was a level area at the top where we had set up horse shoe pits. After leaving the office, Mac and I often pitched a couple of games to relax before going in to dinner. It was our way to improve our digestion after a day in the field and/or office.

Joe Stockbridge *remembers Mac McCurdy*

Although I knew Mac was failing this past year or so, it is always a bit of a shock to learn of the death of a person who had a hand in shaping one’s career. Mac and Florence were at the Oakridge Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest when Judy and I arrived to begin our first assignment in 1958. Mac was TMA and I was fresh out of the Army and newly married. They made us feel at home right away and Mac began to mold me into a genuine timber beast. He was a great guy to work with and I could not have had a better mentor. In those days, timber was a very large part of the work and Mac guided several of us junior foresters in successfully preparing the program. I remember the first day on the job when I shouldered the double bitted axe and headed off into the brush. Mac was right there and that was the last time I tried that. I will miss him and remember his counsel.

Stan Rapp *checks in from Trout Lake, Washington, remembers Haven Stanaway*

I’ve been enjoying the PNWFSA summer newsletter immensely.

I was on several fires with Haven Stanaway in the ‘60s. He was a giant of a man, knew his craft (fire) well, and is missed by many.

I’m busy with six local grandkids who are all away at college and who have good local summer jobs. College is expensive!

If you see **Bill Shenk**, please tell him I said “He is in big trouble.” I’m just kidding of course. We worked together for years.

Keep up the good work, friends.

Editor’s Note: This letter, addressed to Bev Pratt, was signed “Stan the Man.” Thanks for the good words about the newsletter, Stan.

Roger Stamy *checks in from North Powder, Oregon*

We are still doing well living and maintaining our home in the country.

It is always a shock to read of old friends and co-workers who have graduated from this life to the ultimate retirement. Thanks for your good work in keeping us informed on these personnel matters as well as current issues. It makes me realize how fortunate I am to have worked for the outfit during the good old days.

Elton Thomas *forwards Ben Kizer’s comments on the High Desert Ranger Station dedication*

I hadn’t seen [this information on the High Desert Ranger Station dedication in OldSmokeys eNote #1158]. Thanks for sending. I took one look at the old “ranger station” and instantly knew where it came from. I started my career at Tonopah, Nevada, and was good friends with a number of folks on the Austin District, where this old station was located. I’ve been in it many times, had watched it deteriorate as the Forest Service became less field oriented, and my last memory of it was as an old, run down, forgotten part of the past.

My hat is off to these folks that made this happen! If my memory is correct, it was originally the Bridgeport Ranger Station, and was moved to Reese River in the early 60s. I was in central Nevada in the mid/late 70s. If my memory is correct, a guy by the name of John Lytle (along with his wife and two kids) was living there when I first visited Reese River, and he later became my supervisor at Tonopah where I worked on a wild horse study.

Editor’s Note: According to Elton, Ben Kizer retired as district ranger on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Ben’s memory is pretty good. The building was moved to the Reese River Ranger District site in October 1962 to provide Fallon District Ranger Sam Warren with a summer headquarters. John Lytle was on the summer crew at the Bridgeport Ranger Station during this editor’s last months there in 1966.

Jack Grubb *remembers Fish Lake in 1956*

The article by **Les Joslin** about the “Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot” in the Spring 2009 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* brought to mind my first experience at Fish Lake.

I worked on the Cascadia Ranger District from late 1955 to mid 1958. Jack Saubert was ranger, Bill Ore FMO, and John Carlson TMA. In the fall of 1956 most district personnel were sent up to the Lava Lake area for night slash burning. I had transferred from the White Mountain National Forest and had never done any slash burning, so you can imagine it was quite an experience.

We finished burning well after midnight and all headed down to Fish Lake to bed down. There were so many extra men present that all available beds were occupied by the time several of us got to the station. When we asked where our bed space was we were told that all bunks were already filled.

I asked about that building “over there” and was told that it was the “Hall House” and “off limits.” I headed, with the others, toward it, and Bill Ore hollered out, “Grubb, you can’t go in there! That is for the forest supervisor!” Remember, this is well after midnight, so I replied if he comes he can kick us out.

We did spend the night there and the Sup never did appear, so we got away with it.

Letters is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for sharing thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. You may send letters directly to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

Books

OldSmokey Ron McCormick Shares a Forester's Story in *Plain Green Wrapper*

Many people talk about writing an autobiography. OldSmokey **Ron McCormick**—who grew up in a small northeastern Ohio town by the unlikely name of Chagrin Falls, earned a University of Michigan forestry degree, and served a U.S. Forest Service career on seven western national forests—has done more than talk. He has produced. He has written and published *Plain Green Wrapper*, subtitled *A Forester's Story*, which is his story. And it's a fascinating story.

Indeed, Ron's story is so well written that a two-page introduction to the 244-page book—called “A Note from the Author”—on pages 9 and 10 offers a better review of its content than this reviewer could write. And so, with Ron's approval, that introductory note is quoted in its entirety:

“All of us have led interesting lives. We all have a story. The chapters of my life are irrevocably tied to assignments during my career with the U.S. Forest Service.

“I originally intended my story to chronicle the last few years of my career. At the time of my retirement in 1990, the most recent years seemed the most important and relevant—certainly they were the most demanding, exciting, and trying.

“Now, years later, recollections of the early years in some ways seem richer to me; at least those years were more about being a forester. They were full of simple experiences, like finding a long-forgotten section corner from the original 1800s government land surveys, backpacking into the remote Mokolumne River canyon for a surface rights survey, laying out a road or timber sale using aerial photos—far beyond roads in the rugged Mad River country of remote Northern California—and locating a route for the proposed Pacific Crest Trail high in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. What a career, what a life!

“This project of writing memoirs is at least partly egocentric. Wanting to leave a record of what my life was about and what it may have contributed is certainly self-focused, but there is more to it than that.

“The other motivation is for the benefit of my children, Shannon, Mike, Dan, Todd and Tina, all of whom both suffered and benefited from my career moves and the trials of relocation. I hope this offers them some insights and understanding. My professional career was unusual and event-filled, and I hope the story will be of interest to them and my growing cadre of grandchildren. The story might also mean something to Forest Service employees and retirees.

“Through it all, my admiration of the U.S. Forest Service as an organization and my great respect and deep affection for the men and women of this agency will be obvious.

“I am unabashedly proud of my thirty-three-year career. I did my best to serve the public owners of the national forests, sought to make a positive difference in natural resource protection and management, and be a good leader. I also strived to be of help to my fellow employees and their career ambitions.

“There is an in-house joke that describes a long time, dedicated Forest Service employee as one who wears green underwear. In my case, I believe I arrived swaddled in a Plain Green Wrapper.”

OldSmokeys who unwrap the *Plain Green Wrapper* of Ron's life as a youngster in Ohio, a forestry student at the University of Michigan working a couple summers on the Clearwater and Stanislaus national forests, a U.S. Marine, and a professional forester whose career took him to the Stanislaus, Six Rivers, Inyo, Lolo, and Wallowa-Whitman national forests before the RO in Portland and a 1983-1990 assignment as forest supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest will not be disappointed. Indeed, they will be edified by a career well served—a career that, if they are lucky, reminds them of their own.

Plain Green Wrapper by Ronald J. McCormick (ISBN 978-0-578-02601-5) was published in 2009 in a print-on-demand edition available for \$19.95 at <<http://www.lulu.com/content/5566327>>.

-- Les Joslin

OldSmokey Bruce Barron Shared *Fabulous Memories* in 2001 Memoir

Soon after OldSmokey **Bruce Barron** married Elna Maria Walldin in 1944, he realized a lifelong ambition by going to work for the U.S. Forest Service on the Goosenest Ranger District of the Shasta National Forest. The fact that his 15 years in the outfit—in various jobs on the Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, and Eldorado national forests and the RO in San Francisco—come first in his 2001 *Fabulous Memories of a Truly Adventurous Life* reflects the centrality of the Forest Service in his life.

Before his Forest Service years, Bruce had been a college student, ranch hand, and construction foreman. He left the Outfit to go into cattle ranching and real estate development. He also was an outfitter-guide. *Fabulous Memories* contains stories of all these exploits and more.

Fabulous Memories is available from Ox-Shoe Ranch Publications, 2295 O'Shea Circle, Redding, California 96003 for \$15.00 including postage.

OldSmokey Jerry Williams' History of the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest is Due from OSU Press in November

The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History, authored by OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** and sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, is due from Oregon State University Press sometime in November 2009.

The book is scheduled to be reviewed in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Pre-publication orders for Jerry's book, which costs \$29.95 per copy plus \$3.00 for shipping, are being taken. To order by telephone using your credit card, call the OSU Press distributor toll-free at 1-800-426-3797. Secure online ordering is available at <<https://www.uapress.arizona.edu/scripts/secure/orderosu.pl>>. The book's ISBN is 978-0-87071-572-3.

Uncle Sam's Cabins



The ranger's residence at Cabin Lake Ranger Station in 1995.

Photograph by Les Joslin

Cabin Lake Ranger Station Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

Forty miles as the crow flies south-southeast of Bend, Oregon, where the ponderosa pine forest gives way to the sagebrush sea, remote Cabin Lake Ranger Station was headquarters for five Deschutes National Forest district rangers between 1921 and 1945. Except for a bunkhouse and a pump house built in 1923, all the remaining Cabin Lake buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1934 and 1938.

Cabin Lake Ranger Station wasn't the Fort Rock Ranger District's first ranger station. That first district headquarters was located in a small house in the Fort Rock Basin town of Fort Rock by Ranger W. O. Harriman—later Deschutes National Forest assistant supervisor and Ochoco National Forest supervisor—in 1914. At that time, Fort Rock—about eight miles south of Cabin Lake and about two miles south of Fort Rock, a massive volcanic tuff ring from which the town and the ranger district take their names—was quite a settlement. Before long, Ranger Harriman rented an old Fort Rock stage station and barn and moved his headquarters to them. But Ranger Harriman didn't live there. Instead, he took up a homestead about two miles south of Cabin Lake and lived there in a tent house and shack.

“Casual Fridays” continued from page 14

The following comments are among those received from Forest Service personnel, OldSmokeys, and others.

“Is this real or just a joke?” – Donald Thompson

“Check it out. The good old Forest Service is really looking after us and spending our time wisely. Especially when they come up with these little notes and policies. – Don Davison, Snoqualmie Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National

His district headquarters remained in Fort Rock until 1921 when his successor, Ranger J. Roy Mitchell, moved it to Cabin Lake.

A well drilled at Cabin Lake in 1916 to improve grazing on Fort Rock District range made the site, on the edge of the national forest and overlooking the Fort Rock Basin where the ranchers who grazed the district's range lived, an attractive location for a ranger station. By the time Ranger Henry R. Tonseth took over the district in 1934, the CCC was replacing most of the original buildings at Cabin Lake with a ranger station compound that looked like it was there to stay. Six of the seven structures they built between 1934 and 1938—two residences, a cookhouse, a warehouse, a shop, and a gashouse—remain among the widely-spaced ponderosa pines at the edge of the forest. Sturdy wood-frame buildings on poured concrete foundations, all have clapboard siding and wood-shingle, medium-gable roofs. Only the warehouse sports the “pine tree logo” found on many CCC-constructed ranger station buildings.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Cabin Lake Ranger Station was the hub of most Deschutes National Forest timber sale activity. Forest Service personnel administering sales to the Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon mills in Bend lived there.

Ranger Tonseth, whose almost thirty-five years as Fort Rock District ranger established a Pacific Northwest Region record for service on one district, was the only district ranger to reside at the CCC-built Cabin Lake Ranger Station. In 1945, not quite a third of the way through his Fort Rock District service, his headquarters was moved from Cabin Lake to Bend. A well-liked, hard-working, dedicated Forest Service officer, Ranger Tonseth retired in 1968.

Cabin Lake Ranger Station continued to be used as a guard station and a work center into the twenty-first century.

And where is the lake for which Cabin Lake Ranger Station was named? Long gone, like the Pleistocene lake that once occupied the Fort Rock Basin. The only surface water in the area is about an eighth of a mile south of the station and east of Forest Road 18. But don't take your boat! It's just a small stock pond that holds water only in the wettest years.

Editor's Note: Efforts to save historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station have focused so far on restoring the ranger's residence. To get there, turn east off U.S. Highway 97 at La Pine, about 30 miles south of Bend, onto paved Forest Road 22. Drive about 26 miles east to Forest Road 22's junction with Forest Road 18, just over a mile east of South Ice Cave, turn south onto Forest Road 18 and follow it for just over six miles to the station compound on the right.

Forest

“This should really make an improvement and elevate our standing amongst the best agencies to work...my goodness!” – Elton Thomas, OldSmokey

Editor's Note: As one who advocates “riding for the brand” and always proudly wore and encouraged others to wear the Forest Service uniform in the field and in other appropriate

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The Way We Were

“We Are They”

By Edward G. Heilman, U.S. Forest Service, Retired

Ed Heilman comes along with some much-needed words of wisdom published as “Forest Service Lessons Learned, Part I” in the Spring 2009 issue of the Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association (NRMRA) Newsletter edited by Myra Mumma and reprinted here exactly as he wrote them. After reading this, OldSmokeys will be watching for more parts!

As one proceeds onward in life, one can, or at least should, learn several useful and valuable lessons. Some of these can be expressed in sayings, such as “A penny saved is a penny earned.” Or, “The early bird gets the worm,” etc. Sometimes it takes more than a short saying to express the lesson learned.

Looking back on my career, it is safe to say that many of these life lessons were taught to me by the Forest Service—sometimes deliberately, sometimes not. Some of these lessons have become most useful in my life, both within and outside the Forest Service. Here is the first of these.

Although I cannot now really understand why I was the one getting the lessons, this first one probably occurred in 1950, when I was in my fifth or sixth fire season job on the (former) Big Bend District of the Tahoe National Forest in California. Although I had graduated from the University of Montana Forestry School in June 1950, I was still working as a fire technician since my score on the Junior Forester exam was not exactly at the top of the list. My job at that time was working alone as a patrolman from a remote Guard Station. Plenty of independence. By then I knew the country, the Ranger, my job,

“Casual Fridays” continued from page 22

venues for all the reasons expressed in editorials he has written and will continue to write until he is fired, your editor shares Deputy Secretary Merrigan’s concern for “dressing professionally to present a favorable personal appearance” as an employee (your editor prefers the term “member”) of an agency to serve the public and its interests.” In our case, that’s the U.S. Forest Service, whose personnel have to be identifiable to those it serves if it is to do its job properly.

That said, and without engaging in sentence-by-sentence analysis of the deputy secretary’s message, it appears whomever drafted this has not been outside the Beltway enough to notice that the proscribed attire already is rampant in many Forest Service office and field settings—and not just on “casual Fridays.” Your editor could go on, but will end with the observation that shabby appearance may reflect replacement of effective “personnel leadership” by a mindset of “human capital management” that may be closely related to the low morale that makes the Forest Service such a low-rated agency in which to work.

Does anybody outside the Beltway know what “an OCIO service” is?

etc. A good deal. For some reason, the Ranger gave me quite a lot of reading material for my enlightenment after duty hours. Since there was no TV and very poor radio reception, reading was a natural for evening hours. Much of their reading material was more or less technical fire stuff—the old Fireman’s Handbook (a really good R-5 product), etc. some was sort of philosophical in nature. Among these was a fictional story about a young Junior Forester (JF) on a horseback trip with an Old Ranger.

As the JF and the ranger rode along the trail, they came to a trail direction sign that had been knocked sideways, perhaps by a bear or other critter. As they came to this displaced sign, the JF said to the Ranger, “They should fix this,” or words to that effect. The Ranger stopped, dismounted, and said to the JF, “Son, we *are* they.” And they fixed the sign, much to the chagrin of the JF.

At the time, I thought it was interesting but had nothing to do with me particularly. Although I thought back on this story occasionally, it hadn’t really sunk in. At some much later time, in an entirely unrelated situation, I heard someone say, “They should do...(whatever it was at the time).” This led to one of those light-bulb moments when I finally came to understand what my Ranger was trying to tell me. Since then, on hundreds of situations mostly outside the Forest Service, I think that “We” are indeed “They.” Ultimately, “We” are the ones who give our public servants input and direction. Lesson learned, part 1. More followed.

Editor’s Note: “The rest of the story,” as the late Paul Harvey was wont to say, is the answer to the question “Are youngsters starting out in the Forest Service learning lessons from old rangers today?” Not many. Not enough. ‘Nuff said.

Out of the Past

James G. Cayton: Pioneer Forest Ranger Pays Tribute to the Outfit and its Rangers

This beautiful new pictorial history, just published and received at press time, is the story of pioneer Ranger James G. Cayton, U.S. Forest Service, and his wife Birdie, who served the Outfit from day one until his retirement in 1939, set against the background of the early Forest Service in Colorado. David W. Cayton, the senior author, is Ranger Cayton’s grand nephew.

The book will be reviewed in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, but is mentioned briefly in this issue in the event readers may wish to take advantage of an introductory sale price (\$50 per book for one or two copies, \$39.95 per book for three or more copies) that expires on December 5. The regular price of this 230-page, hardbound book illustrated by many historic photographs and colorful maps and contemporary photographs is \$64.95. Sales benefit restoration of historic Cayton Ranger Station on White River National Forest in Colorado by a non-profit foundation. For information contact Cayton Ranger Station Foundation, P.O. Box 1898, Rifle, Colorado 81650.



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