



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2009

President's Message—John Nesbitt

As you know from all the recent political talk and the Wall Street news, this is a time of change, and this is also true for the OldSmokeys. In this issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* you will find:

- An opportunity to vote for our next President-elect.
- An opportunity to vote a new Constitution. This document that guides us has been in the revision process for many years. Please read it carefully and then please vote.
- A description of the projects we have worked on in the recent past.
- Other interesting happenings in the outfit.

It is important that, when we adopt a budget, we know what our income will be. If you have not already done so, please send in your dues payment soonest, and consider becoming a paid-up life member. The 2009 dues were due on January 1.

As a total volunteer organization, we need depth in all our officers and board positions. Therefore, please consider being a back-up for secretary, treasurer, database manager, newsletter editor, web page manager, e-mail manager, archivist, or one of many other important functions of our organization.

Thank you for belonging,

John Nesbitt

VOTE IN THE CONSTITUTION & PRESIDENT-ELECT ELECTION—PAGE 4!

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

Annual Dues for 2009 were due on January 1. At press time, over 200 OldSmokeys had not yet paid their 2009 annual dues. The OldSmokeys don't want to lose you. Please see page 11 for details.

Forum

District Rangers and Ranger Districts Marginalized

Back in May 2008 three dozen Rocky Mountain Region district rangers signed a letter to the U.S. Forest Service National Leadership Team (NLT) summarizing and suggesting solutions for some of the field level issues they had discussed at a recent regional district ranger meeting. Regional Forester Rick Cables forwarded their letter to the Washington Office.

These rangers' concerns—authority not commensurate with responsibilities, transfer of power from line officers to support functions, a more process-oriented and less mission-oriented agency, additional workloads that impede progress, overload of new processes and burden shift of administrative duties resulting in less time to focus efforts on mission-critical work, strained and sometimes severed connections between land managers and administrative support, inability to hire needed people and sometimes to pay employees on time, a summer seasonal hiring process that is stressful at best—reflect a perception and perhaps the fact that district rangers and ranger districts have been marginalized by those who run and oversee the Forest Service.

These rangers' suggestions “that administrative services and processes be better focused on the needs of the field” and that necessary changes be paced and developed with “field involvement” to ensure such initiatives do not “divert attention away from mission-critical work and dilute the agency's focus” reflect the same concern for relevant agency efficiency and effectiveness called for by this writer's Spring 2007 feature “An Agency to Match the Mountains?” and other members' subsequent *Forum* opinion pieces.

These rangers' conclusion that the Forest Service's “most important initiative” should be “fixing a broken service delivery system” that “hinders our ability to address emphasis items and assigned targets”—that is, to do the real jobs in the field—is right on.

These rangers' recommendations to the NLT—clarification of roles, responsibilities, and authorities throughout the agency in light of changes and centralization of various functions; re-establishment of line authority over support functions; improvement of administrative support throughout the agency; ensuring new software and systems actually work before they are deployed throughout the agency; ensuring ranger districts are well represented in the development of processes, organizations, and services essential to accomplishing the mission; and not starting new initiatives until old ones are working as intended—make eminent good sense and deserve implementation.

These rangers and their colleagues throughout the National Forest System should be returned to and supported in the key role district rangers have played for most of the Forest Service's almost 105 years, a role recognized in Herbert Kaufman's *The Forest Ranger: A Study in Administrative Behavior* (see **Books** on page 13) and revered by OldSmokeys and the American people.

The future of the National Forest System depends on it.

— *Les Joslin*

National Forest System Policy and U.S. Forest Service Procedure Beg Overhaul

Everything I think I know and everything I have read about the myriad issues affecting the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service boil down to a need for major distinct but interrelated policy and procedure overhauls.

The first is overhaul of National Forest System policy that clearly states the purposes and uses of national forest lands and their commodity and amenity resources.

The second is overhaul of how the Forest Service efficiently and effectively carries out those policies. In addition to a clear mission statement this would line out integrated strategy and tactics to achieve that mission. This would involve restoring a clear national forest administrative structure and assuring forest officers the authority to carry out their duties within that structure.

Both overhauls should set forth straightforward, efficient, and effective approaches to managing National Forest System lands and resources to the benefit of their citizen-owners by a Forest Service that is not only competent and credible but is perceived as such by the citizens it serves.

The first overhaul is largely up to the new Obama administration and Congress, and could be well informed by the “What We Believe! What We Advocate” briefing paper (described in *Forest Service News* on page 8) prepared by former Associate Chief of the Forest Service George Leonard and issued on December 1, 2008, for that purpose.

This section 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*

The second overhaul is largely up to Forest Service leadership, and could be well-informed by such inputs from the rank and file as the May 2008 Rocky Mountain Region district rangers' letter to the National Leadership Team (see "District Rangers and Ranger Districts Marginalized" above) and the "An Agency to Match the Mountains?" editorial in the Spring 2007 issue of this newsletter.

The ultimate measure of success would be a National Forest System of appropriately-sized administrative units that look like and work like national forests and ranger districts cared for by Forest Service personnel who look like and work like traditional forest rangers who "care for the land and serve people" to maximize "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run."

— Les Joslin

Mt. Hood Wilderness Expansion Plan is Threat to Wilderness Preservation

A statement I made to a wilderness conference audience a few years ago is germane to the current effort to expand the Mt. Hood Wilderness reported in the Fall 2008 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* ("Forest Service Retirees Question Mt. Hood Wilderness Expansion Plan" on page 8)—an effort that, if successful, would prove detrimental to wilderness preservation.

"The Wilderness Preservation System is like a valuable necklace of fine diamonds," I said. "Each diamond has individual value, but collectively the necklace has even greater value than the sum of each. If, however, we begin to add rhinestones to the necklace, we will diminish the value of each and of the whole necklace."

I believe we have done just that over the years by adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System areas that are not deserving of or don't meet the minimum requirements for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964 or that are clearly not manageable as wilderness.

In many cases, just to satisfy the "lust for more acres," areas adjacent to designated wilderness, that had a high suitability for primitive forms of recreation that could be or were already managed for that purpose, were added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This presents an opportunity cost in terms of alternative areas for recreation use in form and density that could buffer wilderness.

I have long argued for an alternative designation (e.g., "backcountry") to wilderness. To truly face up to the changing social and political demands on the National Wilderness Preservation System, I believe such an alternative designation is needed more than ever. The source of lands for such an alternative system would be the National Forest System roadless areas, the remaining Wilderness Study Areas of the other agencies, and—yes—the reclassification of those "rhinestones" designated as but unmanageable as wilderness.

The alternative, it seems to me, is the continued "tyranny of small decisions" that will defeat our efforts to preserve wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

— Dick Buscher

It's Not Too Late—New Years Resolutions for OldSmokeys

New years resolutions have fallen into disrepute of late—probably because so many are broken or forgotten by the middle of January. If that's the case in your life, you may well have room for one or two replacement resolutions by now. One of these might be to do something for the OldSmokeys—your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)—this year.

You might resolve to take on one of the PNWFSA jobs that keep the OldSmokeys going. As explained in the Fall 2008 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, except for the president, all Board of Directors officers and program managers are appointed by the Board from qualified members who volunteer to do specific jobs. And, as you read in that issue, *some vital PNWFSA officers and program managers need to be replaced soon!* Those who have been doing them for a long time are just about burned out. Some are the vital jobs of *secretary*, *treasurer*, and *data base manager*. If none of these suit you, think about running the annual summer picnic as *picnic chair* or the website as *website manager*. Or, if you're tired of my editorials, take over the editorship of this newsletter.

Or you might resolve to recruit another OldSmokey or two. Sometimes all it takes is telling an eligible friend how to go about it and handing him or her an application form. Membership in the PNWFSA is open to: (1) any retiree of the Forest Service who has worked in the Pacific Northwest or now resides in the Pacific Northwest, and (2) any current employee of the Forest Service with at least 20 years of government service (including military service) who works in or has worked in the Pacific Northwest. Applications are available on the PNWFSA website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> and on page 12 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Or you might even resolve to get involved in a project through which OldSmokeys help the Forest Service do one of its many jobs. Especially popular are heritage resource volunteer projects like maintaining the Fish Lake Remount Depot or staffing Historic Elk Lake Guard Station—watch the Spring 2009 issue for information—or the new High Desert Ranger Station project on page 6.

— Les Joslin



OldSmokeys News

Election 2009

OldSmokeys Asked to Approve Bill Shenk as President-elect, New Constitution

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated OldSmokey **Bill Shenk** to serve as its new President-elect. Bill will begin service in that office this spring and become President in the spring of 2010 if the membership casts enough ballots to approve this nomination.

So, to show Bill how much we appreciate his willingness to lead the OldSmokeys in 2009 as President-elect and in 2010 as President, let's send in lots of votes (one per member, of course) to approve this nomination.

Bill graduated in forestry from the University of Massachusetts in 1955. His 37-year career in the U.S. Forest Service took him from the Malheur, Deschutes, and Fremont national forests in eastern Oregon to the Region 6 RO in Portland to the Colville National Forest in northeastern Washington to the WO and finally to the National Advanced Resources Technology Center (NARTC) in Marana, Arizona. He alternated between administrative and fire control positions for most of that career.

Bill served as district ranger on the Lakeview Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest, deputy forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest, and forest supervisor on the Colville National Forest. He was a member of interregional fire overhead teams for about 30 years, serving as a line boss for most of them and as a fire boss (IC) for about five years before

his forest supervisor appointment. Fire positions he held were as fire staff on the Deschutes National Forest, cooperative fire director for Region 6, fire equipment branch chief in the WO, and director of the National Fire School at Marana.

An avid skier, bill was on the National Ski Patrol at Mt. Bachelor on the Deschutes National Forest for almost 20 years. After retirement, golf became his sport of choice and occupies him for at least two days a week!

Bill is a life member of the Society of American Foresters, having been a member for over 50 years. He joined the OldSmokeys in 1983.

"I retired many years ago, but we spent most winters in Sun City, Arizona, so I was reluctant to take on [an OldSmokeys job] until now," Bill said of his nomination. "I really haven't been to many of the Friday luncheons either since I had a conflict on the last Friday of each month. I still have the conflict, but I'll opt in favor of OldSmokeys now. I'm looking forward to the company of old friends and hope I can do as well as my predecessors."

According to Bill, we have OldSmokey **Bob Tokarczyk** to thank for the "arm twist" that got him to accept the nomination.

Also on this ballot, members are asked to approve the PNWFSA constitution recently revised by the Board of Directors. Too lengthy to publish in this newsletter, those documents are available for your consideration on the PNWFSA web site at <www.oldsmokeys.org>.

Clip or copy the ballot below or just use a plain piece of paper or even an e-mail to cast your ballot to approve your Board's nomination of Bill Shenk as President-elect and to approve the revised PNWFSA constitution. E-mail ballots may be sent to Secretary Bev Pratt at <prattpratt@aol.com>.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Winter 2009 Ballot for Election of New President-elect and Approval of Revised Constitution

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Bill Shenk** to serve as its new President-elect. Bill will become President in 2010 if the membership casts enough ballots in favor. So let's send in lots of votes (one per member) to show Bill how much we support his willingness to serve as President-elect in 2009 and to lead the OldSmokeys as President in 2010! The alternative is to write in the name of another member you would like to serve in these positions.

I cast my ballot for **Bill Shenk** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect _____ (check here), or

I cast my ballot for _____ (write-in here) to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has recently revised the Constitution of the organization and has referred these revisions to the membership for approval. Please indicate your approval or disapproval below.

I (circle one) **approve disapprove** the revisions to the Constitution of the PNWFSA.

Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228 by February 15, 2009, or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Bev Pratt at <prattpratt@aol.com>.

OldSmokey Linda Goodman Receives Presidential Rank Award

OldSmokey and former Region 6 Regional Forester **Linda Goodman** is one of 353 federal career executives recognized by President George W. Bush in 2008 with the Presidential Rank Award for their outstanding leadership and longtime service to government.

Two other U.S. Forest Service senior officials, Chief Gail Kimbell and Region 5 Regional Forester Randy Moore, were on the October 7, 2008, list for the awards.

“Winners of the prestigious Presidential Rank Award represent the cream of the crop within the federal executive ranks,” Office of Personnel Management acting Director Michael Hager said in a statement announcing the 2008 awards. “Their professional dedication and commitment to excellence is helping to advance President Bush’s agenda for enhancing federal government performance and creating a more effective civil service.”

The awards recognize members of the Senior Executive Service, senior-level career employees, and members of the scientific and professional corps who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, accomplishment, and service throughout their careers.

OldSmokey Mike Kerrick is Region 6 Honored Volunteer

Volunteers are increasingly important to U.S. Forest Service mission accomplishment, and the Pacific Northwest Region has honored several for their contributions. Among these, in the Retiree Volunteers category, is OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** who volunteers on the McKenzie Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

As reported in the October 16, 2008, *R6 Update*, “Mike provided the needed outreach, networking, and marketing to organize a volunteer group of retirees who have accomplished meaningful and essential work at the Fish Lake Remount Depot.” Several of Mike’s volunteers are OldSmokeys.

OldSmokeys Spring Banquet Set for Sunday, May 17, at Charbonneau

The 2009 PNWFSA OldSmokeys Spring Banquet will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 17, at the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, according to banquet co-chairs **Emil** and **Dorine Sabol**.

In addition to the camaraderie and cuisine for which the OldSmokeys annual banquet is famous, there will be a silent auction as well as the usual raffle. Emil and Dorine encourage all to start thinking now about what to contribute to the silent auction.

Complete information about and the reservation form for this great annual event will be in the Spring 2009 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. So, be sure to **put this date on your calendar now** and watch for complete details and reservation form in the mid-April issue of this newsletter.

OldSmokey Jerry Williams’ Collection in Oregon State University Libraries

In 2007 the Oregon State University Libraries acquired the Gerald W. Williams Collection, consisting of the collected historic photographs, personal papers, and research library of OldSmokey **Jerry Williams**, former national historian for the U.S. Forest Service. Jerry, a native Oregonian, spent much of his Forest Service career in the Pacific Northwest prior to being appointed national historian in 1998.

The digital collection includes some of the best imagery from the Williams Collection, including photographs of the World War II era Spruce Production Division, logging photographs of northwest Oregon taken by John Fletcher Ford, photographs of Celilo Falls taken in 1956 by Jack Williams, and photographs of Great Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps camps and activities.

Several books from Jerry’s 3,000 volume research library, many pertaining to natural resource issues, are being made available digitally through ScholarsArchive@OSU.

You can access the Williams Collection home page on the Internet at <http://digitalcollections.library.oregonstate.edu/cdm4/client/gwilliams/> and browse 620 historic photographs.

Prepared from the Oregon State University Libraries website.

OldSmokeys Elect to Help Save the Earth’s (and OldSmokeys’) Resources

By Vern Clapp

An *OldSmokeys E-Note* sent earlier in the year proposed that members consider forgoing hard copies of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and *Membership Directory* and use the electronic versions. This would have both green and economic benefits. The response has been very positive. So far, a total of 171 members has agreed to do this.

For the fun of it, let’s see how the earth’s resources will be affected. The four newsletters and the directory total 110 pages per year. By reducing newsletter and directory printing by 171 copies, there should be a savings of 18,800 pages of paper. Quite a pile!

Plus, we are saving all that energy needed to print and send them. How green can we get? Finally, there is the monetary benefit. As best we can tell, our printing and mailing bill should drop by over \$400 per year.

Any more paperless candidates? Let Treasurer Vern Clapp know at vclapp@ykws.net.

OldSmokeys Directory Included, E-Directory Available

The PNWFSA *Membership Directory 2009* is included with this issue of the newsletter. Pull it out and save it for reference. And please review your listing and let us know of any corrections that need to be made.

An electronic version of this directory, updated quarterly, is also available to members. It is in PDF format, and can be e-searched. It is distributed by e-mail. If you want a copy, e-mail a request to vclapp@ykws.net.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Who Are We? OldSmokeys Facts 2008

By Vern Clapp



How Many. At the end of 2008 our membership stood at 911. Last year at this time we were at 925. On the positive side, during the year 36 new members signed up. This gain was offset by the deaths of 23 members (some of whom were replaced by their spouses). We also had to let go 22 members for unpaid dues, and three requested to be dropped. Twelve members are currently lost to an inadequate address (see page 11).

Age: Our membership keeps getting a little older. Our average age has crept up to 76.2 years, up 0.3 years from last year. This is in spite of the 2008 new members whose average age is 62.8. There are 33 in our ranks (members and/or spouses) who are between 90 and 100. Three, two of them spouses, are over 100.

Where. We are all over the U.S. map. Most of us live in the Pacific Northwest: 560 in Oregon and 185 in Washington. There are 26 in Arizona, 21 in Montana, 19 Californians, 15 in Idaho, and 14 Virginians. The balance is spread through another 30 states. We keep moving; there were 67 address changes recorded this year. There were so many e-mail changes we lost count.

Dues Status. Currently, 358 members pay their dues annually, worth over \$7,240 in 2007. The balance has elected lifetime memberships, paying in \$41,618 over the years. (We still have 173 older members who paid out just \$50 for lifetime dues. Quite a deal!). As noted above, we lost 22 members this year for delinquent dues.

Donations. This year, PNWFSA received \$636 in donations. Although a little higher than last year, this is still considerably less than average.

Finances. Our largest expense in 2008 was almost \$8,700 for the newsletter and directory. The complete PNWFSA financial statement for 2008 will be published in the Summer 2009 issue.

OldSmokey Donations in 2008 are Just Two-thirds of Five-year Average

Seventeen generous members donated \$636 to our Association this year. Three of those contributed \$100 or more.

This is still lower than our past five-year average of \$998. Don't forget that one of the big advantages of the PNWFSA gaining IRS Code 501(c)(3) non-profit status is that members can take a tax deduction when they contribute to the OldSmokeys and to all the good work we do.

This year's donors are: **Jerry Allen, Howard Beguelin, John Berry, Ray Connelly, Raymond Christ, Duane Ecker, Margie Harris Fitzpatrick, Ted Gump, Fred Hall, Les Joslin, John Marker, Jill McLean, Leroy Merrick, Richard Pomeroy, Bev Pratt, Merle Pugh, and Frank Walter.**



OldSmokeys who volunteer to staff the “High Desert Ranger Station” at the High Desert Museum will wear a Forest Service retiree polo shirt, blue jeans with Forest Service belt and buckle, boots, and headgear from the Forest Service era of their choice—from the classic “stiff-brim Stetson” shown above to the uniform western tan to the retiree baseball cap.

OldSmokey Volunteers to Interpret “High Desert Ranger Station” at High Desert Museum

OldSmokeys are being recruited to staff the restored “High Desert Ranger Station” at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, starting this spring.

These OldSmokeys will sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers and be posted on the front porch of the historic district ranger's office moved from Reese River, Nevada, to the Museum last June. They will tell visitors about the roles the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System have played and continue to play in western American lifeways. They also will offer an important wildfire prevention message. Volunteers will receive orientation to ensure message consistency.

To identify them to Museum visitors as OldSmokey spokespersons, they will wear green Forest Service “Retiree” polo shirts (available from the Western Heritage Company for \$25) along with boots, blue jeans, belt with a Forest Service buckle of their choice, and—if they want a hat—any past or present Forest Service headgear (stiff-brim Stetson, western tan, retiree ball cap, etc.) of their choice. Appropriate green Forest Service “Retiree” jackets will be supplied for cool weather.

OldSmokeys are being sought for this visitor season project because they will know what they are talking about and will be able to present the message authoritatively and clearly.

While this volunteer project is a natural for OldSmokeys who live in Central Oregon, others are more than welcome. OldSmokeys interested in this project may contact **Les Joslin** by telephone at 541-330-0331, e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or letter sent to him at 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

Forest Service News

Passage of The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2008 is a Victory for National Forests and Rural Communities

The \$700 billion economic “bailout bill” passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2008, included reauthorization and amendment of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to extend so-called “county payments” to counties through 2011.

The four-year, \$3.3 billion extension will pump money into 700 counties in 39 states that once depended on federal timber sales to pay for schools, libraries, and other services. Oregon, California, Washington, Idaho, and Montana lead the list of benefiting states in that order.

Senators inserted the timber provision—formally The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2008 (SRS Act)—as one of several riders to attract more votes for the bailout bill.

Commenting on the SRS reauthorization and the U.S. Forest Service implementation plan, Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell said, “The reauthorization...represents renewed and, in many cases, new opportunities, for counties, resource advisory committees, and national forests to work together to maintain infrastructure, improve the health of watersheds and ecosystems, protect communities, and strengthen local economies. We look forward to collaborating with communities to fully implement the Act.”

Passage of the SRS Act also should end to efforts to raise county payments funds by selling off up to 300,000 acres of so-called “low value” national forest lands, as proposed by the Bush administration and successfully opposed for two budget cycles by many members of Congress, conservation groups, former Forest Service chiefs, and Forest Service retirees acting through such groups as the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA).

State payments of more than \$500 million for fiscal year 2008 were scheduled to be issued no later than January 15, 2009, about the time you read this article.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues, such as those from timber sales, mineral resources and grazing fees, have been returned to states in which national forest lands are located. The original SRS Act of 2000 was enacted to provide assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. The funds have been used for schools and roads as well as to create employment opportunities, to maintain current infrastructure, and to improve the health of watersheds and ecosystems.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release No. 0814 “The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2008 Breathes New Life into Program for Schools, Roads and Stewardship Projects” and multiple other sources.

Other Major Priorities Threaten Obama Pledge to Take on Wildfires, National Forest System Issues

“President-elect Barack Obama made a lot of promises during his nearly two-year campaign,” Keith Chu of *The Bulletin* wrote in the November 16 issue of the Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper. One of these was to fix “the cycle of catastrophic wildfires and underfunded federal agencies that leaches money from popular recreation and environmental programs on a regular basis.”

But “now that a financial crisis and economic downturn have weighed down federal budgets,” Chu and many others wonder if the new Obama administration will be able to deliver on that promise and others relating to National Forest System administration.

Obama’s campaign issued a fact sheet devoted solely to wildfire policy. “As President, Barak Obama will aggressively pursue an effective fire prevention, mitigation and land and forest management plan that decreases the fire risks that many communities are now facing,” the fact sheet said. “Unlike the Bush Administration,” the fact sheet continued, the Obama administration “will not finance these efforts by raiding the budgets relied upon by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management” for other priorities.

The fact sheet defined the wildfire-forest health relationship this way: “Decades of fire suppression, urban sprawl, and past timber management have altered historic fire cycles. In many forests today, wildfires burn with uncharacteristic intensity because of unnaturally high levels of small diameter trees and brush and endanger large numbers of rural and suburban communities across America. This situation is exacerbated by dry conditions, the spread of insects and disease, and prolonged drought associated with climate change.”

“Thousands of jobs will be created by working with communities to thin unnaturally crowded forests close to homes,” the Obama campaign fact sheet read. “And by coordinating fuel reduction efforts with biomass energy projects, communities will have the potential to generate new sources of energy.”

“Solving both problems should be a top priority, said George Behan, chief of staff to Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., who is chairman of the Appropriation Committee’s Interior Subcommittee and holds the purse strings to the U.S. Forest Service and BLM budgets,” Chu reported.

But, of course, there are several rubs.

The first is the massive drain on the federal budget of bailouts and stimulus packages, two wars, social security and health care, and other major spending priorities that could well make it difficult to increase wildfire fighting funding for some time to come.

A second may be reflected in the Obama campaign fact sheet statement that, even if funds were available, “Resources will be focused where they will do the most good: in the wildland-urban interface, and not in fighting fires or on logging projects in remote, back country areas.” Would vast forestlands outside the wildland-urban interface—the millions of acres so

critical to our water supplies and as habitat for critters, including the endangered species—be sacrificed?

A third is that the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, as reported in the Spring 2008 issue of this newsletter, contained a provision that excludes most materials—such as small diameter trees thinned from overstocked stands—from federal forests in the creation of biofuels.

There are others.

The new Obama administration, the fact sheet pledged, “will work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis to ensure agencies have the funds needed to suppress and manage wildfires without taking money from other important programs.” During a recession characterized by massive federal bailouts and complicated by massive spending on two wars, it will take an uncharacteristically enlightened bipartisan effort to keep President Obama’s pledge.

Prepared from multiple sources including the article “3 ways Obama can help our region,” by Keith Chu, published in the November 16, 2008, issue of The Bulletin; the article “A new direction for Interior under Obama,” by Noelle Straub, published in the November 7, 2008, Greenwire; and the campaign fact sheet “Obama-Biden: Committed to Wildfire Management & Community Protection” at www.barackobama.com.

Proposed Flame Act Not Dead Yet

The proposed FLAME Act—more properly a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives but not by the U.S. Senate during the last session of Congress—isn’t dead yet. If reintroduced, passed by both houses of Congress, and signed into law by the president during the next session, this bill would become the Federal Lands Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009.

The proposed FLAME Act was meant to provide an emergency firefighting fund that would allow the U.S. Forest Service (and other federal agencies) to fight wildfires without raiding its other seriously under-funded operating budgets.

The bill was passed by the House on July 9, 2008, then was gutted by someone in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) who changed the language to leave the Forest Service still eating fire suppression costs out of its other funds once its insufficient \$1.2 billion to fight fires had been spent.

The need for passage of a FLAME Act is illustrated by the effect transfer of operating funds to fire suppression had on the Wallowa-Whitman National forest timber program where the timber harvest was 27.7 million board feet in fiscal year 2008. That’s less than half the 1997 cut of 49 million board feet, according to the Baker City *Herald*, and less than the cut each year from 1998 to 2001. High wildfire fighting costs are at least partially responsible for the cuts in this timber budget. For fiscal year 2009, the budget is \$1.77 million, the smallest in a dozen years.

The proposed FLAME Act could help fix this. It would establish a separate wildfire fighting fund calculated by averaging the past five year’s wildfire fighting costs. This would go a long way toward reducing “fire transfers” of other program funds.

“The FLAME Act probably will pass in the next session of Congress as a rider on a major appropriations bill, like the ‘county payments’ bill snuck through on the ‘bailout’ bill back

in October,” OldSmokey **John Marker** observed with guarded optimism late in October 2008. “All we know for sure right now is the original sponsors are still committed to its passage.”

Prepared from multiple sources for “FLAME Act Goes Down in Flames; Forest Service, National Forests Suffer” in the Fall 2008 OldSmokeys Newsletter, editorial “Pass FLAME Act” in the October 23, 2008, issue of The Bulletin (Bend, Oregon), and input from John Marker.

George Leonard Spells Out “What We Believe! What We Advocate!” for Administration and Congress

George Leonard, retired Associate Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), issued on December 1, 2008, a two-page, 19-point, briefing paper to help the new Obama Administration and Congress make good decisions about the future of the National Forest System and the Forest Service.

This paper—“What We Believe! What We Advocate”—was provided to the Obama transition team and is available on the OldSmokeys website at www.oldsmokeys.org for Forest Service retirees and others concerned with the future of the forests and the outfit to read and use to contact their congresspersons. George urged quick action.

“The period between the election and the start of the new Congress in January is a period when efforts are made to get positions on a variety of issues before our elected officials,” George emphasized when he issued the NAFSR statement. “It is important that people who support multiple-use management and a continuation of professional leadership for the U.S. Forest Service make their views known.” The briefing paper, he explained to retirees, “is intended to help you in making contacts with members of the Congress or their local offices.”

Although the time when “most members of Congress will be in their districts over the holidays” that George identified as “an ideal time for a personal contact” has just passed, retirees can still do a lot of good by contacting their senators and representatives.

“It would be great if we made contact with all members,” George noted before identifying senators and representatives who, because of their committee assignments, are particularly important. In the Pacific Northwest, these are: Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon and Senator Patty Murray of Washington and Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Representative Norm Dicks of Washington.

“It is important that your senators and representatives know your views,” George stressed.

NAFSR Executive Director Kenops Encourages Members to Join Resource Advisory Committees

OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops**, Executive Director of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), is encouraging NAFSR members—many of whom are OldSmokeys—to



apply for positions on the new national forest Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) forming in the wake of the October 2008 reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act as part of the financial sector rescue package (reported above).

In an October 16, 2008, letter to NAFSR members, Darrel asked them to consider two things.

One, apply for a position on the soon to be newly constituted RAC(s) in your area.

Two, consider working in partnership with others to prepare and/or support proposals, especially in those landscape situations, to restore healthy forestry conditions, that support the need for sustaining resilient forests across our nation.

Your local forest supervisor and staff will know in detail the schedules and elements of restarting resource advisory committees as well as the expectation of its members once appointed to these important committees.

More information about NAFSR and how to join is available on the web site at <www.fsx.org/NAFSRp.html>.

Prepared from Darrel Kenops letter to NAFSR members of October 16, 2008.

GAO Report on Forest Service Transfer to Interior Department Due in February

The report of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) on moving the U.S. Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior in response to a House of Representatives subcommittee is due to be released in mid-February, according to retired Associate Chief of the Forest Service George Leonard.

This request and ensuing report were reported in the Spring 2008 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and commented on by half a dozen *OldSmokeys* in the Summer 2008 issue.

“The report does not make any recommendations,” George wrote in early December. “It lays out the pros and cons (as GAO sees it)” for the subcommittee to consider. That consideration and a possible recommendation may come quickly because “there may be little time between the release of the report and congressional hearings on the 2010 budget...that could be a vehicle for making the change.”

“One of the reasons the GAO was asked to make the study was the perception on the Hill that USDI is much more responsive than USDA to forestry issues,” George wrote.

There should be more to report on this in the next issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Prepared from George M. Leonard's e-mail of December 4, 2008.

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Dedicates Wheeler Ridge Japanese Bombing Site Trail

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest dedicated the newly designed and interpreted mile-long Wheeler Ridge Japanese Bombing Site Trail at the Wheeler Ridge trailhead, 19 miles outside of Brookings, Oregon, on October 2, 2008.

“We’re excited to have this new interpretive facility on the Forest, one that tells the public about a fascinating and little-known event in American history,” said Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy.

The event occurred during World War II on September 9, 1942, when a small float plane piloted by Nobuo Fujita launched from a Japanese submarine off the coast of southern Oregon and dropped two 168-pound incendiary bombs on Wheeler Ridge. Howard Gardner of the Forest Service, an Aircraft Warning Service observer, spotted the fire from the Mt. Emily Fire Lookout and reported it to the Gold Beach Ranger Station. He and three others suppressed the fire.

This wartime attack forged a peacetime friendship. After the war, pilot Fujita became an honored visitor to and friend of the people of Brookings. On his first postwar visit in 1962, Mr. Fujita presented a 400-year-old samurai sword—a family heirloom—to Brookings as a symbol of his regret. The sword now hangs in the local library. He visited several more times, and in 1992 planted a redwood peace tree at the site and in 1994 helped dedicate the state highway marker to the site. Following his death in 1997, his daughter buried some of his ashes at the Wheeler Ridge site under the small redwood, dedicated an “Oregon Heritage Tree” at a 2001 ceremony attended by Toyojiro Soejima, Consul General of Japan, who spoke on relations between Oregon and his country

Prepared from a September 19, 2008, FSToday article by Patty Burel, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Deschutes National Forest Celebrates Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway Tenth Anniversary

The tenth anniversary of the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway was celebrated on September 29, 2008, by the Deschutes National Forest that welcomed a large crowd of U.S. Forest Service and other federal and state officials and the public to the lively event held at Historic Elk Lake Guard Station along the byway.

Robin Gyorgyfalvy, the Forest’s scenic byway leader, introduced several speakers who reflected strong support for and specific perspectives on the byway. Among them were Forest Supervisor John Allen who expressed strong support for the scenic byways program, *OldSmokey Les Joslin* who’s coordinated volunteers who’ve served thousands of visitors at the historic station since 2002, and traditional fisherman Terry Courtney from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Robin also recognized Matt Joerin of the Federal Highways Administration and Bob Bryant of the Oregon Department of Transportation as key byway partners.

Adding to the festivities, singer-songwriter Dennis McGregor of Sisters, Oregon, performed his new byway ballad “The High Road” composed for the celebration, and “Riders in the Dirt,” a bluegrass band of women employees from the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests, performed lively numbers and their beautiful Forest Service ballad “The Green and the Gold.” All present enjoyed a great barbeque.

Feature

Professor Lew Roth: “Doctor Dwarfmistletoe”

By Les Joslin



He wasn't an OldSmokey. He worked in the U.S. Forest Service only briefly. But he mentored many OldSmokeys in plant pathology, and worked with many others. And his half-century of dwarf mistletoe research benefited Forest Service ponderosa pine silviculture. In 1985, for example, he and OldSmokey **Jim Barrett** co-authored two research papers on the response of dwarf mistletoe-infested ponderosa pine to thinning.

Lewis Franklin Roth, Professor Emeritus of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University, died on September 24, 2008, at the age of 94.

Lew was born on April 12, 1914, in Poplar, Montana, where his father was Indian agent on the Sioux reservation. He lived there and in Auburn, Washington, San Carlos, Arizona, and Owyhee, Nevada, before he graduated from Oxford High School, Oxford, Ohio, in 1932.

Four years later, in 1936, Lew received a degree in botany from Miami University, also in Oxford. In 1940 he earned a Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin and, with his major professor, established the nation's leading academic program in forest pathology. After a brief stint at the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, he joined the faculty of Oregon State College (which became Oregon State University in 1961) in Corvallis as a plant pathologist and worked to establish the internationally recognized forest pathology program there.

During World War II, Lew served as a U.S. Navy Supply Corps officer in escort aircraft carrier USS *Card* in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After the war, he was supply officer at U.S. Naval Air Station, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Lew married Evelyn “Lyn” Swaim of Marshall, Indiana, in 1945. He returned to Oregon State in 1946 to teach, pursue research in plant pathology, and serve with the Office of Naval Research unit there until he retired from the Naval Reserve in 1964 at the rank of commander. Lew was close to the forestry community which funded much of his research and promptly applied the results. Lyn proved research colleague as well as wife, and spent most summers in the field with him even when their daughters Kathy and Sara were young.

In 1952, Lew began his long-term research on dwarf mistletoe in ponderosa pine forests at the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest—on the Deschutes National Forest headquartered in Bend, Oregon—where he also researched other pathogens and supervised students' doctoral research.

But it was Lew's dwarf mistletoe research, on which he published a dozen articles and papers, that defined his career. A truly gifted storyteller, he delighted in spinning the many yarns that career produced—especially those that illustrated a truth.

“Simple observations thoughtfully considered can have tremendous value,” Lew once told me. He illustrated this truth with the story of a late 1950s Pringle Falls Experimental Forest research experience when a seemingly simple observation led to a breakthrough discovery “contrary to what the textbooks say” and essential to understanding the “very complicated dynamics of propagation” on which any control of dwarf mistletoe spread would have to be based.

“I had learned from the literature that mistletoe propagated by sticky seed forcibly shot out from single-seeded fruits,” he began his tale. “[These seeds] strike young pine twigs where they stick and later germinate to infect. I wanted to know more about seed behavior.

“My wonderful wife, Evelyn, was a great helper. One day early in my studies I tried to catch some seed. Lyn held a herbarium blotter (these have a slightly soft knap) a few feet from a large mistletoe plant on a small tree. I shook the tree. I could hear seeds bombarding the blotter. Great! When Lyn took the blotter down, there was nothing on it. Do mistletoe seeds strike twigs and infest? Of course not. They ricochet, usually to the ground. When I looked at Lyn, her hair was full of seed. Seeds must strike something resilient. Needles that can yield to impact? Hair? Rodents? Feathers? Birds? This simple observation opened a whole new door on mistletoe epidemiology.” He went on to explain how.

Lew's research was seminal. Yet, he was circumspect about his contribution to ponderosa pine silviculture. “You just can't tell how much good you're really doing. As pathologists, it's our responsibility to provide good, solid evidence for workable things, and at that point put it in other people's hands.” This doctor of philosophy was, indeed, a philosopher!

One day in August 2005, Professor Lew Roth traveled over the Cascade Range to the dedication of the Lewis Roth Dwarf Mistletoe Trail (photograph below) on the Deschutes National Forest. Many former students and colleagues attended this small but sincere recognition of this remarkable man of science. True to form, the tall, lean 91-year-old professor gave a talk, then led the inaugural hike up his trail.



Photographs by Chris Jensen, Deschutes National Forest



Changes *Compiled by Bev Pratt, Secretary, and Vern Clapp, Treasurer and Data Base Manager*

The brand-new, hot-off-the-press **OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2009** enclosed with this issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* contains all membership information changes received this year, including many address changes received from the U.S. Postal Service response to the annual “Change Services Requested” notice on the mailing page of the Fall 2008 newsletter.

Only changes received from other than the U.S. Postal Service since the Fall 2008 newsletter went to press are listed below.

- AuBin, Ricky & Nancy** – New members: Medford, OR
- Baker, Pam & David** – New members: Roseburg, OR
- Belveal, OraLee (LeBlanc)** – New member: Roseburg, OR
- Clapp, Vern & Jessie** – Change e-mail:
- Crook, Elizabeth M.** – Change address:
- Cummins, Warren F.** – Deceased (recently, no date)
- Egger, Bruce E.** – Change address: Portland, OR
- Emch, Dallas K.J.** – New member: Elmira, OR
- Estep, Eldon M.** – Deceased October 4, 2008; Leola survives
- Estep, Leola** – Change address: Portland, OR
- Jackson, Bruce & Alexis** – New members: Gilford, NH
- Jensen, Kenneth E. & Elaine** – Change e-mail:
- Kaufman, N. Bruce & Wanda** – Change address:
Prairie City, OR
- Lucore, Loren L. & Kathryn** – Change e-mail:
- Mandigo, Jim & Barbara** – Change e-mail:
- Marlega, Richard R. “Dick”** – Deceased November 7, 2008;
Janet survives
- McNeil, Dorothy** – Deceased (no date); Robert survives
- Melton, James K.** – Deceased July 22, 2008; Sabra survives
- Page, Fred & Ann** – Change e-mail:
- Pasin, Stan & Barbara** – New Members: Issaquah, WA
- Reneau, Gerald & Patricia** – New members: Eagle Creek, OR
- Rolle, Susan & Wayne** – New members: Ashland, OR
- Schallau, Con & Leanah** – Change e-mail:
- Sedgewick, Wayne & Carol** – New members: Tigard, OR
- Strassmaier, Thomas & Alice** – Change e-mail:
- Strassmaier, Thomas** – Deceased December 12, 2008;
Alice survives
- Woodcock, Richard H. & Lois** – Change address:
Burlington, WA

Missing Members Dropped for Lack of Adequate Address

The following folks have been dropped from the PNWFSA membership rolls because the U.S. Postal Service has been unable to deliver their mail to the addresses in the PNWFSA data base and unable to provide PNWFSA with a new address.

Please help us locate and reinstate these missing members! If you know their current address, please notify the PNWFSA by sending it to P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228 or by e-mailing it to <vclapp@ykw.net>.

The missing members are: **June Anderson, Ronald Asbill, Barbara Evans, Phyllis Heyn, Delores Horne, Robert Leonard, Florence McCall, Robert Rock, Clair Stahl, Robert Tracy, Margaret Williams, and Phillis Wilt.**

Thanks!

Over 200 Members Still Owe Annual Dues for 2009 Which Were Due on January 1

Of the 358 members of the PNWFSA who pay their dues on an annual basis, 135 had paid and 223 had not paid those \$20 annual dues as this issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press. If, by the time you receive this newsletter, you have not, please use the coupon below to pay without further delay.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Bill for Collection for 2009 Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$20 were due and payable on January 1.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Specific personal information has been deleted from this website version of the Newsletter.

The actual membership changes are included in the printed edition of the Newsletter and an electronic PDF version of the updated Directory can be emailed to you from Vern Clapp upon member request.



New Members *compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Fall 2008 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Rickie D. & Nancy Aubin of Medford, Oregon. Rick retired on January 3, 2008, after 31 years in the Forest Service in timber management and fire recovery on several districts of the old Rogue River National Forest and then the combined Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Nancy retired in June after 31 years with the State of Oregon, 27 of those years with the Oregon State Police in Medford.

Pam & David Baker of Roseburg, Oregon.

OraLee (LeBlanc) Belveal of Roseburg, Oregon. Ora Lee retired from the Forest Service in Roseburg on December 31, 1987, after 33 years of service all in Region 6.

Dallas K.J. Emch of Elmira, Oregon. Dallas has been Forest Supervisor, Willamette National Forest, since August 2002. His 30 years in the Forest Service have included management positions in Idaho, Montana, California, and West Virginia and four years in the WO.

Bruce A. & Alexis Jackson of Gilford, New Hampshire. Bruce retired from the Forest Service in December 2007 on the White Mountain National Forest. His last duty station in Region 6 was on the Malheur National Forest.

Stan & Barbara Pasin of Issaquah, Washington. Stan retired on May 13, 1994, after 37 years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6, then went to work as a forest ecologist at the Cedar River Watershed for the Seattle Public Utilities District from which he retired on October 1, 2008, to concentrate on boating, salmon fishing, and shrimping.

Gerald & Patricia Reneau of Eagle Creek, Oregon. Gerald retired on September 30, 1995, after 32 years of federal service, 30 of those years in the Forest Service in Region 6. His last duty station was the Ripplebrook Ranger Station on the Clackamas Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Susan & Wayne Rolle of Ashland, Oregon. Su retired on August 15, 1999, as manager of the Applegate Adaptive Management Area on the Rogue River National Forest after 25 years of federal service, 24 years in the Forest Service in Region 6 and one year in the old Soil Conservation Service. Among her other assignments was soil scientist on the Ashland Ranger District and district ranger on the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest.

Wayne L. & Carol Sedgwick of Tigard, Oregon. Both are Forest Service retirees. Wayne served 38 years beginning in 1958 on the Quinalt Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest as a new forestry technician and spending the last 20 years in Timber in the RO in Portland in Product Recovery Studies. Carol served 25 years in the RO in Portland, 21 years as the regional Records & Directives Coordinator and the last three years as Customer Services Supervisor providing administrative support to RO staffs.

OldSmokeys Recruit OldSmokeys

One of the best ways to bring new OldSmokeys into the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association is for OldSmokeys to recruit them! Sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation.

Here's a Membership Application to copy and give to Forest Service retirees you know who should be OldSmokeys.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Complete and mail with dues payment to:
Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
P.O. Box 5583
Portland, Oregon 97228-5583

Name _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Date of birth _____

If retired, date of retirement _____

Retired from: Department _____

Agency _____

Last duty station _____

Last position _____

Last station in R-6/PNW _____

Years of service:

With Forest Service _____ In R-6 _____

With PNW Research Station _____

Other Federal Service _____

Total Service _____

**Enclose check payable to PNWFSA for \$20
annual dues or \$250 lifetime dues.**

PNWFSA is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation
Tax ID #: 93-0566142

Memories *Compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist*

Warren F. Cummins died September 25, 2008, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Warren was born April 18, 1917, and served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. He and his late wife, the former Karen Johnson whose maiden name was Nelson, raised her two sons. Warren entered the U.S. Forest Service from industry, joining with several years of timber-related accounting experience to serve in the RO in Portland as an industrial cost accountant. Survivors include his step-son Fletcher Johnson, two step-grandchildren, and three adopted children from a previous marriage.

Eldon Maurice Estep died October 4, 2008, at age 80. He was a PNWFSA member. Eldon was born May 6, 1928, in Sparta, North Carolina. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Eldon graduated from North Carolina State University and earned a master's degree from the University of Washington. He married Leola Wood in 1956. He moved to Portland in the 1970s and was a U.S. Forest Service forest products technologist. Eldon was for years a mainstay of the Thirty-Year Club/OldSmokeys. He was a past member of the Board of Directors, a past president, and a regular at the monthly meetings. Survivors include Leola.

James K. "Jim" Melton died July 22, 2008, at age 77. He was a PNWFSA member. Jim was born January 19, 1931, in Yakima, Washington. At the age of 17, Jim joined the U.S. Navy in which he served from 1948 to 1952. He served in the Korean War in underwater demolition and was awarded two Purple Hearts. After naval service, Jim married Sabra J. Roos. Jim and Sabra moved to the Methow Valley in 1965 where they raised their four children. Jim served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest, in trails and fire control. His "Forest Care with Smokey Bear" school programs impressed many children. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, and working on guns as well as gardening and spending time with his family. Survivors include Sabra, daughters Merrill Matson and Sheridan Melton-Burns, sons Mike and Jim, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, six of his 10 brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

Charles "Charlie" Morris died November 30 at age 74. Charlie, who was born October 24, 1934, served as district engineer on the Metolius and Sisters ranger districts, Deschutes National Forest, until Engineering was centralized in that forest's SO in 1970, where he worked until his retirement from the U.S. Forest Service about 1983. He lived in Sisters, Oregon, until his death. Survivors include his wife Betty.

Alfred Melvin "Al" Jole, Sr., died October 30, 2008, at age 66. Al was born December 15, 1941, in Arcata, California, where he grew up. Following graduation from high school in 1962, he began a 32-year career in the U.S. Forest Service. Al married Mary Ellen Henry in 1962 and the couple made their homes in various locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. They moved to the Klamath Falls area in the mid-1970s where

Al retired from the Winema National Forest in 1992. After retirement, Al worked as a boot repairman for Drew's Mens' Store in Klamath Falls. Survivors include Mary Ellen; sons Craig, Brian, Douglas, and Alfred Jr.; daughters Melody Paskett and Erika Jole; 16 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Richard R. "Dick" Marlega died November 7, 2008. He was a PNWFSA member. A well respected career district ranger (see *Letters*, pages 15-16), Dick served on the Umpqua National Forest as district ranger on the South Umpqua Ranger District, 1966-68, and Steamboat Ranger District, 1968-71, before transferring to the Rogue River National Forest as district ranger on the Applegate Ranger District, where he retired. A complete memorial will be published following a celebration of Dick's life to be scheduled for the spring.

Dorothy Joan Niswender died November 2, 2008, at age 69. Dorothy Hansen was born November 9, 1938, in Bend, Oregon, spent her early childhood in Trigo, Montana, and returned to Oregon with her family in 1950. She married Donald Niswender in 1956 and lived several years in Hood River, Oregon, where they began raising their three daughters. She returned to Maupin, Oregon, in 1970 with her daughters, reunited with her high school sweetheart Terry Ziegenhagen, and lived the rest of her life there with him. Dorothy was purchasing agent at Bear Springs Ranger Station, Mt. Hood National Forest, from 1973 to 1994, and active in the South Wasco County community. Survivors include Terry; sister Donna Hansen; daughters Debi Smith, Dorene Brittain, and Donna Schnell; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bernard Thomas "Tom" Strassmaier died December 12, 2008, at age 73. He was a PNWFSA member. Tom was born April 14, 1935, in Eugene, Oregon, attended schools in Eugene and later attended Gonzaga University and the University of Oregon. He was a U.S. Forest Service civil engineer on the Umatilla, Umpqua, Gifford Pinchot, and Willamette national forests in the Pacific Northwest Region and on the National Forests in Mississippi in the Southern Region. In 1961, early in that career, Tom met Alice, his wife of 48 years, in Ukiah, Oregon. Tom retired as a supervisory civil engineer after 30 years in the Forest Service, and published a CADD program for surveying and mapping after retirement. Survivors include his wife, daughters Diane and Susan, sons Michael and Paul, brothers James and Robert, sister Paula, and five grandchildren.

Roberta Amelia Watson died November 8, 2008, at age 93. Roberta Holmes was born September 6, 1915, in a logging camp in Deerhorn, Oregon. She married Floyd E. Watson, who preceded her in death. Roberta began her U.S. Forest Service career in 1958 on the Deschutes National Forest as secretary to Forest Supervisor Ashley A. Poust. She became head of personnel on that national forest from which she retired in 1977. Prior to her Forest Service career, Roberta was employed at Norton Air Force Base in southern California. Survivors include her daughter Louise Carlone, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Letters

Linda Goodman on the fall *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Great as always. Thanks to all who put it together!

Editor's Note: In the Fall 2008 OldSmokeys Newsletter your editor failed to credit "all who put it together" in the cases of the specific sections for which they are the key contributors. That won't happen again.

Ellis Gano on the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

It is a pleasure to read the newsletter and recall times of years ago. You do a fine job.

Temple Hahn checks in from *Earlysville, Virginia*

We are still very active in forestry. I was honored to be selected as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters this year. Britta and I have just returned from attending the National SAF convention in Reno where the new fellows were welcomed.

Also we attended the SAF Appalachian Society Annual conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where I received the SAF Golden Membership Award. I thought 50 years was a long time—then I remembered last year's *OldSmokeys Newsletter* article and pictures of Gotchen Creek Ranger/Guard Station, Mt. Adams Ranger District on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This really sent me back—my first Forest Service job just out of high school was on a trail crew, and we often passed the Gotchen Creek station. Worked for George Calverly, who had been a CCC foreman and was an excellent leader for a young man just starting out. He later became the district engineering technician for District Ranger Bob Tokarczyk.

Otherwise, had a great visit this summer in Denmark to visit Britta's relatives.

Mary Pierce checks in from *Glenwood, Washington*

Glenn and I have moved from Trout Lake to our new home at our farm here in Glenwood. We really look forward to receiving the newsletter and seeing what old friends are up to. Keep up the good work.

Dick Woodcock checks in from *Burlington, Washington*

The years are taking their toll. At 91 we have had to forgo the RV lifestyle we have enjoyed for over 30 years and we'll miss it. And our wonderful Lake Wenatchee home which I personally built is no longer our place of residence. The stairs and maintenance forced us to move back to the west side and trade the snow for rain. Skagit Valley weather seems better than areas north and south of us. Anyone is welcome at 1387 Monroe Street, Burlington, Washington 98233.

Dean Stuck remembers *Warren Cummins*

Warren Cummins was a joy to work with, and showed me the ropes when I joined the [RO industrial cost accounting] group in 1976. Our job was to probe deep into the books and records of timber companies, and Warren had a keen sense as to how to accomplish that in a diplomatic way. He was well respected by his peers and by timber company representatives.

Warren survived his wife Karen by several years. He requested no memorial, and [had] his body donated to science. That sounds like Warren.

Bob Devlin remembers *Dick Marlega*

Dick was district ranger on the Applegate Ranger District when I came to the Rogue River national Forest in 1980 as forest supervisor. Dick was really a "career ranger." His dedication to the Forest Service and the land he was asked to oversee was tremendous. He cared for his people, maybe at times to a fault.

One of my best Marlega stories has nothing to do with the Forest Service but shows what kind of person Dick was. We were having a forest management team meeting one day and Dick told me at morning break that he had to leave to go to see a doctor but would be back after lunch. About 3:00 p.m., it occurred to Ron Ketchum and me that Dick had not returned. We did some checking and found that Dick had been [kept] for heart bypass surgery either that day or next.

A couple days later, Jerry Wojack and I decided to go visit Dick at the hospital. We arrived at his room and the bed was empty. Our worse fear was that Dick had some problems after the surgery. All of a sudden we heard Dick's voice down the hall. We followed the voice and there he was visiting with all the other patients on that floor, making sure they were okay and trying to cheer them up. He had taken command of that floor in two days. That is the Dick Marlega I remember.

Ron Ketchum remembers *Dick Marlega*

Dick was a ranger of the old school, and a joy to work with even though he was pretty direct at times. He always had the good of the land in mind, and supported his people well. I always felt it was a privilege to have him on my team.

John Marker remembers *Dick Marlega*

Dick's passing is the loss of another of the top notch district rangers. I worked with Dick during my time on the Rogue River National Forest in the mid 70s when I was public affairs staff for the forest. He was an absolute pleasure to work with and a good friend. I had come to the Rogue after a number of years "rangering" on the Sequoia National Forest in Region 5, and the transition from line to staff took some adjustment. Dick's wisdom and humor helped greatly in the process.

Dick's district, the Applegate, had a full share of resource challenges as well as cultural issues. The counter-culture had discovered many advantages to living in an area where they were able to farm their cash crop without too much trouble from the law. Dick was able to work with most of these folks to keep them from burning the forest, bothering visitors, and other "inappropriate behavior." He cared deeply for the land and cared for it well. The beautiful Applegate area is that way because of Dick.

John Nesbitt remembers *Dick Marlega*

Dick was the Smith River ranger when I was silviculturist at Mapleton. I really enjoyed working with him. He was a guy who really thought outside the box. A little crazy, but I think that is how the world progresses.

Les Robertson remembers *Dick Marlega*

The passing of Dick Marlega marks another passing of an era within the Forest Service when the ranger was the decision maker and all who worked for him knew he was the boss. I worked for Dick on the Applegate Ranger District in the 80s up

until his retirement and I can say it was a great era to work for the outfit and for Dick. He was a great man and a true steward of the forest. He was also a leader who got things done, met his targets, and held the ideal that the Forest Service was a family and therefore we needed to help each other and our community.

Dick treated all his employees fairly. Praise was rare but when received you knew it was heartfelt. And when you messed up you got a good old-fashioned chewing. His methods were somewhat unconventional at times, but he made people really think about options. To say the least he was not politically correct all the time.

The biggest transformation I witnessed was when Dick had heart surgery and realized that he was mortal. He returned to the district after surgery a changed person who, instead of demanding, became a negotiator. I am thankful to Dick in many ways. He helped me through some real rough personal times and encouraged me to seek more responsibility. He helped facilitate a transfer for my wife Betty when we married in 1987. Dick was a friend as well as a boss and I will miss him.

Melba Saylor *remembers Dick Marlega*

I was working on the Applegate Ranger District when Dick came there as district ranger. I had a bit of a problem with Dick's language (swearing in the office). I corrected him so many times that he would apologize when he slipped. Dick and I became great friends and he was probably the most supportive supervisor I ever worked with in my 30-plus years with the Forest Service.

I went to visit Dick when he was in the Alzheimer's center in Ashland.... It made me so sad to see such a strong person in such a sad situation.

Grace Sprague *remembers Dick Marlega*

Before Dick Marlega came to the Applegate Ranger District, he and I attended a management training session held at Welches, at which time he said I had "absolutely no sense of humor." But after he arrived on the Rogue River National Forest, we became good friends. We had a good SO-ranger district relationship. He was indeed a good district ranger!

Woody Williams *remembers Dick Marlega*

I first met Dick Marlega while I was working in the pro shop at the Baker Gold Course in 1956. He had just come to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest as a JF on the Baker Ranger District. Dick had just taken up golf that year and approached it as he did everything else—"full bore." It was not uncommon to see Dick play 36-plus holes on Saturday and Sunday.

I transferred to the Imnaha-Snake Ranger district on the Wallowa-Whitman in 1962 where Dick had laid out the district's first timber sales before he left. I heard many stories about Dick racing up and down the hills marking timber, etc. His zeal to get the job done, I am sure, cause old-time Ranger G.J. Tucker many worries!

I transferred to the Rogue River National Forest in 1974 and had the opportunity to work with Dick. When the Step Test became required in 1975, he told me if he couldn't pass the test he shouldn't be a ranger. He enthusiastically supported the Step Test as he did many other things.

Dick was an amazing person, a great ranger, and a good friend.

Pam Wilson *remembers Dick Marlega*

Dick was on the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area when I was public information officer. He sure wasn't reluctant to tell me when he thought I was all wet. I used to hate encountering him for I felt I was always a half-mile behind with not a snowball in hell chance of catching up. Consequently, I always tried to be overprepared when I knew he and I would be in the same room.

He and Dad were good friends, and it was only through Dad that I found out that he thought I was okay but considered it his "teaching" duty to keep me dancing. I met him several times at my folks' place after he retired, and those times were congenial and easy.

Jerry Wojack *remembers Dick Marlega*

This [Dick Marlega's death] marks the passing of one of the best rangers I ever served for, a friend (Polish, like me). I will never forget the times we shared on the Applegate.

Editor's Note: And, on December 9, 2008, Jerry added...

Yesterday I was honored to accompany Jan Marlega, Don Smith, and Ron Ketchum to Squaw Lakes on the Applegate Ranger District...to give a little bit of Dick back to the land he loved and worked for during his Forest Service career. Jan even asked me to do the honor.... This was the biggest privilege and honor I had ever received, one I will treasure and never forget.

I first met Dick in the early '60s at Tiller, where one station housed two districts that were fiercely competitive and winning was always the goal. Then in the late '70s Dick accepted my application to be his TMA. There I found a changed Marlega, growing from a fierce competitor to a developer of his employees, where winning was not the only way and teamwork was a commitment by all. Dick was a man who cared for the land and his people. He was a ranger who let his people voice their opinions, lead if they were capable. His leadership helped them realize mistakes before it was too late and make changes.

The trip there and back was filled with great stories about and memories of Dick. These were memories of a "family" member back when the Forest Service was one big family committed to managing the land and all of its resources.

All I can say is Dick was "One Hell of a Ranger" who I was proud to work for and have as a "family" member, and I will never forget him.

Lloyd Collett *remembers Charlie Morris*

Charles V. "Charlie" Morris was a great friend and neighbor during my 1963-1968 years on the Sisters and Metolius ranger districts. I was the TMA on the Sisters, and later the RA on the Metolius. Charlie and I were able to bridge the professional vs. technician barrier that existed on the Deschutes National Forest for a time. He freely shared many of his personal hunting and fishing areas.... I bagged my largest black-tail buck on one of those outings.

Somehow personal contact was interrupted over the years, but Verna and I scheduled a visit in 2005 with him and Betty at their Sisters home. We were camping on the Metolius

River...getting reacquainted with the area. Charlie was able to update me on many things and was full of good advice and suggestions for our trip down memory lane. Charlie was elated that Wendall and Jessie Jones had made a surprise visit a short time before. Charlie and Betty returned that visit at my ranch on the Alsea River a couple of years later.

Charlie was very much an engineer. He had a common sense and practical approach to his many and varied work assignments. He had a long tenure on the district and could certainly live with any mistakes he might have made. The people he supervised were all very loyal. Charlie was an effective COR on many engineering and recreation contracts. He left a legacy of many new trails in the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson wildernesses.

A short time after he retired, Charlie suffered a serious heart attack while hiking alone in the Mt. Jefferson high country. The painful unassisted trip out nearly cost him his life, and compromised his health for the rest of his time. If nothing else, Charlie and I had this one thing in common: at different times, we both shared as chairman of the Sisters School Board.

Wendall Jones *remembers Charlie Morris and Roberta Watson*

Charlie Morris was among those outstanding ranger district people who got the jobs done and held the respect of all who worked for him and with him. If you ever worked on the Sisters Ranger District, Charlie would still remember your name and reel off stories about you.

The old Sisters (and once Metolius) ranger district people of the early 1960s are fading fast. Roberta Watson was also one of those outstanding people working out of the Deschutes National Forest office during Charlie's era. Doesn't take but a few such individuals to make a forest successful. Roberta knew how to solve problems and get things done, and Charlie had those same characteristics.

John Poppino *remembers Charlie Morris*

Charlie Morris was the district engineer on the old (small) Sisters Ranger District which I went there in 1965. He was a real asset to a brand-new, never-been-used district ranger. He knew the district, the people both on the district and in town. I'm sure there were times that I followed his advice and looked good. Other times I went my way with lesser results!

Charlie was an engineering tech in name only. He was a true professional and would have made a very good district ranger.

Lloyd Collett [above] captured the essence of Charlie. We had daughters of similar ages and went camping at Ft. Stevens where we had a great time.

Another thing I remember was the competition he had with Bill Foster to see who could get initial attacks on the most fires and keep them the smallest. The goal was to keep them to the size of one desk, and in Charlie's case that was a small desk. That must be why we had so much dense reprod on the district.

Fred Cooper *remembers Roberta Watson*

I started as a personnel trainee on the Deschutes National Forest in 1967 and Roberta Watson taught me all about personnel regulations. The Forest Service was converting to an automated

personnel/payroll system (I can't remember now what it was called.) at the new National Finance Center in New Orleans. Roberta, a real trooper, was so good at teaching me about the system and coding input documents. I admired how she worked with a wide variety of folks and her dedication to helping everyone.

She worked beyond the call of duty and was the epitome of service in the Forest Service. I trust what I learned from her along this line I was able to pass on to others. I have wondered about her from time to time, and now know she had over 30 years of very well deserved retirement. Roberta, you are missed.

Bruce Egger *moves to Portland*

My wife died April 16, 2006. This year I moved to Portland after selling my home and acreage three miles outside of Prineville, Oregon. I had lived there 28 years. I have two daughters living in Portland. My health is not good, so I moved.

Bruce & Wanda Kaufman *move to Prairie City*

We decided we needed one more adventure and moved 90 miles south [from North Powder, Oregon] to Prairie City, Oregon. We had long admired the little town on our trips to visit our daughter in Hines. We have also decided to forego the annual winter migration to Arizona, at least temporarily.

Jack Kerr *reports optimism*

After numerous bouts with cancer, involving a variety of surgical procedures, I have received a clean bill of health. With extreme optimism I send three years dues!

Dick Blashill *enjoys membership*

While not an active member, I do read the newsletter and e-mails and I attended the 2008 picnic. Had a great time!

Bob Van Allen *looks forward to Missoula reunion*

You folks do a great job on the newsletter. Hope to see a lot of folks at the reunion in Missoula.

A Great Day to Fight Fire

Continued from page 17

descriptions of the vegetation—especially the fuels—and details of the firefighters' clothing, tools, and environment especially interesting. I felt like I was there in Montana in 1949. His descriptions of places I'd been and people I'd known—people like firefighter safety expert Paul Gleason whom I knew and admired and for whom my daughter worked in Colorado—really got my attention.

I highly recommend this book both for historical information and the human face it puts on firefighting. I found it a real page turner.

Editor's Note: The 264-page hardcover book A Great Day to Fight Fire (ISBN 080613857) may be purchased from booksellers or ordered over the internet from the publisher for \$24.95 and from several internet booksellers for about \$16.50 plus shipping. Google it up and order from your choice of sources.

Books

Herbert Kaufman's *The Forest Ranger* Remains in Print After Almost 50 Years

By Les Joslin

Three quotations from public administration pioneers express exactly why Herbert Kaufman's 1960 classic *The Forest Ranger: A Study in Administrative Behavior* remains in print and relevant to the U.S. Forest Service that was and should be.

"In the study of administration, the operative employee must be at the focus of attention, for the success of the structure will be judged by his performance within it." – H.A. Simon, *Administrative Behavior* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1947), pp. 2-3.

"Much of the actual discretion used in administration is used at the very bottom of the hierarchy, where public servants touch the public." – L. Gulick, "Politics, Administration, and the 'New Deal,'" *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 169 (September 1933), p. 62.

"The individual is always the basic factor in organization. Regardless of his history or his personal obligations he must be induced to cooperate or there can be no cooperation." – C.I. Barnard, *The Functions of the Executive* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1938), p. 139.

In your experience and in mine, these "operative employees" are the key "public servants" of the Forest Service called district rangers. In a time in which they and the national forest districts they administer suffer marginalization, intentional or otherwise, at the hands of those who run and oversee the organization, Kaufman's wisdom possesses lasting value to any restoration and revitalization of the Forest Service.

Why? As the publisher, Resources for the Future Press, explains, a new afterward by Kaufman for the 2006 reprint "describes how his landmark study came into being and offers a candid assessment of how his theories about the agency's operations and its future have held up over time. In 1960, the Forest Service had a well deserved reputation for excellence, and *The Forest Ranger* was a seminal analysis of the how's and why's of its success. Kaufman also warned, however, that an organization so unified and well adapted to its environment would have difficulties navigating social change. He was right

A Great Day to Fight Fire is a Poignant Return to Mann Gulch

By John Nesbitt

A Great Day to Fight Fire by Mark Matthews (University of Oklahoma Press, 2007) revisits the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire in Montana that killed 13 firefighters. Fifteen years after Norman Maclean's *Young Men and Fire* (University of Chicago Press, 1992) provided a fascinating account of that remote disaster, Matthews has chronicled the lives of those involved—those who died and those who survived.

in his concerns: The environmental, civil rights, and women's movements have all presented challenges to the character and purpose of the Forest Service, ultimately changing the organization in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. Now, as then, *The Forest Ranger* is a striking and prescient case study of how a complex organization operates and evolves over time."

And that is why *The Forest Ranger* should be required reading for all concerned with the continued evolution of the agency, its mission, and its culture.

It is, indeed, "the rare book that remains in print for nearly fifty years," its publisher claims. "*The Forest Ranger* has been essential reading for generations of professionals and scholars in forestry, public administration, and organizational behavior who are interested in the administration of public lands and how top managers of a large, dispersed organization with multiple objectives like the Forest Service shape the behavior of its field officers into a coherent, unified program. Published as a special reprint in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service, *The Forest Ranger* is as relevant and timely today as when it was first issued in 1960."

OldSmokeys, many of whom are of the generation Kaufman studied, will not only want to dust off and read their own copies but also order and send copies along with "read and heed" notes to successors now in positions to influence the continued evolution—and, this writer hopes, restoration and revitalization—of the Forest Service this nation so desperately needs.

The easiest way to order one or more copies of *The Forest Ranger* is to "Google" the title and pick your source. One of these sources is the publisher, RFF Press. You can place an order on the RFF Press website. Or you can order by mail from Resources for the Future, Hopkins Fulfillment Services, P.O. Box 5037, Baltimore, Maryland 21211-4370. Or you can order by telephone toll-free from RFF Press's Customer Services 800-537-5487 and charge your order to Master Card, Visa, or American Express. The reprint is available in paperback for \$21.95 or clothbound for \$55.00.

Matthews, who fought forest fires and worked as a forestry technician on the Lolo National Forest, was born two years after the Mann Gulch Fire.

The author searched letters, reports, and other documents that informed his interpretation of the personal dimensions of the tragedy as well as the tragedy itself and its historical context and consequences. One consequence, he noted, was the outfit changed from emptying bars for firefighters to developing elite fire crews and a plethora of safety courses and equipment.

As a retired silviculturist and firefighter, I found Matthews'

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Uncle Sam's Cabins

Gold Beach Ranger Station

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon

Story and photograph by Les Joslin

On the wind-swept coast of southwestern Oregon, where the ancient Klamath Mountains meet the mighty Pacific Ocean, Gold Beach Ranger Station has braved the elements and served the public since the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built it for the U.S. Forest Service in 1936. Today, it remains not only the picturesque headquarters of the Gold Beach Ranger District, but also a vital part of the Gold Beach community.

One of many Depression-era ranger stations still in service in the Pacific Northwest Region, Gold Beach Ranger Station is an outstanding example of the planned Forest Service administrative compound of that time. Arranged on five levels, its original nine Cascadian Rustic style buildings are at once aesthetically united and functionally separated on a sloping marine terrace site purchased by the government for \$2,200 in 1935.

After necessary terracing and grading of that site, construction of those nine buildings began in January 1936 by a CCC crew from Gasquet, California. One of their first jobs was quarrying stone for retaining walls on the site and decorative features on the buildings. In April, a crew of 24 carpenters from an Ohio-recruited CCC crew joined the effort. These crews worked quickly, and the new ranger station soon took shape. By late February 1937 Siskiyou National Forest personnel had begun moving from their old office just south of the Curry County Courthouse in downtown Gold Beach to the new ranger station.

As specified in the site plan, the Gold Beach Ranger Station office building was built at the entrance to the station as a control point for all traffic and easy access for the public. Behind the office were the residential and service areas.

Three residences were built on the terraced slopes east of the office. The ranger's residence, on the uppermost terrace, had the most privacy. Late in the summer of 1937, the Siskiyou National Forest supervisor and his other district rangers met in

Gold Beach to help District Ranger Ed Marshall put the finishing touches on this house. The protective assistant's residence was located just above the office, where there was a clear view of the entry road and where travelers could reach it easily after hours. The fireman's cabin was on the opposite side of the entry road. Separate from this group of residences, the crew house was located between the office and the service court.

The service court, on a broad graded terrace above and northeast of the office, included a warehouse, machine shop, equipment storage building, and gas and oil house. Gold Beach's often severe winds may not have been fully considered when the ranger station was planned. As sited, with nothing to deflect the direct force of the wind, the equipment storage building was and remains vulnerable to high winds. Its original side-opening doors could not withstand the wind pressure, and vehicles had to be parked abutting the doors on the interior to keep them from blowing inward. In fact, during the severe Columbus Day storm in 1962, the building was lifted from its footings by the winds.

As harmonious a group of government buildings to be found anywhere, all the original Gold Beach Ranger Station structures had clapboard siding, board and batten gables, and wood-shingled roofs. Accent masonry of distinctive beige rock, squared and coursed, is featured in foundations, chimneys, walks, and porches. And, as in many CCC structures, the signature "pine tree logo" appears on the buildings' gables. Decorative iron work, including pine cone door knockers and tree-shaped hinges, add to the effect.

This may seem excessive for a government project. But the price of the land and the original cost estimates for the nine buildings—built by dollar-a-day CCC enrollees—came to less than \$20,000. That wasn't a high price to pay for a nine-structure ranger station compound now in its seventh decade of service—a project that made good use of the exceptional masonry, carpentry, iron work, and landscaping skills of otherwise unemployed and discouraged young men.

The landscape plan for Gold Beach Ranger Station required many stone retaining walls to contain the terraces, as well as other built landscape features including mortared stone tree wells, stone curbs, and stone steps. Planted native trees, shrubs, and ground covers set off lawns that surround the office, the residences, and the crew house.

Use of some Gold Beach Ranger Station buildings has changed over the years. The office building still houses the district ranger's office, but the protective assistant's residence and crew house have been converted to office use and the shop buildings houses the fire management staff. An intrusive, two-story office building, built in 1964 just north of the original office building, provides still more office space. The district ranger still lives in the ranger's residence, and the fireman's cabin remains an employee residence.

There's more to Gold Beach Ranger Station, of course, than wood and stone. It has, for seven decades, been an important part of this coastal Oregon community at the mouth of the wild and scenic Rogue River. Of course, the district ranger there has managed many of the resources—including the increasingly important recreation resource—vital to the town's economy.

But there's more to it than that—shared experiences that, down through the years, forged a bond between the ranger station and the town. "The Forest Service telephone system," as one district old-timer recalled, "served the public well, especially between Gold Beach and Agness. The telephone company had a line to Agness, but it never worked in wet weather, so much private business was done over the government line."

Gold Beach Ranger Station hasn't always gone by that name. From the time it was built in 1936 until 1945, it was Chetco Ranger Station and headquarters of the Chetco Ranger District. When, after World War II, the Siskiyou National Forest reorganized, its Agness Ranger District was eliminated. Its old Agness Ranger Station, about 35 miles up the Rogue River

from Gold Beach, was closed, and its lands incorporated into other districts with the new Gold Beach Ranger District getting the lion's share. A new Chetco Ranger District, headquartered in Brookings, extends from its Pistol River boundary with the Gold Beach Ranger District to the California line.

Editor's Note: Gold Beach Ranger Station is located on the eastern side of U.S. Highway 101 in southern Gold Beach, Oregon, and is open throughout the year during normal office hours.

This article is adapted from Les Joslin, Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West (Bend, Oregon: Wilderness Associates, 1995), now out of print.

Out of the Past

OldSmokey Don Franks on the Trail of Fabled Fort Rock Lookout

By Les Joslin

A packet of old photographs that OldSmokey **Don Franks** (photo) of Fort Rock, Oregon, got in the mail this fall included a fascinating photograph of the fabled Fort Rock Lookout. I say "fabled" because this photograph provides the first "look" either Don or I have had at that lookout.

We've always figured it was once there because a Fort Rock native now 104 years old told Don about it years ago and OldSmokey **Gail Baker** wrote in his 1949 *Historical Writeup of the Deschutes National Forest*: "A lookout was also stationed for a few years on Fort Rock." Research of available sources reveals no structure, but this photograph shows that lookout had a roof over his head. And, at a county road junction four miles west of Fort Rock, a weathered green and white wooden sign still promises "Fort Rock L.O." four miles to the east. That's physical evidence!

Fort Rock is a crescent-shaped tuff ring, 1/3 mile across and 325 feet above the surrounding plain of the Fort Rock Basin, 50 miles as the crow flies south-southeast of Bend, Oregon. The volcanic feature erupted early in the Pleistocene, and was eroded by waves of a shallow lake that once occupied the basin. Although no closer than eight miles to the Deschutes National Forest boundary, the promontory's rim affords a panoramic view of the forest's timbered reaches to the north. The first Fort Rock Ranger District headquarters was in the town of Fort Rock, a mile south of the tuff ring, from 1914 until Cabin Lake Ranger Station was occupied in 1921. Don lives in Fort Rock.

Armed with the photograph and a hunch, Don and I set off on the beautiful morning of October 17, 2008, to pinpoint the site. We think the photograph and the hunch got us close, but



we just couldn't locate the exact lookout site or the place from which the photo was taken to confirm the actual site.

The photograph was sent to Don by Janice Steele, daughter of the late Glenn G. Rhoton, administrative assistant on the old Fort Rock Ranger District at Cabin Lake Ranger Station until 1945 when the district office was moved to Bend and Rhoton was transferred to the Deschutes National Forest SO in Bend.

Don, born in Bend and raised in Pleasant Hill, Oregon, knows lookouts. At ages 16 and 17 he was a State of Oregon fire lookout on Laurel Mountain Lookout near Cottage Grove in 1942 and on Castle Rock Lookout near Lowell in 1943 before he served as a U.S. Navy radioman in LCT-821 in the Pacific during World War II. He returned to Bend in 1946 to serve in the U.S. Forest Service as fire guard at Fall River Guard Station until 1951, as Bend Ranger District headquarters fireman until 1953, and as district fire control officer until 1961. He was then Deschutes National Forest FCO until he retired in 1975. He knew all the fire lookouts on the Deschutes, and now he knows something more about this one.

If you know something more, please let us know!

This is the only known photograph of the Fort Rock Lookout once located on the northern rim of the Fort Rock tuff ring shown below.





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