



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2011

President's Message—John Berry

The Spring Banquet and Silent Auction were a great success. Thanks again to **Don & Jean Loff** for securing the facilities and **Bev Pratt** for coordinating everything. It was good to see familiar faces and to see new folks there, too.

I want to thank **Bill Shenk** for an outstanding job of leadership and his patience in showing me the ropes. We also let **Bruce Hendrickson** retire from the Board of Directors with thanks for three years of service. We start the year with a new treasurer, **Bill Funk**, and a new database manager, **Ken White**, who have relieved the long-serving **Vern Clapp** in these jobs. We will be completing the transition of **Debra Warren** to secretary. As **Wendall Jones** steps down from the Nominating Committee, **Bob Devlin** has agreed to take his place.

We will continue the emphasis on new member recruitment. **Bob Devlin** has done a great job over the last several years adding area representatives and recruiting new members.

This last year the Board of Directors established an Emergency Relief Fund. Now we need to build the fund to a level that will make it functional. I want to see the fund grow to about \$5,000. See **John Marker's** comments on the fund on page 2 of this issue.

Mark your calendars now for the Summer Picnic on August 12 at the Wildwood Recreation Area. Complete information and a registration form are on page 7 of this issue. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

John Berry

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

Sign Up Now for the August 12 Picnic! See Page 7!

Forum

OldSmokeys Emergency Relief Fund in Best U.S. Forest Service Tradition

The tax deductible Emergency Relief Fund recently approved by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Board of Directors is in the best tradition of the U.S. Forest Service and the OldSmokeys. Its use to help retirees and current employees reaffirms a tradition of Forest Service people helping each other in times of personal emergencies when immediate help is needed and “red tape” is not. Today, unfortunately, this kind of compassionate and immediate assistance is becoming even more important as the economy flounders, insurance safety nets have big holes, and emergency services are likely to cost more than insurance may cover or a family can afford.

Discussion about establishing the fund began after the OldSmokeys contributed to the Forest Service people who lost personal property when the Enterprise, Oregon, office burned. I was sensitive to this type of issue after being involved in a fund raising effort to help the family of a smokejumper who died of a brain tumor and left huge medical bills not covered by insurance. In both cases the financial aid was important. Equally important was the humanness of people saying we care.

In our careers it was part of Forest Service life to quickly come to the aid of our people in need. In the 1940s and 1950s when I was growing up as a Forest Service brat, if someone were ill, injured, or worse the Forest Service “family” immediately started doing what it could to help—from casseroles and babysitting to transportation, donations, and shoulders to lean on for comfort.

There are major examples of Forest Service folks helping each other and neighbors, such as the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 and the floods of 1963-64 which wreaked havoc on many national forests in Regions 5 and 6. Hundreds needed shelter, meals, and housing. Such stories are legion. More recently, the South Canyon Fire disaster in 1994 that killed Prineville Hot-shot members and Region 1 smokejumpers saw Forest Service people step up to help suffering families in a variety of ways.

However, while these headline-making events stay with us, it is the single unexpected and tragic events, such as the cancer victim I mentioned, that make few headlines but are very real and often need our help. It is in these agonizing situations that Forest Service peoples’ legacy of helping is an enduring value of the Outfit’s people—current and retired.

It is still the compassion of a hug, the casserole, the supply of firewood, the babysitting and financial help that continues the link between retirees and their successors. The emergency fund will give OldSmokeys a way to quickly help colleagues in need and say we care as well as continue an important tradition.

Times have changed. We no longer live on close-knit district compounds. But the need for the personal touch by people who have “been there and done that” is still a priceless part of our heritage. Our modest contributions are important and can help until the casseroles are ready.

--John Marker

U.S. Forest Service Draft Planning Rule Lacks Production Perspective

February 2011 publication of the U.S. Forest Service’s draft Forest Planning Rule in the Federal Register kicked off a 90-day public comment period that ended on May 16. After spending considerable time trying to be a good citizen and offer constructive comments about this new rule, I gave up.

After three tries to read the new rule and understand all of its wording and think through what it would mean to the land and the few people left in the Forest Service still working at “caring for the land and serving people,” I concluded that the new rule as drafted would further convolute on-the-ground management of the national forests. However, in reaching such a conclusion, I admit I am hopelessly out of date when it comes to understanding today’s government jargon. I haven’t gone to the office for almost twenty years. I do go to the forests on a pretty regular basis since there are national forest lands on three sides of the valley where I live.

My major concerns with the new rule are it doesn’t address, as far as I can tell, several fundamental questions about the basic mission of the national forests as set forth in the National Forest Management Act of 1976 it is supposed to implement and the Organic Act of 1897. Both of these acts stated the fundamental reason for establishing the forests: the sustainable production of renewable natural resources for the benefit of the citizens of the United States. I saw nothing in the draft planning rule indicating the quantity of such resources the forests are expected to produce to meet current needs for such resources.

I am not sure how a forest management plan can be crafted without some idea of what the forests are to produce for the nation’s welfare. Currently there is national concern about water supplies, and this issue of critical concern west of the 100th meridian is not addressed. Neither is there mention of how much wood fiber or forage the forests are expected to produce. It seems to me that a plan for lands set aside to provide renewable natural resources ought to speak to what the national needs are and what the forests can produce at what costs and benefits financially and environmentally. Now, I may have missed this somewhere in the text, but all I could find were references to the importance of water, wood, forage, etc.

Today, **in a country of more than 311 million people that is deep in financial debt**, scrambling for more water, searching for energy alternatives and more room to do outdoor things such as hike, enjoy wildlife and natural beauty, to name just a few things that people need or want, a forest planning effort ought to start with some assessment of forest capacity to produce and at what cost. The draft avoided allocating tentative resource outputs and, instead, spoke to biological and process minutiae.

Surely, after thirty years of fighting over management of the national forests, it is time to stop this nonsense, put aside selfishness, and plan for the role the forests are going to play in helping the nation meet its basic needs for resources and room to roam.

--John Marker

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokey John Berry Inaugurated as PNWFSA President at Spring Banquet

Eighty-two OldSmokeys at the May 15, 2011, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association annual Spring Banquet welcomed OldSmokey **John Berry** as their new President and OldSmokey **Mike Ash** as their new President-Elect as they enjoyed a magnificent dinner and the semi-annual silent auction at Charbonneau Country Club.

OldSmokey **Bill Shenk** completed a successful presidential year and assumed the mantle of Past President to share what he learned during his term in office with his successors.

OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** coordinated everything beautifully at the venue again arranged by OldSmokeys **Don & Jean Loff**, and OldSmokey **Debra Warren** stepped up to run a successful silent auction when illness prevented OldSmokeys **Elmer & Mary Moyer** from completing the job they have done so well for so many years. The auction earned \$970. New President-Elect Mike's special bowl was raffled off for an additional \$211.00.

When the fiscal dust settled, banquet revenues exceeded banquet expenses by \$901.00. That sum was added to the PNWFSA's restricted fund account.

And, as they say, a good time was had by all!

OldSmokeys Accept Grant Applications for Projects Meeting PNWFSA Criteria

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) is again accepting applications for grants for projects that further PNWFSA goals, and plans to award grants totaling about \$5,000 this year. Applications are due September 15, 2011.

The funds come from sales of PNWFSA's 2005 book *We Had An Objective In Mind* and not from membership dues or other revenue sources. PNWFSA's status as an Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation requires use of funds earned for public service projects.

Donation policy

Donations are granted to organizations which satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors on February 27, 2009. This policy specifies "Grant or gift proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Does it further the OldSmokeys mission?
- Will the project/program have a lasting influence on national forest management, natural resource management, and help sell the public on the importance of these resources?
- Will it reach large numbers of people?
- Can OldSmokey funds be leveraged with other funds?
- Will a restoration or improvement project help sustain our Forest Service legacy?
- Will the PNWFSA receive visible and lasting credit for participation?

- Is it a project that "feels good" to us and reminds us of our history and why we chose to throw in with the Outfit for our careers?

Not all these questions may be applicable to every proposal we see, but running through this checklist should help us get the most bang for our buck." Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifics.

Donations last year

Last year, as announced in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the PNWFSA approved three grants totaling \$4,650 to three organizations that requested assistance for projects that further OldSmokey goals.

The Friends of Fish Lake were awarded \$2,150 for three startup projects at historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot. All three are in progress; two were completed during the Friends' June 13-17, 2011, work week.

The Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center Foundation in Entiat, Washington, was awarded \$2,000 to fund a DVD about the old Goat Rocks Lookout. A February 10, 2011, letter to PNWFSA's then-President **Bill Shenk** forwarded a copy of that completed DVD that "will be used to inform the public, including the hundreds of school kids that come to the Columbia Breaks site each year, about an important part of Forest Service history" and thanked the PNWFSA for the grant.

The Deschutes County Historical Society in Bend, Oregon, was awarded \$500 by PNWFSA and a \$500 grant from another source, both of which were matched by yet another fund to produce \$2,000 being used to upgrade the Des Chutes Historical Museum's forestry and timber exhibit to interpret the role the Deschutes National Forest has played in sustaining the county's economy.

OldSmokeys Can Keep Up with September 2012 Reunion Plans at "Rendezvous in the Rockies" Website

It's not too early to begin making plans to attend the September 17 to 20, 2012, U.S. Forest Service reunion in Vail, Colorado—now just 14 months off! Details of the reunion are posted on the reunion organizers' "Rendezvous in the Rockies" website at <http://fsreunion2012.com/> as they evolve.

One of those details is meetings and lodging which, as Steve Ambrose, Co-Chair of the Communications Committee for Forest Service Reunion 2012, reported on May 20, 2011, "will be in the main reunion hotel, the Vail Mountain Marriott Resort and Spa at Lionshead Square in Vail, Colorado. Room rate will be \$109.00 plus tax for all rooms. The rate for these excellent rooms was negotiated down from \$164.00, just for our reunion attendees."

"Depending on final attendance numbers, we also have the option of the same rate at three other hotels within just a hundred yards of the Marriott. There will be room for all who want to experience this great opportunity to reconnect with friends at the 2012 Forest Service reunion, but when registration opens for the hotel this fall we encourage folks to register early," Steve said.

“Hotel reservations can be made any time after October 1, 2011. Conference registration will begin on February 1, 2012, and to ensure early registration and guaranteed reunion hotel rates, you will need to register before June 15, 2012.”

There are ADA accessible rooms available.

Go to <<http://vailmarriott.com>> for very specific information about the Vail Mountain Marriott.

Watch your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* during the year leading up to “Rendezvous in the Rockies” for reunion news.

OldSmokeys Staff High Desert Ranger Station for Third Summer

Ten OldSmokeys—**Carl Anderson, Gail Carbiener, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Don Doyle, Bill Fish, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**—are staffing the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, daily from July 1 through Labor Day this third summer since the 1933 district ranger’s office building was restored. Two other volunteers, Dave Gilbert and Donna Noyes of Bend, supplement this OldSmokey team.

This exhibit is a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association-sponsored project staffed by OldSmokeys to tell the U.S. Forest Service and National Forest System stories to visitors at the world-class museum that focuses on the natural and cultural history of the Intermountain West. Its continued success depends on those who volunteer to do this important job. There’s always room for another OldSmokey, so contact Les Joslin at 541-330-0331 or <lesjoslin@aol.com> if you’d like to join up.

OldSmokeys’ Photos of Old Union Creek Ranger Station Help Restoration Project

OldSmokey **Zane Smith** on April 26, 2011, put out a call for photographs of the old Union Creek Ranger Station on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to assist the owner of the Union Creek Lodge to renovate it for use by visitors. Several OldSmokeys responded to the *OldSmokeys eNote* E-Mail Editor **Vern Clapp** sent that day.

“Betty and I, en route to Klamath Falls earlier this month, stopped at Union Creek for lunch at Beckie’s and talked to Kent Watson, the lodge permittee,” Zane told the story. “Apparently Kent and his partners took over the resort a couple of years ago and are renovating the old ranger station buildings under permit as part of the resort. They are real excited about preserving and interpreting their history.”

Zane and Betty are excited, too. “Betty and I were assigned to Union Creek fresh out of the University of Montana in 1955,” Zane recalled. “We lived in the west end apartment above the warehouse. Kent noted that the previous permittees took most of the historic pictures with them. When I mentioned that we could probably locate some pictures from the ‘50s among ourselves and our friends, he was very interested.”

In addition to Zane’s photographs and some from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest collection curated by Forest Archaeologist Janet Joyer, photographs contributed by OldSmokeys are informing the process.

OldSmokeys, Other Friends of Fish Lake Enjoy Productive June 13-17 Work Week at Historic Fish Lake Ranger Station

OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**, President of the Board of Directors, reported progress at the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) annual work week held June 13-17 and FFL’S other efforts during its first year of incorporation as an Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on restoring, preserving, and interpreting the Fish Lake Historic Site.

Work accomplished during the work week emphasized OldSmokey grant-funded projects on the site’s interpretive kiosk, the remount depot blacksmith shop and tack room, and production of a walking tour brochure. Other projects completed by the more than 25 volunteers who showed up for one or more days ranged from the annual brushing out and cleaning up of debris on the site to cleaning and oiling the saddles and tack recovered from the 2010 remount depot break-in and theft to a number of historic structure maintenance and restoration jobs.

The annual FFL membership meeting held on June 13 included elections that renewed three FFL directors—OldSmokeys **Rolf Anderson, Steve Mealey** and long-time Fish Lake recreation guard Jim Denney now of Brooklyn, New York—for full three-year terms, and added former Willamette National Forest supervisor, FFL member, and OldSmokey **Dallas Emch** for a three-year term.

At this annual membership meeting, the McKenzie River Ranger District hosted a dinner for all participants at which the FFL directors presented retiring District Ranger Mary Allison with a gift commemorating her support for the FFL and its mission. Emblematic of that support is the five-year Fish Lake Historic Site Master Plan hammered out during the year to define the U.S. Forest Service-Friends of Fish Lake partnership and detail projects to be accomplished. “This plan should also help both fund raising and membership recruitment,” Mike said.

Membership recruitment also will be aided by the just-completed FFL membership information and application brochure developed by FFL Board of Directors members with the able assistance of OldSmokey and FFL member **Joe Brennan**’s wife **Mary**, a talented graphic artist who volunteered her time to design that brochure as well as the walking tour brochure.

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to OldSmokey and Friends of Fish Lake President **Mike Kerrick** for providing the information on which this article is based.*

Willamette National Forest to Hold Centennial Picnic and Retirees Reunion at Historic Fish Lake Station on September 9

All current and former Willamette National Forest employees and families are invited to the Forest’s centennial barbeque lunch and reunion from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on September 9, 2011, at Fish Lake Guard Station. An invitation and registration information will be issued in mid June. Lynn Sullivan at <lms6248@gmail.com> is retiree contact for this event.

OldSmokeys Discontinue Password Access to Online *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

After extensive debate at the May 27, 2011, meeting, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Board of Directors voted to discontinue use of a password—as required for the past several issues—to access the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* online. Readers may again access the newsletter on the OldSmokeys website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> without using a password.

Good cases were made for and against password access. The case for continuing password use emphasized control of what password proponents called PNWFSA's "most valuable resource," the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, and information security. The password "limits freeloaders' reading of the newsletter. Some folks won't bother to join PNWFSA if they can read the newsletter for free," the resource control advocates said. "The current password process is working well. We get very few complaints. Invited guests can just get the password from members. The password is replaced every three months, and that is minimal impact on the website manager. Controlled access eliminates the website manager's need to scrutinize each issue to eliminate personal information."

The cases against password access—expressed in feedback from 18 PNWFSA members—focused on convenience, the newsletter's value as a recruiting resource and communication medium, the impression that personal information security is a significant issue, and password confusion and overload. Some said they "get confused with all the personal passwords they already have to use." Some who read the newsletter in hard copy say if they did read it on the internet they would not want another password. One said he changed from website back to hard copy because of the password. This, of course, represented an additional cost to PNWFSA. Another said he was "not concerned with non-payers reading the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Maybe some will learn more about us and decide to join."

"The password seems like overkill," another critic of password access said. "We need to be more inviting." This last observation reflected the newsletter's value as a recruiting and communication tool. "The National Active and Retired Federal Employees feel that their newsletter is their most important recruiting tool and the best way to communicate inside and outside the membership," it was pointed out of another retiree outfit's approach to the issue. "They do not support controlled access." Others didn't think information "security is that much of an issue. There are already so many places to get phone numbers and addresses." The password isn't required to access older newsletters that still contain current personal information, it was pointed out.

And so the issue is settled. Anyone who wishes may read the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* online at <www.oldsmokeys.org> without a password.

Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey and PNWFSA Board of Directors President John Berry for providing the information on which this article is based.

OldSmokeys Ron Koenig and Ted Stubblefield Escorted Visit of German Foresters to Northwest Forests

OldSmokeys **Ron Koenig** and **Ted Stubblefield** escorted a group of 32 German foresters and some of their spouses during the May 23-26 Oregon and Washington segment of their May 2011 visit to the West Coast that began in San Francisco and ended in Seattle.

During the California stretch of the trip they visited Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon national parks before driving up the coast through the redwoods to Lincoln City, Oregon. Stub reported that, despite heavy snows in the Sierra, the group saw the General Grant Tree, and Ron reported they got to see the coastal redwoods.

Ron's Involvement

Ron got involved when old forester friends in Germany recommended him as tour guide and translator. Beginning in July 2010, he helped the *Brandenburgische Forstverein* (Brandenburg Forest Association) plan the trip. "My wife, Kriemhild, was really helpful in correcting my less-than-perfect German grammar during the months required to make these arrangements," Ron said. Through the World Forestry Center in Portland, Ron contacted native-speaking German forester Reiner Hummel to lead the Lincoln City, Oregon, to Quinalt, Washington, portion of the visit. "Reiner is the finest translator I've met in our 40 years of dealing with these tours," Ron said. "He did a fellowship at the World Forestry Center and teaches at the University of Freiburg."

On Sunday, May 22, during their trip from Lincoln City to Portland, "they were especially impressed with the Tillamook Forest and how it's managed," Ron reported. On a Monday, May 23, "around-the-mountain tour, they were impressed by the old-growth Douglas-fir stands near Welches and by Timberline Lodge where each had to test the water in the swimming pool to see if it was really warm! When we stopped at a Forest Service sale near Cooper Spur they were less than impressed with compromises the Forest Service has to make in its East-side management. We returned to Portland via stops at Bonneville Dam to view the sturgeon and another stop at Multnomah Falls. The group got its dose of spotted owl controversy at the World Forestry Center on Tuesday, May 24, before some rested and some hiked in Forest Park. They left Portland for a late afternoon meeting with the Washington Department of Natural Resources."

Stub's Involvement

"A few years ago I was asked by a friend to 'help put together a trip for two German foresters in high standing' for whom I lined up visits to Redwood National Park, Siskiyou National Forest, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Weyerhaeuser Company and Washington State forest lands, Olympic National Forest, and North Cascades National Park," Stub explained his involvement in the recent visit. "One of those foresters has remained a

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OldSmokeys Retiring Treasurer Vern Clapp Presents PNWFSA Financial Report for 2010

Retiring Treasurer **Vern Clapp** presents the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Financial Report for 2010 (at right) and offers the following comments on the OldSmokeys’ finances at the close of that calendar year.

“The ending balance between 2010 revenues and expenses has ended up well in the black. On the revenue side, dues, donations, and investment income was up over past years. We had no major expense item like a financial review. All major donations were drawn from the Centennial Book Account rather than from operating funds.

“Both major annual events—the Spring Banquet and the Summer Picnic—balanced out, using some of the profits from the Restricted Raffle Account (banquet).

“Our total assets at the end of the year were about the same as in the previous year. The \$3,000 withdrawn from the Centennial Book Account to fund grants was compensated for by the reinvested income from the Lifetime Trust Fund and 2010 lifetime dues investments.

“Some donations were taken from operating revenues in 2010. These included the Beaverton Elks Club donation and the grants to the U.S. Forest Service’s Enterprise, Oregon, office personnel and the Deschutes County Historical Society.

“This year (2011), the PNWFSA will incur the significant expense of a financial review. Investment revenues will drop significantly as a result of declining interest yields.”

OldSmokey Bill Funk is New PNWFSA Treasurer

OldSmokey **Bill Funk** officially relieved OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** as treasurer of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association on May 1, 2011. Vern, who served as treasurer for 15 years—and as database manager for 18 years before being relieved in that position by OldSmokey **Ken White** last month (see “OldSmokey Ken White to Assume PNWFSA Database Manager Duties” on page 3 of the Spring 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter)—will retain the e-mail editor position.

Bill served in the RO in Portland as Director of Management Systems for 10 years, then as district ranger on the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, for eight years, then went back to the RO where he led a regional EIS team for controlling a Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak mostly on east-side forests before he retired in August 2000.

“For me, doing it for 15 years, I don’t think so!” Bill reflected on Vern’s unprecedented tenure in the treasurer job. “I’m thinking of no more than four or five years.”

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Revenue & Expenses January 1 through December 31 2010

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

Income	
Dues Payment	7,050
Events Payments	4,600
Gifts & Donations Received	1,201
Bank Interest Income	1
Lifetime Trust Fund Income	4,624
Other Income	3,000
Total Income	20,476
Expense	
Administrative Expenses	362
Event Expenses	4,587
Fees & Charges (Miscellaneous)	110
Fees (Professional)	366
Gifts & Donations Made	1,950
Insurance	660
Lifetime Dues to Vanguard	900
Newsletter	8,748
Other Expenses	929
Total Expenses	18,611
Net Income	1,865

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Assets & Liabilities As of December 31, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings (Wells Fargo)	1,338
Other Current Assets (Lifetime Trust Funds)	103,357
Total Assets	104,695

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Restricted Raffle/Auction Account	2,318
Unrestricted Net Assets	94,315
Retained Earnings	6,910
Net Income	1,152
Total Equity	104,695
Total Liabilities & Equity	104,695

***Thanks to OldSmokey Vern Clapp for 15 years of service as
Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Treasurer!***



Reserve Now!

OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods 2011 is Friday, August 12

OldSmokeys will gather for their annual Summer Picnic at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 12, 2011, at the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag, Oregon.

So, just like always, use the form below to sign up now to be sure you don't miss it!

Socializing will begin—officially, at least—at 11:00 a.m. this year, and barbeque buffet service will begin at 12:30 p.m. As always, you'll enjoy a good lunch catered by Dave Dalton along with great OldSmokey companionship. You may well see folks you haven't seen in many years, and should meet many new members.

The menu is barbeque chicken and hot carved beef brisket, baked beans, spud salad, green salad, fresh fruit, spud chips, baked biscuits, corn bread, coffee, iced tea, lemonade, soft drinks, beer, wine—all topped off by an ice cream sundae!

So, mark your calendars and make your plans and reservations pronto! Use the form below to reserve your picnic place or places by July 31, 2009. The cost per person is **\$25.00** a plate.

Wildwood, as most OldSmokeys know well, is about 40 miles east of Portland on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag. Watch for the BLM sign on the south side of the highway, and follow the signs to the area reserved for the picnic.

Anyone who needs a ride should contact **Phil Hirl** at 503-590-3881 to locate transportation for you. Carpooling will save on parking fees, increasingly expensive gasoline, and limited parking space. There's a \$5.00 per vehicle fee that helps BLM maintain the area as the special place it is. The America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass (the \$10.00 lifetime version, for which most OldSmokeys qualify, or the \$80 annual version), the free lifetime version for citizens with permanent disabilities, the free annual volunteer pass, or other valid existing passes such as the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports will do the parking fee trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your pass number on the payment envelope and place it on the dashboard of your car.

If you have any questions, call Picnic Chair **Rick Larson** at 541-380-0497 or e-mail him at <rlarson@gorge.net>.

Send in this reservation form (or a copy of it) now! Reservations are due not later than July 31!

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC—AUGUST 12, 2011
BLM Wildwood Recreation Area**

RESERVATION FORM

Socializing at 11:00 a.m. — Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$25.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at \$25.00 each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Please print your name here: _____

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Management Challenges Studied by Government Accountability Office

On March 10, 2011—as your Spring 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* was going to press—Anu K. Mittal, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), testified on continued work the U.S. Forest Service needs to do to address “persistent management challenges” before the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations.

This testimony, based on recent reports GAO has issued on a variety of the agency’s activities, highlighted some of the management challenges the Forest Service continues to face today. “In light of the federal deficit and long-term fiscal challenges facing the nation,” Mittal’s report said, “the Forest Service cannot ensure that it is spending its limited budget effectively and efficiently without addressing these challenges.”

Persistent Management Challenges

According to Mittal’s testimony: “In 2009, GAO highlighted management challenges that the Forest Service faced in three key areas—wildland fire management, data on program activities and costs, and financial and performance accountability. The Forest Service has made some improvements, but challenges persist in each of these three areas. In addition, recent GAO reports have identified additional challenges related to program oversight and strategic planning.” The testimony summarized these challenges:

Strategies are still needed to ensure effective use of wildland fire management funds. In numerous previous reports, GAO has highlighted the challenges the Forest Service faces in protecting the nation against the threat of wildland fire. The agency continues to take steps to improve its approach, but it has yet to take several key steps—including developing a cohesive wildland fire strategy that identifies potential long-term options for reducing hazardous fuels and responding to fires—that, if completed, would substantially strengthen wildland fire management.

Incomplete data on program activities remain a concern. In 2009, GAO concluded that long-standing data problems plagued the Forest Service, hampering its ability to manage its programs and account for its costs. While GAO has not comprehensively reviewed the quality of all Forest Service data, shortcomings identified during several recent reviews reinforce these concerns. For example, GAO recently identified data gaps in the agency’s system for tracking appeals and litigation of Forest Service projects and in the number of abandoned hardrock mines on [National Forest System] lands.

Even with improvements, financial and performance accountability shortcomings persist. Although its financial accountability has improved, the Forest Service continues to

struggle to implement adequate internal controls over its funds and to demonstrate how its expenditures relate to the goals in the agency’s strategic plan. For example, in 2010 Agriculture reported that the agency needed to improve controls over its expenditures for wildland fire management and identified the wildland fire suppression program as susceptible to significant improper payments.

Additional Management Challenges

Several recent GAO reviews have identified additional challenges facing the Forest Service, which the agency must address if it is to effectively and efficiently fulfill its mission. Specifically, the agency has yet to develop a national land tenure strategy that would protect the public’s interest in land exchanges and return fair value to the taxpayers from such exchanges. In addition, it has yet to take recommended steps to align its workforce planning with its strategic plan, which may compromise its ability to carry out its mission; for example, it has not adequately planned for the likely retirement of firefighters, which may reduce the agency’s ability to protect the safety of both people and property. Finally, the Forest Service needs a more systematic, risk-based approach to allocate its law-enforcement resources. Without such an approach it cannot be assured that it is deploying its resources effectively against illegal activities on the lands it manages.

Prepared from U.S. Government Accountability Office “Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives: FOREST SERVICE, Continued Work Needed to Address Persistent Management Challenges,” Statement of Anu K. Mittal, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, March 10, 2011.

U.S. Forest Service Faces Possible Congressional Roadless Area Decision

A decade-long litigious battle over how the U.S. Forest Service will manage roadless areas in the National Forest System may have to be decided by Congress, according to an April 18, 2011, report issued by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Known as “Congress’s think tank,” the CRS is the public policy research arm of the U.S. Congress that works directly for members of Congress and their committees and staffs on a non-partisan basis.

At issue is the fate of 58.5 million acres—about a third of the National Forest System—managed as roadless areas. Many want to protect their relatively pristine condition; others want to use the areas in more developed ways.

The 19-page CRS report entitled “National Forest System (NFS) Roadless Area Initiatives” summarized the “two different roadless area policies [that] have been offered in the last decade. On January 12, 2001, the Clinton Administration’s roadless area policy established a nationwide approach [that] generally prohibited road construction and reconstruction and timber harvesting in 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas, with significant exceptions. The Bush Administration initially postponed the effective date of” what the report calls the Nationwide Rule, “then issued its own rule that allowed states to plan how roadless areas were managed. It issued a new rule on May 13, 2005” called the State Petition Rule that

“allowed governors to petition the Secretary of Agriculture for a special rule for managing the inventoried roadless areas in their states.”

Both rules were heavily litigated, with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ultimately holding that the Nationwide Rule should be in place, and its sister Tenth Circuit still considering whether that rule is valid. It’s been complicatedly kicked around in federal district courts in the West since, and continues to be.

The 19-page CRS report suggests the ongoing legal battle over the Clinton administration’s controversial 2001 roadless rule could also be solved if the Obama administration were to promulgate its own rule. The Obama administration could also follow the Bush administration approach that was panned by conservation groups and found unlawful by the Ninth Circuit. Either way, an Obama administration rule could face conflicting legal opinions from both federal appeals courts involved and set the stage for a possible Supreme Court case, the CRS report warned.

“The ultimate decision of which roadless rule applies may not be in the courts, unless it is brought before the Supreme Court, but in Congress,” the report said. “The contradictory court decisions may indicate a statutory fix is needed.”

The complicated wrangle hit the last Congress when, in late 2009, Representative Jay Inslee and Senator Maria Cantwell, both Democrats of Washington, introduced a pair of bills to resolve the ongoing legal battle by making the Clinton rule permanent. The bills would allow for continued forest management to promote forest health, preserve public access to roaded areas, and ensure continued opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreation, the lawmakers said. “Numerous lawsuits have tracked the roadless rule’s course, both in favor and opposed,” Inslee said on the House floor at the time. “This legislation will permanently protect our nation’s roadless areas and remove all ambiguity concerning their conservation and protection.”

It’s unclear if Cantwell and Inslee plan to reintroduce the proposals in the current Congress. Such a measure would likely face heavy resistance in the current Republican-led House, where some members have pledged to reverse Obama administration policies they say have locked up public lands. In mid-April, Representative Kevin McCarthy (Republican-California) introduced a bill to release the majority of roadless lands for multiple-use management which could include timber, oil and gas development, or other road-dependent uses.

McCarthy’s bill (H.R. 1581) would reverse the Clinton administration’s 2001 roadless rule and open up about 49 million acres to logging, road building and extractive uses. The bill, slammed by environmental groups, has influential Republican co-sponsors including National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (Republican-Utah) and Western Caucus chairman Steve Pearce (Republican-New Mexico).

In the meantime, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said he will decide which timber or road building proposals are allowed to go forward on a case-by-case basis.

Editor’s Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will report the eventual outcome of this legal and legislative battle that could well determine management parameters for almost a third of the National Forest System.

Prepared from multiple sources including CRS Report for Congress “National Forest System (NFS) Roadless Area Initiatives” of April 18, 2011, and Greenwire story “Report suggests Congress resolve roadless rule before case reaches Supreme Court” by Phil Taylor posted on A New Century of Forest Planning blog on April 21, 2011.

U.S. Forest Service Awards “Kids in the Woods” Funding to Four Pacific Northwest Region Forests

The U.S. Forest Service awarded more than \$122,300 to four Pacific Northwest Region national forests to support conservation education programs that will provide local community children more opportunities to experience the great outdoors, learn about nature, and build a lasting commitment to conservation and land stewardship.

“The value of expanding our programs for children must not be underestimated,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “Young people are tomorrow’s stewards of our public lands, and we have a duty to help them develop a lasting connection and passion for conservation of America’s great outdoors.”

Projects on Pacific Northwest Region national forests include:

Deschutes Children’s Forest, which is based in Bend, Oregon, received \$70,996 to serve as the umbrella for Deschutes National Forest conservation education programs which already reach more than 15,000 students annually. This funding will allow the Deschutes National Forest to connect with 15 partners who are contributing \$800,000. Merging the programs under the Children’s Forest creates a network of special places for children to learn.

Southern Oregon Discovery Adventure and Stewardship Program, which is based at the South Medford High School near the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, received \$12,975 to promote better understanding of the local environmental and societal effects, physical activity, stewardship, and service learning, and environmental awareness, especially the concept of sustainability.

Mount St. Helens Youth Stream Team received \$27,500 to continue engagement of underserved students ages eight to 18 in critical on-the-ground monitoring and restoration work on river systems of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Tripod Fire Learning Landscape received \$10,890 to teach more than 100 mostly underserved young people to monitor changes following the 2006 Tripod Fire which burned 175,000 acres on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and show them career potential in natural resources.

The funding, already in this year’s Forest Service budget, leverages existing partnerships and will be distributed to “More Kids in the Woods” projects and “Children’s Forests” programs.

Nationally, the Forest Service has committed one million dollars to these cost-share programs that build on long-term partnerships that will result in a roughly 2.5-to-1 return on the agency's investment.

Prepared from "Four R6 Forests Receive 'Kids in the Woods' Funding" in the April 28, 2011, issue of The Bi-Weekly R6 Update.

U.S. Forest Service Remains Under Fire as Station Fire Investigation Continues

California Representative Adam Schiff chaired an April 29, 2011, Station Fire Update meeting in Altadena, California, attended by about 70 people—about a dozen of whom said they lost their homes in the fire. Many expressed concern not only for alleged errors in fighting the September-October 2009 Angeles National Forest blaze that grew into the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history but also the slow pace of the government's investigation of the fire.

Tom Harbour, Director, Fire and Aviation Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Marty Dumpis, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest, represented the Forest Service. Harbour's comments did not satisfy Congressman Schiff or the audience.

Stephen Gaty of the Government Accountability Office's Natural Resources and Environment Team, who is leading the investigation called for by Schiff and other California congresspersons, said a full report likely won't be issued until the end of the year. The results of that report will be summarized in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Prepared from "Crowd expresses anger and distrust at Station Fire meeting, slow pace of answers" posted on April 29, 2011, at www.altadenablog.com.

U.S. Forest Service Announces Station Fire Reforestation Project

The U.S. Forest Service announced on April 15, 2011, a project to plant three million pine and fir trees over 10,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest burned by the fall 2009 Station Fire that scorched 161,000 acres. About 32,000 of those acres were forested land, and about 11,000 of those acres require reforestation because the fire was so intense it destroyed all seeds.

This reforestation project, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, "is the first major ecological response to a historic arson fire that burned for weeks, claimed the lives of two firefighters and cost more than \$95 million to battle." Planting is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011.

"This will be the largest recovery effort ever undertaken in the San Gabriel Mountains," Deputy Forest Supervisor Marty Dumpis told the *Times*. "Our goal is to plant 300 trees per acre on 10,000 acres over the next five years."

Critics claim the project will replace former fire-dependent chaparral and areas of big-cone Douglas-firs favored by endangered California spotted owls with Coulter pines to the detriment of the ecosystem. Forest Service officials conceded the possibility of cover type change, but noted the project was justified by an environmental assessment approved by Forest Supervisor Jody Noiron that judged it in compliance with the forest's

land management plan and not environmentally adverse.

Critics worry federal funding for the project could dry up before it is completed. Funding for the first year's reforestation comes from Chevron, which contributed \$1.5 million to the South Coast Air Quality Management District to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions resulting from an expansion of its El Segundo refinery.

Prepared from multiple sources including "AQMD Approves First Reforestation Project for Station Fire Area of Angeles National Forest" published by the South Coast Air Quality Management District on April 3, 2011, and "3 million trees to be planted in Station fire burn area" by Louis Sahagum in the April 15, 2011, Los Angeles Times.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Assesses Cultural Transformation and AVUE Employment Application Issues

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell focused on Cultural Transformation and how it is being received in the field during his May 25, 2011, Chief's Sensing Group session at the WO.

Discussion topics included perceptions of diversity in the workplace, creating an inclusive environment for all employees, and the methods the Forest Service uses to bring new people into the agency.

Items of particular focus included issues with the AVUE system and broadening Forest Service definitions to include diversity of thought and non-traditional career paths.

The AVUE system is an online application system provided by Avue Technologies Corporation of Tacoma, Washington, that, according to its website, is "used by the Forest Service for anyone interested in applying for a job." This system has replaced the old U.S. Government employment application form—the Standard Form 57 most OldSmokeys used to apply for their Forest Service position and its descendants—with an issue-laden automated employment process. Avue's own online "digital services user guide" admits its use "can be confusing at times" just before it assures applicants it "will attempt to navigate you through the process."

Chief Tidwell re-emphasized his commitment to continue pursuing Cultural Transformation and to ensure the Forest Service becomes an employer of choice that can attract quality applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds, offering employees a positive work environment where all are valued and encouraged to contribute.

Prepared from "Cultural Transformation: Chief's Sensing Session includes diversity, AVUE topics" in the May 27, 2011, issue of The Chief's Desk from the WO and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service News Available at Several Online Sources

In addition to reading the *OldSmokeys Newsletter Forest Service News* section, OldSmokeys can keep up to date on U.S. Forest Service news online by going to the Forest Service website "National News" section at <http://www.fs.fed.us> for brief summaries and by Googling "FSToday" for more in-depth coverage of specific topics.

Feature

The Winema National Forest is 50 Years Old

Happy Birthday, Princess Winema!

By Dan Abraham

The Winema National Forest was born 50 years ago, in July 1961, and became the newest star in the National Forest System. It's now lumped with the Fremont under a supervisor in Lakeview and part of the Fremont-Winema National Forests.

But the Winema had a long and complicated gestation period. A policy shift after World War II allowed Indian tribes to become more autonomous and less dependent on the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In the 1950s, Senator Richard Neuberger of Oregon moved legislation through Congress that allowed Klamath tribe members to sell their reservation lands and become independent citizens. The law provided the land could be sold only in large blocks to purchasers who agreed to continue to manage the land under multiple use and sustained yield principles. Land not sold would be purchased by the U.S. Government and become national forest land.

About three-fourths of the tribe voted to sell, and a quarter voted to stay on the reservation. So about a quarter of the land, mostly good pine site near Chiloquin, was set up as a management unit under the trusteeship of the U.S. National Bank of Portland to be managed for the benefit of the remaining reservation members. Crown-Zellerbach bought 90,000 acres mostly along U.S. Highway 97 south of Chemult. The rest of the reservation acreage became national forest land. Years later, the remaining members sold and the U.S. National Bank-managed lands also became national forest lands.

The U.S. Forest Service recommended these former reservation lands be added to the Fremont and Deschutes national forests, but Klamath Falls locals had another idea. They wanted a national forest of "their own" and lobbied hard for it. This excellent exercise in grass-roots politics worked. The new Winema National Forest, headquarters at Klamath Falls, was created by President John F. Kennedy's July 1, 1961, Presidential Proclamation 3423. The name honors Toby Riddle, a Modoc woman also known as "Winema" and said to be related to Captain Jack, who served as an interpreter during the Modoc War of 1872. Some said she was a princess, and that is how we chose to think of her: Princess Winema.

I first heard of the Winema National Forest in January 1961 while at a training session in Missoula where I got a call from RO placement officer Ken Nevelen asking if I would like to be fire, lands, and recreation staff officer at Klamath Falls. To my startled "What's that?" Ken explained the Winema didn't exist yet, but the RO was trying to get a cadre in place to be up and running before fire season and the official proclamation. So, of course, I said "Count me in!" I met my wife in Medford on my way back to Gold Beach, and we drove to Klamath Falls and bought a house. We moved about the middle of March.

The first Winema National Forest SO was in a downtown Klamath Falls storefront. Alex Smith, the new forest supervisor,

and Bill North, his new administrative officer, were there. The rest of us showed up about the same time. Norm Gould was timber staff, Kjell Bakke forest engineer, Chuck Waldron range staff, John Grove assistant fire staff and dispatcher, and Chet Beill assistant timber staff. There were many others whose faces I can picture but whose names escape me. The storefront quickly became too small, and we expanded into an adjoining store space. Soon we moved into an upstairs office space near the west end of Main Street that was formerly a meeting hall for the Knights of Something. It was essentially a dance floor with a stage at one end and some small glassed-in offices at the other. The dance floor became elbow-to-elbow desks and file cabinets. Simple communications, just nudge your neighbor. About a year later we moved into an addition to the post office built for our use.

There were three ranger districts. The Klamath Ranger District—basically all the country from the Cascade divide down to Klamath Lake—came from the Rogue River National Forest. Earl Karlinger was the experienced district ranger. His headquarters was in Klamath Falls and at Lake of the Woods Ranger Station in the summer. The Chiloquin Ranger District was the central part of the forest and included the heart of the old reservation land. Homer Faulkner, the new district ranger, operated out of the venerable Agency buildings on the east shore of Klamath Lake. Later a new ranger station was built on U.S. Highway 97 just west of Chiloquin. Doug Shaw was the new district ranger for the Chemult Ranger District which included the north end of the forest, north of Klamath Marsh. That district started business in the old one-room schoolhouse—painted red, for sure—on the north side of Chemult. Later a new ranger station was built just north of the schoolhouse.

That first summer on the new Winema National Forest was a wild time. But somehow it all came together. Timber sales were made, cattle were grazed, and there were no big fires. Part of the problem was that it was hard to learn our way around on the former reservation land. As described by Kermit Lindstedt in an RO inspection report, there was a "bewildering multiplicity of roads," most of which did not show on the old reservation map. Alex came up with the idea of equipping each vehicle with a supply of box shoo (thin pine boards), shingle nails, a hatchet, and a lumber-marking crayon. Whenever you figured out where you were, you'd tack up a sign showing the way back to the highway. Our first map was literally pasted together parts of the maps of the reservation, the Rogue, the Deschutes, and the Fremont. It was hung on the wall in the SO, and was not much help when you were lost in the pumice flats east of Chiloquin.

We were a lively bunch, that first Winema crew. We were energized by the shared adventure of starting a new national forest—not something that happens every year, or every career. We were happy to be there, and it brought us together with a special esprit de corps. The job was made easier by the full support of the local community—in full contrast with the animus accompanying the birth of many national forests fifty or sixty years before 1961.

Princess Winema has a special place in our hearts, for sure.

Editor's Note on Page 18

Changes *compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt and Database Manager Ken White*

- Begulin, Howard** – Deceased March 25, 2011; Vada survives
- Bennett, Walter F. & Marlene** – Change address: 5450 SW Erickson Ave, Apt. B215, Beaverton, OR 97005
Telephone: 503-747-5484
- Betzing, Mary Lou** – Change e-mail: mlbetzing@q.com
- Carbiener, Gail & Muriel** – New members: 19506 Pond Meadow Ave, Bend, OR 97702
Telephone: 541-678-5364 E-mail: mcgcarb@bendbroadband.com
- Deal, Robert L.** – New member: 620 SW Main St, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97205
Telephone: 503-808-2015 E-mail: rdeal@fs.fed.us
- Deitrich, Dennis R. & Caroline J.** – New members: 64727 Sylvan Loop, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-382-9126 E-mail: dd@coinet.com
- Didriksen, Ralph** – Deceased, November 2003 (late notification)
- Dunbar, Randy & Ellen** – New members: 37871 Shenandoah Loop, Springfield, OR 97478
Telephone: 541-741-2031 E-mail: redunbar2@msn.com
- Duran, Frank D. & Pamela Z.** – New members: 14850 S Fern Bluff Dr, Oregon City, OR 97045
Telephone: 503-723-0119 E-mail: duranpf@msn.com
- Ethington, Robert L. & Ellen** – Change e-mail: bobethington@comcast.net
- Frakes, James M. & Phyllis** – Add e-mail: jmsfrakes@yahoo.com
- Gilbert, Lowell R. & Katherine** – Change e-mail: gilnkay@frontier.com
- Goheen, Donald & Ellen** – New members: 2564 Sterling Creek Rd, Jacksonville, OR 97530
Telephone: 541-899-1449 E-mail: edgoheen@jeffnet.org
- Grubb, Jack E. & Jo Ann** – Change e-mail: j13.keg@comcast.net
- Harris, Jennifer & Bill** – New members: P.O. Box 336, Prairie City, OR 97869
E-mail: jlouharris@juno.com
- Heller, David & Judy** – 3335 NE 32nd Ave, Portland, OR 97212
Telephone: 503-282-6941 E-mail: daheller@aol.com
- Hill, Charles Jr.** – New member: P.O. Box 40442, Portland, OR 97240
Telephone: 541-413-0094 E-mail: cjrhill@gmail.com
- Kearney, Marsha & Randy** – New members: 10927 Carreta Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
Telephone: 505-899-9705 E-mail: marshakea@aol.com
- Leep, Jim & Retta** — Change address: 68500 Nicolai Rd, Rainier, OR 97048
Telephone: 503-556-1859 E-mail: jrleep@msn.com
- Miner, Cindy & Bill Schuette** – New members: P.O. Box 685, Wilsonville, OR 97070
Telephone: 503-808-2135 E-mail: clminer@fs.fed.us
- Nesbitt, John R. & Ellen** – change e-mail: nesbitt11@q.com
- Nilsen, Fern M.** – 2400 E Bradford Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211
- Reeves, Ralph A. “Sparky”** – Deceased April 14, 2011; Sara Margaret survives
- Rice, Jim & Jeanne** – New members: 17777 S Dick Dr, Oregon City, OR 97045
Telephone: 971-230-4888 E-mail: Jim.Rice@wstribes.org
- Salisbury, Bud M.** – Change address: 327 South East 1st, No. 110, Pendleton, OR 97801
- Santiago, Marty** – New member: 5435 SW 50th Ave, Portland, OR 97221
Telephone: 503-293-8088 E-mail: martysantiago@qcom
- Shaw, Douglas & Bess** – New members: 8264 Trotler Ln, Homosassa, FL 34446
Telephone: 352-503-7146 E-mail: oldsmokey753@hotmail.com
- Shenk, William D. & Victoria** – Change e-mail: shenkbill@q.com
- Sines, Roy Robert** – Deceased March 17, 2011; Rachel survives
- Smith, Zane G., Jr., & Betty** – Change e-mail: zanesmith4475@comcast.net
- Summer, David & Beverly** – New members: 34280 SD Kelso RD, Boring, OR 97009
Telephone: 503-668-0466 E-mail: dsummeror@aol.com
- Till, Sheila & Ken** – New members: 7209 Ft. Morgan Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80525
Telephone: 970-225-8080 E-mail: kstill1@msn.com
- Trask, David B. & Pam** – Change e-mail: bluelake22@comcast.net
- Voltz, M. Ruth** – Change e-mail: ruthvoltz@gmail.com
- Wood, Marylou P.** — Deceased May 27, 2011
- Zalunardo, David G. & Cindy** – Change address: 3690 SE William Rd, Powell Butte, OR 97753

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Spring 2011 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Gail & Muriel Carbiener of Bend, Oregon, joined May 27, 2011, when the PNWFSA Board of Directors approved his application for membership. With over 3,500 hours as a U.S. Forest Service volunteer, Gail stands tenth in the nation for Passport in Time program volunteer hours; 650 of those hours were served in Region 6. He is a retired banker from California.

Robert L. Deal of Portland, Oregon, has served all 31 years of his U.S. Forest Service career at the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Dennis R. & Caroline J. Dietrich of Bend, Oregon, joined March 14, 2011, “due to the unrelenting harassment of [OldSmokey Membership Chair] **Bob Devlin**.” Dennis retired from the U.S. Forest Service on July 31, 2010, after 38 years of federal service, 36 of those in the Forest Service and 33 of those in Region 6. Those other two years of federal service were with the Peace Corps in Fiji. His last duty station was the Deschutes National Forest SO in Bend.

Randy & Ellen Dunbar of Springfield, Oregon, joined May 23, 2011. Randy, one-time district ranger on the McKenzie Ranger District, retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Willamette National Forest in May 2003 after 35 years of federal service, 33 of those in the Forest Service and 32 in Region 6.

Frank D. & Pamela Z. Duran of Oregon City, Oregon, joined March 15, 2011. Frank retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 2010, after 32 years and 9 months of service, 30 of those years in Region 6.

Donald J. & Ellen M. Goheen of Jacksonville, Oregon, joined April 11, 2011. Don retired from the U.S. Forest Service on March 3, 2011, on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, after a 35-year career served entirely in Region 6.

Jennifer L. and Bill Harris of Prairie City, Oregon, joined April 25, 2011. Jennifer retired from the U.S. Forest Service after serving 32.5 years on the Malheur National Forest.

David A. and Judy Heller of Portland, Oregon, joined April 21, 2011. Dave retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the RO in Portland as Regional Fisheries Program Leader after 39 years of federal service, 35 of those years in the Forest Service in Region 6. Dave was the first district fish biologist in Region 6, starting out on the old Mapleton Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest.

Charles Hill, Jr., of Portland, Oregon, joined recently.

Marsha & Randy Kearney of Albuquerque, New Mexico, joined April 19, 2011. Marsha retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the Region 3 RO in Albuquerque after 32 years in the Forest Service, 10 of which were served in Region 6. Marsha’s last Region 6 duty station was on the North Fork John Day Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest. Marsha wrote

that her “dear friend [OldSmokey] **Toby Hastie** gave me the information I needed to join the OldSmokeys” after “an awesome career, of which my time in Region 6 was a large part.”

Cynthia L. “Cindy” Miner & Bill Schuette of Wilsonville, Oregon, joined February 20, 2011. Cindy is Communications and Applications Program Manager in the Director’s Office, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon, and is a PNWFSA area representative for the Research Station. Cindy’s 32 years of federal service include 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service, 23 of those with the Research Station.

Fern M. Nilsen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, joined May 5, 2011. “I am no longer an officer (President Emerita) of the Eastern Forest Service Retirees Association and I want to continue receiving the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*,” Fern wrote. She retired from the U.S. Forest Service on March 15, 1983, on 30 years.

Jim R. & Jeanne M. Rice of Oregon City, Oregon, joined March 5, 2011. Jim retired from the U.S. Forest Service on February 28, 2011, as the Timber Program Manager for the Mt. Hood National Forest SO after 34 years in the Forest Service, 22 of those in Region 6. His wife, Jeanne, an ecologist at the Mt. Hood National Forest SO, plans to retire in 2012 or 2013 after 35 years in the Forest Service.

Marty Santiago of Portland, Oregon, joined May 12, 2011. Marty retired from the U.S. Forest Service in the WO after 34 years in the Forest Service, nine of which were in Region 6 and four of which were with the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Douglas B. & Bess Shaw of Homosassa, Florida (on Florida’s west coast north of Tampa), joined May 2, 2011. A University of Minnesota forester, Doug began his U.S. Forest Service career in July 1953 on the old Union Creek Ranger District of the then-Rogue River National Forest and in 1961 became the first district ranger on the Chemult Ranger District of the then-new Winema National Forest. He later spent a couple tours with the Office of the Inspector General in Washington, D.C., and served in the WO as leader of the Information Management Group before he retired from the Forest Service on his 55th birthday, September 23, 1983, after 30 years of federal service, 24 of which were Forest Service years and 10 of which were Region 6 years.

David & Beverly Summer of Boring, Oregon, joined May 16, 2011. Currently Deputy Director, Fire & Aviation Management, Region 6, David began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont in 1973 and has served 34 of this 36 Forest Service years in Region 6.

Sheila & Ken Till of Fort Collins, Colorado, joined May 17, 2011. Sheila’s 29 U.S. Forest Service years included seven in fire management on the Umatilla National Forest and 15 with the Pacific Northwest Research Station at Corvallis and Seattle labs before two years at ASC in Albuquerque. She is currently budget director at the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Ken served almost 20 years in U.S. Forest Service fire management in Regions 1, 6, and 5.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

Howard Begulin died March 25, 2011, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Howard was born August 3, 1919, in Bristow, Iowa, where he grew up. Howard earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering at Iowa State University, served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and starting in the 1940s at the old Plaza Guard Station spent his entire U.S. Forest Service career as an engineer on the Estacada Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest. Survivors include Vada, his wife of 66 years; son Edward; daughters Celia Turner and Miriam Hunt; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Ralph Didriksen died during November 2003. He was a PNWFSA member.

Editor's Note: Robert Didriksen, Ralph's son, provided this notification. No further information was available.

Clarence Petty died March 21, 2011, at age 74. Clarence was born September 24, 1936, in Little Sioux, Iowa, and was a U.S. Forest Service civil engineer for 35 years. He lived in Vancouver, Washington, and his favorite pastime was playing pool. Survivors include his wife Marney; children Alan, Pam West, Vicki Martin, and Tracy Eriksen; six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Ralph A. "Sparky" Reeves died April 14, 2011, at almost age 101. Sparky was born April 25, 1910, in Centralia, Washington, and later moved with his family to Hemet, California, where he graduated from Hemet Union High School in 1928. He got the nickname "Spark Plug" or "Sparky" while playing in a high school baseball game. As he galloped around the bases after hitting a home run, a friend said "he looks just like 'Spark Plug,'" a race horse in the Barney Google and Snuffy Smith comic strip. The name stuck for 85 years. After high school, when his parents bought and moved to a 320-acre ranch near Elkhead, Oregon, Sparky worked at various construction jobs in southern California and Arizona. In 1931 Sparky and his brother Paul came up from California in a Model T Ford to join them and their sister Georgia on the ranch. He worked seasonally for Douglas County from 1931 to 1934, when he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Azalea, Oregon, to help support his folks and the ranch. During his CCC service, Sparky worked on several Oregon national forests and in 1936 married Sara Margaret Ludwig of Elkhead after a long courtship. Sparky left the CCC for the U.S. Forest Service in 1937 in which he served for 35 years. He started as a welder in Roseburg, operated a cat to build access to strategic Chrome Ridge chrome mines during World War II, and after the war worked up through the ranks—mostly on the Siskiyou National Forest—to retire in 1972 as the forest's fleet manager. He worked primarily out of the old Forest Service shops on L Street in Grants Pass, Oregon. Sparky was instrumental in designing and building some of the machinery used for training smokejumpers at the Cave Junction, Oregon, smokejumper base. Sparky was a devoted family man who loved gardening, fishing and hunting, and camping. Survivors include wife Margaret; sons Richard and Steve; daughter Betty McCormack; five grandchildren, 11

great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Sparky's son, OldSmokey **Rich Reeves**, for these memories.*

John Ries died March 16, 2011, at age 76. John was born December 8, 1934, in Burley, Idaho, and graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in business management. John worked on the Malheur, Caribou, Fremont, and Umpqua national forests, at the RO in Portland, and finally on the Mt. Hood National Forest where he retired in 1991. Survivors include his wife Dora; sons Robert and Steven; daughters Dorothy Dillon and Cheryl Ostrow; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Roy Robert Sines died March 17, 2011, at age 88. He was a PNWFSA member. Roy was born May 20, 1922, in Bozeman, Montana. He grew up in the Entiat Valley, and graduated from Entiat High School in Entiat, Washington, in 1940. Roy enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in the South Pacific during World War II. Roy married Rachel Stanaway in July 1946 in Wenatchee, Washington, and joined the U.S. Forest Service. While serving in the Forest Service, Roy continued his education at Wenatchee Valley College. In 1960, he and the family moved to Pullman where Roy earned a B.S. degree in forestry and range management at Washington State University in 1963. Roy spent his entire working career as a Forest Service forester, and was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Society for Range Management. He was Wallowa-Whitman National Forest district ranger at Wallowa, Oregon, for 10 years, and at La Grande, Oregon, for three years. After his retirement from the Forest Service on a total of 38 years of federal service, Roy and Rachel were active as Forest Service volunteers. They worked on botany surveys, tree planting, and seed cone collecting projects, and were hosts at the Kirkwood Ranch on the Snake River. Roy also served for several years on the ski patrol and in avalanche control at the Stevens Pass Ski Area on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. An avid outdoorsman, Roy taught each of his grandchildren to snow ski, hike mountain trails, and identify native plants. Survivors include Rachel; daughters Joan McNab and Jean Kriwox; son Brian; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Shirley Snoich died April 3, 2011. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Bob Snoich.

*Editor's Note: OldSmokey **Bob McQuown** provided this notification. No further information was available.*

Marylou P. Wood died May 27, 2011, at age 89. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of Donald D. Wood. Both were members of the Thirty Year Club for many years following Don's retirement from the U.S. Forest Service on the Siskiyou National Forest in the early 1980s. Marylou Paetzhold was born December 22, 1921, in Portland, Oregon, where she attended Woodstock Grade School and graduated from Franklin High School in 1938. She went to Oregon State College where she met Don, and they married in May 1943. After a three-year hiatus during World War II, they returned to OSC where Mary graduated from the College of Home Economics in 1948 and

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Letters

John Poppino *remembers Howard Beguelin*

Howard Beguelin was one of a kind. He and Vada were surrogate parents to every young employee on the Estacada Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, for 30+ years. He spent his entire career on that district and had friends worldwide!

Howard was an engineer and knew every road on the district. At one time the U.S. Forest Service was toying with the idea of having a “forest meister” on each major drainage. Howard got Fish Creek. That program lasted only a couple of years. Too bad; he was doing a great job.

One of the accommodations Howard made to getting old was to create a chainsaw “starter.” It was a contraption made up of a base, a vertical post, a lever, and a couple of chains. Worked well.

John Hargrove *remembers Clarence Petty*

Clarence was district engineer on the Darrington Ranger District when I was appointed transportation planner on the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1966. He was not very welcoming to yet another interference from the SO in Bellingham, let alone a transplanted East Sider his own age! Yet, he stepped up to the new ways and became the district’s leader in working with the other old guard district engineers in adopting the new-fangled ways of selecting road routes and standards in the severe mountain topography of the West Side. I enjoyed working with Clarence.

Rich Reeves *remembers his Dad, Sparky Reeves*

Another OldSmokey goes to Heaven. My Dad was one of the last of the best of them and he will be sorely missed by all. Sparky was known as a “go-to” person with the know-how and the ability to fix or make just about anything from scratch. When all else failed, people would wind up asking Sparky how something could best be made or repaired. He loved to tinker with anything mechanical and his mind was always at work trying to improve or develop one thing or another. Sparky was known never to say no to anyone who needed help.

Ed Whitmore *remembers Bob Slimp*

I was sad to hear about Bob Slimp’s passing. Back around 1967, I was the timber management assistant on the Quinalt Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest and we were short of help in cruising and layout. District Ranger Jerry Brown suggested I talk to the fire control officer about borrowing Bob for a few weeks. The FCO agreed to the loan. I taught him to cruise timber and to survey cutting unit boundaries with chain and compass, and he was very quick to pick up these skills. Soon he decided to transfer to the timber management department, much to our gain and the dismay of the FCO. Thanks to Bob’s quick mind and his dedication to the work, we soon caught up with the work load. Bob definitely had a sense of humor and was an excellent representative of the Forest Service.

Hank Hays *comments on Spring 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Les Joslin’s *Forum* comments in the Spring newsletter concerning our U.S. Forest Service were, in effect, a sort of eulogy, and

also correct. Many of us aged Smokeys could write an essay on this subject in more candid and sharp terms.

Then, on page 9, I read the summary of the Forest Planning Rule (FPR), issued by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. The implied direction (reading between the lines as OldSmokeys can) can be summarized as why Les is correct in stating in effect “It’s time for a change.” The jargon of the FPR represents to me one more symptom of why the U.S. Forest Service is no more the great outfit it was. Everything now is politicized and politically correct. Gone in large part is the lean dedicated spirit we once knew and wished to be a part of. This condition more or less reflects the decline of standards everywhere now.

P.S. Noted was the photo and article on the Leavenworth Ranger Station where I received my appointment in 1953. Al Dahlgren was my project leader and trainer on a forest inventory. He was great, the best. We worked under timber management staff man Ed Peltier, with J.K. Blair as forest supervisor. Leavenworth personnel I recall included Irwin Peters (district forest ranger), Dave McDonald (alternate district forest ranger), and Magnus Boake (roads). I was lucky to have Al Dahlgren as my project leader.

Fred Henley *comments on Spring 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter book review*

Your review of Hamlin Garland’s and Arthur Carhart’s books caused me to order both through our library’s interlibrary loan program. I now have both books on loan from other libraries, and have just finished *The Ordeal of Brad Ogden*.

Carhart is a good wordsmith. Some of his verbal paintings can almost be felt and smelled. His description of the small community brought back vivid memories of experiences on the Nez Perce National Forest in 1956. That summer I was working out of the Red River Ranger Station as a timber cruiser. The station was about a three to four hour drive out of Grangeville, Idaho. About half way to the station the dirt road passed through Elk City, a community trying hard not to become a ghost town. The “City” was mostly singly story log and stick-built buildings separated from the road by wooden boardwalks and hitching rails. The town in its heyday had been a center for mining and range activities, with a tradition of big Fourth of July celebrations and rodeo, and 1956 was no exception. On the 4th a refrigerated box truck came out from Grangeville to be the source of liquid refreshment. As there was no local or county law enforcement, the ranger from Red River was drafted to do what might be needed to be done to keep the local ranch hands and miners somewhat under control. Not much different than Ogden being drafted as a rodeo judge.

Carhart’s story centers on the “Pinos Altos” National Forest. Pinos Altos is a real place. It is a small community nestled against the Gila National Forest. The town has two claims to fame. First, it was a Spanish outpost with a small fort. That fort has been “replicated” as a minor tourist trap. Second, there is a large two-story log building that houses an opera house as well as a fine steak house disguised as an old saloon. These are well attended by residents of Silver City, New Mexico, as well as tourists who might get hints from locals.

Thanks for leading me to a book that sparked memories.

George Jansen pays “interest” and tribute to PNWFSA

I have a life membership in the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and would like to pay back interest. Enclosed [in the envelope in which this note was sent] are two checks—one for the discretionary fund and the other to apply to postage for the newsletter or whatever is needed.

I look forward to the newsletter each quarter and read it cover to cover. I greatly appreciate all the work that goes into managing the PNWFSA and producing such a great publication.

Marsha Kearney appreciates PNWFSA

I greatly appreciate how “OldSmokeys” do an excellent job of keeping folks updated. Most information I have gotten since retiring! Keep up the great work!

Hank & Pat Clow check in from L’Anse, Michigan

We’ve been hiding out in Florida, avoiding winter and past due bills. Back in Michigan for mud season.

Ann Leuthauser checks in from Gresham, Oregon

I think that I forgot the dues completely and hope that I haven’t been “expelled.” I woke up this morning [March 9, 2011] thinking about some of the [PNWFSA] members and then realized that I might be delinquent!

My son has a new computer and I haven’t learned to use it yet so has been since Christmas. I still have the same e-mail address and sometimes he tells me someone sent a message. I will try to get some time on the monster.

Please allow me to still receive the newsletter.

Roger Stamy checks in from North Powder, Oregon

We appreciate the good work you all do to keep us informed about friends and events.

We still enjoy living in the country and keeping physically fit. We spent a couple of weeks last fall hiking in the Swiss, Italian, and French Alps. We were the oldest in the Elderhostel group and enjoyed every mile. The mountain scenery in each country was unique and spectacular with a unique trail system.

Ken Cochran comments from Murphysboro, Illinois

The newsletter is great!

Patricia Smith becomes a lifetime member

Dick loved the newsletter.

Letters is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. Some letters are sent directly to the editor or forwarded to the editor by the secretary. Others are reprinted from the *OldSmokeys eNotes* and *OldSmokeys eForum*. You may send your letters to Secretary Bev Pratt at P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, or directly to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701. The only limit on length of letters that can be published is space available in the newsletter. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to fit space available as well as to comply with grammar and punctuation standards to the extent the style of the writer and the content and intent of a letter is maintained. “Keep those cards and letters coming!”

OldSmokeys News continued from page 5

good friend, and he asked if I could assist with this large group.”

Stub, a former supervisor of both the Gifford Pinchot and Olympic national forests, escorted the group to parts of his old stomping grounds. A Wednesday, May 25, highlight of the trip was a stop at the Weyerhaeuser Company’s Mount St. Helens Forest Learning Center where the director “gave them the full story behind the company’s approach to rapid reforestation” on Weyerhaeuser lands to compare with the natural reforestation they viewed next on the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument explained to them by U.S. Forest Service interpreter Todd Cullings.

Stub also “lined up a good friend in the Olympia area who knows the west side of the Cascades and all the issues like the back of his hand” who “lined up a field trip to the Sierra Pacific Industries sawmill in Aberdeen” on Thursday, May 26. They had lunch at Lake Quinault Lodge and “a hike into the ‘truly big trees of the Olympic Rain Forest’” before returning to Seattle to fly to Germany on Friday, May 27.

The Group

Ron found the German foresters “an interesting group. Of the 32, only three had been to the States before and only three had any knowledge of English. That’s because most of the foresters, including several female foresters and researchers, came from Brandenburg in the former East Germany. Prior to Germany’s reunification they were required to learn Russian, and English was ‘not available.’ Several ‘doctor professors’ were in the group, and we had a good percentage of young (under 40) participants.”

Stub reported “a truly successful tour” with an “enjoyable body of professionals.”

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Ron and Stub for their key contributions to this article

NOTICE

**Publication of the Fall 2011
OldSmokeys Newsletter
probably will be delayed
for about one month,
resulting in delivery on or about
November 15, 2011,
instead of mid-October as usual.
Your editor is planning overseas travel
from mid-September through October.**

— Les Joslin, Editor



Decks of Douglas-fir logs on Jon Stewart's Raincloud Tree Farm awaited their trip to the mill this spring.

Photograph by Jon Stewart

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Harvests Trees He Planted 30 Years Ago

By Les Joslin

OldSmokey **Jon Stewart**—one of several PNWFSA members practicing forestry on their own tree farms—this spring harvested about 100,000 board feet of Douglas-fir in a commercial thinning on land he scarified and planted 30 years ago on his Raincloud Tree Farm near Mt. Hood.

That's right. When Jon's not trekking the Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, the Great Divide Trail, or some other long-distance trail in North America—or even the Corfu Trail on that Greek island in the Ionian Sea—or writing about such treks, he's tending the 120-acre tree farm outside Sandy, Oregon, that's been in his family for 120 years and proving forestry pays even in this difficult economy.

Domestic timber prices in the Portland area jumped to \$590 a thousand board feet this spring before plummeting back to \$525 in May as the economy stalled. Though much better than last year when mills paid as little as \$400, it's nothing close to the \$700 paid during the peak of the building bubble.

Mechanical harvesters and forwarders make the work much easier, but the price and interest operators pay for machinery and the rising cost of diesel fuel plus the cost of hauling logs to market make commercial thinning like this only marginally cost effective. The real benefit is creating a green bank account for the next generation. "If fire, global warming, insects and disease—all those variables many OldSmokeys spent their careers fighting—don't get the trees first, this thinning will increase stand growth dramatically," Jon said.

Jon hopes to use Oregon Department of Forestry fire matching grant funds to construct a 150-foot wide shaded fuel break around the eastern side of his tree farm to protect his trees and the community from wildfire. He sees great danger in thickets—like the one he just thinned on his own land—on adjacent

Mt. Hood National Forest and City of Portland lands. The Bull Run watershed lies in the valley below his tree farm. He not only helped plant many of the dense stands in Portland's watershed but fought many fires there. As a former Columbia Gorge Ranger District fire management officer, Jon knows all too well the danger that lurks upwind.

Acts of Congress such as the Oregon Resources Conservation Act of 1996 and the Little Sandy Act of 2001 prohibit logging in much of the Bull Run watershed. Jon believes a series of shaded fuel breaks, constructed using modern thinning technology, would help protect the watershed from catastrophic fires driven by east winds. He cites all-but-forgotten firestorms such as the Yacolt Burn and Larch Mountain Fire that consumed both rims of the Columbia River three quarters of a century ago to support his case. "Walking away from fuels management in the watershed makes dramatic losses to Portland's water supply and critical spotted owl habitat a distinct possibility," Jon says.

Worse, from Jon's standpoint, would be loss of the tree farm he's managed for the past 40 years.

OldSmokey Jerry Williams' History of the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Continues to Sell, Remains Available

OldSmokey **Jerry Williams'** book *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History*, written with the support of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and Pacific Northwest Region funding and published by Oregon State University Press early in 2011, has passed the 550-copy sales mark and remains available.

"Reviews in the scholarly journals are just beginning to show up," according to Tom Booth, Associate Director, OSU Press. "That should help spur future sales."

According to the recent *Oregon Historical Quarterly* review, Williams "goes beyond the retelling of familiar controversies to recount the everyday management of 24 million acres of federal forest in Oregon and Washington.... The book may be most valuable for compiling these small histories from the collected memories of the OldSmokeys, a group of retired Forest Service employees."

Other reviews of this book have praised it similarly. Jerry is the retired National Historian of the U.S. Forest Service who began his Forest Service career on the Umpqua National Forest and worked on the Willamette National Forest and in the Pacific Northwest Region RO before moving to the WO.

Jerry's book is available from The University of Arizona Press, which distributes OSU Press books, for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy inside the United States. To order by telephone, call toll-free at 1-800-426-3797. Phone orders must be prepaid using a credit card. To order by mail, send order with a check for the total amount due made out to "University of Arizona Press" to The University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Avenue, suite 103, Tucson, Arizona 85719. Use the order form on the OldSmokeys website if you wish.

OldSmokey Les Joslin Campaigns to Restore the U.S. Forest Service

“So what’s new?” anyone who has read the *Forum* page in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for the past five years might ask.

What’s new is that, after years of pleas to U.S. Forest Service leadership and editorials in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, OldSmokey **Les Joslin** has ramped up the campaign to restore the Forest Service he says “was and should be” as an agency able to efficiently and effectively manage the National Forest System for its citizen-owners—and *be perceived as doing so*.

In recent months he’s sent a white paper entitled “The Future of America’s National Forests Depends on Revised Laws and a Restructured U.S. Forest Service” that summarizes the case to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman, Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell, Associate Chief and OldSmokey **Mary Wagner**, and several of their key staffers as well as to the regional foresters and several forest supervisors.

Outside the department and agency, he’s provided the paper to Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) and Representative Greg Walden (Republican-Oregon), and to Anu K. Mittal, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Government Accountability Office. It was posted on the University of Montana *A New Century of Forest Planning* blog on March 6, 2011, as well as published in the March 17, 2011, issue of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees’ newsletter *The Lookout*, and in the May 2011 issue of the Society of American Foresters’ monthly *Forestry Source*. Most recently, Jim Peterson, executive director of the Evergreen Foundation, posted it on the online *Evergreen Magazine* on May 18, 2011, and called it a “solid, well-conceived idea.”

Regardless of the future National Forest System management paradigm, Les maintains that “a truly viable U.S. Forest Service would have a well-defined national forest management mission implemented by leaders who lead effectively and followers learning to lead effectively—a professional corps of line and staff officers with field savvy and agency panache who understand and practice the art and science of, as the Forest Service’s own motto puts it, ‘caring for the land and serving people.’”

“This would be a corps of capable and competent ‘forest rangers’ present and visible in the forests rather than hidden away in offices, supported by rather than subservient to technologies, doing jobs rather than outsourcing them. This would be a corps that capitalizes on rather than squanders its proud heritage, and attracts rather than alienates those who would serve in it rather than just work for it. This would be a corps worthy of the admiration and respect and support of the National Forest System citizen-owners who should be served and would be served by it.”

“Developing such a corps is the essential challenge for the Forest Service leadership and its U.S. Department of Agriculture masters,” Les wrote. “The Forest Service should train qualified men and women selected to serve as forest officers at a national, residential U.S. Forest Service Academy situated on

a national forest that could accommodate and provide and materially benefit from—much as teaching hospitals do with medical students—a wide range of rigorous academic and field experiences. This academy would comprise an entry-level officer candidate school and a mid-career advanced course. And, during its earlier years, it would conduct a short update course for current district rangers.”

This proposed academy, Les says, would facilitate the real “cultural transformation” the Forest Service needs to restore itself and regain the confidence and trust of the American people. “The academy would be an intellectual and cultural well-spring of the Forest Service, an institutional home of the resolve and resourcefulness the Forest Service needs to succeed at any well-defined mission revised laws would prescribe.”

Admitting it would be costly, Les emphasizes the much greater opportunity costs of not taking action. He suggests starting small to prove and grow the proposed academy.

“I’m not ‘out to get’ the Forest Service,” Les says. “But I am out to get the Forest Service off dead center on this vital issue. Kicking this can down the road is no longer an option.”

Editor’s Note: It’s difficult—and downright awkward and embarrassing—to write about oneself and one’s efforts in the third person. But your OldSmokeys Newsletter has a staff of one, and that staff is stuck with the job. If you’d like a copy of “The Future of America’s National Forests Depends on Revised Laws and a Restructured U.S. Forest Service,” you may e-mail <lesjoslin@aol.com> and request a copy attached to a return e-mail.

Feature continued from page 11

*Editor’s Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey **Dan Abraham** for this wonderful article. He and OldSmokeys **Kjell Bakke** and **Doug Shaw** are the three remaining PNWFSA members of “that first Winema crew” who will have celebrated Princess Winema’s July 1 birthday a couple weeks before this newsletter arrives in your mailbox.*

Memories continued from page 14

Don graduated from the School of Forestry in 1949. They were married for 50 years until Don’s death in 1993. Don was a U.S. Forest Service forester, and “their” Forest Service career began at Mosquito Guard Station on what is now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Their many moves took them to Wind River/Hemlock Ranger Station, Pine Creek Guard Station, Packwood Ranger Station, Amboy Ranger Station, and eventually Galice Ranger Station where Marylou thrived in her “ranger’s wife” role in which she frequently observed such traditions as cooking for the crew, and then the Siskiyou National Forest SO in Grants Pass, Oregon, where they’d settled after all those ranger station years and at which Don retired in 1981. Marylou’s own story of her life in the Forest Service was chronicled for the Forest Service centennial. Survivors include daughters Nancy Hart and Bonnie Wood and two grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: This memory was prepared from a longer remembrance of her mother written by OldSmokey **Bonnie Wood**.*

Books

Monty Atwater's Truths in Fiction

By Les Joslin

Think back, OldSmokeys, to what inspired you to join the U.S. Forest Service. Some of you were lucky enough to grow up in the Outfit and knew it's where you belonged. Others needed other sources of inspiration. If you grew up in the 1940s and 1950s, one source might have been the kid's books by Montgomery Meigs "Monty" Atwater that helped inspire me.

In his 1947 story, *Hank Winton: Smokechaser*, young Hank's ambition to start a Forest Service career as a lookout-fireman begins to be fulfilled after his freshman year of college. A senator's son from "back East," young Hank arrives by bus at Boundary Ranger Station "at the edge of a broad, green meadow, half surrounded by lodgepole pines" on the fictitious Evergreen National Forest to report for smokechaser school. He alights to walk the last half mile indicated by the sign. "The station was unmistakable in its orderly array of log buildings, corrals and pastures. But it bore a further sign: the flag of the United States rippling in a light breeze...that means a Forest Service headquarters with its principal officer on duty." A junior high school kid then living in a Philadelphia suburb, I could see it in my mind's eye. I could taste it.

Soon young Hank was one of a score of young men immersed in the three-day guard school taught by "men with pine needles in their hair" whose "forest-green uniforms were shiny and faded with wear and their caulked boots were dusty." Competing for only 15 lookout-fireman positions, they soon learned "that this process of selection and elimination will go on from your first day in the Forest Service to your last." I wondered if, given the chance, I could cut it.

Hank did, of course, and earned assignment to remote Sliderock Lookout on the Three Rivers District. "Every few moments" as Hank walked through the forest toward Puzzle Basin Guard Station where he'd work until fire danger required manning lookouts, "his hand went to the flap of his pocket to make sure that a certain bit of metal had not come unfastened. It was only a piece of brass, cut in the form of a tiny shield with a pine tree stamped on its face. But it was also real and to his fingers it glowed, for it was the badge of a forester." I hoped, someday, I'd wear that badge.

I'll bet at least some OldSmokeys who grew up in the '40s and '50s were affected by Hank's story—and several similar stories Atwater penned and published—as I was. I know many OldSmokeys' first jobs in the Forest Service reflected Hank's story—as mine did. I know many were mentored by Atwater's "older men in Forest green, ...men with the stamp of authority and experience" to become the forest officers they became—as I was. I also know such remote ranger district starts in the Outfit are mostly a thing of the past, and know those invaluable beginnings to careers as forest officers who consider themselves members of the Forest Service rather than just government employees must be restored or replicated.

Monty Atwater, who created Hank and the other foresters young and old who populated such books librarians categorize as "young adult/juvenile fiction" as *Ski Patrol* (1943), *Smoke Patrol* (1949) in which Hank becomes a smokejumper, and *Avalanche Patrol* (1951), knew what he wrote. Born in Baker City, Oregon, in 1904, he graduated from Harvard College in 1926. He worked at various jobs including football coach, cattle rancher, and trapper. In the 1930s he wrote short stories and mysteries under the pseudonym Max Montgomery.

During World War II he served in the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division and rose in rank to captain. In the fall of 1945, he joined the Forest Service in Alta, Utah, and spent two decades evolving many of the techniques and much of the equipment used in avalanche forecasting and control. Atwater was director of avalanche control at the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley on the Tahoe National Forest, where the district ranger who broke me in back in 1962 served with him as a snow ranger. After retirement from the Forest Service in 1964, Atwater continued avalanche control consulting and writing. He published the non-fiction book *The Forest Rangers* for a general readership in 1969. He died in 1976. Some of the OldSmokeys reading this knew him.

Atwater's *Hank Winton: Smokechaser*, which I first read 56 years ago when I was 12, has been out of print for decades. Random House ignored my suggestion years ago that it and other Atwater titles be reprinted. "Kids don't read that stuff anymore," they'd have scoffed if they'd said anything. Fantasy, not truth, is the inspiration of the day. And that's a shame.

Yet, the book is relatively easy to come by these days. On the day I wrote this—April 8, 2011—Amazon.com listed 21 new and used copies priced from \$9.06 through \$84.00, and AbeBooks offered several copies among the 60 copies of Atwater's titles it listed at reasonable prices. To locate them, just google "Montgomery Meigs Atwater Hank Winton Smokechaser" and locate the Amazon.com and AbeBooks.com website listings. I got the copy I have—a retreat from the Van Buren Public Library, wherever in Indiana that is—online through AbeBooks.com quite a few years ago, and find it inspiring still.

Coming in the Fall 2011 Books Section...

Phillip Conners' insightful new book, *Fire Season: Field Notes From a Wilderness Lookout*, just published by HarperCollins Publishers, will be reviewed in the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Good books make great gifts, and the **Books** section of the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will also contain information on other books of interest to OldSmokeys that OldSmokeys may want to give as Christmas gifts to family and friends—or even to themselves—this year.

Editor's Note: Do you have a favorite book on a U.S. Forest Service topic—old or new, fact or fiction—you'd like to bring to the attention of other OldSmokeys? If so, your OldSmokeys Newsletter would be pleased to publish your review. Just send it to Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or attach it to an e-mail addressed to <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

Films

Two Vintage Forest Ranger Movies

By Les Joslin

It's absolutely amazing what one can find on the internet! I like old movies—and especially old movies about the U.S. Forest Service, of which there are very few—and have been able to add a few to my collection at very low cost just by Google searches of these movies' names that lead to ordering sources.

Rainbow Valley: the Story of a Forest Ranger

Long ago, when being the first VIS person on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest was part of my district fire prevention guard job, I often introduced films at evening programs at resorts and dude ranches—there was no electricity to the campgrounds—which developed two themes: Forest Service management of the National Forest System and forest fire prevention.

My favorite film for the first theme was a 1954 Forest Service production called “Rainbow Valley: The Story of a Forest Ranger.” In this 28-minute, color, 16mm epic, District Ranger Alex Nolan on the fictitious Rainbow Valley Ranger District of the equally fictitious Tumbling River National Forest proudly rides and walks viewers through multiple use management of his district—part of which he saves from a forest fire at the end of the film.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that an Asheville, North Carolina, outfit called Quality Information Publishers, Inc., offers “Rainbow Valley” on DVD—under the unfortunately misleading description “1954 Forest Ranger Memorabilia DVD: Vintage US Forest Service Park Ranger Vocational Training Movie with Nostalgic Forestry, Wildlife & Outdoors Logging History Footage”—for a mere \$4.99 plus \$2.98 shipping and handling when ordered from Amazon.com! That movie I last saw and used 45 years ago is now in my collection.

The Forest Rangers

So is a still older movie, a 90-minute, color, Paramount Pictures feature film “The Forest Rangers” released in 1942 that glamorizes—as only Hollywood with the help of Fred MacMurray, Paulette Goddard, and Susan Hayward could—the job of forest rangers on a fictitious Bolderoc National Forest somewhere in the West. This movie is a year older than I am, and I first saw it in re-release some 55 years ago when I was still a kid.

Ranger Don Stuart (MacMurray) fights a forest fire with timber boss friend Tana “Butch” Mason (Hayward), and finds evidence of arson. He suspects Twig Dawson, but can't prove it. Butch loves Don, but he somehow doesn't notice she's a woman. He meets socialite Celia Huston (Goddard) at a Fourth of July celebration in town and elopes with her. The action plot—Ranger Don's pursuit of the arsonist—is paralleled by Tana's comic efforts to scare Celia back to the city.

The star quality of the actors in this movie is tops. Technicolor, still a novelty when this movie was made, beautifully captured the ranger station exteriors filmed in Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California

and the forest fire scenes filmed near Lakewood, Oregon, presumably on the Fremont National Forest. The story line, while a bit contrived, is entertaining. OldSmokeys who take the movie too seriously will have problems with aspects of it (e.g., the change in cover types from redwood to ponderosa pine, the firefighting, etc.), and need to remember “The Forest Rangers” was made to entertain—which it does even as it pays respectful tribute to the U.S. Forest Service and its national forest management mission. It's an interesting example of what movies used to be.

And the good news is I was able to order this movie on DVD for \$14.99 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling from <LovingtheClassics.com> which I found by Google search for “The Forest Rangers DVD.”

A Caveat

Both of these movies on DVD appear to have been reproduced from other than the original negatives, and the picture and sound quality suffer some for it. But they're what's available, a lot better than nothing, and well worth the nominal prices to the Forest Service movie fan.





*Historic Monte Cristo Ranger Station in June 1938, with the protection assistant's residence on the left.
U.S. Forest Service photograph courtesy of Darrington Ranger District*

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Monte Cristo Ranger Station

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin

The old Monte Cristo Ranger Station—named for the mining community of Monte Cristo where gold was discovered in 1889—was headquarters of the old Mt. Baker National Forest's Monte Cristo Ranger District from 1936 when its Civilian Conservation Corps builders finished the station's office and residence until 1982 when the district was added to the Darrington Ranger District headquartered in Darrington. At some time during the 46-year period, the name Monte Cristo Ranger Station was changed to Verlot Ranger Station.

Now called Verlot Public Service Center, the historic ranger station provides information services to about 50 thousand Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest visitors each year. Additionally, the center houses new interpretive exhibits that help connect visitors with the national forest, gateway communities, and the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway. Eleven miles east of Granite Falls, Washington, it's open during the summer visitor season.



Verlot Public Service Center as it appears today.

The Way We Were

"It's a Dead Sheep!"

By Les Joslin

I was on patrol in the Twin Lakes area early one August 1966 afternoon. It had been a slow morning, and just as I began to wish the pace would pick up, it did. But not in any way I expected.

"D-4-5, this is KMB-652." It was Pam, the district clerk.

"KMB-652, D-4-5, over."

"Les, we've had a couple reports of a dead sheep in the Honeymoon Flat Campground. Will you check it out, please?"

A dead sheep? I hadn't seen a sheep in the Twin Lakes basin for days. This one, I surmised, must be a stray from the Summers Meadow allotment. Oh, well, all in a day's work. Hoping the poor critter wouldn't be too ripe, I responded affirmatively.

A few minutes later I approached Honeymoon Flat. The sheep wasn't difficult to locate. Lying just off the highway, on the road into the campground, it appeared to have drawn more people than flies since its demise. A small crowd's attention shifted to me as I pulled up alongside the woolly carcass.

"Howdy," I said to no one in particular, closing the patrol truck door behind me. A cool afternoon breeze blew off the Sierra and stirred the aspen.

"It's a dead sheep!" explained a helpful bystander. I nodded agreement and smiled thanks for his assessment. "Are you going to get rid of it?"

"Yes, sir." Scratching my head briefly, I sized up the problem and then, in reluctant resignation, strode purposefully toward part of the solution. The crowd's eyes followed intently.

Fortunately, the campground garbage had been collected recently, and I found an almost empty can. Quickly transferring its contents to another, I hauled the can back and pushed it under the ewe. Because dead animals don't exactly leap into garbage cans, I had to pry this one into its casket with a shovel. Once the animal was in the can, I set it upright and slapped on the lid. Then, dropping the tailgate to the horizontal position, I dragged the canned sheep to the rear of the patrol truck. There was just enough room for the can to ride behind the pumper unit and the fire tool box.

But one problem remained. That was one heavy garbage can! I doubt I could have lifted it, at least not gracefully. But an independent streak doesn't allow me to ask for help—even in situations like that. With all eyes on me, I stooped to pick it up.

"Here, let me give you a hand," volunteered a burly fellow.

"Thanks."

We easily lifted the can onto the tailgate, where I lashed it securely in place. Having a dead sheep fall off one's patrol truck onto the highway, it seemed to me, would be most embarrassing. With a ripple of applause and a few chuckles, the crowd dispersed. And the sheep was soon disposed of in the nearby Forest Service dump I would burn in a few days.

Adapted from Toiyabe Patrol: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s. Bend, Oregon: Wilderness Associates, 2006.

My First Forest Service Job

Satsop Guard Station, 1957

By Bill Ciesla

Photographs by the author

I signed up for the U.S. Forest Service student trainee program in 1957 while a freshman forestry student at the State University of New York College of Forestry at Syracuse (SUNY ESF). The program promised seasonal jobs and opportunities for practical experience. About 10 days later, I was offered a job on the Shelton Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest. I had never heard of Shelton or the Olympic National Forest. However, I eagerly accepted the job, much to the dismay of my parents who thought it was a terribly long way from home.

In early June, I teamed up with four classmates who also had Forest Service summer jobs in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. We each piled a summer's worth of gear into a 1941 Plymouth owned by John Sherwood, one of our classmates, and drove west. We traveled across Pennsylvania, the Midwest, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, camping along the way and stopping in the Badlands and Yellowstone. We parted in Spokane, where I took a bus to Seattle and then Olympia. The following morning I checked in at the SO in Olympia, where I was directed to a local bus station and caught a bus to Shelton. The Shelton Ranger District office was located in the post office, where I learned that I was to be part of a fire crew based at a place called Satsop Guard Station, about 50 miles west of Shelton.

I arrived at Shelton on a Friday morning. Assistant District Ranger Pat Hanna offered to drive me to Satsop, or I could stay in Shelton for the weekend. Being short on money, I opted to go to Satsop and get settled in. The drive to Satsop was fascinating. I saw my first clearcuts, which to an easterner were shocking. Pat explained that these units would either regenerate naturally or be planted. We encountered several large log trucks, often hauling only one or two massive logs. Pat also explained that the district was part of the Shelton Sustained Yield Unit, which also consisted of private forest lands owned by the Simpson Timber Company. All timber sales went to Simpson, which operated sawmills in Shelton and other area communities.

We arrived at Satsop in mid-afternoon, just in time to meet the people with whom I would work. All were local hires and headed home for the weekend. I settled into the bunkhouse and spent a quiet weekend doing my own cooking and getting acquainted with my home for the next 10 weeks. Satsop was situated at the junction of two logging roads and surrounded by dense, old growth forests of hemlock, Douglas-fir, and western red cedar. It consisted of two bunkhouses; a family residence, which was occupied by Clyde Ruddell, a local school teacher who worked summers as a fire guard, his very pregnant wife, and two small children; and the cook's quarters and dining hall. The nearest settlement was Camp Grisdale, a logging camp



Satsop Guard Station, Olympic National Forest, in 1957. The circle drawn on the photograph shows the peak of Anderson Butte where the lookout by the same name was located.

owned by Simpson.

The following Monday, after the crew reassembled at Satsop, we were loaded into a bus and driven to Quilicene for a week of fire training. Here we learned the fine art of fire line construction, fire suppression, how to operate a fire finder, and proper radio use. Some members of the training team started a fire in a clearcut unit for the trainees to suppress. In the high rainfall environment of the Olympic Peninsula, it took considerably longer to get the fire going than to suppress it. Most of the permanent forest staff participated in the training, including the forest wildlife biologist who managed to hit and kill a deer en route to Quilicene and received a good roasting from the rest of the forest staff for his misdeed.

Back at Satsop, we settled into a routine of waking up at daybreak and being served a huge breakfast by Mrs. Wetter, the station's cook. We then prepared sack lunches, climbed into the back of a crew truck, and headed for clearcut units scheduled for burning later that fall. Our job was to construct fire lines around the units. Our foreman, Ed Laney, was a crusty, local woodsman. He was partial to Chevrolet pickup trucks and Homelite chainsaws, and his definition of a virgin forest was one that had never had even a woodpecker in it. The work was hard, the terrain steep and brushy. We worked regardless of the weather, and on most days it rained at least part of the day.

After returning to Satsop, Mrs. Wetter served us a hearty dinner. Our evening activities consisted of drying our wet clothes on potbelly stoves, swapping stories, and rolling the next day's supply of cigarettes using Bull Durham tobacco and a cigarette rolling machine that made cigarettes slightly fatter than the factory made ones.

A fire tower was located just above Satsop on a peak called Anderson Butte. Shortly after my arrival, I helped Fire Guard Clyde Ruddell open the tower and get Gary Vreeburg, the fire tower watchman, established for the summer. Gary was from the Netherlands and a forestry student at Washington State University in Pullman. Anderson Butte's summit consisted of a small bare rock outcrop at the end of a one-mile trail. The



Fire Crew, Satsop Guard Station, in 1957. Top row, left-to-right: Dave Timmons, Bill Tibbets, John Daniels, Steve Knox, Gary Brown, Fritz Carlson, and Art Shelton. Bottom row, left-to-right: Lisa Ruddell (Fire Guard Clyde Ruddell's daughter), Clyde Ruddell, Assistant Ranger Pat Hanna, and Morrie Jensen. Bill is not shown because he took the picture.



Anderson Butte Lookout, Olympic National Forest, in 1957.

“tower” was a small wooden structure perched on the rock. A short trail, with a rope safety line, had been carved out of the rock to provide access to the structure. The summit provided 360 degrees of stunning views of mountains covered with dark forests broken by occasional clearcut units and logging roads.

I was often pulled away from the fire crew to work with Dehn Welch, the district timber staff officer, or Sam Porrier, the district engineer, to help lay out timber sale units or new logging roads. I also worked with Jack Pitcher, who had just come on board as a tree improvement forester. Jack was a new graduate from SUNY ESF, where I was enrolled. I spent several weeks working with Jack, clearing brush from a small mound of land adjacent to the guard station to establish a seed orchard where seed from genetically superior Douglas-fir would eventually be produced. I became good friends with Dehn, Sam, and Jack, and we corresponded for several years after that summer. Even after 54 years, Jack and I still stay in touch via e-mail.

One of the projects I did for Dehn was reproduction surveys in clearcut units to determine if the level of natural regeneration was sufficient or if planting was needed. This consisted of traversing the clearcuts, establishing plots, and counting natural regeneration. After a week of working together, Dehn turned me loose and I was on my own. Most of the units were on very steep terrain. I soon learned that herds of Olympic elk, which I frequently encountered in the units, established trails that made access across the units somewhat easier.

Although I was part of a fire crew and we had a fire guard and a fire tower operator on board, wildfire on the Olympic Peninsula was a relatively minor occurrence. On a day I was working with Assistant Ranger Hanna, he decided to build a smoky fire in a clearcut to see if Gary Vreeburg, on Anderson Butte, was alert. After setting the fire, we waited for a radio transmission from Gary reporting the smoke. Nothing hap-

pened. Pat then called Gary via radio and asked him if he saw the smoke in the vicinity of our location. Minutes later, an excited voice, speaking a mixture of Dutch and English, reported the smoke.

Thursday and Friday were my days off. I spent some of my leisure time trout fishing in several small streams using salmon eggs for bait. Ed Laney told me about a swimming hole at the base of a small waterfall a short hike from Satsop, which allowed for quick dips in ice cold water. I occasionally caught a ride into Shelton and on one occasion traveled to Olympia with Sam Porrier and his wife. After he completed his business in the SO, we toured the capital building and surrounding gardens.

During the latter part of August, I participated in a one day field trip to the Quinalt Ranger District, on the western side of the forest. After we crossed a small divide, I was introduced to a tree that didn't occur on the Shelton Ranger District: Sitka spruce. We visited several areas where timber harvesting and other activities were underway, then traveled up the Quinalt River into Olympic National Park. That day, I came within five miles of the Pacific Ocean, but another 10 years passed before I actually saw it.

September arrived way ahead of schedule and before I knew it, it was time to return to school. I said goodbye to the people with whom I had worked, caught a ride to Shelton, and a bus to the Seattle-Tacoma airport. For someone who had never ventured far from New York, it was quite a summer.

Editor's Note: Bill developed an interest in forest insects during his junior year at Syracuse, and his summer 1959 Forest Service job was with the Division of Forest Insect Research at the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in Asheville, North Carolina. After completing school, Forest Service assignments as an entomologist took him to North Carolina, Louisiana, Montana, California, and Colorado. In 1988, he returned to the Pacific Northwest as director of Forest Pest Management in the RO in Portland. "Over that 30-plus year period, I looked forward to going to work about 85 percent of the time," Bill said. "There was always a new challenge to address or an opportunity to travel to a place I had never been before. It was quite a ride."

Next: Part One of Jon Stewart's First Forest Service Job



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