



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Fall 2012

## *President's Message—Mike Ash*

I'm writing this message amidst the arrival of the fall colors in beautiful Vail, Colorado, following a fantastic U.S. Forest Service retiree reunion called "Rendezvous in the Rockies." This reunion was well attended by over 650 members of our retiree family, including over a hundred OldSmokeys! It was great to see so many good friends, many of whom were anxious to check in on those of you who were not able to attend. I am so proud to be a part of our great Forest Service family. I honestly cannot think of another organization in the world whose members maintain such a great relationship as we do.

Speaking of our Forest Service family, I want to point out that the OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) are the largest and probably most active of all the Forest Service retiree organizations. I've been thinking a lot about the fine cadre of men and women who keep our PNWFSA going. This cadre includes the Board of Directors, the various committee members, those of you who step up and take on the responsibility to coordinate an event or publish a book or write an article for the newsletter, or any of the other logistical items it takes to keep things working for our organization of 920+ members. Sometimes I cringe a bit when I think that it might be time to give some of these workhorses a break even as I worry that their work might be missed.

One example of such a workhorse is OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** who (with assistance from Jessie, of course!) has been handling our database needs for almost 18 years. I know that it is truly time we get a replacement to fill this vital position. There are other examples of members who have been carrying a lot of responsibility for our organization and whose heavy loads should be passed along to those of us willing and able to invest energy and enthusiasm in keeping our proud organization in operation.

I thank all now carrying those loads for all they do.

And I ask each of you to take personal note of opportunities to step up and help out. Doing your part is a very important part of keeping our OldSmokeys organization going and growing and vital and vibrant for the long run.

*Mike Ash*

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Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: [www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)

*Annual Dues for 2013 are due January 1. See page 7!*

## Forum

### The Evolving U.S. Forest Service Workforce Has Real Merit

I have been retired for several years now, and have enjoyed my association with the OldSmokeys network. The newsletter and forum are valuable for sharing ideas and keeping us all abreast as the Forest Service continues to evolve. I have been particularly interested in the discussions about how the Forest Service needs to change to meet today's demands.

There are several recommendations that I agree with, such as developing clarity and realism in leadership's expectations, and in reducing the administrative load on people trained and needed to do other things. I would suggest a different perspective, however, from some of the discussions about the capabilities and commitment of the Forest Service workforce and their ability to meet the agency mission.

I have had the opportunity for continued interactions with the newer workforce through some work, recreation, and other community involvement. Most of these employees are impressive, not only in their skills, but in their passion and commitment. I believe we share many common values across these generational lines, although we may express these values in different ways. The traditions that have served us in the past need to be honored and understood. However, if the Forest Service is to stay relevant to those they serve, the outfit needs these young minds and talents to help the agency stay connected with a public that for many different reasons is distancing itself from the natural world and all it has to offer.

Through our careers, we made changes in what we did and how we did it. We made those changes as a means of staying relevant as an agency. I have confidence in what I continue to see in our newer and mid-career employees. I believe they can meet similar challenges. As we discuss how the outfit should continue to evolve, it is my belief that there is the commitment, passion, and character within the workforce to successfully take on where we left off. They may not do it as we did, but they will do it.

--Jeff Blackwood

### The Evolving U.S. Forest Service Workforce Has Real Problems

If you look back on the last fifteen years or so and seriously look at what has happened to our national forests it makes one wonder if we have total idiots in charge.

The amount of money spent fighting [the] large fires [of recent years] could do wonders for our forests if it were put on the ground and managed by people with authority to cut through the political and environmental baloney.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out what needs to be done. I grew up in the Forest Service. I rode with my dad most summers as he did his fire management job.

I spent my Forest Service career in fire management and watched the outfit fall apart as it was managed by people who

had very little background in or knowledge of what really needed to be done. The outfit has been more worried about diversity than about having well qualified employees. Most of what they knew or thought they knew was taught to them by professors in many liberal colleges.

The folks who made the Forest Service *what it was* were people with a good work ethic, a lot of common sense, and a willingness to stand up and be counted. They also lived in the rural communities where they worked. There are a lot of Forest Service employees who don't even know the ground (district) well enough to make good decisions.

It was a big, big mistake to consolidate districts and move folks to larger towns. When you live out on ranger stations you take action more quickly on fires, feel the effects as the locals do, and in most cases have the support of the local communities. There is no way you can live in the cities and make good decisions about our national forests.

It's time to back the train up!

'Nuff said.

--Gary Starkovich

### The Evolving U.S. Forest Service Workforce Deserves Real Direction and Mission-focused Leadership

I agree with OldSmokey **Jeff Blackwell**, a former forest supervisor, that many newer U.S. Forest Service personnel "are impressive, not only in their skills, but in their passion and commitment" and share his belief "they can meet similar challenges" to those their predecessors met—and newer and more difficult challenges. I know, however, they can succeed only if Congress defines in law and supports in funding a clear mission and only if the Forest Service directs their skills, passion and commitment toward accomplishing that mission.

I agree with OldSmokey **Gary Starkovich**, a former fire management officer, that the Forest Service must return physically and psychologically to the ground it manages, and actively maintain healthy forests less prone to catastrophic wildfires, rather than spend money fighting catastrophic wildfires in unhealthy forests that result from a lack of "preventive maintenance" forest management. This wouldn't be a return to "the good old days" of a storied past but a necessary approach to a real future for both the agency and the forests.

I believe that Jeff and Gary and many others of good will would—and, indeed, must, if the National Forest System and the Forest Service are to survive—rally around the practical natural resource management and agency personnel development that clear mission direction from Congress, refocused leadership within the Forest Service, and a halfway decent budget could evolve and implement efficiently and effectively.

I believe Jeff's newer Forest Service people of skills, passion, and commitment deserve, and Gary's constructive community involvement would benefit from, a personnel development program that included an entry-level forest officer course at some form of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy.

—Les Joslin

## High School Boys Could Make Good Brush Crews Again

In April 1949, a U.S. Forest Service ranger named Cox from the Boise National Forest visited my high school in Payette, Idaho, and told junior and senior boys that he wanted to hire some of us to be members of brush crews for eight weeks beginning about the end of May. I signed up.

The location of the area to be cleared was in the Boise National Forest about 15 miles north of Ola, Idaho.

About 12 boys from various communities in the Snake River Valley were hired and taught the basics of clearing and piling brush for burning in the winter. I had to learn how to chop limbs off fallen trees with a double bit axe and then move the limbs to a burn pile without hurting myself or one of the others.

It was a positive experience for all of us, and some of us even kept in touch later at college or in the service during the Korean Conflict.

Hiring youths for brush crews cannot be done today because of various government regulations, but if Congress heard about the potential of youth brush crews perhaps they could be instituted again. It helps the kid, as he learns skills in handling and caring for a double bit axe, and he meets and works with other youths in positive activities at job sites.

We also learned how to budget our funds to pay for our meals and lodging at the camp, and to appreciate the cook and the bunkhouse we lived in. Each of us ended up with about \$50 to take home at the end of our labors. If we had just stayed home, we probably would not have had a job and earned any summer money.

—Jim Duncan

*Editor's Note: Jim wrote this to OldSmokey Vern Clapp in response to OldSmokeys eForum No. 192 on Forest Service fire policy. Youth crews do work on national forests, but not to the extent or with the effectiveness they could if they were better organized and supervised*

## OldSmokeys Newsletter Article on H.R. 4089 Sportsmen's Heritage Act Missed the Objectivity Mark

OldSmokeys Steve Mealey and Gladys Biglor have correctly criticized me for some sloppy reporting in the case of the Summer 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* article "U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Effort Could Change if Sportsmen's Heritage Act Gets Senate and Presidential Approval" published on pages 13-14 of the *Forest Service News* section.

"I was deeply disappointed in the tone and inference of the [article] on H.R. 4089," Steve wrote on July 19, 2012. "The Boone and Crockett Club of which I am a member and many partners of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) made up of hunting/conservation organizations worked very hard for its passage. As wilderness advocates and proponents, we would never have dreamed it possible for interest groups to conjure an argument that the language in Sec. 104(e)(1) was a threat to wilderness. I can find no language that

supports the assertion that the bill allows for motor vehicle use, road construction, and logging in wilderness. I would like to see a more balanced view of the issue than the Wilderness Watch analysis cited presented in a future *OldSmokeys Newsletter* edition."

"After reading this article I needed to 'pick my jaw off the floor,'" Gladys wrote on July 25, 2012. "Information in the article, as well as the articles' tone, indicates the change would be harmful to wilderness areas. ... 'How can this Act be harmful to wilderness?' I asked myself, being familiar with the legislation as it was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in February 2012. I decided to conduct my own analysis beginning with the legislation. What I discovered is a thoughtful piece of legislation written by outdoor groups having decades-long histories of resource protection as well as understanding of and respect for our public lands." Gladys provided the results of her detailed analysis.

Steve provided a very helpful detailed analysis prepared by attorney Bill Horn of Birch, Horton, Bittner & Cherot of Washington, D.C., that definitively details how H.R. 4089 does not "open up" wilderness as indicated by the bill's opponents. "The bill as passed by the House simply does NOT open Wilderness areas to motorized vehicles, does NOT 'allow industrial development of Wilderness areas' and does NOT 'prohibit adequate NEPA review.' These are red herrings, peddled by bill opponents, refuted time and again over the past few months," Mr. Horn wrote in introduction to his analysis.

Steve and Gladys were correct to take me to task as they did. I have reviewed the piece and have found my effort to summarize the issue from both viewpoints seriously lacking—uncharacteristically so, I hope. I could have done a more balanced job had I added the words "Opponents Claim" to the end of the headline and rephrased the final sentence to reflect that the conclusion it expressed should have been attributed to the opponents of the bill rather than appear to reflect a fact not in evidence. I could have done a still more balanced job by including the proponents' case.

Steve and Gladys were also characteristically gracious."Very good response," Steve replied to my explanation of my failure. "You do a fine and thankless job with the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and I for one appreciate it." Gladys shared "...how much I appreciate your hard work making the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* the success it is. It is obvious that you put a lot of time and effort into it. Too few of us get the chance to thank you. I appreciate your concern that you missed the mark on that article. Count me in as a faithful *OldSmokeys Newsletter* reader."

I recognize that the way in which I wrote the piece did not reflect the reportorial objectivity for which I strive in discharging the *OldSmokeys Newsletter's* charge to keep its readers apprised of Forest Service news and issues.

Thanks, Steve and Gladys!

--Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

## OldSmokeys News

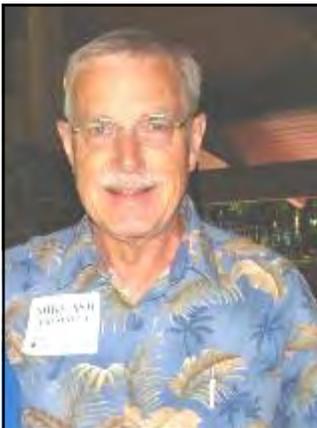
### OldSmokeys Gathered Near Mt. Hood for August 10 Summer Picnic in the Woods

A throng of 134 OldSmokeys and two kids enjoyed the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s annual Summer Picnic in the Woods at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood on a sunny and warm Saturday, August 10, 2012.

As shown in the photographs below, these OldSmokeys reveled in good companionship and good food. There aren’t many things OldSmokeys do better than enjoy picnics!

*OldSmokey picnics are about good chow, sure. And there was plenty on August 10. But OldSmokeys picnics are also about good people. Among the many at this picnic were **Mike Ash**, enjoying his presidential picnic (below, left), **Zane & Betty Smith** (below, right), and **Jack Smith and Robbie Robertson** (bottom).*

*Photographs by OldSmokey Paul Enberg*



### OldSmokeys Enjoyed September 2012 “Rendezvous in the Rockies” Reunion in Beautiful Vail, Colorado

Some 650 U.S. Forest Service retirees and spouses—including over a hundred OldSmokeys—converged on the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort in beautiful Vail, Colorado, for the “Rendezvous in the Rockies” that was Forest Service Reunion 2012 put on by the Rocky Mountain Region retirees.

Five days of breakfasts and banquets, receptions and meetings, presentations and panels, exhibits and silent auction and store, field trips and—especially—renewed friendship and real fellowship sped by.

#### Monday, September 17

Monday was a day of arrival and registration for many, a field trip to Aspen for some, the annual meeting of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) for many more presided over by OldSmokey **Jim Golden** at which many vital issues were addressed, and a rousing welcoming reception that evening for all.

While the first snow of the coming season arrived in the mountains with the retirees, the rest of the week was warm and sunny.

#### Tuesday, September 18

Following a morning opening ceremony presided over by Rendezvous Chair and OldSmokey **Tom Thompson** that included a rousing “Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Region” film and presentation of the colors by members of the legendary 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell delivered his “State of the Forest Service” address. The state of the Forest Service is “great,” he asserted. The Forest Service is emphasizing ecosystem restoration, responding to the growing threat of wildland fire, developing stronger relationships with communities, putting safety first, and working toward a stronger and more diverse workforce with more “bench strength.”

Professor Patty Limerick, Director of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, followed with words of wit and wisdom in her “Tradition and Change in the Forest Service: Reflections of an Armchair Quarterback and Grateful Citizen” keynote address that challenged the Forest Service to look to its traditions as it looks to its future. She identified four great Forest Service traditions that remain the foundation of the agency: we emphasize managing water and watersheds; we challenge disconnects between resource production and resource consumption; we have a treasury of knowledge and expertise of living with responsibility; and we have a “can do spirit.”

She noted two core causes of stress on the Forest Service: the demand for resources that resulted from the post World War II expansion and baby boom and the surge of environmental legislation during the 1960s and 1970s that constrain resource use to meet that demand. Rather than thinking of use vs. conservation, we need to promote the idea of use and conservation to deal with that stress. We must promote and facilitate changing

attitudes toward and expectations of nature. We must make every effort to bring conservation and democracy together. As we move toward the future, we must think in larger units of time.

“If you have identified a problem, stop whining about it and do something about it,” she urged.

“When shifting paradigms, it is important to put in the clutch,” she admonished.

And she passed on this timely quote from Gifford Pinchot: “It is a greater thing to be a good citizen than to be a good Republican or a good Democrat.”

Tuesday afternoon brought panel discussions on changing realities and the good old days, an author’s forum, the Gathering of the Regions reception, and the premiere showing of the Pinchot Institute’s new film “Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot” introduced by Chief Emeritus Dale Bosworth.

### *Wednesday, September 19*

Wednesday was field trip day. Early morning found many leaving on field trips accorded the following descriptive names: South Canyon Fire, Leadville Railroad, Leadville Fall Colors and Museum, Georgetown Railroad, Vail Mountain Tree Planting, Mayflower Gulch Hike, Colorado River Float Trip, and Camp Hale Jeep Trip.

That jeep trip proved quite an adventure. As reported in *The Rendezvous Daily Rag* (Yep! The reunion had its own newspaper!): “Our trip had three surprises. First Lakota guides didn’t realize that we wanted to hit Camp Hale. But they were willing to go with the flow. Second was that their vehicle broke down. So they brought a van and we went with the flow. During lunch at Cinnamon Pass, we discovered that their stove didn’t work and our tacos could only be eaten cold. So we went with the flow and they were tasty! The best part of the day was hearing from Wes Carlson on his experiences of being a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division during World War II. We got to hear history straight from someone who was there.... We all had a great time.... On the whole, couldn’t have had a better day.”

President Theodore Roosevelt (alias Joe Wiegand of Sewanee, Tennessee, professional portrayer of the great president), who earlier in the day visited area schools, was on hand to welcome field trippers back to the Marriott in time for the evening’s Top of the Mountain barbeque during which he regaled the diners from the bully pulpit and the Fiddlin’ Foresters and cowboy poet Doc Mehl entertained.

### *Thursday, September 20*

Thursday began with the Chief’s Campfire—a panel of former Forest Service chiefs including OldSmokeys **Max Peterson**, **Dale Robertson**, and **Jack Ward Thomas** along with Mike Dombeck, Dale Bosworth, and Gail Kimbell moderated by President Theodore Roosevelt—followed by a Young Leaders Panel of six young Forest Service leaders introduced by President Theodore Roosevelt and moderated by Deputy Chief for the National Forest System Leslie Weldon.

Lunchtime found the National Museum of Forest Service History holding its annual meeting and luncheon. In addition to Museum updates, Lynn Bidding and OldSmokey **John Sandor**

were honored with the Gary G. Brown Founder’s Award, and Dave Stock was honored for his leadership of the Museum project. Those in attendance broke into song with an updated version of the Smokey Bear song that recognized Dave’s efforts.

“Pack your own mule” concurrent sessions after lunch involved two choices among ten offerings on different issues of interest.

An outdoor reception was followed by the gala Rendezvous Banquet during which all enjoyed a delicious dinner and NAFSR’s prestigious John R. McGuire Award was presented to District Ranger Timothy Love, Seely Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. The National Museum of Forest Service History presented its Conservation Legacy Award to Arch Coal, and Chief Tidwell presented the Forest Service Volunteer of the Year Award to White River National Forest volunteer Jon Chambers. Then OldSmokey **Rich Stem** battled hoarseness to conduct the live auction of several fabulous prizes that—along with the week-long silent auction—benefitted the National Museum of Forest Service History. Extremely enjoyable and especially poignant was the Fiddlin’ Foresters penultimate performance at the banquet during which they offered their rousing rendition of “Smokey the Bear” and many other favorites.

### *Friday, September 21*

“Rendezvous in the Rockies” closed at a Friday morning breakfast that featured a video recap of the week’s events, comments by Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon and Rendezvous Chair Tom Thompson who shared the story of the reunion’s birth at a party at the home of OldSmokeys **Lyle & Pam Laverty**, Southwestern Region Amigo Lou Romero’s announcement of the 2015 “Rally on the Rio” Forest Service reunion in Albuquerque (see article below), the fitting winning of the Ruby the Mule sculpture drawing by veteran muleskinner Jim Ficke of Steamboat Springs, and traveling music by the Fiddlin’ Foresters in their final performance (see article below).

Before noon most of those 650 attendees—ponderosa pine seedlings from the Bessey Nursery in Nebraska entrusted to some—had dispersed on all azimuths and the September 17 to 21, 2012, “Rendezvous in the Rockies” was history.

## *Amigos Announce Albuquerque Reunion*

Lou Romero of the Southwest Forest Service Amigos announced the next national U.S. Forest Service reunion called “Rally on the Rio” set for the week of October 12 to 16, 2015,



in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This reunion is scheduled for the week after the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival to permit early arrivals to experience that world class event and, Lou hinted, facilitate rides in the famous Smokey Bear balloon.

Lou asked and answered the “How are you going to top this reunion?” question with “We’re not even going to try. ‘Rendezvous in the Rockies’ will remain its own legacy.”

Watch future issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for information about this next great reunion.

### ***Fiddlin’ Foresters’ Final Performance?***

The Fiddlin’ Foresters, a musical group of employees and volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Region long known as the “official old-time string band of the U.S. Forest Service,” appear to have retired after playing for almost two decades in support of the outfit and its mission. Their “Rendezvous in the Rockies” appearance is said to be their last.

The band, which played more than 300 concerts in 25 states during almost two decades, took off in 1994 when it played at Smokey Bear’s fiftieth anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. It performed at a variety of local, state, national, and international events and meetings, state fairs, the 2002 Winter Olympics, the National Western Stock Show, teacher workshops and elementary schools, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Big Burn Centennial, Gifford Pinchot’s historic home at Grey Towers, and various Forest Service meetings and events. The group received the prestigious Forest Service Chief’s Award and the Rocky Mountain Region’s Regional Forester’s Honor Award for its unique interpretive musical program.

As part of the effort to cut the federal deficit, the group’s government website was eliminated in early 2011 and Uncle Sam was unburdened of the site’s \$20 annual fee cited as an example of wasteful spending. And so, after nearly two decades singing about fire prevention and public land stewardship, the Fiddlin’ Foresters claim to have retired. But few who enjoyed them at “Rendezvous in the Rockies” would be surprised if they showed up at “Rally on the Rio” in 2015.

*Prepared from personal observation, articles from Pat Thrasher’s “Rendezvous Daily Rag,” and other sources.*

### **OldSmokeys Participated in July 17-18 “Revitalizing the National Forest System” Strategic Planning Meeting in Sacramento**

Several OldSmokeys were among 53 representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and its retirees, the U.S. Congress, state and local governments, academia and associations who participated in the July 17-18, 2012, strategic planning meeting conducted to encourage the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. Government to take constructive action soon to ensure appropriate futures for the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service.

The meeting at the McClellan Business Park in Sacramento, California, was organized by the Institute for the Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfires, a branch of the Northern California

Resource Center, a 501(c)(3) organization based in Fort Jones, California, and also sponsored by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR). Key organizers were Board Chair Bruce Courtright and Executive Director Larry Alexander of the Institute.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Jack Ward Thomas** and Dean Hal Salwasser of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University opened the meeting with their views of the national forest situation and the challenges faced by the Forest Service. Frank Gladics, a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate’s Energy and Natural Resources Committee added his perspective, as did county commissioners and others from California, Oregon, and Arizona. This overview helped participants discuss how to tackle the complex issues of revitalizing the National Forest System through congressional action that would clarify the Forest Service’s mission and improve its ability to implement that mission.

There was general consensus among participants that a comprehensive legislative overhaul, not more patchwork legislation, is essential to revitalization of both the National Forest System and the Forest Service. All in attendance were impressed by the magnitude of this challenge.

The challenge is based on general consensus among participants that the Forest Service has lost public confidence and must regain that confidence through steps that would include:

- Improving selection and training of line officers capable of providing quality leadership internally and expert collaboration with local governments, tribes, and citizens
- Sharing management of some national forest lands with local governments and citizens, perhaps through some form of stewardship
- Revising fire policy and management through swift and transparent change led by the Chief
- Cutting the “chains” forged by Congress and the courts that “bind Forest Service leaders and others”

Recognizing that more “patchwork” and “band-aid” legislation would not fix the problems, there was “real support for an innovative, game-changing piece of legislation that [would provide] a clear mission to the Forest Service and in support of the National Forest System, and [would allow] for more local control of the forests.”

There was concern over “the possibility of breaking the Forest Service up or giving its mission to others” that was reinforced by one well-placed participant’s observation that he would not be surprised if the Forest Service were transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior soon. A basis for this concern is “the ability of other organizations to deal with the huge challenges that face our largest land management agency.”

In addition to Chief Thomas, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) was represented by OldSmokeys **Jim Golden**, also Chairman of NAFSR; **John Marker**, Pacific Northwest Director of NAFSR and editor of NAFSR’s *The Lookout*; and **Les Joslin**, editor of PNWFSA’s *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. OldSmokeys **Lyle Laverty** and **Zane Smith** were scheduled but unable to attend.

*Prepared from personal participation and observation and from meeting programs and reports.*



*Lifetime Membership, Emergency Fund Donation Opportunities*

**OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2013 are Due and Payable on January 1**

It's that time of year for OldSmokeys who pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) dues on an annual basis to pay those **Annual Dues**. Please use the coupon below to send in your \$20 to do just that by January 1, 2013.

This is also a good time of the year to think about converting your PNWFSA annual membership to a **Lifetime Membership** for \$250 that lets you forget about paying annual dues ever again! You can use the coupon below to do just that!

And, also, this is a good time to make a generous tax-deductible contribution to PNWFSA's recently renamed **Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund** established last year to help out Forest Service folks in distress. You can use the coupon below to do just that, too!

Finally, you can use this truly "multiple-use" form to update your contact information for the **Changes** section of the next newsletter and to share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the **Letters** section of the next newsletter.

What more is there to say but to invite you to please "Do it now!"

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association**

**Bill for Collection for Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and Donation to Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund**

Please make your check(s) for \$20 Annual Dues or \$250 Lifetime Membership Dues and the amount you may wish to contribute to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund payable to PNWFSA and mail to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ First Year of PNWFSA Membership — \$0 (free)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Renewal — \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership — \$250.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Fund Donation — \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Any changes to your contact information? \_\_\_\_\_

While you're at it, please share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the **Letters** section of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in the space below. Add additional pages if necessary.

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## OldSmokeys Played Key Roles in 2012 Fish Lake Historic Area Events

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL)—many OldSmokeys among them—held their annual work week at the Fish Lake Historic Area—the old Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest—on June 11 to June 15. During this productive week, the FFL volunteers completed the information kiosk constructed last June, removed and replaced the siding on the south wall of the open storage building, continued restoration work on the Hall House, and did other jobs on Jim Denney’s long list. Also, on June 11, they enjoyed the traditional potluck dinner and the FFL Board of Directors met.

Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** recognized the FFL for the volunteer restoration work the organization has accomplished at the Fish Lake Historic Area during the past several years. Many FFL members are OldSmokeys. The recognition came in the form of a certificate and a plaque. The certificate, signed by Regional Forester Connaughton and dated January 2012, reads:

**Certificate of Merit  
presented to  
Friends of Fish Lake  
for exceptional work accomplished through  
contribution of volunteer services to  
USDA Forest Service**

The plaque recognizing this outstanding work now hangs in the Dispatch Cabin at the historic ranger station.

“They come out of love for this place and the Forest Service era it represents,” FFL President and OldSmokey **Mike Kerriick** said of the regional forester’s award. “It certainly helps them coming back every year to know that their work is appreciated. The annual barbeque dinner put on by the McKenzie River Ranger District is another way the Forest Service shows the FFL volunteers are a special group.”

Quite a few OldSmokeys who are Willamette National Forest alumni and FFL members were among the more than 150 current personnel, retirees, friends and families who gathered at Fish Lake Historic Area on July 20 to celebrate the Willamette National Forest’s centennial. In addition to visiting with each other and enjoying the historic site, they watched mule packing demonstrations by retired Forest Service packer and OldSmokey **Betty Applebaker** who packed out of Fish Lake Remount Depot, listened to music by Riders in the Dirt, enjoyed a catered lunch, visited information booths set up by the Sand Mountain Society and FFL, watched crosscut saw demonstrations, and shared oral histories.

*Prepared from multiple sources including OldSmokey Dick Connelly and “Willamette NF Holds Centennial Celebration” in August 7, 2012, issue of The R6 BiWeekly Update, the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service edited by Katie Isacksen.*

**The editor thanks  
Pat Joslin  
for her continued invaluable services to production of the  
OldSmokeys Newsletter.**

## OldSmokeys Welcomed 1,451 Visitors to High Desert Ranger Station in 2012

Nine OldSmokeys—**Carl Anderson, Rico Burgess, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Don Doyle, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**—and non-OldSmokey volunteers Dave Gilbert and Donna Noyes welcomed 1,451 visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, between July 1 and September 3 this summer. That’s about 22 visitors per five-hour day and 104 fewer than the 1,555 who visited the OldSmokeys-sponsored exhibit during a two-day longer season last summer.

Additional interpretive opportunities at the ranger station this summer included an Osborne firefinder used to show visitors how wildfires are detected and located and a fire danger station used to explain the environmental factors that contribute to wildfire danger. Both helped volunteers pass on wildfire prevention messages as the West suffered an especially severe wildfire season.

OldSmokeys will staff the High Desert Ranger Station again next summer. For information, contact OldSmokey Les Joslin at 541-330-0331 or (better yet, since Les is often out of town) by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

## OldSmokeys Approved \$3,000 in Grants to Three Projects in 2012

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) at their July 27, 2012, meeting approved three \$1,000 grants to support projects that further PNWFSA goals and meet PNWFSA criteria.

The High Desert Museum was awarded \$1,000 to supply materials for an interactive wildfire management agreement.

The Siskiyou Mountain Club was awarded \$1,000 to help restore a trail in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Forests Forever was awarded \$1,000 to support its youth engagement and enrichment program at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

A request from the Gold Beach Ranger District on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to support its Wild Horse Lookout restoration project was deferred because the grant would go to the U.S. Forest Service. PNWFSA funds are intended to encourage partnerships with other organizations.

The PNWFSA’s status as an Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation requires use of funds earned for public service projects.

## OldSmokeys to Accept Grant Applications for Projects Meeting PNWFSA Criteria

Again in 2013, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) will accept applications to help fund projects that further PNWFSA goals within the Pacific Northwest.

Applications are invited from private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations pursuing such goals. Grants will not be made directly to the U.S. Forest Service. Applications

will be due January 1, 2013.

**Grant policy**

Grants are awarded to organizations that satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors on February 27, 2009. This policy specifies “Grants 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 will apply to every proposal, but running through this checklist should help the PNWFSA get the most bang for its buck. Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifications and criteria.

**OldSmokey Bob Tokarczyk Honored at World Forestry Center Hall of Fame**

The World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon, inducted OldSmokey **Bob Tokarczyk** into its Leadership Hall of Fame in September 2012.

Bob’s U.S. Forest Service career in the Pacific Northwest Region included assignments on ranger districts in Oregon and Washington and service as forest supervisor on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest when Mount St. Helens erupted in May 1980. The salvage and rehabilitation of the area were accomplished under his guidance.

Also inducted on that date was Jim Rombach, a retired Weyerhaeuser Company forester.

In 1971, the World Forestry Center established a unique tradition of honoring those who have contributed significantly to advancing sustainable forestry and/or advancing forest products worldwide. An elite collection of biographies of 201 such influential persons is located in the black walnut chests on the second floor of the Center’s Discovery Museum. Bob’s and Jim’s Leadership Hall of Fame biographies are on view during regular museum hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Contributions in honor of Bob and Jim for their Leadership Hall of Fame induction support the World Forestry Center’s forestry education programs. To donate to this recognition of two inspirational forestry professionals, contact Maria Jeffrey, Director of Development, by telephone at 503-488-2111 or by e-mail at <mjeffrey@worldforestry.org>.

The World Forestry Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that educates people about environmental stewardship of the world’s forests and trees.

*Prepared from a June 19, 2012, World Forestry Center press release.*

**OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Elected ASLA Fellow**

OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, whose work as a landscape architect and scenic byways program leader on the Deschutes National Forest has received national notice, has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and is now entitled to put the letters FASLA after her name.

Election as a fellow is among the highest honors professional societies grant their members. Only two other U.S. Forest Service landscape architects and two other Oregon women have been so honored.

A graduate of Mt. Holyoke College with a bachelor of arts degree in sculpture, Robin spent her junior year at Dartmouth College in environmental design. She attended the University of Hawaii graduate school of architecture and urban and regional planning and then decided to focus on environmental design by earning her bachelor of landscape architecture (BLA) and master of landscape architecture (MLA) degrees at the University of Oregon. She worked in private practice for several years and joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1987.

During her career on the Deschutes National Forest, Robin has demonstrated the community leadership and management qualities for which she was nominated by the Oregon Chapter of ASLA both for her Forest Service work and as a civic-minded citizen.

On the job, Robin’s innovative efforts in communities and on surrounding public lands—expressed in scenic byways and rivers, national forests and a national monument, and designated wildernesses and conservation areas—have set the standard for conservation education, natural and heritage resource interpretation, and accessibility. Her planning efforts have brought three million dollars in grants to Central Oregon to initiate and continue Forest Service projects. Working with her Forest Service colleagues, Robin has played seminal roles in such recent and ongoing projects as a new Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway welcome station, historic Forest Service guard station restoration and adaptive reuse projects, and interpretive signs, museum exhibits, and outdoor classrooms that encourage respectful recreation on public lands.

As a community member, Robin has shared her professional abilities and perspectives with several regional and community development organizations.

“I’m happy to know that excellence in design and storytelling are powerful tools that landscape architects can use to preserve land and culture and teach a conservation ethic,” Robin said. “Being recognized by my peers is the highest honor there is. It makes me glad to see my efforts in shaping public policy



*Robin Gyorgyfalvy  
Photograph by Les Joslin*

have had a huge impact on how landscape architects shape public lands, respectful recreation, and cultural connection.”

Robin and ASLA’s other 32 fellows-elect were recognized at ASLA’s September 28 to October 1, 2012, Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

*Prepared from an interview with Robin Gyorgyfalvy; a Wall Street Journal Market Watch press release by ASLA’s Karen Trimbath “ASLA Honors 33 Outstanding Members with Fellowship” of June 12, 2012; and the article “ASLA Honors a FS Architect with Fellowship” in the July 2, 2012, issue of The BiWeekly R6 Update, the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service edited by Katie Isacksen.*

## OldSmokey Steve Mealey Co-authored Article on Hazards for Protected Species in Fire-prone Landscapes

“We documented that the long-term risks of management inaction to northern spotted owls in fire-prone forests in the West exceeds the short-term risks of restoration management,” OldSmokey **Steve Mealey** summarized a study titled “Comparative hazard assessment for protected species in a fire-prone landscape” that was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Forest Ecology and Management* 277 this year.

Along with co-authors Gary J. Roloff of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University and John D. Bailey of the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management at Oregon State University, Steve “conducted a comparative hazard assessment for 325,000 ha [one hectare is about 2.45 acres] in a fire-prone area of southwest Oregon [to evaluate] the effects of two management strategies on crown fire potential and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis carolina*) conservation: (1) no action, and (2) active manipulation of hazardous fuels,” according to the abstract of the article. They concluded that “... active management reduces fire hazard and provides better habitat conditions for spotted owls over the long term” based on their analysis of the interactions between management regime and northern spotted owl habitat conservation in a dry forest landscape of the Pacific Northwest.

“We caution that this finding warrants landscape-level field evaluation and structured adaptive management and monitoring prior to broad scale adoption as environmental policy,” the authors said in the abstract.



*Bob Boyd discussed moving an historic ranger station office building to the High Desert Museum with District Ranger Steve Williams, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, in 2008.*

*Photograph by Les Joslin*

## OldSmokey Bob Boyd Has Retired from The High Desert Museum

OldSmokey **Bob Boyd**, who became a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) member in October 2006 for his outstanding contributions to U.S. Forest Service history, retired as Curator of Western History at The High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, at the end of August 2012 after more than 30 years there. He will continue his “day job” as a middle school history teacher.

Bob, well known for telling the stories of the myriad cultures—the buckaroos, the Basques, the Chinese, and others—of the Intermountain West, worked with OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees and resources to develop the “Century of Service: The U.S. Forest Service in the High Desert 1905-2005” exhibit that from mid-2005 to mid-2007 celebrated our outfit’s first 100 years. This was the largest and most complete U.S. Forest Service centennial exhibit in the nation.

Again working with OldSmokeys, Bob acquired the historic 1933 district ranger’s office structure that in June 2008 was moved 550 miles from Reese River, Nevada, and restored at The High Desert Museum as the High Desert Ranger Station staffed by OldSmokeys daily every summer since. Museum visitors to the ranger station exhibit learn of the roles the Forest Service and the National Forest System play in sustaining the natural resources that sustained those who pioneered the region.

It was fitting that Bob’s final presentation at the Museum, on the evening of July 31, focused on the Forest Service’s first century. At the Museum’s annual meeting on September 7, the OldSmokeys recognized Bob’s contributions to Forest Service history with a letter of appreciation and a ready-to-hang large color photograph of the High Desert Ranger Station. OldSmokeys were well represented on both occasions.

Bob and his knowledge and talents won’t completely disappear. Again fittingly, he plans to serve as an OldSmokey staffer at the High Desert Ranger Station starting next summer.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

## OldSmokeys Need New Database Manager Now!

Your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association needs now to replace OldSmokey **Vern Clapp**—who’s done the job well for almost 18 years and needs a break—in the critical position of the PNWFSA **Database Manager** without which our fine association simply cannot continue to do its business.

If you are willing and able to step up and take on this key job, please contact PNWFSA President **Mike Ash** or Vern as soon as possible for details and to begin the transition.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

## OldSmokeys Renamed Emergency Fund for Deceased OldSmokey Elmer Moyer

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) at its July 27, 2012, meeting unanimously approved OldSmokey **John Marker**'s suggestion that the PNWFSA's Emergency Relief Fund be named to recognize the late OldSmokey **Elmer Moyer** (*please see **Memories** on page 20*) for his contributions to the association.

"Elmer was an unrecognized, yet very effective member of the PNWFSA leadership team," John said in recommending the move. "He helped shape it into the organization it is today."

At its August 31, 2012, meeting, the Board of Directors officially changed the fund's name to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund.

## OldSmokey Bill Taylor's Library was Donated to PNWFSA for Distribution

**Betty Taylor**, widow of the late OldSmokey **Bill Taylor**, honored Bill's request to catalog his extensive library on all aspects of natural resource management and donate it to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for distribution among appropriate recipients.

Bill, who died on May 28, 2010, at age 94 (*see **Memories in Summer 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter***) was a proud graduate of the New York State Ranger School, Syracuse University, and the University of Idaho who served on several Pacific Northwest Region national forests and rangered districts on the Siskiyou and Umpqua national forests during his 1952 to 1979 career in the U.S. Forest Service.

As a result, the PNWFSA has distributed publications of significant historical value from Bill's library to several libraries and other appropriate repositories as well as to its own historical files. Among the recipients are the Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center at Government Camp, Oregon, and the Oregon State University Forestry Media Center in Corvallis, Oregon.

"This meaningful donation by Bill and Betty Taylor will have a long-lasting benefit to the users and visitors of these libraries," OldSmokeys President **Mike Ash** said.

"Many of us have been collecting and storing items from our past Forest Service work lives and may not be aware of the historical value they have to others," Mike observed. "Maybe it is time that some of us look through our 'old treasures' and figure out a plan so that they can serve a higher benefit than being part of a garage sale or sent to the landfill."

### OldSmokey Ball Caps Still Available!

Wearing the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association ball cap both identifies you as an OldSmokey and helps fund the PNWFSA's good works around the region.

Contact OldSmokey **Bob Williams** at <rwms35@com-cast.net> to order one or more for just \$10.00 each plus a small charge for postage.

## OldSmokeys Can Help Bill Hurst Save Kaibab Squirrel

By Stan Tixier

Region 3 Amigo and Region 4 Old Timer **Bill Hurst**, retired Regional Forester of the Southwestern Region, has long been concerned about the status of the Kaibab squirrel in northern Arizona.

This tassel-eared, white-tailed sub-species of the Aberts squirrel is found only in the ponderosa pine forests north of the Grand Canyon in Arizona on the Kaibab National Forest and in Grand Canyon National Park. Bill believes that the Kaibab squirrel population is declining and may not survive in the long run if specific habitat requirements are not maintained and if predation both natural and human is not held in check. While he served as Regional Forester he was able to exert enough influence concerning the squirrel's habitat needs and predator impacts to be reasonably assured that its needs were being met. In recent years, however, he feels the situation has changed for the worse.

To assure that Bill is not alone in this effort, some of his friends have joined together to form an organization called Friends of the Kaibab Squirrel (FKS). This is a unique, non-profit group whose sole purpose is to help assure the perpetuation and long-term survival of this beautiful little animal. FKS does not advocate listing the squirrel under provisions of the Endangered Species Act and does not intend to be a pressure group. Rather, it wishes to be a *support* group encouraging the organizations responsible for the animal—the Arizona Department of Game and Fish and, for management of its habitat, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service—to actively redeem their responsibilities in the squirrel's behalf.

It is easy to become a member of Friends of the Kaibab Squirrel. The organization has no dues, holds no meetings, and uses the internet as its prime method of communication. The more members FKS has, the more it is apt to be listened to.

OldSmokeys can join FKS by logging onto the website at <[www.kaibabsquirrel.org](http://www.kaibabsquirrel.org)> and signing on.

*Editor's Note: Stan Tixier is retired Regional Forester, Intermountain Region. Bill Hurst, who lives in Salt Lake City and celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 5, is not an OldSmokey but has Pacific Northwest connections. His son Bill, a retired dentist, lives on the northeast side of Bend, Oregon, with his wife Sandy and his string of pack mules.*



*Kaibab squirrel (Sciurus aberti kaibabensis).*

*National Park Service photograph*

## Save the Kaibab Squirrel!

## Forest Service News



*OldSmokey Vern Clapp photographed the Pole Creek Fire from the deck of his home about noon on Sunday, September 9, as it took off in the Three Sisters Wilderness about six miles southwest of Sisters, Oregon. It burned more than 26,000 acres during the next two weeks.*

## U.S. Forest Service Was Challenged by Record 2012 Wildfire Season

As the fires are still being fought and the numbers are still being crunched, it's obvious the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies and their state, local, and private counterparts and partners had—and are continuing to have—a very tough 2012 wildfire season.

As of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter* September 25 deadline, 47,725 fires had burned 8,701,094 acres nationwide. That's over two million acres more than the 10-year average of 6,570,516 acres and a new record. Millions of those were National Forest System acres. More than half a million acres burned on the Salmon-Challis National Forest alone.

But acreage burned is only one measure of severity; the 2012 wildfire season will also be counted as one of the most severe in terms of citizens displaced by loss of homes and entire communities.

The wildfire battle of 2012 continues to be waged on the firelines across the West and in the halls of Congress.

### **An early wildfire season**

A dry La Nina winter, a paltry, quick-melting snowpack, and the effects of long-term drought in much of the West combined with increasing populations in the wildland-urban interface to set the stage for this incendiary summer. Ignitions by human carelessness and lightning combined with seasonal heat and winds set the drama in motion.

Signs of a severe fire season were not lost on the Forest Service. In a May 25 letter to regional foresters and forest supervisors, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry Jim Hubbard

temporarily shelved most fire use activities in favor of immediate suppression of ignitions. This brought criticism that the Forest Service was changing its fire use policy to save money. "It's not a change in policy. It's not about saving money. It's about recognizing the conditions we have this year," Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell replied.

By early summer, as the national system of wildfire management was stressed with huge fires in Colorado and other western states, the policy was extended to the National Forest System's 429 congressionally-designated wildernesses that include more than 36 million acres.

Colorado was hit hard by early-season wildfires. In June, the 87,284-acre High Park Fire west of Fort Collins in Larimer County—the costliest in the state's history—claimed 259 homes and one life, and the 18,247-acre Waldo Canyon Fire in El Paso County claimed 347 homes and two lives. By midsummer, Colorado had been hit by 19 major fires in 15 counties. With much of the fire season ahead, it was already Colorado's worst fire season in a decade.

### **Air tanker losses**

The early fire season was accompanied by air tanker losses. On June 3, two P-2V Neptunes were lost. One crashed, killing both crew members, while dropping retardant on the BLM's remote White Rock Fire along the Utah-Nevada state line. Another, unable to lower its landing gear, sustained significant damage after it slid off the runway at Minden-Tahoe Airport south of Reno.

Then, on July 2, a North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft fitted with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAAFS) crashed while battling the White Draw Fire on the Black Hills National Forest in southwestern South Dakota, killing one of six crew members and forcing officials to ground seven other such aircraft.

### **Wildfire season continues**

By July, more than 1,500 structures had been lost to wildfires, including nearly 300 in Utah, 223 in Montana's Dahl Fire, and 254 in the Little Bear Fire on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. That latter fire gained national notice when U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (Republican-New Mexico) sharply criticized Forest Service fire and land management policies during a 22-minute speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on June 22.

### **Wildfires fuel debate**

On July 24, as wildfires continued to ravage the West, members of the House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee debated whether federal policies are making wildfires worse.

"As we hold this hearing, 28 major wildfires are burning in 12 states, adding to the 3.9 million acres that have already burned this year," said Representative Doc Hastings (Republican-Washington), noting that wildfires normally consume an average of 3.7 million acres a year [presumably by late July]. "These fires destroy lives, homes, farms and families' economic security—and they destroy old-growth habitat and endangered species." The current interpretation of the Endangered Species Act means habitats for at-risk animals are not

thinned, he claimed, because environmental lawsuits often block fuel reduction plans.

Representative Ed Markey (Democrat-Massachusetts) disagreed that lawsuits prevent federal fire prevention efforts. “From 2008 to 2011, the Forest Service and the BLM undertook 8,352 fuel reduction projects to treat more than 10 million acres of federal forests. More than 95 percent moved ahead without any public protest, and only 27 of the 365 appeals resulted in projects being cancelled. Only three of those cancellations were related to the Endangered Species Act, or less than .05 percent of the projects.”

“Funding to reduce the risk of fire is at its lowest level since 2000,” Representative Markey said. “But no amount of money will be sufficient unless we acknowledge the link between climate change and wildfires.” Megafires and the current drought are extremes caused by global warming, he concluded.

Testifying before the committee, Bill Crasper, chairman-elect of the Council of Western State Foresters, observed that federal policies are confusing. As reported by Andrew Clevenger of Bend, Oregon’s daily *The Bulletin*, Crasper “had seen officials pouring over a map at the scene of a fire, confused about what measures they were permitted to take in which areas. In the face of such uncertainty, they always erred on the side of caution, making it harder to get the fires under control. ‘Fear of lawsuits is almost worse than actual lawsuits,’ he said.”

#### **Wildfire fuels example**

Far larger than the Colorado and other early-season fires, the Whitewater-Baldy Complex—that was ignited by lightning on May 16 and burned for two months to become the largest wildfire in New Mexico history—destroyed only 20 structures because it burned mostly on remote Gila National Forest lands, including the Gila Wilderness. Those looking for good news in all this might be heartened by the fact that the Gila National Forest seems to have benefitted from pioneering use of fire as a management tool—monitoring wildfires rather than rushing to put them out and using controlled burns to clean out younger, denser growth. An initial Forest Service review of burn damage suggests that approach helped. Of the nearly 300,000 acres within the Whitewater-Baldy perimeter, slightly more than half burned lightly or not at all.

Prescribed fire and mechanical thinning of dense growth are crucial to making forest lands less vulnerable to wildfire, according to Tom Harbour, U.S. Forest Service Director of Fire and Aviation Management. “It’s that combination of having communities become fire adapted and improving the condition of the forest that is going to get us out of this death spiral of increasingly severe fire that we’re in right now,” Harbour was quoted by Bettina Boxall in a July 2, 2012, *Los Angeles Times* article.

#### **Wildfire season intensifies**

As the fire season burned on, it’s intensity seemed to shift northward where major fires blazed in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

On August 12, second-season Forest Service firefighter Ann Veseth, 20, of Moscow, Idaho, was killed when struck by a

falling tree while fighting the Steep Corner Fire in Idaho. She was a member of a Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest fire crew.

By late August, with more than seven million acres burned and suppression costs topping a billion dollars straining state and federal budgets—new records for that point in any fire season, the 2012 wildfire season was on pace to be the worst in U.S. history it soon became.

#### **Wildfire funding short**

Then firefighting funds ran short. Both the Forest Service’s reduced fire budget and the lack of FLAME Act funds didn’t help.

The Forest Service’s total fire budget for 2012 dropped 6.3 percent to \$2.16 billion from 2011’s \$2.3 billion, and by mid August the agency was fast approaching the \$948 million budgeted for fire suppression. To make matters worse, Federal Land Assistance Management and Enhancement Act of 2009, or FLAME Act, funds were not there to help.

The FLAME Act was passed to save surplus firefighting funds from quieter fire years for years such as this. But Congress raided the fund for \$200 million in 2011 to help keep the government running during the debt-ceiling standoff and for another \$240 million in 2012. Before the FLAME Act, Congress passed bills to cover the extra costs of firefighting every year from 2002 to 2008. But with Congress divided and the pressure to reduce government spending growing, chances for a supplemental spending bill appeared slim.

By late August, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell faced the likelihood of transferring funds from other Forest Service programs to fire. “A lot of it just depends on what happens over the next few weeks,” Rocky Barber quoted Chief Tidwell in the August 24 edition of *The Idaho Statesman*.

What happened was the National Association of Forest Service Retirees in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, National Association of State Foresters, Society of American Foresters, and American Forests led a combination of 97 conservation groups that called itself the Fire Suppression Funding Solutions Partner Caucus that quickly convinced Congress to fund the rest of the 2012 wildfire season costs instead of devastate other agency work.

As this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press, the record wildfire season of 2012 seemed far from over both on the firelines and in the hearing rooms.

*Editor’s Note: This article was prepared from too many official, personal, and media sources to be listed in an effort to summarize—in as objective a manner as possible—as many aspects of the complex 2012 wildfire season as possible in the space available. Special thanks are due OldSmokey John Marker for specific information on the September wildfire funding solution.*



**SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL BEAR.  
PREVENT WILDFIRES!**

## U.S. Forest Service Scientist Sees Future of Longer Wildfire Seasons and More and Larger Wildfires for the West

As wildfires swept the American West this summer, U.S. Forest Service and other researchers foresaw a future of longer wildfire seasons and more and larger wildfires resulting from factors including a warming climate, decreasing precipitation, and increasing fuels.

“David Peterson, a U.S. Forest Service research biologist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, said the agency has studied combinations of temperature and precipitation and fires in the West over the past century,” Andrew Clevenger wrote in the August 22, 2012, edition of *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper. “Using that data base to project as temperatures continue to rise, he cautiously estimated that fires will consume roughly two to three times more acres annually by the middle of this century.

“Warmer temperatures also extend the length of the fire season, resulting in more fires overall,” he said. “We’re starting to get more fires earlier and more fires later in general in the West. You just have more time during which you can get ignition.”

“But the main impact on forest ecosystems in the future will not be an average temperature increase of a few degrees, but the exposure to more extreme events,” he said. “If you look at the last decade, the Northwest has had some big fires,”...including the B&B Complex fire in 2003, the Tripod Complex fire in 2006 and the Biscuit fire in 2002 that burned almost 500,000 acres, which at the time was the largest recorded fire in the lower 48 states.”

Peterson “thinks relatively minor adjustments to current management practices, such as doing more fuel reduction to tweak stand density, will help forests adapt to rising temperatures,” Clevenger wrote. “What we can do with management is regulate the severity of some of these disturbances,” he quoted Peterson.

*Derived from “Experts say Oregon faces serious threat from wildfires” by Andrew Clevenger in the August 22, 2012, issue of Bend, Oregon’s daily The Bulletin.*

## U.S. Forest Service Seasonal Firefighters May Get Federal Health Insurance

Both a presidential directive and proposed legislation in early July 2012 put temporary seasonal wildland firefighters for the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies in line for federal health insurance coverage.

After his June 29 visit to the Waldo Canyon Fire near Colorado Springs, Colorado, President Barack Obama told his cabinet he wanted to “find a solution” for the hundreds of workers toiling in dangerous conditions without the option to buy federal health insurance, *The Denver Post* reported on July 10.

The 15,000 temporary seasonal firefighters are mostly young people who work at various jobs—from fighting fires in the summer to ski area work in the winter. Many are college stu-

dents. But because they are not full-time Forest Service employees, they did not have the option of purchasing federal health insurance until President Obama directed the Office of Personnel Management to provide that option by the end of the month. Exactly who will qualify and for how long remained to be worked out.

Also on July 10, Representative Diana DeGette (Democrat-Colorado) introduced a bill in Congress that would give health and life insurance to some seasonal firefighters. Representative DeGette hopes her proposed Wildland Firefighters Health Protection Act would be funded by cuts elsewhere in the federal budget, reduce the need to hire contract fire crews by making seasonal firefighting a more attractive job, and save money in the long run. The bill faced an uphill slog in a Congress with little potential for progress before November.

Casey Judd, president of the Federal Wildland Fire Service Association, was “happy and frustrated at the same time” by this news. “I’m encouraged there has been renewed interest in this issue.... These are problems that could have been fixed 20 years ago,” he said. “Politicians come out of the woodwork during a good fire season.”

Neither the presidential directive nor the proposed legislation addressed federal health insurance coverage for other temporary seasonal personnel.

*Prepared from multiple sources including Allison Sherry’s article “Obama directive offers wildland firefighters health insurance” in the July 11, 2012, Denver Post.*

## U.S. Forest Service Urged by RAND to Change Firefighting Aircraft Fleet

“The best aircraft to fight the growing number of Western wildfires would be dozens of ‘scooper’ planes that fill their bellies with water skimmed in seconds from a lake or river, and not the slower helicopters and tankers now in use,” a July 30, 2012, *Denver Post* article summarized the report of a three-year, \$840,000 RAND Corporation study commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service to help determine the best mix of helicopters and air tankers for a modernized fleet of firefighting aircraft.

But Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell rejected this central finding of the report. “They’re underestimating the cost of scoopers and overestimating the cost of tankers,” Chief Tidwell was quoted in *The New York Times*. Edward Keating, the lead author of the RAND report, stood by his cost-comparison data.

Chief Tidwell did not, however, count scoopers out of a future air attack mix, allowing that the Forest Service might consider substituting a few water scoopers for water-dropping helicopters but wouldn’t contract for scoopers instead of retardant-dropping air tankers.

The RAND study argues that the more frequent drops of which scoopers are capable are more efficient and may be more effective. “A scooper plane, which flies about 100 miles an hour over a river or lake and lowers a small scoop to skim off hundreds of gallons in a few seconds, can manage 60 loads a day if the water is convenient. That may be 10 times the capa-

*Forest Service News continues on page 24*

## Feature

### OldSmokeys Remember the Big Blow

## The Columbus Day Storm of 1962

By Les Joslin

*Fifty years ago the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 blew into the Pacific Northwest and into the memories of millions, including many OldSmokeys. Some were at the center of the storm. Others were on its periphery. None have forgotten it and its effects on the region's national forests and their own lives.*

Also known as the Big Blow, the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 originated in the central Pacific Ocean as Typhoon Freda. As the system moved northwesterly into colder waters and interacted with the jet stream, it morphed into an extratropical cyclone that slammed into the Pacific Northwest on October 12. Winds approached 180 miles per hour on the Oregon Coast, and reached 90 miles per hour in Salem.

Record rainfalls in the San Francisco Bay Area delayed the 1962 World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the New York Yankees and caused major flooding and mudslides. In the Willamette Valley, the damaged house was the rule. Power distribution in northwestern Oregon had to be rebuilt from the ground up. The Oregon State Beavers-Washington Huskies football game was played as scheduled on October 13 in Portland, but in a heavily-damaged stadium with no electric clock or scoreboard, no hot showers for the players, and the stadium missing much of its roofing.

Before blowing itself out, this contender for the title of most powerful extratropical cyclone recorded in the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century had claimed at least 46 lives and caused \$230 million to \$280 million (in 1962 dollars) in damage.

Foresters remember that, in less than 12 hours, the storm blew down over 11 billion board feet of timber in northern California, Oregon, and Washington; some estimates put that figure at 15 billion board feet. This blowdown exceeded the annual timber harvest for Oregon and Washington at the time.

Much of this blowdown occurred in the national forests of the Pacific Northwest Region, and 50 years later surviving OldSmokeys remember what it was like to be at the center of the storm as well as on its flanks. The national forests in the Coast Ranges and western Cascade Range were hardest hit.

#### At the center...

Hard against the Pacific Ocean, OldSmokey **Ken Roberts** was directly in the storm's path. "Columbus Day 1962 was a special day for me," Ken wrote. "I was starting my third year working for the U.S. Forest Service on the Waldport Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest. I had spent the bulk of my time planning and designating timber for sale with a presale crew of four." The rigors of such work in that steep, wet country were memorable, indeed; the storm was more memorable.

Foresters on the Oregon Coast are always conscious of the wind. When the tops of the trees began to bang together on October 12, they got out of the woods. All but one of Ken's co-



*Millions of board feet of timber had to be cleared from Pacific Northwest forest highways after to Columbus Day Storm.*

workers was accounted for by 3:00 p.m. Radios weren't standard issue for timber guys in those days, and while his route was known his whereabouts along that route was not. Caught along that route by blowdown blocking the road, he rode out the storm that night under a yarder mounted on 40-inch diameter logs.

Ken was in the Waldport Ranger Station office that day. "The desk I occupied had a full view of the ocean and the Alsea River mouth, and overlooked U.S. Highway 101. Debris of all types was flying down 101 in a steady stream. Vehicular traffic of any kind had stopped. The ocean waves were huge and breaking perpendicular to rather than parallel to the beach."

"The power went off in the early afternoon and most employees had gone home to take care of their homes. I lived in a small government house on station and as I walked home I saw a full sheet of corrugated metal roofing porpoise across the parking lot headed directly toward my 1957 Ford hardtop. I started to close my eyes and utter a few expletives when, suddenly, the metal sheet swooped up, turned a cartwheel, and passed cleanly over my car. A special day indeed. Our house had an oil stove and I had just bought a Coleman white gas lantern, so we had heat and light to care for our firstborn, a one-month old daughter. Power to the station was restored late in the day on September 13, but some houses next door to the ranger station were without power for up to two weeks.

"Those weeks were a blur as we worked to assess the damage and to straighten out contractually the messes the blowdown caused to existing timber sales. We had decent weather for those two weeks that allowed a lot of cleanup work to be accomplished. Overtime pay in the Forest Service didn't exist, but it soon became apparent that more people or more hours would have to be worked if anything were to be accomplished that year. The powers-that-be approved a dawn-to-dark, seven-day-a-week work schedule that communicated the seriousness of the situation, and we responded with enthusiasm.

"Since I was in presale, I was assigned to find out where all the blowdown was and determine how it could best be harvested. I did that by flying the entire district in a helicopter with

aerial photos and maps in hand. ... Every storm connected sale had to have the storm's name Freda as part of the sale name: e.g., "Trout Creek Freda." This allowed easy tracking of salvage sale volumes. By November 15, 1962, the district had sold 55 million board feet, and by the following September 1963 the total was 185 million board feet." The Waldport Ranger District had an assigned annual cut of some 120 million board feet in those days.

OldSmokeys **Emil & Dorine Sabol** were in another hard hit area. Emil had just become district ranger on the Union Creek Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, in September, and their youngest daughter, Patty, was due to be born in mid-October.

"With that storm, all hell broke loose," Emil recalled in a 2006 interview with Paul Fattig of the Medford *Mail-Tribune*. "The highway was plugged with trees. But we finally got some crews going and they opened the road. We got in that car and headed out." They made it to the hospital just before Patty was born on October 15. Another Forest Service couple had their baby in their car before they reached Shady Cove.

"Since we were without commercial power [at Union Creek Ranger Station], we cranked up our generator which provided power for lights and refrigeration," Emil recalled for this article. "Meanwhile, Portland was without power for about a week. That was one advantage we boondockers had over the city slickers! I hope that doesn't sound too smug."

Rogue River National Forest officials told the Medford *Mail-Tribune* that the Union Creek area was one of the hardest hit in the region by the storm. The storm blew over some 80,000 board feet of timber just at the Union Creek Ranger Station compound, and 125 million board feet on the district. At the time, Emil's district produced about 85 million board feet of timber a year, making it one of the top timber producers in the West. A contractor was cutting the blowdown at the ranger station the next day.

The rest of the district was a major challenge. "Because we felt that an aerial survey showed a grossly low estimate of the blowdown, we sent out crews by car, motorcycle, scooter, and bicycle to get a better idea of the damage," Emil recalled. "We received authorization to go to shorter term ads in order to start the salvage process going. The 80 thousand feet blowdown on the station was disposed of by negotiated sale." The blowdown on the district was salvaged within a year.

One of the trees blown down at the ranger station—a giant sugar pine—smashed a trailer house in which young Mark Kent, whose father worked for the forest and whose mother worked at Beckie's Café next door, was "trying to read [Dr. Seuss'] *Green Eggs and Ham* to calm myself against the noise and ruckus of the storm." He wasn't hurt. "The Prospect school library made my mom pay for the book," Kent said years later. "They wouldn't accept the excuse of being crushed by a tree."

#### **To the south...**

OldSmokeys **John & Mary Marker** were in a hard hit part of northern California where John was assistant district ranger on the Sacramento (now Mt. Shasta) Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and lived in a beautiful house at the

ranger station in Mt. Shasta City. John was spending the quiet October 12 holiday on special use paperwork in the office. He'd learned from the Weather Bureau office, which shared the ranger station building, that the light rain falling that morning would increase and end the fire season.

Fire Control Officer Bob Gray was also in the office, and he decided to tell the lookout on Black Butte—a three thousand-foot volcanic plug three miles north of town—she could call it a season and hike down then or wait out the rainstorm. She decided to hike down and get a little wet.

The rain and wind intensified. Mary called to tell John the wind was blowing rain into the house under the window sills in the south-facing rooms. John lugged storm windows from the garage and installed them in what had become a serious rain and wind event. When he got back to the office, Bob told him the weather people had just told him this was much more of a storm than they had predicted. The weather teletype was reporting hurricane-like winds and torrential rain in the upper Sacramento Valley, about 50 miles south.

The Black Butte lookout arrived about noon, wet and glad to be off the mountain. The fire crew began securing the ranger station buildings, nailing down flapping sheet metal roofing in 60 mile-per-hour winds. Radio and telephone calls reported the McCloud Ranger District to the east sustaining a lot of green timber blowdown, and the Shasta Lake Ranger District to the south losing boat docks on the lake. U.S. Highway 99 was blocked by down trees and culvert failures. Anything not nailed down in Mt. Shasta City was blowing in the wind, and the power failed.

"About dusk the wind tired of blowing, the rain ran out of water, and all went home to candlelight dinners cooked on camp stoves," John wrote. "On our battery radios we learned of major storm damage in areas of northern California and western Oregon, and considered ourselves fortunate. We didn't know how fortunate until the storm clouds cleared and we could finally see Black Butte. A look through binoculars showed a shell of a lookout left on the butte. We couldn't see any roof." Several days later Bob Gray hiked up to find the lookout destroyed. "There was a silent prayer of thanks that Bob and the lookout had agreed she should hike out in the wet weather rather than settle in to wait out the rain. The roof was never found, not even a shingle."

OldSmokey **Dave Scott** was district ranger on the Shasta Lake Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, south of the Sacramento Ranger District. "I don't know why I was working on a holiday, but in those days you were on hand to meet and greet the large numbers of recreation visitors." There was no overtime pay; it was just done.

"A storm coming in from the coast was predicted and expected. We first felt it about noon, and about 1230 a report told me the government docks at Turntable Bay on the lake that the wind was blowing hard but the Forest Service and sheriff's docks were faring well. By 1300, the storm had picked up steam and I decided my guys couldn't get along without me at the docks so went off to join them. The SO wanted to help. I said we didn't need them, but they came anyway.

“On the way out, I could see the large private docks at Bridge Bay Resort—our largest—breaking up. Pieces were floating off in all directions. Most were wrapped around an abutment of the U.S. Highway 99 bridge. The docks at all the resorts were knocked off their moorings and roofing was flying in all directions. The government docks withstood the winds.

“It was a good cleansing wind. Those docks needed to go and they went! But now there were bits and pieces of docks along with every other kind of flotsam and jetsam floating all over the lake. Cleaning the lake surface became our biggest job and was not completed until May 1963. We had a 56-foot landing craft on the district which easily transported the D-6 Cat we spotted around the lakeshore to help manpower and small boats with the cleanup.

“We were lucky! We just caught the southern edge of the storm. Vegetative damage on the Shasta Lake District was minimal. The McCloud Ranger District just to the north was a different story. They removed about 70 million board feet of beautiful yellow belly pine from the lava beds.”

#### *To the east...*

OldSmokey **Wendall Jones** was District Ranger Mervin Wolf’s recreation and lands assistant on the Metolius Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, based in Sisters, Oregon, on Columbus Day 1962. “Late in the afternoon I was headed back to Sisters from the north end of the district. It was a dry, calm, warm October day, but clouds were moving in.

“As I reached U.S. Highway 20 in Sisters, the side window of my vehicle blew in. This was a small, four-wheel drive rental with “floppy” windows, so nothing too unusual except I was at a near dead stop and there was no visible wind when the window flopped down. I was puzzled, but wrote it off as a poor window. By the time I got to the warehouse and parked the vehicle, the wind had picked up considerably. I don’t recall any particularly strong wind later on. That evening, in our ranger station home, there was TV and radio news of severe winds on the west side of the Cascades but nothing to concern us at Sisters on the east side.

“The next day, on a trip to Camp Sherman, I took the cut-off road between Black Butte and Green Ridge. Just west of the summit of that pass, I was somewhat surprised to see a strip of mature ponderosa pine—perhaps 300 feet long and 100 feet wide involving about 30 trees—flat on the ground, uprooted or broken off in lower trunk. This seemed a mystery because we had no wind strong enough at Sisters to even be concerned. There was no other blowdown I know of on the entire district. There may have been some on the Sisters Ranger District south of the highway.

“I concluded that [the wind that blew down the strip] had to be like a small tornado touching down and almost immediately leaving. I ask now if that wind occurred at the same time my vehicle window blew in at Sisters the previous evening, or was it entirely unrelated?

“Without the need for an environmental analysis or much paperwork except for calculating a bid price, the blowdown was put up for sale. We had aggressive salvage sales programs because of the danger of a bark beetle population developing in

any down or dying ponderosas. These were nearly always small sales directed at local loggers, so the down trees were gone within a month.”

#### *To the north...*

OldSmokey **Dick Spray** “was fortunate to have moved from the Waldport Ranger District six months before the Columbus Day storm” when “the whole Siuslaw National Forest really got plastered. The new Marys Peak Lookout had the cab blown off.

“I was in the RO in 1962 as one of several young professionals transferred in to ‘freshen up the staff.’ I’d just returned to our rented house in north Portland when the wind hit. We watched pieces of roofing fly by, and after the wind let up I went out and noted that about half the chimneys in the neighborhood had been blown over. There was debris everywhere. Our sturdy little rental suffered no damage.

“The power was out, so the next day I got my gas can and went looking for fuel for our Coleman camp stove. That took lots of visits to gas stations that had white gas but, with the power out, no way to pump it! I finally found a station with a 55 gallon barrel of white gas and a hand pump and got my fuel. We were blacked out maybe three or four days. That experience trained me to always have a gallon of Coleman fuel in my garage just in case. It’s still there 50 years later—just moved numerous times.

“Since I’d recently left the Waldport Ranger Station, I kept checking on the impacts on the folks on the Siuslaw. Several had been caught in the woods coming home and were trapped quite a while before being freed by teams of sawyers. I didn’t hear of any injuries, but there may have been some minor stuff that just didn’t reach the RO. I heard they lost many fire lookouts, some totally blown away and others damaged beyond repair.

Farther north, OldSmokey **Carl Anderson** was timber sale administrator on the Skokomish River end of the Shelton Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest hit heavily as the storm’s center moved northward. “Early in the day I had heard a radio message about expected high winds,” Carl recalled. “The pickup I was driving didn’t have a radio, but I had a portable pack set with me.

“Later in the day, the wind picked up to the point limbs were falling onto the road. I was driving down Vance Creek, headed back to the Shelton Ranger Station, and had no idea how bad and widespread the storm was. I reached a point where many large Doug-firs had come down and completely blocked the road. I turned around and went back the way I’d come. But now lots of trees had come down and completely blocked the road. Trees were no longer swaying in the wind but laying over at sharp angles and being held there by the continuous wind.

“I drove uphill on a spur road I knew and parked my pickup in the open area of a 30-acre clear-cut. I watched lots of standing trees come down in waves, particularly along the edge of the clear-cut. Concerned my little pickup would blow off the mountainside, I hauled cull logs and rocks over to it and threw them into the bed and piled them on the cab to add ballast.

“At some point after dark I radioed the ranger station and told them my location and situation. They’d been trying in

reach me on the radio and were concerned about me. I think I was so busy I either didn't hear their calls or didn't pay any attention to them.

"When daylight came, I radioed to the ranger station that I would start walking out. I was sure happy I hadn't tried to do it in the dark. I had to climb over, around, and under hundreds of old-growth fir trees until finally I was picked up by a Simpson Timber Company pickup. A couple days later, [OldSmokey] **Doug MacWilliams** and I toured the district with a Simpson logging supervisor to estimate the blowdown. 'Well, boys, there's a whole bunch!' the Simpson man concluded.

"Over on the other side of the district, a small crew trapped at the Satsop Guard Station for several days went about business as usual until road access was restored."

#### *A lesson learned...*

OldSmokeys and others learned a lot of lessons about surviving and recovering from big storms during Columbus Day 1962 and its aftermath.

If one primary lesson shines throughout these OldSmokey accounts it's this: the Forest Service must have authority and ability to act immediately to salvage and market blowdown to prevent not only waste but other serious consequences of inaction.

"All that 1962 blowdown was cleaned up and sent to the mills almost within a year," OldSmokey Wendall Jones emphasized. "Now it would be left to lay to make piles of paperwork in environmental analysis if not an environmental statement until the sap rot was two inches deep. And even then the dogooders with lots of attorney help would leave most of it lay in the woods. I cannot begin to reason what is going on in today's management of national forests."

"In thinking back [on the storm and its aftermath] one thing is absolute," concluded OldSmokey Ken Roberts. "Region 6 carried out a massive timber salvage operation, achieving outstanding results. Hundreds of millions of feet of timber was salvaged—eliminating what very likely would have led to a huge bark beetle infestation and following fire hazard—all with the full support of the public and political forces of the time. At no time do I ever recall any discussion by any person or group that any of the timber should not be salvaged.

"I can't imagine what the agency and public response would be to a similar event today, but I'm sure as good government people they'd study it!"

*Prepared from contributions submitted by OldSmokeys Carl Anderson, Wendall Jones, John Marker, Ken Roberts, Emil Sabol, Dave Scott, and Dick Spray; from Medford Mail-Tribune reporter Paul Fattig's articles "Trees of heaven" of September 7, 2006, and "Green eggs and ham flew all over the place" of October 8, 2006; and from a Wikipedia entry on the storm.*

## Feature Articles Invited!

Our Pacific Northwest Region is a big piece of country with many fascinating U.S. Forest Service stories just begging to be told. If you know of or have such a story, please contribute it for development into an article for this *Feature* section of your *Old Smokeys Newsletter*. Contact Editor Les Joslin.

## Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

**Clinton, Keith & Jean** – New members: 60935 Gosney Rd, Bend, OR 97702

Telephone: 541-382-5565

E-mail: keithclinton@bendbroadband.copm

**Conibear, Jim & Deanne** – Change e-mail: cbear4145@gmail.com

**Downen, Chuck & Jan** – Change address: 2505 Vista Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

**Duberow, Bernard G. "Barney"** – Deceased July 1, 2012; Rosanna survives

**Forsman, Richard T. & Barbara E.** – New members: 128 Rainbow Dr, Livingston, TX 77399

Telephone: 801-739-5396 E-mail: rbroadies@gmail.com

**Forsman, John S.** – Deceased June 8, 2012; Betty survives

**Govatski, David P. "Dave" & Kathi** – New members: 515 Bailey Rd, Jefferson, NH 03583

Telephone: 603-586-7776

E-mail: david.govatski@gmail.com

**Ketchum, Verna & Lloyd** – Change e-mail: vrlketch@wbcable.net

**Lowery, Bill & Shirley** – Correct e-mail: Bill.kb7xq@gmail.com

**McLean, Linda & Claude** – Change e-mail: lindaclaude@hughes.net

**Moyer, Elmer** – Deceased July 16, 2012; Mary survives

**Nelson, Gerhart H. "Gary"** – Deceased July 24, 2012; Julia survives

**Rasure, Nora B. & Brent Gardner** – New members: 3528 Chelan Dr, West Linn, OR 97068

Telephone: 928-310-8799 E-mail: nrasure@fs.fed.us

**Stewart, Marjorie E.** – New member: 49025 SE Wildcat Mountain Dr, Sandy, OR 97055

Telephone: 503-668-8797 E-mail: mesdes2003@yahoo.com

**Yarosh, Ted** – Change e-mail: tyarosh@charter.net

## Recruit New OldSmokeys!

Many Forest Service retirees and long-time still-serving members are just waiting for an OldSmokey to come along and ask them to join the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.



***You can be the OldSmokey who extends that invitation!***

Membership in the PNWFSA is open to:

- Any retiree who has worked for the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest or now resides in the Pacific Northwest.
- Any current employee of the Forest Service with at least 20 years of government service (including military service) who works in or has worked in the Pacific Northwest.

Membership will be granted upon submission of a membership application and payment of dues. Those potential members are out there just waiting for you to hand them an application. A first year of annual membership is dues-free to new recruits!

## Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

**Keith & Jean Clinton** of Bend, Oregon, joined July 10, 2012. Keith started his U.S. Forest Service career in 1970 as a summer temporary on the Ochoco National Forest—and met Jean in 1972, the first year women were employed on that forest’s timber crew—and the Siuslaw National Forest before he graduated from Oregon State University. His first permanent job was as a junior forester on the Hebo Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest in 1977. In 1980, now-OldSmokey **Andy Coray**, TMA on the Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest, plucked Keith out of the rain and brush to be his presale forester; together they battled the mountain pine beetle for eight years. Switching to recreation on the Bend Ranger District, Keith worked for now-OldSmokey **Arlie Holm** until Arlie retired and Keith became then-district ranger and now-OldSmokey **Walt Schloer’s** recreation assistant. When the two districts combined as the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Keith became Director of Interpretive Services for the Newberry National Volcanic Monument as well as Grants, Agreements and Volunteer Coordinator. For his money saving ideas and innovative work with volunteer and hosted programs, Keith was honored with the Chief’s *Ranger District Employee of the Decade Award* in 2000. He and Jean were invited to Washington, D.C., where Chief Mike Dombek personally presented the award. Keith retired from the Forest Service in May 2003 to pursue business opportunities. He and Jean still live in Bend where she is a registered nurse (RN) and he owns and manages Keith Clinton Realty.

**Richard T. “Rick” & Barbara E. “Barb” Forsman** joined July 27, 2012. Their mailing address is Livingston, Texas, but they are actually full-time RVers. The Texas address is a mail-forwarding service called “Escapees RV Club.” They claim Oregon as their home state. Rick and Barb met at Oregon State University where both graduated in wildlife management. Rick started his U.S. Forest Service career on the Oakridge Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest in 1976, managing a transitory sheep grazing study. Less than a year later he married Barb. He then became south zone wildlife biologist on the Oakridge, Lowell, and Rigdon ranger districts of the Willamette. They lived and worked on the Custer National Forest in North Dakota, then on the Paulina Ranger District on the Ochoco National Forest where Barb started her Forest Service career at Rager Ranger Station as a receptionist. They then moved to the Ochoco National Forest SO in Prineville, Oregon, for three years, and then on to the Malheur National Forest SO for 11 years. In 2002, they moved to the Chief’s Office in Washington, D.C., where Rick worked in Ecosystem Management Coordination as the national litigation coordinator and Barb was a budget analyst. They moved to Ogden, Utah, to work in the Region 4 RO in 2004. Barb retired in 2005 from the fire payment center and Rick retired on January 2010 as regional range program leader. They sold their Ogden house and have been on the road since, going south in the winter and spending summers in the Pacific Northwest. Michelle and Jackie are their two married daughters.

**David “Dave” & Kathi Govatski** of Jefferson, New Hampshire, joined July 24, 2012. Dave started his U.S. Forest Service career as a fire lookout on the Pike National Forest in Colorado in 1970. He is a graduate of Unity College in Maine where he earned a bachelor’s degree in forest management. Dave retired from the Forest Service as silviculturist and fire and aviation management officer on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire on April 1, 2005, after 33 years of federal service, 31 of those in the Forest Service and two in the U.S. Army (he continued military service in the Vermont National Guard, rising to master sergeant in a mountain infantry unit). Dave served for several years as a Type 1 safety officer and incident commander Type 3 along with other positions in the fire organization. Dave’s experience in Region 6 was a May to September 1983 training detail on the Redmond Hotshots. Dave is co-author of the forthcoming book *Forests for the People: The Story of America’s Eastern National Forests* to be published by Island Press in December 2012 (please see **Books** on page 27), and is leading the effort to restore the historic 1923 Fabyan Guard Station log cabin on the White Mountain National Forest. Dave recently served as secretary to the Weeks Act Centennial Coordinating Committee celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Weeks Act of 1911 that authorized the creation of the eastern national forests. Dave and Kathi have enjoyed recent summer visits to Central Oregon to which they are strongly attracted by the area’s natural beauty and its proximity to family in White Salmon, Washington, and Vancouver, B.C.

**Nora B. Rasure & Brent Gardner** of West Linn, Oregon, joined August 2, 2012. Nora’s 32 years in the U.S. Forest Service included four years in Region 6 at the RO in Portland before she retired.

**Marjorie E. “Marge” Stewart** of Sandy, Oregon, joined July 27, 2012. Marge started her U.S. Forest Service career in 1966 as a summer temporary engineering aid on the Mt. Hood National Forest at Estacada working for now-OldSmokey **Mel Teigen**. After she graduated from Portland State University in 1970 with a degree in engineering, she continued to work in Estacada and Ripplebrook as a preconstruction engineer. Marge transferred to the Kootenai National Forest in Libby, Montana, to work on recreation area design and construction, once again with Mel. She transitioned to transportation planning, cost share program, and facilities engineering. In 1985 she began what was to have been a three-year assignment—which turned into 24 years—as a civilian construction inspector with the U.S. Army in Munich, Germany, followed by a base closure job in Heidelberg, a public works job in Bamberg, and nine years as Director of Operation and Maintenance and Public Works in Grafenwoehr, Bavaria, the largest U.S. training area outside the United States. Marge retired in 2009 after 40 years of federal service and returned home to build a new house near Sandy, Oregon, where she plays trumpet in a band and orchestra, volunteers with the county community participation organization, and enjoys conducting history tours at Timberline Lodge as a Forest Service volunteer.

*Editor’s Note: New member profiles are based on application information supplemented by inputs from new members.*

## Memories

**Bernard G. “Barney” Duberow** died July 2, 2012, at age 92. He was a PNWFSA member. Barney was born April 20, 1920, in Erie, Pennsylvania, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Michigan in 1944. During World War II, Barney worked with the Forest Service war mapping project for the War Department; produced for defense purposes, these were the first accurate topographic maps of various parts of coastal California. After the war, Barney pursued graduate studies in forestry at the University of Idaho in Moscow and the University of California at Berkeley before he began his U.S. Forest Service career in timber management on the Ochoco and Deschutes national forests in Oregon. Barney married Rosanna Irene Burgess in 1948. After the early years of his career on the Ochoco National Forest, during which he and Rosanna had all four of their children, Barney transferred to the Deschutes National Forest in 1957 and moved the family to Bend where he and Rosanna resided in the same house on 8<sup>th</sup> Street for over 54 years. After he retired from the Forest Service in 1985, Barney remained actively involved in outdoor sports—especially skiing and mountaineering, and backpacking with Rosanna—and civic affairs—especially his Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation work with skiing youth. And, after his retirement, Barney worked seasonally for Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District as caretaker of beautiful Pioneer Park, where a park bench is dedicated to his years of service there. Barney and Rosanna continued to live in their comfortable Bend home, enjoying their beautiful large yard with flowers and large vegetable garden and extending their gracious hospitality to many, until June 2012. Survivors include Rosanna, Barney’s wife of 64 years; sons Gerry, Fred, and Robin; daughter Marianne; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**John S. Forsman** died June 8, 2012, at age 95. He was a PNWFSA member. John grew up on a homestead north of Glasgow, Montana. He completed high school in Glasgow and earned a B.S. degree in forestry with an emphasis in rangeland management at the University of Montana. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service during college summers as a lookout and packer. John served as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, stationed in England as lead navigator in a squadron that flew the B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 30 bombing missions over Germany. While stationed in England he met Betty Townson who was serving in the Royal Air Force. John and Betty married in Helena, Montana, shortly after the war. John’s career in the Forest Service included assignments as range analysis crew chief out of the Northern Region RO in Missoula, district ranger on the Lewis and Clark National Forest, range staff officer and forest supervisor on the Custer National Forest, on the range staff in the WO, and assistant regional forester for range and wildlife for the Pacific Northwest Region in Portland, Oregon, where he retired in 1976. Survivors include Betty, daughters Carol and Victoria, son Rick, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to John’s son Rick for sending this me-*

*morial of his dad, John, whose death was announced in the Summer 2012 OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

**Charles E. “Mike” Hardy** died July 18, 2012, at age 96. Mike spent his early forestry career at various units in the northern Rocky Mountains. Shortly after receiving his master’s degree in forestry from the University of Michigan, he moved to Missoula, Montana, and began a 22-year career in fire research. Mike helped to refine the Fire Danger Rating System, conducted studies in prescribed fire and fire retardants, and wrote two comprehensive histories of the H.T. Gisborne Era of fire history. His accomplishments as a researcher were acknowledged by the Society of American Foresters and the University of Montana School of Forestry.

*Editor’s Note: This memorial is adapted from “Remembering renowned fire researcher Mike Hardy” in the July 27, 2012, Chief’s Desk from the U.S. Forest Service WO.*

**Loren Dale Herman** died August 8, 2012, at age 80. Loren was born July 10, 1932, in Abilene, Kansas, and raised in Anaheim, California, before moving to Yreka, California, and later to the Portland, Oregon-Vancouver, Washington area to start his U.S. Forest Service career. A graduate of California Polytechnic Institute and State University (“Cal Poly”), Loren served over 30 years as a soil scientist, mostly in the watershed divisions of the Mt. Hood and Gifford Pinchot national forests. Survivors include his wife Carole; his sons Matt and Chad; and five grandchildren.

**Hugh Leslie** died July 18, 2012, at age 69, at Star Ranger Station on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, where he was being issued his radio and keys to begin volunteer duty on Dutchman Peak Lookout the next day. Hugh was born December 31, 1942, in Nampa, Idaho, and graduated from Nampa High School in 1961. Hugh was a Boy Scout and as a young man worked at many jobs. He moved to the Rogue Valley where he was hired as a hotshot firefighter at Star Ranger Station and began his 30-plus year U.S. Forest Service career in fire and timber management. Survivors include his wife Kay, also a former Forest Service employee; son Ross Leslie; daughter Tricia Leslie Deller; stepson Steve Straube; stepdaughters Sue Snavelly, Debbie McGuire, and Audra Feedback; and four grandchildren.

**Donald Lee “Duffy” McDonald** died April 6, 2012, at age 77. Duffy was born April 14, 1934, in Pittsburg, Kansas, and grew up in Kansas and in Klamath Falls, Portland, and Waldport, Oregon. He graduated from Waldport High School in 1953, enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served in Korea. As teenagers, Duffy and Gail Hankins met in Yachats, and married in 1958. As a U.S. Forest Service civil engineer, Duffy worked in Mapleton, Corvallis, and Medford, Oregon, before he retired in 1985, they moved to Lakeside, Oregon, and he became a real estate agent and broker in the Medford area. Gail died October 25, 2011.

**Elmer Moyer** died July 16, 2012, at age 77. He was a member and former president of the PNWFSA. Elmer was born January 12, 1935, in Meeker, Colorado, first worked for the U.S. Forest Service in 1952 on a White River National Forest trail crew

while still a high school student, and graduated from high school in Rifle, Colorado, in 1953. Elmer worked as a logger and mill worker in Colorado and Utah until 1957, then served two years in the U.S. Army before attending junior college in Grand Junction and graduating from the University of Denver with a degree in business administration in 1963 and joining the Forest Service. His first assignment was as an administrative assistant in the Medicine Bow National Forest SO in Laramie, Wyoming, from which he transferred to two years as administrative officer of the Box Elder Job Corps Center in South Dakota. Subsequent administrative assignments took him to the Rio Grande National Forest in Monte Vista, Colorado, from 1969 to 1971; the White River National Forest in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, from 1971 to 1975; the Rocky Mountain Region RO in Denver from 1975 to 1977; and a WO job in employee relations from 1977 to 1981. “That WO job, hiring and firing people, was ugly, the worst job I ever had,” Elmer once remarked. Elmer transferred to the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland, in 1981 where he served until he retired in 1988. Active in Forest Service retiree affairs, Elmer was a key player in the Thirty-Year Club’s transition to the PNWFSA. Survivors include Mary, sons Lee and Carl, and two grandchildren.

**Gerhart H. “Gary” Nelson** died July 24, 2012, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Gary was born somewhere in Montana in 1926, the oldest of four sons of a World War I veteran who made a living for his family during the Great Depression working on the railroad. Gary earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Montana, and at the age of 25 was drafted into the U.S. Army in which he served two years during the Korean War as a cartographer. Gary returned to Missoula to complete a master’s degree in forestry and continue the U.S. Forest Service career he’d begun as a student. As a smoke-chaser in 1949 he put out a fire on an adjoining mountain during the tragic Mann Gulch Fire on the Helena National Forest. Gary met school teacher Julia Schaeffbauer at a dance club in Deer Lodge, Montana. They married in December 1957, and had two sons, Gary J. and Terry. During his professional career, Gary served as one of the first Job Corps supervisors as well as in other leadership positions including forest supervisor on the Okanogan National Forest during the 1970s before, in 1978, the family settled in Stevensville, Montana, where Gary and Julia were active in the church and community. Before and after he retired from the Forest Service in 1983 as Northern Region director of range and watershed management, Gary served on several boards including those of the Stevensville Methodist Church, the Stevensville School Board, and the Ravalli County Planning Board. Also in retirement, Gary returned to the violin—with which, reportedly, he’d had a difficult childhood history—and became a proficient violinist who taught violin to local students. Survivors include Julia; their son Terry; and four grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to Elton Thomas for forwarding and providing supplementary information for this memorial.*

**Harold “Hal” Parker** died July 19, 2012, at age 93. Hal was born October 31, 1919, in Mackay, Idaho, and served in the

U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Hal retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Pacific Northwest Region budget officer. Survivors include his wife Ginny; son Richard; daughters Dee McCauley, Donna Katz, and Nancy Noye; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**James Russell “Jim” Sedell** died August 18, 2012, at age 68. Jim was born July 5, 1944, in Medford, Oregon, and spent part of his youth in Redmond, Oregon. At Willamette University, Jim studied philosophy and biology; after graduation he married Ellen C. Hoeye, his astronomy tutor, and the couple moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he pursued doctoral work in biological sciences and earned a Ph.D. Jim made significant impacts on the study of freshwater ecosystems, first as a post-doc at Oregon State University, then as a U.S. Forest Service research scientist and leader for 28 years. He served as Director, Pacific Southwest Research Station before he retired, and most recently with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as Director of Fish Conservation. Survivors include his wife Ellen and their children Ted, Shannon, and Jennifer.

**Marc Sherman Wilcox** died August 7, 2012, at age 63. Marc was born September 5, 1948. Marc graduated from Elko High School in Elko, Nevada, in 1967, earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in hydrology at the University of Nevada in Reno, and served in the U.S. Army as a tank commander at Fort Knox, Kentucky, before he began the 36-year U.S. Forest Service career from which he retired on the Deschutes National Forest in 2010.

## Letters

### **Dick Chase** remembers *Barney Duberow*

Barney’s love of life was infectious, and his laugh and booming voice left no doubt about his presence whenever he was in the office. He was the epitome of hard work and dedication to the job, and I can’t recall him ever saying a bad word about anyone.

### **Keith Clinton** remembers *Barney Duberow*

Barney Duberow’s death marked the passing of a legendary stickler of an “appraisal picker” and much more.

Barney was well known for his high expectations of people and his dedication to the outfit. Standing in the hall one day at the Deschutes National Forest SO Barney once told Brenda Woodard and me that he “lived to work.” She and I looked at each other and after a beat said simultaneously, “We work to live.” A big laugh ensued.

But Barney had a passion for getting things right, so who better to be the guy who reviewed *every* timber sale contract and sale appraisal done on the Deschutes National Forest. His ability to find errors, large or small, in contracts and appraisals inspired all of us district folks to try for the perfect sale packet, of which Barney said there had *never* been one.

Throwing down a gauntlet like that probably caused all of us to spend many more hours on minutiae than we should have. But we were making it very hard for Barney to find any errors. I’m sure he was proud of us for tuning in such quality work,

but I feared he was getting a little depressed and his self esteem many have been suffering because he couldn't find errors like he used to. So he worked even *harder*.

To make life easier on him and us we started throwing in a purposeful error now and again—a typo here, a misspelling there—nothing that would materially make a difference, but just enough to give Barney something to catch so we could all relax.

When he retired the Deschutes National Forest retired his old calculator with him and presented it to him as a keepsake. It was a giant old clunky thing with big orange numbers—a dinosaur no one else wanted. But that old machine and the guy who punched its buttons had kept us timber folks on the straight and narrow for many years. They will be missed.

Rest in peace, Barney.

**Rob Evans** *remembers Barney Duberow*

Barney was a world champion Ear Bender!

**Wendall Jones** *remembers Barney Duberow*

One of the great icons of the timber sale appraisal, Barney Duberow. He may not be well known throughout Region 6, but anyone whose career passed through the Deschutes National Forest will always remember Barney. Just a very great individual. Barney loved to dance with the ladies, and the ladies referred to his dance as the “Barney Hop.” He personally totally reviewed every timber sale appraisal made on the Deschutes. He was dedicated to getting everything RIGHT! Great guy just to be around.

**Ray Bunster** *remembers Barney Duberow*

Wendall's recollection of Barney's dedication is right on! Barney was intensely involved in every timber sale made on the Deschutes National Forest. I worked in pre-sale on the Bend Ranger District for a few months in 1962, and we could always be sure Barney was going to check and re-check our marking. The only thing that bothered us about him in the field was his disregard for time. We frequently had to remind him that it was 5:00 p.m. and that we still had a one- or two-hour drive back to Bend.

Ursula and I will sincerely miss Barney. We have been friends with him and Rosanna since our time on the Deschutes and have kept in touch mostly by Christmas cards. We trekked up the slope of Broken Top Mountain with Barney and Rosanna several years ago, and were astounded how hard it was to keep up with them.

**Jim Overbay** *remembers Barney Duberow*

I was sorry to learn of Barney's death. Barney was the TMA on the Big Summit Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest when I reported there in June 1956 fresh out of college. I spent the next ten months—until I reported for military duty—working almost every day with Barney. I learned all the fundamentals of the Forest Service timber program from Barney and spent many long days in the field with him. Barney was a very friendly guy and would give you the shirt off his back. He had a great family and was liked by everyone he met.

**Emil Sabol** *remembers Barney Duberow*

Dorine and I were sorry to learn of the passing of Barney Duberow. We called Rosanna to let her know we remember Barney as a devoted forester who had a keen interest in forest management. Besides being an excellent timber management specialist, he displayed an interest in and knowledge of land management generally.

I first met Barney in 1952 when he was on the Ochoco National Forest and I was on the Deschutes National Forest. We saw each other at SAF chapter meetings in Bend, Redmond, or Prineville. At these meetings I enjoyed the “give and take” between Barney and Hans Milius, Brooks-Scanlon's forester (and former U.S. Forest Service forester).

**Phil Hirl** *remembers Elmer Moyer*

Elmer led us to some significant changes for the Thirty-Year Club. I was on the board with him. He always seemed to see things in a non-traditional way. He led us to the non-profit thing for the club, which he and a few others seemed to understand, thankfully. We changed our name [to PNWFSA] with him. He insisted we meet with the regional forester and got those luncheons organized. At one of those luncheons, Regional Forester Linda Goodman agreed to our current Participating Agreement concept. That whole process got us to a better point with the working Forest Service. I first met Elmer when he was administrative officer for the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Engineering shared a floor with them. I was responsible for Engineering's administration stuff. I can't remember how it happened, but soon we were sharing the administration thing. Sure, Elmer started and did most of it. He was always looking for a better way, and then made it happen.

**John Marker** *remembers Elmer Moyer*

Elmer was one of the quiet, hardworking, and committed OldSmokeys. I agree with Phil's comments about his contributions to moving the PNWFSA to a new level of commitment to retirees and support of the Forest Service and national forests.

Elmer's leadership played a vital role in making it possible for the OldSmokeys to host the 2005 U.S. Forest Service Centennial Reunion without getting tangled up in regulatory paperwork and fiscal issues. His work to get our 501(c)(3) status made it much easier for OldSmokey **Bob Williams** and his team to concentrate on the objective of an outstanding reunion.

Elmer was a friend and a colleague in the OldSmokeys and a compassionate human being who will be missed and long remembered.

**Tim Max** *remembers Elmer Moyer*

I was sad to hear of the passing of Elmer Moyer. I worked with Elmer for several years at the PNW Research Station before he retired. We had a very good, congenial working relationship, but then that was typical with Elmer. He worked well with a variety of people. Elmer liked people and had a good sense of relating to others.

I recall one instance when we were out of town attending one of the dreaded mandatory training sessions on some politically correct topic. We discussed what to do in the evening. Elmer said he liked to go where the folks were gathering infor-

mally and just chat and share a drink with the other employees in attendance. He said that was how you found out what folks were really thinking! How true.

Elmer was a kind, generous person, always willing to share a helping hand with others. He was very straight-forward, open, and honest. He was the kind of person and supervisor who made the Forest Service a good place to work.

**Cindy Miner** *remembers Elmer Moyer*

I will miss seeing Elmer Moyer at OldSmokey events. I always enjoyed visiting with him and Mary.

**John Berry** *remembers Jim Sedell*

I first met Jim Sedell in the summer of 1977 or 1978. Jim was on a quest in Idaho to grab water samples from as many tributaries of the Salmon River as possible, in as little time as possible. I remember driving from Salmon to Challis in the early morning darkness to pick Jim up.

We came down the Salmon River grabbing samples from the Yankee Fork, Pahsimeroi, Lemhi, North Fork Salmon, Panther Creek, and Middle Fork Salmon on down to the end of the road at Corn Creek. There we caught a jet boat down to the Salmon Falls where we were supposed to meet up with another jet boat that would take Jim down to Riggins and the Snake River. When we got to Salmon Falls the other jet boat had not yet arrived. So, as we talked with the jet boat operator, Jim wanted to know if it was possible to run the falls and had the operator done it. The jet boat operator said he had done it a couple times, but thought the water was really too low.

Well, the next thing you know, we were in the boat and headed over the falls. Now, I thought we would just turn around about 100 yards below the falls and jet back up. But no, we went downriver a quarter- to a half-mile, turned around, and came back up full throttle. I those days, the Salmon Falls was really just a large pour off of the river between a couple bus-sized boulders. As we got closer to the falls, at 40 to 50 mph, the boulders started to look house-sized and the pour off no wider than our boat. We hit the falls holding on for dear life, the bow of the boat buried into the falls sending a giant wave over the bow drenching us. The boulders just inches from either side of the boat. The rear of the boat rose, causing the jets to suck air (cavitating), the bow finally popped out of the water, the rear end settled down, and the boat slowly climbed over the falls. My heart was in my throat and my eyes as big as saucers. That's when I looked at Jim and was introduced to the famous Jim Sedell grin. I swear he was in seventh heaven.

Jim was part of every step of my Forest Service career from hydrologist on the Salmon National Forest to district ranger on the Siskiyou National Forest to district ranger on the Mt. Hood National Forest to forest supervisor on the Eldorado National Forest. We partnered on several projects including the Elk River studies with Gordy Reeves and Gordon Grant, and restoration of Fish Creek following the 1995-1996 floods.

At my last regional leadership team meeting in California, it was Jim who stood up and gave a moving testament of how our careers had intertwined and what it meant to him. It was a special gift especially from Jim. Every day I spent with Jim was special. Jim helped me to think bigger and bolder. He made me

believe that our careers in natural resource management and research were a calling and part of a greater worthwhile mission of conservation and restoration. And, Jim was always fun to be around.

The research and conservation communities have lost a giant. I will miss Jim very much, and thinking of him will always bring fond memories and a grin to my face.

**John Marker** *recognizes Bob Boyd's service*

Bob Boyd leaves The High Desert Museum after 25 years as Curator of Western History—which was supposed to be a part-time job, but seemed more like full-time even though he was and continues to be a full-time teacher in Bend. He was honored at a special Museum Board of Directors meeting on September 7 (see “OldSmokey Bob Boyd Retired From High Desert Museum” on page 10). Bob is a dues-paying honorary member of the OldSmokeys.

Bob has done many great things for the Forest Service and the OldSmokeys over the last decade from finding a home at the Museum for the restored 1935 Chevrolet Forest Service fire engine to the Forest Service exhibit at the Museum that celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Forest Service. But his signature effort was collaborating with OldSmokey **Les Joslin** to move an historic ranger station office building from central Nevada to The High Desert Museum to showcase Forest Service and National Forest System history and as an interpretive center for explaining the national forests and the Forest Service to Museum visitors.

The restored district ranger's office is the first building seen as people arrive at The High Desert Museum. And during the summer months the second thing they see is friendly Forest Service retired “rangers” ready to greet them. All of this is the product of Bob's and Les's willingness to push the envelope and commitment to the Museum, the Outfit, and the national forests, and their willingness to “try it.”

**Kent Mays** *reflects on Mann Gulch Fire of 1949*

I have a couple reasons to remember the Mann Gulch Fire.

First, my Dad, Larry Mays, then Chief of Fire Control in Region 6 in Portland, was on the board of review which followed that incident. I spent a good deal of time as a young kid talking with Pop about that fire.

Second, the lessons learned from that fire influenced me in 1967, when fighting a fire above Oakridge, Oregon. At the morning briefing, [I was told] as a sector boss [to] lead a crew down from the top of a ridge to attack a lightning fire, in rough terrain, that had been spreading throughout the night. We trucked up to the ridge top, and while the crew was gathering and tooling up I told them to wait while I wandered over to a vantage point to check out the terrain and see if I could spot the fire.

I spotted the fire OK. It was shortly after daybreak, and that fire was already boiling at the bottom of the canyon in almost vertical terrain below us. I decided it was too dangerous and I was not going to lead that crew down that slope into the head of that fire. In my mind I characterized it as hiking down the barrel of a loaded shotgun. I returned to the crew just as the division boss dropped off (literally) the skid of a helicopter. As we met

he said, “The plans have changed. Keep on the ridge at the top and west of the fire.” That suited me just fine, and about 5 p.m. that fire came up out of that canyon, in the crowns, with about 300-foot flame lengths. We didn’t lose any line, and there were no injuries.

Also, the Mann Gulch Fire contributed much to the development of the 10 standard firefighting orders. And the fire was a catalyst for the early work in dropping fire retardant. Interestingly, one of the first drops used wing tanks, full of water, on a P-47. They dropped the water in the tanks. Of course, it was like a bomb exploded, with aluminum pieces hanging from various limbs. From then on they researched bulk drops of water, and eventually retardant.

*Editor’s Note: Kent’s reflection was triggered by Forest History Society Historian Jamie Lewis’ “Further Reflections on Mann Gulch” posted August 5, 2012, on the “Peeling Back the Bark” website.*

**Jeanette Beck** sends in late OldSmokey Arlyn Beck’s  
*Civilian Conservation Corps 1936 Annual*

I am Jeanette Beck, widow of Arlyn D. Beck who worked for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Arlyn first started work on June 7, 1937, and retired May 26, 1972. Before he started with the Forest Service he had joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) here in Baker with Company 980.

While looking through some of Arlyn’s things I discovered this Annual put out by Company 980 in April 1936. I’ve made a copy (my children forbid me to release the original) and hope that it can be put with other memorabilia of the CCC’s in Oregon.

*Editor’s Note: Jeanette’s contribution is greatly appreciated and will be found a good home. Her children’s concern for the original is also appreciated and understood by many, including this editor above whose desk hangs the framed 1933 original photograph of his dad’s CCC company at Camp Greek L. Rice, Homochitto National Forest, Mississippi.*

**Jim Bull** reports September 11, 2012, burning of historic  
*Peterson Prairie Guard Station on the Gifford Pinchot  
National Forest*

Early this morning the [Mt. Adams Ranger District] lost Peterson Prairie Guard Station that was built in 1924. Apparently the host had built a fire in the stove to take the chill off sometime [on the evening of September 10]. He was awakened by noise around midnight and when he went outside the roof was on fire. Fortunately the wind we had yesterday had calmed and it was contained on the site.

*Editor’s Note: Jim’s account of the guard station fire was preceded by the observation: “This wasn’t a good week for fire in the Trout Lake area. First it was the Highway 141 fire north of White Salmon, then the Cascade Creek fire on Mt. Adams.”*

**Letters** is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other *OldSmokeys*. Some are sent directly to the editor or secretary, others are reprinted from *OldSmokey* online services. You may send letters direct to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or by e-mail addressed to <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

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bility of a plane dropping retardant. Two-thirds of the fires fought by the Forest Service are within 10 miles of a suitable body of water, the study said, and fires in the wildland-urban interface are even more likely to be near water.

Chief Tidwell noted the relative merits of water and retardant and tradeoffs between the two. Water typically is used on fires to cool them, while retardant is dropped ahead of fires to slow them. Gallon for gallon, water is half as effective as retardant at slowing wildfires, but a scooper can make many more drops compared with an air tanker when a fire is close to water.

There are safety concerns. Water scoopers need to fly lower than air tankers, Chief Tidwell observed, because water must be dropped from lower altitudes to be effective. “Water, if it’s dropped at a higher altitude, you can lose a lot of it just through evaporation. And the wind will move water around more than it will retardant. Retardant is much heavier, it’s denser. So we can fly planes a little bit higher so it’s safer for the pilot.”

And there are other social and environmental concerns. Many large bodies in the West are full of boaters in the summer; they would have to be cleared before scooping operations. Scoopers could spread exotic mussels that contaminate rivers or lakes; they could dump salt water on the soil

“Our proposal would be to evolve a portfolio of firefighting aircraft that is dominated by water-bearing scoopers. You can drop more water from a scooper per hour than you can drop slurry from a tanker,” is Mr. Keating’s bottom line. “Our perspective was to look at it from the taxpayer’s perspective. ... The most cost-effective portfolio would be dominated by water-scoopers.”

And, speaking of cost, the RAND study says the 1,600-gallon scoopers could be had for about \$30 million each, with annual costs of \$3 million, compared with \$80 million each and annual costs of \$7 million for air tankers.

*Editor’s Note: I have a feeling your OldSmokeys Newsletter will be following this story for many issues to come.*

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Analysis finds that water-scoopers better for fighting wildfires” by Bruce Finley in the July 30, 2012, Denver Post; “RAND releases their air tanker report” by Bill Gabbert posted July 30, 2012, on the Wildfire Today blog; U.S. Is Urged to Change Its Firefighting Air Fleet” by Matthew L. Wald in the July 30, 2012, issue of The New York Times; “RAND: Water scoopers should be core of aerial firefighting strategy, Forest Service disagrees” in the July 30, 2012, issue of The Washington Post; and “New Study Says Retardant Dropping Air Tankers Out, Water Scooper Planes In” by Nathan Heffel for KUNC Community Radio for Northern Colorado.*

## U.S. Forest Service Procurement Policies May Have Precluded 747 Supertanker Use

Evergreen International Aviation, Inc., in a June 29, 2012, statement explaining why the company’s Boeing 747 Supertanker very large air tanker (VLAT) was not used to combat the wildfires that began ravaging several western states early in the 2012 fire season, cited several possible factors.

Although the Boeing 747 supertanker “was certified to fly by the Interagency Air Tanker Board and ready to fight wildfires” as it has previously “proved in Israel and Mexico,” Ever-

green claimed it has “never been told why [it] has not been activated by the U.S. Forest Service” which was short on air tankers during the severe 2012 wildfire season.

One reason might be the cost of a contract for the resource Evergreen “invested over \$50 million to develop.” According to Evergreen’s statement: “The only contract that will sustain a VLAT program is an Exclusive-Use contract, which provides an income stream to sustain the program even if the asset is not utilized.”

Another is recent changes to Forest Service procurement policies to the effect “only small businesses are eligible for contract awards concerning air tanker assets; Evergreen is not a small business and, therefore, is excluded from consideration for any contract award.”

A third seems to be the Forest Service’s “specification for Next Generation Air Tanker aircraft limits tank size to 5,000 gallons. The Supertanker’s tanks hold about 20,000 gallons....” Evergreen notes that “we continue to face a growing threat from mega fires today” and believes “the Supertanker represents an overwhelming response to this growing threat.”

*Prepared from “Evergreen International Aviation Statement Concerning the Supertanker” of June 29, 2012; and Examiner.com article “Evergreen Air B-747 Tanker Missing in Action Not Fighting Colorado Fires” of June 29, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service to Resume Wildfire Night Flying in Southern California Next Year

Beginning next year the U.S. Forest Service will contract a helicopter capable of fighting wildfire at night in a move to strengthen the agency’s capability to suppress fires and better protect firefighters and communities in Southern California.

“We have made this important decision very carefully,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. We have studied night operations from every angle—risk management, business and operations—and we have concluded we can conduct night operations safely and effectively.”

The helicopter will augment those that the Forest Service currently uses on an as-needed basis under established agreements with several organizations in Southern California. This new contracting helicopter will be used by the Forest Service exclusively for firefighting operations, thereby ensuring availability of a night-flying helicopter in the future.

The helicopter, which will be based in Southern California, will support wildfire suppression on Forest Service-protected lands, including communities and homes within and adjacent to the Angeles, Cleveland, and San Bernardino national forests and the southern half of the Los Padres National Forest.

Initially, the helicopter will be equipped to drop water and retardant. In the future, mission capability can expand to include incident emergency medical transport, prescribed burning, and aerial supervision of aircraft traffic in the air above an incident.

The decision follows extensive analyses that indicate helicopter night operations can keep down the costs and risks of wildfires by helping keep fires small.

The Forest Service Helicopter Night Operations Study identified 130 mitigation measures that would need to be addressed before designing, implementing, and operating a safe helicopter night operation program. The contracted pilots and crew will train in night missions before going operational in 2013.

*Derived from U.S. Forest Service News Release “U.S. Forest Service to Resume Wildfire Night Flying in Southern California Next Year” of August 16, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service’s New Planning Rule for National Forest System Lands is Challenged in Court as Unlawful

Representatives of the timber, grazing, and recreation industries have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service challenging its new Planning Rule for America’s 193-million acre National Forest System that was approved and announced on March 23, 2012.

“We are ready to start a new era of planning that takes less time, costs less money, and provides stronger protections for our lands and water,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said of the new rule, highlighting how it was the product of collaboration and sound science when Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced it.

But the plaintiffs claim the Planning Rule violates the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSY), and the Administrative Procedures Act under which U.S. federal agencies create the regulations they enforce.

Pursuant to the NFMA, the Forest Service is required to promulgate regulations under the principles of the MUSY—a “planning rule”—which guide development and revision of a NFMA-required Land Management Plan—or “forest plan”—for every national forest and national grassland.

The new Planning Rule, the plaintiffs claim, is flawed in many respects. “For example,” according to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s online CattleNetwork on August 13, 2012, “the planning rule requires the Forest Service to ‘maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area’” but “the ill-defined term ‘viable population’ does not appear in NFMA or any other statute [and] opens the door to even more litigation by radical special interest groups.”

“In the new forest planning rule, the general focus is on ecosystem services, sustainability, preservation and even ‘spiritual values’ over multiple-use, a clear diversion from the statutes governing our national forests,” the plaintiffs claim. “The new rule also fails to reflect MUSY and NFMA requirements governing active land management for multiple uses, including livestock grazing, timber management and recreation.”

### *Another wrinkle?*

Then, on August 8, 2012, the Forest Service published in the *Federal Register* a proposed regulation that would “improve the administrative review process for proposed projects and activities implementing land management plans” in the way it

would provide for “public comment opportunity for some land management plans.”

“The proposed rule for an objections process will be applied to all projects and activities that implement land management plans requiring an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement. The publication of the proposed rule will provide a 30-day public comment opportunity. All comments received will be considered before a final rule is published.

“This proposal will result in better, more informed project decisions, better documentation of environmental effects of agency proposals, and reduced regulation for administrative reviews,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

“The Forest Service has used a predecisional objection process for hazardous fuel reduction projects since 2004. This year Congress directed the Forest Service to also establish a predecisional objection process for other projects in lieu of the post-decisional appeal procedures in use with those projects since 1993.”

*Prepared from multiple sources including “NCBA: U.S. Forest Service planning rule violates the law” in the August 13, 2012, CattleNetwork at <www.cattlenetwork.com>; an editorial “Forest planning rules must follow the law” in the August 18, 2012, issue of Bend, Oregon’s daily The Bulletin; and U.S. Forest Service news release “U.S. Forest Service proposes to streamline land management plan review process.”*

## U.S. Forest Service to Administer New Chimney Rock National Monument on San Juan National Forest

President Barack Obama on September 21, 2012, used his American Antiquities Act of 1906 authority to designate Chimney Rock National Monument on the San Juan National Forest in Colorado as the seventh national monument managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the newest of 103 monuments protected for Americans.

The Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the four federal agencies tasked with managing national monuments.

Designation of Chimney Rock as a national monument followed years of grass roots effort to elevate the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area to national monument status. In 2007 the National Trust for historic preservation provided matching funds under the Save America’s Treasures grant program and in 2009 began the campaign to designate Chimney Rock a national monument. The National Trust labeled the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area as the single most important cultural site managed by the Forest Service.

Chimney Rock National Monument occupies 4,726 acres of the San Juan National Forest and is bordered by the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The site was once home to the ancestors of the modern Pueblo Indians. Roughly 1,000 years ago, the Ancestral Pueblo People built more than 200 homes and buildings high above the valley floor. “Chimney Rock holds great significance for the Native American tribes of southwestern Colorado and our neighboring states,” said Forest Supervi-

sor Mark Stiles.

Other national monuments managed by the Forest Service and the year each was established are Admiralty Island and Misty Fiords national monuments on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska (1978), Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington (1982), Newberry National Volcanic Monument on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon (1990), Giant Sequoia National Monument on the Sequoia National Forest in California (2000), and the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument on the San Bernardino National Forest in California (2000) co-managed with the Bureau of Land Management.

*Prepared from U.S. Forest Service news releases “Chimney Rock National Monument joins six others managed by Forest Service” of September 21, 2012, and “Forest Service-Managed National Monuments: of September 24, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service and Ad Council Team Up to Encourage Hispanics to Discover the Outdoors

“In an effort to motivate Hispanic families to get outside more often and reconnect with nature, the Ad Council and the U.S. Forest Service have launched the *Descubre el Bosque* public service advertising campaign, an extension of their popular English-language *Discover the Forest* campaign started in 2009,” according to a June 8, 2012, Ad Council press release.

“The aim of this campaign is to increase Hispanic visits to the Nation’s forests and grasslands, as well as to help them develop a love of nature and an understanding of their role in protecting it.

“Latinos make up 23 percent of the under-18 population in the United States yet only 5.8 percent of youth who participate in outdoor recreation are Hispanic, according to The Outdoor Foundation report. This is of startling concern because time in nature brings many physical, emotional and mental benefits to children.

“The Spanish-language public service ads, produced *pro bono* by [a firm called] Totality, target parents and guardians of tweens (children ages 8-12) and feature TV, radio and outdoor material that showcase how nature can provide the ultimate escape from the stress of our daily lives....

““We welcome everyone to America’s national forests and grasslands. They are the nation’s backyard,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. ‘More than 245 million people live within 100 miles from these treasures. Even for those Americans who live further, especially those in urban areas, your Forest Service backyard experiences will become lifetime memories.’

“The Ad Council has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service since 2009 on the *Discover the Forest* campaign encouraging families to unplug and reconnect by getting outdoors and enjoying the wonders of nature. This is the first year the campaign has produced Spanish-language PSA materials.”

*Prepared from Ad Council press release “U.S. Forest Service and Ad Council Launch New Multimedia Public Service Advertising Campaign to Encourage Hispanic Families to Discover Nature” of June 8, 2012.*

## U.S. Forest Service Faces a Wildfire Terrorism Challenge, Security Expert William Scott Says

“America, I think, is under attack by terrorists waging economic warfare by fire.”

That is the opinion expressed by William Scott at a July 9, 2012, briefing in the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., hosted by Senator John Kyl (Republican-Arizona). At this briefing, the American Center for Democracy and Economic Warfare Institute brought together nine preeminent experts on national security—including two former CIA directors—to address aspects of the United States’ readiness to prevent or mitigate attacks on its financial and economic infrastructure.

Economic warfare is the direct or indirect manipulation of an economy by a state actor or other entity through legal or illegal means. It has been waged between states for centuries, but the United States’ national security agencies are time and again caught by surprise, participants were told.

Mr. Scott’s perspective on fire as a weapon of economic warfare is of particular interest to the U.S. Forest Service and other public land management agencies charged with wildfire management. He addressed how terrorists could, and perhaps already are waging economic war inside the United States by starting wildfires which can cost the government and citizens billions of dollars. He referred to an al-Qaeda English-language magazine *Inspire* that promotes jihadist attacks on Western targets and offers detailed advice on how to ignite massive forest fires in America.

Mr. Scott suggested a range of actions to mitigate or prevent such attacks. These include:

- Use NASA and military assets to patrol fire-prone forests, using “fire combat air patrols” to quickly detect new fires and to track suspects leaving the scene;
- Stop narrowly thinking of fires as a land management issue, and begin treating them as a national security issue;
- Develop and deploy a robust air tanker fleet.

“Finally it’s time,” he emphasized that last point. “We have to develop and field a robust large air tanker fleet of fire-fighting aircraft. The Forest Service has made a good start, but it still suffers from a culture and attitude of what firefighters call ‘cheapism,’ the idea that we can fight wildland fire on the cheap. And that’s no longer acceptable.”

Mr. Scott worked on the 2002 Blue Ribbon Panel that studied and made recommendations about the air tanker fleet after mid-air wing failures of two air tankers that year. A former National Security Agency official, he is a former editor of *Aviation Week* and the author of *Space Wars*.

*Prepared from multiple sources including a May 2012 ABC News report “Al Qaeda Magazine Calls for Firebomb Campaign in U.S.”, a video of Scott’s July 9 presentation on You-Tube, and “Economic warfare by forest fire” posted September 8, 2012, on Wildfire Today blog.*

*Editor’s Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter is tracking other important U.S. Forest Service news stories that will be reported in the Winter 2013 issue.*

## Books

### OldSmokey Dave Govatski Co-authored *Forests for the People About Weeks Act* and the Eastern National Forests

New OldSmokey **David Gavotski** (*please see New Members on page 19*) and co-author Christopher Johnson’s *Forests for the People: The Story of America’s Eastern National Forests* tells one of the more extraordinary stories of environmental protection in our nation’s history: how a diverse coalition of citizens, organizations, and business and political leaders worked to establish national forests and protect private forestlands in the eastern United States.

In this book, scheduled for publication by Island Press in December 2012, Dave and his co-author offer an insightful and wide-ranging look at the actions that lead to passage of the Weeks Act of 1911 that established well-managed national forests in the East, the South, and the Great Lakes region. Case studies bring this history up to date with looks at some of the key challenges facing the eastern national forests today.

*Forests for the People* begins by looking at destructive practices in the late 1800s and early 1900s followed by forest fires that devastated entire landscapes. The authors explain how this led to the birth of a new conservation movement that began simultaneously in the Southern Appalachians and New England, and describe the subsequent protection of forests in these areas and the Great Lakes states.

Following this historical background, the authors offer eight case studies that examine critical issues facing the eastern national forests today. These address issues including timber harvesting, the use of fire, wilderness protection, endangered wildlife, oil shale drilling, invasive species, and development surrounding national park borders.

*Forests for the People* is the only book to fully describe the history of the Weeks Act and the creation of the eastern national forests, and to use case studies to illustrate the current management issues facing these treasured landscapes. It is an important new work for anyone interested in the past or future of forests and forestry in the United States.

Dave Govatski retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire in 2005 after a career as a forester, silviculturist, and fire management officer on several national forests. Christopher Johnson writes on conservation issues and is author of *This Grand and Magnificent Place: The Wilderness Heritage of the White Mountains*.

*Forests for the People*, to be published in December 2012 in hardcover (ISBN 9781610190095) at \$70.00 and in paperback (ISBN 9781610910101) at \$35.00, is a 326-page volume that includes 10 maps and 30 black-and-white photographs. You may purchase this title at fine bookstores across the United States or order it online from Island Press at < <http://islandpress.org/catalog.html>>.

--Les Joslin (from Island Press website description and inter-

view with Dave Gavotski)

## OldSmokey Bob Schramek Tells Olympic National Forest *Bunkhouse Tales* of the 1920s to the 1950s

The Quilcene Historical Museum published OldSmokey **Bob Schramek's** *Bunkhouse Tales* this summer. "A number of years ago," Bob wrote in the introduction, "my grandsons had asked me what it was like to work in the woods as a forester." He wrote this series of 14 short stories about a time more than half a century ago "to answer those questions" and made a discovery: "they describe a different culture, and a way of life that is no more."

"The spirit and culture of the field crews and foresters within the U.S. Forest Service was unique. This was especially true to those of us that were fortunate enough to live through the experiences of that life during the first 60 years of the Agency, between 1905 and 1965. I worked in the organization from 1952 to 1985. Those earlier experiences of 1952 to 1965 were indeed of a different time.

"There was a feeling of comradeship and a sense of purpose that we as a nation and a society seem to have lost. A fraternal friendship extended across the whole agency. I saw former co-workers years later and we would invariably remember the "old days." What I know now is that those days are gone. And most of that culture has been lost."

And so, to help others understand what has been lost and to preserve "the life of a field forester" he doubts "will ever again be possible," Bob shares his *Bunkhouse Tales*.

The titles of the first 13 tales hint at the treats they contain: Old John, Timber Cruiser; Ten Days in Camp; Whiskers' Cabin; The Doctors' Buffalo Herd; Field Crew Living; More Days in Camp; Big Fires: My First Big Fire; The Crew Boss; The Green Mountain Fire; Fire Camp Blow Up; Rough Country; The Shortest Day of the Year; and The Prospectors. This reader and reviewer couldn't resist them, be he can resist spilling the beans to others who should read them.

The 14th tale, My First Forest Service Job, is the tale every OldSmokey should write to preserve his or her past for the future. Bob's first job was on a Payette National Forest fire crew in 1952. How many OldSmokeys started out on fire crews! Compare your experience with his. If Bob agrees, this tale will appear someday in the *My First Forest Service Job* section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* or in the possible book the OldSmokeys may publish on that subject.

Three of Bob's tales were previously published in the OldSmokeys' 2005 anthology *We Had an Objective in Mind*.

*Bunkhouse Tales* (ISBN 978-0-9845907-2-8), a 90-page paperback published in 2012 by the Quilcene Historical Museum, is available for \$16.00 at the Museum, 151 E. Columbia Street, Quilcene, Washington. It can be ordered by telephone at 360-765-4848 or online at <[www.quilcenemuseum.org](http://www.quilcenemuseum.org)>. All proceeds from the sale of this book are donated to the Worthington Park project that commemorates the contributions of the Worthington family to forestry in the area. For more information see <[www.worthingtonparkquilcene.org](http://www.worthingtonparkquilcene.org)>.

— Les Joslin

## Jim Fisher Authors Centennial History *Honoring a Century of Service of the Oregon Department of Forestry*

Many's the OldSmokey who's worked with Oregon Department of Forestry colleagues during his U.S. Forest Service career. Now you can read that state outfit's history by Jim Fisher, an Class of 1956 Oregon State College forester with a minor in journalism who served as that state outfit's public affairs director for 18 years.

As Jim introduced *Honoring a Century of Service: The Centennial History of the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry, 1911-2011*, "This is a history of one hundred years of the Oregon Department of Forestry and its policy-making board, the Oregon Board of Forestry, from their beginning in 1911 to 2011. Together, the volunteer Board and Department personnel have achieved major advancements for Oregon in the past century while overcoming many challenges. Selecting the most important events of these one hundred years has not been easy. Decisions had to be made on what facts, events, and people should be included. Hopefully, the most important ones have been selected.

"In looking back over the past century, readers will be impressed by the progress made by the agency, starting with few guidelines and very limited resources to create one of the finest state forestry organizations in the nation. Clearly, the support and cooperation of state government, private forest landowners from the forest industry and family forest landowners, and the U.S. Forest Service are major reasons that this effort was successful."

There's reason enough to get hold of and read Jim's book! This 130-page, 60,000-word book, profusely illustrated with historic photographs, was published by the Oregon Department of Forestry in April 2011. Individual copies of *Honoring a Century of Service* are available from the Department's Tillamook Forest Center store by mail, fax, or phone at \$19.95 including mailing.

--Les Joslin

## OldSmokey Zane Smith Recommends Colin Powell's New Book *It Worked for Me*

If you haven't already read it, I would strongly recommend Colin Powell's newest book, *It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership*. It parallels so closely the leadership traits the Forest Service so long has nourished and valued. I was taken aback by how relevant it was to my career and suspect still is for today's workforce. I should think every line officer and those in the queue should have a copy.

—Zane G. Smith, Jr.

*It Worked for Me* (ISBN-13 978-0062135120) was published by HarperCollins in May 2012 at \$27.99 and is available at book-sellers everywhere. It is also available from online sources such as Amazon.com in hardcover, softcover, and Kindle editions at lower prices.

## Uncle Sam's Cabins



*The ranger's residence at historic Elwha Ranger Station.  
National Park Service photograph*

### Elwha Ranger Station Olympic National Park, Washington

*Compiled by Les Joslin*

Why, one might ask, is an historic ranger station in a national park featured in this series?

Most OldSmokeys know: Elwha Ranger Station was built in 1932 for the U.S. Forest Service in a part of the Olympic National Forest transferred to Olympic National Park in 1940.

The historic Elwha Ranger Station is a complex—an office, three residences, and other structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps for the Forest Service between 1932 and 1936—now part of the Elwha Ranger Station Historic District within Olympic National Park and used by the National Park Service as an information station.

The Elwha was one of 15 areas within Olympic National Forest designated by the “Cleator Plan”—named for legendary Forest Service recreation engineer Fred W. Cleator—for public recreation. The ranger station was built to support that use.

The one-story ranger station office is a wood-frame structure covered with half-log siding on the lower walls and shingles on the gables. The residences and other structures are of similar construction. The two-story barn of distinctive Forest Service character has board-and-batten siding. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, it is a classic Pacific Northwest Region ranger station of the Great Depression era.

*Editor's Note: Elwha Ranger Station Historic District is just a short distance southwest of Port Angeles, Washington, and approximately 3 miles south of U.S. Highway 101 on the Olympic Hot Springs Road. About two miles south of the Olympic National Forest entrance station, you'll find the office and residences on the east (left) side of the road and the utility and maintenance structures on the west (right) side of the road.*

*Prepared from a variety of online sources including an Historic Building Inventory of Olympic National Park by Gail E.H. Evans and a Wikipedia entry.*



### Uncle Sam's Cabins Revisited

This *Uncle Sam's Cabins* series began with “Gail Baker's Gasquet Ranger Station” in the Fall 2006 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—the third issue I edited—and continued in the next 22 issues with the historic U.S. Forest Service ranger and guard stations in the Pacific Northwest Region shown on this map. The series will continue as long as I edit your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* or until Region 6 runs out of historic ranger stations and guard stations worthy of inclusion in the series.

Preservation and use of historic Forest Service ranger and guard stations is important because they are the places from which we worked to make the Forest Service a great administrator of the National Forest System. Congress helped preserve these symbols of greatness when it passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 that permits the agency to reinvest fees charged to national forest visitors who rent historic ranger and guard station cabins included in the rental program in the restoration and maintenance of those structures.

The 22 historic ranger and guard stations in this series and 70 more throughout the rest of the West are profiled in the revised edition of *Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West* published earlier this year to advance and enhance National Forest System heritage tourism and help preserve these stations.

This 333-page book with over 250 photographs is available for \$20.00 postpaid from Wilderness Associates at P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97701 or <[www.wildernessheritage.com](http://www.wildernessheritage.com)>, or from Amazon.com with an additional charge for postage.

—Les Joslin

## Out of the Past

### Four OldSmokeys are Among Surviving Ochoco National Forest 1952 “Gang”



A photograph entitled “The Ochoco Gang—1952” left by OldSmokey **Barney Duberow** when he died July 1, 2012, at age 92 (see *Memories*, page 19), shows four surviving OldSmokeys who were members of that gang: Row 2, first left, **Cal von Weissenfluh**; Row 3, eighth from left, **V. Jay Hughes**; Row 4, fifth from left, **Wally Johannsen**; Row 4, seventh from left, **John Fosburg**.

Also in this photograph are three late OldSmokeys whose surviving wives inherited their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association memberships: Row 2, sixth from left, **Bill Boring**, whose widow **Maude** lives in Williamsburg, Virginia; Row 3, ninth from left, **Don Strong**, whose widow Paulina lives in John Day, Oregon; and in Row 4, fourth from left, **Barney Duberow**, whose widow Rosanna lives in Bend, Oregon.

Finally, seventh from left in Row 3, is **Vondis Miller**, father of OldSmokey **Roger Miller** who lives in Portland.

These old group photographs are one of the very best ways of recalling our Forest Service’s storied past.

*Editor’s Note: That’s the best I could do by bouncing the photograph against the current PNWFSA Membership Directory. Please excuse any possible errors or omissions and send in any necessary corrections.*

## ***My First Forest Service Job*** **The Product of a Federal Agency** **I Knew Nothing About, Until...**

*By R. Gordon Schmidt*

I was born in Portland, Oregon, but my family actually lived in Stevenson, Washington. Stevenson is the county seat of Skamania County. The county's population was about 5,000 when I was growing up, and hasn't changed much.

I spent my school years in Stevenson, and graduated from high school in 1966. I never thought much about the very fine educational facilities we had. The schools were new; we had a beautiful new swimming pool and two football fields (a practice field and the regular field). The roads to the schools were in perfect shape; newly resurfaced and always maintained. We had great teachers, too. It seems all my teachers were remarkable instructors in their chosen fields. I was always interested in science and had a fine chemistry and physics teacher who took me under his wing. He used state-of-the-art science teaching tools to ensure better understanding. All of this I took for granted, until....

### ***A summer job***

After high school graduation I was on my way to the University of Washington to be a chemist. That summer of 1966 a friend and I went to Seattle to find work. That did not turn out so well. I was struggling that first month, working in a service station. My father called and told me the Forest Service was hiring. I asked who they were! He thought I should come home and get a good summer job. Realizing I was floundering, I took Dad's advice. I went to the Wind River Ranger Station, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, on Friday, July 1, filled out an SF-171, and handed it to Clay Beal. Clay took a quick look at it and asked if I could start on Tuesday, July 5. He didn't want to pay me for the holiday! I said yes. My life would never be the same.

I was assigned to an initial attack crew that maintained trails. Some would say it was a trail crew that fought fire. Either way, it was one great assignment. I joined the crew on July 5 with Al Woods, Tom Pendel, and John Gantenbine. We jumped in the crummy and headed for a short trail that wound up Trout Creek Butte, just a couple miles up and a couple down. Crew Boss Pendel handed me a rucksack and power saw and said, "See you at the top!" Holy crap! I had "officially" started smoking after I got out of high school, although I had smoked occasionally for some time. It was a long hike for a smoker who hadn't done much since basketball that senior year of high school. I made it, but was dead when I got up there. Compared with the rest of our summer's work, Trout Creek was a pretty easy pull, but it nearly ended my Forest Service career the day it started!

Our crew typically left the compound at 7:30 a.m. to be on the job by 8:00. We returned by 5:00 p.m. and had the rig washed and parked by 5:30, all for eight hours pay. One of the more enjoyable jobs was maintaining 14 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Carson-Guler Road to Washington Highway 14 in one day. It was always a thrill to work that piece of

trail. We knew we had to finish in one day or it would be a long hike back in to finish up a small reach of trail. The first time out on this trek I blistered my heels badly and Pendel gave me first aid inside the old Grassy Knoll Lookout. We visited many, many lookouts that first year. By the next summer most had been burned down by the Forest Service to limit liability. I have always had a soft spot in my heart for those lookouts that I can never visit again. There were a lot of them.

The summer wore on and we hiked happily every day on the job. What a great experience for a young man who had no real appreciation for the woods. Our crew went to its first fire in August—Hornet Creek on the Wenatchee National Forest out of Ardenvoir. We didn't have a clue. We were on a 20-person crew assigned to a line along the top of a ridge. The fire crowned up the ridge and peaked right at our location. We stood there watching in awe. That fire changed my life. From then on I was hooked on the awe inspiring power of Mother Nature and of forest fires. I nearly didn't get further in my career as the fire curled over the ridge and our heads. We were quite busy on the back side of the ridge putting out spots. As the evening wore on, we mopped up every spot we could find under the leadership of our crew boss, Gordon White, the FMO at Wind River. I'd never have guessed he'd be my assistant fire staff 16 years later on the Deschutes National Forest. I learned a great deal from Gordon.

We came off the line about 2:00 a.m., as I recall. The four of us on the trail crew grabbed paper sleeping bags and looked for a place to crash. Everywhere we looked we saw white specks (sleeping bags) on the ground. Al Woods discovered a little open area with no sleeping bags, and we spread out there and went to sleep. A couple hours later a firefighter walked down my back. I yelled, "Sorry, just looking for the latrine!" he said. Turns out the open space was the latrine area, and that's why there was room to spread our sleeping bags. What a night! At breakfast the Forest Service wives were cooking real food. I asked for, and got, "a dozen eggs!" Those were the days: hard work, home cooking, and no overtime or hazard pay, just straight time.

### ***A revelation and a career***

I returned to Wind River each summer all through college. In my later Wind River assignments (I transferred to the Siskiyou National Forest in 1973), I spent some time in timber management and learned all about payments in lieu of taxes, timber receipts, roads and schools, and so forth. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest covers over 80 percent of Skamania County. *Never*, while I was growing up in Stevenson, did I have the slightest idea that all the excellent facilities and teachers available to me resulted from the timber management program on the Gifford Pinchot.

My chemistry exploits gave way to wildland fire science. I graduated from the University of Washington with a couple degrees in forestry and fire science. Thirty-two years to the day after Clay Beal hired me I retired under firefighter retirement. It was the best 32 years anyone could have had, and I am eternally grateful to the Forest Service for my practical and scholarly education, all of which started on my first Forest Service job.



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[www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)

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