



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Fall 2013

President's Message—

*We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past;
and we must respect the past, remembering that it was once all that was humanly possible.*

—George Santayana

This is one of my favorite quotations and one that I used talking to our employees when they were concerned about something that had happened in the past. I think about our current employees and the pressures they face. They are faced with budget sequestration, fire transfer, a Congress that isn't fully engaged in land management issues, and no pay increases, limited travel, and I could go on and on. I applaud the work that they do, and know it is all that is humanly possible. As a retiree, it is very easy for me to say that isn't how I would run the outfit. However, what I faced even five years ago is different from what Regional Forester **Kent Connaughton** and his staff face today. I hope one of our goals as OldSmokeys is to find a way to support current employees. They need our support, not criticism.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't voice our concerns and certainly let our congressional representatives know how we feel. The Forest Service is tied down with conflicting regulations and decisions made by the courts that mean current employees spend more time trying to meet the higher standards laid out by the courts than getting work done on the ground. I know that is a frustration for everyone who loves the land and the Forest Service.

As we go into the new year, I ask all of us to take a moment when we see a current employee to thank them and to ask how we might be able to help. I know I will.

Linda Goodman

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

Annual Dues for 2014 are due January 1. See page 6!

Forum

The U.S. Forest Service Mission Statement is Pure Fantasy

By Jim Petersen,
Founder, The Evergreen Foundation,
and Editor, Evergreen Magazine

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$213 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

The italicized message above appears at the bottom of every press release disseminated by the United States Forest Service. It is the venerable agency's official explanation for its existence, yet it bears only a fleeting resemblance to the truth. This isn't to say that I believe whoever wrote this statement is a liar. It is to say that the modern-day Forest Service is whistling past its own grave in hopes that no one will give it a final shove into the abyss.

It is true that Congress created the Forest Service in 1905 and gave it responsibility for caring for a timberland base that today totals 193 million acres. But I have serious doubts about the rest of the claims the Forest Service makes in its mission statement. Even the agency's leadership admits that about 80 million of the 193 million acres in its care are in such dreadful ecological condition that it will most likely burn to the ground before Congress musters the political courage to shut down the litigation machine that is destroying the nation's federal forest heritage.

If the Forest Service was actually working "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations" we would still have an active timber sale program—one that at least removed diseased, dying and dead trees from forests that have been overrun by insects and parasites, fueling wildfires that now cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion annually.

Eleven years ago I asked a researcher working in the Forest Service's regional office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, if he could calculate for me the amount of new growth that was clogging the Southwest's already overstocked forests—meaning forests in which so many trees are present that they are killing each other. His answer stunned me. Picture a solid block of wood the dimensions of a football field stretching one mile into

the sky. This is how much new wood fiber nature is adding to forests in Arizona and New Mexico every year. One mile in 2002—the year the calculation was done, one more mile in 2003, another mile in 2004 and 9 more miles since. Thus, our one mile high pile of firewood gathered in 2002 now stretches 12 miles into the sky—at the outer edge of gravity's earthward pull. At this altitude, the curvature of the earth is plainly visible and you can see where night meets day. If you need help with this visual, there are NASA websites that broadcast satellite images from space 24/7.

I regret to say I did not ask the researcher to attempt the same calculation for all federal forest lands in the 11 western states, but I can tell you that national forests in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California and Alaska dwarf forests in the Southwest in both size and the number of trees present. So you tell me how far into the heavens our firewood pile has pushed since 2002. Fifty miles, sixty miles? More? Less? I doubt anyone knows for sure, but I can tell you with certainty that it is this enormous woodpile—decrepit, dying or already dead—that is fueling the deadly wildfires you are reading about this summer. They are killing everything in sight.

For unfathomable reasons, many environmental groups continue to pander to the idea that harvesting trees from federal forests does more harm than good. Yet I do not know of a single scientific study that endorses the idea that stand-replacing wildfires do less environmental damage than a well-regulated timber management plan. Quite the opposite, I can cite several studies that demonstrate that over time, harvesting can be used to increase growth in older forests the public admires most.

In its mission statement, the Forest Service claims that 20 percent of the nation's clean water—that would be the water we drink—comes from forests in its care. I don't doubt that this is true. In fact, I'm not surprised it isn't more. I'll hazard a guess that well over half the municipal drinking water consumed in the 11 western states comes from someone's forest. I am left to wonder why Congress has not given the Forest Service the legally sufficient authority to do the active thinning and stand tending work necessary to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in watersheds that are vital to the 60.3 million Americans reportedly living in the 11 western states in 2000.

The Forest Service values its water supply at \$7.2 billion a year. Frankly, I think their figure is far too low. Life is not possible without water, so I don't think it is a stretch to say that virtually all economic activity in the 11 western states would cease if there were no forested watersheds in which rainfall and snowmelt are collected. Again, why isn't the Forest Service actively engaged in protecting these watersheds?

The Mt. Hood National Forest's Bull Run Watershed supplies virtually all of the water consumed in the greater Portland, Oregon, metro area. It has been a firetrap for years, yet the Forest Service refuses to engage municipal leaders in an honest conversation about the social calamity that would erupt if the watershed burned. I'm sure Portland's liberal political classes won't want even dead and dying timber removed from "their" watershed, but the discussion still needs to occur so that everyone understands the costs associated with losing the irreplace-

able water source that serves Oregon's most populous communities.

The same wildfire crisis that threatens the West's municipal water supplies also threatens its tourist trade. The Forest Service estimates that its national forests annually contribute \$213 billion in visitor spending to the West's economy. I don't know if this is true, but I'd like to have a look at the agency's data. My guess is that anyone who plays 18 holes of golf at a course within driving distance of a national forest is counted as a visitor. By extension, anyone who recreates anywhere in the West could be added to the visitor count. Fair enough. But if these tourists are so bloody important to the West's economy why is the Forest Service busy closing access roads and campgrounds that are especially popular with older Americans and families with children, and why—again—is the agency doing next to nothing about insects and disease that are devouring the view? In some parts of the rural West, there are now more dead trees than live ones. Take the time to get off the interstate highways and you will find yourself immersed in a sobering learning experience that bears no resemblance to the welcoming brochures state tourism offices hand out.

In some forests, tree stands have grown so dense that it is not possible for big game animals to pass through. I have personally tried to wedge my 185-pound frame between trees in forests in Wyoming, Montana, Arizona and New Mexico that were so densely packed together that I gave up and walked back to my car. These are the outer edges of dead and dying stands that are infecting adjacent forests that could still be saved if Congress took its landlord responsibilities seriously. These are also the graves the Forest Service blithely whistles past every day on its way to its own burial.

For myriad reasons, I find this drama increasingly difficult to watch. When I was a boy growing up in northern Idaho, nearly every kid I knew wanted to wear a Forest Service uniform when he grew up. The uniform, which borrowed much from the green Marine service uniform, spoke of an *esprit de corps* that disappeared from the agency 20-some years ago. Today, most who work for what Forest Service retirees still call "the outfit" are clock punchers and "ologists" who have little or no connection to the nation's economic development. They are living in a dream world in which the people whose livelihoods they hold in their hands are simply pawns in what has become one of the most deceitful political charades in our nation's history.

Frankly, I don't know what it will take to redirect the Forest Service, or if it is even possible. But I can tell you that the agency is not doing anything to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of forestlands in its care. The well documented tree growth that is occurring is itself unsustainable, which is the reason why millions of acres are falling apart, fueling deadly wildfires. Yes, the Forest Service has initiated a few thinning projects aimed at reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially around communities, but the scale of these efforts pales when compared to the size of the so-called "forest health" crisis we westerners see in every direction.

I have no doubt that most in leadership positions in the Forest Service sincerely believe they are doing the right thing. But

I know many who work at the local level who can't wait to retire. From their front line observation posts our national forests look very different than they do from 1400 Independence Avenue in Washington, D.C. I am at a loss to think of anything that the Forest Service is doing that is sustainable; nor is there much about today's Forest Service that suggests its own sustainability.

No one knows this better than four of the last Forest Service chiefs: Jack Ward Thomas, Dale Bosworth, Gail Kimbell, and current chief, Tom Tidwell. All four brought extensive regional and district level experience to the chief's office—and all four soon learned that the nightmarish regulatory mess Congress has created makes it impossible to sustain much of anything except the litigation machine that takes its cues from federal judges whose dubious rulings continue to underscore the fact that they don't know anything about forests or forestry. Minus such fundamental understanding, they continue to base their rulings on their own political biases.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which continues its decades-long assault on public lands forestry. This court has blood on its hands, literally and figuratively. Its loopy and legally ill-conceived rulings are the reason why the Forest Service's mission statement is pure fantasy, and will remain so until Congress steps in with a set of legally sufficient regulations that give the agency the ironclad and unmistakable authority it needs to clean up the mess.

This won't be easy because politically powerful environmentalists remain deeply committed to the idea that there should be no commercial timber activity in our national forests. A few of them have had the courage to say this publicly but most simply wrap themselves in shrouds of naturalness and declare that "nature knows best." If this were true, the West would not be burning to the ground, our watersheds would not be endangered, tourism would be a growth industry and the Forest Service's mission statement would not be the pure fantasy it has become.

I've said this before but I need to say it again: there are no silver bullets in this final fight for the future of the assets held in the West's national forests. Minus new political, legal and scientific strategies, crafted by conservationists and community leaders who share land ethics, vital forest restoration will remain a distant dream and the Forest Service's mission statement will remain a fantasy.

Meantime, the "young innocents," a term coined by a Forest Service retiree I admire, remain oblivious to the fact that the national forests were established in part to promote economic expansion in the rural West. Their economic importance was blessed by Teddy Roosevelt, who as "the conservation President" saw to it that a newly minted Forest Service was placed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and not the scandal-ridden Department of the Interior.

On the eve of the Forest Service's 1905 founding, there were dire predictions that the nation might actually run out of harvestable timber if the federal government did not create timber reserves that could serve the nation's future needs. On this sub-

ject, Roosevelt’s instruction at a 1903 meeting of the Society of American Foresters could not have been clearer:

And now, first and foremost, you can never forget for a moment what is the object of our forest policy, for that object is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself; nor is it because they are refuges for the wild creatures of the wilderness, though that, too, is good in itself; but the primary object of our forest policy, as of the land policy of the United States, is the making of prosperous homes. It is part of the traditional policy of home making in our country. Every other consideration comes as secondary.

You yourselves have got to keep this practical object before your minds; to remember that a forest that contributes nothing to the wealth, progress or safety of the country is of no interest to the Government, and should be of little interest to the forester. Your attention must be directed to the preservation of forests not as an end in itself, but as a means of preserving and increasing the prosperity of the nation.

If the fiery Roosevelt could see what is happening—and not happening—in our national forests today, he would be mad as hell. I know less about the personalities of SAF’s founding members, all of them early leaders in the Forest Service and the nation’s conservation movement, but I suspect they would be astonished and saddened. So am I.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Jim Petersen for permission to reprint this article posted in the July 23, 2013, Evergreen Magazine.

The U.S. Forest Service Mission Statement is “Pure Fantasy” For Want of Making Directive Language Informative Language

Jim Petersen’s thoughtful article points out a challenge the U.S. Forest Service is not meeting in terms of accomplishing the mission set forth in its mission statement—the challenge of acting to evolve *directive language*, a statement of intent, into *informative language*, a statement of fact.

Directive language without effective implementation remains just that; at best, it tells us what should be, not what is. And the fact that what should be is not becoming what is speaks volumes about the Forest Service today compared with the Forest Service that should be and could be.

Jim enumerates many mostly external reasons for the Forest Service that is. There are also internal factors that could be addressed internally to make the Forest Service more effective in pursuing its mission statement if agency leadership were to recognize and act on that fact. Among these is an affordable version of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy of entry-level, mid-level, and senior-level educational experiences focused on leadership and management skills and perspectives that forest officers need now and in the future to accomplish the mission. This proposal has yet to gain traction with leadership.

—Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

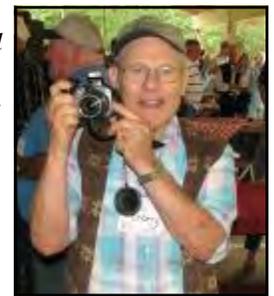
OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Convened 112 Strong for August 9, 2013, Picnic in the Woods

A happy throng of 112—110 OldSmokeys and two OldSmokey grandchildren—enjoyed the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s annual Picnic in the Woods at the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood on Friday, August 9, 2013.

How much did they enjoy the picnic? Well, the following photographs—mostly by **Paul Enberg** and **John Poppino** and a few by your editor—tell that story much better than words ever could!

As these photographs suggest, principal photographer Paul Enberg (right) and photographer John Poppino were virtually inescapable at the picnic.



First stop was the registration table (below) where Mary Moyer, Bev Pratt, and Deb Warren signed you in. Pop quiz: Whose hand is holding that glass?



Jon Stewart, attending his first OldSmokeys picnic, shook hands with Past President Mike Ash as Mark Engdall looked on.



PNWFSA President Linda Goodman (center) welcomed Mt. Hood National Forest Acting Forest Supervisor Lisa Northrop (left) and OldSmokey Nancy Lankford (right).



Dorine & Emile Sabol



Bob Williams & Rick Larson



Ted Gump



Virginia Williams & Bob Tokarczyk



Dave & Pam Trask



Chet Bennett



Dick Ferraro



Mike Hilbruner



John & Mary Marker



Jack & Grace Smith



Bob Barstad



Dick Woodfin



John Lowe



Dave Scott



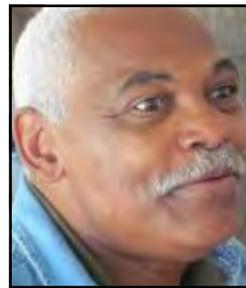
Sue Triplett



Detroit Ranger District Staff, 1954



Dick Buscher



Roy Roosevelt



Bonna Wilson, Carl Juhl, & Wendall Jones

OldSmokey Says...

The 37 OldSmokeys and guests shown on these pages—a third of those who attended—reflect the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the U.S. Forest Service folks—both active duty and retired—who comprise our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association. Many thanks to photographers Paul Enberg and John Poppino for this inspiring look at us enjoying ourselves at our annual Picnic in the Woods. Too bad space doesn't permit all the pictures to be published! But you can see many more on the website under the Photos tab.





Lifetime Membership, Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund Opportunities

OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2014 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 \$20.00 to do just that by January 1, 2014.

This is also a good time of the year to think about doing yourself the favor of converting your PNWFSA annual membership into a **Lifetime Membership** for a one-time payment of \$250 that frees you from 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 your PNWFSA's **Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund** that helps 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 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and to share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the **Letters** section of that newsletter.

Yep, you can do all that with just this one coupon and one stamp! What a deal! So, *please, please, please do it now!*

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Bill for Collection for 2014 Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and Donation to Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund

Please make your check(s) for \$20 Annual Membership 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 Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in the space below. Add additional pages if necessary.

OldSmokeys to Accept Grant Applications for Projects Meeting PNWFSA Criteria

Again in 2014, 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, 2014.

Grant criteria

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 grant buck. Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifications and criteria.

Grant applications

If you know of a worthy eligible potential recipient of a PNWFSA grant, please let that party know of this opportunity. Grant applications should be prepared as letters that describe the proposed project and enumerate how its accomplishment would satisfy the above criteria.

Additionally, for grant requests supporting U.S. Forest Service projects, a statement of support for and commitment to the project signed by the cognizant line officer (e.g., forest supervisor, district ranger) must be submitted with the application.

Grant applications should be mailed to: Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Attn: Grants Committee, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

OldSmokeys Received Thanks for Grant to Install Interactive Wildfire Station at High Desert Museum

High Desert Museum President Janeanne Upp, in a July 10, 2013, letter, thanked the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for a \$1,000 grant that supported installa-

tion of a software-based Interactive Wildfire Station at the Museum.

Initially installed in one of the Museum’s main hallways, near the historic U.S. Forest Service fire truck, and due to be permanent at the Museum’s revised forestry exhibit, this brightly-colored and sized-for-children exhibit attracts visitors to learn more about wildfires and how they are fought. Through a touchscreen, visitors assume the role of an incident commander (IC) on a wildfire. Video updates the IC on the fire status and offers firefighting options. As the IC selects various options—air tankers, smokejumpers, ground crews—additional video provides information about the pros and cons of these approaches and appropriate options for a given fire. In addition, video shows actual firefighting efforts so visitors can learn what is involved when options are selected. At the end of the simulation, the station software provides an IC evaluation.

Overall, the Interactive Wildfire Station provides visitors with insight into firefighting efforts and the role of fire in forest ecosystems. The software stresses that, while fire is an important part of forest environments, controlling destructive wildfires protects important natural resources. Through this experience, Museum visitors develop a better understanding of the complexity of firefighting.

“Thank you again for your support for this project,” President Upp concluded her letter. “We are thrilled to have been able to add this interactive learning station to our campus and expand visitor understanding of forest ecology.”

OldSmokeys Welcomed 1,613 Visitors to High Desert Ranger Station Fifth Summer

A dozen OldSmokeys—**Carl Anderson, Rico Burgess, Gail Carbiener, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Don Doyle, Valerie Jones, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Joan Landsberg, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**—and volunteers Dave Gilbert and Donna Noyes—welcomed a record 1,613 visitors to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum during 63 days of operation from July 1 through September 2, 2013.

These visitors to the High Desert Museum, which interprets the natural and cultural history of the Intermountain West, learn from these volunteer staffers that this 1933 ranger station office links the lifeways of the Old West and the New West. The trappers, hunters, ranchers and homesteaders, lumbermen and loggers, miners and other pioneers built a civilization in the Old West based on use of natural resources—the natural resources the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies manage today to sustain the economy and environment of the New West.

The focus of the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit is on stewardship of National Forest System timber, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation resources and, of course, protection of these resources. The romance of the Forest Service way of life shines through the message.

OldSmokeys interested in joining the High Desert Ranger Station team should contact OldSmokey **Les Joslin** at 541-330-0331 or <lesjoslin@aol.com> for complete information.

OldSmokeys Adopt-A-Road in Gresham

Nine OldSmokeys are among a dozen U.S. Forest Service active and retired personnel and family members who have honored an Adopt-A-Road pledge in Gresham, Oregon, by cleaning up Powell Boulevard in that city three times a year for the past three years. Before 2010, Region 6 RO personnel cleaned that road for over 20 years.



This intrepid road patrol includes OldSmokeys (in alphabetical order) PNWFSA Past President **Mike Ash**, PNWFSA Membership Chair **Bob Devlin** and his wife **Barb Riggs**, PNWFSA President **Linda Goodman**, **Peggy Kain**, **Connie Redmond**, **Mark Sigrist**, **Sundi Sigrist**, and Sandy High School Senior **Gunnar Sigrist**. Other crew members are Phil Mattson, Rick Toupin, and David Widmark.

OldSmokey Ranotta McNair Named Region 6 NAFSR Representative

OldSmokey **Ranotta McNair** replaced OldSmokey **John Marker** as Region 6 member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) Board of Directors, NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** announced on July 11, 2013.

Ranotta retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a Region 1 forest supervisor and has been Region 1's representative on the board, but has recently moved to Bend, Oregon, and accepted the Region 6 seat when asked.

John had asked to be replaced on the NAFSR board after years of double duty as Region 6 representative and editor of *The Lookout*, NAFSR's newsletter.

"No one can replace John, and I know [all] will join me in thanking John for his double duty," OldSmokey President **Linda Goodman** said of the announcement. "Also, please join me in welcoming Ranotta. I am excited to get her back in our region and hope she will be able to join us at one of our board meetings soon!"

OldSmokey Past-President **Mike Ash** echoed Linda's sentiments by thanking John for his "great service to both NAFSR and the OldSmokeys. Your passion for the outfit, professionalism, and willingness to step up to any task at hand made you such a tremendous resource to us all."

"Welcome Ranotta!" Mike continued. "I have known Ranotta since the 1980s when she worked on the Mt. Hood National Forest, and I kept an eye on her after she left and became a district ranger and forest supervisor. I have the highest respect for Ranotta and am excited to have her on board!"

OldSmokey Paul Engstrom Leads Volunteer Trail Efforts on the Deschutes National Forest

OldSmokey **Paul Engstrom**, retired recreation forester on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, leads a small crew of U.S. Forest Service volunteers who clear national forest trails.

"Our group meets every Tuesday at 0630 at the Forest Service compound," Paul explains. "We are given a government rig—they reinstated my government driver's license—and our crew size is usually three to six. We clear wilderness and non-wilderness trails. Most of the volunteers are retired and come from various backgrounds. One other volunteer, Forest Service retiree Doug Williams, has made a hobby of buying old cross-cut saws he restores and sharpens for the volunteers."

"We clear the feeder trails and most of the wilderness trails on the Sisters Ranger District," Paul said. "Last year we cleared the trail from Jack Lake to Minto Pass. When we reached the PCT, we cleared a few of the large logs near the junction of the two trails to assist the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) crew coming in right behind us. As a rule, we don't clear the PCT because it is adopted out to various people by segment."

The segment of the PCT from Minto Pass to Rockpile Lake was all but blocked by hundreds of down trees since the B&B Complex fires of August and September 2003 burned over 90,000 acres on the Deschutes and Willamette national forests. The PCTA crew cleared that segment within the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness last summer and this summer.

"This year we cleared 247 logs of all sizes off the feeder trail from Bear Valley Trailhead to Rockpile Lake," Paul reported. "Last summer's Pole Creek Fire has added to the log-out challenge in the Three Sisters Wilderness."

Paul, who gets these jobs done with his small volunteer crew, is an old hand at trail work and, along with others on the Deschutes National Forest and throughout the Pacific Northwest Region, helps keep national forest trails open in this era of reduced funds.

OldSmokey Stan Kunzman Enjoyed USS John C. Stennis "Tiger Cruise"

OldSmokey **Stan Kunzman** was among about 1,300 "tigers" not members of the USS *John C. Stennis* (CV-74) crew or air wing to make the aircraft carrier's six-day April 23 to 29, 2013, "tiger cruise" from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to San Diego. He did so as guest of his son, Captain Douglas C. Kunzman, U.S. Navy, then operations officer on the staff of Commander Carrier Strike Group Three during the carrier's eight-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

"I never ate so well," said Stan, who dined in the flag mess with his son. "Gained a pound a day!" Among the many aspects of shipboard life and work—including flight operations—that impressed Stan was the politeness of the crew and their willingness to help visitors. The tiger cruise is the Navy's special take on taking a family member or friend to work.

OldSmokey Dave Govatski Appears in New Documentary *The Balancing Act* About Eastern National Forests

OldSmokey **Dave Govatski**, co-author of *Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests*, published this year by Island Press and announced in the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, appears in the new 12-minute documentary *The Balancing Act: The Story and Legacy of the Weeks Act* available online now at <www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains/exhibitions/the-balancing-act-film>.

The Balancing Act vividly tells the story of how one of America's first environmental disasters sparked a nationwide movement to purchase, protect, and manage threatened and damaged forests for the public good. The forest conservation legislation forged by Congress under the leadership of Representative John Wingate Weeks of New Hampshire struck a balanced approach that addressed both environmental and economic issues. This video explores how successful that balancing act has proven to be in the White Mountain National Forest and other eastern national forests established under the Weeks Act.

Also appearing with Dave and others in *The Balancing Act* is Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest.

This film is a product of the efforts of Plymouth State University's Center for Rural Partnerships, the Museum of the White Mountains, and the Weeks Act Centennial with financial support from the U.S. Forest Service and video production from Moore Huntley Productions.

The Balancing Act inspired a longer film, also produced by Moore Huntley Productions, entitled *The People's Forest: The Story of the White Mountain National Forest*, reviewed in the **Films** section on page 23 of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. This film looks at the mix of man-made disasters, colorful characters, citizen activism, and political courage that brought about establishment of eastern national forests through the Weeks Act of 1911.

Prepared from communication with Dave Govatsky and "The Balancing Act Film" entry on the Museum of the White Mountains website.

OldSmokeys Name New Membership Chair and New RO Area Representative

There are three changes to the lists of Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) officers and area representatives on the back of this Fall 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

First, after almost forever on the PNWFSA Board of Directors, OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** is being replaced as Membership Chair by OldSmokey **Doug MacDonald**.

Second, OldSmokey **Peg Polichio**, Director of State and Private Forestry at the RO in Portland, has replaced PNWFSA President-elect **Al Matecko**, recently retired as Director of Public and Legislative Affairs in the RO, as PNWFSA Representative to the Regional Office.

The third, appointment of OldSmokey **Ranotta McNair** as NAFSR Representative, is reported on page 8.

OldSmokey Carl Hickerson Spoke in Reno at May 2013 California IMT Reunion



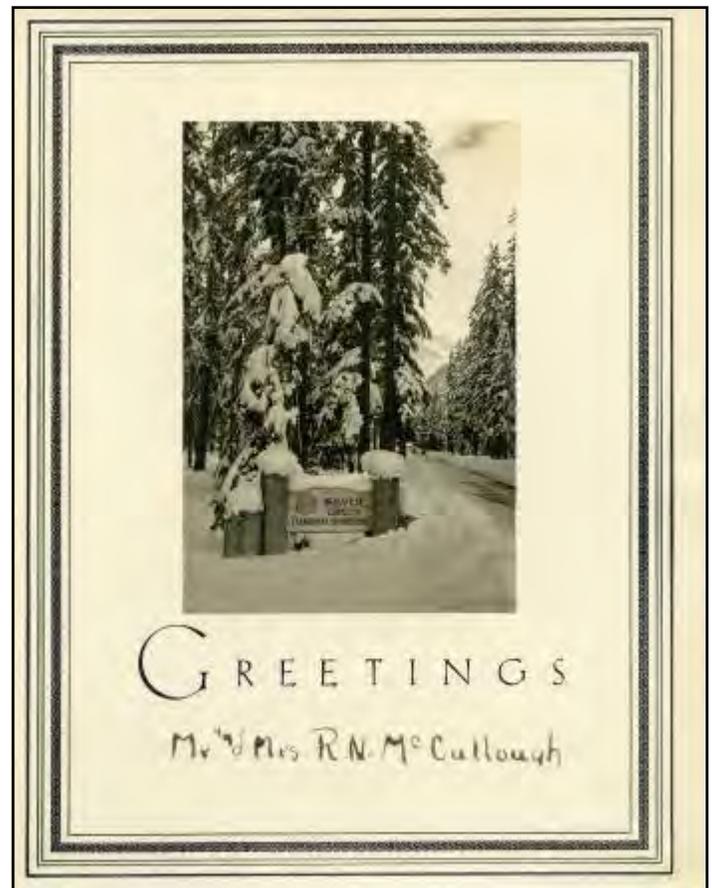
Carl Hickerson

OldSmokey **Carl Hickerson** arrived at the May 19-21 California Incident Management Teams Reunion in Reno, Nevada, to find out he was to present what the master of ceremonies later termed the reunion's "keynote address." Nobody who knows Carl was surprised that he rose to the occasion.

Carl, 86, was not only the oldest attendee at the reunion but also had the longest service tenure. That latter distinction owed at least in part to the fact, as Carl explained in his feature article "A U.S. Forest Service Rookie at Age 15" in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, he first joined the Forest Service and became a firefighter at that tender age. Carl enjoyed handing out reprints of that article to other reunion attendees.

The federal California IMT Reunion 2013, held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, was the first event ever to gather the past and present members of the Type 1 and Type 2 fire teams of the Pacific Southwest Region. Each day of the reunion featured special meals, exhibits, and speakers, and there was ample time to connect with colleagues and lifelong friends.

Season's Greetings from Yesteryear...



OldSmokeys Former Treasurer Bill Funk Presents 2012 PNWFSA Financial Report

“We had a good financial year in 2012,” said OldSmokey **Bill Funk** whose tenure as Treasurer of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) ended July 1, 2013. OldSmokey **Dick Bennett** took on the Treasurer job, and Bill continues as Database Manager. “Our operating income and expenses were well within budget, and our investments did well during the 2012 bull market.” Bill offers details in the following report and statements.

We transferred \$5,400 to our Grant/Project Fund from past Reunion 2005 and hat sales receipts, from Lifetime Account income and market gains, and from our Operating Fund. This enabled PNWFSA to grant the Friends of Fish Lake \$3,100, Forests Forever, Inc., \$1,000, The High Desert Museum \$1,000, and the Siskiyou Mountain Club \$1,000—a total of \$6,100 for excellent projects that involved restoring U.S. Forest Service heritage sites and an important trail. We see this as a flagship program and encourage all to consider a donation to help continue its good work.

We thank all who donated over \$2,100 to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund (formerly the Emergency Relief Fund). There were no disbursements from the fund during 2012, but there was one in January 2013 to recent U.S. Forest Service retiree Theresa Higgins who, as described on page 6 of the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, lost everything including her husband in a house fire.

During 2012 we transitioned to a “fund accounting” approach which means we track income and expenses by specific categories: Operating Fund, Grant/Project Fund, Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund, and Lifetime Fund. The balances at the end of 2012 are shown in the Statement of Financial Position.

Thanks to Dick for stepping up to be Treasurer. And thanks to OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** for all the years he put into bringing the PNWFSA into the computer age as he served as both Treasurer and Database Manager. Vern continues as E-Mail Editor, keeping us up to date with frequent “eNote” and “eForum” e-mails.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
 As of December 31, 2012

ASSETS	
Checking	\$ 6,794
Investments	\$ 117,362
Total Assets	\$ 124,156
EQUITY	
Operating Fund	\$ 5,794
Raffle/Auction Fund	\$ 3,324
Lifetime Trust Fund	\$ 105,737
Grant/Project Fund	\$ 3,269
Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund	\$ 5,852
Total Equity	\$ 124,156

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc.
Statement of Revenue & Expenses
 January 1 through December 31, 2012

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSE

Income	
Dues Collections for 2012	\$ 7,640
Banquet/Picnic Receipts	\$ 5,345
Gifts & Donations Received	\$ 570
Forest Service Participating Agreement	\$ 4,000
Raffle/Auction Income	\$ 435
Transfer from Lifetime Fund	\$ 3,000
Total Income	\$ 20,990
Expenses	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 304
Bank and State Fees	\$ 79
Professional Fees (Tax Return Preparation)	\$ 400
Insurance	\$ 525
Newsletter and Directory	\$ 8,747
Banquet and Public Expenses	\$ 5,505
Technology Expenses	\$ 565
Move 2005 Reunion Balance to Grant/Project Fund	\$ 2,309
Move Hat Sales to Grant/Project Fund	\$ 100
Other Expenses	\$ 472
Total Expenses	\$ 19,006
Net: Income Less Expenses	\$ 1,984

RESTRICTED FUNDS INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

Grant/Project Fund Disbursements

Income	
Transfer from Lifetime Fund	\$ 3,000
2005 Reunion Balance Transfer	\$ 2,309
Hat Sales (\$200) & Book Sales (\$228)	\$ 428
Donations	\$ 100
Total Income	\$ 5,837

Disbursements

Friends of Fish Lake (2011 Project)	\$ 3,100
Siskiyou Mountain Club	\$ 1,000
High Desert Museum	\$ 1,000
Forests Forever, Inc.	\$ 1,000
Total Grants Made	\$ 6,100
Book Expenses	\$ 1,252
Total Disbursements	\$ 7,352
Net: Income Less Disbursements	\$ (1,515)

Elmer Moyer Fund

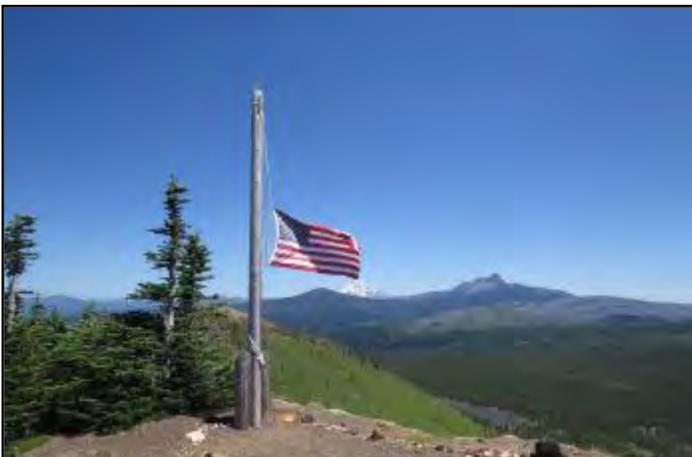
Income: Donations	\$ 2,140
No Disbursements Made	

Lifetime Fund

Income	
Lifetime Dues	\$ 3,090
Investment Interest/Dividends	\$ 4,620
Realized Capital Gain (Loss)	\$ 385
Total Income	\$ 8,095

Disbursements

Transfer to 2012 Operating Fund	\$ 3,000
Transfer to Grant/Project Fund	\$ 3,000
Total Disbursements	\$ 6,000
Net Income Less Disbursements	\$ 2,095



OldSmokeys Remember Wildfire Season 2013 Firefighter Losses

June 10, 2013

Luke Sheehy, 28

U.S. Forest Service

California Smokejumpers, Redding, California
Saddle Back Fire, Modoc National Forest, California

July 1, 2013

Andrew Ashcraft, 29

Robert Caldwell, 23

Travis Carter, 31

Dustin Deford, 24

Chris MacKenzie, 30

Eric Marsh, 43

Grant McKee, 21

Sean Misner, 26

Scott Norris, 28

Wade Parker, 22

John Percin, 24

Anthony Rose, 23

Jesse Steed, 36

Joe Thurston, 32

Travis Turbyfill, 27

Billy Warneke, 25

Clayton Whitted, 28

Kevin Woyjeck, 21

Garrett Zuppiger, 27

Prescott Fire Department, Prescott, Arizona

Granite Mountain Hotshots

Yarnell Hill Fire, Yarnell, Arizona

August 1, 2013

John Earl Hammack, 58

R&K Water Service, Bonney Lake, Washington

Contract Tree Faller

Incident 398, Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

August 6, 2013

Jesse Trader, 19

Contract Water Truck Driver

Big Windy Complex, Josephine County, Oregon

OldSmokeys Welcome Formation of New Rocky Mountain Forest Service Retiree Association

A new website at <www.rockymountaineers.us> and Volume 1, Issue 1, of a thrice-yearly newsletter called *The Rendezvous* are what that September 2013 premiere issue of that newsletter terms “the first visible signs that the **Rocky Mountaineers** are now established” as the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association (RMFSA), the official association of U.S. Forest Service retirees from the Rocky Mountain Region.

“We are beginning as a small, enthusiastic group of retirees who had a grand time planning the national Forest Service reunion in Vail last year,” wrote Skip Underwood, Chair, Rocky Mountaineers, in the first edition of *The Rendezvous*. “We want to continue and expand the great value we experienced in connecting with friends and former co-workers.

“Some of us currently participate in local Forest Service retiree activities, but many of us don’t have a good connection to friends with whom we shared a wonderful career. The Rocky Mountaineers offer a great opportunity to support and encourage on-going local retiree activities while enlarging the scope of information and potential engagement with other retirees to the entire Region.

“My personal message to you is that I am proud of the years I served in the outfit and would take that same path again. The people with whom I served are the very best at what they do. We share a commitment to the resources and to the citizens that are worthy of our best. While we celebrate what we have been a part of, we can continue to be active for the good of the Forest Service and the resources we value.”

You can learn a lot more about the Rocky Mountaineers from the first edition of *The Rendezvous* available online at <www.rockymountaineers.us>. In addition to the purposes, slate off officers, and membership requirements of the new RMFSA, the 28-page first issue contains several feature articles including one about the “Fiddlin’ Foresters’ Finale Fabulous” at the Vail reunion by Lynn Young, another entitled “Shield Survives Threat of Being Plowed Under” by OldSmokey **Tom Thompson** who served as Chair of the *Rendezvous* in the Rockies Committee and first Chair of the RMFSA, and yet another article by Tom that features Helen Dowe, one of the first woman fire lookouts, and focuses on the nature of change.

Each issue of *The Rendezvous* will also include a short story about an historic Forest Service ranger station in Region 2. The first of these is about the historic Horseshoe Ranger Station constructed on the Arapaho National Forest in 1916 that remained in service as a work center into the 1970s.

Another involved in formation of the RMFSA is OldSmokey **Lyle Laverty** who serves as the new organization’s National Museum of Forest Service History representative.

For more information, check out the Rocky Mountaineers website at <www.rockymountaineers.us> or e-mail them at <rmountaineers@gmail.com> or snail mail them at Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, Colorado 80527.

Prepared from the September 2013 issue of The Rendezvous.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Faced Tough, Expensive Wildfire Season in 2013

Major wildfires that burned in every western state—far too many to summarize individually—brought the U.S. Forest Service and other federal, state, and local firefighting authorities yet another tough, expensive, and tragic wildfire season this year.

It wasn't a record fire season in terms of number of incidents and acreage burned. Indeed, as of the end of September, only 38,745 fires had burned only 4,092,640 acres across the United States—significantly less than the ten-year average of 60,411 fires burning 6,670,698 acres from 2004 to 2013. And the wildfire season didn't linger into the autumn. By the end of September only the 257,135-acre Rim Fire on the Stanislaus National Forest and the 12,503-acre Corral Complex Fire on the Six Rivers National Forest remained among large fires to be contained.

Fire Challenges

The main challenges of the 2013 wildfire season were those of spectacular fires that cost lives and property and exceeded funds available to suppress them.

OldSmokeys followed the news of the big ones beginning with the mid-June 14,280-acre Black Forest Fire near Colorado Springs that killed two people and burned over 500 homes to become the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history; continued with the late-June Yarnell Hill Fire tragedy near Yarnell, Arizona, that cost 19 firefighters' lives; and others that burned throughout the West for the rest of the summer such as the mid-August top priority Beaver Creek and Little Queens fires in central Idaho and the season topper in the quarter-million-acre Rim Fire that burned from the Sanislaus National Forest into the western reaches of Yosemite National Park to threaten San Francisco's water supply.

Closer to home, OldSmokeys watched the Pacific Northwest's longest-burning and most-challenging major wildfires in southwestern Oregon. At the end of July, as nine large fires burned in the Northwest, mainly in Oregon, the National Inter-agency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, declared the region its top priority to accord first dibs on crews and equipment. They were needed, especially helicopters and air tankers which were kept busy dumping water and retardant on the complexes in Douglas and Josephine counties.

About halfway through the 2013 wildfire season, the cost of fighting over thirty thousand wildfires that had burned over three million acres—in addition to the lives of 22 firefighters remembered on page 11—topped one billion dollars as about 50 large wildfires—many of them on National Forest System lands—burned unchecked in the West and taxed the nation's firefighting resources.

On Tuesday, August 20, NIFC upped the national wildfire preparedness level to the highest level for the first time in five years. By that date, federal agencies had spent more than a billion dollars—over half of the 2012 wildfire season's total bill of

\$1.9 billion—on suppression action against 33,000 fires that had burned 3.4 million acres. Whether this year's wildfire suppression costs would top the 10-year average of \$1.4 billion or the \$1.9 billion spent in 2012 and 2006 would depend on the rest of the wildfire season then expected to last through the rest of August, September, and into if not through October.

Fire Borrowing

On August 16, as wildfire suppression spending approached the billion-dollar mark, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell informed his agency's national and regional leaders they'd have to siphon funds from other work to support the firefighting effort.

"It has been another long, tragic fire season and we have several more months of intense activity ahead of us," Chief Tidwell wrote. "As predicted this year's fire season has led to costs that exceed appropriated fire suppression funds and once again we must now transfer funds from other accounts to make up the difference."

The difference was made up by "withdrawing funds from Washington office, region, station, and area units, by immediately stopping 'incurring financial obligations where needed to ensure funds are available to be withdrawn,' and by not incurring 'additional financial obligations until after funds are withdrawn.'" WO Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability staff worked directly with unit budget staffs to identify and withdraw these funds. Work was re-planned accordingly.

"I recognize that this direction will have significant effects on the public whom we serve and on our many valuable partners, as well as agency operations, target accomplishments and performance," Chief Tidwell wrote. "I regret that we have to take this action and fully understand that it only increases costs and reduces efficiency. I remain committed to finding a solution that in the future will avoid this disruption to our public service and land stewardship responsibilities and impacts to local economies."

Wither the FLAME Act of 2009?

Fire borrowing "has occurred with increasing frequency over the past decade as the cost of fighting wildfires has spiraled out of control," an *E&E News* article was quoted in "Chief orders spending freeze to siphon money toward fighting fires" in an August 21, 2013, *A New Century of Forest Planning* blog post.

"Fire borrowing has happened six times in the past decade, Tidwell told a Senate panel in June, and has ranged from a low of \$100 million in 2007 to a high of \$999 million in 2002. Of the total \$2.7 billion that was borrowed, about \$2.3 billion was eventually restored by Congress but not without disruptions to important agency programs, he said."

Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act) to prevent these disruptions. Suppression funds saved during the below average fire seasons would be retained to cover suppression costs of more severe fire seasons. But it didn't turn out that way.

Writing in the August 31, 2013, issue of *The Oregonian*, retired Associate Chief of the Forest Service Hank Kashdan reported the FLAME Act good news and bad news. "Reserves

of cash totaling \$1.6 billion [acquired during the 2009-2011 below average fire seasons] were generated, which under the FLAME Act would be available for ‘above-average fire years.’ The bad news: Nature’s kindness eased the short-term memory of the Obama administration and Congress. As the nation faced its economic woes, the cash reserves were ripe for the taking, and it didn’t take long. Considering these reserves, the administration low-balled its request for suppression funding, and Congress obliged by erasing the reserves from the ledger. Nature then retaliated with two years of hot and dry conditions, leading to large wildfires and the fire borrowing that Forest Service Chief Tidwell announced on Aug. 16.” This proved the FLAME Act would not work.

The only real good news in the FLAME Act story was only a small fraction of the \$600 million the Forest Service planned to divert for firefighting this year—about \$3.3 million or about one-half of 1 percent of the funds transferred—was to come from the Pacific Northwest Region’s budget.

Wither future wildfire seasons?

Wildfire seasons can be expected to be longer and more severe, and wildfire suppression funding cannot be expected to keep pace.

Speaking at NIFC on August 20, Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) put it bluntly: “The fires that are ripping through the West are proof that the federal government’s policy for fire prevention is broken.”

With longer fire seasons the new normal, Senator Wyden and Republican senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch of Idaho agreed that the Forest Service must stop spending money budgeted for fire prevention [and, presumably, other projects] on fire fighting and urged Congress to approve plans to thin forests of old growth timber which fuels raging forest fires.

Writing in *The Oregonian* on August 31, Hank Kashden pointed out that blame for wildfire funding problems is shared by Congress, the administrations of former President George W. Bush and current President Barack Obama as well as Mother Nature. After explaining the development of the FLAME Act and subsequent raiding of its firefighting cash reserves, and concluding that “the FLAME Act is ultimately not going to work,” Hank noted “there can be a permanent solution.”

“The solution is to amend the Stafford Act (authority under which FEMA covers the cost of national disasters) to include wildfire. Hurricanes are like wildfires; a specific date for the event can’t be determined, but future occurrence is a certainty. The Stafford Act provides FEMA with funding that doesn’t disrupt its internal operations. This same authority could be available to the states and federal land management agencies to cover the cost of wildfire suppression.”

Annual wildfire seasons are certain. Whether President Obama and Congress will act responsibly to pay for them remains to be seen.

Editor’s Note: It’s not encouraging that polarization of the U.S. Congress that must fix this firefighting funding problem resulted in a U.S. Government shutdown the day this issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter went to press.

U.S. Forest Service is Planning its Future Firefighter Workforce

Two primary U.S. Forest Service personnel factors—an increase in retirements over the next five to 10 years and fewer personnel volunteering for fire-related assignments—stimulated the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), through an OIG audit, to evaluate whether the Forest Service had adequately planned for the timely replacement of its critical fire management personnel.

Many of the Forest Service’s fire management positions require several years of formal and on-the-job training for certification for specific firefighting duties. The OIG’s audit report recommended planning for recruiting, training, developing, and retaining personnel to fill critical positions.

To meet this complex challenge, a Fire and Aviation Management’s Firefighter Workforce & Succession Planning Team was created and, over the last few years, has responded to each of the OIG’s recommendations. On February 20, 2013, the team was notified that all its responses were accepted. The next step is implementation of decisions made as a result of the audit.

Acknowledging the need to “develop a national workforce plan based on firefighters’ position qualifications that focuses on identifying, assessing, and meeting specific workforce needs relative to Forest Service strategic goals and objectives,” the Forest Service is updating the five-year rolling workforce plan that addressed 10 mission-critical occupations in fire that aligns with the agency’s strategic plan. Human Resources Management, in concert with Civil Rights, provides support to leadership through a uniform approach to workforce and succession planning using guidance from the Office of Personnel Management as well as coordination and support from the employee union.

A six step process

The process within workforce planning that will address the gaps in the fire program contains six steps:

- **Taking an overview of the agency’s demographics**—the National Leadership council will implement a national approach to recruitment and hiring in an effort to improve diversity within the agency, as the workforce plan is implemented.
- **Identifying the gaps**—current data and workforce planning templates are being utilized to pinpoint the gaps and prompt leaders to consider alternative methods of getting work done.
- **Developing talent pools**—from within and outside the agency, utilizing Fire Aviation Management Center Advancement Tool (FAMCAT), HRM Center of Learning, National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI), and Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program (WLFAP).
- **Developing fire workforce succession strategies**—workforce recruitment templates are completed for fire positions and needs.
- **Focusing on retention, learning and recruitment strategies**—aimed at improving the diversity of the applicant pool and ultimately the workforce.

- **Documenting, monitoring, and evaluating**—in an attempt to revise efforts to improve the results.

A website

This process may be followed on the Firefighter Workforce and Succession Planning website at <www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/workforce_succession_planning/index.html>.

Prepared from the Firefighter Workforce & Succession Plan “Executive Summary” and the Firefighter Workforce and Succession Planning Newsletter “Our Pathway Forward” found on the website mentioned above.

U.S. Forest Service and Fire Services’ Past Actions Not to Blame for Wildfires, California Chaparral Institute Says

Research rejects past fire suppression and “unnatural” fuel build-up as factors in the size and occurrence of large fires in southern California

“A new scientific review and five major studies now *refute the often repeated notion* that past fire suppression and ‘unnatural’ fuel build-up are responsible for large, high-intensity fires in southern California,” according to the California Chaparral Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of native shrubland habitats throughout the world. “Such fires are a natural feature of the landscape. Fire suppression has been crucial in protecting native shrubland ecosystems that are suffering from too much fire rather than not enough.”

“The research has also shown that the creation of mixed-age classes (mosaics) of native chaparral shrublands through fuel treatments like prescribed burns *will not provide* reliable barriers to fire spread; however, strategic placement may benefit fire suppression activities,” the August 1, 2013, CCI press release that announced the research finding continued.

“Advocates of the fire suppression/mosaic view often misinterpret the research and ignore contrary information. For example, the [July 2013] Mountain fire near Idyllwild in the San Bernardino National Forest was blamed on 130 years of fire suppression. More than half of the area had burned in the 1980s. A 770 acre portion had burned five years ago. The 2007 fires in southern California re-burned nearly 70,000 acres that had burned in 2003. The majority of southern California’s native habitats are threatened by too much fire rather than not enough. This is especially true for chaparral, sage scrub, and desert habitats. Fires less than ten to twenty years apart can convert native shrublands to highly flammable, non-native grasslands.

“‘All of us need to take responsibility in making our homes and communities fire safe,’ said Richard Halsey, director of the California Chaparral Institute. ‘Political leaders also need to find the courage to prevent [housing] developments from being built in high fire hazard locations. Blaming the fire service for large, intense fires because of their past efforts to protect lives, property, and the environment from wildfires is counterproductive and contrary to the science.’”

This research was presented during a special California Board of Forestry hearing on August 8, 2013, in Ventura. Its

conclusion, generally at odds with current thought, makes one wonder if it might apply to cover types/fuel associations other than chaparral shrublands.

“I suspect, to one degree or another, the answer would be yes,” OldSmokey **John Marker**, an old hand at wildfire, commented on August 2, 2013. “The entire wildfire picture in the West is so heavily laced with myths, which the public and some resource managers listen to, that a discussion about other fuel types would have to start with sorting fact from fiction. However, if we are going to finally come to terms with living in a fire climate, such myth killing is critical. It will be interesting to watch the media reporting of the presentation.” Your *OldSmokey Newsletter* will attempt to track and report on this topic.

In the meantime, the CCI report “Why Large Wildfires in Southern California? Refuting the Fire Suppression Paradigm” by Richard W. Halsey and Dylan Tweed is available online at <www.californiachaparral.org/images/Halsey_and_Tweed_Why_Large_Wildfires_FS_Paradigm.pdf>.

Prepared from California Chaparral Institute Press Release “Fire Service Unfairly Blamed for Wildfires” of August 1, 2013, and correspondence with John Marker.

U.S. Forest Service Announced 2013 Capitol Christmas Tree from Colville National Forest

Colville National Forest Supervisor Laura Jo West announced this summer that the 2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree will be a majestic 88-foot tall Engelmann spruce growing on the Newport-Sullivan Lake Ranger District in Pend Oreille County, Washington. This tree will grace the West lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., in December 2013. “It’s a very beautiful tree, one that the people of this great state will be proud to send to our nation’s capital,” said Forest Supervisor West.

Forest Service personnel and the public were asked to identify candidate trees. Nearly 40 trees were turned in for consideration. After further review of each tree, Forestry Technician Cally Davidson narrowed the list down to 10 trees that met all the requirements, including height, fullness, branch uniformity, and site logistics. Then Ted Bechtol, Superintendent of Grounds at the U.S. Capitol, visited the Colville National Forest to see the candidate trees. He evaluated trees in Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties. “All of the candidate trees are excellent specimens,” he said, “but the chosen tree has the fullness and width needed for the Capitol grounds.”

Forest Service personnel then met with the driver of the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree truck, Duane Brusseau, to make sure the truck and 80-foot long trailer could navigate the forest roads to and from the tree’s location. Brusseau reported that the tree Bechtol selected could be accessed by the 100-foot-long truck-trailer combination.

The tree will travel in Washington State with stops in several cities, including Colville, Newport, Republic, and Spokane, before beginning its nation-wide tour that includes about 14

stops across the United States before arriving in Washington, D.C., on November 25.

Late in November the tree will be delivered to the U.S. Capitol, lowered into a five-foot deep hole, and decorated with lights and thousands of handcrafted ornaments made by Washingtonians from across the state. In December, the Speaker of the House and one Washington State student will light the tree. Throughout the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk to be enjoyed by people from around the world.

Prepared from an undated Colville National Forest News Release “2013 Capitol Christmas Tree Selected.”

U.S. Forest Service and Partners Will Celebrate Smokey Bear’s Seventieth Birthday in 2014

As hard as it is to believe, Smokey Bear will be 70 years old next year.

Yep, the U.S. Forest Service and its wildfire preventing partners will celebrate 70 years of America’s “forest fire preventin’ bear”—more recently, wildfire preventing bear—during 2014.

Older OldSmokeys remember the early 1940s when the Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign (CFFP) with the help of the Wartime Advertising Council and the National Association of State Foresters. In 1942, Walt Disney’s hit movie “Bambi” hit the silver screen and in 1944 Disney allowed the CFFP to use the famous fawn on a forest fire prevention poster for one year.

A permanent fire prevention symbol was needed.

Smokey Bear, as painted by artist Albert Staehle, became that symbol on a 1945 poster, and set in motion the postwar Advertising Council’s longest running public service campaign.

In 1950, while fighting a large human-caused fire on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico, firefighters rescued a badly burned bear cub which was nursed back to health to become the living Smokey Bear and the living symbol of what is now called wildfire prevention.

Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will kick off the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s celebration of its namesake bear’s 70th birthday with a feature article about Smokey in the Winter 2014 issue, and will cover other celebrations of the iconic bear’s milestone year throughout the rest of that year.

U.S. Forest Service and Partners to Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014

U.S. Forest Service leaders, their federal wilderness management partners, and national wilderness groups have signed a memorandum of understanding committing to spotlighting and celebrating the nation’s wilderness in the months leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 on September 3, 2014.

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, 54 areas comprising 9.1 million acres of national forest lands in 13 states were designated as wilderness. Since 1964, the National Wil-

derness Preservation System established by this law has grown almost every year and now includes 757 wildernesses comprising 109,501,022 acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico. About five percent of the entire United States land area—an area slightly larger than the states of California—is managed as congressionally designated wilderness. Because Alaska contains just over half of America’s wilderness, only about 2.7 percent of the contiguous United States—an area about the size of Minnesota—is so managed.

Four federal agencies manage the National Wilderness Preservation System: 40 percent of its total acreage is managed by the National Park Service, 33 percent by the Forest Service; 19 percent by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and eight percent by the Bureau of Land Management.

Prepared from information in The Chief’s Desk of August 24, 2012, and the Wilderness.net website.

U.S. Forest Service Gets New Overseer: Robert Bonnie Confirmed and Sworn in as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment

Robert Bonnie was confirmed by the U.S. Senate just before the August 2013 recess began, after approval without objection from the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, and subsequently sworn in as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment.

In this position, Mr. Bonnie will supervise the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Since April 16, 2009, Mr. Bonnie had served Secretary Vilsack as Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Environment and Climate. Before coming to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Bonnie worked for 14 years at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) where, in Secretary Vilsack’s words, “he worked to conserve natural resources and protect the climate on America’s farms, ranches, and forest lands.” The EDF is a non-profit organization that addresses the nation’s most serious environmental problems.

As Vice-President for Land Conservation and Wildlife at the EDF, Mr. Bonnie focused on the development and expansion of conservation incentives and markets that reward farmers, ranchers, and forest owners for land stewardship. He is reputed to be a leading national expert on the use of markets as a means to reward stewardship on such lands, including carbon crediting and conservation banking for endangered species.

A Harvard graduate, Mr. Bonnie holds a master’s degree in resource economics and forestry from Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment in Durham, North Carolina. He grew up on a farm in Kentucky, and now lives in Virginia.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Hardin and Bonnie Sworn in to New USDA Posts” in Feed&Grain.com; “Robert Bonnie confirmed as Under Secretary of Agriculture” by Bill Gabbert posted August 6, 2013, on Wildfire-Today.com; and U.S. Department of Agriculture News Release No. 0113.09 of April 16, 2009 “Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Names Robert Bonnie as Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate.”

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Admitted 2013 Hiring Debacle

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell admitted in a July 8, 2013, all-Forest Service letter that the agency's hiring system failed the agency and its needs during the 2013 hiring season.

"One of our most critical leadership responsibilities is to anticipate obstacles we will confront and adequately position the organization to successfully navigate through them," the Chief opened that letter. "During this recent spring hiring season, we fell short of this expectation," he admitted in the next sentence.

"A convergence of changes to our hiring system and authorities—namely transitions to new Pathways internship program and associated functions for the new application process and eRecruit staffing tool—hampered our hiring efforts this year. It led to lags in job offers, confusion over processes and abject frustration. Despite our best attempts, we did not anticipate the full impact these simultaneous events would pose for the agency," the Chief continued.

"I regret the stress these challenges caused, specifically for local units and human resources specialists who worked under tremendous pressure to overcome these setbacks. Further, I am grateful to those who stepped up, worked overtime and took on Herculean tasks to ensure we hired the workforce we needed.

"And it is not over. We still have much to do to complete hiring actions and become proficient in using new tools and processes. As we work to recover from this experience, we will also shift attention toward learning from these events to prevent a repeat in 2014.

"In a series of upcoming after-action learning sessions, we will dissect the events that led to the hiring break-down and learn from them. We plan to engage field employees and human resource specialists to understand what occurred, adjust and chart a path forward. I expect full partnership between hiring managers, leaders and technical specialists—working together to examine processes and missteps so we find solutions. As we move ahead, I expect us to apply these lessons to new challenges that are most assuredly coming over the horizon. This learning model has served us well in improving our safety record, creating a culture of inclusion and changing our land management focus—I expect no different in this circumstance.

"We have proven many times our ability to convene a vast collection of talents and skills to help us adapt to changing needs for services and evolving conditions of natural resources. We will rely on that same collection of talents and innovation to successfully confront changes in administrative and technology functions, as well. In short, we all have a role to play in improving these functions so integral to mission delivery. I appreciate your continued service and resilience as we move beyond this difficult period. I look forward to the progress we will make together."



U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Takes on Sexual Harassment

In an August 7, 2013, "All FS" message, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell told all Forest Service personnel he recently had been so "deeply troubled by allegations of sexual assault and misconduct that have been reported from our field units" that he was "compelled" to send this reminder: "The Forest Service does not—will not—tolerate inappropriate behavior in our workplace. It runs counter to everything we have espoused when it comes to inclusiveness, respect and valuing differences."

"Any display of this kind of behavior is unacceptable," the Chief's reminder continued. "This includes incidents that occur overnight or during field assignments where employees may be officially 'off the clock.' While you may not be on official time, you remain a federal employee; I expect you to behave honorably and respectfully in that capacity.

"Further, we will pursue both criminal and administrative actions to hold individuals fully accountable if they are found culpable of these activities. We...understand our responsibility to protect the rights and privacy of individuals involved in these allegations; but we will immediately and aggressively investigate these cases and take appropriate actions to forestall them.

"I expect this stance from every leader, manager, supervisor and employee.... This unacceptable behavior not only harms individuals—it detracts from our mission and disrespects all of us.

"Moreover, this stance goes beyond sexual misconduct; it includes horseplay, inappropriate touching, racial jokes, bullying, discrimination, harassment and any behavior that jeopardizes the safe and respectful environment each employee and citizen deserves.

"I certainly will do everything in my power to improve our workplace so all may thrive, be productive and achieve their potential. Over the next year you can expect training that increases our competencies and capacity for building an inclusive and respectful workplace—this includes prevention, intervention and accountability."

Chief Tidwell closed by stating he needs each Forest Service member to do his or her part, that he realizes "the vast majority of Forest Service employees serve ethically and honorably," and by thanking each member for doing his or her part "to create a work environment that retains our workforce, attracts the best and brightest, upholds our conservation ethic and fosters exceptional public service."

Prepared from the August 9, 2013, "Chief's Message—Recent Allegations of Sexual Misconduct."

U.S. Forest Service Transitions to E-Gov Travel Services This Fall

The U.S. Forest Service—and the rest of the Department of Agriculture—is scheduled to transition to a new electronic travel system called E-Gov Travel Services, Version 2 or ETS2, this fall, according to an April 23 letter from Forest Service

Chief Financial Officer Thelma Strong.

The system name is *Concur Government Edition (CGE)* by Bellevue, Washington-based Concur Technologies, Inc., which bills itself as “the leading global provider of integrated online and mobile business travel and expense management systems.”

The new E-Gov Travel Services contract replaces the Gov-Trip contract with Northrup Grumman that expires on November 11, 2013. With luck, transition to E-Gov from GovTrip will go smoother than the costly attempt to transition from the Avue hiring system to the eRecruit hiring system offered by the Australian company NGA.net.

Prepared from multiple sources including the April 23, 2013, letter “New Electronic Travel System—Coming Soon” from Thelma Strong, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Forest Service; a May 9, 2013, forwarding letter from Antoine L. Dixon, National Director, Job Corps; and the Concor Technologies, Inc., website.

U.S. Forest Service Faces \$Half-Billion Trail Maintenance Backlog, GAO Says

“The Forest Service has more miles of trails than it has been able to maintain,” according to a June 27, 2013, Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled “Forest Service Trails: Long- and Short-Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability.” This has resulted “in a persistent maintenance backlog with a range of negative effects” that include reduced public access to forests and wildernesses some believe could undermine public support for National Forest System management.

“The Forest Service manages more than 158,000 recreational trails offering hikers, horseback riders, cyclists, off-highway-vehicle drivers, and others access to the national forests,” the GAO report said. “To remain safe and usable, these trails need regular maintenance, such as removal of downed trees or bridge repairs. GAO was asked to review the agency’s trail maintenance activities.”

“In fiscal year 2012,” GAO found, “the agency reported that it accomplished at least some maintenance of about 37 percent of its 158,000 trail miles and that about one-quarter of its trail miles met the agency’s standards. The Forest Service estimated the value of its trail maintenance backlog to be \$314 million in fiscal year 2012, with an additional \$210 million for annual maintenance, capital improvement, and operations.” That’s \$524 million. “Trails not maintained to quality standards have a range of negative effects, such as inhibiting trail use and harming natural resources, and deferring maintenance can add to maintenance costs.”

“The Forest Service relies on a combination of internal and external resources to help maintain its trail system. Internal resources include about \$80 million allocated annually to trail maintenance activities plus funding for other agency programs that involve trails. External resources include volunteer labor, which the Forest Service valued at \$26 million in fiscal year 2012, and funding from federal programs, states, and other sources.”

“Agency officials and stakeholders ...identified numerous options to improve Forest Service trail maintenance, including

(1) assessing the sustainability of the trail system, (2) improving agency policies and procedures, and (3) improving management of volunteers and other external resources,” and noted fiscal and other practical constraints affecting these options. GAO recommended “that the Forest Service (1) analyze trails programs needs and available resources and develop options for narrowing the gap between them and take steps to assess and improve the sustainability of its trails and (2) take steps to enhance training on collaborating with and managing volunteers who help maintain trails. In commenting on a draft of this report, the Forest Service generally agreed with GAO’s findings and recommendations.”

Media reporting on this trail maintenance deficit and GAO recommendations reflect field-level concerns ranging from steadily decreasing trail maintenance funds exacerbated by transfers of those funds to firefighting to the opportunity costs of using volunteers. “In three years I’ve lost a third of my funding, but I haven’t lost a third of the trail system,” Region 1 trails coordinator Gary Edson told *The Missoulian* in early July, 2013. “So we turn to the public as volunteers and stewards.” But volunteers cost time and money to train, equip, and supervise. “While volunteers are important to the agency’s trail maintenance efforts, managing volunteers can decrease the time officials can spend performing on-the-ground maintenance,” Region 1 volunteer use and service coordinator Joni Packard told the newspaper.

Yet trails are important. “Recreation is where people look at the agency—it’s where our face is,” Edson said. “But for us as an agency, the land is for multiple uses and...recreation is just one use.”

Prepared from GAO report “Forest Service Trails Long- and Short-Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability (GAO-13-618, June 27, 2013) and “Report: 3 of 4 U.S. Forest Service trails fail to meet standards” by Rob Chaney in The Missoulian, July 8, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Teamed Up With Major League Baseball for Safer Batting

Safer baseball bats have resulted from innovative U.S. Forest Service research funded by Major League Baseball (MLB), U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on July 12, 2013. As a result of that research, there will be future shattered bats.

“This innovative research by the U.S. Forest Service will make baseball games safer for players and fans across the nation,” said Secretary Vilsack. “The U.S. Forest Products Laboratory has once again demonstrated that we can improve uses for wood products across our nation in practical ways—making advancements that can improve our quality of life and grow our economy.”

By testing and analyzing thousands of major league bats, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) researchers developed manufacturing changes that reduced the rate at which maple bats shatter by more than 50 percent since 2008. While the popularity of maple bats is greater than ever, the number of shattered bats continues to decline.

“Since 2008, the U.S. Forest Service has worked with Major

League Baseball to help make America’s pastime safer,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “I’m proud that our collective ‘wood grain trust’ has made recommendations resulting in a significant drop in shattered bats, making the game safer for players as well as for fans.”

“These results would not have been possible without the outstanding work of the Forest Products Laboratory and the tireless efforts of its project coordinator, David Kretschman,” said Daniel Halem, MLB’s Senior Vice President for Labor Relations. “Major League Baseball greatly appreciates the invaluable contributions of the Forest Products Laboratory and Mr. Kreschman on this important issue.”

Prepared from “MLB, U.S. Forest Service decreases bat shatter rate” in The Caswell Messenger, Friday, July 12, 2013.

Editor’s Note: I hope this advance in technology restores more of the traditional “thwack” sound produced when wooden bats hit horsehide balls and reduces the annoying “poink” sound produced by aluminum bats. Yep, I’m a traditionalist!

U.S. Forest Service Lagged Behind Other Agencies in Exploding-Target Ban

Despite Regional Forester Kent Connaughton’s more timely July 9, 2013, move to prevent wildfire ignitions by banning shooting at exploding targets on national forest lands in the Pacific Northwest Region—rescinded a week later on July 16 because the WO was still “reviewing exploding targets,” the National Forest System lacked a policy regarding this potential ignition source with which other federal and state agencies entered the 2013 wildfire season.

“We just wanted to make sure that we wait for national direction and got it right,” Region 6 RO spokeswoman Sarah Levy explained cancellation of the ban. She said Regional Forester Connaughton had issued the ban without realizing the WO was still reviewing the issue.

So the U.S. Forest Service does not ban exploding targets in Pacific Northwest Region national forests even though the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has banned them on public lands it manages in both Washington and Oregon and the Oregon Department of Forestry forbids their use on fire-prone lands it oversees.

Some producers and users of exploding targets maintain they will not start fires, while others—including the vice president of the Central Oregon Shooting Sports Association—say exploding targets may be a fire danger and favor bans during fire season.

“The Forest Service is developing a national approach to this important issue, and as such the regions will be looking for ways to contribute to that,” WO spokesman Larry Chambers told *The Bulletin*, the Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper, as most of the West experienced extreme fire danger. “Our current focus is on educating the public on safety issues around this topic.”

Prepared from “Exploding-target ban pulled back” by Dylan J. Darling in The Bulletin, July 20, 2013.

Feature

Hiking the Everest of Long Distance Trails: the Hayduke in 2012 and 2013

By Jon Stewart

You’ve read about OldSmokey Jon Stewart walking the Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, the Great Divide Trail, and the Long Trail in your Old-Smokeys Newsletter. Jon now reports his more recent 800-mile Hayduke Trail trek.



Jon kept cool with this rig.

A local teacher and rock climber in Tropic, Utah, claims the Hayduke Trail is “the Everest of long distance trails.” It is far more than that. I have walked to Everest and have hiked the Hayduke. Three thousand people have climbed to the summit of Everest, but fewer than two dozen have completed the Hayduke Trail. There is a reason: We are social animals. You join a crowd to climb the well-marked trail to the summit of Everest. You walk alone on the unmarked and overlooked Hayduke.

Wading ankle-deep streams through narrow canyons with vertical stone cliffs towering a thousand feet into clear blue skies, meandering alone for days through pine forests under pink cliffs, and walking a desert plateau hanging halfway between towering pine forests and emerald green waters is like walking an alien planet.

The trail

The United States is blessed with public lands that harbor a number of justly famous National Scenic Trails. The three most famous are the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail, the 2,750-mile Pacific Crest Trail, and the 3,200-mile Continental Divide Trail. In the West individuals and groups have published guidebooks for lesser known long distance trails like the Oregon Coast Trail, the Pacific Northwest Trail, the Arizona Trail, and the Colorado Trail. But the Hayduke Trail, that traverses 800 miles of southern Utah and northern Arizona, is less walked than any of them thanks to quicksand, pour-offs, class 3 rock climbs, flood prone drainages, extreme temperatures, no route markers and, most importantly, a lack of water and easily available resupply options..

This remote route showcases some of the grandest scenery on the North American continent as it traverses the length of Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Grand Canyon national parks. It also crosses four remote wildernesses, two national forests, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Hayduke does not follow an actual trail, but traces remote backcountry routes across southern Utah and northern Arizona. It is named for a character in Edward Abbey’s famous anti-establishment novels *The Monkeywrench Gang* and *Hayduke Lives!* In these novels, Hayduke is an eco-terrorist who

hides in the remote canyons and mountains of the Colorado Plateau. Its size and emptiness may help explain why you hear that language spoken as often as English in many of its national parks which have become major tourist destinations for adventure-seeking Europeans. According to Abbey, the Colorado plateau even larger than Texas—if ironed out flat.

The challenge

Hiking the Hayduke is mentally and physically challenging. It demands skills and perseverance far beyond those required of hikers on any other national scenic trail. Hiking a designated national scenic trail rarely involves more than following a series of clearly marked trails and roads while working out the logistics of periodic resupplies at towns along the way. Route finding on the unsigned and unmarked Hayduke through a maze of canyons, buttes, ridges, and mountains is a constant challenge, and carrying enough food and water is a logistical nightmare.

Detailed contour maps are a must, but common sense and a good eye for detail play a much bigger role in hiking this trail. All too often devising circuitous routes around pour-offs (vertical cliffs that mark dried up waterfalls carved by flash floods in the Colorado Plateau's many slot canyons) demands carefully examining a thousand vertical feet of multicolored terraced cliffs above and below the obstacle and then designing your own scramble route around it. This often involves hours of experimentation and backtracking. When a route is finally worked out, it may demand use of a rope to safely lower or lift your backpack around a particularly challenging rock climb on a vertical cliff face.

Route finding skills, of necessity, evolve quickly. Soon a keen eye may identify a lichen-covered stone cairn placed by an Anasazi hunter whose pictographs and stone ruins still litter these forgotten landscapes. When found, such a cairn can guide the observant hiker to hidden chimneys and scramble routes around the pour-offs in the many canyons the trail traverses.

Clearly this route is not for the lighthearted or thoughtless. The Hayduke quickly evolves into a cotton-mouthed survival course in which a sip of warm, salty, cowpie-tainted water can be a blessing beyond belief. Water—or the lack of it—is the greatest challenge on the Hayduke. The Colorado Plateau is suffering from a severe, long-term drought. Springs, cattle troughs, and potholes are few and far between and require the hiker to carry a water filter, a couple different guidebooks, and excellent maps not only of the routes, but of the surrounding area where other water options may be found.

Lightweight gear has made backpacking much easier by reducing basic pack weights (sleeping bag, pad, tent, clothing, safety gear, pack and water filter) to 17 pounds or less. Add two pounds for each day's food and this means that today's backpacker needs rarely carry any more than 35 pounds for a ten-day stay in the backcountry.

A hiker in this sun blasted landscape easily consumes over a gallon of water a day. A gallon of water weighs eight pounds. That means a three-day supply of water can weigh over 24 pounds or easily double a hiker's pack weight. This extra weight, after a long hot afternoon trudging down four-wheel

drive tracks in ankle deep sand, makes even the smallest salty seep spring truly an oasis in the Southwestern desert.

The Hayduke route is rougher, more challenging, and slower going than hiking a nicely graded trail. Thanks to pour-offs, iffy water sources, and cross-country route finding, it takes much longer to hike between resupply points in remote towns like Escalante, Tropic, and Colorado City. This means a hiker often finds himself or herself lugging a fifty to sixty pound pack under a blazing midday sun. A heavy pack throws one off balance when negotiating precipitous rock scrambles, squeezing through dense tamarisk thickets, and running across quivering beds of quicksand in remote wildernesses. Add in strenuous hiking under a noonday sun that often pushes temperatures into the triple digits and campsites over 9,500 feet in elevation where nighttime temperatures can plummet to 20 degrees below zero and there's a reason why fewer than a dozen hikers have completed the entire 800-mile route.

The logistics

The route was sketched out in *The Hayduke Trail: A Guide to the Backcountry Hiking Trail on the Colorado Plateau* written by Joe Mitchell and Mike Coronella a decade ago. It is found in local bookshops throughout the Southwest. The writers never hiked the entire route in one go, but designed the route around a series of exploratory pack trips. To conscientiously follow the route outlined in their book requires a series of remote water and food caches and four-wheel drive vehicular support unavailable to most hikers.

Thanks to the efforts of Andrew Skurka (famous for circling Alaska on foot and by pack raft), Li Bannfors (a fire ecologist at the Grand Canyon), and others who have both thru-hiked the route since publication of the guidebook almost a decade ago, a series of much more detailed contour maps and route guides is now available for a reasonable fee on the Web. Not only do these clearly note the reliability and location of water sources, they show alternate routes to resupply points in local towns that simplify the original convoluted route that clambers in and out of the Grand Canyon three times.

Resupply options now range from post offices in Tropic and Escalante, towns which also have outdoor outfitters, motels, and restaurants, to Colorado City, a polygamist colony that lacks both food market and motel. Access to the trail is simplified as well. By using Amtrak service to Green River, Utah, and Flagstaff, Arizona, hikers can hire local shuttles to access the reconfigured trail's northeastern terminus at Arches National Park and its new southwestern terminus at the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

An amazing adventure

The Hayduke is an amazing adventure that will test the skill, perseverance, and abilities of the most ardent walker. A century from now it may be rightly designated a national scenic trail to showcase the amazing Colorado Plateau scenery. Hiking it today will make you appreciate the luxury of a cold glass of tap water, your soft armchair, and reading someone else's adventure book.

Editor's Note: The real question is "Where will the peripatetic OldSmokey Jon Stewart hike next?" Watch this space!

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Debra Warren*

- Allen, John P. & Julie Truax-Allen** – New members: 751 SE Airpark Dr, Bend, OR 97702
Telephone: 541-389-9635 E-mail: jtruaxallen@gmail.com
- Bown, Kimberly Evart & Stephen** – New members: 749 NE Hazelfern Pl, Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: 503-807-0754 E-mail: bown3@comcast.net
- Burgess, Rico & Leah** – Change addresses: 1700 NE Wells Acre Road, No. 45, Bend, OR 97701 (summer); 30906 N Glory Grove, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 (winter); telephone numbers and e-mail remain the same
- Davis, Caroline**—Deceased November 18, 2012
- Gould, Norman E.** – Deceased September 10, 2013; Eve survives
- Harris, Jennifer L.** – Change address: P.O. Box 62, Willamina, OR 97396
- Hickerson, Carl W.** – Add e-mail: cwhickerson@gmail.com
- Hunnemuller, Larry & Kay** – New members: 3055 NE Lancaster, Corvallis, OR 97330
Telephone: 541-757-7614 E-mail: larryhunne@comcast.net
- Ingersoll, Jerry & Amelia** – New members: 1515 NW Woodland Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330
Telephone: 775-224-5392 E-mail: jerry.ingersoll@gmail.com
- Kolzow, Carolyn Ann** – Deceased June 20, 2013; Bill survives
- Laurence, John** – New member: 2365 4th St, Baker City, OR 97814
Telephone: 541-523-1201 E-mail: jalaurance@fs.fed.us
- Monzie, Patti Ann & Jim** – New members: 2264 Montello, Hood River, OR 97031
Telephone: 541-386-1957 E-mail: pamonzie@charter.net
- Paul, Les** – Deceased December 23, 2012
- Sawaya, Richard L. & Maureen D. O’Hogan** – New members: P.O. Box 80453, Portland, OR 97280
Telephone: 503-246-2435 E-mail: rls4mdo@comcast.net
- Shumate, Jack Byron** – Deceased December 17, 2011; Avis survives
- Worthington, Ben & Diana** – New members: P.O. Box 889, Winchester, KY 40392
Telephone: 859-749-6254 E-mail: benworthington@bellsouth.net
- Worthington, Viva Dean** – Deceased July 19, 2013

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

John P. Allen & Julie Truax-Allen of Bend, Oregon, joined on August 3, 2013. John’s 35 years in the U.S. Forest Service so far have included his current position as Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest, and service as District Ranger, McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

Kimberly Evart & Stephen Bown of Portland, Oregon, returned to the OldSmokeys on September 17, 2013. Kimberly retired from the U.S. Forest Service in July 2008 as Director, Recreation, Lands, and Mineral Resources, in the Region 6 RO in Portland. Stephen also retired from the U.S. Forest Service in July 2008 as Regional Computer Specialist, serving on the National GIS Help Desk. Both had over 30 years of service, 10 of those years in Region 6.

Larry & Kay Hunnemuller of Corvallis, Oregon, joined on July 16, 2013. Larry began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Lakeview Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest as an engineering aid and retired from the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis as Forest Land Surveyor in May 1994 after 36 years of federal service, 32 in the Forest Service.

Jerry & Amelia Ingersoll of Corvallis, Oregon, joined September 5, 2013. Jerry graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1985 as a forester, was a John Gardner Fellow in the WO in 1985 and 1986, and began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Ouachita National Forest. In 27 years, Jerry has served in all even-numbered Forest Service regions (2, 4, 6, 8, and 10) and the WO in positions including reforestation forester, district timber staff officer, forest planner, district ranger, OHV program manager, and deputy forest supervisor. In six states, Jerry’s personalized license plates read USFS. He’s been Forest Supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest since 2010. Jerry and Amelia have three children: Andy, 18; Maria, 15; and Raymond, 12.

John Laurence of Baker City, Oregon, who joined September 3, 2013, is Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. John previously served as Laboratory Line Officer at the Pacific Northwest Research Station’s Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon.

Richard L. “Dick” Sawaya & Maureen D. O’Hogan of Portland, Oregon, joined in July. Dick graduated from North Dakota State University in 1970 as a civil engineer and began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Colville National Forest when it was in Region 1. He served on the Superior National Forest in Region 9 and the Olympic and Willamette national forests in Region 6 before moving to the RO in Portland in 2000. He was Regional Environmental Engineer until late 2008 when he left the Forest Service for the Bureau of Land Management. He was the Oregon/Washington BLM State Engineer for three years before he retired at the end of 2011 after more than 41 years of federal service, 38 in the Forest Service—28 of those in Region

OldSmokey Says...

Please keep your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Membership Directory information up to date.

*You can do that by submitting changes in that information to PNWFSA Secretary Debra Warren who will pass it on to Database Manager Bill Funk for inclusion in the database and to Newsletter Editor Les Joslin for inclusion in the above newsletter **Changes** section.*

If you pay your dues annually, you may submit changes on the Annual Dues payment coupon on page 6 of this issue.



6—and three in the BLM. An avid runner, he spends his retirement time traveling, doing yard work, and trying to keep up with four grandchildren. Maureen plans to retire November 2, 2013, after 37-plus years of federal service, most of it with the Forest Service. She has worked on the Olympic and Mt. Hood national forests, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, and the Willamette National Forest, and is currently a Program Analyst in the RO budget group. She enjoys quilting and traveling, and is working toward a degree in English literature at Marylhurst University. After she retires, Maureen and Dick plan to “pick up the pace” of their traveling.

Patti Ann & Jim Monzie of Hood River, Oregon, joined recently. Patti Ann began her U.S. Forest service career on the Lolo National Forest in Montana and retired as a Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area administrative specialist on December 31, 2011, after 32 years, 24 of those in Region 6.

Ben & Diana Worthington of Winchester, Kentucky, joined August 8, 2013. Ben retired from the U.S. Forest Service on October 14, 2005, as Forest Supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest, after 32 years of federal service, 30 of those years in the U.S. Forest Service and nine of those years in Region 6. Ben was district ranger on the Powers Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest and the Soleduck Ranger District on the Olympic National Forest before he transferred to Region 4 as Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and then to the Daniel Boone National Forest.

CORRECTION

The welcome for new OldSmokeys **Andrew T. Peavy** and **Amy J. Krommes** in the *New Members* section of the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* should have read as follows:

Andrew T. Peavy & Amy J. Krommes of Lakeview, Oregon, joined May 16. Andy retired from the U.S. Forest Service on September 30, 2011, in the WO after 32 years of service. His last Region 6 assignment was on the Winema National Forest. Amy retired from the Forest Service on May 18, 2013, with 30 years of service. Amy was most recently Forest Silviculturist on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The editor welcomes Andy and Amy aboard, regrets the errors, and thanks Andy for the corrections.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

John Czemerys died July 27, 2013. A forestry graduate of the University of Michigan, John put himself through college by working summers on fire suppression crews in the Pacific Northwest. John met and married his wife, Gene, in 1953; they had five children. After graduating from the University of Michigan and getting married, John served two years in the U.S. Army. When he returned to civilian life, he began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest first at the Wind River Ranger Station and then at Packwood Ranger Station. After about 10 years at Packwood, John transferred to the Gardiner Ranger Station on the Siuslaw National

Forest in Gardiner, Oregon. He worked at these stations in a variety of timber management capacities. After the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area was established, John moved from timber to recreation management at Reedsport, Oregon. John finished his Forest Service career in the Rogue River National Forest SO in Medford, Oregon. After retirement, John and Gene built their Florence, Oregon, home where he enjoyed life for over 20 years. John spoke often of his preference for Oregon Coast weather. Survivors include his wife Gene; children Mike, Linda, Amy, and Julie; and four grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Jeff La Lande..

Caroline Rosemary Motanic Davis died November 18, 2012, at age 74. She was a PNWFSA member. Caroline was born March 26, 1938, in Pendleton, Oregon, and spent her early years on Springhollow and McKay creeks on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. During the summers of 1941 and 1942 she and her parents were at Tip Top and Johnson Creek lookouts where her father Arthur Motanic worked as a fire lookout. They lived near Starkey, Oregon, from 1942 to 1952. Caroline graduated from Pendleton Senior High School in 1956, married schoolmate Douglas Minthorn; they had five children before they divorced in 1968. Caroline was married to Jesse Eugene Brock from 1970 until they divorced in 1982. Caroline began her U.S. Government career in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and later transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in Pendleton where she met Gilbert A. Davis whom she married in 1986. He died in 2008. Caroline attended Oregon State University for a time and completed her education at Blue Mountain Community College as a member of the first class of dental assistants to graduate there. She retired from the Forest Service in 1994. Caroline's many hobbies reflected her Native American heritage; she had a special love for horses and claimed to have never been without one. She rode in Pendleton Round-Up parades, and in 2012 was inducted into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. She participated in the Happy Canyon Night Show every year since 1959 through 2012. Survivors include her children Katherine Ramona Minthorn Goodluck, Whitney Benton Minthorn, Toni Melinda Minthorn, Julie Amber Minthorn, and Sarah Mamie Minthorn Picard; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Joseph “Papa Joe” DesJardin died April 24, 2013, at age 82. Joe was born September 26, 1930, in Calumet, Michigan. After he graduated from high school, Joe served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and then went to Alaska to work on the Alaskan Railroad as a civilian and then as a member of the U.S. Army. He returned to Michigan, earned a forestry degree at Michigan Technological University in 1960, and joined the U.S. Forest Service. He started his career in Darrington, Washington, on the Mt. Baker National Forest, continued on the Prospect Ranger District on the Rogue River National Forest, and moved to John Day, Oregon, where he worked in timber management on the Malheur National Forest and retired on 30 years of service. Joe was honored as a 50-year member of the Society of American Foresters in January 2011, and was a 35-year member of the Lions Club. His wife Rita and daughter Ramona preceded him

in death. Survivors include his sons Mike and Patrick and eight grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Ron Ketchum and obtained from the 1960 Michigan Technological University "Forester" and the Blue Mountain Eagle.

George Dyke died August 7, 2013, at age 84. George was born October 29, 1928, in Baker City, Oregon. He married Shirley in January 1946 in Santa Ana, California, and they had five children. For most of his life, George worked as U.S. Forest Service forestry technician. He retired after 30 years in 1997. He also served his eastern Oregon community as an ambulance driver and emergency medical technician, and he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and just being outdoors. Survivors include daughters Charlotte Poe, T.J. Harrington, and Donna Tucker; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Art Schimke.

Norman E. "Norm" Gould died September 10, 2013, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Norm was born February 18, 1927, in Boise, Idaho, and moved to Oregon with his parents when only a few months old. The son of teachers, he grew up in several places in Oregon and spent his summers on his uncle's farm in Hood River. Norm first worked for the U.S. Forest Service at age 15 in 1942 on the Mill Creek Ridge Lookout where he replaced his father who had been called to a fire, and served on various lookouts during the summers of 1943 and 1944. He moved with his family to Dufur—where both his parents taught high school—in 1943, and during his 1944-45 senior year took flying lessons, soloed from a cow pasture, and got his pilot's license. Upon graduating from high school in 1945, Norm joined the U.S. Navy. The end of World War II ended his brief naval career, and Norm entered Willamette College in the fall of 1946 and soon transferred to Oregon State College (OSC) to study forestry. He worked summers in the Forest Service and in 1949 married his first wife, Vee, who worked at the school. Norm graduated from OSC in 1951, passed the junior forester exam, and was assigned to Oak Grove Ranger Station on the Willamette National Forest as timber sale forester. In 1952, Norm transferred to the Collawash Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest under District Ranger Roy Bond, and in 1955 to the McKenzie Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest as general district assistant with duties mostly related to fire control. After four happy years as district ranger on the North Umpqua Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest from 1957 to 1961, Norm became the first timber staff officer on the newly established Winema National Forest in Klamath Falls, and in 1964 he opened the Timber Lake Job Corps Conservation Center on the Mt. Hood National Forest as its first director. In 1966, Norm and Vee and their two little girls moved to Portland where he worked in the RO in timber management. A Rocky Mountain Region (Region 1) tour in Missoula, Montana; and tour in Washington, D.C.; and three years in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), preceded Norm's appointment as Deputy Regional Forester, Southern Region (Region 8), under Regional Forester Roy Bond. In 1977, Norm began a five-year tour as Director, Timber Man-

agement Staff, in the WO, during which Vee died and from which he retired in 1982. A year before he retired, Norm married Eve; they merged their two families into one comprising three almost grown girls and a boy. Norm and Eve moved to Portland in the summer of 1982, and a year later moved to Glide, Oregon, on the North Umpqua River, where they built the house in which they lived happily for 14 years before they sold it to travel full-time. Norm was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2003, but its slow progression allowed him and Eve another ten years of happiness. Survivors include Eve and their children.

Editor's Note: Prepared from a beautiful remembrance written by Eve Gould.

Carolyn Ann Kolzow died June 20, 2013, at age 73. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of William C. "Bill" Kolzow. Born February 27, 1940, Carolyn was a loving wife and mother and an elementary school teacher in the Beaverton School District in Beaverton, Oregon, for many years. An avid genealogist, she loved her fellow sister members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW). Survivors include Bill, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

George Frederick "Fred" Marshall died January 13, 2013, at age 93. Fred was born March 27, 1919, in Creston, Washington, and grew up in the scab-rock country of northeastern Washington during the Great Depression. After high school, Fred moved to Seattle, married Viola "Vi" in 1942, and in 1944 moved to a cabin in Ernie's Grove on the north fork of the Snoqualmie River where he and Vi lived the rest of their married lives. Fred worked at many jobs before he joined the U.S. Forest Service to serve as a fire manager, check scaler, and finally as a special agent for prevention of timber theft on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests from which he retired in 1984 after 21 years of service. Survivors include Vi; daughter Marjorie Kinch; four grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

Les Paul died December 23, 2012, at the age of 76. He was a PNWFSA member. Les was born in Portland, Oregon, and grew up in Rose Lodge, Oregon, near the Oregon Coast. He graduated from Taft High School in 1954. Les' federal service began in the U.S. Army and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He married Bonnie Beal in 1959, and they raised five children. Les graduated from Oregon State College in 1962 with a degree in civil engineering, and that year began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Hebo Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest. His seven years of service on the Siuslaw also included the Mapleton Ranger District and the SO. Having lived his life on or near the Oregon Coast, Les was an avid fisherman and passed that passion on to his family. One of the many things Les loved about the Forest Service was the opportunity for his family to travel and see new places. In 1969 he and his family left Oregon for Bellingham, Washington, where he worked in the Mt. Baker National Forest SO. In 1971 he transferred to the Region 10 RO in Juneau, Alaska, where he could fish as much as he wanted. In 1975 he and his family moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where he served with the U.S.

Agency for International Development (USAID) for two years. In 1977 he returned to the Forest Service at the Region 4 RO in Ogden, Utah. In 1981 he moved back to Juneau where he remained until he retired in 1992. After retirement, Les and Bonnie returned to Oregon and Settled in Salem. Survivors include his daughters Janet, Brenda, and Jennifer; sons Rob and Shawn; and six grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Les' daughter Janet Paul, a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service and Contracting Officer, Region 6 Western Oregon AQM Group, Siuslaw National Forest SO, Corvallis, Oregon, for this remembrance.

Jack Byron Shumate died December 17, 2011, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Jack served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II, earned a technical forestry degree from Oregon State College in 1947, and retired after 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service and four years with the U.S. Agency for International Development during which he worked on forestry issues in Vietnam. Survivors include his wife, Avis; son Jon, a Utah State University forester who retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2003 with 36 years service; son Jim, a district judge in Utah; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: No further information is available.

John Frederick Wear died September 6, 2013, at age 94. John was born on March 31, 1919, and served in the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator during World War II. After the war, John transferred his love of flying to the U.S. Forest Service in which he was a researcher and photographic pilot until his retirement. John and his late wife Marylou were avid travelers in their retirement. John was also an avid fisherman; he and his family spent many happy days together at their Columbia Gorge and Oregon Coast cabins. Survivors include his daughters Sue and Kristine; sons John, Dan, and David; and grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bill Ciesla for this remembrance.

Robert Marvin "Bob" Wirtanen died August 22, 2013, at age 86. Bob was born May 19, 1927, in Ironwood, Michigan, served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II, served as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest at the Yacont shop for 24 years, and retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1989. He last resided in Brush Prairie, Washington. Survivors include his wife Mae; sons Carl, Edward, Andrew, Michael, Matthew, and Mark; daughters Alice Homola, Kathleen Broderson, Carol Stephenson, Karen Hallstrom, Rebecca Johansen, Diane Unasa, and Marybeth Brucelmyer; 93 grandchildren and 111 great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Information about Bob's years with the U.S. Forest Service was provided to Ray Steiger by one of Bob's daughters.

Viva Haroldine "Dean" Worthington-Cullens died July 19, 2013, at age 88. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late Richard E. "Dick" Worthington. Viva Haroldine Sabro was born April 15, 1925, in Bandon, Oregon. Dean attended Llewellyn Grade School and Washington High School in Portland, Oregon, and studied music at Willamette College in Sa-

lem. In 1948, Dean married Dick Worthington, whose U.S. Forest Service career took them from Oregon to Washington, California, and Washington, D.C., before they returned to Portland in 1977 where Dick retired as Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, in 1988, and moved to Riddle, Oregon. Dean and Dick enjoyed trips to Europe and especially enjoyed becoming acquainted with family in Norway. They also enjoyed touring the United States in their RV. Dean returned to Portland after Dick's death in 1989. As a young woman, Dean belonged to the Mazamas and was later a member of the Forest Service Wives organization. Her career included working as a homemaker, bank teller, school secretary, and many years of volunteer service at Portland Providence medical Center. There she met Victor Cullens and they married in 1994. With Vic, her love of travel continued with trips to Canada and Central America. After his death in 2003, she moved to Kentucky to be near her son Ben and his family. Dean's talents included being an accomplished seamstress who often work her own handcrafted fashions, and a pianist. Dean was a lifelong learner who took community college classes and learned to speak and write Norwegian at Portland State University. Everywhere she lived, she developed lasting friendships. Survivors include her son Ben; daughter Rebecca Jensen; daughter Viva Worthington, who is District Ranger, Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest; stepdaughters Chris Cullens and Jo Cullens; five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Letters

Rolf Anderson remembers John Czemerys

John was a ball of fire at work. He was very instrumental in getting the newly-formed (early 1970s) Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area up and going in his role as Dunes Recreation Staff Officer/Assistant Ranger. His non-stop energy generated a constant flow of ideas and initiatives and he was fully dedicated to making the Dunes concept work.

John used to tell a story about being dispatched to a small fire on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest early in his career. His crew mates were two Tokarczyks and Andy Dzurisin. He said the fire grew in size as the lookout they were reporting to by radio struggled with getting all their names recorded correctly.

Gary Bartlett remembers John Czemerys

Jeff La Lande [who remembers John Czemerys below] and I came to the Rogue River National Forest about the same time; I came in 1976. John was my room buddy while Jurgen Hess, forest landscape architect, was my supervisor.

John was a delight to be around and bubbled over with his laughter. He was one who enjoyed the finer things of life: good music, fine wines, rich food, and good friends. He had a saying for those who settled for mediocrity or never experienced those finer things: "They must sit on their taste buds!"

I miss the man who had a curious balance between being politically incorrect and yet sensitive. He really did care about others and his career with the Forest Service.

Jeff La Lande *remembers John Czemerys*

John was a true gem, a diamond in the rough. Coming to Medford from the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, he retired as assistant recreation staff officer on the Rogue River National Forest. As my supervisor, he helped me “get a leg up” when I finished my co-op education agreement (now SCEP) and came on as a PFT. He was generous with helpful advice and a hell of a lot of fun to be around.

A number of practical jokes were played on John in the SO, and he was subjected to them because people liked him and because he took such mischief in stride. CZ was kind of a “big old bear” of a guy, and some of his unique sayings have stayed with me. John was raised in Detroit, Michigan; his elderly mom was from the old country (Poland) and still spoke in a heavy accent. John’s wife, Gene, is a true peach of a woman, a registered nurse who worked for many years at Ashland Community Hospital.

Bob Lichlyter *remembers John Czemerys*

I first met CZ when he came to work on the Rogue River National Forest. He was a great person to work with; he never got excited about problems, just helped to solve them in a well thought out manner. He had a great sense of humor, got along with all his fellow workers.

After he retired he and Gene moved to the Oregon Coast which they both loved. We had the opportunity to visit them several times. CZ would take [us] on tours of the Coast and show us interesting things that we would not have found on our own. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Phil Hirl *remembers Caroline Davis*

Caroline Brock was a cartographer on the Umatilla National Forest. She was a good one; knew about all there was to know about maps. When I was visiting the Umatilla I liked to go for beer after work with whomever wanted to go. At first there were a few, but later it sort of dwindled to Caroline and Gil Davis. One time I caught them holding hands under the table. I asked what was going on. They said they were getting married and they did. Not sure how many years but must have been close to 20 when Gil died a few years ago.

When it was [first] reunion time in Missoula, Phil and Clare Ballard invited the Caroline and Gil Davis and us to their home in Hamilton. We had a great time at their house, playing some outside games. Gil and Caroline stayed with them. We stayed in Missoula.

Caroline was a Umatilla Indian and darn proud of it. But she never made a big deal of it. She preferred the term Indian to Native American, though she didn’t correct anyone who use that term as far as I ever saw. That wasn’t Caroline’s style.

It wasn’t until years later when *The Oregonian* ran a feature on Caroline that I learned she was first Queen of the Indian Court at the Pendleton Round-Up. We often talked about the Round-Up, but about current things like what her family was riding this year.

Eve Gould *comments on Norm Gould*

Thank you [to Vern Clapp] for posting the [eNote] about Norm. I wanted to add that he lived through over ten years with

Alzheimer’s and did it with good humor and courage. We were still going to the gym and joining friends for coffee and meals right up to the last week. I was so proud of him and cherished every day we had. He grew weak the last week and lapsed into a coma in the emergency room at Milwaukee Hospital on Friday, September 6. He was admitted, and family far and wide came to join the vigil at his side. On Monday, at 3:00 p.m. [on September 10], we were all there as he passed. We decided to have a private family memorial while everyone was still there. He was so loved by us all. Thank you again for helping me let everyone know. Having our Forest Service family helps a lot.

Max Peterson *remembers Norm Gould*

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Norm Gould. He was a very fine professional during his long and distinguished U.S. Forest Service career.

Dave Jay *remembers Norm Gould*

I was sad to hear of Norm’s passing; however, he has suffered terribly. I first met Norm in 1965 when he was selected to be one of the first five directors of a Job Corps Conservation Center which was Timber Lake on the Mt. Hood National Forest. I was selected to be his deputy for the work programs. We worked together to hire staff and prepare to take in nearly 200 corpsmen from the Watts area of Los Angeles. Norm was so astute at building a team from both inside and outside the agency.

Later, in the early 1970s, Norm was the Deputy Regional Forester in Region 8. I was recruited out of the WO to be the Director of Fire Management. I was able to get him down to a Florida forest for a prescribed burn. He enjoyed carrying a drip torch like he was burning slash in Region 6.

It was a real privilege to work for him. I absorbed so much about working with employees and cooperators along with his strong ethics about managing the resources. Now that he is gone, I appreciate having these memories.

Kent Mays *remembers Norm Gould*

I was deeply saddened to learn of Norm Gould’s death. I worked for Norm on the McKenzie Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest during the summer of 1955. I was originally slated to work on the trail crew, but they needed a foreman for a small suppression crew and as I had some previous experience Norm selected me.

We had some great experiences that summer, including finding a lost fisherman, a mountain rescue on the North Sister, a couple of structure fires, and some good smoke chasing. Later, on the Winema National Forest, Norm was the timber staff officer while I was on the Chemult Ranger District. Still later, out paths crossed in the WO. While taking him to lunch in the summer of 2005, I reminded him that he had hired me 50 years earlier. He was a great boss and a special man.

Dave Note *remembers Norm Gould*

I was saddened to hear of Norm’s passing. What a great guy. He was one of the “Old School” leaders that made a new forester like me proud to be working for the Forest Service. In 1958, I was fresh out of school, single, without wheels, and 40 miles from town at Steamboat on the Umpqua National Forest.

Norm was not only the ranger, he was also kind of a father figure to several of us new, single foresters. We were a tight knit family.

Norm believed that a new forester should get a good taste of every aspect of a career in the Forest Service from laying out timber sales to locating and designing roads, planting trees, burning slash, fighting fire, hanging phone line, cleaning campgrounds, or even tying a double diamond. That was, indeed, a good way to begin a Forest Service career. Those years working for Norm and the years of friendship that followed leave Bev and me with many great memories.

Doug Porter *remembers Norm Gould*

The first time I ran into Norm was in the summer of 1961. I was an engineering aid on the Chemult Ranger District of the Winema National Forest and Norm was the first timber staff officer on the Winema.

I was out on patrol with a one-ton pumper (old days lingo) when a fire was reported south of Chemult on or near the power line. When I arrived a small fire was making a hard run down the power line, more than a shovel could handle. I grabbed a drip torch and was about to head out to cut it off before it could cross the road. Another rig just pulled up and it was Norm (and I don't remember who else). "Give me a torch," he said, and we took off running as fast as we could lighting along the road in an attempt to cut it off. After about 10 minutes and a few hundred yards, we hooked it on our road and a crossroad. That's when I met Norm and, I knew, another firefighter. I was impressed with Norm on that day and it never changed over the years.

I ran into Norm a number of times after that and always had some good words. What I remember about Norm is that grin. He always had it, and if you knew Norm you know what I mean. I remember when he retired and he told me he planned to do some traveling. Probably about 10 years later I ran into him at some event and I asked him how his traveling was going. "We spent the last seven years traveling across the United States, four times," he said, "and would recommend that to anyone."

I always thought he was a pretty nice guy.

Emil Sabol *remembers Norm Gould*

As a friend and co-worker, I was saddened to hear of Norm Gould's passing.

Norm and I came to the McKenzie Ranger District about the same time in 1955, he as the assistant district ranger and I as the timber sale administrator. I enjoyed working with him on several projects during our time on the Willamette National Forest and we both began our families there.

We hooked up again in 1967 in the Region 6 Division of Timber Management and again in 1980 in the WO when he was Timber Management Director and I was an assistant director. In my book, he was one of the good guys, both as a person and as a valued employee of the Forest Service.

Zane Smith *remembers Norm Gould*

I can only say "ditto" to Max Peterson's and Dave Jay's comments about Norm Gould. I met Norm when he was timber staff

officer on the new Winema National Forest in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where I was assistant district ranger on the Klamath Ranger District in 1960. He provided wonderful guidance and offered long-term friendship. We both became Job Corps conservation center directors in the first round. I was later so fortunate to serve again with him in the WO where he was Timber and I was Recreation. A great friend and colleague! His "double e" and double "v" spouses were equally treasured.

Ted Yarosh *remembers Norm Gould*

I knew Norm mostly by association at timber meetings in the RO and while on detail in the WO. I remember when he became the first timber staff officer on the Winema National Forest. What I best remember of him is the energy he put into whatever task he had.

Jim Davidson *remembers Walt Johnson*

I remember Walt and Jacqueline in Halfway, Oregon. My wife Donna and our families did things together in Pine Valley. Walt was always a friendly fellow and we had good times together.

Steve Kelly *remembers Walt Johnson*

I worked for Jimmy Wilkins (later Glenn Hetzel) and Jim Crates in the Water Resource Development and Related Activities (WRDRA) program. I moved to the Mt. Hood National Forest in October 1977 and, if my memory serves me well, Walt would have retired within the year. In addition to working with Walt, we attended the same Lutheran church that was across the street and up the hill from the SO.

Walt was a great mentor on and off the job. He helped me and my family transition into "big city" life after coming from La Grande and Dufur, and was instrumental in helping me further define the WRDRA position and responsibility. It was always a pleasure to work with Walt. He will be missed but leaves a legacy of concern for the resources we managed.

Phil Hirl *remembers Carolyn Kolzow*

When I retired I got interested in family history. Carolyn Kolzow was an expert and gave me some hints on how to find things. She helped me find my great-grandfather, but more important she gave me clues how to search for people. I have been doing that ever since.

Lowell Gilbert *remembers Paul Neff*

I first met Paul Neff after he was transferred to the Mt. Hood National Forest. We were in the parking lot at the Ripplebrook Ranger Station and he walked up and introduced himself as the new forest supervisor. I gave him my name and he asked me, "What do you do to earn your pay check?" This was not a casual remark for a conversation starter. This guy wanted to know what I knew about my job and he waited and listened intently to my reply. After this...I knew there would be some management changes on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

It did not take long for my predictions to show. I remember the first annual timber sales program meeting held on the Mt. Hood after Paul's arrival. The timber companies, local contractors, and other interested observers filled the room. Each ranger presented his proposed sales for the coming year and in the end Paul summarized the proposed sales and the total amount in board feet to be put up by the forest. As the timber volume to be

sold was announced one of the operators in the back of the room said, “We have heard these programs before. What’s the actual board feet amount that we can rely on?” A few laughs followed, then there was complete silence in the room. After a moment Paul said, “You may have heard it before but you have never heard it from me before,” and adjourned the meeting. Needless to say, the announced timber sales program was made that year and, as I remember it, every year following that Paul was on the Mt. Hood.

In my opinion Paul Neff was the best supervisor the Mt. Hood National Forest ever had. This opinion was shared by many others both inside and outside the Forest Service. During his tenure on the Mt. Hood National Forest from the late 1950s through the early 1960s, there was never a doubt who was managing the national forest or where the decisions were made. Work was hard, morale was high, accomplishment was on the ground where goals were met and everyone knew what they did to earn their pay check.

Max Peterson *remembers Paul Neff*

Paul Neff was a good friend that we will miss.

Dick Pflf *remembers Paul Neff*

I agree with Gil’s opinion that Paul Neff was the best forest supervisor the Mt. Hood National Forest ever had. I was on the Collawash Ranger District up the Clackamas River when he arrived on the forest, and I remember his initial tour looking at our programs on the ground. His observations were penetrating, to say the least. Quality improved and targets were met.

But he was more than just a timber beast. He was instrumental in initiating principles of landscape management for timber sales in the region. He also had close personal connections with influential people in the Portland metro area that helped gain acceptance for some of the controversial measures he initiated. He made sure that PGE’s Three Lynx School had enough students to keep it running by his assignment of employees with families to the Ripplebrook area. He convinced the State of Oregon to make the Clackamas River Road a state highway, thereby taking a big burden from the Forest Service. And on and on.

Later, when Paul was Director of Timber Management in the WO, he descended on the Clearwater National Forest when I was its supervisor. We had yet another penetrating discussion that I remember well and value to this day.

Jim Davidson *remembers Jon Skovlin*

I met Jon and Donna when I was on the La Grande Ranger District from 1963 to 1969. I drove Jon out to the Starkey Experimental Range after he had back surgery. Jon laid down in the back of the government station wagon, would slide out on a piece of plywood and lay on the ground to identify plants. I would record for him and drive around to the various sites.

I also remember “riding the range” with Jon, stopping at places he had stashed a can of coffee [and] a pot and we would make midday coffee.

My wife Donna remembers going huckleberry picking with Donna Skovlin. These two Forest Service wives and their eight kids, four each, enjoyed the berry picking.

We remember Jon and Donna as very good friends.

Books

OldSmokey Bob Chadwick Promotes Consensus in *Finding New Ground*

By Les Joslin

“There has to be a better way!” OldSmokey **Robert J. “Bob” Chadwick** has believed since a childhood filled with unresolved conflict. Guided by that belief, Bob has developed consensus building techniques which foster solutions for personal, interpersonal, and intergroup conflicts. Bob shares what he’s learned from others and practiced with others about moving beyond conflict to consensus over the past several decades in his 2012 book *Finding New Ground*.

In *Finding New Ground* Bob introduces his readers “to a process developed over the past forty years, using real conflict situations [that] has been employed in more than fifteen hundred conflict situations...directly involving more than thirty thousand people. It has been successfully applied with just two people in conflict and to groups of more than a thousand.”

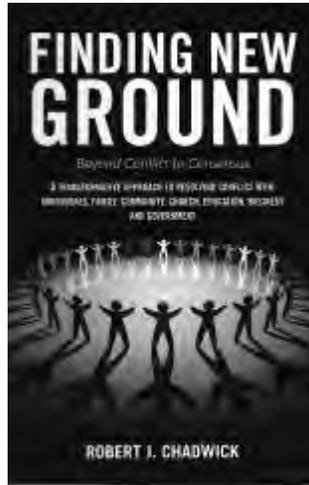
Bob welcomes his readers to his world in which “people like yourself acknowledge and resolve their conflicts with spouses, adversaries, friends and former friends, coworkers, business associates, church and community members.”

Bob’s world is made possible by a process through which “people purposefully learn from each other” to “build a more comprehensive view from their interlocking realities” that permits them “to create not just ‘common ground,’ but ‘new ground,’ where all can agree that their interests are taken care of and they *behave* the agreement, actually making it happen.”

That’s the world for me! So I’ve been making time in my tight schedule to read the copy of *Finding New Ground* Bob left with me on the beautiful June 28 afternoon we met at the High Desert Ranger Station—at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon—for a fascinating conversation. When that conversation touched on a concept others who care about the future of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System and I are pursuing, Bob assured me this process could help. That’s motivation enough to tackle his almost 700-page tome!

Active reading of *Finding New Ground* can help readers define conflict, understand the many facets of any conflict, and understand why conflicts must always be confronted and resolved rather than avoided. Through the process Bob shares, readers can learn to recognize and attain true consensus.

How does Bob’s process work? That’s demonstrated in “a central section of the book [that] explores an intergroup conflict that erupts over the use of a fictional river basin in the American West,” the book’s dust jacket tells us. “This story is based on Chadwick’s real-life experience, drawn from seventeen different workshops the author has conducted with groups across America and around the world. It provides a context for learning about the process.... Through this story, the reader will vicariously experience and understand the consensus building process and learn the skills and tools for finding new



OldSmokey Bob Chadwick presents a process for conflict resolution he has developed and used over the past forty years in his 2012 book *Finding New Ground*.

ground. These include the use of the circle, listening with respect, empowering yourself and others, creating a sense of equity, and fostering a sense of community.”

Many OldSmokeys know Bob, now 77, for his U.S. Forest Service career. A 1959 graduate of the University of New Hampshire where he earned a B.S. degree in forestry with a minor in ecology, Bob served as an assistant district ranger on the Wenatchee and Wallowa national forests from 1960 to 1966, as a district ranger on the Mt. Hood National Forest from 1966 to 1973, as forest supervisor of the Winema National Forest from 1973 to 1980, and then as an internal organizational development consultant and executive staff member to the regional forester developing a program and process for resolving conflicts between land managers and communities in the Pacific Northwest. After retirement from the Forest Service, Bob formed Consensus Associates to focus on helping government, business, and communities resolve conflicts by reaching consensus.

Editor’s Note: Bob Chadwick’s Finding New Ground (ISBN-10: 1484916468; ISBN-13: 978-1484916469) was published in 2012 by One Tree Publishing Company, P.O. Box 235, Terrebonne, Oregon 97760, and is available from Amazon.com. For more reviews and ordering information, see the Finding New Ground website at <www.findingnewground.com>.

OldSmokeys Explore Feasibility of Reprinting *The Pine Tree Shield*

A small group of OldSmokeys is exploring the feasibility of reprinting Elizabeth Canfield Flint’s 1943 book *The Pine Tree Shield*, a classic U.S. Forest Service historical novel, which was reviewed in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

If permission of the copyright owner is secured, the group plans to fund the project personally. The author’s descendants are supportive of the project. Watch the **Books** section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for developments.

Films

New Film *The People’s Forest* Tells Eastern National Forests Story

A new documentary film, available on DVD, tells the compelling story of the beginning of America’s national forests east of the Mississippi River. The story began in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Produced by David Huntley and Moore Huntley productions, *The People’s Forests: The Story of the White Mountain National Forest* looks at the mix of man-made disasters, colorful characters, citizen activism, and political courage that resulted in passage of the Weeks Act of 1911 and its extension of the National Forest System to the eastern United States.

“While the dramatic chain of events depicted in the [film] took place well over a century ago,” Huntley says, “the people involved and the issues they confronted still crackle with unmistakable life and meaning.”

The main character in *The People’s Forest* is Massachusetts Congressman John Wingate Weeks. Originally from Lancaster, New Hampshire, Weeks had enjoyed a successful career in banking and finance before his election to Congress in 1905. While he would have a 14-year career as a congressman and then a senator, his lasting contribution is the Weeks Act of 1911 which allowed the federal government to purchase private land to protect watersheds and forests.

As the film illustrates, events in the North Country of New Hampshire at the turn of the twentieth century—including severe flooding in 1895 and 1896—had effects far beyond the White Mountains. Those floods forced the closing of mills and other factories that depended on waterways like the Merrimack River for hydroelectric power. Thousands of people were out of work and many blamed the flooding on deforestation in the White Mountains. Citizens began to realize the connections among natural systems such as forested watersheds and rivers.

Standing in the way of Weeks’ bill was a bitterly-divided Congress which had debated similar conservation legislation in previous sessions. What was new was an unlikely alliance of citizen groups, environmental activists, business leaders, and members of the pulp and paper industry. The film shows the Weeks Act’s enduring impact on the landscape of New Hampshire and the United States. In the century since its passage, more than fifty national forests and grasslands in 41 states—more than twenty million acres—have been added to the National Forest System.



Congressman John W. Weeks

This film, which premiered on July 16, 2013, at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, will be available on DVD late in 2013 or early in 2013.

Prepared from a June 25, 2013, Plymouth State University News Release “Film ‘The People’s Forest’ to receive its inaugural screening July 16 at Plymouth State University.”

National Smokejumper Association Offers *Red Skies of Montana* on DVD

Red Skies of Montana, a 1952 adventure drama very loosely based on the August 5, 1949, Mann Gulch Fire tragedy, is perhaps Hollywood’s most significant motion picture with a U.S. Forest Service theme.

Richard Widmark starred in the film as Cliff Mason, a character loosely based on Man Gulch Fire smokejumper crew boss Wag Dodge, who attempts to save his crew while being burned over by a forest fire—not only to save his men, but to redeem himself after a previous fire when only he survived a blowup.

Constance Smith, Richard Boone, and Jeffrey Hunter also starred in the film, much of it shot on location at U.S. Forest Service facilities in and around Missoula, Montana.

For many smokejumpers, seeing *Red Skies of Montana* on the big screen motivated them to “go do that”—become a smokejumper.

National Smokejumper Association member Mike Overby is offering a special “colorized version” of *Red Skies of Montana* on DVD for a special price of \$25.00 which includes shipping and handling.

All proceeds from the sale of this DVD will go to the National Smokejumper’s Association’s Good Samaritan Fund.

Chuck Sheley of the National Smokejumper Association says the easiest way to order the *Red Skies of Montana* DVD is to go to the <www.smokejumpers.com> website, store, donate \$25.00 by clicking on the “Pay by Credit Card” link and including “Red Skies of Montana DVD” in the “Special Instructions for Order Comments” and including your mailing address. If online ordering doesn’t work for you, you may send a check for \$25.00 payable to “NSA” and your mailing address to Chuck Sheley, 10 Judy Lane, Chico, California 95926.



The office at the historic Parkdale Ranger Station, now a work center, is hard on Baseline Road near Parkdale, Oregon.

Uncle Sam’s Cabins

Parkdale Ranger Station Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

Article and photographs by Les Joslin

The historic Parkdale Ranger Station compound—still in service on the Hood River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest as a work center—was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939. Located on Baseline Road near Parkdale, Oregon, this former district ranger’s headquarters was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Historic Parkdale Ranger Station today comprises an office, a ranger’s residence with garage, a warehouse and blacksmith shop building, a machine shop and storage building, a fire warehouse, a road maintenance office converted from a residence, and a gas house—all built in 1939. Most visible and impressive of these are the office and ranger’s residence on Baseline Road. Except for the ranger’s residence, these buildings are arranged in a U-shape around a driveway and parking area.

The single-story ranger’s office is a 24- by 42-foot wood frame building on a concrete foundation and basement, fronted by a south-facing porch with gable roof supported by paired timber posts with curved bracing brackets. Wood shingles and shakes afford its characteristic Pacific Northwest Region style.

The imposing two-story ranger’s residence is a 34- by 28-foot wood frame building on a concrete foundation and topped with a high gabled roof, center gabled and enclosed front porch, and two gabled dormers. When well-cared-for, this house was a beauty.

OldSmokey **Dick Spray** knows this compound as well as anyone. As the Parkdale Ranger Station headquarters fireman in the summer of 1954, he fought no fires but painted every one of those buildings! And OldSmokey **Dick Connelly** worked there in a recreation job from 1960 to 1966 after completing service in the U.S. Army. Dick recalls boxes of historic Forest Service diaries and other items in the attic of one of the buildings and wonders whatever happened to them.



Richard Widmark starred as U.S. Forest Service smokejumper crew boss Cliff Mason in 1952 film Red Skies of Montana.



The beautiful Parkdale Ranger Station ranger’s residence.

This article on historic Parkdale Ranger Station was prepared from the 1986 Parkdale Ranger Station National Register of Historic Places nomination form and input from OldSmokeys Dick Spray and Dick Connelly.

Out of the Past

U.S. Forest Service’s John W. Parker, Star of 1948 Film *Forest Smokechaser*, Lived to 102

During a U.S. Forest Service career that spanned 38 years, John William Parker worked his way up from junior forester to forest supervisor on two national forests. But he’s perhaps best known for his title role in the 1948 U.S. Forest Service training film *Forest Smokechaser*.

John, who was born on March 23, 1911, in Round Valley, Idaho, and grew up in southern Idaho the son of Forest Service Ranger John Parker and his wife Selma, died on June 8, 2013, at the age of 102.

After graduating in forestry from the University of Idaho in 1934, John began his own distinguished Forest Service career. He married Josephine Theirfelder in 1935, and his work took them and their daughter Sharon to Boise and Cascade, Idaho, where he rangered two districts; Ogden, Utah, for a staff assignment—and, apparently, a movie role; Ely, Nevada, as forest supervisor of the old Nevada National Forest; Pocatello, Idaho, as forest supervisor of the Caribou National Forest; and then back to Ogden for a staff position at the Intermountain Region RO before he retired in 1970.

Twenty-two years before he retired, John played John Smokechaser in the Intermountain Region production *Forest Smokechaser*, a training film remembered by many OldSmokeys.

Fire historian Stephen J. Pyne of Arizona State University recalled John’s film in “John, of the Smokechasers” in *Environmental History* 12 of April 2007. John played “an Everyman Northern-Rockies lookout-fireman, residing at a tower on Brundage Mountain with his wife, Josephine, and their daughter, Joan.” Professor Pyne’s recollection of John’s film is ex-

cerpted with permission of the Oxford University Press and Professor Pyne.

“The plot simply follows John as he spots a fire, reports it, tracks it down, and puts it out, while a narrator, speaking both to John and to an audience of Johnnie-wanna-bees, explains what is happening. (‘Careful, John, a sprained ankle now and your chances of getting the job done are shot.’ ‘The hardhat came out of John’s pack. He wears it to keep from getting conked.’) If you want to know how to attack and extinguish a wildland fire with handtools, there is no better manual. ...

“Still, the film was, from its origins, a cliché in the making. Absurdities abound. John always has loose dirt at the tip of his shovel, his Pulaski never cracks against a rock, his jeans never soil, and if he really wanted to stop the fire from crowning through that thicket of pine saplings, he ought to clobber the guy with the flamethrower hiding just outside the frame. But, hey, this is Hollywood, after a fashion. Step by step, through scouting, hotspotting, firelining, and mopping up, John single-handedly wrestles the fire to its knees. He stops a fast-moving lead through a heavy-needled slope; he knocks down the hot flames of a pitchy stump, and digs out the smoldering burns of a rotten one; he fells a simmering snag (‘Old Heartbreaker, three foot through and sound as a dollar’) with a never-dull Pulaski; he separates the quick from the dead, tossing cold wood into a boneyard, while giving the still-smoking wood a dirt bath; he chops, spades, mixes, over and over again. For three days he stays at it, living on water and an occasional can of beans, with a packcover for his blanket and a packframe for his pillow. When he departs, before the music swells in the background, the narrator quietly declares ‘and so the fire is out’—dead out, tested like John himself, mano a mano, with his bare hands.

“Even forty years ago the film was so corny it was campy. Crews loved it. We showed it on 16mm projectors on the fire cache walls on rainy days, while the veterans chanted the fa-

John W. Parker, a career U.S. Forest Service officer, played a most successful smokechaser in the 1948 training film Forest Smokechaser. In this still from the end of the film, John packs up his tools after mopping up the fire. Scene copied by Vern Clapp



miliar lines in synch and the rookies learned the basics. This is what the job was about. John Smokechaser, portrayed by a genuine firefighter John W. Parker, was our mythic culture hero...the fire guild's paragon, a man who knew what to do and just did it."

And, in *Forest Smokechaser*, that paragon was played by the real thing. And that was its key to success as the training film it was. Those of us who saw it *learned* and *remembered* its lessons.

And therein lies a tale. "We showed the film at an Old Timers luncheon meeting a while back and John was in attendance," wrote Intermountain Region Old Timer Stan Tixier on July 9, 2013. "When asked to comment on the making of the film, John said he was originally just a technical advisor and 'coach' of the actor picked to play the role. When they realized that the actor couldn't do a credible job of playing the fire fighter part, John was substituted and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

John lived on in Ogden after his 1970 retirement. He was an avid fan of the Utah Jazz who had season tickets for 25 years. His wife Jo died in 1989, but their daughter Sharon Wright, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren survive.

Some 65 years later, a videocassette copy of *Forest Smokechaser* was found in the Region 4 history collection and copied in DVD format. In memory of John Parker, the Region 4 Old Timers Club is making that DVD available to Forest Service retirees and others who may wish to relive some classic Forest Service history. Copies of this DVD may be obtained through the mail for \$10.00 per copy, which includes shipping and handling. To order your copy or copies, send a check for \$10.00 per copy to Brian Ferguson, 673 Medoland Drive, Brigham City, Utah 84302.

You can watch an edited version of *Forest Smokechaser* on YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsnT9ZSyhOE>.

--Les Joslin

Editor's Note: Thanks to Professor Stephen J. Pyne and the Oxford University Press on behalf of the sponsoring societies of the journal Environmental History (American Society for Environmental History and The Forest History Society) for permission to quote excerpts from Professor Pyne's article "John, of the Smokechasers"; to friends at The Forest History Society for facilitating this permission; to Region 4 Old Timer Stan Tixier for bringing John's death to my attention and for his contributions to this article, and to OldSmokey Vern Clapp for copying the still from the film used to illustrate this article.

The exact citation for the article quoted is: Stephen J. Pyne. John, Of the Smokechasers, pp.355-356, from Special Forum: Films Every Environmental Historian Should See. Environmental History (2007) 12.

Thanks also to George Roether, Treasurer, Region 4 Old Timers Club, for information on ordering this historic DVD.

***Just like good books,
good films make great gifts!***

My First Forest Service Job

Hume Lake Ranger District, 1961

By Ted Stubblefield

Words escape me when I try to describe how I felt when I received not one but two offers to work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1961. One was from the Goosenest Ranger District on the Klamath National Forest and the other from the Hume Lake Ranger District on the Sequoia National Forest. Either would fulfill a "life-long" dream—at age 19—of working in the woods for the Forest Service.

Throughout my childhood, my family's vacation was two weeks and a few hundred miles away from the farm and orchard at our favorite camping area, Lodgepole Campground in Sequoia National Park. There we fished, swam, hiked, square-danced, and climbed mountains—things all of us lived—and it didn't cost much. Farming had its ups and downs—and there seemed to be more downs than ups—so any vacation had to be affordable or it didn't happen. In addition, Dad and I took many backpacking trips into the Sierra from the backcountry of upper Yosemite National Park through the Inyo National Forest to the lower reaches of Sequoia National Park, covering thousands of miles through country in which he had run surveys for the U.S. Geological Survey as a civil engineer in the 1930s.

I always knew my career would be "doing something connected with the woods" but it took some high school research to finally lead me to the outfit I wanted to work for. I knew a bit about fire lookout work, having hiked to many on backpacking trips and spending time talking with those in high places "looking for smokes," but I wanted something a little closer to the action. There was no doubt I was going to go on to college, but little did I know I would end up at Humboldt State College after a junior college year in southern California and many years working on a citrus and avocado farm and for a local irrigation engineering company. I spent the first summer after high school attending both summer and night school, some 30 miles away, to gain as many credits as I could.

So there was no doubt in my mind which job I wanted after my first year at Humboldt State. I was Sequoia National Forest bound immediately after the last day of school and arrived some twelve hours later to bed down at Hume Lake Ranger Station. Next morning, after signing appropriate paperwork and learning I would make \$1.81 per hour, I headed for Horseshoe Meadow KV Camp where some 24 college students from across the United States would gather with the expectation of a summer of timber stand improvement work. It was Friday, and a beautiful sunny day on which I drove up the road and gained another 4,000 feet before arriving at the camp.

Camp life

"You sure as hell got here early. Now I'll have to find something for you to do until the rest get here on Monday," the tough-looking old camp foreman told me, the first to arrive. I apologized to him, and said I'd be happy to do anything at all to begin work. He almost laughed at that. "Grab a shovel, pick,

and crowbar out of the tool shed and follow me,” he replied. Hey, I grew up on a farm. These tools felt good in my hands, and I was ready for my first day on the job. But I was surprised when he drew some lines on the ground and said he wanted a “two- holer” dug right there and he wanted it six feet wide, eight feet long, and “over my head deep.” He figured it would keep me busy right through the weekend. “Get to it. I’ll check on you later,” he dropped two canteens of water. “You’ll be having ‘rats’ for lunch.” That didn’t sound very appetizing, but I later found out that’s what they called left over canned rations from the wars.

When you work on a farm or orchard, you learn to use a wide variety of tools from shovels, picks, crowbars, chainsaws, sprayers, pruning saws, clippers, ladders, pole pickers, tractors, mowers four-wheel drive trucks, trailers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, herbicides, and more. So a hole like I was faced with was not really as big a challenge as the foreman thought. By the end of the day I finished the hole a foot deeper than I stood. Feeling fairly proud of my work, I looked up the foreman to see if what I’d done was what he’d wanted. He immediately became irritated. “Good God Almighty! Now I’ll have to find you more work!” And that he did. He had me and another guy who arrived head up the hill toward Buck Rock Lookout to “maintain the phone line” which was No. 9 wire strung from tree to tree on insulators. It was a brand new experience for me, but I loved climbing those trees with spurs. Years later I shared with new hires how I had started “from below the ground and worked my way up.”

I worked every single day that summer on the crew’s regular work days, and volunteered to paint the ranger station, pick up campground garbage, clean outhouses, whatever they would pay me to do on days off...until, one day, the district ranger stopped me and said, “Stub, go to town and get a haircut.” So I took two hours off and headed for town. Guess I was beginning to look a little grubby.

I often think about that KV camp with the 10-by-10, stud-framed, canvas-covered bunk houses with a small wood stove at one end; the various cooks we had over three summers and leftovers for sandwiches the next morning when we all had three to five sandwiches packed for lunch wherever we ended up that day; peeling potatoes for the cook; shucking corn; opening hundreds of cans of tune; gagging down my first grits; eating six eggs, a bowl of oatmeal, six hotcakes, and six pieces of bacon every morning; playing football in the nearby meadow and kicking the ranger’s butt the day he played with us; drinking beer by the case; scrubbing out our filthy clothes on a washboard after a lightning fire, and so forth. We ate like we were starved because often, when we headed out on lightning fires, we had rats only for a day and we might be out two or three days. You knew you were starving when you forced yourself to eat biscuits from World War II!

Fire calls

While the crew’s purpose was to thin, prune, and girdle trees in ponderosa pine stands, we ended up spending more time fighting fires. I wasn’t in camp and doing that thinning and pine release work long when the fire bell rang. I was given a map

with coordinates and told to take one man “and get to it.”

We had all been given the minimum fire training our first week, so we were ready—and, quite frankly—anxious as hell. We drove to the end of a road and put on our packs plus my chainsaw and gear and headed cross-country with our quad map. As you might expect, the fire wasn’t where it was indicated but we could smell smoke and quickly found a rock outcropping from which we spotted the fire about a mile away.

It was a typical top knocked out of snag and burning on the ground in duff and brush. We had it “hand felt” dead out by nightfall and then we learned a big lesson: don’t put the fire entirely out until morning so you don’t freeze to death at 9,000 feet! So we started two small fires and rolled on the ground between them, tossing and turning all night trying to keep at least one side warm enough to sleep.

Upon hiking out and returning to camp, we looked like mud-dobbers for sure: black with soot and dirt and exhausted. And, unbeknown to me, I walked right by my parents waiting by their car who had come to see me while they were camping. I went straight to my tent and fell head first onto the cot and slept that afternoon and into the next morning when we were awakened to hit another fire. So we loaded up with twice as many rations and headed out.

When we got back two days later, we were much darker and dirtier and exhausted and fell right to bed to sleep through the night. Got up to shouts the next morning and headed out to our third fire as quickly as possible. But this time I put on fresh socks and a clean shirt over the dirt and grime and felt much better. When we got back we cleaned the hot water tank, finally got clean and shaved, and sat down to eat a monster meal until I could eat no more. Wow, was that ever a kick! I knew then and there that fire fighting was what I really wanted to do in the Forest Service.

That remained the case for the next two summers before I graduated. So, I advanced quickly to crew boss, sector boss, division boss, and then line boss before becoming a Type I line boss and plans chief and a Type II incident commander much later on. I loved flying aerial detection, which I did for years, circling the high ridges, mapping lightning smokes and calling them in, and eventually recommending air drops to “hold” a fire until ground crews got there.

But my first summer’s biggest fire had us working 18-hour days for 18 days straight. Believe me, that separated the “wannabes” from “them that could.”

My First Forest Service Job in the coming Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will feature five brief recollections of some very earliest first jobs in the U.S. Forest Service from John Riis (La Sal Forest Reserve, Utah, 1907), Mel Lewis (Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, 1907), Ira E. Jones (Whitman National Forest, Oregon, 1908), Grover Blake (Ochoco National Forest, Oregon, 1909), and Walt Perry (Alamo National Forest, New Mexico, 1910). Though two of these stories are from outside the Pacific Northwest, both these historic rangers finished up in Region 6 (or, in the case of Riis, District 6).



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Fall 2013

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Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 0715 S.W. Bancroft Street off Macadam Avenue, just south of downtown Portland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.

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