



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Summer 2013

President's Message—Linda Goodman

When I started with the U.S. Forest Service, it was just a convenient job since there weren't too many opportunities for me in a small town. After spending time with the dedicated employees, I fell in love with them and knew I wanted a permanent job with the Forest Service. Opportunities to go out in the woods proved this was more than just a job, and I was hooked!

Almost forty years later, I still love the Forest Service and am happy to serve as your President. I am even prouder after the work you all did stopping the threat to one of our most important icons, the Forest Service shield. What an example of the power of our organization!

This past year I have been able to watch the Board of Directors take on important issues for the organization and deal very efficiently and effectively with them. They are an amazing group and I am happy to call them friends and colleagues! Watching **Mike Ash's** tireless efforts gives me pause; I hope he got everything done before I took over! I am excited about **Al Matecko** joining the Board as President-elect. Al's background and skills as Director of Communications at the Regional Office will add a great deal to our organization. Al will be joining us in retirement on June 29 of this year.

We had a great time at the May 19 Spring Banquet, and I hope to see all of you at the August 9 Summer Picnic. The food is great and the company can't be beat!

Linda Goodman

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

See Page 4 to Sign Up Now for August 9 Picnic!

Forum

U.S. Forest Service Pine Tree Shield is More Than “Just An Agency Logo”

It's a great moment in one's life.

Ranger Walt Perry lived it after passing the October 1911 ranger examination. The next February 15, Forest Supervisor C.C. Hall, Alamo National Forest, New Mexico—“pinned the Pine Tree badge on my shirt and told me to do honor to it. And that I tried to do for the next 25 years as a forest guard, assistant forest ranger, forest ranger, scaler, lumberman, senior lumberman, and chief lumberman” he recalled on page 1, chapter 1 of his autobiography.

I recall when it happened to me, in June 1962 on the Toiyabe National Forest. One evening, Ranger Hoag called me into the office. “Here,” he said, handing me a small object. “Wear this so people will know who you work for.” It was a bronze Forest Service badge. I did, proudly—and, I believe, well—every season through 1966. That ranked right up there with graduating from college, being commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy, marrying Pat, and being accorded the privilege again on the Deschutes National Forest much later on in life.

I'll bet every OldSmokey savors such a moment.

To me, the Forest Service's “Pine Tree Shield” is so much more than just an agency “logo” that I never even use that word for it. It is a symbol of pride and professionalism and of dedicated service and personal sacrifice that should be revered and respected by all. Trifling with that symbol was not a good idea. Doing so showed just how little some appreciate and understand the Forest Service and its role in American life.

The only thing worse than eliminating that symbol would be letting it be worn by one who brings discredit to it and the agency and mission it represents. To help ensure that does not happen, a small cadre of OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees is pursuing an “Agency to Match the Mountains” agenda of career forest officer development that, along with statutory clarification of the Forest Service's mission, is essential to efficient and effective management of the National Forest System and discharge of the rest of the Outfit's duties.

--Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service Needs Better from Secretary of Agriculture and Chief

In the wake of the recent Pine Tree Shield issue, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) wrote to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack expressing appreciation of his decision “to grant an exception to the Forest Service from the Department Regulation 1430-002 issued on January 8, 2013” that “would have phased out the use of the Forest Service shield.” The letter also expressed NAFSR's belief that “our nation's National Forests and Grasslands...must be protected, maintained and restored to assure their benefits are available for present and future generations.”

I think the letter is one choice of many NAFSR could have written at this point in the process. As they say, don't burn any bridges you don't have to.

Having said that, one sentence I take exception with is the last one in the first paragraph. Perhaps it's just the words used, but it seems way too “politically correct” to say our national forests “must be protected, maintained (?) and restored” without also saying “*managed for purposes of forest health.*”

One might say that was the intent of the words “maintained and restored,” but for me it's not crystal clear—nor would it be to the public and it might not be for the Secretary of Agriculture.

We need Secretary Vilsack to get out of his chair and direct Congress to get “his national forests” out of the Gordian knot of laws that surrounds them.

We need him to do the job intended for the Secretary of Agriculture and all his department's agencies.

We need him to study what the courts are doing to his agency and request Congress to rectify this mess. His job is to carry out the intent of law as set by Congress and, when that's not working, request Congress to fix it.

We need a Chief who will state this clearly to all who will listen—especially the Secretary—and be willing to “fall on his sword” if need be when the time comes. At least the public would then know the totality of the situation we find ourselves in and what needs to be done about it.

Yes, we need to maintain good relations with the Secretary. But, as when any good leader loses his or her way or simply “shows up at work without a mission to get tough stuff done,” is it not up to NAFSR to clarify the direction and call it like it is? Who, if not us?

I don't think NAFSR was intended to walk the same tight-rope the Forest Service does. In its very first sentence, NAFSR's letter to the Secretary stated its “members support the Forest Service mission.” That means we may not always agree with the Chief and have a right and responsibility to say so because we are that “independent association” that must support the right thing to do—over and above political correctness—for America's national forests. We must be politically active—in the nonpartisan sense—where the agency cannot.

So much needs to be said about how poorly our national forests are being “managed” today and that it's not necessarily the fault of the people on the ground, yet no collective effort is being mounted to alter the playing field so the agency can in fact meet the intent of the Organic Act and subsequent laws. None of us could do what needs to be done given the circumstances the field people have to deal with today.

The *real problem* is with laws that are at cross-purposes.

When are we going to feel compelled to scream to the high heavens about this issue as we did the Pine Tree Shield issue? And, as in that case, get something done?

I write with constructive intent and “a bit of passion.”

—Ted Stubblefield

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokeys News



New President-Elect Al Matecko and new President Linda Goodman were welcomed to their offices by new Past President Mike Ash and a banquet room full of OldSmokeys.

Photograph by Paul Enberg

OldSmokeys Welcomed Linda Goodman as President and Al Matecko as President-Elect at May 19 Spring Banquet

Ninety-eight OldSmokeys—more than ten percent of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s entire membership—gathered at their annual Spring Banquet on May 19, 2013, to do some of the things they do best: have a good time with old friends, raise a few bucks for a good cause, enjoy a good dinner, and install new PNWFSA leaders for the coming year.

Not long after 1:00 p.m. that Sunday afternoon, the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club dining room was alive with animated OldSmokey conversation. After a couple hours, dinner was served and the room became noticeably quieter. But only for a short time.



As dessert was served, outgoing President **Mike Ash** introduced Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** (left) who, after encouraging words about the future of the U.S. Forest Service, praised OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees who rallied “to save that Forest Service badge. I can’t think of the agency without it. It was very much the right thing to do, and you have my

gratitude,” Kent said to thunderous applause.

Mike then reflected on the OldSmokeys he has led for the past year “as a tremendous force within retiree organizations” as well as the largest of the Forest Service retiree groups. “We do a lot of good stuff,” he said, summarizing the year’s highlights and recognizing veteran as well as new members of the Board of Directors who make it all work. He also thanked outgoing Past President **John Berry** for his three years of leadership.

With regard to the banquet, Mike thanked Banquet Chairs **Don & Jean Loff** for access to the Charbonneau Country Club again this year, and **Bev Pratt, Deb Warren, and Mary Moyer** for organizing its various components.

Mike then turned the gavel of office over to former Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** who assumed the office of President of the PNWFSA for the 2013-2014 term with praise for the organization, its officers and members, their good works, and a challenge to boost membership to over a thousand.

Linda, in turn, introduced newly-elected President-Elect **Al Matecko** who is scheduled to retire from the Forest Service on June 28. “I’d like to see us get over that thousand mark,” Al seconded Linda’s challenge.

Last to speak was OldSmokey **Betty Taylor** who spoke her mind in no uncertain terms about the Forest Service shield “near and dear to our hearts” and how OldSmokeys will continue to “protect it to the last ditch!”

Linda then returned the floor to Mike who awarded the door prizes, presided over the raffle of a beautiful big-leaf maple bowl crafted by his own hand that brought \$269.00, and explained the process of claiming silent auction winnings that brought in an additional \$1,318.00. A total of \$1,587.00 was raised for PNWFSA’s banquet and picnic restricted fund that helps keep these annual events affordable.



Bob Williams, Bob Tokarczyk, and Virginia Williams conversed as Mickey Nearhood listened (top); Mary Moyer, Dave Scott, and others viewed auction items (below). John Poppino photograph

OldSmokeys are Signing Up Now for August 9 Summer Picnic in the Woods!

If you are not among the OldSmokeys who've already used the reservation form provided in the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to sign up for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Picnic in the Woods on August 9, 2013, then use the reservation form below to sign up now! Just clip it or copy it, fill it out, and send it in with the check for \$27.00 per person by July 31 to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583 to reserve your place(s) for this highlight of the OldSmokey year!

As mentioned in the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the only significant changes in this annual ritual are just a slight increase in cost from \$25.00 to \$27.00 and a special invitation to grandchildren under 12 years old who are welcomed for just \$13.50 each.

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

Carpooling will save on gasoline, parking fees, and limited parking spaces.

There's a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee that helps BLM maintain the Wildwood Recreation Area as the special place it is. A variety of federal recreation passes—the America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass (the \$10.00 lifetime senior citizen version for which most OldSmokeys qualify, or the regular annual version, the free lifetime version for citizens with permanent disabilities, the free volunteer pass) or other valid existing federal passes such as the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports will do the trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your pass number on the payment envelope and place it on the dashboard of your car.

If you have any questions, please call PNWFSA Picnic Chair **Rick Larson** at 541-386-5175 or e-mail Rick at <rlarson@gorge.net>.

So, fill out and send in this reservation form now and we'll see you at the picnic on Friday, August 9!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC—AUGUST 9, 2013
BLM Wildwood Picnic Area

RESERVATION FORM

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

Mail this reservation form and a check for \$27.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at \$27.00* each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

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

Please send your reservation form in to be received no later than July 31, 2013!

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$13.50 each

Got an old Forest Service friend who should be a new OldSmokey?

Recruit that old friend and help your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association grow!

Membership is open to: (1) any retiree of the U.S. Forest Service, (2) any current employee of the U.S. Forest Service with at least 20 years of government service (including military service) who works or has worked in the Pacific Northwest, and (3) any retiree who has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest.



OldSmokeys Staffing Ranger Station at High Desert Museum Again This Summer

Ten OldSmokeys and three additional volunteers are staffing the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, daily (except for July 4, when the Museum is closed) from June 29 through September 2 this visitor season.

These volunteers—some in their fifth consecutive year of service to this project—provide a visible U.S. Forest Service presence at the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit as they tell the story of the Forest Service and the National Forest System to Museum visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

Drop in for a visit when in Central Oregon this summer!



OldSmokeys Gather for Eighth Annual Friends of Fish Lake June Work Week at Historic Ranger Station-Remount Depot

A large contingent of OldSmokeys—who comprise a large percentage of the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) membership—was scheduled to gather at the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest for the eighth annual FFL work week set for June 10 through June 14 this year.

Accomplishment of work week projects, outlined by FFL President and OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** in the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, will be reported in the Fall 2013 issue. Results of an April 30, 2013, FFL “futuring workshop” at Willamette National Forest headquarters in Eugene, Oregon, will also be reported.

The FFL, a nonprofit group dedicated to restoration and re-use of the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot, welcomes new members. Contact the FFL at 541-896-0345 or <fishlake05@gmail.com> for more information.

OldSmokey Kent Connaughton is Federal Co-Chair of WRSC for National Cohesive Fire Management Strategy

Pacific Northwest Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** is the new federal co-chair of the Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) chartered by the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC) to provide executive leadership, oversight, and guidance for completing tasks assigned by the WFEC during Phases II and III of National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) implementation in the 14 states comprising the West Region delineated for the Cohesive Strategy.

In response to the requirements of the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) directed the development of the Cohesive Strategy, “a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.”

“The Cohesive Strategy is being implemented in three phases, allowing stakeholders to systematically develop a dynamic approach to planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildfire incidents,” according to the overview at <www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy.overview>. “This phased approach is designed to promote dialog between national, regional and local leadership.”

OldSmokey Cal Joyner Named Southwestern Regional Forester

OldSmokey **Cal Joyner**, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System since October 2012, was named Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region (Region 3) effective June 16, 2013. He is a former Deputy Regional Forester and Director of Natural Resources for the Pacific Northwest Region.

Cal grew up in California, graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in watershed management, and in 1982 began his U.S. Forest Service career in Waldport, Oregon, as a hydrologist. After tours in Randall, Washington, and Lowell, Oregon, he became a district ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. Cal was named forest supervisor and field manager for the combined San Juan National Forest and San Juan BLM Field Office in Durango, Colorado, in 1998, before he moved to Portland in 2002.

OldSmokey Becki Lockett Heath Named Deputy Regional Forester for Pacific Northwest Region

OldSmokey **Becki Lockett Heath**, Forest Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest since 2007, has been named Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region. She was scheduled to arrive at the Portland RO in late June 2013.

Becki graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S. degree in recreation and environmental education in 1976, and earned an M.S. degree in forest management at the University of Washington in 1979. She joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1980 and spent her early years in the agency on the Mt. Hood, Ochoco, and Umatilla national forests. Her early career assignments included positions in timber management and silviculture.

Becki served as district ranger, Leavenworth Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, from 1990 to 1999, as deputy forest supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest from 1999 to 2001, and as forest supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest from 2001 until her 2007 transfer to the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.



Architect's rendering of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center to be constructed at the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

Courtesy of the National Museum of Forest Service History

OldSmokey Ted Stubblefield Leads NMFSH Membership Drive

The National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) needs the support of OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees around the country to complete the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula, Montana, OldSmokey **Ted Stubblefield** told PNWFSA members at their April 26, 2013, monthly luncheon in Portland.

“With \$1million in infrastructure construction and architectural design complete, groundbreaking for the Center is scheduled for 2014 if funds can be secured and added to what we have in the bank,” Stub said. “The key to raising the necessary funds is an increase in NMFSH membership. With this critical support from individuals, we can demonstrate to corporations, foundations, and other supporters that the Museum and its Center are a viable enterprise.”

“Big grants come after 50 percent of a target amount is raised,” Stub emphasized. “So we’re pushing to increase Museum membership from the current 670 to 1,200 in the near term to obtain donations from members. If we do, grants will follow.”

The Center

When completed, the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center at the Museum will be a state-of-the-art showcase of forest products with exhibits about the U.S. Forest Service, its people, and its legacy. The goal is interpretive exhibits and programs in the Center that are motivating, exciting, and educational for the whole family. This permanent home in Missoula will support development of traveling exhibits and virtual galleries that link the extraordinary history of conservation and the collections managed by the Museum to individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the nation and the world.

At 30,000 square feet, the Center is designed to welcome more than 100,000 visitors a year. The ground floor—with exhibit galleries, gift shop, concierge station, and multimedia theater—is dedicated to the visitor experience. The lower level is designed to support collections management, research, and conservation education programs.

The Mission

The Center’s architectural plans echo the Museum’s mission to preserve and interpret the history of the U.S. Forest Service. Wood materials from across the nation are incorporated into the design, including 24 pillars from public and private forests to support the energy-efficient, timber-framed structure. The Center will serve as a model of sustainability with glass exposures make use of natural light and show off the surrounding mountain views. The roof will reflect summer heat, and landscaping will provide habitat and open space.

And—most importantly—the Museum’s programs and exhibits will tell the story of American forest conservation that now, more than ever, needs to be told, understood, and appreciated. It’s the story of the U.S. Forest Service, its partners, and its cooperators. *It’s your story!*

The Campaign

“OldSmokeys and Forest Service retirees from around the nation are already a part of this important effort,” Stub said. “Today, you can join us by becoming a member of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Your support through membership, an annual gift, and/or a capital campaign contribution will help position us for success in raising the rest of the capital needed to build and operate the Center and its interpretive exhibits.

“If you’re already a member, we kindly ask that you renew your membership when due and please consider donating to the capital campaign now.

“If you’re not yet a member, you can use the simple membership application below to join today or to donate securely on our website at <www.NMFS-History.net> where you can also learn more about the Museum and membership benefits.

“Become part of Forest Service history by helping now!”

The Application

To join the National Museum of Forest Service History and help build the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center, just clip or copy the application below, fill it out, and send it in.

**National Museum of Forest Service History
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Yes! I want to help bring history to life!

- [] New member [] Renewing member [] Gift membership
 [] Individual \$30 [] Family \$55 [] \$150 Contributing
 [] \$300 Sustaining [] \$1,000 Lifetime

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: NMFSH, PO Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806



OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Designed Winning APAEA Heritage Month Poster

OldSmokey **Robin Lee Gyorgyfalvy**, Deschutes National Forest landscape architect and scenic byway leader, won the 2013 Asian Pacific American Employees Association (APEA) Heritage Month national poster contest with the design shown above, APAEA announced on May 15, 2013.

The APAEA was established in 1993 by OldSmokey and then U.S. Forest Service Chief **Dale Robertson** as an officially-recognized employee group within the Forest Service. Starting as a grassroots effort in California, it grew to include personnel from the regions, research stations, state and private forestry areas, and the WO. Among its four former chairs are OldSmokeys **Liz Agpaoa** and **Dale Hom**.

Robin's winning poster was displayed at the May 23, 2013, U.S. Department of Agriculture Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration in Washington, D.C., and is displayed in the Forest Service WO.

Prepared from multiple sources including the APAEA website.

Reminder!

OldSmokeys are Invited to July 20, 2013, Silver Lake, Oregon, Community Reunion

Silver Lake Ranger Station is a vital part of the small community of Silver Lake, Oregon, and U.S. Forest Service folk who work or who have worked at that station are invited to the July 20, 2013, Silver Lake Community Reunion that kicks off at 10:30 a.m. at the Silver Lake Community Park and Fire Hall.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served for a minimum fee. Those who plan to attend should respond to this invitation and register so they will know how much food to have on hand.

Contact Elaine Condon at 541-576-2379 or Roxanne Hand at 541-576-2789 for information.

Register at <silverlakereunion.blogspot.com> or by e-mail at <silverlakereunion13@yahoo.com> or on Facebook at <Silver Lake Oregon Reunion>.

Reminder!

“OldSmokeys Day” at Historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum is September 21, 2013; Sign Up Now!

As announced in the Winter and Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletters*, the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (SSB) Museum south of Cave Junction, Oregon, has scheduled a special OldSmokeys Day on September 21, 2013, to share with Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members the progress made in restoring the historic base and developing the SSB Museum that opened to the public last summer.

“I think the OldSmokeys will be pleased with what we have done to preserve U.S. Forest Service history,” said Chuck Sheley of the National Smokejumper Association who is organizing the special OldSmokeys Day. “Lunch will be provided to OldSmokeys at no charge.”

Chuck needs to know how many OldSmokeys and their guests to plan for. *So, if you plan to attend, please let your OldSmokeys Newsletter editor know before August 31 so he can help Chuck plan for you.* RSVP by e-mail to <lesjoslin@aol.com>; by snail mail to Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701; or by telephone at 541-330-0331. Les will pass your response on to Chuck. This way Chuck can make sure nobody goes hungry!

Late OldSmokey Rony Rondthaller Commemorative Trail Planned for Mt. Hood National Forest

The family of late OldSmokey **Howard “Rondy” Rondthaller** and the Mt. Hood National Forest plan to commemorate his work as the forest's long-time trails coordinator by naming the spur trail from Horseshoe Lake to the Pacific Crest Trail “The Rondy Trail,” Elizabeth Rondthaller Jolley, his eldest daughter, tells your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The Rondy Trail will be identified by standard trail signs at each end, and an interpretive kiosk will include a plaque with Rondy's picture and a story “explaining how he is emblematic of the many Forest Service employees and volunteers who built and maintained the trails we all know and love,” Ms. Jolley said. While the Mt. Hood National Forest may pay part of the cost of the plaque, the family may need to pay that cost in full.

“We hope to have the kiosk and trail signs put in place during summer 2014, and we plan to have a grand Rondy Trail camping/day-tripping party at Horseshoe Lake, including trail hikes in late summer or early fall 2014.”

Rondy Rondthaller moved from his native North Carolina to Oregon in 1948 at age 20 and went to work on the old Lakes Ranger District. He worked his way up from a seasonal job as Breitenbush Lake Campground guard to Mt. Hood National Forest trails coordinator. Known for his dedication to creating the most accessible and well-designed trails system possible, Rondy retired from the Forest Service in 1984 and—as remembered in the Fall 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—died August 6, 2007, at age 79.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Shield Saved!

An article “U.S. Forest Service Retirees Rallied in April to Save the Pine Tree Shield” leads this *Forest Service News* section of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* because—while retirees led the charge to head off this blunder—it is more than an OldSmokey or a National Association of Forest Service Retirees or a retiree story. It is a Forest Service story.



U.S. Forest Service Retirees Rallied in April to Save the Pine Tree Shield

“When used appropriately, the USDA symbol will give consistent identity to the Department, increase public recognition of the value and wide range of USDA’s products and services, and bring economy of scale to the production of visual information materials.”

That’s how the U.S. Department of Agriculture prefaced its January 8, 2013, *Visual Standards Guide* that stated “the USDA symbol is the official and sole identity mark for the Department and all agency programs” and “agency logos are being phased out and replaced with a standard signature model to be adopted by all USDA agencies....”

“But that policy was kept so under wraps that not even Pacific Northwest forest supervisors were told,” Scott Sandsberry reported in the *Yakima Herald-Republic* on April 9. “Some of them only heard about it...after the USDA had decided, in light of the virulent opposition from the Forest Service’s ‘Old Smokies’ [*sic*] retiree group, to keep the service’s shield logo intact.”

Outrage

When, by late March, this policy broke, U.S. Forest Service retirees rallied as never before to save their revered “Pine Tree Shield” from being scrapped. That took about a week.

In a March 29 e-mail to National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) members, NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** wrote “NAFSR needs to lead this fight, and we will.” NAFSR leaders strategized and encouraged its members “to make some contacts to express your outrage.” That included calling the office of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, whose telephone number was provided.

“We were all getting ready for a good fight,” Sandsberry quoted Jim. “Of course, the alarm went off with our group. The strength of an organization like ours is we can say things in a different way—we can say things [current] Forest Service [personnel] can’t because of politics. We went into it with the attitude that it would be no holds barred.”

On April 1, NAFSR issued “Save the Forest Service Shield” to guide its case. “To discard an image and a symbol after supporting and building it for over 100 years would be labeled a

branding disaster anywhere else. It ignores the good will generated throughout the nation and even the world that has been created by a world class research organization, State and Private Forestry, and International Forestry,” the statement said in part. Among other key points:

- The costs to the Forest Service would likely be tens of millions of dollars.... Where is the analysis of the true cost and benefits? Even a phase in could take decades and would lead to public confusion.
- Directing the Forest Service in this time of fiscal crisis to spend millions of dollars doing something that is wasteful, unnecessary, and without public support while being asked to close campgrounds and other facilities to save money should cause public outrage.
- The shield has had the words Department of Agriculture on it for 108 years. There is not an issue of the agency not being identified with the USDA....
- This action disrespects the many thousands of past and present Forest Service people who have dedicated and sometimes sacrificed their lives to “service”....
- The Forest Service has a difficult, important, and sometimes hazardous mission. This is an affront to its esprit de corps....

Many individual retirees followed suit.

Tom Thompson’s letter

In an eloquent April 2 letter, OldSmokey **Tom Thompson**, who retired as Associate Chief of the Forest Service in 2005, wrote to Secretary Vilsack: “Your administration and leadership of the Department of Agriculture is indeed a difficult and challenging job. You need all the support you can muster from co-operators, partners, permittees, employees, and, yes, even us retired folk. Unless you change [the January 8 directive] regarding agency logos, especially the U.S. Forest Service shield, you are destined to lose a huge amount of that support base.” Tom characterized the “decision to gradually phase out the Forest Service shield as a ‘logo’” as “without question one of *the most out of touch* decisions that the Department has made in the more than five decades I have observed these sort of things.”

“The ‘Forest Service Shield’ is more than a logo,” Tom explained to Secretary Vilsack. “It is a symbol of professionalism, responsibility, and trust. It represents and identifies an agency that has proudly served the public for over a hundred years. It connects conservation leaders of yesterday, like Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, with today’s leaders. It is a *brand* that is built on tradition, experience, science, dedication, commitment, and passion for service that Secretary Wilson recognized and envisioned in 1905. Men and women have given their lives wearing the ‘shield’ as they fought fire, protected the resources of the National Forests and Grasslands, and worked to ensure public safety.

“There are huge short and long-term financial implications to this USDA decision that in and of themselves should call into question any consideration of making such a change for no substantive reason that I have been able to determine. It says to me that someone at 14th and Independence is a bit out of touch with

reality and is spending scarce taxpayers' dollars doing things that contribute nothing to solving the tremendous problems that face this Administration, this Congress, and indeed this Nation. Now is the time for government to do better, not worse.

"Mr. Secretary, I fear the Department has already suffered a loss in credibility because of this, but it is not too late to head this off and demonstrate your understanding of the significance of credible symbols to the people of this country. This is a time for you to be less bureaucratic and more respectful and understanding as to how important the Forest Service is to the Department of Agriculture. Listen to your heart on this matter!"

Broad support

External support for Forest Service retirees' efforts to save the Pine Tree Shield was strong.

Jim Petersen, in "Attempted Murder on the Potomac" in his online *Evergreen Magazine*, characterized Secretary Vilsack as "a political appointee with an anti-forestry agenda that includes killing the Forest Service" who, in his January 8 order "which forever abolishes the Forest Service shield" in favor of the Department's logo, "quietly put a gun to the head of the 108-year-old U.S. Forest Service and pulled the trigger" as the first step in that process.

Jim poignantly recalled that he "first saw the legendary 'Pine Tree' shield in 1954. John Stout, a giant of a man with a voice that sounded as though it was descending from the heavens, visited my fourth grade class at Sunnyside School in Kellogg, Idaho, to urge us to do our part to help prevent forest fires. I assure you, every boy in Jody Boswell's classroom wanted to wear the same badge he wore."

In a follow-up, Jim wrote he was "not foolish enough to believe it was our critique that prompted the Secretary to reverse course because we know his office was swamped with angry comments from Forest Service retirees. We hope that Secretary Vilsack will now begin to advocate for the Forest Service's time-honored mission in the same way that he advocates for agriculture."

In the April 3 opener of a three-part series, Professor Char Miller, Gifford Pinchot biographer and Director and W.M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College, asked "Why is USDA Stripping the Forest Service of its Pine Tree Logo?" Char couldn't come up with one good reason Secretary Vilsack would take such action. But he did come up with many good reasons many current and past Forest Service personnel who wore or wear this "badge of honor" can "get a little testy when someone proposes to mess with this sign of their lifelong devotion to the public good."

In his April 10 closer, "Forest Service Gets to Keep Pine Tree Logo, But Controversy Points to Larger Problem," Professor Miller announced the good news and the bad news. "The good news came in a cryptic one-sentence [statement] attributed to 'an unnamed USDA spokesman'—'The U.S. Forest Service is exempted from the One USDA branding directive.'" The rest of the good news is the retirees won. "They swiftly responded to what they interpreted as an attack on the Forest Service's legacy, and on the honorable work and years of devoted service that they had given to the agency, the Department of Agricul-

ture, and...the American public. By leaping into the fray, they turned back Secretary Vilsack's ill-conceived and ill-considered rebranding campaign. Their quick reactions also testify to the inescapable value of an engaged citizenry to a democratic society."

The bad news is in how the exception was granted. "So reluctant was USDA leadership to admit defeat at the hands of ... thousands of Forest Service retirees who wrote impassioned emails and letters to the secretary..., so cornered were they by the onslaught of negative public opinion, they would not allow Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell to make the announcement directly to his 30,000 employees and would not identify a particular person with the 13 words exempting the agency from the rebranding effort."

The other bad news was Professor Miller's observation to your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* editor in an April 3 e-mail: "There is a larger issue at stake. Only Congress can secure the U.S. Forest Service and the logo permanently. Even if or when Vilsack retracts or exempts, another secretary could do the same thing."

Reconciliation

After the dust settled, after the exemption was granted, NAFSR Chair Jim Golden wrote to Secretary Vilsack:

"The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is a private, independent, non-partisan, non-profit association whose members support the Forest Service mission. Our members dedicated their careers to protecting, developing and managing our nation's National Forests and National Grasslands, conducting research, and cooperating through State & Private Forestry and International Forestry activities. We believe that our nation's National Forests and National Grasslands are assets that contribute significantly to the long-term well-being of the American people. They must be protected, maintained, and restored to assure their benefits are available for present and future generations.

"Recently our members and the extended Forest Service 'family' became outraged that a well-intentioned policy from your office would have phased out the use of the Forest Service shield, an icon known around the world as a symbol of conservation.

"Mr. Secretary, we sincerely appreciate your decision to grant an exception to the Forest Service from Department Regulation 1430-002 issued on January 8, 2013. This action is commendable and indicates an understanding of our deep concerns for the future of the Forest Service.

"Sometimes issues present opportunities for strengthening relationships, even in the face of controversy. Throughout the course of their careers, many of our members have worked with your office and have valued the relationships there. NAFSR, as an active organization supporting the Forest Service, offers our support and advice to the Department on issues affecting the Forest Service.

"We thank you for your decision to allow the Forest Service to continue to utilize the 'Pine Tree Shield' to promote conservation leadership in America and around the world."

Prepared from the multiple sources indicated in the text.

U.S. Forest Service FY 2014 Budget, Defended by Chief Tidwell on April 16, Seen by Critics as Off the Mark

“U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell highlighted the exceptional value that the Forest Service provides the American public,” an April 16, 2013, U.S. Forest Service News Release reported of his testimony that day about the Obama administration’s fiscal year 2014 budget request for the agency before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

But the focus of the proposed Forest Service budget was not received without criticism.

President Obama’s overall budget for discretionary funding for the Forest Service in fiscal year 2014 is \$4.9 billion—a \$6 million decrease from its current budget. Nearly half of the budget request (42 percent) is for firefighting activities, and it shifts \$62 million from key programs to meet the requirement to fund the 10-year rolling average of fire suppression costs.

In his testimony, Tidwell said the Forest Service is focusing its efforts on three key areas: restoring ecosystems, strengthening communities while providing jobs, and managing wildland fires.

Priorities within these areas, as reflected by the proposed budget, were most notably questioned by Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon), chairman of the committee, and Senator Lisa Murkowski (Republican-Alaska), the committee’s ranking member.

Senator Wyden

Senator Wyden found fault with the Obama administration’s projected reduction in timber harvests in 2014 and with its request to significantly cut funding for hazardous fuels removal on the national forests.

“Today’s budget—both in terms of drastic decreases in the timber harvests that are proposed and the deep cuts to the hazardous fuels program with corresponding drops to the acres proposed to be treated—seems to be to be very counterproductive to the work the agency must accomplish,” he told Chief Tidwell. The proposed budget would deal a “huge blow” to forest health and counteract the restoration goal of harvesting three billion board feet of timber a year.

The budget requests \$201 million—down \$116 million from current levels—for hazardous fuels removal near communities, and its timber harvest goal of 2.38 billion board feet is down from a goal of 2.8 billion board feet in fiscal year 2013 and from the 2.64 billion board feet actually harvested in 2012. The agency had previously set a goal of harvesting 3 billion board feet by 2014.

Senator Murkowski

Senator Murkowski echoed Senator Wyden’s criticism as she observed the administration’s funding priorities for the Forest Service more closely resemble those of the National Park Service than those of a multiple-use agency rich in timber resources.

“Our national forests are increasingly being managed like national parks—areas in which no timber harvesting is permit-

ted,” she said, noting the budget’s emphasis on tourism, recreation, and ecosystem values. “I agree these are important, but I have to remind you that the fundamental tenet of multiple use also includes the development of our natural resources.”

“We have moved so far away from the original intent and mission of the Forest Service,” Senator Murkowski said, speaking directly to Chief Tidwell. “Multiple-use is not what it used to be.”

Chief Tidwell’s Response

Chief Tidwell faced these and many other tough questions. As his statement to the committee acknowledged, “this budget makes difficult tradeoffs between programs.” As many of these tradeoffs were challenged, Chief Tidwell maintained: “Overall, I believe this budget request is a good investment.”

“The key to future success is to work through partnerships and collaboration,” Chief Tidwell stated. “Our budget priorities highlight the need to strengthen service through cooperation, collaboration, and public-private partnerships that leverage our investments to reach shared goals.”

Editor’s Note: OldSmokeys who want more detail on the FY 2014 budget are referred to the U.S. Forest Service’s April 2013 “Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Overview” available online at <www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/2014.FY2014ForestService-BudgetOverview041613.pdf>.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Statement of Tom Tidwell, Chief of the USDA Forest Service, Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Concerning President’s Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget for the USDA Forest Service, April 16, 2013”; “Wyden Grills Forest Service Chief on Timber Harvests, Secure Rural Schools,” U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, April 16, 2013; “Opening Statement of Senator Lisa A. Murkowski, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing on Forest Service Budget,” April 16, 2013; “Sen. Murkowski: Forest Service Budget Ignores Multiple Use Mission,” U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, April 16, 2013; “Wyden slams agency for ‘staggering’ reduction in timber program,” by Phil Taylor, E&E Reporter, April 17, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Began 2013 Wildfire Season Short of Air Tankers, Down 500 Firefighters and 50 Engines

“We could be in for a doozy of a season,” is how Jason Loomis, wildland fire analyst for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland, Oregon, saw the 2013 wildfire season shaping up on May 1, 2013.

This perception, informed by early warm and dry weather through much of the Pacific Northwest, echoed the National Interagency Fire Center’s expectation for another challenging wildfire season in the West.

As a result of across-the-board U.S. Government spending cuts occasioned by sequestration, the U.S. Forest Service was poised to confront the 2013 wildfire season with about 500 fewer firefighters, 50 fewer engines with crews, and a cobbled-together airborne firefighting capability incorporating “legacy” air tankers (please see next article).

Editor’s Note: Your Fall 2013 OldSmokeys Newsletter will strive to report on how all this shakes out. So, as they say, “watch this space.”



The P-2V Neptune is an old U.S. Navy antisubmarine warfare aircraft used for wildfire fighting. U.S. Forest Service photograph

U.S. Forest Service Contracts Legacy Large Air Tankers for 2013, Modern Aircraft for Future Fire Seasons

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced on March 28, 2013, that the Forest Service had awarded legacy large air tanker exclusive-use contracts to two companies to provide a total of eight large air tankers to support wildland fire suppression through the 2013 fire season.

“Legacy” aircraft are those that have been used as part of the Forest Service aviation program for years, and in some cases decades.

“These legacy air tankers will continue to be part of our overall strategy as we prepare for another busy season of wildfires,” Chief Tidwell said when he made the announcement.

The contracts are with Minden Air Corporation of Minden, Nevada, for one P-2V and Neptune Aviation Services, Inc., of Missoula, Montana, for six P-2Vs and one BAe-146.

Then, on May 6, 2013, as part of its effort to modernize its airborne firefighting capabilities, the Forest Service announced its intention to award contracts for seven new large air tankers to the mix by the end of the year. All are turbine-powered and can carry at least 3,000 gallons.

“We are moving ahead to modernize our fleet as part of our overall strategy to secure the best, safest air tankers available for fighting wildfires across the country in the years to come,” Chief Tidwell said. “It is critical that we complete the Next Generation air tanker contracting effort as quickly as possible as we face the prospect of another challenging wildfire season with a dwindling legacy air tanker fleet.”

Once the new planes are flying, the Forest Service will have access to 26 air tankers, including eight converted military cargo planes on loan from the Department of Defense.

The new air tankers will include two MD-87s supplied by Aero Air LLC of Hillsboro, Oregon, and a C-130Q supplied by Coulson Airplane (USA) of Portland, Oregon. Minden Air Corporation will provide one BAe-146; Aero Flite, Inc., of King-

man, Arizona, two Avro RJ85s; and 10 Tanker Air Carrier, Inc., of Adelanto, California, one DC-10.

In the meantime, during this fire season, the Forest Service is supplementing the large air tanker fleet acquired through legacy exclusive-use contracts with additional large air tankers available through cooperators and the armed forces as well as with very large air tankers, single engine air tankers, water scoopers, and helicopters.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release “U.S. Forest Service issues legacy large air tanker contracts” of March 28, 2013, and “Oregon companies to outfit air tankers to combat wildfires” by Andrew Clevenger in the May 7, 2013, issue of the Bend, Oregon’s daily, The Bulletin.

U.S. Forest Service is Moving Region 6 RO to Renovated “Super Green High-Rise” in Downtown Portland, Oregon

Pacific Northwest Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** on May 30, 2013, helped dedicate the remodeled Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in downtown Portland into which he and the entire RO staff are scheduled to move during the first week of September 2013.

The \$139 million renovation of the 1974 building at 1200 SE 3rd Avenue—eight blocks south of the current RO—will make it one of the most environmentally friendly government buildings in the country. With solar panels on the roof, ultra-efficient heating and cooling, and shading reeds outside the south-facing windows, the 18-story building is expected to use 55 percent less energy than before renovation—with energy cost savings of \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year. A 170,000-gallon rainwater collection cistern will provide water for flushing low-flow toilets and irrigating native landscaping and reduce potable water consumption by about 60 percent.

The Forest Service contingent will be the largest of the 19 federal agency staffs that will occupy the so-called EGWW. Among others are the BLM, to move there in August, and the Internal Revenue Service. An expiring lease at the Robert Duncan Plaza gave the Forest Service the option to rent space in a General Services Administration (GSA)-owned building.

“I love the building,” said Dorothy Robyn, Commissioner of GSA’s Public Building Service. “This will be an icon.”

Others voiced different opinions based on its renovation costs. Among these was conservative talk show host Lars Larson who argued a new building three times the size could be had for the same amount. “The way they spent that money, out of stimulus money, which is borrowed, federal money, more debt for American citizens for decades to come,” Larson said.

Government managers, citing the building’s green technology and lower operating costs, disagreed.

Somewhere in the middle were observers who thought the shading reeds outside the building looked weird.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Ribbon Cutting at the RO’s Future Home” in The Bi-Weekly R6 Update for May 31, 2013; “Video: Tour the New Super Green High-rise in Downtown Portland” from OPB on May 30, 2013; and “Portland fed building completes \$139M remodel” on KGW.com on May 30, 2013.

Forest Service News continues on page 22

Feature

A U.S. Forest Service Rookie at Age 15

By Carl W. Hickerson

Photographs courtesy of the author

In July 1942, at age 15, I was hired—along with my horse, I thought— by District Ranger Gordon Vance, Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest, and Fire Control Assistant Bud Palmer, for a summer job as a back-country fire guard/patrolman.

That begs explanation! I was born on November 14, 1926, and raised in the small rural settlement of Casitas Springs, California, seven miles south of Ojai and seven miles north of Ventura. June 1942 found me working on a four-man haying crew at two bits an hour for six twelve-hour days a week. Ben Livesay, a friend who also had a horse, got a summer job with the U.S. Forest Service as a horseback guard/patrolman on the Ojai Ranger District. I visited him one evening at his station, a primitive cabin on Rincon Creek. He let me know “the rangers” were looking for summer help, but thought I might be too young.

The summer of 1942

I soon hitched a ride to Ojai Ranger Station, talked with Ranger Vance and Bud Palmer, and applied. I listed my date of birth as November 14, 1924, on the application. Late in June I got word I would be hired. I thought I “had died and gone to heaven.” I reported for work early in July. But the summer of ’42 worked out a little differently than planned. I wouldn’t need my horse.

I was sent to forest headquarters in Santa Barbara for a two-week training course in fire tools, map reading, fire fighting, etc., at the Rattlesnake Tent Camp. In the middle of July, it was decided by “someone” to send the small group of trainees to Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation to replace the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) firefighters at Mission Creek CCC Camp, located in Monterey County near the famous Hearst Ranch headquarters and even nearer to the then-abandoned Mission San Antonio. The CCC camp was closing and the enrollees returning home. I witnessed the last stakeside truck loaded with “CCC boys” roll out of camp on July 31. About 25 of us Forest Service rookies moved into the vacated CCC quarters, mess hall, and office.

The U.S. Army had a contract with the U.S. Forest Service to provide fire control and fire line and fire road construction and services to the more than 250,000-acre military reservation, then in heavy yearlong use for Army training. We’d pick up that work from the CCC guys.

“Get your boots on,” I was told as soon as I arrived. They were sending a crew to the anti-tank shooting range where a fire was in progress. That anti-tank training started fires. And so began the most important and educational fire season of my Forest Service career.

Our five Forest Service fire tankers and crews were dispatched to one—or more often several—fires started almost



At 16 in 1943, Carl Hickerson (left) was foreman of the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Valley fire crew on the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation. Forest Guard Ben Livesay (right) who got Carl started in the Forest Service, dated Carl’s cousin June Hickerson the previous summer of 1942 when then 15-year-old Carl was fighting fires.

every day by many thousands of GIs and their weapons. When the day’s training stopped and the fires were mopped up mostly by dark, we returned to our Mission Creek camp for dinner in the mess hall and sleep in the barracks.

I was the newest—and certainly youngest, though they didn’t know it—crew member on one of the two new 1942 Ford 300-gallon fire trucks. On one fire, when we ran out of water, the foreman yelled at me to drive the truck to the concrete ford of the Nacimiento River about two or three miles south of the fire to refill the tank. One problem: I didn’t know how to drive. Dad had started to teach me with his car just days before I left home for the job, but not finished. But I wouldn’t admit that, immediately jumped into the truck, found low gears, and headed out. I drove the distance in second gear, filled the tank by following the directions printed on the pump motor housing, and drove back in the same gear. The crew held that fire to about ten or fifteen acres. I soon learned to drive all the trucks and never had to tell the foreman or the big boss that I was too young to be licensed.

But the most fascinating thing that happened to me that summer was acquiring that concrete Forest Service badge left hanging on the wall of the CCC camp office that I wrote about in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Told by the guy in charge that the building and any remaining contents soon would be demolished, I “liberated” the concrete badge for safekeeping. I performed that duty and kept it safe for nearly 70 years, through more than 25 lifetime moves. Then, in the spring of 2012, I donated it to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

With four months of firefighting under my belt, I left for Bakersfield—where my parents had moved from Casitas Springs while I was working—and a late start at the eleventh grade at Kern County Union High School (KCUHS).

The summer of 1943

In August or September 1943, while I was foreman of the Pacific Valley fire crew on the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation, I confessed to District Ranger Gus Rickel, King City Ranger District, who was in overall charge of the Forest Service fire contract on the reservation, that I was approaching my seventeenth birthday, not my nineteenth birthday, and I was not yet registered for the draft. This was the result of giving my birth date as November 14, 1924, in order to be hired by Ranger Vance in Ojai the previous summer.

Ranger Rickel saved me from being fired for *lying* on my application, and soon thereafter obtained a “War Service Indefinite Appointment” effective in October 1943 for me—thus saving my ass for my following Forest Service career.

Hal Krenble, my Hunter-Liggett boss, authorized me to drive our slip-on fire truck and crew to Cambria, California, for me to register for the draft. Hal had previously promoted me to foreman of the Pacific Valley fire crew. This I did.

I finished my second fire season about November 1 and returned to my home in Bakersfield and my senior year at KCUHS. Two months earlier I had hitchhiked to Bakersfield to meet with the principal and obtained permission to continue working another couple months because of the war. His permission was contingent on permission of each of my teachers and completion of two months of school work assigned by each to be turned in on my return to school. This I did.

That senior year arrangement was far better and easier than what I did in 1942 when I simply entered KCUHS two months late and had to make up all that I had missed and got full credit.

The summer of 1944

I graduated from KCUHS in mid-May 1944—early graduation because of the war—and immediately returned for my third fire season on the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation with Bud Wadliegh in charge.

In August or September 1944, I received notice to report for a pre-induction physical exam in Los Angeles. The exam detected “a spot about the size of a dime” on my left lung. This resulted in a 4-F classification and a draft deferment. All my friends were either enlisting or being drafted about this time.

At the end of the 1944 fire season I entered Bakersfield Junior College and got a job driving a school bus. But living at home and going to college didn’t work out as planned, and I contacted Bud who was still in charge at Hunter-Liggett about a job. After a few days, Bud advised me he had been able to put together and fund a “special project” to do hazard reduction (create fuel breaks) along the main roads on the reservation. I jumped at the chance and reported in January 1945.

George “Slim” Maddox and I were assigned a crew of German POWs to do the work of felling all snags and piling them with other flammable debris and burning it. We were provided trucks, fuel, tools and equipment, but no Army armed guards.



U.S. Forest Service Fire Crew Foreman Carl Hickerson and the 1942 Ford 300-gallon fire tanker rig assigned to his 1943 Pacific Valley fire crew.

The Germans were mostly silent, morose, not friendly, but no trouble. They were replaced by Italian POWs in a month or two. I know not why. The Italians were just the opposite, and happily did a variety of jobs around the reservation—particularly at the headquarters mess (food) and the PX.

And so began my 37-year Forest Service career, with just enough time out to finish high school and serve 18 months in the Army of Occupation in Japan as a member of General Douglas MacArthur’s Honor Guard Company before I went to Oregon State College, earned a degree in forestry, and returned to the Forest Service.

The rest of the story...an editor’s note

I’ve enjoyed corresponding with Carl, conversing with him on the telephone, and learning about the rest of his fascinating career. In December 1948, following his U.S. Army service and his return to the U.S. Forest Service, Carl married Bobbie June Harris. While a student at Oregon State College, he worked the 1949 and 1950 summers on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Carl graduated from Oregon State in 1951 with a degree in forest management and returned to Region 5.

Six years after graduating from Oregon State, Carl became district ranger of the old San Geronio Ranger District on the San Bernardino National Forest based at Mill Creek Ranger Station. From there he served as fire staff officer on the Los Padres National Forest from January 1964 to November 1968; deputy forest supervisor of the Wasatch National Forest from November 1968 to May 1970; and director of aviation, fire management, and law enforcement for Region 8 in Atlanta and then for Region 6 in Portland before he retired from the Forest Service in January 1979 at age 52.

After retiring from the Forest Service, Carl served with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, developing and implementing the “Introducing Modern Forest Fire Control in India” program in that country. OldSmokey Carl now resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

--Les Joslin

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Debra Warren*

- Cochrane, Annerose** – Change address: 810 Cambridge Ct, Palmyra, PA 17078
- Coonce, Olivine Mary** – Deceased March 26, 2013; Lee survives
- Fouts, Stanley R. “Stan”** – New member: 580, Steelhead Ave, Forks, WA 98331
- Funk, Bill & Sue** – Change e-mail: billfpdx@gmail.com
- Hawkins, Lori & Tom** – New members: PO Box 1094, Gold Beach, OR 97444 Telephone: 541-247-3661 E-mail: ljhawkins@fs.fed.us
- Juhl, Eugenia Mildred “Jean”** – Deceased April 10, 2013; Carl survives
- Leep, Jim & Retta** – Change e-mail: jrleep1@centurylink.net
- Lysne, Michael Dale “Mike”** – Deceased April 13, 2013
- Lysne, Shirley Miller** – Deceased April 26, 2011; Mike survived
- Neff, Paul E.** – Deceased May 21, 2013; Bert survives
- McNair, Ranotta K. & Bob Walker** – Change address: 3181 NW Fairway Heights Dr, Bend, OR 97701 Change e-mail: rmcwalker1979@gmail.com
- Peavy, Andrew T. & Amy J. Krommes**—New members: PO Box 1023, Lakeview, OR 97630 Telephone: 541-417-1609 E-mail: atpeavy@yahoo.com
- Skeele, Greta L. “Mitzi”** – Deceased, March 19, 2013; John survives
- Skovlin, Jon Matthew** – Deceased, February 14, 2013; Donna survives
- Spencer, Wayne A. & Norma Fay** – New members: 1740 NW Crescent Dr, Grants Pass, OR 97526 Telephone: 541-476-8417
- Wilson, Pam** – Change e-mail: skookumyaya@gmail.com

New Members *Complied by Secretary Deb Warren*

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

Stan Fouts of Forks, Washington, joined in April. After serving in the U.S. Forest Service as an engineer on the Olympic National Forest in Forks, Washington, from 1964-1975, on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest from 1975 to 1979, and then back on the Olympic, Stan retired on 30 years of service.

Lori & Tom Hawkins of Gold Beach, Oregon, joined May 14. With 33-plus years in the U.S. Forest Service, Lorie still serves on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Andrew & Amy Peavy of Lakeview, Oregon, joined May 16. Andrew retired from the U.S. Forest Service on September 30, 2013, in the WO after 32 years of service. His last Region 6 assignment was on the Winema National Forest.

Wayne A. & Norma Fay Spencer of Grants Pass, Oregon, joined May 12, 2013. Wayne retired on the Siskiyou National Forest in August 1990 after 37 years in the U.S. Forest Service.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger and Editor Les Joslin*

Olivine Mary Coonce died March 26, 2013, at age 68. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Leland “Lee” Coonce. Olivine Duffenais was born August 22, 1944, in Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. She and Lee married in 1966 and made their home in Roseburg, Oregon, prior to moving to Northern California. Olivine was a member of the Yreka, California, United Methodist Church, and very active in church youth camps. She was also very active in the community, working in support groups and volunteering with hospice in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She was an avid craftsperson, working with stained glass, quilting, and cross stitch, and also enjoyed gardening and baking. Survivors include Lee, son Vince, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Gerald Goble died April 30, 2013, at age 72. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service as an engineering technician at the Randle-Packwood Engineering Unit of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Editor’s Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey Bill Carpenter.

Arllow J. Goehring died March 25, 2013, at age 78. Arllow was born October 29, 1934, in Fredonia, North Dakota. After growing up in that state, he served in the U.S. Army before he earned a University of North Dakota degree in geology, joined the U.S. Geological Survey, and moved to South Dakota where he met and in 1963 married Patricia Ruth “Patsy” (Miller) Gilbertson. Arllow and Patsy moved to Lakeview, Oregon, in 1964, where they partnered with his parents in the Lakeview Lodge Motel and he joined the U.S. Forest Service on the Fremont National Forest engineering staff. Patsy died January 18, 2009. Survivors include their children and their families.

Editor’s Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey Cal Weissenfluh.

Virginia Mae Gravon died April 20, 2013, at age 87. Virginia Mae Bott was born August 1, 1925, in Ewan Highlands, Washington, and grew up in small eastern Oregon farming communities, primarily Helix, before her father died and her mother moved the family to Bend, Oregon. She graduated from Bend High school in 1943, married Frank Gravon in 1947, and had three children. Virginia worked for Bell Telephone, *The Bend Bulletin*, and finally for the Deschutes National Forest where she retired in 1983. Frank died in 1993. Survivors include her daughter Janel Gillihan, son Randy, and three grandchildren.

William Parnell “Bill” Helmer died May 26, 2013. Bill was born March 22, 1939, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His family moved to Nevada soon after his birth. Bill spent his career with the U.S. Forest Service in California on the Klamath, Mendocino, and Stanislaus national forests, in the Region 5 RO as an auditor and in the WO as Financial Management assurance director. Upon retirement he and his family moved to Eugene, Oregon. Survivors include his wife Linda, son Bill, and daughter Kris.

Leonard George “Len” Hunter died April 10, 2013, at age 72. Len was born July 18, 1940, in Hobart, New York, and graduated from South Kortright Central School in 1958. Len graduated from the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena, New York, in 1960, and immediately joined the U.S. Forest Service on the Shelton Ranger District, Olympic National Forest, where he worked for over 30 years, many of those in timber management in the Camp Grisdale area. He strongly believed in multiple-use forest management and the wise management of timber as a crop and renewable resource. In retirement, he enjoyed taking people on tours of the Olympic National Forest. Survivors include his wife Colleen; their three sons Robert, James, and Andrew; and eight grandchildren.

Walter Van-Gale “Walt” Johnson died April 30, 2013, at age 84. Walt was born October 4, 1928, in Walla Walla, Washington. After two years of U.S. Army service, Walt earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry at Oregon State College, and married Jacqueline Hall, and embarked on a U.S. Forest Service career in fire control, range conservation, and service as district ranger in Halfway, Lakeview, Enterprise, and Pendleton, Oregon. Walt and Jacquie had two sons, David and Jim, and retired in Lincoln City, Oregon. Survivors include Jacquie.

Editor’s Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey Don Nearhood.

Eugenia Mildred “Jean” Juhl died April 10, 2013, at age 86. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Carl Juhl. Eugenia Vilen was born March 20, 1927, in Escalon, California, where she graduated from Escalon High School. She attended Modesto Junior College and then moved to Portland, Oregon, to attend nursing school at Emanuel School of Nursing. She became a registered nurse and practiced in a variety of settings including hospitals, school nursing for the Medford School District, and Central Oregon Community College. While pursuing her nursing education, she met forestry student Carl Juhl at Oregon State College in Corvallis. They married in 1951 and lived at Fall Creek, Oregon, where Carl began his U.S. Forest Service career. During that career, she and Carl lived at ranger stations in Detroit and Gardiner, Oregon. In 1965, they moved to Medford, Oregon, where they lived for 10 years. In 1975, on Carl’s transfer to the Deschutes National Forest, they moved to Bend, Oregon. Jean was active in her children’s and grandchildren’s lives. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and supported numerous 4H, music, and other activities. A lifelong Lutheran, she volunteered for church and community projects. She traveled widely and visited relatives in Sweden. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and handiwork. Survivors include Carl; daughter Carla Miller, son Curt, and daughter Cathy Garland; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Robert W. “Bob” Larse died April 15, 2013, at age 87. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born June 22, 1925, in Bellingham, Washington, and raised in Cashmere, Washington, where his parents were longtime orchardists. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, and served with the amphibious forces in four Western Pacific engagements. He attended both Central Washington College and the University of Washington from

which he graduated in 1951 with degrees in forest management and logging engineering. Bob married Sylvia Steadman in 1955, and they made homes in several western states during his U.S. Forest Service career that began with a summer job in 1940 and ended with retirement in 1980 as Region 1 regional engineer. Bob and Sylvia then returned to Washington State to build a home in East Wenatchee. Sylvia died in 1991, and Bob later married Jian Ping Wu of Beijing, China, whom he met on a round-the-world trek. As a forester and an engineer, Bob was a member of both the Society of American Foresters and the American Society of Civil Engineers. His diverse activities through the years included being a charter member and captain of the Okanogan County Sheriff’s Posse and serving as a long-time pilot in the Civil Air Patrol on many search missions in the western states as well as other U.S. Air Force missions. During the 11 years he lived in Okanogan, Washington, Bob raised a small herd of Morgan horses he used on many North Cascades pack trips. Upon retirement, he traveled widely in Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, and other remote corners of the earth, often alone with only a backpack. He restored antique and classic automobiles. In East Wenatchee, he served on numerous citizen’s committees on transportation and land-use issues. As a member of the Presbyterian Church, he served as an elder in three churches and devoted much time and energy to the upkeep of church properties in the communities in which he lived. Survivors include his wife Jian Ping; son Roger Admiral; daughter Nancy Locke; stepdaughter Ming Li; and three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John G. “Jack” Linder died March 29, 2013, at age 77. A U.S. Forest Service retiree, Jack served on the Siuslaw, Mt. Baker, Olympic, and Rogue River national forests. He was district ranger on the Quinalt Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest and retired as timber staff officer on the Rogue River National Forest. Survivors include Edith, his wife of 53 years; daughters Summer Olson and Happy Landers; son Za J.; and five grandchildren.

Michael Dale “Mike” Lysne died April 3, 2013, at age 86, when struck by an automobile in the Redmond, Oregon, Walmart parking lot. He was a PNWFSA member. Mike was born November 9, 1926, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1944 during World War II, and served as a seaman first class in the South Pacific. Mike married Shirley Miller in November 1947. As a forestry student at the University of Minnesota, he joined the U.S. Army ROTC program and, on graduation, was commissioned a second lieutenant and later advanced to first lieutenant. Mike served in the U.S. Forest Service as a technician, forester, and district ranger in Washington and Oregon from 1951 until he retired in 1981 as manager of the Redmond Air Center. Mike shared his life-long passions for hunting, fishing, dancing, and travel with his family and friends. His favorite seasons were deer and elk. He and Shirley spent many years making the winter journey to Yuma, Arizona, developing a network of friends across North America. Shirley died in 2011, and is remembered below. Survivors include their daughter Mary Windom; sons Mark, Matthew, and Michael; 10

grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: This remembrance was prepared from a piece written by Mike's son, Michael Lynse, of Lakeview, Oregon, and provided by his eldest son, OldSmokey Mark Lysne, of John Day, Oregon, and other sources.

Shirley Miller Lysne died April 26, 2011, at age 83. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Mike Lysne who died April 3, 2013, and is remembered above. Shirley Miller was born June 29, 1927, in Crookston, Minnesota, and married Michael Dale "Mike" Lysne in September 1947. Shirley lived in a variety of places in Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon, wherever school, family, her work and Mike's U.S. Forest Service career took them. In addition to Minneapolis, Minnesota, she lived in Packwood and Carson, Washington; Lakeview, McKenzie Bridge, and Oakridge, Oregon; and finally from 1976 in Redmond, Oregon. Shirley worked in the Oakridge and Madras, Oregon, school systems as a teacher and counselor before she retired. Survivors include a daughter, Mary Windom; sons Mark, Matthew, and Michael; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter was not aware of Shirley's death until it learned of Mike's tragic April 3, 2013, death, and regrets the delay in remembering her.

David "Red" McComb died March 10, 2013, at age 91. Red was born October 25, 1921, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he grew up and graduated from Roxborough High School in 1940. He became enamored with the West on a post-high school hitchhiking trip to and from the Pacific Coast. Frustrated by the lack of direct U.S. involvement in the war, Red joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) on December 6, 1941, the day before Pearl Harbor was attacked. Just over a year later he was released by the RCAF to join the U.S. Marine Corps. During years of combat in the South Pacific tropics, Red developed an interest in insects. After the war, Red earned a B.S. degree in biology and entomology at Utah State University and eventually joined the U.S. Forest Service as an entomologist in Region 6 based at the Portland, Oregon, RO. While researching a spruce budworm infestation in 1968, Red became attached to the Methow Valley in Washington state where he eventually settled. "Perhaps Red is best known for his bug crews made up mostly, but not entirely, of young women who worked summers collecting insect samples and larvae," the *Methow Valley News* recalled. "Many of Red's 'bug girls' still reside in the valley and recall fondly their time spent with Red helping protect our local forest." After he retired from the Forest Service in 1980, Red served as a Washington State Department of Natural Resources entomologist for another 16 years before fully retiring in 1996. Red was a Methow Valley fixture.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Don Nelson, Publisher and Editor, Methow Valley News, for the information from which this remembrance was prepared.

Paul E. Neff died May 21, 2013, at age 95. He was a PNWFSA member. Paul was born October 19, 1917, in Kellogg, Idaho. A 1940 graduate of the University of Montana, School of Forestry, he married Roberta "Bert" Thompson in 1942. Paul

served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a combat engineer unit commander in the Pacific theatre, and in 1946 began a long and distinguished U.S. Forest Service career in the Region 1 Division of Timber Management in Missoula, Montana. During that career, Paul served five years as district ranger on two ranger districts in Washington, and five more in the timber valuation and sales office in the Region 1 RO before, in 1958, he moved to Portland, Oregon, as forest supervisor on the Mt. Hood National Forest and, in 1966, became assistant regional forester. Paul moved to the California Region in 1967 as assistant regional forester in charge of timber management and in 1970 to the WO from which he retired in 1973 as Director of Timber Management. In his spare time, Paul was a talented woodworker who produced beautiful carvings and furniture for family and friends. Paul and Bert retired in Palm Desert, California. An avid golfer, he served as president of the Santa Rosa Country Club. Survivors include Roberta, his wife of 71 years; daughters Sandra Keeney and Barbara Sloan; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Information for this remembrance was provided by OldSmokeys Zane Smith and Rita Glazebrook who forwarded a copy of Paul's 1971 WO "brief biography" provided by Bert Neff.

Leonard Frank "Len" Ruggiero died May 2, 2013, at age 66. Len was born January 30, 1947, in Orange, New Jersey. A collegiate football player for both Rutgers and Cornell universities, Len earned a doctorate in wildlife ecology at Utah State University in 1975 and was a prominent U.S. Forest Service research scientist. Len worked for many years at the Pacific Northwest Research Station—leading its old growth program in the 1980s—and the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Laramie, Wyoming, before achieving his lifelong dream of settling down in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana where he worked at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula as project leader for the remaining 15 years of his career. Dr. Ruggiero retired from the Forest Service in 2010 with over a hundred scientific publications and four edited books to his name. Survivors include Debra, his wife of 43 years, and their children Jory, Colin, and Casey.

Editor's Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey Fred Stormer.

Greta L. "Mitzi" Skeele died March 19, 2013, at age 80. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of John R. Skeele. Greta L. Gumbel was born June 16, 1932, and was nicknamed Mitzi by her sister. In 1944 her family moved to Ventura, California, where she graduated from high school in 1950. In 1952, while employed at the U.S. Navy base at Port Hueneme, California, Mitzi met John, a Navy lieutenant. They married in 1954 and moved to Carson, Washington, where John was assigned by the U.S. Forest Service. During the next nine years, Mitzi and John had four children. In 1969 they moved to a small, ten-acre farm in Battle Ground, Washington, where they lived for 38 years. A homemaker, Mitzi also worked at a local gift shop for about 20 years, was an active member of the Battle Ground Methodist Church, and volunteered at a local nursing home. In 2007, John

and Mitzi moved to Mary's Woods Retirement Community in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Survivors include John; their sons Jeff, Jonathan, and Peter, and daughter Anne; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jon Matthew Skovlin died February 14, 2013, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member. Jon was born October 31, 1930, in Colfax, Washington, and lived with his family in Palouse until they moved to Enterprise, Oregon, where he graduated from high school in 1948. He spent summers working on sheep and cattle ranches, and seasonal work on the Wallowa National Forest led him to study forest, wildlife, and range management. Upon graduation from Oregon State College in 1952, Jon married Donna McDaniel at Wallowa, Oregon, and completed U.S. Army officer's and Ranger training at Fort Benning, Georgia, before being assigned to duty in Korea. After he returned, Jon and Donna spent the summer of 1954 on the Standley Mountain Lookout in the Minam country on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest west of Enterprise. In the fall of 1954, Jon studied rangeland management at Utah State in Logan, and later earned a master's degree in forestry at the University of Idaho. Jon began his U.S. Forest Service research career in 1955 at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range west of La Grande, Oregon, where he studied the effects of cattle grazing in forested areas on deer and elk, the effects of logging on elk habitat, and the effects of cattle grazing on riparian habitats. On completing a grazing study in 1967, he served three years with the United Nations in Kenya on a project to help convert pastoralists from subsistence livestock grazing to commercial ranching. Donna and their four children accompanied him. Jon returned to La Grande as wildlife research biologist in 1971, but continued to take short-term assignments abroad. He retired from the Forest Service in 1981. In 1982, Jon and Donna returned to Kenya on a U.S. Agency for International Development assignment as a consultant with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development there. After returning to Cove, Oregon, in the mid 1980s, Jon did short-term consulting and several long-term landscape change photography projects for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the early 1990s, Jon and Donna started Reflections Publishing Company and wrote and published several books on local and regional history. Their 2011 book, *Into the Minam: the History of a River and its People*, was reviewed in the Winter 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Jon was a long-time member of the Society of American Foresters, the Society for Range Management, and The Wildlife Society. He and Donna were recently recognized by the American Tree Farm System for the 25 years they have managed their 40-acre timber tract as a certified tree farm. Jon and Donna enjoyed attending their annual meetings and traveling to far-away places. Together they visited and explored over 50 countries. At home they took special pleasure in back country travel with family and friends. Survivors include Donna; son Kirk; daughters Lisa, Meleah, and Kelly; and nine grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Donna for her April 12, 2013, letter advising me of Jon's death and a brief summary of his life supplemented by an obituary posted February 20, 2013, on Wallowa.com, website of the Wallowa County Chieftain, from which

this memory was prepared.

Robert S. "Bob" Snoich died June 5, 2013, at age 80. Bob was born February 14, 1933, in McAdoo, Pennsylvania, earned a degree in forestry at Penn State in 1955, and joined the U.S. Forest Service. Sent to Oregon, he started out as a junior forester on the Butte Falls Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, marking timber, scaling logs, and fighting fire from 1955 to 1957. In 1957, Bob married Shirley Thomas in Medford, where he worked in the Rogue River's SO surveying and building roads. Remaining on that forest, he served as assistant district ranger at Star Ranger Station, Applegate Ranger District, in wildlife and recreation management from 1959 to 1965. Transferred to the Okanogan National Forest, Bob was district ranger, Conconully Ranger District, from 1965-1973, then road locator in the SO. From 1973 to 1977, he was in charge of budgeting on the Winema National Forest, then moved to be a management analyst in Eastern Region RO in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from 1977 to 1979, and in the WO from 1979 to 1983. He returned to Oregon as assistant to the regional forester for administration in the Portland RO where he retired in June 1987. Bob and Shirley had three children: Robert, Jr. "Bud"; Thomas "Tom"; and the late Wendy Knight. Survivors include Bud and Tom and four grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to sons Bud and Tom Snoich for this information.

Letters

Ruth Voltz remembers Bill Helmer

I had the honor and privilege of working with Bill Helmer during my Forest Service career. I first knew him in Region 5 when he was an auditor and I was a fledgling computer tech in Fiscal. It was a pleasure to do work for him because he always made one feel valued and respected. Some years later I was honored to work on his air tanker contracting team. As a newly minted accountant, the experience was immeasurable. His leadership was a model for me as I saw how respected he was amongst the business owners, the pilots, and the contracting cadre. I worked for him again when he was Assistant Director of Fiscal Management in Washington, D.C. Those years were special as we also became good friends with his wife Linda.

Chris Anderson remembers Len Hunter

Len was a sale administrator on the Camp Grisdale side of the Shelton Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit. He helped many a green forester understand intensive management and the relationship of sustained yield to community stability while protecting the public interest within a unique legal arrangement. I was a recipient of his patient and careful instruction. He was a unique individual with a tremendous appreciation and deep affection for the Forest Service, its history and employees.

Lee Boeckstiegel remembers Len Hunter

I was assistant district ranger on the west side of the Shelton Ranger District, Olympic National Forest, when Len came to work for the U.S. Forest Service. He was a great attribute to the

Forest Service and a great employee. He had a good humor about him and was always on board for a good joke or prank. He will be missed by many people. He spent a lot of time at Satsop Guard Station, where we stayed all week. When the guard station shut down for the winter we [were] at Griddale logging camp. We had a lot of fun together.

Dick Deleissegues *remembers Bob Larse*

Bob Larse was my mentor...whether I wanted him to be or not. He spent some time in the WO while I was there and we became acquainted. Bob had a lot of ideas that he was always working to implement, and he was selected to be Regional Engineer (before the “Director” label came into being) and later had me come to Region 1 where I eventually became his assistant. Bob immediately called me into his office, after announcing that I was the new ARE, and proceeded to lecture me on the needs of my area of responsibility. This was accompanied by two pages of what I needed to do “immediately,” some underlined in red ink.

Bob had attended managerial grid and was proud of his 9-1 classification...and lived up to it. He certainly taught me about accountability; having a plan and working to implement it; managing people, although I changed my way of doing this; and how to work efficiently and effectively with [others].

Supervisors and rangers whom he knew got things done on the ground. He attended other regions’ forest engineer meetings and kept a little book where he listed the engineers who impressed him during the meetings, and would come back and tell me to work with Personnel to get them interested in our Region 1 vacant forest engineer positions...which we were pretty successful in doing.

I learned a lot from Bob, whether I wanted to or not, and looked back on that learning experience later in my career as invaluable.

Bob used to stop by and visit after he retired, and we stayed in touch until last Christmas when his wife sent out the Christmas cards...a clue Bob was not doing well.

I owe Bob the credit for anything that I accomplished later in my career. He wore green underwear and was all Forest Service. A better and more committed Forest Service employee and leader would have been hard to find.

Denny Caird *remembers Jack Linder*

Jack and I were co-transportation planners on the old Mt. Baker National Forest. I was nominally the “boss” but if you knew Jack you know what the deal was. We did harvest area plans when the forest engineer wanted justifications for his favorite projects. Living on the edge, indeed.

Jack and I singlehandedly fished out a lake on the Mt. Baker Ranger District while backpacking on an area planning assignment. Phil Dodd never forgave us.

Jack was a great innovator. He rigged a way to control his TV from his easy chair in 1972. Now we call this a “remote control.”

When we were moving through the brush, he always whined that when I was in the lead he still got spider webs in his face so he might as well go first. I was happy to let him (6’3” vs 5’5”)

lead!

Jack was strongly opinionated, but in a good way. I think the agency got its money’s worth with him. My years working with him were some of the most productive and meaningful of my career. I never asked him, but I hope he felt the same.

Bob Hetzer *remembers Jack Linder*

I remember Jack when we were both on the Mt. Baker National Forest. As I remember, Jack was in the Bellingham SO working on the Skagit Wild and Scenic River study.

Ted Stubblefield *remembers Jack Linder*

I have a great story about Jack Linder after he became TSO on the Rogue River National Forest in the early 1980s.

Our SAF group was cutting firewood to raise money for various things and Jack ordered up a load. We cut everything the same length unless they specified something different.

Well, we delivered Jack’s load and he said it was “two inches too long” but agreed he hadn’t said what length, so we unloaded it.

He immediately got out his chain saw and went about cutting two inches off each piece. Most of us—no, all of us—would have cut it in two or asked for another load at the correct length.

We all laughed thinking of Jack standing there with his pile of two-inch wood chips.

Lee Boeckstiegel *remembers Mike Lysne*

Mike Lysne was a district ranger on the Willamette National Forest when I was district ranger on the Detroit Ranger District. Mike was on the south end and I was on the north end. Because of that we met mostly at supervisor/ranger meetings in Eugene, Oregon. While Mike was an outspoken hard-nosed ranger, he was always prepared, fair, and supportive of his ranger district. He was a true Forest Service employee. I never knew of the lighter side of him (dancing), but the more power to him.

It’s nice to hear that 86 years old is not so old anymore. You’re only as old as you want to be.

Mike will be missed.

Ray Bunster *remembers Mike Lysne*

In the fall of 1962, when Mike Lysne was the Rigdon district ranger, I transferred from the Bend Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest to the Willamette National Forest SO into a new job called “Supervisory Resource Technician.”

On my first day on the job my new boss, AO Clyde Quam, took me around the office to introduce me. In the hall we met Mike and Clyde told him “This is Rene Bunster, our new supervisory resource technician who is here to take the lead pencils away from Dave Gibney’s staff directors.” Mike looked me up and down, gave me a glance, and then said to Clyde “Who cares?” and walked on down the hall. Clyde told me I would get used to Mike and his style, which I did.

One other anecdote about Mike was a day when he was in the Rigdon office and sat on the dispatcher’s desk accidentally depressing the button on the radio mic. He started a discourse about some of the things he thought Supervisor Gibney could be doing better. In the SO, the forest dispatcher, Willie Stark-

ovic, heard the transmission and jumped to the phone to call the Rigdon Ranger District and tell them to get Mike away from the radio. They did, but we never knew if Dave heard any of it; his office was down at the other end of the hall from Willie's office.

Everyone I met on the Willamette told me what a top-notch ranger Mike was and the stuff relating to resource management activities at Rigdon that came across my desk was without flaw. He was, as others have said, a unique person who typified the special folks that we had in the agency at that time. We're going to miss him.

Denny Caird *remembers Mike Lysne*

Mike was one of the first to recognize the radical environmentalist threat and in his tenure at Rigdon Ranger District managed to build a circular road around his entire district. However, in the process, he missed a big chunk of area right in the middle of things. Packard Creek, I believe it was. Years later I was tasked with the challenge of developing a harvest plan for the area in the RARE II evaluation. Whaddaya know? It was probably the most difficult/impossible area to develop that I was ever involved in. I believe it remains roadless. Mike had good instincts!

Anecdotally, some of the brass were heading to Portland with Mike to another interminable regional management team meeting. "I'm surprised you haven't applied for any jobs in the RO," someone commented to Mike. "I don't plan to stop off here on my way to the top" or something like that, Mike reportedly replied.

I think heading up the Redmond Air Center was way better than going either to D.C. or the RO. Mike won.

Bob Hetzer *remembers Mike Lysne*

I was shocked to read of Mike Lysne's death. I worked for Mike on the McKenzie Ranger District in the early '60s when we occupied the old ranger district office.

I did a lot of hunting with Mike and really enjoyed working for him. He was a top notch district ranger! I'll miss visiting with him at our annual picnic.

Phil Hirl *remembers Mike Lysne*

Mike was district ranger on the Rigdon Ranger District while I was on the Willamette National Forest. He was one of two rangers I worked with who supposedly said "Don't come on my district without my permission." The other was Stu Hanna in Burns. So I always made sure he knew.

Over the years Mike and I became friends. I saw him off and on during our work years. He made his goodbye run through the RO and stopped to see me. We always visited when he attended our events. He came to the picnic a few times. Can't remember when he went to Redmond.

Ron Ketchum *remembers Mike Lysne*

It was sad that Mike went the way he did [struck by a vehicle in the Redmond, Oregon, Walmart parking lot]. He was one of the real characters to remember from the old Forest Service. He was very competent, and his own man.

We became acquainted after he transferred from the Rigdon

Ranger District to be manager of the Redmond Air Center. I was district ranger at Sisters and he would call up and tell the receptionist that he was my Uncle Mike. When I heard that, I knew he wanted a day of R and R out on a ranger district. He would come out and we would have a very pleasant day looking at what was going on, and he usually had a useful suggestion or two. I remember those days with great fondness.

Ted Lewis *remembers Mike Lysne*

I must echo the sentiments expressed by Ron Ketchum about Mike Lysne. When I was district ranger at Crescent, Oregon, he would call the office and tell them the Secretary of Agriculture was calling. Of course, the receptionist would go into panic mode. He would be calling to say he would be driving from Redmond, Oregon, to spend the next day with me giving guidance and counsel. Mike would be at the office promptly at 8:00 a.m. with lunch in hand. It didn't matter that I may have other plans. Those days I spent with Mike were special.

We would also go mullet fishing in the Williamson River to get bait for his crab pots. He was an expert at snagging mullet, a legal pursuit at that time.

Mike was one of the greatest.

Doug Porter *remembers Mike Lysne*

I spent a lot of time with Mike at the Redmond Air Center talking fire stuff. I really liked working with Mike. If he said something was going to happen, you could count on it. Mike made things happen for the good.

Robbie Robertson *remembers Mike Lysne*

In August 1977, I was the helicopter scout on the Shite Creek Fire on the Oakridge Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. Mike was district ranger on the adjacent Rigdon Ranger District. The supply officer on the fire was having no luck getting more portable pumps. He heard that Mike had been able to get pumps, and called Mike to ask. "Sure, how many do you want," Mike replied. Next day the pumps showed up.

Later, after the fire slowed down, Mike invited me to his house in the evenings to sit around, tell stories, and drink martinis. I asked Mike how he got the pumps so quickly when the SO couldn't supply them. Turns out he had just called the supplier in Eugene and ordered a truckload of Pacific marine pumps delivered to Rigdon. He then handed them out to fire overhead teams in need of them. He didn't bother with the details of procurement procedures, this was a fire emergency. Just an example of what was sometimes done in the old days by people who were willing to do almost anything to get the job done.

Yes, Mike was unorthodox, and he sometimes caught hell for his methods, but he was a good guy to have on the job. He followed in the footsteps of others whose commitment made the Forest Service a great organization.

Zane Smith *remembers Mike Lysne*

Mike Lysne was the Rigdon district ranger when I was on the Willamette National Forest in the early 1970s. He was a top ranger, but often underestimated because of his honest

(sometimes brash) assessment of issues needing attention. At ranger/staff meetings Mike could be depended on to say what he thought. It got him in trouble with some superiors and staff, but I greatly appreciated him. Unlike many rangers of his day, he knew every square inch of his district and every employee and national forest permittee, timber operator, and other partner.

Mike also had a sterling reputation for hiring local people, especially those who were handicapped, disabled, or otherwise sometimes overlooked. I can tell you as forest supervisor that Mike had everything under control, providing hands-on stewardship to his district. Hard to beat an employee like him. We need a few more like him.

Elton Thomas *remembers Red McComb*

I first met Red McComb when I became district ranger on the Winthrop Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest, in the spring of 1977. Red had a hand in organizing and implementing a western spruce budworm outbreak in the late 60s there in the Methow Valley.

As it so often turns out, we implemented another control project in the late 70s for the same critter. Red helped with that one, too. I left the Methow Valley in 1988, and I often saw him holding court in various eating establishments when I returned for visits. He was well liked and a credit to his profession. I'm sure he will be missed as a true fixture of a place he loved.

Allen Gibbs *remembers Red McComb*

Elton Thomas' recollection about Red McComb causes me to provide a few words. I first met Red via Rick Johnsey during the 1977 spruce budworm project covering the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests and the Warm Springs Reservation. I was on the Entiat Ranger District; was assigned as information officer on the spray project. I knew Rick from my brief tenure in the late 1960s at the Washington Department of Natural Resources head office.

Red, by the time I moved to Okanogan in 1978 to be forest public information officer, I think had temporary then permanent residence in the Methow. He lived northwest of Winthrop in a relocated "miner's cabin" or "trapper's cabin" he fixed up. After I left Okanogan for Idaho and then the WO, I made occasional winter visits to the area and usually found Red in places known for good drink and adequate food. I never found him sitting alone!

In the 2000s, during various wildfire incidents to which I was assigned, we got together in Winthrop and the Mazama General Store. Red was always a good source with many fine stories about locals' take on suppression efforts.

Dave Graham *remembers David "Red" McComb*

I quickly became very well acquainted with Dave [Red] in 1972 when I transferred from Region 5 to Region 6 to head up insect and disease control and we were all very quickly confronted with a wide spread tussock moth outbreak. Dave's timely biological evaluations were invaluable in our efforts to satisfy the then very new NEPA requirements and organize a large scale treatment project covering large areas of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Dave was the entomologist

for our Wallowa Unit contributing greatly to a very successful 1974 treatment project, not only just in that unit but in the overall treatment of over 426,000 acres in all four states.

Rita Glazebrook *remembers Paul and Bert Smith's service to the Forest Service*

A wonderful couple, Paul and Bert (that was her nickname, and everybody called her by it) served with dedication in welcoming Forest Service families in their years on the Mt. Hood National Forest and the regional assignments. She was very active in the Forest Service Wives Club (in later years it was the Women's Club) and she participated in leadership posts and activities. Two clippings in the album of the Club tell of programs that were notable: one in 1959, when she and two other wives were chairwomen of a trip of the club to Multnomah Falls Lodge, and another day in 1966 when she gave a talk (and showed slides) of a family trip to Spain. And other occasions, too. She is a great friend, loving and caring and kind to all.

Max Peterson *remembers Paul Neff*

Paul Neff and his wife Bert were special friends of ours.

Zane Smith *remembers Paul Neff*

Another wonderful friend, colleague, and Montana alum has passed.

Ken White *remembers Mitzi Skeele*

Mitzi and John were dear friends of ours for many years. We worked at Randle Ranger Station when they were there, and I worked for John when he was in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest SO. My wife and I are in deep sorrow.

George Berscheid *remembers Jon Skovlin*

I first met Jon when I was a JF, fresh out of school, at La Grande, Oregon. There were times when the folks at the Starkey Research Area needed an extra hand for moving cows around and running them through the chutes. I always enjoyed the opportunity to work with Jon and to learn a lot about cows and horsemanship. Jon also showed me where they had caches of coffee and a pot around the station so you could brew up a cup with just a small fire. He was an easy-going, soft-spoken true gentleman. He will be missed.

Temple Hahn *remembers Bob Snoich*

Bob was a management analyst in my Administrative Management Staff (AM) Program group during his WO tour back in the late 70s or early 80s. In those days, AM was sort of a conglomerate and one of Bob's assignments was the Forest Service housing quarters rental program. One of his impressive achievements was meeting directly with the Office of Management and Budget to provide suggestions on program improvements. They were so impressed with Bob's abilities and hands-on field knowledge that they had him detailed to their staff to help rewrite the implementing regulations. It was a job well done. The government needs more Bob Snoichs to get them out of their ivory towers!

Don Nearhood *remembers Rich Wheeler*

I think Rich Wheeler was hydrologist on the Mt. Hood National Forest when he retired. He taught watershed management or such at Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) for

awhile. I often saw him at Society of American Foresters chapter meetings, but he was not at the last one at MHCC in February.

Dick Blashill *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

I'm surprised the Chief did not mention the Pine Tree Shield thing [in the April 12, 2013, "People Places & Things"].

Dennis Dietrich *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

Perhaps there is a new logo mission for the OldSmokeys' lobbying efforts.

Let's suggest to Secretary Vilsack that he change the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) logo. If you look at it, it is about the dumbest, most meaningless logo for anything on the planet.

The USDA contains about 17 agencies. Their responsibilities include managing agriculture, animals, health, nutrition, farms, food, national forests and forestry, grain inspection, rural development and more. That dumb USDA logo does not suggest a single one of these responsibilities. There should be a cow, a leaf, a barbed wire fence, an ear of corn, something to reflect these responsibilities. All you have are green and white lines, which might be suggestive of an alfalfa field, but that is quite a stretch.

Maybe he could adopt the Forest Service fir (pine?) tree as part of it?

Jerry Gause *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

This mess with U.S. Department of Agriculture leadership is about the equivalent of someone telling the New York Yankees to change their logo.

Val Hirst *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

Not many OldSmokeys know me, but I did my 30 years and I have a number of those great badges. They mean a lot to me and I have them in a showcase.

My main point is to thank all who came together in a unified effort to stop this runaway train to do away with a part of a great history just to please someone in D.C., as I see it.

We as retired and working FSers need to keep up the great effort and wake up this country to what is slowly going on. All they need to do is look into history of about 70 years ago in another time, world, and country, when it made a slow but very dangerous change and made all government employees look and act the same. I may be off base with that statement, but it's how I feel.

We FSers have made another great step forward to stop this runaway train, and I thank each and every one of the 30,000 plus for showing what it means to be a real American and standing together.

God Bless America!

Ed Whitmore *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

I remember reading early in my career—I think in an article in the R-6 Green Sheet—that the shield was designed by two guys from the Chief's Office while en route by rail to inspect a planned national forest in Nebraska. That story has always stuck in my mind, and I haven't been able to corroborate it.

Richard Zechentmayer *comments on the Pine Tree Shield issue*

Those employees in the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for this foolishness should be prime candidates for permanent furlough.

Dick Chase *comments on the U.S. Forest Service situation*

Stark difference between then and now! "Quite disappointed" is a major understatement. Back then the agency had Chiefs who were dedicated professionals whose focus was on the mission as defined by the legislation that created the Forest Service and subsequently defined multiple use and sustained yield forest management objectives and practices. Today, political correctness is the only guide for all alleged management decisions. Shameful is a more appropriate description.

Bob Schramek *comments on the U.S. Forest Service situation*

I have been reading newsletters and e-mails for the past few days, and have gleaned the following predictions from a variety of sources.

The Forest Service is getting severe cuts in funding that will result in a reduction of at least 500 firefighters, 50 fire trucks, and at least five retardant planes.

The staffing on districts and forests is at the lowest point in the last 30 years.

Industrial equipment normally used in logging and road construction is almost entirely absent on federal lands due to environmental policies.

The junkyards and used equipment dealers are full of old rusting equipment they can't sell. The numbers of loggers and construction personnel in the woods have been reduced by some 90 percent from the highs in the 1980s.

The secretaries of both Agriculture and Interior are predicting that the 2013 fire season will be severe over most western forests. Minnesota is already experiencing more early fires than they have seen in decades.

The Forest Service WO equal employment official is cooperating in trying to reduce discrimination against hiring workers with limited English language proficiency.

This country will have the most catastrophic fire season we have ever seen and it is entirely predictable and preventable.

The only way we will be able to prevent a huge increase in firefighters being put in life threatening situations is for the on-the-ground fire people to avoid aggressive firefighting strategies, back off, and let it burn! Note to all ICs: Be aware that the potential for life threatening situations has never been this bad. Do not place your people in undue risk.

Editor's Note: The Pine Tree shield issue generated more OldSmokey letters than any subject in memory. There was not sufficient space available to print all of them, so a representative sampling was published.

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and professionalism
for 108 years!***



Forest Service News continued from page 11

U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper is First 2013 Wildfire Season Fatality

Smokejumper Luke Sheehy, 28, of Susanville, California, was killed June 10, 2013, while fighting a small lightning-ignited fire on the Modoc National Forest.

Sheehy, based in Redding, California, was struck by a falling part of a tree while fighting the Saddle Back Fire in the South Warner Wilderness about 15 miles southeast of Alturas, California, the U.S. Forest Service reported.

U.S. Forest Service Proposes Removing Controversial Green Mountain Lookout From Glacier Peak Wilderness

“The Forest Service is proposing to use a helicopter to haul away the fought-over forest fire lookout on Green Mountain in the Glacier Peak Wilderness and plunk it down eight miles away at the top of Circle Peak,” the Everett, Washington, *Herald* recently reported.

OldSmokeys Newsletter readers will recall that (as reported in the Summer 2012 issue) U.S. District Judge John Coughenour on March 27, 2012, decided in favor of a 2010 Wilderness Watch lawsuit that alleged the U.S. Forest Service violated the Wilderness Act of 1964 when it “restored” or “reconstructed” the lookout inside the wilderness and ordered the 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps-built structure removed.

According to District Ranger Peter Forbes, Darrington Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Forest Service recently began scoping public opinion of the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. “The action would deal with the issues of compliance with the Wilderness Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, so the Forest Service plans to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed relocation project,” the *Herald* quoted Ranger Forbes.



The original 1933 Green Mountain Lookout in 1971.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

“The use of a helicopter would be motorized intrusion in the wilderness, but it might be the best option to move the lookout to a spot where people can see it outside of the wilderness,” a Wilderness Watch official said.

Other ideas

Others would prefer the Green Mountain Lookout remain in place.

Scott Morris of the Darrington Historical Society is one of those. He and others believe the estimated \$100,000 it would cost the Forest Service to move the lookout would be a waste of time and money better spent caring for the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Keeping the lookout in place is the objective of the proposed Green Mountain Heritage Restoration Act introduced by four members of Washington state’s congressional delegation—Democratic Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Representatives Suzan DelBene and Rick Larsen—which, according to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, “would have the effect of overturning” Judge Coughenour’s ruling.

Editor’s Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will report the eventual outcome of this story.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Plan would move Green Mountain lookout with helicopter” by Gale Fiege in the Everett Herald and “Smokejumper that lookout—Washington lawmakers to Forest Service” in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

U.S. Forest Service Dedicated New Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory

The U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station officially dedicated its new Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory on May 18, 2013.

“Our new laboratory will strengthen the station’s Alaska research program and enhance the partnerships critical for addressing natural resource issues in the state and beyond,” said Robert Mangold, Acting Station Director.

Adjacent to the University of Alaska Southeast Campus, the 12,000-square-foot facility includes both office and specialized laboratory space. It provides an environment for Forest Service research scientists to interact closely with university faculty, students, agency colleagues, and key regional stakeholders. The building houses scientists and staff from the station, the Forest Service’s Alaska Region, and the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center and is home to research on climate change, watershed and young-growth management, human values and uses of natural resources, and forest health.

Energy-efficient features—including high-efficiency ground source heat pumps and a heat recovery ventilation system—and regionally sourced building materials feature prominently in the new building. In addition, the building’s entrance will be flanked by two house posts, carved by Tlingit master carver Wayne Price, that pay homage to the Eagle and Raven moieties of the Tlingit People, on whose ancestral land the laboratory is built. These posts were unveiled and raised during the dedication ceremony.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station, headquartered in

Portland, Oregon, generates and communicates scientific knowledge that helps people make informed choices about natural resources and the environment. The station has 11 laboratories and centers located in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, and about 390 employees.

Prepared from Pacific Northwest Research Station News Release “Forest Service to dedicate new Juneau Laboratory with ribbon-cutting ceremony, house post unveiling” of May 15, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Helps Address Crater Lake’s Dying Whitebark Pines

A recent Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) program—“Oregon Field Guide: Crater Lake’s Dying Forest”—reported on how the U.S. Forest Service’s Dorena Genetic Research Center near Cottage Grove, Oregon, is working with the National Park Service to figure out how to arrest the killer fungus killing whitebark pines (*Pinus albicaulis*) in Crater Lake National Park and on other high altitude sites throughout the West.

You should be able to see this fascinating program online at <<http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/vie>>.

Sharon Friedman, in her “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog February 13, 2013, article “Crater Lake’s Dying Forest and Whitebark Breeding,” noted the program “claimed that until the Crater Lake people got interested, nothing was done because people were focused on ‘timber species’ sugar and western white pine. That is not true.” Citing the Whitebark Pine Genetic Restoration Program led by Mary F. Mahalovich, PhD., for the Forest Service’s Northern, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern, and Intermountain regions, she noted that “people had been working on this for years” in those regions.

“I also don’t think it’s clear that ‘Dorena Forest Research Center’ is Dorena Genetic Research Center, actually a part of the National Forest System and not Forest Service Research,” she noted of the program’s presentation of the topic.

Editor’s Note: I am a great appreciator of the whitebark pine and am pleased at this effort to develop trees with genetic resistance to the “killer fungus” we know as white pine blister rust. I hope the OPB Oregon Field Guide segment referred to is still online when you read this.

U.S. Forest Service “Goes Hollywood”: Forest Products Laboratory Helped Build “Green” TV Sitcom Set

The U.S. Forest Service announced on February 13, 2013, that it teamed up with Hollywood to build the first “100 percent sustainable studio set.”

The Forest Products Laboratory teamed up with NOBLE Environmental Technologies, “a long-term collaborator with the laboratory,” to help create a hotel room set for a two-part episode of the 20th Century Fox comedy series “Raising Hope” according to a Forest Service press release.

“NOBLE Environmental Technologies’ patented ECOR® panels, which were developed in partnership with laboratory

researchers, were used to create a modern hotel suite for a two-part episode of the show,” the release explained. “ECOR® is a recycled, lightweight panel product that is strong but weighs as little as one-fourth the weight of conventional wood product panels. The produce is 100 percent, USDA –certified bio-based and made with 100 percent cellulose fibers including post-consumer paper, wood and agricultural raw material sources. ECOR® contains no toxic additives or adhesives.”

“The ongoing use of tropical hardwoods in set construction is an environmental tragedy and this experiment provided a cost-effective alternative to unsustainable forest products,” the release quoted “Rising Hope” art director John Zachary.

“Zachary and 20th Century Fox were committed to integrating environmentally friendly paint, wallpaper, glue and carpet to complete the sustainable set,” the release said. “Zachary hopes this will lead to more environmentally friendly set construction.”

“All the panels used on the set were fabricated at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., shipped to ECOR’s San Diego, Calif., facility and built into the set. This was made possible under recently expanded federal authority that allows private companies to fabricate materials with government equipment for commercial purposes.”

“The collaboration between the Forest Products Laboratory and ECOR Global is a perfect example of how government and industry can work together to meet society’s needs,” the release quoted laboratory engineer John Hunt. “By combining our unique capabilities, we were able to turn research results into tangible products.”

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory News Release “Forest Service Helps Hollywood Go Green” posted by Rebecca Wallace on February 13, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Plans Online Storefront for Digital Maps

The U.S. Forest Service wants to contract with online retailers to sell digital and digitally-enhanced versions of its national forest maps and atlases along with forest map-based mobile apps, according to solicitation documents posted on February 14, 2013.

The Forest Service produces numerous hardcopy maps that it sells to about 250,000 tourists and hikers each year, the request for proposals said, but its sale of digital maps through its own websites has been more limited.

The agency hopes to remedy that by selling maps through a vendor such as iTunes or Google’s e-Bookstore, which could digitally enhance the agency’s base maps to make them more interactive and user friendly.

The Forest Service plans to start by offering 18 digital maps of national forests in California, Arizona, and New Mexico along with about six full digital atlases, the agency said.

The price per map may vary, the agency said, because it is required by law to at least break even on any map-selling ventures.

Prepared from “Forest Services [sic] Seeks Online Storefront for Digital Maps” by Joseph Marks posted on Nextgov.com on February 15, 2013.

Books

U.S. Forest Service Published *Welcome to the Forest Service: A Guidebook for New Employees*

By Les Joslin

The U.S. Forest Service in November 2012 published a new 38-page introduction to the Forest Service for new personnel. Issued by the agency's Center of Learning, it is a quick overview of the agency and its mission and operations that refers its user to online sources for additional information on most topics. This publication is, in general, a good beginning at an introduction; however, it is only that and begs constructive revision.

The first thing I would do—which reflects my own perception of public service and may seem trivial to others until they think about it—is change the title reference from new *employees* to new *members*. Although use of the former word is ingrained, use of the latter word should be encouraged. New Forest Service personnel should be inspired from the outset to be *members*—not just employees with jobs, but *members* of a service—who would be the able and willing and dedicated forest officers the Forest Service needs. A person may be an employee of a company, but must be a member of a service.

The second thing I would change is the publication's laid-back approach to its use as prescribed in its preface. "Use this Guidebook as you would any tool. Access it when you need it; put it aside when you don't, but keep it handy." Wrong! New members should be required to master an introduction to the agency in which they would serve—if not as part of a rigorous U.S. Forest Service Academy experience, then under the tutelage of their immediate supervisors—and prove that mastery by passing an exam. If not, this publication will wind up in the piles of others "kept handy" until forgotten and discarded.

The third thing I would do is focus much more strongly on the public service aspects of Forest Service work by including "best foot forward" instruction on how to properly represent the Forest Service to the citizen-owners of the National Forest System by looking like and acting like forest officers who embody the firm-but-friendly-face-and-helping-hand image of the forest ranger. New members should be required to master the public service skills and use them on the job to benefit both the Forest Service and the citizens it serves. Instead, pages 30 and 31 provide personal advice on surviving in the federal bureaucracy.

There are other improvements that could be made that would convey and help conserve the challenge and excitement of serving in an "agency to match the mountains."

There is potential in this guidebook—potential best realized by redevelopment as a basic textbook (or workbook) for entry-level students in an appropriate orientation course taught by an inspired and inspiring instructor in some version of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy.

Editor's Note: Published online in November 2012, the 38-page Welcome to the Forest Service: A Guidebook for New Employees is available free at <www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/welcome.docx>.

Chuck Mansfield Asks Tough Questions in *The Biscuit Fire: Consequences of Forest Management Decisions*

By Les Joslin

Former U.S. Forest Service smokejumper and retired Los Alamos National Laboratory physicist Charles R. "Chuck" Mansfield asks why the 2002 Biscuit Fire on the Siskiyou National Forest became the largest wildfire in Oregon history, and offers answers applicable to megafires in general in *The Biscuit Fire: Consequences of Forest Management Decisions*.

Chuck and the Kalmiopsis Wilderness—most of which the Biscuit Fire burned—have a history. His dad H. Robert Mansfield's first Forest Service job was on Bear Camp Lookout in 1926, and his dad later set up the Kalmiopsis as one of the original wildernesses under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Some of his dad's ashes are spread at the Bear Camp Lookout site. In 1958, Chuck helped survey a road to that lookout. During his 1959 to 1969 smokejumping years at Cave Junction, Chuck jumped and dropped supplies to his dad in that wilderness. Two weeks before the Biscuit Fire, Chuck led a crew of retired smokejumpers restoring a trail destroyed by the Silver Fire in 1987. A week later, the road he'd helped survey in 1958 became part of the Biscuit fireline.

Chuck cares about wildfires. Just over two years before the Biscuit Fire, Chuck and his wife Arlene supported helitack operations on the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire that threatened their Los Alamos, New Mexico, home as it claimed over 400 other homes, burned 48,000 acres, and came close to destroying the national laboratory where he worked.

"My Ph.D. in physics does not provide much training in forestry, but since I grew up in the forests I learned a lot by osmosis," Chuck says. "What my degree does provide is training to be a keen observer and to make keen hypotheses about what I see."

Chuck has explored and observed the Biscuit Fire area each summer since 2003. What he has seen has led him to believe that the causes of recent megafires are related to forest management decisions rather than natural conditions in the wildlands. He addresses some of these decisions in his book. He does not claim the majority of these decisions are correct or incorrect. "The decisions are what they are and they have brought both intended and unintended consequences." Chuck's basic point is: "In times of high fire danger, all wildfires must be aggressively attacked when they are started."

Chuck notes that, in the case of the Biscuit Fire, immediate aggressive attack by available initial attack firefighting assets was not the case. Similar experiences during subsequent fire seasons—including the 2012 season—make this an especially timely observation and concern.

Editor's Note: Published by Coyote Aerospace as an electronic book in PDF format, The Biscuit Fire is available by mail from The Biscuit Fire, 498 Quartz Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 for \$14.95 including shipping. Contact by e-mail at <coyote2@swcp.com> or telephone 505-662-2115.

Films

***First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School is in Development* by Forest History Society and Partners**

The Forest History Society is co-developing a new documentary film about Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School. “*First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School* will be the first documentary film to examine the pivotal role that the Biltmore Estate’s chief forester Carl Schenck and America’s first school of forestry played in American conservation history,” according to a recent Forest History Society announcement.

The Society, headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, in collaboration with UNC-TV and the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, proposes to organize, produce, and distribute this film it says “will provide a window onto American environmental history from roughly the 1880s through the 1920s, and conclude with a look at the Cradle of Forestry National Historic Site today.”

As the announcement on which this article is based indicates, the Society is requesting donations to support production of this documentary. See the link at <<http://BiltmoreForestSchool.org>> for information on helping to tell this story. All donations will be matched by a donor.

The Story

In 1898, Dr. Carl Schenck, chief forester for George Vanderbilt’s Biltmore Estate in the mountains of western North Carolina, established the first forestry school in the United States. During its 15 years of operation, the Biltmore Forest School turned out nearly 400 graduates. Students spent a year in the woods studying forestry while doing hands-on, practical work to restore the Biltmore Estate’s 100,000 worn-out acres. As Schenck noted with pride, “My boys worked continuously in the woods, while those at other schools saw wood only on their desks.”

Many of the school’s alumni went on to play substantial and significant roles in shaping forestry in America by working as government or industry foresters or educating the next generation of foresters. Every graduate of the Biltmore Forest School credited their beloved Dr. Schneck with providing the education and skills needed to succeed in the new science of forestry.

In addition to teaching the first generation of American foresters, Schenck wrote some of the first forestry textbooks used in America, advised other private landowners about forest management, and developed the Biltmore stick still used to measure tree dimensions. Schenck’s accomplishments were considered important enough by the federal government that it preserved the school’s buildings and grounds as the beautiful Cradle of Forestry National Historic Site on the Pisgah National Forest.

The “PBS-quality documentary film” will tell that story.

Prepared from “First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School film project” on The Forest History Society website at the suggestion of OldSmokey Dave Govatski and in coordination with James G. Lewis, Ph.D., Staff Historian, Forest History Society.

Uncle Sam’s Cabins



Fall River Guard Station as it appeared until about 1960.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

Fall River Guard Station **Deschutes National Forest, Oregon**

By Les Joslin

Fall River Guard Station was built in the 1930s on the Bend Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, at the headwaters of the Fall River, a Deschutes River tributary. For some seven decades it played a key role in fire protection. Now it is a heritage and recreation resource paying its own way under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004.

Fall River Guard Station comprised a house—moved in 1961 about 75 yards to its current location—and outbuildings including a garage and privy. The station was, until the mid 1950s, the nerve center of the Bend Ranger District fire organization to which all fire lookouts reported by telephone and from which smokechasers were dispatched. From 1937 through 1940, seasonal Forest Guard Jesse Lindsay ran the station and the adjacent Civilian Conservation Corps spike camp while his wife Dortha ran the switchboard and dispatched. They were followed during World War II by Les and Emma Wright.

At least two OldSmokeys later served there: **Don Franks** and his wife Millie immediately after World War II and early in the Forest Service career from which he retired in 1975 as Deschutes National Forest fire staff officer, and **Roger Miller** before he spent 40 consecutive fire seasons on nearby Round Mountain Lookout.

After fire crews were moved into Bend, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District personnel and Passport in Time volunteers rehabilitated the historic station house as a recreation lodging rental available from May through October for \$90.00 per night for groups of up to five people. To reserve, call 1-877-444-6777 or visit <www.recreation.gov>.

To get there from Bend, Oregon, take U.S. Highway 97 south. Take the Sunriver exit and drive west. Go around the roundabout onto Century Drive, follow until left turn onto Huntington Road, drive about three miles, turn right onto South Century Drive (Deschutes County Road 42 which becomes Forest Road 42), and drive west for about 11 miles to Fall River Guard Station on the left.

Out of the Past



This historic Oregon National Forest sign was found on Bald Butte, south of Hood River, Oregon, in January 2013.

Photograph courtesy of John Marker

Oregon National Forest Sign Found

By John Marker

A friend and part-time employee came to work [back in January] with what looked like a very old and rotten board. But, while old and showing the ravages of time and weather, it turned out to be an old U.S. Forest Service sign. On the down side was the name Oregon National Forest in faded but still very visible inch-and-a-half block letters.

My friend found this historic sign off a hiking trail on Bald Butte, the major ridge east of my home and about 13 miles south of the town of Hood River. She was hiking with her daughter, a wildlife biologist looking for deer antlers, and spotted this old board. Since it was a long way from any development, curiosity made her pick it up. She turned it over, and there were the aged block letters.

The Oregon National Forest was established on July 1, 1908, from part of the Cascade National Forest and all of the Bull Run National Forest. On January 21, 1924, the forest was renamed Mount Hood National Forest. I'm guessing this sign has been resting in the woods for at least ninety years.

As best we can figure from a map, this relic of the past may not have been on national forest land when it was found.

I encouraged my friend to loan her interesting find to either the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp or The High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey **John Marker** for reporting this find and for the photograph to accompany his article. The historical information on the old Oregon National Forest was derived from a June 30, 1917, table in Richard H. Douai Boerker, *Our National Forests*, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1918, and Richard C. Davis, Ed., *Encyclopedia of American Forest and Conservation History*, New York, Macmillan Publishing Company for the Forest History Society, 1983.*

My First Forest Service Job

Starting With a Bang in 1950!

By Robbie Robertson

In the spring of my sophomore year at Colorado A&M, I secured a fire lookout job on the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest. The job on Horsepasture Mountain Lookout was for a married couple. In June I married Charlotte Eckert, my first wife. Perhaps not the best reason to get married, but it's what I did.

The drive from Santa Fe, where we got married, to Oregon served as the honeymoon. Arriving late in the day at McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station, we found no living quarters available. There was, behind the ranger's house, an eight-by-ten wall tent in which boxes of fir limbs containing spruce budworm larvae were being store. District Ranger Britt Ash helped me move the boxes into a storage shed. We furnished the tent with two iron cots and a portable wood stove. This was my bride's introduction to Forest Service housing. The honeymoon was over.

The blast

At 6:30 the next morning, I stepped out of the tent to find we were camped in a grassy oval circled by the station's equipment sheds. We were surrounded by crews who had just gathered around the oval and were getting ready to head out for the day's work. Since it was too early in June to staff the lookout, I was put on a trail crew headed for the Blue River Trail which had many large trees down across it. The crew consisted of an older faller with a chainsaw, two local fellows about my age, and me.

The trail was on about a 40 percent slope, and most of the down trees were old-growth Doug-firs about three to five feet in diameter. Each tree became an engineering project. We had to cut small trees and build ramps under the windfalls, before cutting a piece free, so gravity would help us roll the piece off the trail.

After two days of work, we came to a clump of 10 or more firs, hemlocks, and alders criss-crossed across the trail, piled about 10 feet high, and obviously under tension. Cutting through any log would release the tension with unpredictable consequences. The faller said we would have to use dynamite. He sent one of the crew back to the station to get dynamite and caps. That crew member returned a couple hours later with a pack containing a full box of dynamite and a blasting cap in each hand. He was very nervous about the caps, and unwilling to carry more of them.

The faller made several partial cuts into what he thought key logs that could be broken loose by the dynamite. Having only two caps, he decided to use a lot of dynamite. He stuffed about half the dynamite sticks in among the logs he'd cut into, and we backed away and set it off. Nothing happened.

Now, most of the Forest Service crews were local people. A 19-year-old forestry student from somewhere else was not likely to be accepted or respected until he proved his worth. I was being careful about voicing opinions on the job. Although I had some experience using dynamite in school, I refrained from

making suggestions before the first blast. But since there was only one more cap and thus only one more chance, I stuck my neck out. “Let me try.” The somewhat skeptical crew backed away and left me to it.

Now I had to pull it off. I unwrapped the waxed paper from the rest of the dynamite sticks and molded the entire half box into one large mass to make a shaped charge. I stuffed it between what I figured were the critical logs, backed off, and fired it. The entire mess lifted several feet into the air, trees broke at the cuts, tension was released, and much of the log pile slid down the hill.

The rest

After word of this got around the station, I was pretty much accepted as okay. But this didn’t stop District Clerk Jim Drury from trying to embarrass me later when he gave me the Forest Service driver’s license test. Early one morning, before the crews left the compound, Jim told me I was to take the test. Jim always gave the test in the old thousand-gallon tanker, a truck made long before synchromesh transmissions. All the men were standing around, waiting for me to make an awful grinding noise when I tried to shift gears. Fortunately, I had some truck driving experience, and knew I had to double-clutch. I think Jim was disappointed that, instead of providing entertainment for all, I moved smoothly through the gears and drove off down the road.

Charlotte and I lived in the tent for about a week, then moved to improved housing at East Fork Guard Station on the South Fork of the McKenzie river. There we had a wood stove, water from East Fork Creek, and several hundred pack rats.

After the Blue River trail job, I maintained phone lines until we took the trail nine miles up to Horsepasture Mountain Lookout where we stayed the rest of the summer. Even after we staffed the lookout, I remained in the phone line business.

I was sent to Olallie Guard Station during a wet spell to put up about eight miles of phone line back to the lookout. I slipped on some shale rock and stuck a climbing iron gaff about two inches into my foot. I went back to Olallie Guard Station, cleaned and disinfected the wound. Deciding limping back and forth to work phone line was not a good idea, I took a sleeping bag and my phone line gear and camped out on the trail for two days as I worked the phone line back to the lookout. My injury healed okay, and I never reported it.

The rest of that Horsepasture Mountain Lookout summer of 1950 was fairly routine. I returned to the McKenzie Ranger District the summer of 1951 to head a topographic mapping crew, but ended up spending most of the summer on the HeHe and Sardine fires where I got an up-close introduction to fire-fighting.

Note: I left the Forest Service in 1956-1958 and bought a truck stop. I sold out and went back to the Forest Service in 1958. In 1966, when I was TMA on the Hood River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest, I married Virginia Rust, my current wife.

Editor’s Note: Robbie’s photographs in the next column of the lookout and the two guard stations help one visualize his first summer on the Willamette National Forest in 1950.



Horsepasture Mountain Lookout in 1950



East Fork Guard Station in 1950.



Charlotte at Olallie Guard Station in 1950.

My First Forest Service Job in your Fall 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will be OldSmokey **Ted Stubblefield’s** Sequoia National Forest story “Hume Lake Ranger District, 1961.”



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Forest Service Association
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Summer 2013

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