



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Spring 2015

President's Message—Al Matecko

*You're traveling down a lonely road
With all you got on your back
You're feeling tired and hungry too
Just then a trucker stops and asks ya
"Hey Man, do you want a ride?"
Welcome to, The Heart of a Miracle*

—The Bodines

Thank YOU! You are the heart of a miracle!

You, all of you, have been a most gracious group, and the past year has been a wonderful experience I will always treasure. Your support, kindness, and most of all, the love you have of each other has been a joy to witness and experience.

The OldSmokeys just doesn't happen. It truly takes a great group of folks who give their time and do so superbly. The Board is a testament to all of you, as our meetings represent the best of OldSmokeys. They are lively, thoughtful, and at times humorous. I give my thanks to the board for what they have

stood for, in their belief to always make things better for all of us, both retired and those still working.

The annual one-of-a-kind *PNWFSA Directory* which is enclosed within this newsletter, the superbly written and produced *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the annual bountiful banquet slated for May 17, the annual perfectly put together picnic, our great grant program, the excellent email updates, and the magical monthly luncheons are all done by folks who give freely of their time and talents and deserve our deep appreciation. I am in awe and gratefulness for all YOU do!

Your new President, Jim Rice, has a great way about him and represents all we seek in our next leader—kindness, compassion, and smarts. I wish him all the best and know you do too.

To all of you, I thank you for the part you played in making me part of YOU!

YOU are the heart of my miracle!

Al Matecko

President, Board of Directors
Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
2014-2015

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

Sign Up Now for May 17 Banquet! See Page 5!

Forum

Editor's Note: Among the many topics that could dominate this page in this issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter—some seemingly silly if not so serious in their potential for waste of public resources—it's appropriate to lead off with this op-ed about the most serious natural resource issue we face: a lack of effective attention to the serious natural resource issues we face. The fact that our late friend and colleague John Marker's July 17, 2013, appeal to Congress—through this letter to then-House Natural Resources Committee Chair Doc Hastings and then-Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chair Ron Wyden requesting them to address this issue—remains current testifies to Congress's continuing lack of real attention to the real business of the American people.

An Appeal to Congress

By John Marker

National forest health conditions are bad and getting worse. If they were humans, the national forests would be in hospice. I make this statement as a professional forester and a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. My U.S. Forest Service career of 36 years included service on six national forests, in three Forest Service regions, and in the Forest Service headquarters. Since retirement I have spent 21 years as a volunteer with conservation organizations, such as the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, actively supporting a return to science-based forest management for these priceless lands.

The danger to the forests is very real. The 190 million acres of land in the National Forest System are being radically, and generally negatively, changed by fire, insects, disease and human abuse. The Forest Service's best guess is that around 80 million national forest acres in the West are dead or dying. That's an area larger than 46 of our 50 states. Some 60 million acres, which includes the insect killed forest acres, are classified as high risk for catastrophic wildfires, an increasingly common event. Human abuse is increasing, and damaging large acreage of forest and cultural resources.

This degradation of the public's forests is affecting the ability of the forests to provide commodity and amenity resources needed by a population growing beyond 300 million people. National forest lands are the source of 70 percent of the western states' water, are a significant storage area for carbon, are the habitat for wildlife including many endangered species, are a potential positive supplier of wood fiber, and are a major provider of outdoor recreation opportunities including most of the downhill skiing in the United States. They provide many other direct benefits such as economic opportunities for over 500 rural communities and clean air for us all. They are a legacy for our grandchildren and generations beyond.

However, these national treasures cannot fill our needs and wants or those of future generations without the understanding and support of Congress. It is not so much a matter of more money as it is a matter of enabling Forest Service people to do their jobs. To truly care for the forests, Congress must under-

stand the forests' importance to all citizens, and update and modernize the laws governing their management to reflect this multiple use importance. It must encourage science-based forestry practices, reaffirm the mission established for the forests in the Organic Act of 1897, and reject the very selfish and narrow views of those who see the forests as their personal domain.

Big Issues, Big Issue

The sheer size of this 40-page issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* attests, in part, to the number of issues of current interest and concern to OldSmokeys. As usual, there's good news and bad news. And this time, there's a lot of both. This easily could have been a 44-page issue. But many news articles were "killed" to keep it to 40 pages and, I hope, within budget.

Some of these many articles address Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) matters, and most of them—except for the loss of quite a few revered members—are good news. The good news is about our association events, our continuing contributions to good causes, and additional opportunities to do good things as individuals and as an association. And there are the usual stories about our proud heritage.

Other articles address not-so-good news that we, as keepers of that proud heritage and its potential to inform positive evolution of the U.S. Forest Service for the benefit of the National Forest System and its citizen-owners, must track and upon which we must act. Hence, the obvious emphasis in several articles on "riding for the brand" symbolized by the Pine Tree Shield we and other retirees so successfully defended two years ago. A revised Agency to Match the Mountains Initiative proposal for a required week-long Basic Forest Officer Course set forth by Forest Service retirees and endorsed in concept by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) in the *OldSmokeys Say* section is one of these articles. OldSmokey Jon Stewart's observations along the Pacific Northwest Trail last summer, shared in his *Feature* section article, is another.

We all prefer good news. But even bad news can be good news if it helps us help others turn bad news into good news!

—Les Joslin

Your Forum Page Needs You!

Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter Forum* page contains editorials by the editor and *op-eds* in which writers other than the editor express their opinions.

Over the past nine years, this *Forum* page has contained too many editorials and too few *op-eds*. You can help fix that by sharing your valuable, well-informed opinions on matters affecting your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) or the U.S. Forest Service in which you served and the National Forest System in which you worked.

—Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Gathered to Celebrate John F. Marker's Life on January 31

OldSmokeys and other friends of OldSmokey **John Marker**, who died on January 15 at age 77, joined John's wife Mary and family at a January 31 celebration of John's life as a family man, citizen, forester, U.S. Forest Service officer, and friend that packed the large Parkdale, Oregon, fire department meeting room.

John and others of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) and Forest Service who left us recently are remembered in the *Memories* section on pages 24 to 29 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.



John F. Marker
1937-2015

OldSmokeys Will Welcome New PNWFSA President Jim Rice and President-elect Ron Bohem at May 17 Spring Banquet

It's time now to reserve your place or places at the table of your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Spring Banquet on May 17, 2015, at which **Jim Rice** will relieve **Al Matecko** as President of the PNWFSA and **Ron Bohem** will step into the President-elect boots as Al relieves **Linda Goodman** of the Past President duties.

That all happens after all attending OldSmokeys enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, fine dining, and bidding on wonderful silent auction items at beautiful Charboneau Country Club just south of Portland near Wilsonville, Oregon. Doors will open at 1:00 p.m., and social hours with appetizer table, no-host bar, and silent auction item bidding will be under way by 1:30 p.m. The buffet-style dinner catered by our old friend and honorary OldSmokey Dave Dalton will be served at 3:00 p.m. As dinner ends, the peaceful transition of power and award of door prizes will preface our departure—successful bidders bearing their silent auction treasures.

OldSmokeys Must Reserve for May 17 PNWFSA Spring Banquet by May 5!

OldSmokeys must reserve their place or places at the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Spring Banquet on May 17, 2015, **no later than May 5, 2015**.

So, if you haven't reserved already, please use the Spring Banquet reservation form on page 5 to book your banquet seat or seats for just **\$25.00** per person and mail it in without delay!

OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA's August 14 Summer Picnic

OldSmokeys may also reserve early for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's annual Summer Picnic in the Woods scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2015, at the beautiful Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood. You may use the form on page 6—on the flip side of the Spring Banquet reservation form—to reserve for the Summer Picnic at the same time you reserve for the Spring Banquet and do so with the same stamp and by cutting only bottom parts of pages 5 and 6 out of your newsletter!

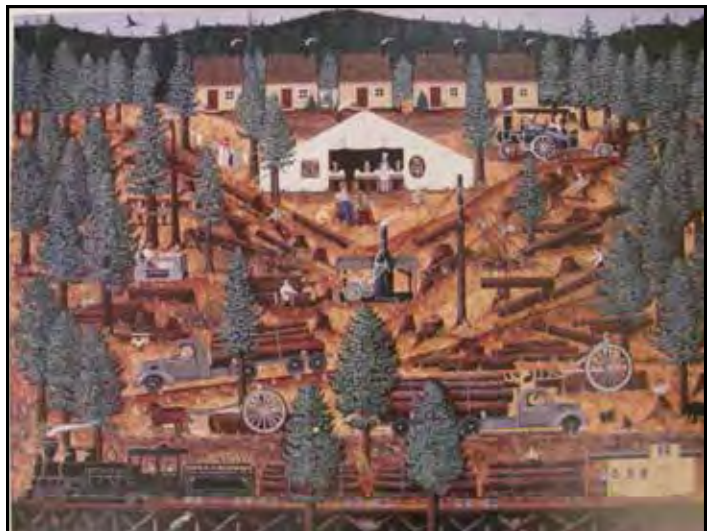
For this year's picnic, Past President **Linda Goodman** has arranged for Job Corps culinary students to cater the picnic lunch for the much lower cost of only **\$12.00** per person—significantly less than the \$25.00 per person of the last few picnics!

You read that right! The cost of the picnic has declined with the cost of gas for your car! With that kind of progress, you can't afford not to enjoy this great annual get-together!

OldSmokeys Provide Spring Banquet Silent Auction Items to Mary Moyer

OldSmokeys who plan to donate appealing items for the May 17, 2015, Spring Banquet silent auction should contact OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> soon to help her coordinate acquisition and inventory management of those items. The success of the silent auction depends on donations of silent auction items by you and other members. Funds raised by the every-other-year silent auctions are used to help ensure the affordability of member events such as the annual banquet and picnic.

Among items already donated for this year's silent auction are two signed, numbered, and framed 18-by-24 inch prints of famed Sisters, Oregon, folk artist Jennifer Lake's colorful logging camp painting shown below. One of these prints fetched a fair price at the silent auction two years ago. If you were not the successful bidder then, you get two more chances this year!



OldSmokey and Regional Forester Jim Pena Attended January 30 PNWFSA Luncheon

OldSmokeys who enjoyed the Friday, January 30, 2015, OldSmokey monthly luncheon at the Old Spaghetti Factory heard OldSmokey and Regional Forester **Jim Pena** explain the U.S. Forest Service's early January decision—widely reported by the news media—not to pursue an outside contractor for what the media termed “branding” and what otherwise has been called “rebranding.”

“Jim explained the Forest Service was engaging in a new program of telling our story (and not marketing) so that all, and especially new, employees would have a better understanding of our mission and purpose, as well as ensuring our communities and our Forests were better aligned together,” OldSmokey President **Al Matecko** summarized. “Jim added the program (known as VPP—Valuing People and Places) began in Region 6, four years ago, and initially used a contractor to help the Forest Service determine how best to go about this work. He said it has gained traction as Forests have Ambassadors who work in telling our story and training employees how to talk with others. Jim said today's environment is a different climate than before and there is greater interest in what and how we carry out our work. He also mentioned our agency's core values remain the same and making sure people understand both our work and these values are critical.”

Regional Fire, Fuels and Aviation Director and OldSmokey **David Sumner** followed Regional Forester Pena's remarks with brief comments on 2014's final fire data, President Al reported. “The good news as reported by David was safety was paramount and with more than 12,000 fire and support people in the Region at the height of the season, everyone returned home safely. David noted the region was at the highest preparedness level (level 5) for 31 days last summer (the previous mark of 24 days was set in 2006), and more than 1.26 million acres burned. The total cost was \$458 million and more than 6.5 million hours of firefighter work (equal to 3,125 people working for a full year) were totaled.”

Also attending the January 30 luncheon were Pacific Northwest Research Station Director and OldSmokey **Rob Mangold** and from the RO “Public Affairs gurus Glen Sachet and Rachael LeMedica.”

OldSmokey Don Nearhood is Updating and Upgrading the PNWFSA Website

OldSmokey **Don Nearhood**, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Website Manager, is in the midst of a major updating and upgrading of the PNWFSA website (found at <www.oldsmokeys.org>) he terms “the public face” of the PNWFSA.

Characterized by a colorful new format, the website-in-revision already offers easier access to information about the PNWFSA in several departments. Click on “Events” for a calendar of PNWFSA events. Click on “Newsletter” for instant

access to copies of the current *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and an archive containing issues published since 2000. Click on “Membership” for complete information about PNWFSA membership requirements and the new electronic application form as well as information about books by members, member services, and a member survivor's guide.

Get the idea? Sure you do! Other departments you can click on are “History” that features various aspects of Forest Service and PNWFSA member history, “Administration” where you can find contact information for members of the PNWFSA Board of Directors as well as its area representatives, and “Photos” where albums of photographs let you relive PNWFSA monthly meetings, annual banquets and picnics, reunions, and other events—or see what you missed.

The new PNWFSA website is still “a work in progress,” Don says. But it's a much improved “public face” for our association that continues to improve as Don works his magic. He is, of course, interested in your inputs. So, check it out!

OldSmokeys Award \$8,985 in Grants

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at its February 27, 2015, meeting approved four grants totaling \$8,985 in response to four proposals which, if fully funded, would have totaled \$15,635.

The hard work of the PNWFSA Grants Committee chaired by OldSmokey **Charlie Krebs** and including **Phil Hirl**, **Kent Mays**, and **Bob Tokarczyk**, who reviewed all the proposals against PNWFSA grant criteria, questioning and clarifying aspects of each and adjusting two, submitted a well-thought-out recommendation that received unanimous approval.

Three of the four proposals received were for new projects. The grants approved for each were:

- **Mount St. Helens Institute**, working with OldSmokey **Phil Dodd**, retired from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, received \$1,860 for specialized software and a converter to support an interviewing and indexing process for retention of Forest Service social history.
- **Discover Your Forest**, working in cooperation with the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, received \$2,975 for fabrication and installation of an interpretive sign along Oregon Highway 58 at the Odell Lake viewpoint.
- **Forest Fire Lookout Association**, working in cooperation with the Pomeroy Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest, received \$1,150 to replace the roof and paint the cab of the Big Butte Lookout it is rehabilitating.

The fourth grant recipient was the **Friends of Fish Lake** (recipient of several PNWFSA grants in recent years) granted \$3,000 to complete significant restoration of the Commissary Cabin at the Fish Lake Historic Site (comprising the old Fish Lake Ranger Station and Fish Lake Remount Depot) on the McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest. The cabin was infested by bats, and the grant will help defray costs of cleaning out bat guano and restoring walls.

Watch your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for future articles about PNWFSA grants in action!



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet 2015

OldSmokeys Must Reserve for PNWFSA May 17 Banquet by May 5!

Now's the time to make your reservations for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's annual Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 17, at Charbonneau Country Club just south of Portland, Oregon.

The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and this year will include our biennial silent auction!

You can use the form below to reserve your place or places *now* at one of the two big OldSmokey gatherings of the year to visit with friends, to witness our new President **Jim Rice** and new President-elect **Ron Boehm** take office, enjoy an outstanding meal, outbid your friends for exciting silent auction items, win door prizes, and have an all-round good time.

Doors and the **no-host bar** will open at 1:00 p.m., and **social hours** with appetizer table and **silent auction item bidding** will be under way by 1:30 p.m. The buffet-style **dinner** catered by Dave Dalton will be served at 3:00 p.m.

All this for just \$25.00 per person!

And, since this year's Spring Banquet is a **SILENT AUCTION BANQUET**, you'll want to think about an exciting item you can donate. If you have one, contact OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> to arrange for its inclusion in the silent auction. To donate a door prize item, contact OldSmokey **Bev Pratt**.

To get to the Charbonneau Country Club from Portland or points north, exit I-5 at Exit 282B (Charbonneau District) after crossing the Willamette River bridge. Turn left (east) at the first stop sign onto NE Miley Road, go .4 mile to French Prairie Road. Turn left onto French Prairie Road, go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau country Club. From Salem or points south, use Exit 282 (Canby) just north of the rest stop. Turn right (east) onto NE Miley Road, go .3 mile to French Prairie Road, turn left and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive, then follow that drive to the Charbonneau Country Club.

Send in the completed reservation form (or a copy of it) to reserve your place(s) not later than May 5, 2015.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SPRING BANQUET—MAY 17, 2015
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

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

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

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

Please send this reservation form in to be received no later than May 5, 2015.



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Summer Picnic in the Woods 2015

OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA’s Summer Picnic 2015

Why not go ahead and sign up now for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Summer Picnic in the Woods scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2015, using the reservation form below which is on the “flip side” of the Spring Banquet reservation form. Sign up for both at the same time with the same stamp! Just clip (or copy) the form, fill it out, and send it in with your check for the new low price of just \$12.00 per person —**that’s right, just \$12.00 per person, just \$6.00 for kids under 12**—by July 31, 2015.

Again this summer, OldSmokeys are welcome to bring their grandchildren under 12 years of age for half price.

The new low prices for the Summer Picnic are made possible by an arrangement with Job Corps culinary students who will serve us!

Wildwood Recreation 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. Socializing starts at 11:00 a.m.; lunch is served at 12:00 noon.

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 Age, Golden Eagle, and Golden Access passports will do the trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your passport 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, if you’re ready to sign up early (if you’re not, there will be another registration form in your Summer 2015 OldSmokeys Newsletter), fill out and send in this reservation form for the picnic!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS—AUGUST 14, 2015
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 \$12.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at \$12.00 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 to be received not later than August 5, 2015!

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$6.00 each.



It Won't Be Long Now!

OldSmokeys Are Registering Now for the October 11-16, 2015, Forest Service Reunion in Albuquerque!

By the time you receive this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* the long-awaited “Rally on the Rio” in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will be just six months off and time to register and make room reservations for this national U.S. Forest Service reunion will be getting pretty short!

All past and current Forest Service personnel are invited to attend and enjoy the October 11-16 “Rally on the Rio” at which the hosting Amigos of the Southwest Region retirees association are anticipating over a thousand participants from all over the United States. What will they think if they—at least the many you know and who know you—don’t find you there?

To attend, you have to register for the Reunion and make reservations at the Marriott Pyramid or arrange other accommodation.

Registration for the Reunion

The time to register for “Rally on the Rio” is now! Go to the “Rally on the Rio” website <2015.fsreunions.org> for complete registration information and get it done.

Registration is now available manually by mailed-in form and check or online with credit card! You pick the method you prefer; however, please note that, although you may pay for your reunion registration online by credit card, every registration paid by credit card (or via a PayPal account) costs the Reunion approximately \$5.00, or \$10.00 per couple.

The Reunion has the primary responsibility to pay for itself, but as an affiliate of the National Museum of Forest Service History also has a secondary goal to help raise funds for the Museum. If you want to see all your funds go to the Reunion and the Museum, you should use the manual process and “snail mail” your form and check rather than register online.

To register either manually with payment by check or online with payment by credit card, please visit <2015.fsreunions.org> and click on the registration tab.

Reservations at the Marriott Pyramid

“Rally on the Rio” is being held at the beautiful Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque, and there’s still time to register early to receive the discounted room rate there of just \$105 per night (plus tax). You can call Marriott Reservations at 1-877-622-

3056 now and ask for the U.S. Forest Service Amigos Reunion room block. You can also make reservations by using the web link <<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/amigosreunion2015>>.

This October 11-16 reunion will immediately follow the world-famous Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. If you come early, you should find the bright blue New Mexico skies filled with colorful hot-air balloons—including the famous Smokey Bear balloon!

“Rally on the Rio” benefits the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana, mandated to preserve and educate the American public about the history of the Forest Service and the National Forest System.

Prepared from information provided by U.S. Forest Service Retirees 2015 National Reunion, P.O. Box 94297, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199.

OldSmokeys Who Jumped Smoke Anticipate Smokejumper Reunion July 17-19, 2015, in Missoula

“Reserve your rooms for the reunion pronto!” the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) urges all planning to attend the NSA reunion on the University of Montana campus on July 17-19 to ensure “you will have a room and a bed” for this event.

Why the rush? “Our reunion dates are now in competition with a major bike race/tour event in Missoula. The town is expecting many visitors seeking lodging,” the NSA’s January 23, 2015, Reunion Update explained.

By the time NSA members read this, they will have received an issue of *Smokejumper* magazine that includes a reunion event schedule and a registration form to fill out and send in. The NSA urged registering as soon as possible because it needs registration numbers with which to refine reunion plans. OldSmokeys who plan to attend can keep up with reunion developments on the reunion website at <<http://smj2015reunion.wordpress.com>> loaded with events, times, registration, lodging and other information to make their time at the reunion all it should be.

This reunion celebrates the 75th anniversary of the first operational jump on a fire during the summer of 1940 by pioneer smokejumpers Earl Cooley and Rufus Robinson based at Moose Creek Ranger Station then on the Bitterroot National Forest. There will be notables in attendance, events to entice, activities for which to rally, awards to be presented, histories to be archived, memorials and music and food and drink and campfires and so on the NSA organizers know smokejumpers just won’t want to miss.

“This will be a legacy celebration,” the NSA organizers emphasize. “It [will be] a time to enjoy the camaraderie of old relationships and endorse the new generations of smokejumpers that continue to blaze new ways to fight wildfire. Your presence [will underwrite] the association that labors to recognize and document [smokejumping’s] dramatic history, that helps fellow jumpers in need, that awards scholarships to those in pursuit of educational goals, and acknowledges former jumpers who donate their time, treasure, and talent to assist land managers each summer.”



The historic High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, is closed during the snowy winter months, but open daily from July 1 through Labor Day. The late OldSmokey Don Doyle helped staff the exhibit during the summers of 2011 through 2014. High Desert Museum and Les Joslin photographs

OldSmokeys Are Volunteering Now for Summer 2015 High Desert Ranger Station Crew

Just as they have every summer since 2009, OldSmokeys are signing up now to staff the historic High Desert Ranger Station—an exhibit at the High Desert Museum on U.S. Highway 97 south of Bend, Oregon—again this summer.

Clearly identifiable in their forest green polo shirts embroidered with the U.S. Forest Service pine tree shield underlined by the word “RETIREE,” these OldSmokeys welcome Museum visitors to the station, share stories of the Forest Service and the National Forest System and of their past and present purposes in western American lifeways, and pass on wildfire prevention messages during their five-hour duty days. With a team of 10 or 12, each volunteer typically serves five or six days.

Again this summer, volunteer team leader OldSmokey **Les Joslin** will schedule each volunteer’s duty days based on his or her availability and convenience. All volunteers sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers, and first-year volunteers pass a criminal background check, attend Museum volunteer training, and receive a full day of on-the-job ranger station staffing orientation.

Volunteers pay for their own uniform shirt—ordered for them from the Western Heritage Company—worn on the job with regular blue jeans with brown or black belt, compatible brown or black field shoes or boots, and a Forest Service hat or cap of their choice if they wish headgear. Warm uniform jackets for cool weather are provided.

An OldSmokey project—sponsored completely by your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) as an organization and as individuals since its inception—the High Desert Ranger Station is one of many ways OldSmokeys help citizen-owners of the National Forest System understand and appreciate the historic and current roles of the Forest Service and the national forests it administers for them.

For more information about this annual PNWFSA service opportunity and to sign up on this year’s team, contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331 (leave a message at the tone if there’s no answer), by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or by letter addressed to him at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

Be sure to sign on in plenty of time to complete the background check, order and receive your polo shirt, schedule and receive your training, and get scheduled for your service days.

OldSmokeys and Friends of Fish Lake Schedule June 15-19, 2015, Work Week

OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** has announced that the Friends of Fish Lake will celebrate their tenth annual work week at the Fish Lake Historic Site on the Willamette National Forest from June 15 through June 19, 2015.

Among the major projects planned are continued restoration work on the Hall House and the Commissary Cabin and, for the remount depot component of this historic site, prepping and painting the barn and replacing posts and rails in the corral.

“The Friends are hoping to repeat the record attendance at and accomplishments of the 2014 work week,” Mike said. E-mail Mike at <makerrick@q.com> to participate. There is limited space in the bunkhouse, and RVs and tents are welcome.

Meanwhile, Mike reported, a market analysis and feasibility study of the planned Fish Lake Cascade Institute, funded by Meyer Memorial Trust and conducted by the University of Oregon Community Service Center, has been completed. “Considerable interest was shown in a wildland learning center at Fish Lake and the Friends are analyzing the next steps to be taken.”

“We plan to issue a special tenth anniversary newsletter listing the accomplishments of the first decade of efforts to restore and maintain the historic Fish Lake site,” Mike told your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Also for the coming summer, “the McKenzie River Ranger District has applied for a Passport in Time host project for the 2015 season, and we expect continued pilot programs by the Backcountry Horsemen Association of Oregon and the Northwest Youth Corps.”

OldSmokey Corbin Newman Relieved OldSmokey Darrel Kenops as NAFSR Executive Director on January 3, 2015

After eight years in the job, OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** relinquished the executive directorship of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) to OldSmokey **Corbin Newman** on January 3, 2015.

“I really appreciate all of your understanding, support, and NAFSR volunteer efforts during my eight years as your executive director,” Darrel wrote to NAFSR members on January 9. “Due to your active involvement and ability to quickly mobilize as we did on the U.S. Forest Service shield [issue], we’ve provided an independent and supportive voice for the Forest Service missions, budget and policy recommendations, and field projects.

“Your work with local community partners to address the issues did and continues to have impact important to NAFSR and [the] many partners and coalitions we work with,” Darrel continued. “This is especially important on the wildfire disaster funding initiative e which has been introduced in this new congressional session.”

Noting that “incoming NAFSR Executive Director Corbin Newman is an outstanding leader who will need your support and volunteer efforts to carry on what NAFSR started some 14 years ago,” Darrel promised he will “continue to be an active NAFSR volunteer.”

NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** remarked that “Darrel’s leadership has moved NAFSR forward, building lasting relationships with our partners, and growing the organization both in stature and capacity to effect change. We will miss his energy and focus, and we thank him for his dedicated service to the Forest Service, the national forests, and to public land management.”

“I look forward to working with NAFSR to support the Forest Service, work on national natural resource policy, and most of all to serve my fellow retirees,” said Corbin, who completed his 38-year U.S. Forest Service career as regional forester for the Southwest Region.

OldSmokey Richard Stem Helped Guide Wyoming Governor’s Forest Task Force

OldSmokey **Richard Stem** of Alder, Montana, served on the steering committee of Wyoming Governor Matt Mead’s Task Force on Forests created in 2013 “to study the benefits forests provide, and analyze and consider new response strategies and recommendations for both active and passive management” in light of the “significant challenges” facing the state’s forests—most of which are on national forests and other federal lands.

According to the Task Force Final Report issued in January 2015, these challenges include: insects and disease; altered fire regimes and increased costs of fire suppression; fragmentation of forested landscapes; non-native invasive species; reduction in timber supply and tightening markets for forest products; and inefficiencies in forest permitting, planning, and project implementation.

As guided by the steering committee, the Task Force met on five occasions from December 2013 through June 2014. Each meeting spanned three days. Members “focused on three major themes: (1) fire and other disturbance, (2) forest management, and (3) economic opportunities and innovation. Within each major theme, Task Force members deliberated on a number of specific subtopics.” Members included representatives from state, local, and federal government, industry, conservation groups, and forest users. Their report presents 12 major recommendations with 53 sub-recommendations for Governor Mead’s consideration.

“The Task Force on Forests has worked hard and its proposals are realistic and measurable,” Governor Mead said on issuance of the Final Report. “I asked for a plan that fit Wyoming—the Task force got it right.”

The recommendations for proactively managing Wyoming’s forests in the face of these challenges are contained in the “Final Report of the Governor’s Task Force on Forests” available online at: http://www.uwyo.edu/haub/ruckelshaus-institute/_files/docs/forest%20task%20force%2-report_final.pdf.

Prepared from an Office of the Governor Press Release “Governor Supports Task Force Recommendations for Wyoming Forests” of January 12, 2015; “The Final Report on the Governor’s Task Force on Forests” of January 2015; and communications with Rich Stem.

OldSmokey Phil Aune Spoke at “Not Without a Fight” Conference in Wallace, Idaho, on September 24, 2014

OldSmokey **Phil Aune** was one of four featured speakers at the September 24, 2014, Not Without a Fight! Coalition conference in Wallace, Idaho. The goal of the NWAFF! Coalition’s conference was “to bring the voices of counties with national forests forcefully into the current national policy debate surrounding both the renewal of SRS [shorthand for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000] and the forging of a new and lasting compact between forested counties and the federal government.”

The Coalition’s new 30-minute educational video, *Counties in Crisis*, was screened, and a number of distinguished presenters spoke. Phil’s talk, “How We Got Here and How We Can Forge Change” followed the video and talks by Dr. Jamie Lewis of the Forest History Society on “‘The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number’: Re-examining the Forest Service’s Social Contract with Communities” and *Evergreen Magazine* publisher Jim Petersen’s exploration of “Equipping Grass Roots Groups With the Tools They Need to Forge Change” and preceded Ron Rozien’s examination of “Washington, D.C.’s Fiscal Relationship to the Federal Government: A Closer Look,” Julia Petersen’s “What’s in Our Toolkit? Building a Unified Strategy through Science, Collaboration, and Paradigm Shift” and Robert H. Nelson’s “The Ecosystem Management Disaster.”

Every presentation was followed by comment and discussion, and there were updates on related topics.

Phil's presentation in Wallace was basically the same as the one on the need for reforms in the U.S. Forest Service he presented to the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) annual meeting in Salt Lake City in October 1913. Both reflected the 37 years Phil served in the Forest Service—and his concern for the agency as well as the resources it manages and the citizens it serves—and his dozen years with forest products associations. Although there's not room to sufficiently summarize Phil's talk and those of his colleagues, they may be viewed online by Googling up the "Not Without a Fight!" blog at <https://countieswithnationalforests.wordpress.com/september-conference/>.

OldSmokey Heritage Book Sale Netted \$144.64 for PNWFSA Grant Fund

OldSmokey purchases of two U.S. Forest Service heritage books published by Wilderness Associates announced in the Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* as available for just \$10.00 per copy to be donated to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Grant Fund grossed \$170.00. After \$25.36 was deducted for postage, the sum of \$144.64 was donated to the fund.

OldSmokeys May Benefit from Reading Jim Petersen's *Evergreen Magazine*

OldSmokeys who want to keep abreast of what's going on in forestry—the policy issues and the people—can benefit from reading and supporting the Evergreen Foundation's online periodical *Evergreen Magazine*.

Jim Petersen, a University of Idaho forester, is president and co-founder of the non-profit Evergreen Foundation and publisher of *Evergreen Magazine*. Evergreen Foundation was established in Medford, Oregon, in 1986 to help advance public understanding of and support for science-based forestry and forest policy. And, ever since 1986, *Evergreen Magazine*—first as a hardcopy publication and more recently as an online publication, has been its voice.

Check out both the foundation and the publication online at www.evergreenmagazine.com to find out how it goes about that mission "by providing Americans with clear and concise facts and commentary" to "endorse long term, active forest management for healthy forests and productive communities." See how the foundation and the publication "advocate for science-based forestry and forest practices by engaging opinion leaders, decision-makers, community leaders and community members in the discussion and support of healthy, productive, and sustainable forests."

A fascinating example of the articles published regularly in *Evergreen Magazine* is U.S. Forest Service retiree Barry Wynsma's February 15, 2015, article "The Single Use Sustained Yield Act: A Thoughtful Proposal for Improving the Management of our National Forests" in which Barry asks the question "Is this a radical idea or just common sense?" and answers "Maybe the SUSY Act is a radical idea BECAUSE it's a common sense solution" and explains why.

OldSmokeys Facts 2015

By Bill Funk, Database Manager,
and Dick Bennett, Treasurer



Here's your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual membership statistical roundup going into 2015.

How Many. At the start of 2015, the membership of the PNWFSA stood at 951 which was a net increase of 27 members from the start of 2014. On the plus side, a whopping 56 new members signed up during 2014. This gain was offset by the deaths of 12 members and the loss of an additional 17 members for various reasons.

Age. Our average age is about 76 years, a slight increase from last year. This is in spite of the 2014 new members whose average age is about 61. There are at least 35 in our ranks who are 90 through 99 years old; and two who are 100 or older at 102 and 106.

Where. We are all over the United States. Most of us are in the Pacific Northwest: 588 in Oregon and 184 in Washington. There are 22 in Arizona, 21 in Idaho, 20 in Montana, and 16 in California. The balance is spread through 31 other states and the District of Columbia. There's only one in 11 of those 31 other states! We keep moving: there were 25 address changes recorded in 2014. As usual, there were so many e-mail address changes we lost count.

Dues Status. At the start of 2015, we had 552 lifetime members who have paid in \$55,433 over the years, and we had 399 members who pay their dues annually.

Donations. In 2014, the PNWFSA received a total of \$4,054 in donations—of which \$3,393 were for the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Relief Fund, \$185 were for the Grant Project Fund, and \$476 were donated for general use.

Finances. Our largest operating expense in 2014 was \$9,167 for the newsletter and directory. This is up from the past thanks to the number of new members. This would be much higher except for members electing to "go paperless" and receive the newsletter and directory online. The complete PNWFSA financial statement will be published in the Summer 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys Newsletter Needs OldSmokey News!



Talk about stating the obvious! What's equally obvious, unfortunately, is your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* doesn't get all the OldSmokey news it should to keep its readers up to date on all the good things OldSmokeys do on behalf of their professions, the Forest Service, the National Forest System, and the PNWFSA.

Please send in your OldSmokey News!

OldSmokeys Say

Riding for the Brand: The Code of the West and the Future of the U.S. Forest Service

By Les Joslin



*There's a sayin' in cattle country
--it's called "Ridin' for the Brand."
It's known by all cowpunchers
who are any kind of hand.
"Ridin' for the brand means loyalty
to the outfit where you work.
It means true dedication—
to a job you never shirk.*

*--American Cowboy
January-February 2003, page 81*

OldSmokeys know what it means to “ride for the brand.” That’s how the U.S. Forest Service works best.

Others know, too, because to “ride for the brand” is part of American history—at least part of the history of the American West which is replete with phrases that speak to the best men and women of the region.

“Riding for the brand,” in the words of western writer Louis L’Amour, was “an expression of loyalty to a man’s employer or the particular outfit he rode for. It was considered a compliment of the highest order in an almost feudal society. If a man did not like a ranch or the way they conducted their affairs he was free to quit, and many did, but if he stayed on, he gave loyalty and expected it.”

“Riding for the brand,” of course, was born of the cattle ranching business. The brand on a ranch’s cattle was and is a “ranch’s trademark and represents pride, duty, and stewardship while inspiring loyalty, dedication, and cowboy camaraderie,” according to the MontanaBunkhouses website. “When you rode for the brand, it meant that you had signed on for the mission, that you had committed, that you were a dedicated team player. If you weren’t then you had no business being on the team’s payroll,” as Nathan S. Collier put it on his NSC Blog.

The U.S. Forest Service has a brand: the Pine Tree Shield that OldSmokeys proudly wore during their careers and, along with other Forest Service retirees early in 2013, defiantly defended from being scrapped by their outfit’s parent Department of Agriculture. They were still riding for the brand!

“Riding for the brand” is part of “The Code of the West” that the state of Wyoming adopted as its official state code in 2010 and that retired financier Jim Owen outlined as 10 principles in his 2004 book *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn From the Code of the West*.

The Code of the West

*Live Each Day with Courage
Take Pride in Your Work
Always Finish What You Start
Do What Has to Be Done
Be Tough, Be Fair
When You Make a Promise, Keep It
Ride for the Brand
Talk Less and Say More
Remember That Some Things Are Not For Sale
Know Where to Draw the Line*

The Code of the West remains good medicine. Owen is focused on introducing the code to schoolchildren throughout the country, and the code is prominently featured in the atrium of the new University of Wyoming College of Business building.

That business school has also incorporated the Code of the West into several of its business ethics courses, Jeremy Pelzer reported in the March 7, 2010, *Casper Star Tribune*. “‘We use it as a framework to help our students think about how they would conduct themselves in the business world,’ said Brent Hathaway, dean of the UW College of Business. ‘It’s just become ingrained in our coursework and how we try to behave ourselves—it just made sense to kind of have that as an inspirational code that we want to live by.’”

The recent history of the U.S. Forest Service strongly suggests that a return to basic American precepts embodied “The Code of the West”—and to “Riding for the Brand” in particular—is absolutely essential to save the Forest Service as an agency and the National Forest System entrusted to it.

The Forest Service doesn’t need to “rebrand” itself to curry favor with the American people. It needs instead to “rebuild” itself into the “agency to match the mountains” comprising dedicated forest officers ready, willing, and able to “ride for the brand” that served the National Forest System and its citizen-owners so well during most of its first century of service.

Prepared using multiple sources including Jeremy Pelzer, “Riding for the brand: State lawmakers instill Code of the West,” in the March 7, 2010, Casper Star-Tribune; Nathan S. Collier, “Riding for the Brand,” in the March 8, 2010, NSC Blog; and Megan Jedlicka, Colorado State University Extension Agent, “Ride for the Brand,” in the November 2, 2013, Sterling Journal-Advocate.

Photograph by Les Joslin



An Agency to Match the Mountains

A revised proposal for a U.S. Forest Service Academy offering a mobile one-week Basic Forest Officer Course to inform and inspire new Forest Service personnel is a key component of rebuilding the agency and a concept endorsed by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees at its October 2014 annual meeting in Reno.

By Lyle Laverty, Rich Stem, Roger Deaver, and Les Joslin

A key to successful agencies and organizations is acculturation of new members in a way that imparts core knowledge and values, instills appreciation and understanding, and inspires esprit de corps at the outset.

While the U.S. Forest Service offers mid-career and senior-level management training as well as other specialty training to its personnel, it has no coherent and consistent program to meet this need of new personnel.

The authors have been seeking approval and sponsorship for development and implementation of a Basic Forest Officer Course to address this critical need.

This initiative—the Agency to Match the Mountains Initiative—was precipitated by a change in the Forest Service from an agency that once acculturated and mentored its new members at small field units to one in which many or most new members are assigned specialized jobs in larger and more urbanized units.

These new members, who arrive as mid-level and even senior-level transfers from other agencies, organizations, and the armed forces as well as recent college graduates at the entry-level—are often placed in their new jobs without orientation to the agency, its mission, its culture, and its purpose.

A three-month Basic Forest Officer Course to address this critical need at a proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy—outlined in the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) *The Lookout* and promulgated to WO, RO, and SO leadership nationwide—failed to gain traction in Washington, D.C. The proposed one-week course outlined in this article represents a much more affordable and doable approach to which leadership attention has again been invited.

Course objective

The objective of the Basic Forest Officer Course is nothing short of rebuilding the viability of the Forest Service by providing its new personnel the background and perspective essential to agency followers learning to lead effectively—a professional corps of line and staff officers and technicians with field savvy and agency panache who understand and practice the art and science of rangers, supported by rather than subservient to appropriate technologies; a corps that capitalizes on rather than squanders its proud heritage, and attracts rather than alienates those who would serve in it rather than just work for it; a corps worthy of the admiration and respect and support of the National Forest System citizen-owners who should be served and would be served by it.

Personnel completing this course would be oriented to the concept of service as forest officers first and specialists in one or more disciplines—in which they have academic degrees and/or significant experience and expertise—second. The course would inspire the will to develop the physical and practical and philosophical wherewithal of a corps of professional and technical members—not just employees, but members—who are the able and willing and dedicated forest officers the Forest Service needs to meet the myriad challenges of the future.

Course curriculum

The content of this intensive, academic and practical, personally presented, interactive course comprises five days of instructional and experiential components presented in a highly structured and reinforcing flow of sequential blocks by Forest Service professionals capable of and qualified to teach assigned topics and facilitate relevant discussion in an inspiring and informative manner for new members accompanied by the line officer(s) and supervisors(s) with whom they serve.

Monday

- **U.S. Forest Service Academy Welcome and Introductions.** Welcome to the Academy and the Basic Forest Officer Course; statement of course purpose; explanation of course objectives and procedures; introduction of course presenter(s); introductions of students; expectations of students (2 hours)
- **U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System I.** The legal basis, mission and mandates, and organization of the Forest Service; the administrative and resource geography of the Forest Service and the National Forest System; other natural resource agencies and their missions and organizations. (6 hours)

Tuesday

- **U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System II.** The culture and ideals of the Forest Service as reflected in history and literature based on the current edition of Harold K. Steen's *The U.S. Forest Service: A History* (read prior to course) and other historical and biographical texts and works of fiction. (5 hours)
- **U.S. Forest Service Leadership and Followership.** Exploration of the “Followership is as Important as Leadership” concept within the Forest Service; following leaders and leading followers; applicable interpersonal relationships and skills and practices; the differences between leadership (of people) and management (of other assets); purposeful leadership and self-actualization. (3 hours)

Wednesday

- **U.S. Forest Service Pride and Professionalism.** Serving as and leading others to serve as effective national forest and ranger district personnel in a manner that promotes pride and professionalism and results in positive presence and public perceptions; internalizing and imparting a Forest Service ethos and ethic; standards and ethics; agency aesthetics and image (including how to look like and act like a forest officer, the essence and essentiality of pres-

ence, national forests that look and feel like national forests; applicability of these concepts within the Forest Research and State and Private Forestry arenas. (4 hours)

- **U.S. Forest Service Administrative Management.** Human resources, fiscal resources, and administrative management systems and procedures. (4 hours)

Thursday

- **U.S. Forest Service Policies and Practices.** Statutory and regulatory prerogatives and policies and their implementation (“Forest Service law”). (3 hours)
- **U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs and Partnerships.** Public relations and communications; partnerships and collaboration; conflict resolution; public interaction to instill confidence in and a sense of relevance of the Forest Service. (2 hours)
- **U.S. Forest Service Basic Forest Officer Course Review.** Written and oral review and reinforcement of the essential elements of information and mastery of course objectives. (3 hours)

Friday

- **U.S. Forest Service Challenges Seminars.** Identification and examination of major challenges confronting the Forest Service in the accomplishment of its mission and purpose in the future. (5 hours)
Human Resources Policies and Practices—including Cultural Transformation;
Concessions and Contracting Policies and Practices—including Public Partnerships in Recreation Resource Management, Stewardship Contracting;
Collaborative Processes and Practices—How and why local residents, industry representatives, and environmentalists sit down with agency officials to develop and implement a shared vision of national forest stewardship;
Agency Organizational Behavior—including doing more with less, force multipliers;
Working with Unique Rural Cultures—ranching, logging, and tourism.
- **U.S. Forest Service Academy Basic Forest Officer Course Critique.** Written and oral evaluation of the course and recommendations for improvement. (1 hour)
- **U.S. Forest Service Academy Basic Forest Officer Course Graduation.** Course-closing instructor, senior officer, and student remarks followed by awarding of diplomas. (2 hours)

Course presenters

The presenter(s) would be current or retired Forest Service professionals assigned or re-employed to implement the program. They would be specifically selected, role model forest officers qualified to teach at the college level who have served successfully as a Forest Service line officer or field-oriented staff officer, who have proven ability to inspire and teach entry-level personnel, who have a proven ability to teach the full range of

courses prescribed by and pursuant to the approved national curriculum (proposed herein), and are able and willing and enthusiastic about spending extensive periods of time “on the road” and “in uniform” making this program happen.

Their course presentation would be supported by a specifically-developed, highly-portable, easy-to-use, technology package of supportive audio-visual modules that appropriately illustrate and make more vivid the content and concepts communicated to course participants. There are resources within the Forest Service fully capable of producing this technological support.

The U.S. Forest Service Academy

The proposed “U.S. Forest Service Academy” would be a “virtual institution” with a most efficient tooth-to-tail ratio that would help define Forest Service personnel development needs; develop course control documents, lesson plans, etc.; coordinate acquisition, production, maintenance, and revision of course presentation and support materials; recruit and prepare inspired and inspiring presenters; schedule and deploy course presentations; and otherwise ensure successful course implementation.

The current vision is for the Academy to comprise an operating staff of one course coordinator (also a qualified presenter) and two traveling presenters for each Forest Service region who, after development of the proposed Basic Forest Officer Course, would implement the course throughout the nation. This course would compliment—not conflict with—other existing programs such as the leadership courses offered to mid-level and senior-level personnel that are absolutely essential, appear to be excellent, and should be continued.

Whether such an Academy might eventually evolve into “the intellectual and cultural wellspring of the Forest Service” suggested in our January 15, 2014, white paper—published in the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees *The Lookout*—would remain for history to decide. The current proposal is an affordable and doable first step toward a brighter future for Forest Service personnel and accomplishment of the agency’s mission.



THE MISSION OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The mission of the Forest Service
is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity
of the Nation’s forests and grasslands
to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Caring for the land and serving people

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service News in this issue is presented in *National News* and *Pacific Northwest Regional News* sections.

National News

U.S. Forest Service Celebrated Fiftieth Anniversary of Wilderness Act in the 126th Rose Parade in Pasadena

The U.S. Forest Service entry in the 126th Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, on January 1, 2015, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the historic role of packers in supporting firefighters and wilderness management operations, and the contributions made by national forest volunteers.

The all-mule equestrian entry included Forest Service rangers in current and period uniforms with three pack strings—comprising working mules not long off last year’s firelines—expertly led by veteran Forest Service packers Michael Morse, Lee Roeser, and Ken Graves. Pasadena was a home of Forest Service packing. In 1897, some of the first forest rangers in California rode out of Pasadena into the then-San Gabriel Timberland Reserve.

Also in the Forest Service parade contingent were Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Randy Moore joined in a 19th century wagon by Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell, Smokey Bear, and Mike Heard, a national wilderness volunteer award winner from California’s Los Padres National Forest.

“The U.S. Forest Service is excited to be a part of the 2015 Tournament of Roses Parade,” said Regional Forester Moore. “Our entry is a chance to showcase our outstanding packers and wildland firefighters as well as honor the thousands of volunteers who help care for your national forests every day.”



Regional Forester Randy Moore and Chief Tom Tidwell joined Smokey Bear in a mule-drawn wagon in the Rose Parade.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service December 17, 2014, news release “U.S. Forest Service to ‘Keep it Wild’ with historic mule pack trains in January 1 Rose Parade” and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Made Headlines with “Rebranding” Contract Proposal

“Forest Service yanks plan to spend millions on public relations campaign to better its image” read the generic headline of Associated Press reporter Jeff Barnard’s article datelined January 6, 2015, and filed from Grants Pass, Oregon.

“Forest Service Yanks \$10 Million Contract to Boost Its Image” was the headline accorded Barnard’s story on ABC News’s online service that same day. His article was headlined “Forest Service yanks \$10M public relations contract” in Bend, Oregon’s, daily *The Bulletin* the next morning, and similarly headlined in newspapers around the nation.

“The U.S. Forest Service has abruptly decided not to spend \$10 million on a five-year nationwide public relations campaign to brand itself as a public agency that cares about people and nature,” Barnard’s lead sentence read under these headlines.

“The agency was planning on the campaign at a time when it’s struggling to pay for fighting wildfires, maintaining roads and trails and offering timber for sale. It has also faced major public backlash in the West over plans to close trails and roads to motorized vehicles due to a lack of money for maintenance, as well as to prevent erosion and protect fish and wildlife,” Barnard continued.

The Forest Service soon heard objections to this plan—many from OldSmokeys and other retirees—and responded.

“The Forest Service issued a statement Tuesday saying that it had not accepted any contract bids and would look for other ways to enhance the public’s access to national forests and understanding about what the agency does,” Barnard characterized that response. “The agency wouldn’t say why it withdrew the contract.”

OldSmokeys concerns expressed

Many of the concerns about this proposed contract Barnard cited came from OldSmokeys including **Al Matecko** and **Jim Golden** and other Forest Service retirees.

“Al Matecko, retired chief of public and legislative affairs for the northwest region and head of the Old Smokies (*sic*), which represents about 950 retirees, said he received 50 emails from members who were strongly opposed” Barnard reported. “He passed on those objections to Forest Service leaders, Matecko said. ‘Retirees were just amazed that at this time of shrinking budgets, the Forest Service could find \$10 million,’ he said.”

“Jim Golden, a retired deputy regional forester for the northwest region and chairman of the board of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, said he warned Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in an email on Saturday of the ‘growing firestorm’ among retirees unless the agency got out some information explaining the campaign,” Barnard reported. “But Tidwell never came through with a promised briefing paper, Golden said. ‘Our primary reaction was one of suspicion,’ he said. ‘Not many retirees believe the Forest Service needs a new brand. Most of us believe the simple (motto) ‘Caring for the land and serving the people’ is pretty effective.’”

Many others were offended that the Forest Service would turn to the Metropolitan Group of Portland, Oregon, previously awarded a no-bid contract “for a branding campaign titled ‘Valuing People and Place’” they figured was in line for what they saw as an expensive and unnecessary follow-on job. On its website, the Metropolitan Group characterizes itself as a “full-service social change agency that crafts and integrates creative services. We help our clients with strategic communication, multicultural engagement, organizational development and resource development to build a just and sustainable world.”

“Is this what has happened to the once proud outfit?” one exasperated retiree asked. “What a brilliant strategy! When you are not doing anything worthwhile in managing national forest resources, why not: (1) Obtain strategic organizational transformation, (2) Identify clarification and social purpose branding and branding management, and (3) Create multicultural engagement and outreach support services. And then, to help spend some of the \$10,000,000, make sure we have frequent monthly travel to Portland and go to Washington, D.C., at least every three months. More if needed. Also, it will be important to install a well-organized meta-structure with cultural diversity and a higher consciousness. We will need several directors, a plethora of assistant directors, a gob of deputy assistant directors, and one or two people to take notes.” There was more.

OldSmokeys concerns addressed

Noting that many Forest Service retirees had “read the news articles about the agency’s decision not to award a contract for outside expertise to help us strengthen our connection with communities and engagement with employees,” Chief Tidwell on January 26 forwarded a clarification message to Jim Golden requesting that he share it “with the retirees.”

“Several units, R-6, R-4, and the WO, have used outside expertise and found the results beneficial,” Chief Tidwell wrote. “So instead of having multiple contracts for unbiased independent feedback, we advertised for a national contract for 1 year, with an option to expand up to 5 years based on feedback from communities and employees.

“Contracted expertise allows us to receive unbiased feedback and use expertise that we don’t always have within the agency. It also allows us to limit work to one year and not make a long-term commitment.

“In contrast to published new reports that evoked images of PR campaigns and marketing—this work is simply about forging deeper, meaningful ties to citizens and communities we serve—ones who know us, others who don’t. We aspired to strengthen connections to communities, improve access to and delivery of services and to acknowledge a broader constituency that we will need to sustain healthy, resilient forests and grasslands. The contract would provide unbiased, objective expertise that would help us uncover additional things we can do to improve the public’s experience with the Forest Service. It is one step toward developing innovative strategies that will close the gap between public needs and the services we deliver.

“This effort is about strengthening our connection to communities and addressing employee concerns about the clarity of our mission, NOT about branding the Forest Service. It is about

building on the great work that is going on and finding ways to create more capacity through community support and partnerships. It is about why our work is important, why restoring ecological resiliency is essential, and how collaborative efforts help us address the diverse values of our communities.

“It is not about changing the core values of the agency, but it is about deepening our understanding of those values and valuing why our work is essential to this country.

“In short, this effort will provide additional insight so we can build on our good work so all citizens experience consistent, quality service and mission delivery from every corner of the Forest Service.

“I understand concerns with using our limited funding to contract for expertise to help us identify the actions we need to take, but when you consider the benefits, a one year contract, with options to extend, it is a worthy investment.

“We have already discovered the benefits of performing this work. Both forest resources and communities stand to gain. We witness ground level decisions that support community stability while accelerating ecological restoration; we record fewer objections of decisions; we see grassroots collaborative movements that transcend bitter court battles and polarization; we experience increased participation from diverse communities that share a stake in sustaining resilient forests; and we make better choices for the kinds of services we will deliver for the public.

“So we will continue to develop a path forward in advancing this work. Connecting land stewardship to community stability represents a core value for our agency that will help guide our actions. Although we will not be awarding a contract at this time, we are analyzing feedback from our leadership forum sessions and from our National Leadership Council to determine the next steps. We will continue this work to connect all Americans to the special places, products and services our nation’s forests and grasslands provide. Over the next few months we will be sharing the next steps and how you can help.”

OldSmokeys concerns remain

Retiree reactions to Chief Tidwell’s message of clarification reflect continued concerns.

Some wondered if the message was written by Chief Tidwell or drafted by someone else—certainly not an uncommon occurrence in the case of a government official supported by a large staff. Some speculated that whoever wrote the message “was clearly on the defensive and made extensive use of ‘feel good’ language” and may have been engaged in “a little face saving.”

One detected “the hand of the Metropolitan Group and whoever in the Forest Service worked with them in the past” in the Chief’s note, and suggested the possibility of “a ‘too close’ relationship between Metropolitan and Forest Service personnel.”

Another characterized the note as a “platitude-laden defense of the indefensible (probably drafted by someone with a personal or political stake in the outcome) that probably presages reissuing of the ‘cancelled’ RFP....”

Some seemed offended by an apparent lack of faith in Forest Service expertise. “If the Forest Service doesn’t know how the national forests should be managed per the Organic Act and

can't convey that to the public and gain their support, no one else can," was one expression of that sentiment. "Who else are the professional land managers? The Forest Service should be. Are they, and if so do they have the courage to implement their expertise?" was another.

"Where was an invitation to the National Association of Forest Service Retirees for input and involvement rather than contracting out?" reflected retirees' willingness to lend their expertise.

Some saw the phrase "at this time" in the final paragraph as presaging a "next step" involving "a rebranding and reissuing of the cancelled contract." The reference to "sharing the next steps and how you can help" in the final sentence was interpreted as reinforcing this impression as well as "throwing a carrot to retirees."

Many saw the project as symptomatic of poor leadership. "Leadership means taking the helm as the captain of the forestry ship in a heavy sea rather than giving it to a passenger and contracting for a survey," one wrote. Another observed that bureaucrats who don't know what to do contract their jobs out. "When a leader is clueless, they always go to contractors. Totally pathetic!" he wrote.

Another asked searching questions about this leadership issue. "If I were the Chief of Staff for the Chief, I would be telling him that the Forest Service has some real credibility and trust issues that need some serious shoring up," he wrote. "How are things like this branding issue, the Forest Service shield and other significant issues getting a foothold before the employees, previous leaders, retirees, Forest Service stakeholders, and the public have any idea about them? Why do we constantly see a pattern of somewhat secret and poorly thought out strategies, and why are we only learning about them through the back door?"

Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will strive to keep abreast of and keep you informed about this issue of obvious concern.

Prepared from multiple sources including Associated Press article of January 6, 2015 "Forest Service yanks plan to spend millions on public relations campaign to better its image" by Jeff Barnard published online and in newspapers around the nation under similar headlines; the Metropolitan Group website at <www.meigroup.com>; U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell's January 26, 2015, message to Jim Golden; and multiple e-mail communications among OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees.

Renovated Sidney R. Yates Building in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Forest Service's Modern New Digs "Aren't Gifford Pinchot's WO Anymore"

Many OldSmokeys who've done a tour or tours in the WO won't recognize the renovated interior of the historic Sidney R. Yates Federal Building just off the National Mall.

An outfit called "*Nextgov* stopped by to visit the new digs" recently and posted a photographic report online at <www.Nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2015/03/meet-agencies-touring-us-forest-services-modern-new-digs>. As long as the post lasts, you can take a look and see what this project hath wrought.

Prepared from "Meet the Agencies: Touring the US Forest Service's Modern New Digs" by Patrick Boynton posted March 11, 2015, on Nextgov website.

U.S. Forest Service Could Face Severe 2015 Wildfire Season Without Wildfire Disaster Funding Act Relief

As winter snows have failed in much of the already-dry West, members of Congress reintroduced legislation to change the way suppression of large wildfires is funded by the federal government.

With snowpacks in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges at less than 20 percent of average on March 15, Region 5 and Region 6 national forests and surrounding wildlands especially could face an early, long, and severe wildfire season.

A 2014 failure

Congress's ending its 2014 session without passing the proposed Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014 meant the U.S. Forest Service could face the 2015 wildfire season with the prospect of again having to "borrow" funds from other accounts to cover wildfire suppression costs that may exceed appropriated funds—unless Congress acts early and positively this spring.

The proposed Act received wide bipartisan support from over 100 congressional members and more than 250 organizations including state and federal agencies, local and tribal government, and private sector conservation, environmental, and other interests. As strong as that support was, it wasn't enough to push the proposed Act that would dramatically change the way the U.S. Government funds wildfire suppression through the 2014 congressional cycle.

A 2015 effort

All federal land managers who labor under the threat of fire borrowing—which disrupts other priority resource management projects—now pin their hopes on passage of the proposed Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2015.

Idaho Representative Mike Simpson and Oregon Representative Kurt Schrader on January 6, 2015, introduced H.R. 167, a bill that would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to require specified adjustments to discretionary spending limits in FY2015-FY2022 to accommodate appropriations for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior. This bill prescribes that, if either Agriculture or Interior were to determine that supplemental appropriations were necessary for wildfire suppression operations, the department would submit to Congress a request for the funding and a plan for obligating the funds. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry of the House Committee on Agriculture, Budget, and Natural Resources on January 26.

"H.R. 167 would budget for catastrophic wildfires in the same way as other natural disasters, like floods and hurricanes," Bill Gabbert put it in the Wildfire Today blog on January 15. "Under the bill, routine wildland firefighting costs, which make up about 70% of the cost of wildfire suppression, would be funded through the normal budgeting and appropriations process. The true emergency fire events, which represent about 1% of wildland fires but make up 30% of costs, would be treated

like similar major natural disasters and funded under existing disaster programs.

Both congressmen emphasized that fixing wildfire suppression funding in a way that ends “fire borrowing” from other agency accounts is the critical first step toward making forests healthier less susceptible to catastrophic wildfires in the future.

In the Senate, Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon on January 22, 2015, introduced a companion bill, S. 235, that was referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget that same day.

Prepared from multiple sources including “2014 Congressional Session Ends: No Wildfire Disaster Funding Act” posted December 13, 2014, on Calforests blog; “H.R. 167-Wildfire Disaster Funding Act” on Congress.Gov blog of January 6, 2015; “Legislation reintroduced to change the way wildfires are funded” by Bill Gabbert posted on the Wildfire Today blog on January 15, 2015; and “S.235-Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2015” on Congress.Gov blog of January 22, 2015 and March 2, 2015.

U.S. Forest Service Released Final Directives for Implementing the 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule

On January 30, 2015, the U.S. Forest Service released the final planning directives for implementing the 2012 planning rule for National Forest System land management that was published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2012, and became effective 30 days later on May 9, 2012. The Forest Service released proposed planning directives for public review and comment in February 2013. Comments received from the public on both the proposed planning directives and the 2012 planning rule played a critical role in helping the agency design an approach to planning that is adaptive and effective.

The final planning directives, effective since January 30, 2015, are now available. These directives are the key set of agency guidance documents that direct implementation of the 2012 planning rule. The agency’s goal is to ensure an adaptive land management planning process that is inclusive, efficient, collaborative and science-based to promote healthy, resilient, diverse and productive national forests and grasslands. The final directives, the Forest Service says, will support consistent approaches to achieving the broad goals of the 2012 planning rule.

Background

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 requires every national forest or grassland managed by the Forest Service to develop and maintain an effective Land Management Plan (also known as a *Forest Plan*). The process for the development and revision of plans, along with the required content of the plans, is outlined in planning regulations, often referred to as the *planning rule*. The 2012 rule is the current rule. Managers of individual national forests and grasslands follow the direction of the planning rule to develop a land management plan specific to their unit.

For more information see the Forest Service’s “The Forest Planning Rule” webpage at <www.fs.usda.gov/main/planningrule/home>.

Prepared from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service “The Forest Planning Rule” webpage at <www.fs.usda.gov/main/planningrule/home>.

U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) Lacks a Forest Service Retiree

When, on August 14, 2014, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the selection of 21 new members to the Federal Advisory Committee (FACA), no member of the community of professional U.S. Forest Service retirees was included.

“Members of the Planning Rule Advisory Committee help us strengthen ecological, social, economic and cultural sustainability objectives,” said Secretary Vilsack. “The rule will allow creation of management plans that will protect and restore National Forest System lands in order to sustain communities and protect natural resources.”

Advisory committee members selected included one or more representatives American Indian tribes; commercial or recreational hunting and fishing; conservation organizations or watershed organizations; county or local elected officials; developed outdoor or commercial recreation; dispersed recreation; energy and mineral development; national, regional or local organizations; private landowners and grazing; the scientific community; state-elected officials; the timber industry; the public at large, and youth. But, although the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) submitted a nomination for FACA membership, no Forest Service retiree was included.

“It would seem most appropriate that at least one retiree should have been [included] to collaborate with FACA members,” observed former regional forester and OldSmokey **Zane Smith** recently. “After all, they could provide some firsthand experience with old rules and the process itself. I can understand why [there might be fear of] the ‘we did it this way,’ but [a NAFSR member] would have provided an element that was not represented.”

Prepared from multiple sources including “USDA Announces Selection of Advisory Committee Members to Help Guide Management of Public Forests and Grasslands” posted on August 12, 2014, on Western Landowners Alliance website.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Told Congress Plans Forest Service Reform Legislation

Senator Lisa Murkowski (Republican-Alaska), chair of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, took U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell to task for National Forest System management during the February 26, 2015, hearing on the President’s fiscal year (FY) 2016 proposed budget for the agency.

“I think the Forest Service has broken the federal government’s promise to actively manage our national forests,” Senator Murkowski told Chief Tidwell. She added that the committee plans to work on legislation to reform the Forest Service. A main complaint noted that the proposed budget would increase funding for recreational programs at the expense of resource development. She said administration policies are restricting access to national forest lands on the grounds the Forest Service needs to protect the wilderness character of some areas.

Budget request and focus areas

According to Chief Tidwell's statement, "The President's proposed overall budget for discretionary funding for the Forest Service in FY 2016 is \$4.9 billion. That is \$130 million less than the FY 2015 enacted level, but it reflects strategic investments to increase forest restoration and reduce wildfire threats to communities. This Budget focuses on five key areas: restoring resilient landscapes, building thriving communities, managing wildland fires, promoting safety, and building diversity and inclusiveness." Senator Murkowski apparently did not see her committees' priorities within those stated priorities.

"I am confident that this budget, paired with the passage of a wildland fire suppression budget cap adjustment, will allow the Forest Service to meet the increasingly complex challenges of natural resource management while fostering efficiency and demonstrating cost-effective spending," the Chief's statement said.

Prepared from "Statement of Tom Tidwell, Chief of the USDA Forest Service Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Concerning President's Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget for the USDA Forest Service, February 26, 2015," and "Senator slams management of U.S. Forest Service system" posted on February 29, 2015, on examiner.com.

U.S. Forest Service Personnel Barred From "Recreational" Use of Marijuana By Federal Law and USDA Policy

Despite any recent or future changes in state law in Oregon and Washington that provide for personal, recreational use of marijuana, such use of marijuana by U.S. Forest Service personnel remains illegal under Federal law.

That law is the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, implemented by the Federal government as an employer by the Federal Drug Free Workplace Program (FDWP) that requires Federal employees to remain drug free and refrain from illegal drug use on and off duty and provides for drug testing for certain positions.

In a September 4, 2014, memorandum, the WO reminded all Forest Service personnel that "State laws which allow the use of marijuana for recreational purposes have no bearing on Federal laws governing the DFWP and its applicable rules and regulations. Accordingly, Forest Service employees will continue to be tested for marijuana. Positive drug test results will subject employees to the standards outlined in the USDA Table of Penalties."

In addition to quoting the law, regulations, and policies, a Region 6 law enforcement official shared these thoughts: "We make a choice when we choose to work for the Forest Service. At the end of the day, regardless of what you think about the use of marijuana or alcohol, we should not subject co-workers to unwanted behavior which is inappropriate or illegal. It's simply unfair. We all have a civil right to be confident that the employee [one] is working shoulder-to-shoulder with is...sober and drug free. We owe that to each other. Our choices directly affect each other's safety. Let's make good choices."

Prepared from multiple sources including a May 29, 2014, Memorandum "USDA's Drug Free Workplace Program and "Recreational" Marijuana"

signed by William P. Milton, Jr., Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of Human Resources Management, U.S. Department of Agriculture; a September 4, 2014, Memorandum "Forest Service Drug Free Workplace Program and Recreational Marijuana Drug Use" signed by Angela V. Coleman for J. Lenise Lago, Deputy Chief for Business Operations, WO; a December 19, 2014, Memorandum "Use of Marijuana Still Prohibited for Federal Employees" signed by Jerry Ingersoll, Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest; and a December 8, 2014, E-mail "Oregon Measure 91" from Gregory Moore, Patrol Captain, Central Coast Oregon Zone, Siuslaw National Forest.



The official U.S. Forest Service signature block required of all Forest Service personnel as of January 31, 2015.

U.S. Forest Service Implemented Standard E-mail Signature Block on January 31, 2015

The U.S. Forest Service required all its personnel to convert their official e-mail signature blocks to the standard format illustrated above by January 31, 2015.

"Recently, the Chief sent a letter to all employees about the new standard Forest Service e-mail signature block and its importance in helping to improve our email communications and agency identification," a January 27, 2015 "All Forest Service" e-mail from the Office of the Deputy Chief for Business Operations reminded Forest Service personnel. "Specifically, he highlighted how email directly and most visibly reflects the Forest Service identity, purpose, and values of who we are as individuals and as an organization. Given the power of email as a communication tool, we want to ensure that all Forest Service personnel begin using the standard email signature by no later than January 31, 2015," the e-mail said.

The e-mail asked all personnel who had not yet set up their e-mail signature to "please visit the FS Email Signature Block webpage" with which they were "required to create their email signature block by January 31, 2015."

"If you were an early adopter of the email signature, please ensure you're using the final version which is on the web page," the e-mail concluded.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Office of the Deputy Chief for Business Operations e-mail "Reminder: Standard Email Signature Block—All Employee (sic) Required to Create by January 31, 2015" of January 27, 2015.

Regional News

U.S. Forest Service Region 6 Changed Seasonal Hiring Process for 2015

Here's an update of the seasonal hiring process change for this year reported in the Winter 2015 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

The Pacific Northwest Region implemented a new centralized hiring process for temporary or seasonal jobs—including fire-fighter jobs—on national forests throughout Oregon and Washington for this year.

The process is supposed to allow the Forest Service to expedite the review and selection of thousands for Region 6 positions to be filled this summer. The three-phase application process permitted applicants for any temporary or seasonal job only one week in which to submit an application.

Applications for all fire-related jobs had to be submitted between January 6 and 12. Any other temporary positions that required hiring before May 3 were included in this first phase.

Applications for any non-fire related temporary jobs had to be submitted during the second February 4 and 10 phase.

A third phase is a “catch all” period during which any positions not filled during the first two phases were to be filled.

All the temporary fire-related jobs and other summer jobs to be filled this summer were posted on the Forest Service Albuquerque Service Center (ASC) website (<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/Outreach>).

“The phased approach this year will improve efficiencies in the review and selection process for thousands of temporary positions throughout Oregon and Washington this year,” Colville National Forest Administrative Officer Jennifer Knutson was quoted by the *The Spokesman-Review*.

February and March implementation

“Consolidated temporary hiring in Region 6 is in full swing,” the Regional Office in Portland reported on February 2. “Thanks to the swell of unit support, we are on track to expedite the review and selection process for hundreds of temporary positions anticipated to be filled Region-wide for all resource areas (e.g., fire, recreation, lands and minerals, archaeology, timber, wildlife, fisheries, engineering and more). Our first regional, grouped temporary hiring vacancy announcements closed January 12. Human Resources Management personnel have been working hard prequalifying candidates and issuing certificate lists to temporary hiring team members.”

During the week of February 2 to 6, “Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from around the region” gathered in Eugene, Oregon, were reported “working diligently to complete reference checks and review candidates’ applications for the first phase of temporary hiring. Candidates with ‘preference-eligibility’ i.e. Veteran’s status” (*sic*) were to “be offered positions throughout the week. SMEs and Hiring Managers [worked] together to select, approve and offer preference eligible candidates and position within Region 6.”

During the week of February 9 to 13, “The emphasis [was] on recommendations and selections. SMEs [continued] to review applications and conduct reference checks as needed.

SMEs/recommending officials [coordinated] recommendations and selections for specific positions and duty locations. Units [sent] individuals to serve as the Approving Official for hiring decisions.”

Another two-week cycle for hiring “for all temporary positions requiring onboarding on or after May 3rd, 2015” was scheduled for March. “SME week for [this phase was] March 9 -13 and selections week [was] March 16-20. SMEs for this phase had ‘to commit for the entire two week timeframe.”

Prepared from multiple sources including a Spokesman-Review article “Time to apply for Forest Service seasonal jobs” posted on December 8, 2014; a Wenatchee World article “Forest Service changes seasonal hiring process” posted on December 16, 2014; and an “R6 Temporary Employment Hiring Update” of February 2, 2015.

U.S. Forest Service Partners in Annual and Five-Day Multi-Agency Oregon Pacific Coast Passport Program

The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation jointly offer a multi-agency Oregon Pacific Coast Passport that covers visitor entry to, vehicle parking at, and day use fees for 17 federal and state fee sites along the Oregon Coast.

An annual Oregon Pacific Coast Passport costs \$35.00 and is valid for a full year from the date of purchase. A five-day version of the passport is available for \$10.00. Revenues from passport sales are retained locally to help operate, maintain, and enhance recreation facilities and services managed by the four participating agencies.

Visitors to these sites who already possess valid federal recreation passes already have paid for access to federal fee areas such as the Fort Clatsop National Memorial near Astoria operated by the National Park Service, the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and the Marys Peak Recreation Area managed by the Forest Service, and the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

For holders of a valid federal recreation pass, purchase of the multi-agency Oregon Pacific Coast Passport provides additional day use access only to the several Oregon Coast state parks including Fort Stevens, Ecola, Nehalem Bay, Cape Lookout, Honeyman, and Shore Acres state parks and Fogarty Creek State Recreation Area.

Federal recreation pass holders who do not possess the federal-state Oregon Pacific Coast Passport pay the day-use and parking fees at Oregon Coast state park sites.

Visitors to the Oregon Coast should plan ahead to ensure they have or obtain the recreation pass or passes required for the sites they visit.

Prepared from multiple sources including the Oregon Pacific Coast Passport web site; the Siuslaw National Forest News Release “Oregon Pacific Coast Annual Passport Holiday Discount” of November 17, 2014; and the editor’s November 18, 2014, e-mail communications with Stefanie Gatchell, Acting Public Affairs Officer, Siuslaw National Forest.

Editor’s Note: Additional news stories for which there was no space in this issue will be published in you Summer 2015 OldSmokeys Newsletter if they remain current and of interest.

Feature

Along the Pacific Northwest Trail...

The Decline of the U.S. Forest Service is Evident

By Jon Stewart



Forty-seven days tracing the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail from Glacier National Park to the crest of the North Cascades during the summer of 2014 showed the proud little pine tree on the U.S. Forest Service shield suffering from a severe case of root rot. The agency that pine tree symbolizes still stands, but its needles are getting thin, its trunk is suffering from heart rot, and its roots are rotting away. Unless something drastic is done soon, the agency will not survive much longer. The next big windstorm—or controversy—could knock it to the ground and it will be history.

This metaphor came to me after hiking 750 miles of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) just south of the Canadian border from the heart of Glacier National Park westerly across the Flathead, Kootenai, Kaniksu, Colville, and Okanogan national forests of Montana, Idaho, and Washington to the crest of the Cascade Range. What I saw was an agency not only walking away from the land (the title of my latest book), but seemingly avoiding driving to it. Trapped in their offices, today's top heavy workforce is abandoning the critical infrastructure that took millions of man hours of sweat over a century to build.

This infrastructure includes the trails and roads designed and built to access our national forests and national parks. Built to help prevent and suppress wildfires, control insects and diseases, and access abundant natural resources, they also offered recreational opportunities to a public once enamored of Smokey Bear. But now, Smokey is deskbound, and the only bears they see when they *can* access our national forests are real ones.

The Cause

Over the past decade, the number of Forest Service personnel has declined by about a quarter, from about 31,500 in 2004 to about 24,750 in 2013. From what I saw, this reduction seems to have left more and more folks locked in their offices behind computer screens and fewer and fewer folks working in the field maintaining roads, trails, and recreation sites. As a result, access to public lands by road or trail is rapidly eroding away, blocked by gullies and blow down and overgrown by brush.

Over the past quarter century, the Forest Service has been decommissioning roads to help prevent erosion, restore wildlife, and reduce maintenance costs. Today's workforce is so busy fighting wildfires it's forgetting how to do the simple things such as cleaning culverts and clearing blow down on the remaining access roads critical to access those fires. The photo (at right) of a washout on a Colville National Forest major arterial road, one of dozens I snapped along the PNT in 2014, shows what I mean.

I spent much of my Forest Service career helping build portions of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) while restoring hiking trails on the old Columbia River Gorge Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Many of these were proudly built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, but quickly abandoned during World War II thanks to lack of manpower and funds. Now, thanks to the Great Recession and our increasingly computer-obsessed culture, such trails are being lost again.

The Effect

The PNT, stretching about 1,200 miles from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean, was sketched out by Ron Strickland over four decades ago. He used maps of pre-existing roads and trails with a few significant cross-country gaps in western Montana and the Idaho Panhandle. It was officially designated a national scenic trail in 2009, and is being keenly marked and marketed with attractive new signs installed at roadheads and trailheads. But the PNT will not be finished in my lifetime, if ever, and likely will become increasingly difficult if not impossible to hike.

This is because of a largely non-existent field workforce. The only Forest Service paid personnel I saw on my entire 750-mile hike were in the towns and visitor centers along the way. In the field, hard working foresters have been replaced by bored U.S. Border Patrol personnel. Our effort to protect our nation from terrorism is clearly bringing well-paying jobs to local border communities while providing them a much appreciated supplementary police force. In Northport, Washington, for example, a border patrolman I was talking with was called upon to intervene in a local domestic dispute. The Border Patrol now appears to be the only federal presence on the eroding Forest Service roads tracing our side of the U.S.-Canada border.

It was only in September, after hiking 730 miles and in the final days of my hike, that I finally met a uniformed Forest Service representative in the field, and he was a volunteer. Robert Stillquest, a National Park Service retiree from Olympic National Park, was volunteering in the Pasayten Wilderness on a two-week backcountry patrol of trails he and his recently-deceased wife had maintained in their youths. He, like me, was dismayed at the deteriorating condition of the trails, but pointed



out that northeastern Washington had suffered an unusually severe fire season. The few trail crews left on the forest were dealing with the aftermath of the fires.

It is clear that wildfires are having a major impact on the land. The choked PNT climbs and descends like a rugged rollercoaster as it crosses the Whitefish Divide, the Purcell Mountains, the Selkirk Crest, and the Kettle Crest. Recent burns atop these ranges clearly challenge ever smaller—and on some ranger districts—non-existent trail crews to clear them. Our national forests and other public lands are changing dramatically and quickly, but the Forest Service and other agencies seem to lack the field workforce to deal with them.

I had hiked the crest of the Cascades on the PCT through the Pasayten Wilderness a decade ago. Since then, well over half has been burned by very hot and destructive fires. Now snags from these fires are falling across these trails and dense brush is hiding the tread. And, unlike the Park Service, the Forest Service still lives in the dark ages by not using chainsaws to more efficiently clear wilderness trails.

Not only are we not using our private infrastructure to proactively thin and restore our national forests, we are abandoning the very trails and roads that provide protective emergency access to them. Perhaps we can still access remote wildfires with smokejumpers and extract them with helicopters where trails and roads are increasingly blocked by blowdown and washouts, but that's a very expensive way to fight wildfires.

The Cure

The Forest Service needs to get its shrinking workforce out from behind their computer screens and into the field. If this means fewer office-bound chiefs and more field-bound Indians, so be it. The agency's workforce needs to be seen by its public outside, in uniform, and doing real work on national forest resources and facilities while being available to assist that public.

The Forest Service used to be one of the best places to work in the federal government. Now it's ranked 237 of 315 federal agencies surveyed in 2014. Worse, its leadership ranked at 292 of 314. Its recent attempt to spend \$10 million on a private advertising agency to rebrand the agency is like pasting needles on a dying tree. The heart rot eating away on the pine tree on the Forest Service badge needs to be stopped.

After hiking some ten thousand miles of backcountry trails during the past decade, it's easy to see the problems. After clambering over logs and through brush blocking trails once highlights of a proud infrastructure, I truly believe one simple solution Forest Service leaders could take would be to actively embrace the agency's heritage and restore its pride. This means embracing the proposed Agency to Match the Mountains initiative to actively repurpose and reposition its rejuvenated personnel in the field. Perhaps, by so doing, the agency could restore health to the dying pine tree emblazoned on its badge.



Volunteer Stillquest

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

- Allen, Jerry G.** – Deceased February 24, 2015; Ruby survives
- Anderson, Christine C. & Wayne** – Change address:
17934 Bierstadt Mt, Helotes, TX 78023
Telephone: 360-359-7216 (Chris cell), 360-789-9290 (Wayne) E-mail: andersonandassoc@comcast.net
- Bartholomew, Bob & Pat** – New members:
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Telephone and E-mail: to be obtained
- Buckingham, George T. & Karen** – Change e-mail:
gtb.buck@gmail.com
- Carillo, Carlos F. & Beverly A.** – New members:
3405 Cathern Dr, Hood River, OR 97031
Telephone: 541-354-1304
- Conroy, Scott D. & Lorna B.** – New members:
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Telephone: 541-973-7232 E-mail: scottconroy@charter.net
- Coonce, Lee** -- Correct address: 427 N University Dr, Apt 214, Waukesha, WI 53188
- Dearsly, Dick & Marlyn** – New members:
15110 Cedar Grove NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Telephone and E-mail: to be obtained
- Donham, Kevin & Christy** – New members:
2666 NE Tennessee Ln, Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone: 541-233-3105 E-mail: kdonham63@gmail.com
- Doyle, Donald H.** – Deceased January 10, 2015;
Mary Ann survives
- Evans, Robert E.** – Change telephone: 541-639-7869
- Franz, Connie B. & Jerry** – Change e-mail:
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- Gant, Del** – Deceased February 3, 2015
- Graham, Donald P.** – Change address:
9610 NE 144 Ct, Vancouver, WA 98682
- Hadfield, Jim S. & Nita M.** – New members:
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- Higgins, Mary Jo** – Correct summer address:
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- Johnson, Kim M.** – New member: P.O. Box 1787, McCall, ID 83638
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E-mail: Johnson.kim2014@gmail.com
- Juhl, Carl** – Change e-mail: TCJuhl@centurylink.net
- Kahre, Russel H.** – Deceased February 7, 2015
- Kimbell, Abigail & Ed Stryker** – Change e-mail:
arkimbell@gmail.com
- Kiser, Stan R. & Charlotte J.** – New members:
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Changes continue on next page

- Lanigan, Steve & Alison** – New members:
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Telephone: 503-284-0867 E-mail: lanoman@mac.com
- Linson, Gloria** – Deceased.
- List, James R.** – Deceased December 17, 2014; Patricia Ann survives
- Marker, John F.** – Deceased January 15, 2015; Mary survives
- Marker, Mary** – Change e-mail: Mcm570@aol.com
- Marshall, Marti M. & Don B.** – New members:
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- McDonald, Barbara** – Deceased February 17, 2015
- Mulder, Thomas “Tom” D. & Kathy A.** – New members:
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- Oswald, Daniel D. & Winky** – New members:
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- Pedersen, Richard** – New member:
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- Polzin, Jerald & Gloria F.** – New members:
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New Members Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Bob & Pat Bartholomew of Ellensburg, Washington, joined recently. *No further information available at press time.*

Carlos F. & Beverly A. Carillo of Hood River, Oregon, joined January 27, 2015. Carlos retired from the U.S. Forest Service in January 2000 as district ranger on the Butte Falls Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest after 34 years of federal service, 31 of those years in the Forest Service in Region 6 and the rest in the U.S. Navy. During his career, Carlos worked as a presale forester, timber manager, and silviculturist, along with logging systems and, of course, firefighting. In retirement, Carlos enjoys garden railroading, collecting Roseville pottery, and volunteering at the Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 2150.

Scott D. & Lorna B. Conroy of Medford, Oregon, joined as lifetime members on January 8, 2015. Scott retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 2011, as forest supervisor of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest after 35 years of federal service, nine of those years in Region 6. “I started as a seasonal in 1975 with the Intermountain Research Station in Moscow, Idaho, and continued seasonally on the TSI, marking, and inventory crews with the Clearwater National Forest,” Scott writes. “My first permanent assignment was as a forester on the Plumas National Forest, followed by range conservationist on the Toiyabe National Forest, WO National Rangeland Management Specialist, Modoc National Forest supervisor, Roadless Area Conservation Project Director, Staff Assistant for the Programs and Legislation Deputy Chief, and finally the Rogue River-Siskiyou forest supervisor.” Scott and Lorna enjoy travel and outdoor activities including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, scuba diving, and riding their Harley-Davidson.

Dick & Marlyn Dearsly of Paulsbo, Washington, joined recently. *No further information was available at press time.*

Kevin & Christy Donham of Prineville, Oregon, joined January 21, 2015. Kevin retired from the U.S. Forest Service on June 30, 2014, as fire staff officer on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest after 30 years in the Forest Service in Region 6. Kevin’s wildland fire career began in 1981 with the Oregon Department of Forestry. In 1983 he joined the Forest Service on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland, then transferred to the Prineville Ranger District in 1987. Promoted in 2001 to the Prairie Division fire management officer position within the Forest Service-BLM Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS), he served in that capacity until he transferred to the Rogue River-Siskiyou in January 2011. “I served eight years as a Division Supervisor and Operations Section chief (OPSC) on the Central Oregon Incident Management Team and from 1999...on the Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 3 as a Branch Director and OPSC,” Kevin fleshed out his experience. “I had the opportunity to work at the Northwest Multi-Agency coordination Center in Portland as OPSC and to detail as a Program Specialist, OPSC

An Item of Interest... is this red and



black forest fire prevention “sticker” from OldSmokey Dave Govatsky issued by the U.S. Forest Service probably during the 1930s.

Such items remind us that we were in the wildfire prevention business long before our namesake Smokey Bear made the scene.

Type 1, for the Pacific Northwest National Incident Management Organization Team (NIMO).” In retirement, Kevin works the PatRick Corporation in Redmond, Oregon, where he’s helping the business with training and leadership, and learning what it takes to be successful in private industry.” Otherwise, “I share my life with my wife Christy, daughter Bailey, and dog Ize. I’m really enjoying spending more time with my family, working around the house, cutting firewood, golfing, snowmobiling, and restoring my 1971 Mach 1 Mustang.”

Jim S. & Nita M. Hadfield of East Wenatchee, Washington, joined February 20, 2015. Jim retired from the U.S. Forest Service as forest pathologist on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest after 47 years in the Forest Service, 41 of those years in Region 6 and six of them elsewhere. In retirement, Jim presents occasional lectures on forest diseases of the Northwest.

Kim M. Johnson of McCall, Idaho, joined January 3, 2015, one day after retiring from the U.S. Forest Service as forest silviculturist on the Payette National Forest after 35 years of service, 15 of those in Region 6. “I spent my entire career in vegetation management,” Kim wrote. “I started out marking timber; was a contract officer’s representative for reforestation, TSI, and stand exam contracts; was an IDT leader; became a certified silviculturist in 1993 and maintained this throughout my career; and worked on many large and small projects doing the vegetation planning and prescriptions. As a forest silviculturist in my last position, I was responsible for program oversight, managing several budget line items, providing support to the Payette’s Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project, and dealing with many other miscellaneous things. In retirement, I plan to do some quilting, get back into photography, hike, bike, ski, travel, and do some volunteer work and whatever else strikes my fancy. McCall is a great place to live.”

Stan R. & Charlotte J. Kiser of Goldendale, Washington, joined January 2, 2015. Both are U.S. Forest Service retirees! Stan retired in May 2001 after 33 years of federal service, 30 of those in the Forest Service and 27 of in Region 6, the other three with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Char retired from the Forest Service in 2005. “I started out on the Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, as a temporary in 1966,” Stan wrote. “I worked seasonally, graduated from Mt. Hood Community College in forestry technology, and received a WAE appointment. I transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to become part of the new ranger program, but transferred back to the Forest Service on the Barlow Ranger District. In 1977, I became river ranger on the newly-created Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. I completed Level IV law enforcement training and in 1984 transferred to the Gold Beach Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, as river ranger/law enforcement officer. In 1990, I transferred back to the Mt. Hood National Forest as East Side zone law enforcement officer where I retired.” Stan’s wife Char also served in and retired from the Forest Service. “She started on the Wenatchee National Forest in timber, went to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in fire and timber, and completed her career on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area as a realty specialist.” Char and Stan enjoy being retired. “We have a small jet boat and

camp trailer. Char and I like to travel some, especially to Idaho. We enjoy visiting with friends, often reliving ‘The Good Old Days!’”

Editor’s Note: Stan wrote the fine appreciation of Art Seamans on pages 21 and 22 of the Fall 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Steve & Alison Lanigan of Portland, Oregon, joined February 5, 2015. Steve retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 31, 2014, in the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program at the RO in Portland after 33 years of federal service, 26 of those years in the Forest Service and 24 of those in Region 6; he served in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1982 to 1989. While with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Steve worked on the fisheries inventory and management plan for Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, as Alaska Peninsula refuge system fish biologist, and as assistant project leader of the Colorado Fisheries Research Project. In the Forest Service, he was Nez Perce National Forest fish biologist and Gifford Pinchot National Forest fish program manager before his final position in the RO. Serving as president of the PTA at his kids’ school, which he calls “just about a full time job” along with “fishing and rafting trips, family camping trips, ping-pong lessons and tournaments, watching bad movies, and genealogy research” have kept him busy since retirement.

Marti M. & Don B. Marshall of Portland, Oregon, joined January 27, 2015. Marti retired from the U.S. Forest Service as district ranger on the Juneau Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, in January 2013, after 35 years. “I worked throughout my career in recreation, wilderness, trails, and recreation special uses at various levels in the Forest Service—ranger districts, forest supervisor’s office, and regional offices,” Marti writes. “[I served in] program leader positions in Alaska for wilderness, recreation special uses, tourism, trails, [and] was assistant director for those programs in Region 6. My final position (and the hardest) was Juneau district ranger (the largest ranger district in the nation on the largest national forest!).” She enjoys retirement, “exercising more, traveling more, socializing more, and we just finished remodeling our kitchen. So, hopefully cooking more, and that leads us back to socializing more!”

Thomas D. “Tom” & Kathy A. Mulder of Brush Prairie, Washington, joined as lifetime members on January 6, 2015. Tom retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 2, 2015, as monument manager/district ranger of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument after 34 years of federal service, 32 of those in the Forest Service and 30 of those in Region 6. He also spent a year with the Bureau of Land Management and another year with MMS (?). During those Forest Service years, Tom served with the Youth Conservation Corps in environmental education on the Chequamegon National Forest in Wisconsin; as a Young Adults Conservation Corps camp manager, forestry technician, and management analyst on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska; as district administrative officer on the Wind River Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest; as budget and finance officer on the Umatilla National Forest; as financial manager on the Mt. Hood National Forest; as administrative officer on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; and as acting forest supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest in

New Mexico before his final assignment at Mount St. Helens. Now he and Kathy look forward to “more outdoor time, lots more exercise, more gardening, more hiking, more time with family” and have “places to go, things to do!”

Daniel D. & Winky Oswald of Portland, Oregon, joined on January 29, 2015. Dan retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 1, 1995, after 36 years of federal service, 33 in the Forest Service of which 25 were with the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the rest with the Pacific Southwest Research Station, and three in the U.S. Navy. “My entire career was in Forest Service Research,” Dan wrote. “I was a research forester with Forest Inventory at the Pacific Southwest Research Station for eight years. From 1992 to 1995, I was a research forester, research project leader, and finally program manager with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Project/Program at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. As a long-retired person, I do pretty much whatever I want to do. We have a place in Central Oregon, spend some time there fishing, skiing, hiking, bike riding, boating, fishing, relaxing. We travel some, to see our son’s family in the Washington, D.C., are and most recently to New Zealand and Ireland.

Richard Pedersen of Richland, Oregon, joined in mid-February, 2015. Richard retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1996 as Region 6 wildlife/silviculturist program manager in the RO in Portland after 33 years of service. Richard started in the Forest Service in 1963 working with legendary district ranger Henry “Hank” Tonseth on the Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest; two years later he moved to the SO as forest biologist working for Milt Griffith. In 1966, he transferred to the Wenatchee National Forest where he worked with Archie Mills, and in 1969 moved on to the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station facility in La Grande, Oregon, to work on an elk study with Jack Ward Thomas completed in 1979. Richard then moved south to Region 5 as forest biologist on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and in 1981 transferred back to the Region 6 RO job with Leon Murphy and then Hugh Black from which he retired. His duties on that job included big game, vertebrate pest control, threatened and endangered species, and logging safety.

Jerald & Gloria F. Polzin of Estacada, Oregon, joined on November 20, 2014. Jerry retired from the U.S. Forest Service on July 10, 2014, after 36 years of federal service, 33 of those years in the Forest Service, 30 of those years in Region 6, and the other three years served in the National Park Service and the U.S. Naval Reserve. On the Estacada Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest—his last duty station, Jerald was “primarily involved in all phases of timber prep, with some heritage resources and some forest restoration” work. In retirement, he and Gloria plan to “travel, travel, travel!”

Vivian S. & Doug Ridley of Bend, Oregon, joined on January 20, 2015. Vivian retired from the RO in Portland after 29 years of federal service, six of those years in the U.S. Forest Service and the last two in Region 6.

New Members continues on Page 29

Memories Compiled by Ray Steiger with the assistance of Editor Les Joslin

Jerry Gibbs Allen died February, 2015, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member and a past president of the Thirty Year Club, predecessor organization of the PNWFSA. Jerry was born November 18, 1932, in Independence, Missouri, where he grew up. Family trips to Colorado inspired his love of the mountains, and earning the Eagle rank in Boy Scouts led him to a career in forestry. After serving four years in the U.S. Army, Jerry graduated from the University of Missouri in Columbia with a degree in forestry. He married Ruby Coshow on June 16, 1957, and began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Helena National Forest in Montana. That career eventually led Jerry to Region 6 and to senior assignments as deputy forest supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest, in the early 1980s; forest supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, in the mid 1980s; special assistant to the regional forester for planning in the late 1980s; and Director of Environmental Affairs in the Portland RO in the early 1990s. Early in his career, Jerry joined Toastmasters and won a state Toastmaster competition. As a Kiwanian, Jerry was a scout leader and volunteer at Camp Kiwanis near Mt. Hood. His active retirement involved many more service activities as well as enjoyment of outdoor sports and travel. Survivors include his wife Ruby; daughters Debbie Taie and Sharon Burk; son Brad; and four grandchildren.

David Peter “Dave” Anderson died December 24, 2014, at age 77. Dave was born June 21, 1937, at Clinton, Iowa, and grew up as an only child on the family farm. Dave graduated from Iowa State University in forestry and joined the U.S. Forest Service. He served in the Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and Intermountain regions, specializing in fire and aviation management. His years in Region 6 took him and his family to the north central Cascades, Mt. Hood, the Elkhorn Mountains, and the Wallowa Mountains. Always an outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, backpacking, riding, being with friends and family. Survivors include his son Erin, Daughter Kristine Dahms, and three grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: David P. Anderson is not to be confused with OldSmokey David W. Anderson of Leavenworth, Washington.

Carl Martin Berntsen died October 13, 2014, at age 93. He was a PNWFSA member. Carl was born in November 1920 in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Port Richmond High School and took various jobs to help support his family through the Great Depression. After working as a ship fitter at the Bethlehem Shipyard in Pennsylvania, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and served during World War II in a submarine chaser in the Caribbean Sea and a destroyer in the Pacific theater. While in the Navy, he married Mary F. Pollock, another graduate of Port Richmond High School and a New York City telephone operator. After the war, Carl and Mary moved from New York to Moscow, Idaho, where Carl earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry in 1950. Carl joined the U.S. Forest Service and began a research career which took him and Mary to McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, where their first son, Keith, was born later that

year, and to another assignment in Otis, Oregon, before they moved to the Willamette Research Center in Corvallis where Carl in 1959 earned a master's degree in forestry at Oregon State College. They then moved to Bend, Oregon, where, on July 1, 1959, Carl became leader of the Deschutes Research Center. Carl and Mary's second son, Geoffrey, was born in Bend in 1961. Under Carl's administration, that center evolved into the Bend Silviculture Laboratory of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, dedicated on May 2, 1964, by Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff. Carl took on the challenge of developing the modern but understaffed facility as he earned a Ph.D. in forestry from Oregon State University. In 1967, after eight years presiding over the transition from the research station concept reflected in the Deschutes Research Center to the research project approach embodied in the Bend Silviculture Laboratory, the new Dr. Berntsen was transferred to the position of Assistant Chief, Branch of Silviculture, Division of Timber Management Research, in Washington, D.C. Carl's subsequent assignments took them to Colorado, Minnesota, and Back to Washington, D.C., where he retired as a member of the Senior Executive Service and moved to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. There, Carl dedicated almost 19 years of retirement to volunteer service with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Outer Banks Flotilla 1607 in which he held several offices and ran hundreds of patrols and search and rescue missions. Carl and his trusty boat the *Molly B* were fixtures on the Outer Bank waters. In between Coast Guard missions, Carl found time to serve on the city council; travel to Norway, Alaska, and Siberia; and grow an enviable produce garden. Carl and Mary returned to Bend in 2007 for a Bend Silviculture Laboratory reunion 11 years after the installation was closed in 1996. Survivors include his and Mary's two sons Keith and Geoff and two grandchildren.

Mary Flora Berntsen died August 9, 2014, at age 92. She was a PNWFSA member. Mary F. Pollock was born in 1922 in Staten Island, New York, graduated from Port Richmond High School, and worked as a telephone operator before she married Carl M. Berntsen (remembered above), who lived just across a small park from her, in 1942. During her almost 72 years of marriage to Carl, Mary gave birth to two sons: Keith in McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, in 1950, and Geoffrey in Bend, Oregon, in 1961. While carrying Geoff, she completed her bachelor's degree and received her teaching credentials and later taught high school in northern Virginia while Carl served in Washington, D.C. She made other homes for the family as Carl's career took them to Colorado, Minnesota, and back to Virginia before Carl retired and they moved to North Carolina. During retirement, Mary dedicated her energy to helping others. She was instrumental in getting "Meals on Wheels" rolling in her area, and was honored by North Carolina's governor for initiating and sustaining a literacy program that served her home and surrounding counties. She worked with volunteers at Duck Methodist Church and helped out with U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary functions. Survivors included Carl, who lived another two months and four days, and include her two sons Keith and Geoff and two grandchildren.

Charles Allen "Chuck" Bigelow died February 3, 2015, at age 95. Chuck was born September 26, 1919, in Vallejo, California, graduated from Vallejo High School, married Ethel Josephine "Jo" Boss in 1942, and after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II earned a bachelor's degree in forestry at the University of Idaho in 1948. He joined the U.S. Forest Service and in 1949 moved to Bend, Oregon, where he worked his way up to become the manager of the agency's Bend Pine Nursery from 1961 until he retired in 1974. Chuck was active as a 4-H Club leader and member of the Bend Knights of Columbus, and enjoyed hiking in the forest with his dogs and mapping old logging roads. His wife of almost 67 years died in 2009. Survivors include his daughters Nancy Muktoyuk, Lynne Lawson, Karen Spurlock, and Peggy Strand; his son Allen; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Brackett died January 4, 2015. Bob joined the U.S. Forest Service in Region 5 after a long enlisted career in the U.S. Army and earning a forestry degree. His Region 6 assignments included timber management assistant on the old Glacier Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest when Mike Cooley was district ranger, other positions on the forest after the Glacier District was merged in 1982, and timber assignments on the Chiloquin Ranger District of the Winema National Forest before he became district ranger on the Bly Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest where he remained until he retired. His wife died about the time he retired, and in retirement he lived in Maple Falls, Washington, before he moved to southern California. Survivors include this daughter Kathy.

Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Mike Cooley and Bob's daughter Kathy.

Virgil R. "Bus" Carrell died October 30, 2014, at age 100. He was a PNWFSA member. Bus was born August 8, 1914, in Whitman County, Washington. After graduating from high school in 1931, Bus began a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Forest Service by going to work for Ranger Grover Burch as a firefighter on the Wenatchee National Forest. He continued to work in fire control on the Wenatchee throughout his college years. He not only mastered firefighting, but trained and supervised 40-man crews in building and maintaining firelines and supervised Civilian Conservation Corps crews assigned to trail maintenance and telephone line construction. After passing the Civil Service exam, he served as an assistant ranger on the Wenatchee before he was transferred to the Clackamas Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest as timber sales assistant and later district ranger, then to an information and education job in the Mt. Hood SO, then back to the Clackamas as district ranger again before becoming forest supervisor of the San Juan National Forest headquartered in Durango, Colorado. From there he went to the Rocky Mountain Region RO in Denver, then to the WO as Chief of Internal Audit Resources. While at the WO he was detailed to the Division of Engineering to lead design and implementation of the "Family of Shapes" sign concept and leave a lasting legacy. For more than half a century these attractive signs have consistently made all National Forest System units and Forest Service facili-

ties readily recognizable and immediately distinguishable from the public lands administered by and the facilities of other services. Then, at the WO, he served as liaison to the Public Land Law Commission and as liaison to Congress before he retired in 1970. Along the way, Bus married Edna, who would be his wife for 78 years and with whom he would have a daughter and a son. Bus and Edna returned to the West Coast where he taught Green River Community College in Auburn, Washington. “Whenever the opportunity arouse, I told my students that [a Forest Service career was the] most important, exciting, satisfying career one could have,” he remembered in 2012 from his and Edna’s retirement home in Florence, Arizona. Survivors include Edna; daughter Carolyn “CJ” Dennison; son Clayton; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Olive Pearl Cotton died January 28, 2015, at age 89. Olive Smithline was born January 10, 1926, in Vancouver, Washington. She graduated from Battle Ground High School in Battle Ground, Washington, in 1943, and in 1944 married Forest “Shorty” Cotton. They settled in Brush Prairie, Washington, and had three children. After their children were grown, Olive joined the U.S. Forest Service and worked at both the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station and the RO in Portland, Oregon. Survivors include sons Dr. Les Cotton and Gary Cotton; daughter Linda Taylor; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Donald H. “Don” Doyle died January 10, 2015, at age 75. He was a PNWFSA member. Don was born April 4, 1939, in Roseburg, Oregon, graduated from Roseburg High School in 1957, and earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry at Oregon State University in 1962. He served in the U.S. Army from 1962-1964, then joined the U.S. Forest Service. He married Mary Ann on Valentine’s Day in 1969. Don’s successful Forest Service career took him and his family from Tiller to Grants Pass to Blue River to Roseburg to Prineville—while on the Ochoco National forest based there he was district ranger, Big Summit Ranger District, in the mid 1980s—to Bend, where he retired in 1998. Along the way he spent his time with his family volunteering with the 4-H Club and traveling to horse shows and various sporting events. Upon retiring, Don and Mary Ann sold their home in Bend and moved to Redmond, Oregon, where they joined the Juniper Golf Club. They became snowbirds and began spending winters in warmer climates, settling on Desert Center, California, as their primary winter location. During retirement, Don volunteered at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, sharing his expertise of the outdoors with High Desert Ranger Station visitors, as well as marshaling at golf tournaments. Son enjoyed hiking, golfing, camping, fishing, canoeing, woodcarving, traveling to car shows with his and Mary Ann’s prize Mustang, and spending time with family and friends. He was incredibly proud of his family and enjoyed a large community of friends from each aspect of his life. Survivors include his wife Mary Ann; married daughters Angie and Kim; and four grandchildren.

Delmer Martin “Del” Gant died February 3, 2015, at age 80. He was a PNWFSA member and widower of Norma L. Gant,

his wife of 60 years and a career U.S. Forest Service employee who died September 19, 2014. Del was born in Sandy, Oregon, on March 24, 1934, and grew up on the family farm in Estacada, Oregon. He graduated from Estacada High School and began a long career at Portland General Electric from which he retired as a load dispatcher in 1992. Del enjoyed hunting and fishing as well as water skiing and boating during his early adult years, and loved tinkering with cars and enjoyed his many hot rods and motorcycles over the years. Survivors include his son Marty, seven grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Lowell R. “Gil” Gilbert died January 22, 2015, at age 92. He was a PNWFSA member. Gil was born June 28, 1922. Gil lived with his family in former Ranger Joe Graham’s log cabin at the Clackamas Lake Ranger Station in the summers of 1937, 1938, and 1939 where his dad, Clarence Gilbert, was the station fireman and his mother cooked for the road crew and all the men who worked out of the ranger station and lived in the bunk house. Gil made Forest Service history of sorts during the summer of 1939 when, at 17 and not old enough to work for the Forest Service, he was put in charge of a small crew to open a trail and install a telephone line to an emergency lookout from which to observe a major fire. His story, “What do you want me to do next, kid?” about this adventure, published in the Winter 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, led to the *My First Forest Service Job* series published in every issue since. “I was kind of proud of the fact that I took on the job of a crew foreman, a telephone and trail maintenance man, a packer and a lookout and got through it without a hitch...” Gil wrote of his boyhood adventure. Gil served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. After the war, Gil was attending classes and operating a small restaurant at the temporary Vanport campus of Portland State College when the 1948 flood of the Columbia River devastated that community. This led Gil to the Clackamas Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest and a Forest Service engineering career during which he specialized in transportation system management and was detailed to the WO to assist in writing a Transportation System Management Handbook of which he was the principal author. After district assistant and district engineer positions, Gil served his last 19 years on the Mt. Hood National Forest as assistant forest engineer and retired in 1977. In addition to his sister Ollie, the late OldSmokey Don Peters’ widow, Gil is survived by daughters Renee Bankston and Coralee Nockles, son Kent Reedy, five grandsons, and a great-granddaughter. *Editor’s Note: thanks to Bud Unruh for filling some of the gaps in Gil’s story.*

Maggie Gould died January 1, 2015. She served in the U.S. Forest Service in various positions on the former Bear Springs as well as the Barlow and Hood River ranger districts of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Editor’s Note: Prepared from information provided by Ed Elliott.

Thomas Edwin “Tom” Hamilton died December 23, 2014, at age 77. Tom was born December 13, 1937, in Edgerton, Wisconsin, and graduated from Westfield High School in 1956. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees and a Ph.D. in

agricultural economics at the University of Wisconsin, Tom began his distinguished U.S. Forest Service career at the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland where he served as a marketing economist and research project leader until 1972. He then served as an assistant director at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania until 1976, then head of the nationwide forest inventory and then Director of the Resources Program and Assessment Staff in Washington, D.C. From 1988 to 1994 he was Associate Deputy Chief for Forest Service Research, and in 1994 became Director of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, where he retires in 2001 after 37 years in the Forest Service. He was an active member of the Society of American Foresters and many other organizations and enjoyed outdoor activities. Survivors include Sally, his wife of 50 years, daughter Becky Christy, son Tom, and seven grandchildren.

Doyle Dee Horton died February 12, 2015, at age 77. Doyle was born June 22, 1937, in Lewis, Kansas. He graduated from Grants Pass High School in Grants Pass, Oregon, in 1956; served in the U.S. Navy in aircraft carrier USS *Ticonderoga*; and in 1959 went to work for the U.S. Forest Service on the Siskiyou National Forest in Brookings, Oregon. He later transferred to the Fremont National Forest and worked on its Bly and Lakeview ranger districts before he retired in 1984 and moved to Klamath Falls. Survivors include Alice, his wife of 54 years; son Ron; daughters Kristi Singleton and Pati Horton; and three grandchildren.

Dawn Arlon “Dawnie” James died January 30, 2015, at age 88. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Don James. Dawnie Grocott was born February 25, 1926, in Longview, Washington, grew up in Longview and Olympia, graduated from R.A. Long High School in Longview in 1944, and attended Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, for a year after high school. Dawnie married Donald H. James on December 31, 1950, in Longview. In 1953 they moved to Prineville, Oregon, where Don began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Ochoco National Forest. They had four children. After retirement in 1986, Dawnie and Don traveled to Europe and England twice and to the East Coast and the Southwest several times. Each spring they served as volunteer hosts and caretakers of the historic Kirkwood Ranch in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Snake River until 2009. Dawnie enjoyed painting, cooking, and floral design. She was an active member of the PEO Sisterhood, the Lookout Mountain Grange, the Prineville Garden Club, and other groups. She attended the Prineville Community Church. Survivors include Don; sons Steven and Gary; daughters Sandra McConnaughey and Jonie Goode; 16 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

Chuck Jenkins died early in January 2015 at age 82. His 35-year U.S. Forest Service career began on the Mt. Baker National Forest in July 1950. He served as a fire lookout and trail and road crew member, but is best remembered for his many years as the mule packer on the Darrington and Mt. Baker ranger districts. Chuck and his wife Wilma, who accompanied him on most of his backcountry work as head cook and wrangler and

who predeceased him, lived between the towns of Darrington and Rockport, Washington.

Russell H. Kahre died February 7, 2015, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Russell was born May 29, 1929, in Bristol, South Dakota, and moved to Modesto, California, as an infant with his parents. The family relocated to McCloud, California, during World War II, where at 16 years of age Russell first worked for the U.S. Forest Service. He attended Oregon State College in Corvallis where he met and married Betty Louise Hall in 1953 and earned a bachelor's degree in forestry. Drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he served in Little Rock, Arkansas, as a counterintelligence collection agent. He began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Siuslaw National Forest in Mapleton and Corvallis until, in 1967, he became district ranger of the Chetko Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, in Brookings, Oregon. There he was instrumental in many property acquisitions, returning elk to the area, and expanding the agency offices there. He was transferred to Grants Pass in 1980 as planning staff officer in the Siskiyou SO. He retired from the Forest Service in 1984 after 33 years of service, and returned to his Brookings home where he and Betty operated a stained glass business and also worked in a local cabinet shop for many years. In addition to working with his hands, Russell loved to fish in the ocean, hunt, and hike. He was a member of Star of the Sea Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and Rotary. Russell and Betty provided sanctuary for 67 foster children throughout the years. Survivors include his sons Russell Jr. and James; daughters Barbara Jones, Victoria Kessler, Rose Peterson, and Lea Ann Broome; 18 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Dean D. Lee died January 30, 2015, at age 73. Dean was born December 2, 1941, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, served in the U.S. Navy after graduation from high school, earned a degree in accounting at St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington, and served in the U.S. Forest Service from which he retired in 2003. Dean was an active mountain climb leader and hike leader with the Mazamas, and traveled and climbed internationally. Survivors include his wife Megan Johnson; his first wife, Ella, and their sons Michael, Darren, and Steve; and three grandchildren.

Gloria Linson died recently at age 79. She was a PNWFSA member. A retired 30-year U.S. Forest Service employee, Gloria served on the Pacific and Amador ranger districts on and in the SO of the Eldorado National Forest in California, and in Region 6 on the Fremont National Forest and in Planning and Budget in the RO in Portland before serving as a budget analyst at the Pacific Northwest Research Station headquarters in Portland where she retired in 2000. *Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Rick Linson, Gloria's son.*

James R. “Jim” List died December 17, 2014, just two days after his 84th birthday. He was a PNWFSA member. Jim was born December 15, 1930, in Michigan, graduated from Wyoming High School in Wyoming, Michigan, and attended Michigan State University for two years before he received his draft notice for the Korean War. He volunteered for the U.S. Air

Force Officer Candidate School and completed jet fighter pilot training as the Korean War ended. He served as an e-86 and F-100 pilot for six years, and was awarded an Air Medal for heroism. After his Air Force service, Jim returned to Michigan State and earned a bachelor's degree in forestry. He met his wife Joan at Grand Rapids Junior College and they married after a short courtship. They raised three sons and one daughter as Jim pursued a successful U.S. Forest Service career. He transitioned into the role of Job Corps center director and he and Joan became "dad and mom" to thousands of corpsmen at four training centers during a period of 20 years. Joan died in 1983, and Jim married Patricia Thacker in 1988. In retirement in Vancouver, Washington, Jim enjoyed sailing on the Columbia River and serving as a docent at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon. Survivors include his wife Patricia, Jeff List, Robin Stuart, Scott List, Brian List, Susan Prentice, Jill McClain, Rick Thacker, 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

John Forrest Marker died January 15, 2015, at age 77. He was a PNWFSA member and 2000-2001 president of the Thirty-Year Club, the PNWFSA's 1945 to 2001 predecessor organization. John was born February 25, 1937, Marienville, Pennsylvania, on the Allegheny National Forest where his father Roy A. "Pinky" Marker served in the U.S. Forest Service as a general district assistant. He grew up in Marienville where the southern ranger district of the Allegheny was headquartered. From an early age John accompanied his dad on the job whenever possible, and when old enough served on a high school fire crew and fought his first fire in 1953. After graduating from high school in 1955, John worked on the McCloud Ranger District fire crew on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California. Then it was off to Pennsylvania State University to study forestry. He worked the summer of 1956 on the Sierra National Forest as a blister rust control checker, and in 1958 returned to the Shasta-Trinity as an engine foreman at Pondosa on the McCloud District. John graduated from Penn State in 1959 with a B.S. degree in forestry, married his long-time girlfriend Mary B. Cree on June 13 of that year, and returned to McCloud as a junior forester. In the spring of 1960, John transferred to the Hayfork Ranger District as fire control officer for two years, and in 1962 began four years as assistant district ranger on the then-Sacramento Ranger District headquartered in Mt. Shasta City. After three years in timber management in the Region 5 RO in San Francisco, John was assigned as district ranger on the Greenhorn Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest, headquartered in Bakersfield, California, where he honed the fire management and public affairs skills that defined the rest of his career. John, Mary, and their three children then moved to Medford, Oregon, where John became the first Forest Service public affairs officer in southern Oregon for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Siskiyou national forests. His next transfer took them to the Region 4 RO in Ogden, Utah, first as assistant director of public affairs and then as fire operations officer. The Markers next moved to the WO where John worked in fire management and developed and managed the first wildland-urban interface program "Wildfire Strikes Home" that was a joint effort with

the National Fire Protection Association, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fire Administration. After three years in Washington, D.C., John returned to Region 6 as Director of Public Affairs where he retired in 1992. John continued to serve the best interests of the Forest Service and the National Forest System in retirement even as he and Mary grew cherries and pears at their Sentinel Orchards in the Hood River Valley of Oregon. His primary vehicles for this continued service were the Thirty-Year Club, which became the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) in 2001 and which he served as president and board member; the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) in which he served as board member and Region 6 representative; North American Wildfire Ltd., which as director he helped found and publish *Wildland Firefighter Magazine*, and as a board member of the National Institute for Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfires and the National Smokejumper Association. John was a leader of the PNWFSA's Forest Service 2005 Centennial Reunion in Portland and, as a generous member of The High Desert Museum south of Bend, a leading supporter of its High Desert Ranger Station project. In his home community of Mount Hood, Oregon, he served on the board of directors of the Parkdale Fire Department. Survivors include Mary, sons Douglas and Andrew, daughter Elizabeth, and granddaughter Olivia.

Barbara Lee McDonald died February 17, 2015, at age 84. She was a PNWFSA member. Barbara Lee Gruning was born October 9, 1930, in Eugene, Oregon, grew up in Blue River, Oregon, and graduated from McKenzie River High School in Blue River. She married Robert T. "Bob" McDonald in 1950, and the couple raised their two children, Christie and Kenneth, in Vernonia, Corvallis, and Powers where Barbara served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Siskiyou National Forest for 30 years. Upon retirement, Barbara and Bob moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon, where they spent their remaining years. Bob died in 1997. Survivors include her daughter Christie May, a granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters.

Gloria A. Reams died December 2, 2014. She was a PNWFSA member. Her daughter advised the PNWFSA that "She looked forward to reading the newsletter and was proud of her efforts when working on it." *Editor's Note: No further information was available at press time.*

Donald Keith Rich died February 21, 2015, at age 81. Donald was born in San Jacinto, California, served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1956, and worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, Oregon, for 27 years before he retired in 1997. Survivors include his son Chris Rich, daughter Patti Nelson, and five grandchildren.

David C. Saylor died October 27, 2014, at age 76. He was a PNWFSA member and husband of U.S. Forest Service retiree Melba L. Saylor. David was born July 21, 1938, in Harlan, Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Navy, studied electrical engineering, worked for NASA for 12 years as a quality control engineer, then worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 23 years as a conductor before he retired. He and Melba traveled the nation in an RV and wintered in Yuma, Arizona. Survivors

include Melba, his wife of 28 years; son Steven and daughter Pam; stepchildren Julee Lockett and Terry Dodson; 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Lonnie E. Sprinkel died September 23, 2014, at age 76. He was a PNWFSA member and husband of U.S. Forest Service retiree Darlene E. Sprinkel. *Editor's Note: No further information was available at press time.*

Joaquin G. "Moose" Stephens died January 3, 2015, at age 88. Moose was born April 30, 1926, in El Paso, Texas, where he attended Cathedral High School. He went into the U.S. Army in 1944, served in the Pacific theatre, and was awarded two Purple Heart Medals for wounds sustained in action. Moose graduated from New Mexico A&M in 1950 and later took graduate courses at the University of Idaho. He married Helen McDaid in Boise, Idaho, in 1955, and the couple remained married until her death in 1995. Moose served in the U.S. Forest Service for 37 years as a range conservationist and wildlife biologist and was the snow ranger for Anthony Lakes Ski Area on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. He enjoyed many outdoor activities including skiing until he was 84 years old, hiking and camping, and long-distance cycling. He was involved in the Boy Scouts of America for 15 years, started and was head coach of the Baker Swim Team from 1973-1976, and was an active member of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Survivors include his sons Michael, Joe, Bill, and James; daughters Patricia Keithly and Amy Dodson; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three foster grandchildren.

Virginia Alison "Ginny" Usher died February 4, 2015. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late former Region 4 regional engineer James Usher, sister-in-law of former Region 6 timber management director Jack Usher, and mother-in-law of former Region 6 regional engineer and PNWFSA member Dick Sowa. Remembered as "an amazing woman of faith," Virginia "had a great zeal for life...demonstrated by her graduation from Oregon State University in her 60's, her continued jogging into her 80's, and her tireless efforts to read just about anything she could get her hands on." Survivors include her son Michael, daughter Marilyn Sowa, 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. *Editor's Note: Prepared from information provided by Vern Clapp and other sources.*

New Members continued from Page 24

Keith Riggs of Salem, Oregon, joined January 1, 2015. Keith left the U.S. Forest Service after 16 years of federal service split between the Forest Service, in which he served as a litigation assistant on the Deschutes National Forest for a year and a public affairs officer in the WO for six years, the U.S. Air Force, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also has worked as an instructor at Oregon State University and as a videographer, editor, and director for OSU and Fishing the West TV and as a radio station group owner. Keith now works as a contractor with NorthStar.

Letters

Bill Ciesla remembers Jerry Allen

This was sad news for me. I worked with Jerry when he was on the Bitterroot National Forest in Region 1 and also when we were both in the RO in Region 6. He was great to work with and a good friend.

Hank Hays remembers Jerry Allen

Jerry was my neighbor district ranger on the Flathead National Forest, and I knew him well. I was hoping to move the boundary twixt our two districts to include Big Mountain on my district!

Ron Ketchum remembers Jerry Allen

I was extremely shocked to see the announcement of Jerry's death. He and I worked together for a few years when he was assistant forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest and I was district ranger on Sisters Ranger District. After that we both were on the regional management team for years.

He represented the regional forester at my retirement party, and [is] a person I have considered my close friend.

His good judgement and dry sense of humor was the cornerstone to his success. I will miss him very much.

Dick Zechentmayer remembers Jerry Allen

I am so sorry to hear of Jerry Allen's passing. He was more than AFS to me while I was resource assistant on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. Those were good days!

Bud Unruh remembers Bus Carrell

Virgil R. "Bus" Carrell will always be one of the very special people in my memories. There is no way I could ever have thanked him enough for his advice and assistance to me in my early career decisions, education, and work experiences. My experience is one of many. There is a multitude of foresters and engineers, now retired from U.S. Forest Service careers, who can look back and attribute much of their knowledge and success to examples, advice, tutoring, and assistance from Bus Carrell.

Editor's Note: Bud's My First Forest Service Job story, about the summer of 1944 he worked for District Ranger Bus Carrell, is scheduled for publication in the Summer 2015 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Les Joslin remembers Don Doyle

I began my wilderness information and education work on the Deschutes National Forest in 1992 with Don Doyle's support and understanding. More recently, Don was a faithful High Desert Ranger Station volunteer staffer at the High Desert Museum during the 2011 through 2014 seasons. I owe him thanks.

Don Pederson remembers Don Doyle

It was a shock to see Don Doyle's obituary in the paper when I had received his Christmas card only a few weeks earlier. Mary Ann, don's wife, told me that he was in good spirits while they were vacationing on the Oregon Coast. They were out walking on the beach on a warm sunny day when Don suddenly collapsed from a massive stroke. The ambulance took him to Corvallis where he died without regaining consciousness. The doc-

tors had no explanation because even though he was 75 he looked more like 55 and was in good health.

Don had been the ranger on the Big Summit District of the Ochoco National Forest before he came to the Deschutes where I worked with him in recreation in the '90s. He had a quiet demeanor and a knack of getting people to work together on difficult problems that produced positive results. He helped develop strategies to deal with overuse in the Three Sisters Wilderness that are still being followed today. He also played a major role in the transition to concession operation of campgrounds. Don was always looking for better ways to improve the recreation and wilderness programs that would serve the public better.

He will be missed.

Bob Schramek *remembers Walt Johannsen*

I was sad to learn of the death of Walt Johannsen. Walt was ranger of the Drewsey Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. He was a friend and mentor as well as a leader for the years I spent at Seneca.

Jeannie Brittell *remembers Gloria Linson*

I am so saddened to hear of Gloria's passing, but thankful I received word through the OldSmokeys. I worked with Gloria when she was on the Fremont National Forest in Lakeview, Oregon. In addition to being a great coworker, she was a wonderful friend.

Gloria could light up the room just by walking in. She was so full of life and had a wonderful sense of humor. I can still see her smile and hear her laugh. We worked hard and had fun while doing it. Working for the government can be pretty stressful. There are lots of rules and regulations that don't always make sense. She always made things better by just being there.

Speaking of stress, we had a club that she was charter member and ringleader of. It was the 4:31 Club. We got off work at 4:30 and the office was from one to three blocks from the local bars. Generally the club met on Fridays. One of the main rules was that you couldn't talk about work itself. It was a great way to socialize and get better acquainted with each other. We also did occasional potlucks and just generally had a great time together. I've tried to notify as many of the old crowd as I have contact information for. The current workforce (at least here) doesn't seem to have the same camaraderie and the Forest Service suffers for it.

We really didn't want to see her go when she moved to Portland. Luckily the annual workshops and training sessions were usually held up there so we maintained contact for some time after she left. I will always remember her with fondness and a big smile for all of the memories.

Cindy Miner *remembers Gloria Linson*

I am very sad to hear about Gloria's passing. She had a pivotal position with the [Pacific Northwest Research] station and played a key role nationally on extended details to the WO. She helped the agency adopt electronic systems for tracking budget that got us in the "green." She was a gem to work with.

Doug Porter *remembers Jim List*

I was sad to hear of Jim's passing. I knew Jim when he was center director [of] Job Corps at Timber Lake and I was on the

Mt. Hood National Forest. Jim was a straight shooter and you always knew where he was coming from. We were on as number of fires together including the '70s fires on the Wenatchee National Forest. I was in aircraft control in Japan in 1956 and our fighters were F-86s. [We] scrambled so many F-86s at Korea to keep them honest. Jim and I talked a lot about his pilot experience. He was also a P-51 and P-38 pilot. A very smart man and I enjoyed working with Jim.

Mike Ash *remembers John Marker*

John went so rapidly from "having health issues" to passing. John was a tremendous supporter of all Forest Service issues. We are deeply indebted for his service and wisdom.

Gloria Brown *remembers John Marker*

I worked with John when he was Director of Information in Region 6. I remember John ad being smart and supportive. It is hard to lose people who made a difference in your career. He was a mentor and a teacher.

Sylvia Brucchi *remembers John Marker*

John was always so helpful as I started my Region 6 tenure in Grants Pass as Public Affairs Officer on the Siskiyou National Forest and through my career in Region 5, Region 6, and as his successor in the Region 6 RO. So sad and shocking how quickly he passed away. His contributions as an employee and retiree to the betterment of the Forest Service were notable.

John Butruille *remembers John Marker*

Susan and I were sorry to hear of John Marker's passing. He was a good friend and solid Forest Service person. His work for all of us after his retirement was outstanding and kept many of us up to date on Forest Service matters. He will be missed.

Bill Ciesla *remembers John Marker*

I got acquainted with John when I was director of Forest Pest Management in Region 6 and John was director of Public Affairs. Since many of the activities my team was involved with were controversial (e.g., large aerial spray projects) it was essential we kept our publics informed of what we were planning. John and his staff were great to work with and we developed a solid and effective partnership. John and I also became good friends. We stayed in touch long after we both retired and we would have great visits at U.S. Forest Service retiree reunions. I will miss John. He was one of the good ones.

Bruce Courtright *remembers John Marker*

John's passing is a great loss to all of us who knew him and saw him as a friend, mentor, and champion of our nation's forests.

Don Driscoll *remembers John Marker*

I didn't know John, but I was very touched by a remembrance he wrote in the spring of 2012 about Glenn Haney, a former Forest Service boss of mine, who passed away in March of that year. John had been a public affairs officer in Region 4 and served as a member of a 1979 aircraft accident investigation team that was sent to the Nez Perce National Forest in Region 1 following an airplane disaster in which 11 people lost their lives. Glenn at the time was an Associate Deputy Chief for Administration in the WO and served as the Chief's representative on the team. Quoting John as follows:

"I knew Glenn but slightly and our connection was we both were Penn State graduates. However, he and I shared one very difficult experience. In the late seventies, I can't remember the exact year, maybe '77 or '78, a Forest Service DC-3 crashed in the Selway River in Idaho on a flight into the Moose Creek Ranger Station killing 11 employees with only one survivor. After the crash investigation was complete Glenn, representing the Chief, went to Grangeville, Idaho, to meet with families of the deceased.

"I accompanied him, representing Region 4 and to help with the media. Glenn, as the head of the investigation team, decided he would meet the families without anyone else from the Forest Service except the forest supervisor. He did an outstanding job of showing sincere compassion and professionalism as he went through the report with the families. After the briefing, I helped the families with media interviews as well as shielded those who did not want to meet the reporters. Glenn also handled his media interviews with the highest level of professional demeanor.

"Based on that experience, I have always thought of Glenn as a forest ranger's forest ranger. The Service was fortunate to have counted him as one of its people.

--John"

Forrest Fenstermaker remembers John Marker

I was shocked by the sad news of John's passing, having known him since college days. He was a real role model for all professional foresters and his contributions to the environment.

Linda Goodman remembers John Marker

I met John Marker when the OldSmokeys came for their annual meeting with the regional office. He was so understated but it didn't take me long to realize that when John spoke, I should listen. His ability to frame issues and come up with creative solutions made him an asset to me and to anyone who was fortunate enough to know him. When I became president of the OldSmokeys he still found time to bring issue to me (and, even better, proposed solutions), and I appreciated the calls or time he spent visiting with me. As many others have said, he was devoted to the mission of the Forest Service. I know the agency was better because of John, and I count myself lucky to have known him.

Jennifer Harris remembers John Marker

I knew John when he became Public Affairs Director for Region 6. I always appreciated his understanding and support of the field PAOs, and especially his support of our work as fire IIOs. He was a PAO's PAO! I learned a lot about issue management from him. Thanks for your service to the agency and the American public, John.

Beth Horn remembers John Marker

I have been out of town for a few weeks and just [on February 2] saw the note about John Marker. It took my breath away. So sad. He was a great friend and colleague when we were working.

Tom Iraci remembers John Marker

I had the pleasure of working in Region 6 Public Affairs during

John Marker's tenure as PAO director. He was a kind and caring person and he provided me with encouragement and support when I needed it the most. Thank you, John. Rest in Peace.

Dave Jay remembers John Marker

Whew! I just read all the tributes so far about John. Some brought me nearly to tears. As were many, I was shocked that he passed so quickly. I was so remiss in not keeping closer contact with him these last several months. My best memories are around the planning for the 2005 retirees' reunion in Portland. I am unable to add more to what others have said.

Les Joslin remembers John Marker

John Marker's U.S. Forest Service career proves he was born to be a forest ranger. I first met him and benefitted from his sage advice in 1991, but it has been during the past decade that he became the mentor in later life I needed to succeed to any extent I may have in my own efforts to continue to serve the Forest Service, the National Forest System, and the retiree community he served so very well. Among his many contributions, John was an early and enthusiastic enabler and generous supporter of the High Desert Ranger Station project at the High Desert Museum and a valued advisor to the Agency to Match the Mountains Initiative.

Walt Knapp remembers John Marker

John and I met as freshman foresters at the Penn State Mont Alto campus in 1955. Our dorm rooms were directly across the hall from each other, so we became good friends from the start. That year, I introduced John and Mary at a mixer with the girls of Wilson College, and I was proud to be an usher at their wedding after our graduation in 1959. We've kept in touch over the years, and most recently we jointly hosted a reunion of our forestry fraternity brothers (Tau Phi Delta) in the Mount Hood area. Of course, John did most of the work, organizing the lodging, day trips, etc. I think the high point of the reunion was our visit to the marker's home at Sentinel Orchards. That is a memory I will cherish. Without a doubt, the Forest Service never had a better friend than John Marker. We will miss him.

Chuck Lundeen remembers John Marker

John Marker and I were born in the same county in Pennsylvania. We both started our careers with the Forest Service in California. We both started on districts and shared time in the San Francisco regional office and the Washington office. We both retired to the West and became active retirees in our own ways, he much more so than me. Chronologically our paths were well synchronized. We were friends for years and years. I last saw him at the Vail reunion and I visited his cherry orchard in Mount Hood. I consider his death a personal loss. John was a monument to excellence.

Al Matecko remembers John Marker

John was the epitome of class and helpfulness. He was always encouraging and looking to see how he could make the Forest Service a better outfit.

Gregory R. McClarren remembers John Marker

Jennifer [Harris] nailed it about John Marker. I valued and appreciated him so much.

Ron McCormick *remembers John Marker*

John was a totally dedicated and competent Forest Service manager. He began his professional career in California in 1959 and I started in 1958. We crossed paths early on, sometimes in meetings and a couple of times in connection with fires. He was Director of Public Affairs in Region 6 when I was Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation. When I moved down to the Siskiyou National Forest it was always good to know I had a friend and good help in the RO of which I availed myself.

Bob McQuown *remembers John Marker*

John was a good friend and a tireless worker for the OldSmokeys. He will be missed....

John Nesbit *remembers John Marker*

I second all the accolades about John: friend, mentor, dedicated, hard worker, etc. He loved the outfit and the profession. It has already been pointed out that he wore Forest Service green diapers, and he belonged to a forestry fraternity in college. I was probably a step-fraternity brother of John. I believe he was in tau Phi delta and I was in a local forestry fraternity at Syracuse named Kappa Phi Delta. The two houses met for a short time each year, and Kappa Phi was partly modeled after John's house.

Gordon Schmidt *remembers John Marker*

Let me add my two cents for Marker. We worked closely together on many fire issues over the years in Region 6. He was a wonderful asset to the fire program, one very good supporter. He understood the program and he understood how to help. After he retired we worked out a deal with the Oregon Department of Forestry to hire John for the summer. He would keep his eyes and ears on issues for the Forest Service during the fire season. He travelled all over Oregon and gave us updates a couple of times a week. He was a good person for that job and he enjoyed it. Later in retirement John and I would meet about every two months for lunch. We continually discussed fire policy and the fire management program in the agency. Through these discussions we refined our beliefs about what should and shouldn't happen. He was a talent at discussing issues from both sides. I talked with him a couple of months [before he died] when he was in the hospital. Same discussions as before, even though he was clearly weakened. His drive and desire to work on issues for NAFSR and the Forest Service was unparalleled. I will also miss the discussions on orchard management and fruit brokering. In short, I will miss John tremendously.

Zane Smith *remembers John Marker*

John Marker was the model of what most of us considered the finest of Forest Service employees. He engendered those characteristics of generations of career forest officers who built the Forest Service into the most respected government agency in the U.S. He never lost track of our mission and refused to accept departures from its guidance. We will all miss him greatly, both as a colleague and friend. May he rest in peace.

Ray Steiger *remembers John Marker*

It was a shock and with great sadness that I learned of John's passing. He and Jim Unterwegner save me after 10 years with

the Northeastern Area in Pennsylvania. They got me transferred back to my home Region 6 where I had the great pleasure of working for John in Public Affairs, and we have been friends ever since. John was a wise and kindly gentleman and a great leader. He will be sorely missed.

Ted Stubblefield *remembers John Marker*

John Marker was a friend for 45 years. He didn't take "the road most traveled" by most, but rather the one least traveled when it came to brainstorming and problem solving. Hot quick to comment, but one could always expect sage advice or suggestions and, as some have said, positive thoughts. One might think he missed his calling and preferred growing cherries and pears, but to me, he was all of those things, including public affairs, an orchardist, fire management, writer/editor, mentor, and thinking out of the box! We didn't agree on everything and I valued that greatly, and will really miss him.

Bob Williams *remembers John Marker*

I will miss John Marker. I never had the opportunity to work directly with John while employed, so I feel fortunate to have worked with him on the 2005 National Forest Service Reunion. What a great team player! He always came with ideas, he supported them with good information, presented them well, and then stepped up to implement them. His networking with other retiree groups was invaluable to the effort. I appreciate what he brought to OldSmokeys. He helped put us on a well-organized and well-managed base that will support us into the future.

It was fun to see John's enthusiasm for his retirement orchard. He was learning and doing new things and having a good time. His continued interest in Forest Service issues, especially fire, is part of what made him such a good example of Forest Service "Can-Do." Good memories of a fine person.

Mike Ash *remembers Barbara McDonald*

Barbara McDonald was a long time (and darned good) business management assistant on the Powers Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest. I worked on the Siskiyou in the early 1980s, and whenever I visited the Powers Ranger District Barbara would always greet me with open arms and provide me with a fresh cup of coffee and whatever advice I might need (whether I specifically requested it or not!). She was a real asset to Powers Ranger District and provided backup to and even trained many district rangers.

Jim Stapleton *remembers Barbara McDonald*

I was assigned to the Powers Ranger District in 1972 as the engineering construction inspector shortly after the Westside Engineering Zone came into existence during the "hey-day" of the accelerated roads construction program. Barbara was the district BMA and as I learned the real glue that kept the district working from personnel matters to the timber sales program.

Barbara was always perky, outgoing, and gracious but insisted on all of us, timber and engineers, to "toe the line" in the office. She insisted on us wearing those "wooden sandals" in the office so the floors would not get torn up by the caulk boots we all wore at the time. She also settled the ongoing squabbles of the day as to who was spitting out the windows. She had a tin can labeled with your name placed on your desk [and con-

ducted] periodic inspections to see that you were using it rather than spitting out your chewing tobacco through the back office windows.

*Editor's Note: Jim continued with a page-long story about Barbara that deserves special treatment as a **The Way We Were** section article in a future issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

Rich Stem remembers Barbara McDonald

I was the TMA on the Powers Ranger District when Barbara was there. This was my first GS-11 job and Barbara made sure I toed the line for staying in budget and within administration rules. She usually had a smile on her face, and would always enjoy the bantering that would go on between the RDMA at meetings. When Ranger John Berry left for the Mt. Hood National Forest, I was appointed to be acting ranger and Barb's advice and counsel took on even more meaning. She was a person who did not hold back in terms of that advice, but at the same time exhibited great patience with the characters she had to work with. Pretty much had us all "pegged" and knew a lot about what was going on. An excellent and priceless BMA. A neat person.

Diana St. Marie remembers Barbara McDonald

I was sad to hear about Barbara. She was a joy to be around, always had a smile and, as you said, Mike, a darned good BMA.

Vern Clapp remembers Virginia Usher

For many years Ginny and Jim came to clam dig at Red Ketchum's up at Sequim, so many of us knew her.

Jim Amann thanks PNWFSA President Al Matecko

Many thanks to President Al for the February PNWFSA meeting recap. It is very helpful to keep in touch. There were at least two Forest Service qualities I liked in his message—care for people and encouragement. In my years of service from 1965 through 1997 I was and still am most thankful for the liberties and concerns granted by my supervisors to take care of the health situations in my family. I also see the attitude of continued encouragement to others and employees to grow in character and skill which are so necessary for a vibrant organization.

I also liked the section on the restoration of the Bit Butte Lookout on the Umatilla National Forest. I still remember well the few trips I made to do the condition and structural inspections on this site among others.

Ken Till remarks on Regional Forester Jim Pena

As the "Resource Advisor" for Kootenai County for Forest Health and Fire Issues, I had the opportunity to provide input for the Revised Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan in a public forum, when I was pleasantly surprised to meet again with Jim Pena of the WO whom I worked with on the Rogue River National Forest when he was a junior forester. My last memories of Jim were having him as a "crew boss trainee" on fire assignments in northern California as he was young and eager to learn. I was very excited when I found out he was selected as the Regional Forester for Region 6. He will be a great asset and obviously very well accepted. I wish him all the luck as the Forest Service needs strong leadership.

Jennifer Harris comments on PNWFSA lifetime membership

I am becoming a lifetime member so Bob Devlin won't have to remind me to pay up anymore! I am enjoying winters in the Tucson area and have become a docent at Tohono Chui Park.

John Austin checks in from Baker City, Oregon

Linda and I are doing well and are looking forward to seeing old friends in Albuquerque at the reunion this October. We just [in January] had a great visit in Boise with Roger and Clela Stamy and Al and Marge Detler.

Dave Govatski checks in from Jefferson, New Hampshire

We love our winter. Our only problem is finding room to put the snow. It has been snowing at below-zero temperatures and it is very fluffy. We get out every day and cross-country ski or snowshoe. Hopefully [the snow] will get rid of the wimps who cannot handle winter.

A lot of people in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire (we call that "Northern Massachusetts") don't have snow tires and found out in a hurry they need them. I have communist snow tires: Hakopolitas, but made in Russia, not Finland.

Carl Juhl checks in from the ranch near Bend, Oregon

I am still cattle ranching near Bend. Also, I am taking on three abused and neglected horses to further break and hopefully ride.

Joan Landsberg checks in from Meridian, Idaho

Even though I now live in Idaho, I am maintaining membership in the OldSmokeys because of the strong ties I have to the U.S. Forest Service via the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Just wish I lived closer to the OldSmokey events. Prior to moving to Idaho in August 2014, I volunteered at the High Desert Ranger Station located on the grounds of the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon. The ranger station, a 1933 CCC-built building, is staffed from July 1 through Labor Day by Forest Service retirees who tell the message of "Caring for the Land and Serving People" down through the history of the Forest Service.

Ann Leuthauser checks in from Goshen, Oregon

I'm doing OK for an old lady of 88 years—old but still going. I enjoy pictures on my Kindle from the picnic and the meetings.

Pete Miles checks in from Bend, Oregon

Still doing aerial fire detection for Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS) [of Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Prineville District BLM] as an A.D. This will be my 23rd year.

Roger Stamey checks in from Boise, Idaho

After 28 years of enjoying life in the country in our retirement home, we have moved to Boise. We are enjoying the amenities of living in the city, in a smaller home and much smaller yard, and being closer to our son and his wife. Both Clela and I are enjoying good health and an active lifestyle.

*Editor's Note: Roger and Clela's new contact information were provided in the **Changes** section of the Winter 2015 OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

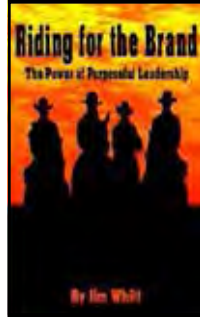
Richard Zechentmayer checks in from King City, California

Mary Lou and I are doing well here in King City. We so enjoy all the many photographs of the retirees' doings.

Books

Jim Whitt's Book *Riding for the Brand* Elucidated "The Power of Purposeful Leadership"

By Les Joslin



I was deeply engrossed in writing the brief essay "Riding for the Brand" on page 11 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* when Jim Whitt, mounted on a slim out-of-print volume, rode out of the sunset to lend a hand with the concept I believe is essential to the U.S. Forest Service if it is to survive and thrive.

That concept is to inspire and empower those who would serve in the Forest Service to "ride for the brand" by making their perception of their agency's purpose parallel with their perception of their life's purpose—thus making their service within the agency the ultimate self-actualizing experience of their lives and mutually beneficial to the Forest Service, the National Forest System, and its citizen-owners.

Riding for the Brand is a curious little book. It is, as its cover claims, "a western that's set in the future. It's a short novel about leadership, human motivation, and change.

"The story revolves around two men: Bob Fooshee, a freelance magazine writer, and Burns Marcus, a rancher who builds a business empire. The year is 2030, and Fooshee is dispatched by a magazine to write about Marcus, whose ranch was near bankruptcy 25 years earlier. It was then that Marcus, searching for answers, attended the cattlemen's convention in San Antonio and heard a speaker who provoked him to radically change the way he approached his business. This was the catalyst that led Marcus to start Diamond Enterprises, which becomes the model organization of the 21st century.

"While interviewing Burns at his ranch in Oklahoma, Bob... discovers the key to Burns Marcus' success—the power of purposeful leadership."

That's the kind of power an organization—such as the Forest Service—could harness to achieve its mission "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations" and its purpose of "Caring for the land and service people."

Whit recognized a key truth: "People want to give themselves over to something bigger than they are but they also want to fulfill their own unique purpose. Purposeful leaders are able to help people connect the dots between the individual's purpose and the organization's purpose." The Forest Service could reach its full potential "by helping its people reach their full potential" as partners in a cause, not just employees of an agency, as forest officers first and as foresters or engineers or business managers or "oligists" second.

It could best pursue this course toward mutual actualization, I and my colleagues believe, by actively and constructively

pursuing the Agency to Match the Mountains concept—endorsed to the Chief of the Forest Service by the National Association of Forest Service Employees—toward evolving an agency of properly motivated followers becoming leaders of a great cause. By this course, the survival and success of the Forest Service and its members becomes their common purpose.

As hackneyed as the phrase sounds, Whitt's little book on *Riding for the Brand* should be required reading for all who would serve in the Forest Service. Although now out of print, the 2005 book may be purchased through Amazon.com and other used book sellers.

Susan Lee Marsh Wrote About Her U.S. Forest Service Experience in *A Hunger for High Country*

"Women are not appointed by the Forest Service as members of the field force even if they pass the civil-service examination," the California Region's *Forest Ranger's Catechism* flatly stated in June 1931—the legendary 1913-1928 service of Hallie Daggett on a Klamath National Forest fire lookout notwithstanding. "They were employed [as lookouts] at one time, but this practice has been discontinued."

As recently as the early 1960s, women usually found Forest Service employment as lookouts—for which they had been determined to possess a superior disposition—or district clerks. But "during the 1960s and 1970s new environmental and fair employment laws meant that the Forest Service began to hire talented women in professional careers," an Oregon State University Press news release about Susan Marsh's new book, *A Hunger for High Country: One Woman's Journey to the Wild in Yellowstone Country*, noted.

"Set in the national forests surrounding Yellowstone National Park, *A Hunger for High Country* is part memoir and part profile of a time and place," the OSU Press continued. "Susan Marsh finds her background and values often place her at odds with the agency she works for, and what was supposed to be her dream job in Montana ends in sorrow and frustration after a six year long struggle to fix in. Humbled by her failures, and the part she played in her own downfall, she begins again in the mountains of western Wyoming where she finds refuge and inspiration in nature.

"Susan Marsh shares with us not only a vivid portrait of what being a professional woman in a land management agency was like during this time period, but also of the Forest Service itself. Encounters with wolves and grizzly bears, outlaws and oddball characters, and moments of beauty inspired by wonder in wild country become the scenes through which Marsh's palpable appreciation for nature are fully rendered on the page."

A Hunger for High Country will appeal to any reader interested in the Forest Service in general and to the evolution of women as members of the outfit in particular. Born in Seattle in 1953, Susan Marsh, who specialized in geology and landscape architecture, served 30 years as one of the first generation of women to work as a field-going professional in the For-

est Service. Marsh also addressed that experience in an article “What I learned from 30 years with the Forest Service” in the December 17, 2014, issue of *High Country News*.

A Hunger for High Country by Susan Marsh (ISBN 978-0-87071-756-7) is a 192-page paperback available from Oregon State University Press for \$18.95 (Book Order: 1-800-621-2736) or online from OSU Press or other booksellers.

--Les Joslin

More or Less Crazy is Murry Taylor’s Novel About Smokejumpers

As smokejumpers celebrate their 75th anniversary, Murry Taylor, best known for his 2000 book *Jumping Fire: A Smokejumper’s Memoir of Fighting Wildfire*, now available in paperback, has released a novel about smokejumping he titled *More or Less Crazy*. Here’s what Murray has to say about his novel.



“In *More or Less Crazy* I return to the summer of 1973. It is my first as an Alaska smokejumper, and a wild and freewheeling time in and around Fairbanks. It’s the beginning of the construction of the Alaska pipeline. From our comfortable barracks and tent frames of the Chena River, and a new clueless district manager moved the crew to a deserted old hangar on Fort Wainright. He is bent on ridding Alaska of smokejumpers. They just cause too many problems.

“The T-hangar has no running water, no electricity, no heat. The crew is made up of Vietnam vets, ex-Air America bad boys, and transfers and no-rehires from the jump bases in the Lower 48. Being stuck on Fort Wainright in the old T-hangar, surrounded by chain link fences and gravel lots, and under the eye of the military police is a recipe for disaster.

“Al Mattlon, our new base foreman, is a different kind of boss. One who senses the value of the individual spirit. Crew meetings begin. Trust builds. Strong personalities come forward, then together in a outrageous testimony to the joy of living life fully in one of America’s last great true-life adventures.

“In an odyssey of movement and beauty we jump fires from Kodiak Island to the shadows of Denali and in the winds of Isabel Pass. By early August we are jumping fires out of the North Cascade Smokejumper Base in north central Washington, then La Grande in northeastern Oregon, then on to Missoula, Montana, to finish the season.

“I don’t claim this to be the complete, definitive story of the T-hangar days. There’s just too much to contain in just one book. It is but a mere glimpse. Spend a summer with a crew of special characters and witness not only its ability to perform minor miracles stopping wildfires but also to laugh and play in a raucous celebration of the human spirit. I hope you enjoy it.”

More or Less Crazy by Murry Taylor (ISBN 978-1503259102) is a 366-page available from amazon.com for \$19.97 plus \$3.99 shipping and from other online sources.

—Les Joslin

Films

Three Motion Pictures Portray Aspects of the U.S. Forest Service

By Les Joslin

Three films—a documentary and a major motion picture recently released and another documentary due to be released later this year—illustrate three aspects of the U.S. Forest Service story. These three films are briefly addressed in chronological order—not the order of release but the order of historical occurrence—two during the early years of the profession and the outfit, and the third 20 years ago in 1995.

First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School

Back in 2013 the Forest History Society, in collaboration with the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, began planning for and raising funds to produce and distribute a documentary film called *First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School*. The film, being made by Bonesteel Films of Asheville, North Carolina, is now in the final stages of production and expected to be released later this year.

According to Jamie Lewis, Ph.D., Historian, Forest History Society, “this 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.” The film is intended to serve many audiences and purposes. It is planned to be used to educate the general public through PBS-sponsored broadcasts in North Carolina and beyond. It will provide a basis for an online educational module in K-12 classrooms; it can also be used in college classrooms or for public screenings. Once completed, a shortened version of the film will be shown to visitors at the Cradle of Forestry Discovery Center on the Pisgah National Forest before they tour the historic school grounds.

Watch your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for more information.

The Big Burn

Another new documentary called *The Big Burn*, inspired by and titled after National Book Award-winning author Timothy Egan’s 2009 best-seller *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*, premiered on Public Broadcasting Service’s (PBS) “American Experience” on February 3, 2015.

OldSmokeys know the story. In the summer of 1910, hundreds of wildfires raged across the Northern Rockies. By the time it was all over, more than three million acres had burned and at least 78 firefighters were dead. It was the largest fire in American history.

And that 1910 inferno did more than burn hot and big. It confronted the fledgling U.S. Forest Service with a catastrophe that defined the agency’s and the nation’s fire policy for much of the 20th century. And, in Forest Ranger Edward C. “Big Ed” Pulaski and his single decisive act that kept the death toll much

lower than it might have been, it provided the Forest Service a true hero.

All that and more explain the Egan book's subtitle. "As America tries to manage its fire-prone landscapes in the 21st century," one reviewer put it, "*The Big Burn* provides a cautionary tale of heroism and sacrifice, arrogance and greed, hubris and, ultimately, humility, in the face of nature's frightening power."

A hundred and more years later, the legacy of the Big Burn can be measured by the growth of the Forest Service and its fire suppression policy that once demanded that every fire be fought; a policy controversial in more recent years and subject to continuing reexamination.

If you missed *The Big Burn* February 3 premiere, you may be certain it will be repeated. Keep an eye out for it on your local PBS television schedule.

Wild:

From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail

And then there's *Wild*, the 2014 major motion picture adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's 2012 memoir *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. In 1995, the then 22-year-old author walked about 1,100 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) alone as a way to heal herself following her divorce, the death of her mother, and years of reckless, destructive behavior.

I read the book—which topped the *New York Times* best seller list for quite a while—and even met the author briefly at a reading. I found the book interesting, but was disturbed that the only U.S. Forest Service representative she met on that entire walk that took her through 16 national forests was a forest guard whom she called the "deranged ranger," and named as "Guy," and encountered at a now-used-as-a-recreation-rental guard station many OldSmokeys know well. Guy proved a boor who tried to "hit on her," as the current vernacular phrases it. I hoped he wasn't one of the many trainees at the three-day, three-forest wilderness ranger course I ran at Camp Tamarack on the Deschutes National Forest in 1995 at which I emphasized a much more appropriate "friendly face and helping hand" approach to public service.

I saw the movie—which enjoyed generally favorable reviews—and I thought actress Reese Witherspoon did a good job portraying the author. But I was doubly disturbed because, in the film, her lone Forest Service "ranger" wore a Smokey Bear hat not then part of the uniform and staffed a guard station that appeared to have been conflated with the nearby resort to double as a convenience store. I'm not surprised she didn't see more Forest Service personnel on her trek; OldSmokey **Jim Leap** and I did the PCT through Oregon without seeing even one. And, on occasions Jim or I met PCT trekkers during our many wilderness ranger years, we were often told we were the only "rangers" they'd ever seen.

The good news? The portrayal of Strayed's "ranger" underscores the dire need for proper development of Forest Service personnel—leaders and followers—by the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy's proposed Basic Forest Service Officer Course. See pages 11-13 for more about that.

The bad news? All too many national forest visitors derive their opinions of the Forest Service from run-ins with less-than-adequate agency representatives; moreover, as a result of this portrayal in this major motion picture, millions stand to derive such a poor opinion. Again, the proposed small but focused investment in personnel development addressed on pages 12-13 could and should go far to turn this situation around. That's the lesson the Forest Service can learn and *must learn and act on* from this film!

While a few scenes in the film were shot on location on the Pacific Crest Trail, many more were not and the geography often didn't ring true. Desert and rain forest landscapes seemed a bit off, and some points along the trail not shot on location and the guard station at which Strayed met her "ranger"—were not properly portrayed.

Now, I'm no filmmaker or film critic, but I know what that film needed: a technical advisor—especially one who could make sure the geography and Forest Service, blemishes and all, were accurately portrayed.

U.S. Forest Service Movies? Why Not?

About 25 years ago, when he gave a talk at the University of Oregon, I asked novelist Ivan Doig if he'd ever talked with anyone about making a movie of *English Creek*, his 1984 novel about 13 year-old Jick McCaskill's summer of 1939 on the fictitious Two Medicine National Forest in Montana where his dad was a district ranger.

"Nobody grown up," Doig replied. That answer has stood the test of time. As most of the motion pictures of the past quarter-century attest, not many grownups are found in Tinseltown, and it wouldn't occur to any of them to make a movie about a forest ranger and his family.

You can count Forest Service movies on one hand. I can count two Hollywood films: the 1942 *The Forest Rangers* with Fred MacMurry as a district ranger in love and the 1954 *Red Skies of Montana* loosely based on the Mann Gulch Fire of 1949 in which Richard Widmark played a smokejumper crew foreman who lost his crew. The only other film that might qualify is the 1995 made-for-television movie *The Ranger, the Cook, and the Hole in the Sky* of Norman Maclean's novella about a ranger and his trail crew on the Selway National Forest some hundred years ago—and it was made in British Columbia.

There are Forest Service stories the right filmmakers could craft into great movies. Along with *English Creek*, there's Elizabeth Canfield Flint's 1943 novel *The Pine Tree Shield*—based on her marriage to Forest Service pioneer Howard Flint—that the right filmmaker could make into a beautiful and meaningful film that would be enjoyed by many Americans and contribute to their understanding of their unique national forest heritage.

But I'm not holding my breath. Two OldSmokeys and I were not able to get permission from Doubleday just to reprint Flint's book. I fear that a good film of either of the above would be deemed "unbankable." by Hollywood.

—Les Joslin

The Way We Were

Gil Gilbert: True Grit in the Woods

By Bud Unruh

I first met Gil Gilbert in 1948. In that year, Gil became a victim of the famous Vanport flood. That led Gil back to the Mt. Hood National Forest on which he'd grown up before U.S. Army Air Force service during World War II and Portland State College studies. His dad was district fire assistant at Clackamas Lake Ranger Station.

Gil proved he'd learned the ropes when at 17 he was pressed into service leading a crew that restored the trail and telephone line to Grouse Point Lookout, operated a camp, packed mules, and served as a lookout reporting on progress of the 1939 Lad-ee Flat Fire. It's the story he told in the Winter 2011 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

That Vanport flood put Gil "back where he belonged" in the U.S. Forest Service on the Clackamas River Ranger District where he soon established himself as a key member of the district staff. In 1952, the timber workload overwhelmed the organization and resulted in a three-way district split. Roy Bond became ranger of the resulting Collawash Ranger District, and Gil was selected as his fire assistant. During the next several years, Gil proved his grit again and again attaining compliance with timber contract fire requirements.

East Mountain Timber Sale

A timber sale called East Mountain was being logged by a local company. Running the site was Jim, a son of the purchaser who had a reputation for ignoring things he didn't want to do. It was a high-lead cable operation which required tail blocks at the far side of a clear-cut unit to be logged. The sale contract required clearing all burnable material for a distance from the tail blocks as these blocks have a tendency to throw sparks when the cable passes through at high speed.

Gil wondered if Jim would bother to clear these areas as specified, so decided to make an early morning inspection. He arrived on the landing site about 6:00 a.m., went to the bottom of the unit to be logged, and found slash piled all around the blocks. The operation had started up about daylight, so all the crew was there and some logs had already been yarded, loaded, and hauled. Gil confronted Jim and told him he would have to shut down until the tail blocks were properly cleared.

This made Jim very angry. He took off in a huff and got on the yarding machine. Chokers had been set on some fairly large logs. Jim revved up the yarder motor and started bringing the logs in toward the landing at top speed. They soon hung up on stumps and the tension on the line caused the hundred-foot tall spar tree to snap in the middle and all the rigging to crash onto the landing site. Needless to say, the operation was down until a new spar tree was located, raised, rigged, and the tail block areas were properly cleaned.

Violation of compliance with contract fire requirements was not something Gil would tolerate, and for that operation was not a problem after that event.

The Unacceptable Culvert

About 1957, when timber sale road development programs were ballooning, getting and training enough construction inspectors was impossible. Those usually available were young and green and pitted against old grizzly purchaser representatives who had spent most of their lives in the woods. Those inexperienced inspectors were often no match for some of the tactics employed by purchasers to get logs down the road. This was not always the case. Some of the early inspectors were switched from other Forest Service activities and, although new to road inspection, had the experience and grit to deal with most any situation. Gil was one such inspector.

On one of Gil's first road projects, the purchaser was working near the beginning of the project and felling logs at the same time a mile or so up the road. A large culvert pipe was to be installed and approved before any logs were hauled. Gil was to be informed about the timing so he could be present during the installation.

Early one morning, Gil arrived at the site to find the culvert already installed. A quick look revealed a big sag in the middle from poor bedding; the job was grossly unacceptable. It happened that the purchaser representative who I'll call Paul was still there on a D-8 Cat dozer doing some final surface grading. Gil was angry, to put it mildly, and the confrontation began.

When asked about the lack of advance notice and quick installation, Paul said, "We need logs! The pipe's in and it looks good to me. Some trucks are up above being loaded, and they're coming out today."

"Paul, we both know the pipe isn't right, and no logs can come over this road until it is," Gil quite calmly responded.

"I guess we disagree, and we're hauling logs today," Paul answered.

Without another word, Gil got into his Forest Service pickup as if to drive off. Instead, he pulled it crossways in the new road just below the pipe. He then got out and said, "Paul, any logs going down this road will have to go over this pickup truck."

The D-8 dozer was still idling about 200 feet up the road. Paul didn't say a word. He got on the D-8, put it in high gear, and headed straight for the pickup. Needless to say, Gil was sweating a bit. But, as the D-8 got within a few feet of the Forest Service pickup, it spun 90 degrees to the right and Paul started the process of properly installing the culvert.

This was an unfortunate happening. But a clear understanding was reached right there on the ground in the beginning, and the rest of the project proceeded as required by the contract.

And this was just another example of Gil's grit, determination, and creative methods to see the contract properly fulfilled.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey Bud Unruh for this great story about the late Gil Gilbert. We've all known such guys as Gil, and know that's the way we were. We also know there are still Forest Service professionals who get the job done on the ground, and stories about **The Way We Were** can continue to inspire them as they did us. Got any? Send 'em in and share the inspiration!*

Out of the Past

Late OldSmokey Joe Lammi was a World War II U.S. Army Officer

By Les Joslin

Joe Lammi was the 30-year-old U.S. Forest Service district ranger for the Bend Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest when—by agreement between the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Agriculture—8,500 acres of his district were included in a U.S. Army combat engineer training center called Camp Abbot at which some 90,000 combat engineers were trained in 1943 and 1944.

Joe had bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Oregon State College, and beginning early in 1943 had lots to do with colonels and generals and such as the training center was built and began operations south of Bend, Oregon, on his district. Camp Abbot is now the site of Sunriver.

That fall, Joe joined the Army. Bidding family and friends farewell, he set off to see the world. Or so he and they thought. But Private Joe Lammi was assigned to Camp Abbot for training! "Same old trees, same old hills, same old Joe, but a different uniform!" he was kidded.

"I went in a buck private," Joe later remembered, "and came out as a major!" After training at Camp Abbot, Joe was commissioned and saw combat in Italy and North Africa with the Army Corps of Engineers. "I had my own jeep and driver," Joe said. "My job was to tour the front and make sure the ammunition, weapons, and other equipment were in the right places at the right times."

When the war ended, Joe returned to the Forest Service. During the early 1950s, he earned a Ph.D. in forest economics at the University of California in Berkeley. He then worked for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Geneva, Switzerland, before becoming a professor of forestry at North Carolina State University. Joe retired in 1979 and with Eleanor, whom he had married in 1938 and fathered sons William and Walter, moved to Longview, Washington.

An OldSmokey, Joe was born in San Francisco, California, in 1913 to Oscar and Aino Lammi, who immigrated to the United States from Finland. In 1919, the family moved to Portland, Oregon. Joe died in 2003 at the age of 90. Eleanor remained an OldSmokey until she died in 2005 at the age of 91. Their son, William, died at the age of 70 after being struck by a pickup truck in Longview in November 2014, while his brother Walter was working in Finland.

Editor's Note: It is the editor's hope to publish the stories of at least two more OldSmokeys who are World War II armed forces veterans in this section in the summer and fall issues of your OldSmokeys Newsletter in 2015 during which the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is commemorated. If you are such a veteran or know of an OldSmokey who is, please contact the editor and send in the veteran's story with photographs if available.



Black Mountain Lookout Cabin, Ochoco National Forest.

Photograph by Les Joslin

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Black Mountain Lookout Cabin Ochoco National Forest, Oregon

By Ron Gregory

Archaeologist, Ochoco National Forest

A fire lookout platform—not a formal lookout structure comprising tower, cab, etc.—was built atop a ponderosa pine on Black Mountain in the Ochoco National Forest during the summer of 1931. A cabin to house the person who staffed the lookout, the Black Mountain Lookout Cabin was built in 1934.

According to OldSmokey **Don James**, a former Big Summit district ranger, the Black Mountain Lookout Cabin was moved from Black Mountain to Cold Springs Guard Station in 1951 to provide additional housing at that station.

The cabin was then moved from its Cold Springs location to its current location at the now-decommissioned Ochoco Ranger Station in 1997. While that station was still operational, according to Ric Hancock, Ochoco National Forest facilities and leases specialist, the idea was for the cabin to house interpretive information. That use did not occur, and the cabin, now in questionable condition, is somewhat loosely managed as a historic structure. There are no apparent plans for the cabin's future restoration or reuse.



To visit the Black Mountain Lookout Cabin, drive east from Prineville on U.S. Highway 26 for about 18 miles and bear right onto Crook County Road 23. Continue another 8 miles to the Ochoco Ranger Station and see the cabin on the left just before the entrance road to the ranger station. A boardwalk leads to the cabin's front door, usually left unlocked.

Black Mountain Lookout tree platform was built in 1931.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

My First Forest Service Job

OldSmokeys Fred Henley and Ken Cochran provide us with another My First Forest Service Job “double-header.”

TSI Crew at Fort Valley, Arizona, 1955

By Fred Henley

In 1955, the year I graduated from high school, I got my first U.S. Forest Service job at the Fort Valley Experimental Forest at the base of the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, Arizona. That was a big change for a flatlander from Kansas.

Established in August 1908, Fort Valley was the first Forest Service research facility. At this experimental forest, what was then the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station was working out better ways to manage ponderosa pine in the Southwest.

I was assigned to the timber stand improvement (TSI) crew working on long-term experiments. Using the standard double-bit axe we released dominant trees on eight-or 12-foot spacing depending on the diameters of the trees in the dog-hair ponderosa pine thickets in which we worked. The experiments were intended to determine whether TSI could be economically feasible on a district or forest scale.

The soil, if you want to call it that, was all volcanic cinders and rock. I got lots of experience with a file—a serious sharpening session during lunch and again when we returned to the station at night. All slash was trimmed and trod down in place to a depth of under six inches, and woe to whomever left stobs sticking up above two or three inches. Everyone kept a dot count of released trees. That count was field checked by station personnel.

About once every two weeks we were taken on a “show and tell” educational field trip to see other TSI stands and given a rundown on TSI costs. We also toured control stands of all ages to learn about pre-commercial and commercial thinning, marking and felling to open up stagnant young growth, and skidding trails to do the same. We also got a full discourse on growth characteristics of ponderosa pine, reproduction patterns, and “natural” TSI such as fire, insects, wind throw, and “normal” succession.

This job proved a good base for a young flatlander and a good background for other jobs such as timber cruiser and sale layout and marking. I went on to mapping the Nez Perce National Forest for the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission and then to a Region 6 career in recreation and landscape management.

Road Surveys, Steamboat Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, 1963-64

By Kenneth E. Cochran

I had filled out a job application for the U.S. Forest Service in the spring of 1963. About August I received a letter asking if I were still looking for a position. Then, in September, a telegram came for the Forest Service in Portland, telling me to

disregard a letter which I had not yet received.

The confusion started when someone in Region 6 noticed they had offered two positions on the Umpqua National Forest, one to me and another to a man from Louisiana. He was single and I had a family. The housing situation was such that they decided to switch the locations. I got the position at Steamboat Ranger Station and he was sent to Tiller Ranger Station. I later heard that he showed up, took a good look around that day, then announced that he was going back to Louisiana. I got the better deal.

I began working on the Steamboat Ranger District on October 18, 1963, just a few days before the winter rains began. My first assignment was to the road survey team. Ken Overton, Jr., was the crew chief. Three or four of us went out each day. We were working a P-line on a steep side-hill just above a small creek which drained the area of a proposed timber sale. We soon encountered a very large tree down across our path. “How do we get around this?” I asked. “Just climb over it,” was the answer. Climb over it? I couldn’t even see over it!

My most vivid memory of the job was about a week after I started. It had rained continuously for several days. Each day, we had to cross Canton Creek by jumping from rock to rock. Then we walked a mile or so up the trail to begin work. On this day, when we came back down the trail, the creek was high enough we were unable to see the rocks we used that morning. We just waded across, up to our armpits. You can get only so wet!

Another project, up Boulder Creek, was a little more difficult to access. We had to cross the North Umpqua River. The state agency that monitored water volume and sediments had a cable across the river near where we wanted to go. This cable was suspended from trees about 50 feet above the highway and the river. There was a small carriage suspended from two pulleys which ran on the cable. We got permission to use this.

This carriage held two people, one to hold the gear (there was no floor, just a bar for your feet) and the other to pull us across. Gravity took you halfway across, but it was uphill the rest of the way. You used a small “ratchet-like” hand-held device to grip the cable. You reached ahead, got a grip on the cable, pulled yourself ahead, and then quickly slid the device ahead, took another grip, and pulled again. The closer you got to the other side, the “steeper” the climb. With a little effort, you reached the stops at the other end and quickly grabbed the hook to hold the carriage in place. You then unloaded your fear and climbed down the ladder. If you had more than two people, you either went back by yourself for him or, if there were two people waiting to cross, you attached a rope to the carriage so they could pull it back to their side.

Editor’s Note: It must have got better. Ken served in the Forest Service in Region 6 from 1963 to 1993.

Photo of similar device on Deschutes National Forest by Les Joslin.



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Spring 2015

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