



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Spring 2017

President's Message—Ron Boehm

Since being installed as your President, I have slept a few times and blinked a few blinks and another year has flown by! I'm not sure if this is due to me slowing down or to time speeding up.

In the winter issue President's message I mentioned how grateful I am that we didn't have to help anyone with funds from our Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Relief Fund and I remain most grateful for that. I am a little disappointed that we didn't receive more proposals for funds from our Grant Fund. We budgeted \$10,000 for grants but received only two proposals for a total of \$2,500 which we were able to award. Since the beginning of our grant program in 2009, we have awarded \$48,014 to 28 projects including two this year. Your Board of Directors is concerned about the low number of proposals and plans to increase our outreach to more prospective grantees. Perhaps you can spread the word to cooperators who could benefit from one of our grants.

Our annual Spring Banquet is coming up on May 21. We will be installing **Tom Mulder** as President, welcoming **Kent Connaughton** as President-elect, and thanking **Jim Rice** for his leadership as he completes his three-year commitment as President-elect, President, and Past President. Mark your calendars and—if you haven't yet—make your reservations for a wonderful afternoon dinner party. Remember, too, that we will have our silent auction again this year. Get your auction items ready and bring your wallet or checkbook.

August 11 has been set as the date for our annual Summer Picnic in the Woods at Wildwood Recreation Area. Last year we had a great turnout in beautiful weather. Can we top it this year?

Hard copy registration forms for both the banquet and the picnic are found on pages 3 and 4 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. If you would like, you can register online using PayPal. Please see our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> for details.

Thank you for letting me be your President this past year.

Ron Boehm

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

Sign Up Now for May 21 Banquet—See Page 3!

Forum

Badge-Heavy Wilderness Ranger: The Other Side of the Story?

By John Berry

In reading the Winter 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I was struck by the article “Badge-Heavy Wilderness Ranger...” I have great respect for Dick Spray, and I assume his contact is honorable and honest. However, there were several points in the article that raised questions in my mind. I would have preferred that the article have been a first-person account.

First, the group and the group leader either knew or should have known about the wilderness permit requirements before they ever left on their wilderness hike. Why plan a trip with a group that exceeds the permitted size?

When they realized they had too big a group, they chose to divide into two groups. The rationale for division is sketchy, if not lame. Why were they trying to circumvent the wilderness permit criterion for group size?

When the first group was held up and the second group caught up, they still tried to maintain they were two separate groups. No one seems to admit that?

Based on my experiences as a District Ranger and Forest Supervisor, I suspect there may be another version to this tale. I had several cases where permittees violated terms of their permit. And, rather than taking responsibility and remedying the situation, claimed they were being mistreated and victims. Some even to the point of taking their unfounded issues public.

Federal employees, and Forest Service front-line employees especially, have an increasingly complex and difficult job. I would like to hear the other side of this story, too.

OldSmokeys Make On-Time Payment of Annual Dues Easier on All Concerned Through PayPal

Ever since I have been editor of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I have watched Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) membership chairpersons and assisting members struggle to ensure payment of PNWFSA annual dues which are due and payable on January 1 of each year.

Knowing, as they do, that getting the Bill for Collection published in fall and winter issues of the newsletter together with a checkbook and pen, envelope and stamp, and trip to the mailbox in this day and age of electronic payments is a hassle, the PNWFSA Board of Directors has introduced dues payment through PayPal as an alternative to payment by check.

To pay your annual dues by PayPal, simply go to the OldSmokeys website at <www.oldsmokeys.org>, click on the DONATIONS AND PAYMENTS option in the left column of the home page; go to Annual Dues on the DONATIONS AND PAYMENTS page; click on ADD TO CART; and complete the PayPal checkout process. It's easy! And it's a lot easier on your fellow OldSmokeys charged with collecting annual dues.

It's still easier on all concerned for a PNWFSA member to pay once to become a Lifetime Member and never have to think about dues again!

--Les Joslin

Protest Bear Reflects Threat to America's Public Lands

This large carved wooden bear holding a “no Forest Service sign” was photographed on November 22, 2016, along U.S. Highway 97 about a mile south of the Deschutes National Forest's new Crescent Ranger Station.

This example of freedom of speech reflects the desire of part of America's population to turn some or all of the nation's public lands—including lands within the National Forest System—over to state, local, or even private ownership or management.

Approval by the U.S. House of Representatives in January 2017 of a “change in U.S. House rules making it easier to transfer millions of acres of federal public lands to states,” as Keith Ridler of The Associated Press reported it, has increased concerns over public lands transfers. This action followed the U.S. Senate's passage in March 2016 of an amendment in support of transferring control of federal lands to states.

During the election campaign that ended with the election of President Donald J. Trump, then-candidate Trump said this about such transfers: “I don't like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don't know what the state is going to do. I mean, are they going to sell it if they get into a little bit of trouble?”

State ownership would involve management expenses—particularly when it comes to fighting wildfires—far beyond state resources. Private ownership would face the same challenges as well as limit public access to a wide range of recreational opportunities, including the best hunting and fishing in the country, enjoyed by the citizen-owners of the public lands.

“Even if national forests and other public lands remain under federal control, many anticipate a push in the next four years to give wide latitude to local interests in deciding how to manage those lands and the resources they contain,” the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics noted on November 14, 2016.

And even if the national forests and other public lands remained in public ownership, that “no Forest Service sign” in the protest bear's paws could mean privatized management of public resources for private profit and all the abuses or just plain neglect that might well entail.

OldSmokeys who spent their careers managing the National Forest System “for the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run”—as well as the citizen-owners of those lands whom they served—will want to ponder these ideas, monitor what happens, and ensure that greatest good.

--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 to Install PNWFSA Officers and Bid on Fascinating Silent Auction Items at May 21 Spring Banquet

OldSmokeys will gather on Sunday, May 21, 2017 for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Spring Banquet at the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, to see OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** take over as PNWFSA President from OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** installed as President-elect. They'll also thank OldSmokey **Jim Rice** for three years of service as he relinquishes the Past President position to Ron.

Fine Dining and Silent Auction

Before that annual peaceful transfer, all in attendance will enjoy socializing and fine dining with their fellow OldSmokeys and join in the fun of bidding on the many super items donated for the every-other-year silent auction.

Doors and the **no-host bar** will open at 1:00 p.m., and the fun of **socializing** with drinks and appetizers as well as serious **silent auction bidding** will be well under way by 1:30 p.m.

The always memorable buffet-style dinner, which will again be catered by honorary OldSmokey **Dave Dalton** whose lavish and tasteful spread always pleases, will be served by 3:00 p.m.

As dinner ends, officers will be installed, door prizes will be awarded, and successful silent auction bidders announced.

As always, the success of the silent auction depends on auction items donated by you and other PNWFSA members. OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> is the person to contact about donating silent auction items. Mary asks all OldSmokeys to please contribute auction items of interest that will make this the most successful such auction so far.

“We also need donations of door prize items!” OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** reminds. Bev’s at 503-255-3265 or <bev58@comcast.com>.

Cost and Registration

All of this will set you back just **\$25.00 per person!** Please use the Reservation Form (or a copy of it) below to reserve your place(s) not later than May 10, 2017.

Driving Directions

Most OldSmokeys already know how to get to Charbonneau Country Club. For those who don’t or need a reminder:

From Portland and 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 follow it to Charbonneau Country Club. From Salem and points south, exit I-5 at 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 Charbonneau Country Club.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

SPRING BANQUET—MAY 21, 2017
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 and your check in to be received not later than May 10, 2017.



OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA’s August 11 Summer Picnic

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 11, 2017, 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 \$15.00 per person—that’s right, just \$15.00 per person, just \$7.50 for kids under 12—by July 31, 2017. This lower price is available again this year by arrangement with the Job Corps culinary student program who will serve us!

As it has been for many years, the BLM’s Wildwood Recreation Area will be the site for this year’s 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 signs to the area reserved for the picnic.

Socializing will start at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Your Federal Recreation Lands Pass will cover the fee that helps BLM maintain the Wildwood Recreation Area as the special place it is.

This invitation and registration form will appear again in the Summer 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, but if you’re sure you can make it to this summer’s picnic you might as well use the registration form below and sign up early!

OldSmokeys are Watching the Website for September 2018 “Reunion at the Cradle” Information and Registration!

The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association (SFSRA) is thrilled to host the September 24 to 28, 2018, Forest Service National Retirees Reunion at the Crown Plaza Resort just outside beautiful downtown Asheville, North Carolina.

The website at 2018.fsreunions.org is a helpful and growing source of information for Reunion Registration and Lodging Reservations as well as travel and program information. *Check it often!*

As this website evolves, you will get more information about the “Reunion at the Cradle” itself as well as learn about the history, culture, and resources of the Southern Appalachians and the Cradle of Forestry in America on the Pisgah National Forest where Carl A. Schenck taught early foresters, the vast Biltmore Estate where young forester Gifford Pinchot practiced his profession before he and President Theodore Roosevelt founded the U.S. Forest Service, and other unique features of one of the most biologically diverse regions in the nation.

Reunion registration began March 15!

Crown Plaza Resort reservations will begin in October!

The Reunion at the Cradle is the first U.S. Forest Service reunion to be held east of the Mississippi and in the South!

You won’t want to miss it!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS—AUGUST 11, 2017
BLM Wildwood Recreation Area

RESERVATION FORM

Socializing at 11:00 a.m.—Lunch at 12:00 noon

Mail this reservation form and a check for \$15.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at \$15.00 each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags) for:

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

Please send your reservation form to be received not later than August 1, 2017!

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$7.50 each.



Participants in the Bull Run Watershed tour were (left-to-right) Nancy Lankford, Bruce Rigby, Tom Ortman, Claire Ugelstad, Dick Blashill, Jim DeMaagd, Glen Davidson, and Lisa Northrup. Not pictured is Bill Westbrook, photographer. Photograph by Bill Westbrook.

OldSmokeys Participated in a Day-Long Tour of Bull Run Watershed on the Mt. Hood National Forest

Submitted by Dick Blashill

Forest Supervisor/OldSmokey **Lisa Northrup** hosted a September 29, 2016, tour of the Bull Run Watershed on the Mt. Hood National Forest for OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees whose careers involved aspects of managing Portland, Oregon’s, vital watershed.

OldSmokeys **Dick Blashill** and **Tom Ortman** along with retirees Glen Davidson, Bruce Rigby, and Claire Ugelstad joined Lisa, Deputy Forest Supervisor/OldSmokey **Jim DeMaagd**, Zigzag District Ranger Bill Westbrook, and Natural Resources and Planning Staff Officer/OldSmokey **Nancy Lankford** for the day-long tour. The retirees set the pace and picked the stops.

“The objective of the tour was to view areas and share stories about those areas that we retirees had something to do with during our careers,” Dick reported. “One of the surprises for the retirees was how much the appearance of the stops had been changed by the growth of the trees and other vegetation. Lunch was at the old CCC camp site on Bull Run Lake.”

“The hosts were very gracious to the retirees and it was a very nice day for all,” Dick said.

OldSmokeys Award \$2,500 in Grants to Support Two Worthwhile Projects

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors on January 27, 2017, awarded a total of \$2,500 in grants for two projects recommended by Grant Committee members **Charlie Krebs**, **Kent Mays**, and **Bob Tokarczyk**.

A grant of \$1,000 will support The High Desert Museum’s effort to develop and erect new signs that will increase public understanding of the significance of forest management as part of the Museum’s redevelopment of its forest programs. The Nature Conservancy and Discover Your Forest are two key partners, and the Deschutes National Forest’s program manager for partnerships and conservation education has been involved.

A grant of \$1,500 to the Friends of Fish Lake will purchase structural epoxy and fiberglass re-bar needed to restore deteriorating posts and log cabin siding at the Hall House, Dispatch Cabin, and barn at the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest. This request was strongly supported by McKenzie River District Ranger-OldSmokey **Terry Baker**.

“We were not overrun with grant proposals this year, but we did receive two very good ones,” Charlie commented. The call for applications for 2018 grants will appear in the Summer 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The PNWFSA has awarded \$48,014 in grants to 28 projects since awarding grants began in 2009.

OldSmokeys, Friends of Fish Lake to Gather for June 18-23 Work Week at Fish Lake Historic Site

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) have scheduled their annual work week at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot for Sunday, June 18, through Friday, June 23, according to FFL President and OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson**.

“The only criteria for participating in the work week are an interest in maintaining the historic structures and a desire to meet with old friends,” Rolf said. “All skills are welcome, and even partial days will help. Monday through Wednesday are the busiest days. We have space for campers and RVs. A \$1,500 grant from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) [announced in this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] will provide the work materials.”

Other major summer work at the Fish Lake Historic Site on the Willamette National Forest will include several projects providing infrastructure to support educational activities, Rolf reported. A 20-foot by 40-foot pavilion will provide covered meeting space and will be complemented by a nearby vault toilet. This work is funded by a Federal Highways Administration grant and will be accomplished in July by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve unit headquartered in Springfield, Oregon.

Prepared from information provided by Rolf Anderson

OldSmokey, Friends of Fish Lake Boards to Meet at Fish Lake on August 23

“We have reported the great work the Friends of Fish Lake have accomplished at Fish Lake Historic Site with assistance of OldSmokey grant funds. This year, to get an opportunity to see these improvements, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) and Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) will hold an on-site meeting of their boards and a tour of the Fish Lake Historic Site on August 23,” meeting coordinators **Mike Ash** and **Linda Goodman** announced on March 1 on behalf of both boards. “In addition to the members of these boards, interested members of the PNWFSA and FFL are welcome to attend.”

The meeting will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Attendees will bring their own lunches. Limited parking is available at the Fish Lake Day Use Area on the west side of Oregon Highway 126. The PNWFSA’s usual monthly membership luncheon will still be held on August 25 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland.

More details about this joint meeting will be provided in the Summer 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys are Signing Up Now to Staff High Desert Ranger Station Ninth Season

This coming summer of 2017 will be the ninth consecutive summer during which OldSmokeys, supplemented by other High Desert Museum volunteers, will welcome that world-class museum's visitors to its High Desert Ranger Station daily from July 1 through Labor Day.

Last summer's volunteer team of eight OldSmokeys and several other museum volunteers welcomed almost two thousand visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station. These visitors got personal introductions to U.S. Forest Service history and its role in the evolution of the Old West of natural resource exploitation into the New West of natural resource stewardship.

Easily identifiable in their forest green polo shirts, these volunteers' duty days are individually scheduled by volunteer team leader OldSmokey **Les Joslin** based on each volunteer's availability and convenience. Les updates experienced volunteers, orients new volunteers, and serves days not scheduled for other volunteers. Les will have to be away from Central Oregon for a couple yet-to-be scheduled periods this summer, and needs to recruit a strong volunteer team like last summer's team to ensure all 65 scheduled days are staffed.

High Desert Ranger Station 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 polo shirts worn with regular blue jeans, proper belts and footwear. Matching 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 way OldSmokeys help citizens-owners of the National Forest System understand and appreciate current and historic roles of the Forest Service and the national forests and grasslands it administers for them.

For more information, contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331 (leave message if nobody's home), by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or by letter addressed to him at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97703.

OldSmokeys May Attend June 3, 2017 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion Historic Marker Dedication

OldSmokeys are invited to attend the June 3, 2017, dedication of a State of Oregon Historical Marker commemorating the World War II service of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum at the Illinois Valley Airport near Cave Junction, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m. that day. The dedication is part of an 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. event that will include a fireman's breakfast, smokejumper demonstrations, lunch and music, and more.

The 555th was an African-American U.S. Army paratroop unit trained by the U.S. Forest Service as smokejumpers and assigned as part of a secret mission called Operation Firefly to counter the 1944-1945 Japanese incendiary balloon bomb attack to start forest fires in the United States.

Prepared from information provided by OldSmokeys Jerry Wojack and Roger Brandt, and Virginia Gibbons of the U.S. Forest Service.

OldSmokeys Object to Smokey Bear Misuse by T-Shirt Producers

Beginning with an e-mail from OldSmokey **John Hughes** published by OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** as eForum No. 440 of February 13, 2017, reporting "a t-shirt [bearing Smokey Bear's image and the word "Resist!" such as the one shown at right] is being offered [for sale] on Facebook," several OldSmokeys including **Gladys Biglor**, **Nancy Gibson**, **Ron Pugh**, and **Ray Bunster** have registered objections through Vern's eNotes to such use of Smokey's image. "The more important issue" for OldSmokey **Mike Ash** "is that the Smokey image is being used in a political manner to resist the new President and his administration."



All rightly see it as illegal. It has been ever since Congress passed and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Smokey Bear Act of 1953 (18 U.S. Code 711) to protect the use of Smokey's name and image. Current rules for use of Smokey Bear are in the 18-page October 2016 edition of "Smokey Bear Guidelines" published by the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) program—a partnership of the U.S. Forest Service, the Ad Council, and the Association of State Foresters. As stated in those guidelines, Smokey "is not officially trademarked or copyrighted [but is] similarly protected by acts of Congress" and "not in the public domain."

"Smokey Bear...is protected by Federal law (PL 82-359, as amended by PL 93-318)" which provides for commercial licensing of Smokey Bear products and protection of his image by the Forest Service's Director, Fire and Aviation Management. That job is currently delegated to The Metis Group LLC, a commercial licensing agency acting as program manager. The program manager, the guidelines say, "shall take action necessary, up to and including civil and criminal court actions, to stop the violator."

Currently there appear to be several violators producing several such t-shirts. According to information received by OldSmokey **Ray Steiger** from a National Wildfire Coordination Group representative, cognizant national officials are addressing the current misuse issues.

Prepared from multiple sources.

OldSmokey Terry Baker Transferred to Deputy Forest Supervisor Position for Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest

OldSmokey **Terry Baker**, district ranger of the McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, since July 2011, accepted the deputy forest supervisor position for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands in the Rocky Mountain Region in Fort Collins, Colorado, the WO reported in *The Chief's Desk* for January 13, 2017.

Terry's previous Pacific Northwest Region service was as supervisory forester and silviculturist on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. He holds a bachelor's degree in general agriculture from Florida A&M University, a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Florida, and a master's degree in forest management and policy from Yale University.

OldSmokeys Say

When is a “Permit” Not a Permit?

By Dick Spray

Self-issued wilderness permits are not permits in the true sense of the word. As defined in dictionaries, a “permit” is “a document granting permission; license; warrant.” A characteristic of a “permit” is that it is something that can be refused. This calls into question U.S. Forest Service use of the term “wilderness permit” when the document is self-issued, and the issuance of a violation notice or warning notice in instances when a self-issued “permit” is required but not possessed.

In the early 1960s, I was transferred from the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, to the Division of Recreation and Lands in the Pacific Northwest Region RO in Portland. One of the many jobs I was assigned was to help Wiley Wenger, a social scientist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, get the Three Sisters Wilderness set up for a visitation study he was to conduct. This involved two national forests and three ranger districts, and I was assigned to coordinate the physical setup so that visitor registration stations were all similar in appearance and purpose. The photograph shows the final product that produced excellent cooperation from visitors.

One early wording suggestion was to use the word “permit” to require visitors to stop and register. Wenger insisted that this should not be construed as a permit because he believed he would get better cooperation from visitors politely requested to “register” their visit. Thus, the sign language “This will help us meet your needs in this area.”

Fast forward to the early 1980s. I was detailed to the Washington Office to sit in the chair of the wilderness staff person. One of the jobs assigned was to meet with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) to get an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) number to reprint a Self-Issued Wilderness Permit form that had superseded the original registration form. The attorneys at the meeting warned me about two things.

- The first was we should recognize that this document was not a legal permit because of the “self-issue” feature. A lot of research revealed that all dictionaries describe a permit as a document that can be refused and if self-issued, refusal is not possible.
- The second was we should not require any more information than is necessary for management of the resource. This boiled down to nothing but numbers and only a ZIP code for an address.

A follow-up letter from OMB gave the Forest Service the number needed to reprint the form, but nothing was mentioned about the education they gave me. However, ever since that experience, I have never given information more than my ZIP code and the numbers of people in the parties, time to be spent in the wilderness, etc.

The point, I guess, is this question: Should the Forest Service require wilderness visitors to “self-issue” a “wilderness permit” or request them to “register” their wilderness visit to provide management data and perhaps public safety aided by itinerary information entered on the registration form?



The Urbanization of the U.S. Forest Service

By Jon Stewart

For almost a century the U.S. Forest Service administered the national forests by posting district rangers and other field personnel on the land they managed and within the milling, mining, and ranching communities they served. The district ranger was a known member and the ranger station part of the fabric of the community. The size of ranger districts was traditionally defined by how far a ranger could ride horseback in a day or two.

Motivated by the devastating wildfires of the 1910 “Big Blowup,” the Forest Service strategically located guard station and fire lookouts on these districts that were manned 24 hours a day during the wildfire season. During those times, thanks to district rangers’ seasonal firefighters who lived at those stations and worked on the lands they protected, wildfires were kept small and only about 17 percent of the Forest Service budget was spent on wildfire suppression.

How things have changed!

Today, over half the Forest Service budget is spent on wildfire suppression. It’s easy to blame these skyrocketing costs on fuel buildups resulting from almost a century of fire suppression, a lack of aggressive thinning and active management, and climate change that result in fire seasons that average a month or two longer than just a couple decades ago, but an increasingly urbanized society of which the Forest Service is a part is equally culpable. District rangers no longer ride horses, and a century of road building enables combining two or more ranger districts, merging national forests, closing guard stations, and consolidating personnel—including firefighters—at central locations where they often spend more time on their computers and cell phones than in the field.

As a result, many district rangers no longer live in the communities they serve and thus no longer meet face-to-face on a daily basis with the community leaders and user groups associated with their ever-larger districts. On the Ochoco National Forest, for example, the Paulina Ranger District’s former Rager Ranger Station, a twisty 75-mile drive from its current Prineville headquarters, is closed. Forest Service personnel once stationed at that ranger station and who as volunteers staffed the ambulance for the local ranching community are gone. A day’s work on that district often involves 150 miles of driving. On other Pacific Northwest national forests, some district rangers live in larger communities and commute to their relatively isolated ranger stations and the smaller communities they serve. Many assigned to remote stations stay only long enough to get their tickets punched rather than become fixtures of the communities. This helps explain the widening gap of understanding between the Forest Service and its constituents.

As far as fire management is concerned, response times are critical to keeping wildfires small and suppression costs down, but as firefighting resources are urbanized and centralized these costs appear to be increasing. Lookouts are giving way to satellite and aerial detection, and guard stations that housed summer fire crews who kept fit maintaining local forest roads, trails, and campgrounds stand abandoned or rented out as recreation facilities. Concentration of fire crews at centralized urban bases increases response times and results in dramatically larger wildfires and higher suppression costs.

District rangers and other key personnel now claim their families no longer want to live at ranger stations near or in small rural communities which lack the educational and medical benefits of larger urban areas, and thus are less apt to engage in community affairs. Fire crews, often comprising urbanized seasonal employees, eschew guard station living in favor of large urban bases close to entertainment venues and good cell phone coverage. Instead of actively working in the forest and maintaining the roads their ever larger and more expensive fire apparatus require and caring for their guard stations, they often spend their days working out in gyms. The result? Useful work does not get done, wildfire response times increase, and larger, more destructive, and more-expensive-to-control wildfires plague the national forests.

The bottom line? A time-tested system of local community support and wildfire suppression is ignored as a Forest Service charged with “caring for the land and serving people” often gives way to serving an increasingly urbanized work force that is losing the forests and communities it was created to serve.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Awaits New Leaders

Just two days before his January 20, 2017, inauguration, then President-elect Donald J. Trump nominated former Governor George Ervin “Sonny” Perdue III, Georgia’s governor from 2003 to 2011, to serve as Secretary of Agriculture. As of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* March 15 deadline, Governor Perdue’s nomination had not been confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Governor Perdue was born on December 20, 1946, in Perry, Georgia. A walk-on member of the University of Georgia football team, he earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree there. After serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1974, he was discharged at the rank of captain. He worked as a veterinarian and as a small business owner before entering state politics.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Visack, the last original member of President Barack Obama’s cabinet, left office on Friday, January 13. Michael Young, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Budget and Program Analysis, became acting Secretary of Agriculture at noon on Friday, January 20, when both President Obama and Michael Skuse, who had been acting secretary for a week, left office.

In February 2017, at the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) annual board of directors meeting in Las Vegas, as reported by OldSmokey **Jim Golden** in the March 2017 issue of NAFSR’s newsletter, *The Lookout*, “... there was lots of discussion about the new Trump administration and how leadership and policy changes may affect the Forest Service. There has not yet been much interaction between the Trump transition team and the Forest Service, so it is safe to say that the Forest Service is not ‘in the crosshairs’ for the moment. It is expected that the new Secretary of Agriculture... will be confirmed sometime in March. Key leadership appointments will then follow and the Forest Service will become fully ‘engaged.’ The many rumors afloat about who might be the new Chief and Undersecretary [for Natural Resources and Environment, to whom the Chief of the Forest Service reports] are mere speculation until that time.”

Prepared from multiple sources.

U.S. Forest Service Still Seeks Comprehensive Fire Funding Solution

Congress went home on December 9, 2016, without enacting a permanent and comprehensive wildfire funding solution. A fire funding fix was included in the final drafts of the bipartisan energy bill, but the House of Representatives concluded its business for the year without acting on the bill. And so, the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies with wildfire suppression responsibilities face another wildfire season during which “fire borrowing” may well exert negative effects on all its other programs.

In the wake of that legislative failure, representatives of groups comprising the Fire Suppression Funding Solutions Partner Caucus expressed strong support for a fire funding fix and urged the recently convened 115th Congress to pass such a fix.

“For almost a decade, a diverse coalition has advocated for reform in the way wildfire suppression is paid for, citing the serious damage to natural resource programs, many of which, if adequately funded, would reduce the catastrophic impacts of such fires,” said Jim Caswell, Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR). “It is astounding that over this time Congress was not able to find a solution, despite these best efforts. As a result, America’s rural communities continue to be threatened by the failure of Congress to come to agreement. We hope the 115th Congress will recognize that solving this problem will protect lives, help to restore forests, increase employment in forest dependent and adjacent communities, and take the next step to enactment. We need to get this fixed!”

“Thank you to the many members of Congress who worked so diligently to explore opportunities to address the wildfire funding problem this year,” said Clark Seely, President of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). “While disappointed that agreement was not reached, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and work with Congress and the new Administration on a comprehensive budgetary fix that enables federal land management agencies to spend their valuable time and resources achieving management goals rather than planning for how and when money will be diverted to the ever-growing wildfire suppression budget.”

Prepared from the press release “Bipartisan Fix to Wildfire Disaster Funding Burns Out” issued December 9, 2016, by The Nature Conservancy.

U.S. Forest Service and BLM to Manage New Bears Ears National Monument

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are undertaking joint management of the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah, one of two new monuments proclaimed by President Barack Obama on December 28, 2016, under the executive authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The approximately 1.35 million federal acres within the new national monument include nearly 290,000 acres of the Manti-LaSal National Forest and its 46,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness just north of the Bears Ears Buttes for which the new national monument is named.

With this designation, the Bears Ears National Monument became the twelfth national monument managed by the Forest

Service and the fifth managed jointly by the Forest Service and the BLM. Both agencies “will prepare a management plan developed with maximum public involvement, including tribal, local, and State governments, permit holders, other stakeholders and other federal land management agencies in the local area, including the National Park Service,” said a December 28, 2016, Forest Service news release.

“The Bears Ears National Monument is an incredible resource for the people of Utah,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “The Forest Service is honored to work with the local communities and tribes to manage these lands for the public’s enjoyment and preserving them for future generations.” The monument designation maintains currently authorized uses of the land that do not harm the resources protected by the monument, including tribal access and traditional collection of plants and firewood, off-highway vehicle recreation, hunting and fishing, and authorized grazing. The monument designation also does not affect valid existing rights for oil, gas, and mining operations, military training operations, and utility corridors.

President Obama simultaneously designated the nearly 300,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in southeastern Nevada. “The monuments are Mr. Obama’s latest effort to protect public lands and waters from development and to nail down as much of his environmental legacy as he can before Donald J. Trump assumes the presidency on January 20,” *The New York Times* said on December 28, 2016.

Prepared from multiple sources including U.S. Forest Service News Release “Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President’s Designation of New National Monuments in Utah and Nevada” of December 28, 2016, and “Obama Designates Two New National Monuments, Protecting 1.65 Million Acres” by Coral Davenport in The New York Times on December 28, 2016.

U.S. Forest Service Faces Reduction in Federal Timber Payment Money

“A U.S. Forest Service program that infused rural communities with millions to make up for lost timber revenue is drying up,” The Associated Press reported on January 29, 2017. This “will impact more than 700 counties and 4,000 school districts in 41 states.”

In the Pacific Northwest Region, “Oregon will see a 90 percent reduction in the payments that have kept critical services afloat in many counties since environmental rules curtailed logging nearly 30 years ago,” the report said. Statistics for Washington state were not provided.

Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 “to help ease the financial blow after a dramatic reduction in logging in the 1990s. But the program has not been reauthorized and payments going forward will revert to a 1908 law that dedicates 25 percent of timber revenues to local governments.”

“For Oregon, the reduction would be particularly severe, dropping the 2015 payment of \$86.4 million to 7 million, according to...the National Association of Counties. Polk County would see payments almost completely dry up after a reduction from \$782,406 to \$318.”

Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon), a co-author of the 2000 law, was reported working with Idaho Republican colleagues “to craft a solution.”

Prepared from Associated Press January 29, 2017, article “State faces reduction in federal timber money” and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Moved into New Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters in Vancouver

Despite foul weather challenges, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest SO staff occupied a new forest headquarters facility in Vancouver, Washington, this January and February 2017. This new SO facility is an historic U.S. Army barracks built in 1906 which has been beautifully renovated and is part of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System. Most recently the building had been used by the U.S. Army Reserve 104th Division, but had been vacant since 2010.

The new office is located at 987 McClellan Road in Vancouver, Washington. The national forest’s visitor services will remain co-located with those of the National Park Service in the jointly-operated Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. The joint visitor center has brought benefits for both agencies as well as the public, including Saturday hours. The national forest’s fire staff and dispatch center moved into a nearby building on the Fort Vancouver campus in April 2016.

“We are excited to be on the Fort Vancouver campus and to be located in a more central location in the Vancouver-Portland Metropolitan area,” said Gifford Pinchot National Forest Supervisor Gina Owens. “I’m proud to be part of a project and partnership where we reinvested federal dollars into federal buildings, and are a part of the restoration and repurpose of a historic structure.”

Prepared from Gifford Pinchot National Forest News Release “Forest Headquarters Open House January 7” of January 4, 2017, and the article “Gifford Pinchot National Forest unveils new headquarters” in the January 13, 2017, The Chief’s Desk.

This Just In After Deadline!

One day after the March 15 deadline, on the afternoon of March 16 as this edition of your OldSmokeys Newsletter was being proofread to be sent to printing and mailing, President Trump’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 hit your editor’s desk. This forced killing another story to afford just this first glimpse at a budget story that will have developed by the time you receive this...but had to be included in this issue.

President Trump Issued “America First: A Budget to Make America Great Again”

President Donald J. Trump’s White House on March 16 unveiled what it is calling an “America First” budget for the federal government that would significantly boost defense spending and offset the increase with cuts in funding for many other programs including those of the U.S. Forest Service.

For the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “the Budget request supports core Departmental and mission critical activities while streamlining, reducing, or eliminating duplicative, redundant, or lower priority programs where the Federal role competes with the private sector or other levels of government,” the document introduces the department’s share of the pie.

“The President’s 2018 Budget requests \$17.9 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a \$4.1 billion or 21 percent decrease from the 2017 annualized continuing resolution (CR) level (excluding funding for P.L. 480 Title II food aid which is reflected in the Department of State and USAID budget).”

Forest Service News continues on Page 14

Feature

Applegate's Bigfoot

By Jerry Wojack

Legend has it that, back in August 1969, a miner named Perry Lovell, living on his mining claim near Grouse Creek above the Applegate River, was visited by Bigfoot. On the morning of August 30, Lovell and a friend found 18-inch human-like footprints with a six-foot stride in his garden.

In early 1970, the Applegate Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, was contacted by North America Wildlife Research Team (NAWRT), a now-defunct organization then based in Eugene, Oregon. They were requesting a special-use permit to construct a Bigfoot trap on Lovell's mining claim.

The trap was completed in 1974 just off the Collins Mountain trail and above the miner's cabin. Prior to completion of the Applegate Lake flood control dam, the site was accessible by way of a steep jeep road from the Applegate River and then a mile hike. Now it is just a gentle three-quarters of a mile walk from Forest Road 10.

The trap is a 10-foot tall, 10-foot by 10-foot square structure of 12-inch wide and two-inch thick planks. It was anchored by telephone poles and reinforced with heavy metal bolts and metal plates. The trap door is a heavy metal screened gate encased in a steel frame.

The first "beast" caught after the trap's completion was an angry black bear. The second was a local "counter-culture" person roaming the area. After these entrapments, NAWRT hired a caretaker to live in the Grouse Creek cabin, periodically check the trap, and respond to the electronic signal that sounded at his cabin when the trap gate closed.

Bigfoot did visit the caretaker—in a vision—one night, and requested the harassment of Sasquatch cease. Failing to convince NAWRT that their harassment should end, the caretaker quit. After six years of operation, the trap was abandoned. In 1980, after NAWRT failed to remove the trap, the Forest Service bolted the door open.

A fellow named Ron Olson built the trap and produced the movie *Sasquatch*. The movie did poorly at theater box offices when released in 1976.

In a near-deathbed confession, Lovell told his friends the Bigfoot was a hoax. He had carved the footprints from boards, made the impressions, and burned the wooden patterns. He'd then waited for his friend to find the footprints while he showed him his garden.

In 2006, the Forest Service, under the Passport in Time (PIT) program, repaired the trap. Although, at the time, the trap did not meet PIT program historical or archaeological requirements, it fell under the program because it was believed to be the only such trap in the nation.

John McKelligot, the lone recreation technician on the High Siskiyou Ranger District, keeps an eye on the trap. Otherwise, the Forest Service does not maintain the structure. John says the planked floor is gone and the roof is rotting out, but otherwise it still stands.



The Applegate Bigfoot trap on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, October 2011.

Photograph by Jerry Wojack

McKelligot also mentioned a call he received during the Bigfoot era on the Applegate. An Australian radio station, on a live broadcast, asked him how many Bigfoots were captured and what they tasted like. After he explained the history of the trap and that no Bigfoots were ever captured, the interviewer asked again what Bigfoot tasted like. "Chicken, maybe?"

"Yes, tastes like chicken," John replied.

Editor's Note: Given the recent spates of "fake news," your editor would have been skeptical of this story if he didn't know Jerry's reputation as a straight-shooter.

Changes

Beck, Jeanette – Change address: 4624 S Pacific Hwy, No. 52, Phoenix, OR 97535

Boyd, Bob -- Change e-mail: rgboyd@bendbroadband.com

Collier, Linda A. & Tom – Change e-mail: lindatomcollier@gmail.com

Culbertson, Richard W. "Dick" & Mae – Correct e-mail: dickculberts@gmail.com

Ellis, Michelle R. & Gene – New members: 78-7070 Alii Dr C201, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Telephone: 509-860-0781 E-mail: ellis13531@aol.com

Ellis, Steven A. & Linda – New members: PO Box 156, Beaver Creek, OR 97004

Telephone: 208-866-3995 E-mail: eaglecapmntns@gmail.com

Gano, Ellis W. "Al" – Deceased December 19, 2016; Betty survives

Harris, Jennifer – Change addresses: 912 NW Sunnywood Ct, McMinnville, OR 97128 (summer);

63440 E Squash Blossom Ln, Tucson, AZ 85739 (winter)

Hickerson, Carl W. – Deceased January 11, 2017

Holloter, Gene C. – Deceased December 16, 2016; Virginia survives.

Inman, Jack V. & Katheen – Change address: 308 Jewel Terrace, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Johnson, Kenneth & Emily – Change address: 3002 SE 160th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98683

Change telephone: 360-828-5033

Keleman, Bruce A. & Karen – Change e-mail: brucekeleman@gmail.com

Kentner, Edwin D. "Ed" – Deceased February 8, 2017

Lalande, Jeff – Change address: PO Box 333, Ashland, OR 97520

Lankford, Nancy – Change address: 19102 NE 29th Dr, Vancouver, WA 98684

Linares, Jose & Janet M. – New members: 475 McKinley St, SE, Salem, OR 97302

Telephone: 503-763-1877 E-mail: jll97@comcast.net

Loff, Jean – Change address: 8785 SW Illahee Ct, 809H, Wilsonville, OR 97070

Maferri, Tom & Deb – Change address: PO Box 1051, Salida, CO 81201

Change e-mail: maferri@charter.net

McCormack, Charlotte – Deceased October 18, 2016

McLaughlin, George F. – Deceased December 23, 2016; Maureen survives

Meurisse, Robert T. "Bob" – Deceased January 21, 2017; Derene survives

Morden, William E. “Bill” – Deceased December 28, 2016;
Donna survives
Robertson, Robbie R. – Deceased January 29, 2017; Virginia survives
Schimke, Arthur M. “Art” – Deceased December 29, 2016;
Barbara survives
Sigrist, Mark A. & Sundi – Change address: PO Box 58,
Kamiah, ID 83536
Change telephones: Mark cell is 503-260-1479; Sundi cell is 208-260-2196
Smith, Glenn S. & Shirley M. – New members: 1723 NW
Meadows Dr, McMinnville, OR 97128
Telephone: 503-857-2924 E-mail: gsandss@frontier.com
Starkovich, Linda – Change e-mail: lstarkovich@gmail.com

CORRECTION: An incorrect e-mail address for Dick Culbertson was published in the Winter 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. The correct address is published above. The editor regrets this error.

New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Michelle R. & Gene Ellis of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, joined January 14, 2017. Michelle retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 5, 2016, as fire management officer on the Wenatchee River Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, after 41 years in the Forest Service, 26 of those years in Region 6. Michelle tells her story well: “I began my Forest Service career while attending Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, on the Taylor River Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, and Gunnison National Forests. I was a recreation technician and the first woman to work in the field in Gunnison. After four seasons, I decided to make a career of the Forest Service, switched to a timber crew, and applied to attend Colorado State University. I was offered a position through the Cooperative Education Program then moved to the Red Feather Lakes Ranger District, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, continuing to work in timber. In 1982, I received a B.S. in forest management and a permanent position in Lands and Special Uses on that district, the Estes-Poudre Ranger District, and in the SO. All through this time I was an active militia member in fire management, getting hooked on my first fire in 1974. During 1987-88, I was a cadre member for the National Workforce Diversity in Fire and Aviation and was encouraged to move to Washington in a fire management position. In 1989 I became the forest fuels specialist on the Wenatchee National Forest, now the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. In 1991 I moved to the Entiat Ranger District as the AFMO and became FMO in 2003. In 2007 I became FMO on the Wenatchee River Ranger District from which I retired. I qualified as a Type 2 safety officer; type 3 incident commander, division-group supervisor, and a situation unit leader, and served 14 years on incident management teams. I was active in the Society of American Foresters.” Michelle and Gene now live in their condo in Kona where they “hike, snorkel, and enjoy fresh fruit and fish.” During the summers, they “will be based out of Colorado so we can spend time with our grand kiddos and travel the country in our travel trailer.”

Steven A. & Linda Ellis of Beavercreek, Oregon, joined January 10, 2017. Steve retired as Deputy Director for Operations, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), on December 1, 2016, after 38 years of federal service, 30 of those in the BLM and eight in the U.S. Forest Service including six as Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Steve, who grew up on a farm in Illinois, began his federal career on a fire crew in his home state’s Shawnee National Forest where he earned money to earn a B.S. degree in forestry at Southern Illinois University. He married his high school sweetheart, Linda, while the two were in college, and they took a “poor couple’s honeymoon” backpacking and hitchhiking in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. After earning an M.S. degree in geography at the University of Northern Illinois, Steve and Linda headed to Idaho in 1979 to begin his BLM career as a forester in Burley, soil scientist in Boise, and field manager in Shoshone. All three of their children—Cam, Jessica, and Mandi—were born in the state. In 1992, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Steve served four years in a budget job at BLM headquarters and a short stint as a Congressional Fellow for Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado. Back in the West in 1996, Steve served as Acting District Manager of BLM’s Las Vegas District, before serving from 1997 to 2004 as District Manager of Oregon’s Lakeview District in 1997. During an eight-year Forest Service sojourn, Steve served a couple years as acting forest supervisor of the Fremont-Winema National Forest and six years as forest supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. While on the Wallowa-Whitman, Steve and Linda suffered a personal tragedy when their daughter Jessica, a former Bend-based wildland firefighter who was serving her second tour of duty as a U.S. Army medic in Iraq, was killed on May 11, 2008, by a roadside bomb at the age of 24. Steve returned to BLM in 2010 as State Director in Idaho. In February 2014, Steve was selected to serve as BLM’s Deputy Director for Operations, a position in which he had been acting for six months and the agency’s senior career position from which he retired toward the end of 2016. Steve and Linda are now back in the West, which they call home and where they enjoy riding and packing horses in western Idaho and eastern Oregon.

Editor’s Note: Prepared from Steve and Linda’s PNWFSA membership application and multiple press sources.

Jose & Janet M. Linares of Salem, Oregon, joined January 11, 2017. Jose, who recently accepted a position with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Northwest Oregon District Manager in Salem, has 35 years of federal service to his credit, 31 of those years in the U.S. Forest Service and four years from 2000 to 2004 with the BLM. From July 2016 until beginning his current BLM assignment, Jose was Acting Director of Recreation, Lands, and Minerals for Region 6. Prior to that he was Region 6 Director of Engineering from 2010 to 2016 and served as Director of Natural Resources from 2007 to 2010. Prior to serving in the Portland RO, he was Forest Supervisor on the Siuslaw National Forest. When not on the job, Jose spends time with Janet, their high school senior son, and their high school freshman daughter, and enjoys getting outdoors.

Glenn S. & Shirley M. Smith of McMinnville, Oregon, joined February 3, 2017. Jim retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1983 as deputy supervisor on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit with 35 years of federal service under his belt. Thirty-five of those years were in the Forest Service, and six were in Region 6 where his last duty station was Rager Ranger Station

on the Ochoco National Forest. Jim's other line officer service assignments were as assistant district ranger on the Lassen National Forest, as a district ranger on the Mendocino National Forest, and as a district ranger on two Sequoia National Forest ranger districts. He worked as a forest management consultant for 10 years. Jim has also served 39 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and teaches Bible study classes.

Memories

Farewell to these recently deceased Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members who live on in our memories.

Ellis W. "Al" Gano died December 19, 2016, at age 94. Al was born October 22, 1922. Al served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a staff sergeant in the Pacific Theater, and served 16 years in the Army Reserve and National Guard after the war. Al married Betty in 1944. He began his U.S. Forest Service career as a clerk on the Oak Grove Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, and then served on the Siskiyou, Siuslaw, and Wenatchee national forests before he retired as administrative officer on the Colville National Forest in 1977. Al had a private pilot's license and loved to fly. He was a founding member of "The Wanderers," a group of golfers who played every week on a different course in northeastern Washington and Idaho. An OldSmokey for many years, he looked forward to the annual picnic. Survivors include his wife Betty.

Carl Walter Hickerson died January 11, 2017, at age 90. Carl was born November 14, 1926, in Casitas Springs, California, and as he shared in "A U.S. Forest Service Rookie at Age 15" in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, served two firefighter summers in the Forest Service before he graduated from Kern County High School in May 1944. After a junior college semester and some more Forest Service time, Carl joined the U.S. Army in 1945 and served 18 months in the Army of Occupation in Japan as a member of General Douglas MacArthur's Honor Guard. Carl began college on the G.I. Bill in 1947, married Bobbie Jean Harris in 1948, and worked the summers of 1949 and 1950 on the Mt. Hood National Forest as he earned a 1951 B.S. degree in forest management at Oregon State College. Along with Bobbie and their children Larry and Lisa, Carl pursued his Forest Service career. Six years after graduating from Oregon State, Carl became district ranger of the old San Geronio Ranger District on the San Bernardino National Forest based at Mill Creek Ranger Station. From there he served as fire staff officer on the Los Padres National Forest from January 1964 to November 1968; deputy forest supervisor of the Wasatch National Forest from November 1968 to May 1970; and director of aviation, fire management, and law enforcement for Region 8 in Atlanta and then for Region 6 in Portland before he retired from the Forest Service in January 1979 at the young age of 52. Carl then began a second career as a forest fire control expert for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. In the 1980s, Carl and Bobbie lived in New Delhi while Carl led a project to introduce modern forest fire control techniques to India's forests. Carl's UN years gave him and Bobbie, and even young Lisa, the opportunity to travel the world. After their return to the U.S., Carl and Bobbie settled in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1992. Bobbie died shortly before their sixty-third wedding anniversary. In his last years, Carl

shared his life with faithful friend and companion Iris Nussbaum. Survivors include his son Larry, his daughter Lisa Hickerson Webster, and grandchildren Joe and Tony Hickerson and Ariana Webster.

Gene Craig Holloter died December 16, 2016, at age 84. Gene was born in 1932, and "transformed his passion for the woods into a career in the [U.S.] Forest Service that spanned 32 years" according to an obituary published in the Eugene, Oregon, *Register-Guard* on December 28, 2016. "During his time [in the Forest Service], he was active in civil rights and worked tirelessly to secure equal opportunities for everyone regardless of race or gender," the obituary said. Gene and his wife Ginny enjoyed travel. "They especially loved to load up their R.V. and depart for warmer climates. Many fun adventures and unforgettable memories came from these trips." Survivors include his wife Virginia.

Edwin D. "Ed" Kentner died February 8, 2017, at age 84. Ed was born May 1, 1933, in Bend, Oregon, where he attended school before serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He earned a degree in engineering at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. In 1959 he married Mildred, his wife for nearly 40 years until her death in 1999. Ed began his U.S. Forest Service career as a district engineer on the Ochoco National Forest before he transferred to the Winema National Forest where he served the rest of his career as an engineer and firefighter before retiring in 1988. Ed was active in the Klamath County community where he served as a 4-H Club leader and Sheriff's Posse member as well as on the county's budget committee, county health board, and county fair board, among others. He was a member of the Cattlemen's Association, the Elks Club, and the Shriners Club. After retirement from the Forest Service, he was elected to and served a four-year term as a Klamath County commissioner. Ed and Mildred moved back to Bend in 1995 where they built their dream house. Ed loved the outdoors, and was passionate about hunting, fishing, and camping. Survivors include his second wife, Diane; his son, Ed, Jr.; his daughters Tina and Trish and step-daughter Marva, and three grandchildren.

George Freeman McLaughlin died December 23, 2016, at age 93. George was born August 17, 1923, in Basin, Wyoming, the sixth of 10 children. He graduated from Basin High School in 1941, and attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie for one year before he enlisted in Navy flight training in 1942. George was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 upon completion of training as a fighter pilot. He married Ilene Musgrove of Greybull, Wyoming, on April 12, 1943. After additional training throughout the United States, George saw action in the Northern Pacific during World War II. After the war, he earned a bachelor of science degree in range management and forestry at The University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, where George's and Ilene's son Dan was born in 1950. George's pursuit of a career in range management was interrupted when he was recalled to active duty as a Marine Corps fighter pilot to serve in the Korean War. While retraining at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, near Irvine, California, their daughter Niki Jo was born in 1952. George flew more than 90 missions in Korea and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Returning to civilian life, George began his long and successful career in the U.S. Forest Service. Starting as an assistant district ranger on the Helena National Forest in Town-

send, Montana, in 1954, he served as district ranger in Augusta and Lincoln, Montana, also on the Helena. While in Livingston, their second daughter, Keri Lea, was born in 1961. Moving to Utah, George served on the Dixie National Forest staff in Cedar City and the Intermountain Region staff at Ogden. He moved to Reno, Nevada, in 1965 to be assistant forest supervisor of the Toiyabe National Forest, and to Price, Utah to be forest supervisor of the Manti-LaSal National Forest in 1968. George and family moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1975, where he served as Pacific Northwest Region assistant regional forester for range management until he retired in 1981. After a year of searching for a retirement property, George and Ilene found the perfect place on upper Goodrich Creek Lane outside Baker City, Oregon. Ilene died suddenly in 1985. George married Maureen Boley in 1988, and they enjoyed living in and traveling from the Baker City area. Survivors include Maureen; her son Lance Boley; his son Dan; his daughter Niki Jo Johnson; and his granddaughter Ilena.

Charlotte McCormack died October 18, 2016, at age 95. She was the widow of Harry McCormack. Charlotte was born July 7, 1921, in Monroe, Washington. She was a homemaker who enjoyed traveling, camping, and being with her family. “Her life as a forest ranger’s wife were some of the best and happiest memories she ever had,” said her daughter, Nancy Wik, who reported her death. Charlotte was a member of the Enumclaw, Washington, Moose Lodge and a RV group. Survivors include her daughters Judy Ness, Diane Oliver, Eileen Marango, and Nancy Wik; her son Jim McCormack; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Robert Thomas “Bob” Meurisse, Ph.D. died January 21, 2017, at age 79. Bob was born September 24, 1938, in Monson, Massachusetts, where he grew up and graduated from Monson High School in 1956. He earned a B.S. degree in 1962 and an M.S. degree in 1968 in soil science at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, and in June 1971 received a Ph.D. degree in soil science and forest physical ecology at Oregon State University. The title of his doctoral dissertation, “Site Quality of Western hemlock and Chemical Characteristics of Some Western Oregon Andic Soils,” reflects the character, if not the breadth, of his many U.S. Forest Service years as regional soil scientist for the Pacific Northwest Region, the position from which he retired in 1998. Survivors include his wife Derene and their sons Mark, Ryan, and Sean.

Editor’s Note: The incompleteness of this remembrance, pieced together from a variety of sources, reflects the apparent lack of an obituary on which to base a better entry. Should such information become available, it will be published in a subsequent edition of your OldSmokeys Newsletter.

William E. “Bill” Morden died December 28, 2016, at age 81. Bill was born June 15, 1935, in Manistique, Michigan, where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1953. During his high school years, he worked at various jobs from dishwasher, short order cook, to store clerk. After graduation, he worked briefly for the City of Manistique before he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in spring 1954. Bill served for the next four years with the Seabees in Newfoundland, Bermuda, North Africa, and back in the United States. In 1956, he married Donna E. MacGregor. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Bill earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry at Michigan Technical University in 1962 and attained a master’s degree in forestry from Michi-

gan State University in 1972. Bill began the U.S. Forest Service career in which he served in many varied positions including ranger, regional office, and forest supervisor positions as well as director of two different Job Corps civilian conservation centers during the early years of that program. When asked where he had worked, Bill was fond of saying he “served on nine national forests and in one regional office from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon.” He retired in 1992 as forest supervisor of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. After retirement, Bill and Donna began spending winters in Yuma, Arizona, where they stayed about five months each winter. Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. The places they lived offered diverse opportunities to experience a wide range of fish, game, and scenery. An avid woodworker, Bill in retirement expanded that interest to include the art of stained glass. Bill and Donna moved back to Manistique in 2004 and built their home on the Indian River. There they achieved their goal of being shed of the stresses of the busy world and enjoying a more relaxed retirement in a place that held many fond memories and offered a slower pace. Survivors include Donna; their three children William, Julie Hauser, and Kurt; and eight grandchildren.

John Reynolds “Robbie” Robertson died January 29, 2017, at age 86. Robbie was born September 30, 1930, in Washington, D.C. In 1950, as a college student, he married Charlotte Eckert of Santa Fe, New Mexico. They divorced, and he raised their three children. Robbie first went to work for the U.S. Forest Service while a Colorado A&M College student in 1950 on the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, as a fire lookout on Horsepasture Mountain and in trail and telephone line maintenance—a job he wrote about in “Starting With a Bang in 1950!” in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Back on the same district in 1951, he worked as a spruce budworm sampler and topographic mapping crew chief and spent 36 days on the HeHe Fire on the West Boundary Ranger District and 12 days on the Sardine Creek Fire on the Detroit Ranger District as a radio operator and then crew boss. After earning a B.S. degree in forest management at Colorado A&M in 1952, Robbie worked on the McKenzie Ranger District as a forester until he was drafted in to the U.S. Army and served in Korea during the conflict there. Returning to the Forest Service and the Willamette National Forest in 1954, he worked at the Fish Lake Remount Station on the old Cascadia Ranger District and then on the Detroit Ranger District as presale forester, log scaler, and sale administrator. Robbie resigned from the Forest Service in 1956 to buy and operate a Chevron truck stop in The Dalles, Oregon, and purchased an airplane and earned a commercial pilot license. He returned to the Forest Service in 1958 to work on the Hood River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, as TMA and snow ranger until 1966 when he became forest silviculturist in the Mt. Hood National Forest SO where he designed and developed a proposal for a forest resource information system. In 1966, Robbie married Virginia “Ginny” Rust, of Portland, Oregon, with whom he had two children. As a silviculturist in the Region 6 RO from 1968 to 1970, Robbie was additionally assigned to develop what later became the Total Resource Information (TRI) System which he was assigned to the RO management systems staff to implement throughout the region. Robbie resigned from the Forest Service in 1980 to become manager of Manufacturing Database Systems at Tektronix. In 1982, when Textronix decentralized, he

became information resource manager for Region 1 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from which he retired in 1989 to move to Iowa with wife Ginny's new position. There he formed Robertson Systems, a database design and development consulting business. Robbie and Ginny returned to Portland in 1997, where he continued to operate Robertson Systems until he retired in 2009 and turned the business over to one of his sons. Survivors include his wife, Virginia; his children Charles, Karen Benham, and Ann Robertson; and his and Virginia's children Kathryn Pozarycki and Kevin Robertson.

Arthur Marshall "Art" Schimke died December 29, 2016, at age 84. Art was born January 24, 1932, in Manistee, Michigan. As a youngster, he enjoyed the beauty of Lake Michigan and the adventure of learning to hunt and fish. Art was an industrious youth, and his early jobs included delivering telegrams, clerking and a store, and crewing on the iron ore boat which sailed from Michigan to ports on Lake Superior and Lake Erie. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952, Art spent two Korean War years training recruits at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After he was honorably discharged from the Army, Art attended Michigan State University on the G.I. Bill and earned a bachelor's degree in forestry in 1958. There, in a botany class, he met Barbara. After a two-year courtship, which included a student train trip to California to see Michigan State win a Rose Bowl game, they married in 1956. Barbara completed her degree in biological science in 1957 and worked as Art completed his forestry degree in 1958. An offer from the U.S. Forest Service shortly after graduation took Art and Barbara west to a Forest Service career in Oregon and Washington. During those years, their sons Steve and Doug were born in Grants Pass and Brookings, Oregon, respectively. Art and family moved to Baker City, Oregon, in 1970 when he was promoted to district ranger on the Baker Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. After five years, Art was transferred to the forest supervisor's office where he served until he retired in 1986. Art was an active member of the Baker United Methodist Church of which he was a trustee and men's leader, a Boy Scout leader during the years his sons were scouts, treasurer of the Baker Community Concert Association, and a 50-year member of Kiwanis International. An active OldSmokey, Art served as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association representative for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. In retirement, Art and Barbara travelled to many countries including Israel and Egypt and to Africa and South America as well as within the United States to visit family in West Virginia, Michigan, and North Carolina. Art was a successful hunter and enjoyed boating and spectator sports. Survivors include Barbara and their sons Steve and Doug.

Letters

Richard Zechentmayer responds to Valerie Jones

Valerie, I saw your comment in *OldSmokeys eForum* No. 429. There were two foresters on the Willamette National Forest who, thank goodness, mentored me: your father, Evan Jones, and Charlie Lord. I remember your unflappable father in many fire camps, loading and smoking his pipe while teaching us youngsters how to do our jobs and get it done. Thank you, Valerie, for reminding me of some very good days. My goal when I retired was to have as many years in retirement as your father.

Zane Smith comments on the *OldSmokey Newsletter*

The Winter 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is an incredible document. It is packed with an extraordinary volume of news and detail about our beloved Forest Service. It is obvious that Les spent hours and hours of research and night light putting this issue together. I'm sure we are all grateful for this wonderful record of the people and activities [the editor] has recorded.

Dave Jay comments on the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

I want to second Zane's comments on the Winter 2017 *OldSmokey's Newsletter*. As usual, it is really well done and reflects so positively on Les and this tremendous effort to produce a quality product. I have had the opportunity to work with Les on another document. He is so knowledgeable yet easy to work with. His editing is superb.

Bob Schramek comments on the *OldSmokey Newsletter*

As usual, the last *OldSmokeys Newsletter* was full of interesting articles [and] lot of current information we don't usually read or hear on the local media. Thanks for helping *we older OldSmokeys* [keep] current with happenings with the Forest Service....

Ted Yarosh remembers Art Schimke

I worked with Art when he was district ranger on the Baker Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest from 1975 to 1980. He was a good ranger and did his job well. My wife Lil and Barbara were friends.

Dick Grace remembers Art Schimke

I have great memories of Art from Cle Elum where he was WDRA coordinator for stump removal and campground development on the local area reservoirs. [He was] a guy full of energy, full of fun, and generous with big bins of money for a poor cousin recreation program.

Forest Service News continued from Page 9

For the Forest Service, the proposed budget:

- Fully funds wildland fire preparedness and suppression activities at \$2.4 billion, 100 percent of the 10-year average for suppression operations, to ensure the resources necessary to protect life and property.
- Reduces funding for lower priority activities in the National Forest System, such as major new Federal land acquisition; instead, the Budget focuses on maintaining existing forests and grasslands.

To summarize, the President's proposed budget calls for a 21 percent cut in Department of Agriculture spending while "fully funding" Forest Service fire suppression at \$2.4 billion but reducing other Forest Service funding.

"How does that solve the fire borrowing problem that has plagued the Forest Service for years?" one may ask. "There won't be any other Forest Service money from which to borrow," one may answer.

This, of course, is just the first step in the annual budget process. There is much more White House-Congress wrangling to come, and much more to the continuing budget process than your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* has the capacity to cover.

How the process plays out, of course, is a primary determinant of how well the Forest Service will be able to carry out its charge of "caring for the land and serving people."

This Just In...

U.S. Forest Service Budget, Firefighting Face Crippling Cuts, Senator Leahy Says

In a March 10, 2017, letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations—received by your editor just one day before the March 15 deadline for this Spring 2017 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—Senator Patrick J. Leahy (Democrat-Vermont), vice chairman of that committee, offered an analysis of what would happen to federal agencies and programs if Congress were to adhere to President Donald J. Trump’s call for cutting non-defense discretionary spending by \$54 billion below sequestration levels. Here, quoted verbatim from his “FY18 Impact of a 13 Percent Cut on Non-Defense Selected Programs,” is what Senator Leahy’s analysis says the cut could mean to the U.S. Forest Service and its firefighting operations.

“If the Forest Service is cut by 13 percent it would mean a cut of \$417 million from the FY 2016 enacted level for wildland fire management. This would directly impact preparedness and suppression of forest fires.

- A 13 percent cut to fire preparedness programs would translate to a loss of 1,300 firefighters, 117 fire engines, 15 helicopters, and 3 aircraft.
- These reductions could have the unintended consequence of actually increasing firefighting costs. Due to the current level of assets, the Forest Service has a 98 percent success rate on initial attack against fires. With fewer assets the potential for more escaped fires increases, which means increased suppression costs.
- If the Forest Service wildland fire management account were to be held harmless to the 13 percent cut, it would mean large cuts to the rest of the agency. Holding firefighting harmless would result in a 30 percent cut to the Forest Service’s non-fire accounts, or \$763 million from FY 2016 enacted. Due to the Forest Service’s primary responsibility to manage the health of the national forests, at that level of spending, Research, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Forest legacy, and grants to states could be abandoned. The Forest Service would likely prioritize restoration work to mitigate the risk of catastrophic fire—which is increasing due to climate change—and close campgrounds, shut down road access, stop maintaining trails, and reduce visitor services that are essential to hunting, fishing, hiking, off road vehicles, and other recreation activities.”

This, of course, is only one analysis of the potential effects of the President’s proposed budget. There likely will be others. This, however, illustrates the nature and magnitude of proposals to cut the Forest Service budget. Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will endeavor to monitor and summarize how this situation evolves.

Prepared from the source indicated.

Of Current Interest...

U.S. Forest Service Chief Determines Proper Use of Agency Insignia

Current concerns over improper uses of Smokey Bear’s image (see “OldSmokeys Object to Smokey Bear Misuse by T-Shirt Producers” on page 6) are reflected in similar concerns over questionable adaptations of the U.S. Forest Service insignia—the Pine Tree Shield so many have worn so proudly for so long.

Uses of derivative likenesses of the shield range from uses which seem to signal disapproval of policies, such as the one shown at right, to commercial adaptations such as a California brewery’s logo which looks exactly like the green and gold Forest Service shield on which the tree is replaced by a beer bottle, the letters “U” and “S” are replaced by the brewery’s initials, and so forth. This latter, which recently caught an OldSmokey’s notice, is not shown—ironically—to avoid any possible trademark infringement.



Use of the Forest Service insignia itself is spelled out in 36 CFR 264.2, which the Forest Service summarizes as follows:

“The Forest Service insignia is reserved for the official use of the Forest Service. Such use will be primarily for identification purposes. The Chief of the Forest Service (Chief) may authorize other uses of the insignia as follows:

- (a) Public Service Use. The Chief may authorize the use of the insignia for non-commercial educational purposes, without charge when such use is essentially a public service and will contribute to public knowledge and understanding of the Forest Service, its mission, and objectives. An example of this would be the use of the insignia on a printed program for a dedication ceremony where the Forest Service participates but is not the sponsor of the event.
- (b) Commercial Use. Through the issuance of licenses, the Chief may authorize commercial use of the insignia to (1) contribute to the public recognition of the Forest Service, such as a likeness of the insignia on a toy forest ranger’s truck or (2) promote employee esprit de corps or pride in the organization, such as a likeness of the insignia on belt buckles. Such use must be consistent with the status of a national insignia.

Power to revoke:

All authorities and licenses granted shall be subject to cancellation by the Chief at any time the chief finds that the use involved is offensive to decency and good taste or injurious to the image of the Forest Service. The Chief may also revoke any license or authorization when there is a failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the license or authorization.

Unauthorized use:

Whoever manufactures, sells, or possesses the insignia, except as provided under 36 CFR 264.2, is subject to criminal penalty under 18 U.S.C. 701.”

Please remember to sign up for the May 21 Spring Banquet and Silent Auction!

This banquet and the August 11 Summer Picnic in the Woods are your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s two big social gatherings of the year. Complete information about and reservation forms for both are on pages 3 and 4 of this issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter. Do it now and we’ll see you there!



Books

Images of America: Deschutes National Forest Available in April 2017

By Les Joslin

I saw a need and an opportunity to tell the Deschutes National Forest story in a way readily available to and appreciated by the citizen-owners of that national forest. I took that opportunity, and Arcadia Publishing has just published my *Images of America: Deschutes National Forest* in its popular Images of America show-and-tell series.

This effort to share the basics of the complex Deschutes National Forest story produced ten thematic chapters of about 18,000 words and more than 200 photographs presented within the 128 pages Arcadia Publishing allots each book in this series. This article announces the book. I leave reviewing it to others.

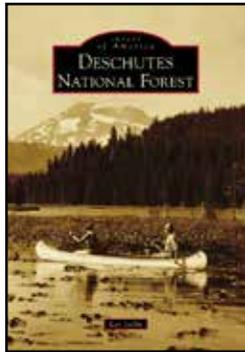
Following an introduction that identifies the Deschutes National Forest as a unit of the National Forest System and explains its stewardship by the U.S. Forest Service, a first chapter orients the reader to its “upper Deschutes country” landscape. A second follows the evolution of the national forest and its management within that landscape, a third protection of the forest’s natural and cultural resources. Six more chapters focus on the national forest’s timber, water, grazing, fish and wildlife, recreation and heritage, and wilderness resources and their contributions to the local economy and the nation. A final chapter interprets the Newberry National Volcanic Monument established within the forest in 1990.

Throughout, OldSmokeys will find many historic Forest Service personages ranging from founding Forester Gifford Pinchot and Chief Ed Cliff through legendary characters such as forest recreation pioneer Fred Cleator and pioneer researcher Thornton Taft Munger to visionary timber manager Walt Perry and pioneer rangers Cy Bingham, John Riis, and Harold E. Smith. Also present are many former OldSmokeys including Forest Supervisor Ralph Crawford, district rangers Joe Lammi and Henry Tonseth, and Gail Baker and Carl Berntsen.

And, listed here in alphabetical order, OldSmokeys **Jim Barrett, Jeff Blackwood, George Chesley, Sally Collins, Dick Ferraro, Wendall Jones, Lyle Laverty, Jim Leep, Ted Lewis, Jim Overbay, Walt Schloer, and Leslie Weldon** are pictured and identified.

This is the second Images of America series book about a Pacific Northwest Region national forest. The first, *Images of America: Mount Hood National Forest* by Cheryl Hill, was published in March 2014 and reviewed in the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. This leaves the rest of the Region 6 national forest stories to be told by eager OldSmokeys or others ready to dig into those forests’ fascinating historic records and photograph files and able to convert what they find into an Images of America book for a ready and waiting readership.

Images of America: Deschutes National Forest by Les Joslin (ISBN 978-1-4671-2466-9), published by Arcadia Publishing at \$21.99, is available at bookstores and Central Oregon museum shops, Deschutes National Forest sales outlets, Arcadia Publishing online at <arcadiapublishing.com> or by toll-free phone at 1-888-313-2665, and online from Amazon.com.



Read 100-Year-Old Novel *The Lookout Man* Free Online!

By Les Joslin

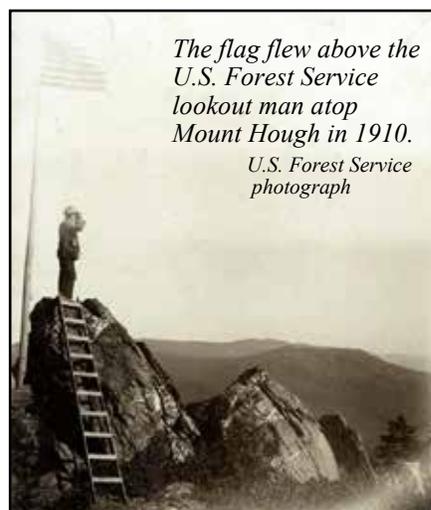
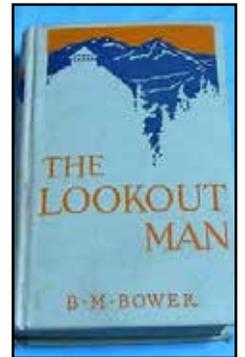
A young man named Jack Corey and a young woman named Marion Rose—both refugees from Los Angeles for their own reasons—meet in the wilds of the Plumas National Forest in the early 1900s. What brought each to the northern Sierra Nevada and what happened next are the essence of B.M. Bower’s 1917 novel *The Lookout Man*.

Jack, the lookout man in the story, is really still a boy. He’s a spoiled, rich, momma’s-boy on the run from the law for a stupid prank gone bad. Finding himself hungry in Quincy, California, he signs on at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters there to man the lonely—and thus hard-to-staff—Mount Hough Lookout a dozen miles north of town. What could be a better hideout? Marion, a young beauty parlor operator accompanying a middle-aged client, finds herself at nearby Toll-house Cabin in the company of speculators intent on perverting mining claim laws to secure valuable timber. They meet.

What happens to these two “crazy mixed-up kids” as the plot thickens during the summer-fall-winter story is what the reader of Bower’s twenty-four chapter, 100-year-old novel finds out. And you can find out how it all shakes out for free online courtesy of The Literature Network at <www.online-literature.com/bm-bower/lookout-man/1/> which gets you to Chapter One. You can read it right on your computer screen; however, if you’d rather curl up with in in your easy chair, Google “The Lookout Man by E.M. Bower” to locate an original copy (I got one for about \$15.00) or a reprint from a variety of sources.

This story, by the way, is an aberration for Bower, an American woman who lived from 1871 to 1940 and wrote novels, fictional short stories, and screenplays about the Wild West. Although it happens in the West, it’s not a “western” *per se*, not one of her trademark books about cowboys on a ranch. Instead, it’s about a young fire lookout on a national forest. For that reason, alone, I found it of interest. You may, too.

An additional source of interest for OldSmokeys is that Bower’s story takes place at an identifiable time and place: the Mount Hough Lookout on the Plumas National Forest during



The flag flew above the U.S. Forest Service lookout man atop Mount Hough in 1910.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

the 1914-1917 eruptions of Lassen Peak, about 35 miles to the northwest. Several other named places, including the famous Crystal Lake nearby, are part of the story.

The Forest Service has had a fire lookout structure on Mount Hough since 1911, built a new two-story lookout building there in 1915, and maintains a fire lookout there to this day.

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Deschutes Bridge Guard Station Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

Historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station, not quite 40 miles from Bend, Oregon, on the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway, offers a rare glimpse at U.S. Forest Service guard station history. At the river crossing for which it is named are both an early 20th century log cabin and a 1930s structure that housed Deschutes National Forest personnel serving in the field for most of the national forest's history.



The original Deschutes Bridge Guard Station log cabin, built in the early 1900s and shown in the 1930 photograph (above), was improved upon by the frame structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s, shown in the 1948 photograph (right).

U.S. Forest Service photographs courtesy of Deschutes National Forest.



One or more guard stations were located on each of the four ranger districts into which the Deschutes National Forest was subdivided for most of its history. Three which still exist are located west of Bend. These are Elk Lake Guard Station on the northwest shore of Elk Lake, Deschutes Bridge Guard Station about eight road miles south of Elk Lake, and Fall River Guard Station about a dozen miles southeast of Deschutes Bridge.

Forest guards posted at these three guard stations worked for the district ranger headquartered in La Pine until 1933 when the district name was changed to Bend Ranger District with headquarters in Bend. The Elk Lake and Fall River guard stations were used by Forest Service fire control or recreation personnel until the middle 1990s when those functions were centralized in Bend. After Forest Service personnel were no longer stationed

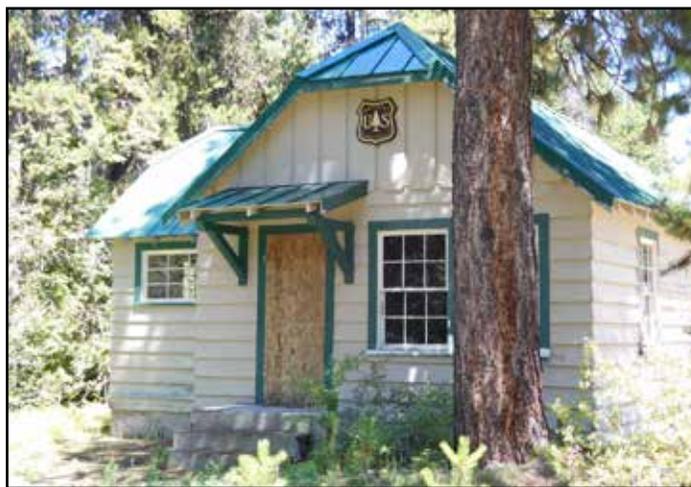
at Deschutes Bridge Guard Station, it was used through summer 2005 as an administrative site for supervision of Oregon Department of Corrections crews working in the Deschutes National Forest on forest health improvement projects.

The forest's Elk Lake and Fall River guard stations have been restored for successful reuse as recreation and heritage resources. Meanwhile, Deschutes Bridge Guard Station awaits its destiny. Unless positive action to rehabilitate and reuse this still sound 1930s CCC-built structure and its still standing early 1900s log cabin is taken soon, that destiny will be deterioration and ultimate loss of a valuable recreation and heritage resource in a most readily accessible and scenic location.

The Deschutes National Forest has a proud history of successful restoration and reuse of historic administrative sites returned to public service in a way that preserves and interprets the Forest Service's unique role in natural resource management. In addition to Deschutes Bridge Guard Station's two sister guard stations mentioned above, there's the historic Paulina Lake Guard Station now a visitor information station within the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. The Deschutes National Forest accomplished such tasks through the Forest Service's own Passport in Time (PIT) program volunteers as well as other funded and unfunded sources of labor and materials.

The Deschutes National Forest is again moving toward distinguishing itself by rehabilitating and returning the historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station—still a sound structure requiring relatively little restoration work—to service. District Ranger Kevin Larkin, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, has approved pursuing the process to restore it for recreation rental use. After appropriate planning, this could be accomplished at relatively low cost through projects supported by available funding, volunteer labor, and use of on-hand and donated materials.

Additional good news for such a project in this era of declining appropriations for recreation and heritage resources is the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act permits the Forest Service to reinvest fees charged to national forest visitors who rent historic ranger and guard stations and fire lookouts in the restoration and maintenance of those facilities.



The historic 1930s Deschutes Bridge Guard Station cabin, shown in this August 2016 photograph, remains sound and ready for rehabilitation and reuse as a recreation lodging program rental. The early 1900s log cabin behind it could be stabilized in a state of arrested deterioration and interpreted.

Photograph by Les Joslin

My First Forest Service Job

A Decade of Learning the Ropes

By Dave Jay

I was reared on several Eastern Region ranger districts—four from the time I was 10 years old through high school—before I worked for Uncle Sam’s pay during my latter teens. That’s because my dad, Jim Jay, served 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service. He began in 1935 as an assistant nurseryman and retired in 1966 as assistant director for fire control in the Washington Office. Those years added up to a decade of learning the ropes that augured well for my own Forest Service career. Here’s how it went.

Age 10, Nicolet National Forest, Northern Wisconsin

In 1946 I accompanied Dad during some of his daily work on the Eagle River Ranger District. Several times I helped him scale railroad cars of small spruce and poplar pulpwood logs. My job was to carry the “US” stamp hammer and stamp the end of the first log showing above the side of each railroad car. I could just barely reach the ends of those logs with my outstretched arm. Dad came along behind me to be sure the US brand showed perfectly on each log. Oh, my arm would get so tired!

Age 12, Hiawatha National Forest, Upper Peninsula of Michigan

The Rapid River Ranger Station was on U.S. Highway 2 near the Whitefish River. One sunny day in 1948, along with my friend Steve, I took the Forest Service boat and rowed three miles up the river to camp and fish. About noon, Steve started a lunch fire at our campsite while I began to fish. The wind came up and the fire quickly escaped into the jackpine forest! We tried to stop it, but we had no tools. As the fire raced away, I was “sick to my stomach.” What would Dad say or do?

Soon a Forest Service truck appeared. It was Harold Bergman, Dad’s assistant ranger. He was stoic and didn’t say much. “Grab your jackets, wet them in the river, and start going along the fire edge swatting the flames.” Soon we were tired, sweaty, black with smoke, and worried.

The fire was soon out, but Dad’s tent, axe, and Forest Service sleeping bag had burned. “Get what’s left of your gear and start down the river for home,” Harold said. Dad met us at the dock about dusk. “Harold filled me in and said you had your fill of smoke and fire and probably learned your lesson,” he said. “You will have to pay for the sleeping bag. Now go home and get cleaned up.”

Age 16, Shawnee National Forest, Southern Illinois

Frequently, in the rugged hills of the Jonesboro Ranger District, there’s a winter fire season in the oak and pine forest. The fires are caused by arson or careless debris burning. In early 1954, to assist with initial attack on such fires, Assistant District Ranger Joe Miar suggested a high school fire crew. Soon the district ranger and the high school principal agreed on a ten-person crew of boys 16 or over with a C average or better. The pay was \$1.00 an hour. I joined the crew, of course, and we went through two Saturdays of training. We were called out several times and I became the crew boss.

One dark weekend evening we were dispatched to a large fire crowning through the tops of oaks still carrying their dead

leaves. Assistant Ranger Joe came to me and said, “Dave, I have this crew of African-American men from the surrounding farms and no one to lead them. Could you do it?” I lined these about 20 big men out on an old road and briefly showed them how each tool was to be used. One or two of the men had prior fire experience, so I put them at the end of the fire line to burn it out. The work went well until big poisonous snakes escaping the fire began to cross the fire line. There was no way I could keep the crew building fire line while there was snake killing to be done.

Age 17, Superior National Forest, Minnesota

One spring 1954 day as I was about to graduate from high school, Dad came home from the office and told me the Forest Service had dropped the minimum hiring age for summer employees to 17. This was due to many men being drafted for the Korean War. “The district ranger on the Grand Marais District is trying to recruit men to fill his blister rust control camp,” Dad said. “He needs 40 men. You should apply.” I did, and was accepted.



At 17, Dave enjoyed fishing on blister rust control camp days off.

As soon as school was out I was on the Illinois Central train and then the bus to Grand Marais. The district ranger met me and took me to the camp which was a former CCC camp. I was one of the youngest employees. Most were college students or returned veterans. After fire training, we were split up into small crews, each with a crew boss, to pull gooseberry bushes in groves of white pines. The bushes are the alternate host for the rust which can kill the pines. The monotony of this work on your hands and knees was occasionally broken by fighting escaped campfires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

The summer finally ended and the camp superintendent asked for volunteers to return the next summer as possible crew bosses. Nobody stepped up. I later talked with him, and he promised me a crew boss job and a raise from GS-3 to GS-4!

Age 18, Shawnee National Forest

I was in college at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale near the Shawnee National Forest. The combined Murphysboro and Jonesboro ranger districts had seven fire towers, each to be manned seven days a week during the fire season. The tower men needed some time off, so I was asked to work a different tower each weekend. I commuted home with my school work so I could be the relief tower man. This assignment lasted two or three months for two winters.

Age 18, Superior National Forest

I arrived at the Grand Marais Ranger District blister rust control camp early in June and learned the camp foreman from the previous summer was not returning. The superintendent asked me if I could handle it. Wow, a GS-5 job! With his guidance, I handled the orientation, fire training, and crew assignments.

Before long, the superintendent became very ill and had to return to Duluth. “Dave, you are in charge until a new superintendent is assigned,” he said as he left. Now my job included

the mess hall and fire assignments. About two weeks later, Forest Supervisor Galen Pike and Timber Staff Officer Hugh Sundling came to check out the operation. They stayed overnight, took a tour, asked questions, and left assuring me that soon there would be a new superintendent.

Well, the summer progressed through a busy fire season and no new superintendent arrived. I closed the camp, committed to trying to find a next years’ summer job out West

Age 19, Flathead National Forest, Montana

Emphasizing my previous experience, I applied to several national forests. Soon I received a long letter from District Ranger Ole Olson, Big Prairie Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, Montana, outlining the job of headquarters fireman at his summer station up the South Fork of the Flathead River and 20 miles from the end of the road. I quickly accepted. I had to leave school early to meet his requirements.

Arriving in Kalispell, I was soon on a small plane flying into the district air strip (now closed). Ole was soon orienting me and I met the other eight men on his staff. He was very specific about my job which included being the district clerk and fire dispatcher, the installation and supervision of three lookouts, pack preparation for mule strings, phone line maintenance, cooking for all ten of us, and other duties as assigned.

Some of the summer’s experiences influenced my later Forest Service career. These included helping with 28 head of

mules and horses, pack preparation for pack strings, meal preparation, entertaining Forest Service Chief Richard A. McArdle, dispatching smokejumpers to multiple lightning fires, and taking care of a wounded bear shot by a young lookout. I could go on, but you get the picture.

I learned the ropes!

This ends my “first jobs” sojourn. I really appreciated the men who took a chance on me and exposed me to challenges I have never forgotten and from which I learned plenty. Later in my career I tried to expose new employees to assignments that would help them develop into very effective Forest Service employees and leaders.

And my Dad was such a role model for me! Among his accomplishments were developing a prescribed burning program for habitat critical to the rare Kirkland warbler on the lower Michigan national forests and developing the first fire simulator used in fire team training at Continental Divide, New Mexico, and Marana, Arizona.

Editor’s Note: After learning the ropes, Dave graduated from the University of Michigan in January 1959. His 34-year U.S. Forest Service career included assignments in several regions as an assistant district ranger, district ranger, forest supervisor, and in Job Corps and fire and aviation management leadership, before he retired in December 1991 as Region 5 deputy regional forester.



As the 19-year-old headquarters fireman at the isolated Big Prairie Ranger Station, Flathead National Forest, Dave’s wide range of responsibilities included being the district clerk and fire dispatcher, pack preparation for pack strings (left), installation and supervision of three lookouts including precarious Jumbo Mountain Lookout at 8,255 feet where he is shown (right), phone line maintenance, cooking for a crew of 10, and other duties as assigned.

All photographs courtesy of Dave Jay.



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Spring 2017

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