



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2015

President's Message—

Unbroken...what a book (and now a movie). It's the true story of Louie Zamperini. If you haven't read it, get it, and thank me later.

I mention *Unbroken* because many of you represent the ideals Louie Zamperini stood for—resilience, dedication, compassion, and above all, service before self. I saw these ideals while I worked and its still resonates now, with retirees, both in public and at our monthly lunches. You took time to get the work done and to care about your fellow men and women.

At our lunches, the talk doesn't center around what you did or your work accomplishments, but rather it is a time to celebrate where you are with friends. For at the end of the day, it is friendships and the care our friends bring that matter above all.

We in the OldSmokeys are proud of who we are and what we stand for. We have a wonderful heritage, and one I'm proud to share with others. The increase in memberships has been wonderful to see, and because of who we are we are seeing a rise in our membership!

One thing I'm excited about is our revamped website. It is easy to navigate, well-designed, and a joy to use to see photos, read articles, purchase member books, and also have people use an electronic form to join OldSmokeys. This work took a great team, including **Dennis Dietrich, Bill Funk, Les Joslin, and Don Nearhood**. Hats off to these four for the superb work they did.

If you have prospective new members, sent them a link to the application form or the website. It is easy, and a great way for them to join us!

As we have entered a new year, it's good to know our values and what we cherish remain a beacon for all.

Like Louie Zamperini, you are the treasures who make things happen and who were great caretakers, not only of the land, but more importantly, each other! You have always taken the time to care, and that ideal continues to this day!

Thank you for who you are!

Al Matecka

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

Vote! PNWFSA Election 2015 Ballot on Page 5!

Forum

This page contains *Editorials* by the editor and *Op-eds* in which writers other than the editor express their opinions.

Editorials

When Leadership Fails, Morale Falls, and “Best Places to Work” Scores Show It

The results of the 2014 “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” survey came out on December 8, 2014. As summarized on page 15 of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, although its rankings improved slightly, the U.S. Forest Service—and its leadership, in particular—scored dismally yet again.

“How can this be?” one asks, of the storied agency charged with stewardship of the magnificent National Forest System and the challenging outdoor work that goes with it. How can one trained and paid to do good work in the great outdoors have low morale? The answer, it seems from the Best Places to Work survey, is a lack of leadership that provides proper perspective and inspires actual accomplishment of important work. Even the best and most competent professionals of any rank can be discouraged and demoralized by the results of the poor leadership that pervades much of the federal government these days.

Columnist Tom Friedman of *The New York Times* stated universal truths about leadership and morale applicable to government at any level in his Sunday, October 12, 2014, column about Congress’ failure to do its job. “[I]f you’re a federal worker today and you look up at the ‘adults’ who are supposed to be supervising you, what do you see?” Friedman asked.

If you’re in the Forest Service, what do you see? Do you see senior leadership helping you focus on accomplishment of important resource management on the ground in a way that makes you proud of your work—and the citizens you serve and with whom you work pleased with the results? Or do you see people paid to lead ignoring you and your work while focusing on other priorities and a fed up public?

“Tell me that doesn’t filter down to every department,” to agencies such as the Forest Service, to every region, national forest, and ranger district. “When so many above you are just cynically out for themselves, it saps morale, focus and discipline. If so many above you are just getting theirs, well then, why shouldn’t [you]?”

“I can’t put my finger on it exactly, but you feel today in Washington a certain laxness,” Friedman concludes, “that anything goes and that too few people working for the federal government take pride in their work because everything is just cobbled together by Congress and the White House at the eleventh hour anyway. It’s been years since someone summoned us... for something great. So just show up and punch the clock.”

Friedman writes about Washington, D.C. and the president and the Congress, but we know a basic law of physics states something like “stuff runs downhill” and that it does is proved in the Forest Service’s annual “Best Places to Work” scores and—all too often—lack of visible presence and performance in the field.

Anticipating the 2014 Best Places to Work survey scores in his October 17, 2014, *The Chief’s Place* online weekly, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell encouraged “all employees to carefully read the results” of the survey from which “we will work together to implement actions that address your concerns” and asks them to “personally commit to helping us get better where improvement is needed.” Doing just that, of course, has been the main thrust of this page for the past nine years. But recommended actions to improve conditions—and those scores—have been ignored.

There are many good people in the Forest Service still striving within this discouraging malaise to realize and keep the agency’s promise. They deserve our understanding and our support and opportunities such as the proposed Agency to Match the Mountains Initiative’s proposed one-week entry-level personnel orientation course—the concept for which has been endorsed by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees to the national leadership—to help put the past and present in perspective and pursue a proud and productive future of “caring for the land and serving people.”

--Les Joslin

For Better or Worse, Legislative Riders are Not Good Government

As expected, the U.S. Congress passed and President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 last month.

What has this got to do with natural resources in general—and the National Forest System in which OldSmokeys are interested in particular? Plenty, since the bill that became that act was rife with riders that made it, in the words of one commentator, “by far the largest array of public lands measures to advance in Congress in nearly six years.”

For better or worse, none of these public lands measures—some of which affect the National Forest System—passed on their own merits. They passed as “riders” attached to one of the last remaining “must-pass” bills available.

One of these riders ceded 4,000 acres of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest lands surrounding the Oregon Caves National Monument to National Park Service administration as a national preserve to protect the watershed of the monument’s underground River Styx, which the measure designated as the nation’s first underground wild and scenic river, while accommodating hunting and grazing uses.

Another designated roughly 250,000 acres of wilderness in a handful of Western states. Still another conveyed roughly 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest to the Juneau, Alaska-based Sealaska Corporation, mostly for logging. Still another gave 2,400 acres to foreign-owned Resolution Copper (in exchange for other lands) on which Native Americans have gathered medicinal plants and acorns and which have cultural values.

For most of my life, including the years I taught American government to college students, I’ve had as a hard a time explaining the logic—or lack thereof—of the “rider” approach to

legislation allowed by Senate and House “rules” as I’ve had accepting it as a citizen. As defined by Burns and Peltason in *Government by the People*, the textbook I used for years, a “rider” is “A provision that might not have much chance to pass on its own merits but is attached to another bill, often unrelated, to secure its legislative passage. Often bills that have little to do with spending money are attached as riders to appropriations bills, because appropriations bills are rarely defeated or vetoed.”

The merits these measures may have aside, is this the right way to decide what is going to be done and what is not going to be done? Is this the right way to allocate taxpayer dollars and inspire citizen confidence in government? Of course not!

Is this practice going to continue? Of course it is, because the only people who could outlaw it are the people who created it and whose careers as legislators benefit from it.

--Les Joslin

Silence is Golden...If We Can Afford It

By Jon Stewart

For over fifty years, to help maintain the auditory quality of the wilderness experience, the U.S. Forest Service has kept chainsaws and other mechanical equipment out of congressionally designated wilderness. But we may no longer be able to afford the sound of silence.

Over the past decade, while walking many of our nation’s backcountry trails, I have seen the impact of ever larger and more damaging wildfires, especially inside our nation’s wildernesses. The Forest Service should start authorizing the use of power tools in the years following major wildfires to help maintain national forest wilderness trails.

During a wildfire emergency, forest supervisors have no qualms about allowing the use of helicopters, chainsaws, and other mechanized equipment inside wildernesses. But as soon as the fire is extinguished, they step back into the Dark Ages of wilderness management.

Over the past decade the largest wildfires in recorded history have burned across six out of nine Western states. Forest Service fire staffing has increased 110 percent, now consuming 42 percent of the Forest Service’s annual budget (up from 16 percent in 1995). In the Pacific Northwest Region, over half the Sisters Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest has burned during the past 11 years. Like the plants and animals struggling to return to these charred landscapes, the Forest Service too must adapt to the changing circumstances.

The Forest Service, that manages 33 percent of the congressionally designated wilderness acreage, has traditionally been adverse to using chainsaws to clear National Forest System wilderness trails. Rangers cite sections of the Wilderness Act of 1964 which states that “each agency...shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area... Except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act...there shall be...no use of...motorized equipment...within any such area.”

In contrast, superintendents for the National Park Service,

who manage 42 percent of our nation’s wilderness acreage, have interpreted this language much more liberally and regularly approved the use of chainsaws to clear National Park System wilderness trails. The difference is striking. The vast majority of wilderness trails within burned over areas of the national parks are regularly cleared of blowdown while the charred logs blocking wilderness trails in our national forests often demand the dexterity of chimpanzees to clamber over.

For over three decades I managed Forest Service brush disposal, fire, and trail crews. I loved using hand tools to maintain the quality of the wilderness experience and to teach traditional skills that were rapidly being lost. But I also recognized that using hand tools to clear trails is not cost effective: one skilled sawyer with a chainsaw can clear a trail three times faster than two skilled workers using a crosscut saw.

This past summer I spent three days traversing the tombstone forests marking the Farewell, the 30-mile Complex, and the Thunder Mountain fires that have burned the backcountry of the Okanogan National Forest. Compared with the Carlton Complex Fire that torched 300 homes in the Methow Valley and charred over a quarter million acres this past summer, these wilderness fires are now a distant memory. But their impacts on the Paysayten Wilderness are still being felt. Fallen snags and thickets of brush block trails rapidly eroding into deep trenches in the pebble charred soils. Soon these trails will be impassible.

It is easy to face a fire emergency, but often too easy to forget about its effects long after the fact. As the costs of wildfire suppression skyrocket and consume ever greater proportions of forest budgets, the Forest Service must increase the efficiency of its few remaining trail crews. Even though I, like many backcountry users, hate the sound of the chainsaw, it is well past time for our land managers to regularly authorize their use to deal with the long-lasting effects of massive wildfires in our nation’s wildernesses.

“A General Decline of Standards...”

By Hanks Hays

I have commented previously on the state of the Forest Service, including in the *Journal of Forestry*. My start goes back to the forties as a seasonal in Idaho, Montana, the “old” Forest Service.

The Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* had an *OldSmokeys Say* discussion entitled “What Happened to the Forest Service” by Robbie Robertson. The piece outlined well some of the factors contributing to the decline of the outfit, but it was not the opinion I would offer. I was in the former Forest Service, my perspective begins there, and goes up into the 1980s with all the changes. It is fair to state that a candid and unvarnished summary of all the ills plaguing the outfit would be in part politically incorrect by today’s standards, wrong as those standards may be in part.

All I would say is that the Forest Service reflects a general decline of standards in society and government overall in the last decades. Just one example: we did not get paid overtime then; the reward was dedication to the job (or calling), and the local citizens knew it.

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Board Nominates Ron Boehm to Serve as Next PNWFSA President-elect

OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** has accepted the Board of Director's nomination to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the 2015-2016 year, and then as President for the 2016-2017 year.

After approval by the PNWFSA membership (see "Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2015" article and ballot on page 5), Ron will be installed in that office at the annual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 17, 2015, and be in line to succeed OldSmokey **Jim Rice** as President in May 2016.

Read all about Ron in the page 5 election article. Please turn to page 5 right now, read Ron's story, and cast your ballot in support of Ron's acceptance of this challenging three-year commitment. *Please note that this ballot is back-to-back with the Spring Banquet 2015 reservation coupon. You can vote and reserve your seats at the banquet at the same time if you want to...and use the same stamp to do it!*

OldSmokeys Set Spring Banquet 2015 at Charbonneau Country Club for May 17, Summer Picnic 2015 on August 14

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at its September 26, 2014, meeting scheduled the 2015 Spring Banquet at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, for Sunday afternoon, May 17. The banquet will cost \$25.00 per person.

At this banquet, OldSmokey **Jim Rice** will take over from OldSmokey **Al Matecko** as President of the PNWFSA, and is confirmed by the membership (see "Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2015" on page 6), OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** will be installed as President-elect.

Welcoming these two OldSmokeys to their new PNWFSA offices, and thanking President Al for his leadership and for the year of service as Past President on which he will embark that day, are just two of many reasons to attend this spring's annual banquet. Another is the super silent auction conducted every other year, and 2015 is a silent auction year!

Success of the silent auction is based on auction items donated by you and other members. OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> is the person to contact regarding donations of silent auction items. "We also need donations of door prize items," OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** reminds.

Complete information about and an early reservation form for Spring Banquet 2015 are on page 6 of this issue and will be again in the Spring 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Why wait? Why not turn to page 6 right now and reserve your banquet seats on the form on the flip side of the ballot?

Summer Picnic 2015

Also at that September 26 meeting the Board announced the Summer Picnic in the Woods at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood would be held on Friday, August 14, 2015.

For this picnic, Past President **Linda Goodman** has arranged for Job Corps culinary students to cater the picnic lunch. This will lower the picnic cost to between \$10.00 to \$15.00 per person—significantly less than the \$25.00 cost per person of the last few picnics. The exact price per person will be announced in the Spring 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey President Al Matecko Makes a Good Case for Attending the Monthly PNWFSA Luncheons

That something special happens on the last Friday of every month when OldSmokeys gather for lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland, Oregon, was proved again at the September 26, 2014, luncheon.

"During the luncheon," as President **Al Matecko** reported, "OldSmokeys **Sylvia Brucchi** and **Charlie Krebs** discovered they'd worked in the same area in Region 8 'a few short years' ago.

"But it was OldSmokey **Sue Zike** who moved our luncheon crowd by sharing her thoughts on Bob Richmond in what turned out to be a moving, poignant look at Bob," Al reflected.

"If you have the chance to attend a luncheon, I strongly encourage it, not just for the food and hearing my rapturous thoughts—okay, maybe just a recap of the Board meeting, but more importantly for the connections among old friends and new ones."

OldSmokey Monthly Luncheon Cost at The Old Spaghetti Factory Changes

Beginning with the Friday, November 28, 2014, OldSmokey monthly luncheon, The Old Spaghetti Factory, in consultation with the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) luncheon committee, changed the price of the lunch to a flat fee of \$11.00 collected by the committee at the door, as OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** announced on November 2, 2014.

This new flat fee of \$11.00 purchases a choice of two (2) types of salads and one of five (5) pasta entrees. This flat fee covers the cost of the above choices as well as bread and butter, choice of drink and dessert, and gratuity.

Adult beverages (beer, wine, and mixed drinks) are ordered from a roving waiter and paid for by each member upon receiving his or her drinks. These beverages are not included in the flat fee of \$11.00, but are paid for separately.

This change was initiated by The Old Spaghetti Factory management because they were not meeting the cost of our meals. The PNWFSA's arrangement with The Old Spaghetti Factory allows the OldSmokeys to use the restaurant's facilities for PNWFSA's monthly board of directors meeting without cost. This changes represents what Bev terms "a win-win" for both The Old Spaghetti Factory and the OldSmokeys.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2015

OldSmokeys Are Asked to Confirm Ron Boehm to Serve as PNWFSA President-elect

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) has nominated OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect for the 2015-2016 term. Here's a little about Ron to inform your confirmation decision to be expressed on the ballot at the bottom of this page.

Ron was born in December 1939 in Riverside, New Jersey. He attended a Catholic grammar school through the sixth grade, and after his family moved to Beverly, New Jersey, he attended public schools and graduated from Burlington High School. As a senior, Ron took an aptitude test that directed him toward a profession he had never heard of: forester. Ron's family decided money was too tight for four years of college, and Ron attended the University of Florida's three-semester Florida Forest Ranger School in Lake City.

Upon graduation, Ron went to work in the U.S. Forest Service as a GS-3 forestry aid on the Quilcene Ranger District, Olympic National Forest. In 1961 he married Diane DeLurme, and in 1969 they had a daughter Kimberline. In 14 years at Quilcene, Ron progressed in grade and responsibility to GS-9 timber sale administrator. In 1973 Ron transferred to the Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, where he was senior timber sale administrator. In February 1976, the Boehms lost their daughter Kim during an Australian flu epidemic.

Ron transferred to the Oakridge Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, in 1977, where as timber management assistant to district rangers Wayne Orr and Bob Barstad he supervised four timber sale administrators, a salvage and small sale program leader, a presale crew leader, and indirectly up to ten people engaged in sale preparation. In March 1986, Ron transferred to the Clackamas Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, to perform similar duties for district rangers Dick Hardman and John Berry. In the winter of 1990, after 29 years of marriage, Diane divorced Ron.

Beginning in 1991, Ron served sequentially as engineering team leader at the Estacada Engineering Technical Center; watershed analysis team leader for the White River and West Fork Hood River; and administrative officer for the consolidated Clackamas and Estacada ranger districts. Ron earned a bachelor's degree in management at Marylhurst University in 1993, and married Donna Hutton in 1994. In 1999, Ron's district administrative officer position was eliminated and he was put on the WRAPS list.

In 1999, Ron became a GS-11 contracting officer with a grants and agreements specialty in the RO, then on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Mt. Hood National Forest. He retired in January 2009, and became a reemployed annuitant as a grants and agreements specialist at the Economic Recovery Operation Center, a WO satellite in Sandy, Oregon.

On September 30, 2010, Ron retired "for real" after 51 years and one month in the U.S. Forest Service. Ron and Donna live in Estacada, Oregon.

Use the ballot form below right now to show your support for Ron's willingness to take on this three-year responsibility!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Winter 2014 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect Nominee Ron Boehm

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Ron Boehm** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect for the 2015-2016 term.

Please confirm your support of this nomination by casting this ballot for this nominee,
or write in another name.

I cast my ballot for **Ron Boehm** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect _____ (check here) or

I cast my ballot for _____ (write in here) to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

*Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, by February 15, 2015,
or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Debra Warren at <debrawarren@gmail.com>.*

(While you're at it, use the flip side of this ballot to register for the May 17 Spring Banquet 2015!)



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet 2015

OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA’s May 17 Spring Banquet 2015!

There’s no time like the present to reserve your place or places for this year’s Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet at beautiful Charbonnet Country Club just south of Portland near Wilsonville, Oregon!

As announced on page 4...

The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and this year will include our biennial silent auction!

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

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

The whole works will set you back just \$25.00 per person!

Driving directions to Charbonneau Country Club for any OldSmokeys who don’t already know the way will be provided in the Spring 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

And, since this year’s Spring Banquet is a SILENT AUCTION BANQUET, you’ll want to be thinking now about exciting items you can donate. OldSmokey Mary Moyer at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> is the person to contact regarding donations of silent auction items. To donate door prize items, contact OldSmokey Bev Pratt.

Send in the reservation form (or a copy of it) to reserve your place(s) not later than May 5, 2015. Better yet, send it in before February 25 to reserve early even as you send in the ballot on the flip side to support Ron Bohem’s nomination to serve as PNWFSA President-elect!

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

RESERVATION FORM

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

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

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

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



OldSmokeys Darrel Kenops, Executive Director (left), and Jim Golden, Chair (right), conducted the October 2014 National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) annual meeting in Reno. Photograph by Les Joslin

OldSmokeys Presided at, Participated in NAFSR Annual Meeting in Reno

Twenty-four National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) members attended NAFSR’s annual board of directors and membership meeting held from October 27 through October 30 at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, Nevada. NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** and retiring NAFSR Executive Director and OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** guided the members through a challenging two and one-half day business agenda followed by a fascinating day-long field trip on the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Other OldSmokeys attending and participating included NAFSR regional representatives **Rich Stem** (Northern Region), **Tom Thompson** (Rocky Mountain Region), and **Ranotta McNair** (Pacific Northwest Region). *OldSmokey Newsletter* editor **Les Joslin** was there to cover the story.

The Meeting

Following an opening Monday afternoon conference call with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, Darrel presented his 2013-2014 Executive Director’s Report that summarized NAFSR’s work program accomplishments since the October 2013 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, and its organizational status. Details of these topics are covered in *The Look-out*, NAFSR’s quarterly newsletter. Of particular note, NAFSR’s membership as of October 14, 2014, totaled 702 members in 39 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. NAFSR is focused on achieving a membership of 1,000 members in the near future.

After a round-robin session of board members’ ideas regarding the meeting’s agenda items and the following year’s program of work, Tuesday included briefings on several topics. The last of these, by OldSmokeys **Les Joslin** and **Rich Stem**, presented the Agency to Match the Mountains Initiative pro-

posal for a two-week, national-level, regionally- or locally-presented U.S. Forest Service “Basic Forest Officer Course” to orient both entry-level and lateral-transfer personnel to this unique agency and help develop among them leadership and followership abilities essential to meeting the challenges of the future. After discussion, the NAFSR board of directors “unanimously agreed to endorse the concepts articulated in [the] proposal” and recommended development of a one-week version. Details will be published in a future issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The final day was devoted to finalizing NAFSR’s plan of work for the coming year.

After the day’s meetings, NAFSR members enjoyed getting together in a “hospitality room” to talk over old times and new opportunities.

The Field Trip

And, after two and one-half days of meetings, about half the attendees were able to stick around for a great all-day field trip to the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

In the morning, Carson District Ranger Irene Davidson welcomed the NAFSR members to the beautiful Galena Creek Visitor Center operated in partnership with the Great Basin Institute, and explained the expansion plan for the Mount Rose Ski Area just a few miles up the highway on the way to Lake Tahoe.

Then, on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Supervisor Nancy Gibson and members of her staff showed the group the restoration as a meadow (on formerly private lands that once contained a reservoir dangerous to the downstream community of Incline Village) and the success of a major multi-agency fuels reduction project in and around Incline Village.



OldSmokeys Rich Stem and Darrel Kenops were among a group of NAFSR field trip participants who paid close attention as Nancy Gibson, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, explained a meadow restoration project.

Photograph by Les Joslin



Architect's rendering of the Cascade Lakes Welcome Station under construction on the Deschutes National Forest.
Courtesy Deschutes National Forest

OldSmokeys Played Key Roles in Deschutes National Forest Welcome Station Project

From the time in 2004 when OldSmokey **Les Joslin** submitted a proposal to District Ranger and OldSmokey **Walt Schloer** to the time in late 2014 when Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **John Allen** and his project staff broke ground on October 20, OldSmokeys have played key roles in the development of a Cascade Lakes Welcome Station at the northern terminus of the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway on the Deschutes National Forest.

OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, Deschutes National Forest landscape architect and scenic byways coordinator, honchoed the project during most of those years. Les was Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District recreation-heritage-wilderness resources team leader at the time he submitted the initial proposal in a detailed memorandum to Walt.

The original proposal recognized that the then-proposed new Deschutes National Forest headquarters building—which has now housed the SO and the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District for several years—on part of the closed Bend Pine Nursery grounds would be way off the beaten path for forest visitors bound for the most-used recreation area on the forest. It recommended use of a small fraction of the funding for that new headquarters complex to build a visitor service facility—to be called “Cascade Lakes Ranger Station”—at the beginning of the highway accessing this popular year-round recreation area.

The funding source and the facility name have changed, but after ten years the Cascade Lakes Welcome Station is on the cusp of becoming a facility at which tens of thousands of Deschutes National Forest visitors may be served each year.

Collaboration, Changes, and Challenges

What took ten years? Much of that time was taken up with public consultations and collaborations that, among other outcomes, successfully addressed challenges to and significantly changed the size and functions of the project. Originally proposed as a small visitor information facility and law enforcement officer sub-station, the welcome station concept grew to include more functions including a hub for recreation trails.

That aspect of the project resulted from a 2010 appeal that questioned whether the welcome center complex would offer enough access to nearby trails—not part of the original concept’s function. To answer this appeal, the Deschutes National Forest agreed to add more parking and a pedestrian tunnel beneath the highway. The pedestrian tunnel was completed in 2012.

Now, this added trail hub aspect of the welcome center project is challenged by a civil suit filed on September 23, 2014, with the U.S. District Court in Eugene by an Oregon State University-Cascades professor who challenges the Forest Service’s finding that the proposed trails will have no significant environmental impact. The plaintiff argues in the suit he filed as an individual that the Forest Service’s environmental assessment failed ‘to take the requisite hard look at the [trail project’s] potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to recreational use capacities, wildlife and the Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic River Corridor.’

“The suit also alleges that the plan, which would increase the density of trails in the area, violates the Forest Service’s obligation to manage recreational use levels within certain sensitive areas, as set forth within the agency’s own Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and other guiding documents,” *The Bulletin* reported. “Discovery for the case is set to be completed by late January. A trial date has not been set.”

Forest Supervisor Allen anticipates completion of the facility by CS Construction of Bend as early as September 2015.



On October 20, 2014, Robin Gyorgyfalvy, District Ranger Kevin Larkin, Forest Supervisor John Allen, and Matt Freeman of CS Construction broke ground for the Cascade Lakes Welcome Station.

Photograph by Les Joslin

Prepared from multiple sources including “Welcome center construction nears” by Scott Hammers in The Bulletin for September 16, 2014, and “Professor suing over proposed new trails” by Tyler Leeds in The Bulletin for September 26, 2014.

OldSmokey Grant Aids Restoration of Wildhorse Lookout on Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

A grant of \$2,680 from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) paid for the cost of the October 2014 excavation as well as more than half of the cost of the first concrete pour for installation of a new vault toilet for the Wildhorse Lookout currently being restored on the Gold Beach Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Don Allen Jr. of the Sand Mountain Society reported on October 27, 2014.

Installation of the vault toilet, for which appropriated funds were not available, is an essential third step in the rehabilitation project that will return the historic Wildhorse Lookout to service as a component of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest recreation cabin rental program.

A four-step project

The first step of the project was removal (and salvage, where possible) of the lookout's cab which was crushed by snow during the winter of 2007-2008. "We disassembled the remnants and salvaged what we could," Don said. "It was literally a public safety hazard as parts of the cab were dangling over the side. We acted quickly at the request of [then] Forest Archaeologist Janet Joyer, who wanted to keep the lookout viable for restoration. The only other alternative...was demolition. No one wanted that. Our years of collaboration with Janet on other projects were a big factor in our agreeing to take on Wildhorse Lookout.

"The second step was rehabilitation of the tower structure as several elements were shattered by the impact of the cab coming down. Both of those [steps] took place in 2008 with the help of Pete Cecil's Singletree Associates, a Bend, Oregon, firm that specializes in historic preservation. The outhouse project is the third [step]." Don reported that step completed on November 8, 2014. "The final [step] will be the cab reconstruction. We wanted to complete the outhouse before the cab so that it could be available for use during the cab reconstruction [stage]."

A large project

"This is a very large project," Don emphasized. "We are many thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours into it just to get where we are today." It's a program that has required many hands as well as many dollars.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank the OldSmokeys for their financial support of and interest in this project, in particular **Phil Hirl**, our contact throughout this phase. Thanks also to **Les Joslin** for his encouraging support.

"There have been many Sand Mountain Society members who have worked at Wildhorse over the years, starting with the clean-up of the collapsed lookout cabin. All of those people—along with all of the Forest Service personnel, contractors, and donors who have contributed to the project—are part of this story.

"Bruce Hake stands out among the volunteers. He was the lead on this [third step] and the final product reflects his quality

work." Among the many Forest Service folks who have supported this project, Don singled out Partnership Coordinator Kim Marie Hunter, Archaeologist Kristen Hauge, and Gold Beach District Ranger Tina Lanier.

Don especially thanked "retired Forest Archaeologist Janet Joyer, ...the daughter of a ranger [who was] raised in the Forest Service community where she learned the ideals of hard work, stewardship, and public service. In typical fashion, when Wildhorse Lookout collapsed, she had the vision to bring everyone together to turn the potential loss of an important heritage asset into a collaborative opportunity for preservation."

A heritage resource saved

Thirteen miles east-northeast of Gold Beach, Oregon, historic Wildhorse Lookout—a 40-foot high tower with an L-4 cab—was built in 1935 and was in regular service as a lookout for 40 years.



The historic Wildhorse Lookout tower structure loomed above the outhouse project on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

Photograph courtesy of the Sand Mountain Society

Prepared with information provided by the Sand Mountain Society.

**OldSmokeys...
Making a Difference!**





OldSmokey “Rondy” Rondthaler Interpretive Sign Still Spreads the “Leave No Trace” Word

OldSmokey **Howard M. “Rondy” Rondthaler**, whose life was remembered in the *Memories* section of the Fall 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, still spreads the word about “Leave No Trace” outdoor ethics on the Mt. Hood National Forest via a recently-erected sign on the Horseshoe Spur Trail, not far east of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Rondy’s sign, shown above, speaks for itself as it recalls the life of this U.S. Forest Service trails manager. Below the photograph of OldSmokey Rondy is the inscription:

Howard M. “Rondy” Rondthaler, 1928-2007
“The mountains are calling and I must go.”
 --John Muir

To the right, and above a photograph of the young Rondy in his Forest Service uniform, is the story of his life.

Howard “Rondy” Rondthaler was born in North Carolina in 1928, and moved to Oregon in 1948 on a bet with a friend, and soon began a career in the U.S. Forest Service. One of a group of dedicated foresters and volunteers of the era, Rondy approached every job eager to improve the forest lands and trails he loved. He believed that the natural beauty of the scenic Lakes District and the entire forest should be accessible to as many people as possible. In his tenure as Trails Supervisor for the Mt. Hood National Forest, Rondy researched and found historic trails, designed and built new trails, and redesigned existing trails to make them both more accessible and more scenic. His work lives on in this trail and many others throughout the region.

To the left, above a photograph of a Mt. Hood National Forest trail entry sign, are the Leave No Trace Seven Principles he espoused, and his wilderness ranger counterparts continue to espouse.

- *Plan Ahead and Prepare*
- *Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces*
- *Dispose of Waste Properly*
- *Leave What You Find*
- *Minimize Campfire Impacts*
- *Respect Wildlife*
- *Be Considerate of Other Visitors*

Rondy’s sign is a joint venture of Rondy’s family and the Forest Service. Ron Kikel of the Mt. Hood National Forest designed the sign that was installed late this past summer.

The sign along the trail approaching Horseshoe Lake may be reached—once the winter’s snows have melted—by following these directions:

- From the east side of Portland by taking Oregon Highway 244 southeast from Estacada to Ripplebrook Ranger Station, then taking Forest Road 46 south to Forest Road 4690, where you turn left.
- From the west or south sides of Portland, take Oregon Highway 22 east out of Salem to Detroit, then Forest Road 46 north to Forest Road 4690, where you turn right.
- When Forest Road 4690 meets the old Skyline Road, turn right onto Forest Road 4220. Follow this road southward past Olallie Lake and Monon Lake. At this point, the rough road becomes much rougher, and it is best to have a truck or car with very high clearance. Horseshoe Lake is about three twisty road miles south of Olallie Lake, and there is a primitive campground—bring your own wood and water! Rondy’s sign is about one-eighth of a mile along Trail No. 712, on the north side of the lake.

Be sure to take your Mt. Hood National Forest map with you!

Prepared with the assistance of Rondy’s daughter, Elizabeth Jolley, and Ron Kikel, U.S. Forest Service.

Directory Security

OLDSMOKEYS GUARD MEMBERS’ PRIVACY

Your annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) *OldSmokeys Membership Directory* is really handy for keeping in touch with other PNWFSA members.

Unfortunately, it also could prove quite handy for someone else who may not have your and other OldSmokeys’ best interests in mind.

Please treat the membership directory, mailed annually with your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and also available online, as confidential. Keep it safe, and when it is replaced by a new edition, shred or otherwise destroy it.

Directory Security



OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2015 Were Due and Payable on January 1

If you are an OldSmokey who pays his or her PNWFSA dues on an annual basis and you have not yet paid your dues for 2015, please use the Bill for Collection below to do so, or to convert your annual membership to a lifetime membership so you won't have to pay annual dues anymore, or to donate to any or all of the four PNWFSA funds listed.

OldSmokeys Are Registering to Attend the October 11-16, 2015, Forest Service Reunion in Albuquerque

“Rally on the Rio,” the next national U.S. Forest Service reunion, is less than a year away, and now is the time to register early to receive the discounted room rate of just \$105 per night (plus tax) at the hosting Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

You can call Marriott Reservations at 1-877-622-3056 now and ask for the U.S. Forest Service Amigos Reunion room block to receive the discounted room rate. You can also make reservations now by using the web link <<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/amigosreunion2015>>.

The timing of this once-every-three-year event couldn't be better. The October 11-16 reunion will immediately follow the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta; if you come early the skies should be filled with colorful hot air balloons—including the Smokey Bear balloon.

The hosting Amigos of the Southwest Region retirees association are anticipating over a thousand Forest Service retirees from all over the United States to attend. You'll want to be sure to be among them!

Of course, all Forest Service folk are welcome. One doesn't have to be a retiree to attend and enjoy this reunion.

Visit the “Rally on the Rio” website <2015.fsreunions.org> for more detailed information on the reunion and to register early.

OldSmokey Bob Ethington Recognized by American Lumber Standard Committee With \$1,000 Donation to PNWFSA

“Wow! I just picked up the mail and found amongst the dues a check from The American Lumber Standard Committee, Inc.,” Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Secretary **Deb Warren** e-mailed her PNWFSA Board of Directors colleagues on November 3, 2014.

The November 1, 2014, letter transmitting the check said the donation was “In recognition of Dr. Robert Ethington's service to the American Lumber Standard Committee Board of Review” and was signed by John H. McDaniel, President.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Bill for Collection for 2015 Annual Dues, Conversion to Lifetime Membership, and Fund Donations

Please make your check(s) for membership dues or any amount you may wish to contribute payable to PNWFSA and mail to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583

Please check all that apply:

- Annual Membership Renewal \$20.00
- Lifetime Membership Conversion \$250.00
- General Fund Donation \$ _____
- Grants/Projects Fund Donation \$ _____
- Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Any changes to your contact information? _____

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

OldSmokey Corbin Newman is NAFSR's New Executive Director

OldSmokey **Corbin Newman** relieved OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** on January 1, 2015, as executive director of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR). Just a couple weeks before NAFSR's October 27-29, 2014, annual board of directors and membership meeting in Reno, Nevada, NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** announced this succession.

Corbin retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, in 2013 after more than 35 years of service. Prior to that last assignment, he spent eight years in three positions in the WO as Director of Forest Management, Leader of the National Fire Plan, and Budget Director for the National Forest System. He holds a B.S. degree in forest management from Colorado State University and served in numerous positions at all levels of the Forest Service in both the eastern and western parts of the country.

Corbin and his wife Erin, also a Forest Service member, reside in Placitas, New Mexico. They have two grown sons.

Details regarding Corbin's assumption of NAFSR leadership were worked out at the annual meeting in Reno.



OldSmokeys Play Key NAFSR Roles

OldSmokey **Corbin Newman's** recent relief of OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** as executive director of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and OldSmokey **Jim Golden's** continuing leadership as NAFSR chair reflect the key roles Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members play at the national level.

The facts that OldSmokeys **Richard Stem**, **Tom Thompson**, and **Ranotta McNair** represent Region 1, Region 2, and Region 6, respectively, on NAFSR's Board of Directors, and that more than a third of that board is made up of PNWFSA members—former Chiefs **Gail Kimbell**, **Max Peterson**, and **Dale Robertson**, as well as **John Sandor**—underline the roles OldSmokeys play at that level.

The fact remains, however, that NAFSR can use more OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees to help carry out its mission of "Sustaining the Heritage" of the Forest Service and the National Forest System.

That's why NAFSR invites you to become a member and participate in providing professional, science-based advice and public education regarding natural resource issues. That's right. NAFSR provides counsel and advice to the Forest Service and to other organizations and individuals having similar interests.

In addition to opportunities to serve the cause, NAFSR members receive *The Lookout* newsletter and the Chief's weekly newsletter.

For more information on NAFSR and membership, visit the NAFSR website at <www.fsx.org>.

OldSmokey Jerry Williams' History of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Remains Available from OSU Press

OldSmokey **Gerald W. "Jerry" Williams'** book *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History*, published by Oregon State University Press in late 2009, remains available for \$29.95 plus shipping charges.

Jerry's definitive, 448-page, softcover book about the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest is largely *your story of your Forest Service* and the Forest Service *you* as OldSmokeys inherited from *your* Thirty-Year Club predecessors and their predecessors who made Region 6 what it was then and what it is today. It's *the book* for any OldSmokeys's bookshelf.

It's also a book your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and the Pacific Northwest Region partnered with Jerry and OSU Press in publishing.

You can order Jerry's book from the OSU Press website by using the link <<http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/us-forest-service-in-pacific-northwest>> or by calling OSU Press's distributor toll-free at 1-800-621-2736.

Prepared from information provided by Tom Booth, Associate Director, OSU Press

OldSmokey Jeff LaLande Appeared in OPB Documentary on "State of Jefferson"

OldSmokey **Jeff LaLande**, for over 30 years archaeologist and historian for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, appeared in the new Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) documentary exploring the history of the "State of Jefferson" in southern Oregon and northern California that aired on November 17, 2014.

Known variously as the "Mythical State of Jefferson" and "A State of Mind," Jefferson is more an idea of a place. As far back as 1852, there have been numerous efforts among counties in the area to secede from the two states to create a new, independent state. The most famous came in 1941, but the "patriotic rebellion" to form the State of Jefferson died out when World War II began.

"Today, the State of Jefferson is a source of local lore, regional identity, propaganda, and pride for its residents," OPB concludes. "I don't see it ever happening," Jeff, one of several interviewed, responded when asked if it would ever become more than just a "state of mind."

Jeff, who graduated from Georgetown University in 1969, holds a master's degree in archaeology from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Oregon. An adjunct faculty member at Southern Oregon University for more than 20 years, he is author of numerous articles and several books on numerous aspects of Northwestern history.

Prepared from multiple sources including "New OPB Oregon Experience Documentary Explores History of the State of Jefferson in Southern Oregon and Northern California" posted on the OPB website on October 29, 2014, and watching the documentary.

Every OldSmokey an OldSmokey Recruiter!

OldSmokeys New Electronic Applications Prove Boon to Membership Recruitment

The new electronic Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) membership application form designed by OldSmokeys **Dennis Dietrich** and **Bill Funk** and installed on the OldSmokeys website by OldSmokey **Don Nearhood** has proven a boon to recruiting new PNWFSA members as well as to the receipt and processing of new member applications.

All OldSmokeys are strongly encouraged to actively recruit new PNWFSA members by using this new electronic application form.

Active recruiting

The more active way for members to recruit new members is to send as attachments to e-mails both electronic membership application formats—one a Word (.docx) and the other a PDF (.pdf) format of this new application form—to potential recruits along with personal encouragement to join. Recipients would choose and use the format more compatible with their personal electronic device.

All members who receive e-Notes from OldSmokey E-Mail Editor **Vern Clapp** will soon receive an e-Note to which these two electronic application formats will be attached. All you as a member will have to do is identify potential future members to whom you will send these application formats to be completed and submitted to you. You will check each application you receive for completeness and forward to Secretary **Deb Warren** and Database Manager **Bill Funk** for action.

Passive recruiting

Potential new members may also access the electronic membership application by going to the PNWFSA website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> where they can complete the application right on the screen and submit it automatically.

Electronic application success

Most new member applications received during the past few months have been submitted using this new electronic application form system. These electronic applications have proven their value at getting the word about OldSmokey membership out to potential PNWFSA members.

There was a record 950 PNWFSA memberships as this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press. A good number of those memberships include a spouse, so the actual number of OldSmokeys—and of *OldSmokeys Newsletter* readers—greatly exceeds a thousand!

Active member recruiting using this new electronic membership application has the potential to vastly increase PNWFSA membership and influence.

Prepared in collaboration with OldSmokeys Dennis Dietrich, Vern Clapp, Bill Funk, and Don Nearhood.

OldSmokeys...

Use These New Applications to Recruit a New OldSmokey Today!



South Sister reflecting in Sparks Lake as seen along the Ray Atkeson Memorial Trail in the Deschutes National Forest.

Photograph by Les Joslin

OldSmokeys Say

Celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the Ray Atkeson Memorial Trail on the Deschutes National Forest

*By Robin Lee Gyorgyfalvy, FASLA
Landscape Architect and Scenic Byways Program Leader
Deschutes National Forest, Bend, Oregon*

On a beautiful mid-September 2014 day, I visited the Ray Atkeson Memorial Interpretive Trail at Sparks Lake for two special reasons. It was my birthday and spending it at my favorite place close to Bend, Oregon, was at the top of my list. It was also the twentieth anniversary of the dedication of the trail in September 1994.

We watched an osprey hover over the water for what seemed like an eternity and then commit to a dive that ended with a huge splash and a big prize. It was both symbolic and reminiscent of the great amount of work, ingenuity, and persistence it took to plan, design, fund, and build the trail that began as a wish and a dream. The result has been a well-loved place of respect and honor for Oregon's only photographer laureate and a big prize for the entire Oregon community. The Ray Atkeson Memorial Interpretive Trail continues to please all of its visitors twenty years later. Its interpretive features are poignant and relevant and its design features still give visitors an experience that can only be described as enlightening and rejuvenating.

In Oregon and throughout the United States the name Ray Atkeson is synonymous with images of wild and noble landscapes worthy of being preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. He lived from 1907 to 1990 and was a legend in his own time as a pioneer in large format color photography capturing the light and beauty of Western landscapes since 1928. An avid mountain climber and skier, he photographed incredible scenes from the mountain peaks of the Pacific Northwest. He helped establish outdoor photography as an art form by setting a standard for style and character.

With the appearance of his first “coffee table” books in 1968, Ray joined the ranks of America’s top photographers such as Ansel Adams and Philip Hyde. His work was published in numerous magazines, including *Life*, *Time*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *National Geographic*, and *Holiday*. He earned numerous awards, including the Distinguished Citizen of Oregon, Governor’s Award for Arts, Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Linfield College, and the Photographic Society of America Award.

In 1987, in recognition of his preservation ethic and pursuit of excellence, Ray Atkeson was honored with the title of Photographer Laureate of the State of Oregon, the first and only photographer to ever receive this title. Through his photographs, he had a unique way of revealing the soul of the landscape to his viewers.

Shortly before his death in the spring of 1990 at the age of 83, Ray revealed to his close friend Janet Tobkin that he considered Sparks Lake to be the most stunning landscape in Oregon. When told that the people of Oregon wished to create a memorial to him, he was pleased that this special place was chosen.

The Ray Atkeson Memorial Interpretive Trail was dedicated in September 1994 at Sparks Lake thanks to the hard work and tenacity of Janet Tobkin who forged a unique partnership between the Oregon Parks Foundation and the Deschutes National Forest. It resulted in a model partnership for the region, the first of its kind, and received contributions from many dedicated individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, youth work crews, Redmond smokejumper crew, and volunteers from all over Oregon including the Mazamas, a mountaineering education organization from Portland. This was the first Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible trail on the Deschutes National Forest made even more special by its unforgettable views, abundant wildlife, and a feeling of peace by being surrounded by nature at its finest.



This plaque along the Ray Atkeson Memorial Interpretive Trail on the Deschutes National Forest commemorates Oregon’s photographer laureate and his contribution to landscape photography.
Photograph by Les Joslin

Ray Atkeson spent his lifetime preserving the beauty of landscapes by capturing the light upon these special places through his camera lens. This work helped create a visual foundation for a preservation land ethic. Accessed by Cascade Lakes Highway, the memorial trail served as a catalyst for celebrating and preserving scenic views in the Cascade Lakes recreation area.

In 1998, Cascade Lakes Highway was designated a national scenic byway. The memorial trail and the Ray Atkeson Wayside on the byway provide an ongoing outdoor learning experience that continues Atkeson’s philosophy of teaching students of nature through the medium of photography.

Here’s to Janet Tobkin for finding a beautiful way to honor Ray Atkeson and to the next twenty years!

*“It has a beauty all its own,
 standing out from any other place in the state of Oregon.”
 –Ray Atkeson, May 10, 1990*

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy has served on the Deschutes National Forest since 1987.

OldSmokeys Newsletter Should Recruit a New Editor

With publication of this issue of PNWFSA’s *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, I’ve had the honor and privilege of editing—which includes gathering information and writing news as well as laying out and producing printer-ready copy—this quarterly for 36 issues during nine full years.

I say “honor and privilege” because, for me, it has been both. I have had the honor and privilege of getting to know so many people who served so well in the U.S. Forest Service in which I had planned to pursue a career before circumstances intervened to reduce my service to a few years—much of that seasonal—on both sides of another career. But you took me in and made me feel at home.

I say “honor and privilege” because you have entrusted me with a degree of editorial freedom that I appreciated and believe used responsibly.

But nobody should do a job like this for over 10 years, and my 10 years are almost up.

I won’t “leave you in the jungle,” but I sincerely ask you to help me locate someone in whom you will entrust this responsibility in 2016.

—Les

Forest Service News

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

National News

U.S. Forest Service Ranks 237 of 315 Agencies in 2014 “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” Survey

The U.S. Forest Service rankings in the annual “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” survey conducted by the Partnership for Public Service improved only slightly over its 2013 ranking which was its lowest in the history of the survey.

In the 2014 results released on December 8, 2014, the Forest Service ranked 237 out of 315 agencies surveyed with an index score of 51.9, compared with its 2013 ranking of 260 out of 300 and index score of 49.0.

The agency’s one declining score is reflected in its ranking of 292 of 314 in the “Effective Leaders: Senior Leaders” category, down slightly from its 286 out of 300 ranking in 2013.

Although the change in the 2014 rankings from 2013 rankings is relatively insignificant, these years’ rankings for the Forest Service are significantly low compared with historic rankings about ten years ago when index scores hovered around 60.

The “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” rankings are produced by the Partnership for Public Service, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization committed to improving the effectiveness of government.

Complete 2014 Forest Service results are available online at <http://bestplacestowork.org/BPTW/rankings/detail/AG11>.

Prepared from Partnership for Public Service “The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” Agency Report for the Forest Service (USDA) released on December 8, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Staffing Down About 22 Percent in Ten Years

The number of U.S. Forest Service personnel has declined during the past decade from about 31,500 in 2004 to about 24,750 in 2013 according to workforce size and demographic statistics provided by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to the Partnership for Public Service and reported in that non-profit organization’s “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” survey results released on December 8, 2014.

The statistics tell part of the story. In 2013, 651 employees joined the Forest Service, compared with an average of 1,402 employees who joined during the 2008-2013 period. In 2013, a total of 2,058 employees left the Forest Service, compared with an average of 1,908 who left during the 2008-2013 period. Among other things, these statistics indicate that seven percent of the Forest Service workforce is “rookies” with less than three years of service.

What OPM statistics don’t reveal is a reason or the reasons for this huge decline in personnel. A couple major reasons, of course, could be reduced agency funding and changes in how that funding is used. Other explanations could include a lack of agency attention to the retirement trend or a broken hiring process that cannot keep pace with the people quitting, transferring, and retiring.

Such facts—along with how many of these current agency members are actual “boots on the ground” personnel—certainly affect the Forest Service’s current and future ability “to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

Prepared from Partnership for Public Service “The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” Agency Report for the Forest Service (USDA) released on December 8, 2014, and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Affected by Defense Authorization Act of 2014

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, passed by Congress on December 4, 2014, and signed into law by President Barack Obama, contained measures—provisions of bills pertaining to natural resources attached as “riders” to the defense appropriations bill—that will affect U.S. Forest Service resource management operations.

In the Pacific Northwest Region, a measure expanding Oregon Caves National Monument involves transferring 4,000 acres of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest lands from Forest Service to National Park Service administration as a national preserve to protect the monument’s underground River Styx, which the measure designated as the nation’s first underground wild and scenic river, while accommodating hunting and grazing rights.

On the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, a measure adds 22,000 acres to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and another designates the middle fork of the Snoqualmie River as a wild and scenic river.

In the Alaska Region, the act authorizes conveying roughly 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest to the Juneau-based Sealaska Corporation, mostly for logging. And in the Southwest Region, it gives foreign-owned Resolution Copper 2,400 acres of Tonto National Forest land (in exchange for other lands) important to Apaches for gathering medicinal plants and acorns and cultural values.

Still another provision, authored by House Natural Resources Subcommittee Chairman Doc Hastings (Republican-Washington) establishes what Representative Hastings calls a “fair and stable pricing structure” for owners of cabins on National Forest System lands.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Cache of Legislative Bills” by Phil Taylor of E&E News posted by Sharon Friedman on December 3, 2014, on the A New Century of Forest Planning blog; “Washington set to get new national park, more wilderness protection” by Joel Connelly posted on December 3, 2014, on the seattlepi.com blog; “Money for Oregon public lands pinned to Pentagon funding” by Andrew Clevenger in the December 4, 2014, Bend, Oregon, The Bulletin; “House Acts to Keep National Forest Cabin Fees Fair and Affordable” in the December 5, 2014, Sierra Sun Times; “Bill expanding Oregon Caves National Monument nears approval” by Jeff Barnard of the Associated Press in the December 5, 2014, issue of The Bulletin; “Congress passes Alpine Lakes Wilderness” by K. Soon in the December 12, 2014, Seattle Times.

U.S. Forest Service Took Heat Over Proposed Media Permit Rules Said to Undermine First Amendment

“The U.S. Forest Service is badly going where so many have tried to go before—undermining the First Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, a September 25, 2014, editorial told readers of *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper.

“It’s finalizing rules to give it more power to decide what the media can take pictures or video of in the wilderness,” the editorial continued. “The problem is that the rules are so overbroad and vague. The Forest Service could use this authority to shut down news photos or video of any stories that it decided were not positive enough.” Critics of the rules say they violate the First Amendment protection of freedom of expression.

The Proposal

“The Forest Service proposes to incorporate interim directive (ID) 2709.11-2013.1 into Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, Chapter 40 to make permanent guidance for the evaluation of proposals for still photography and commercial filming on National Forest System Lands,” the Forest Service summarized the action in *The Federal Register* on September 9, 2014. “The proposed amendment would address the establishment of consistent national criteria to evaluate requests for special use permits on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Specifically, this policy provides the criteria used to evaluate request [*sic*] for special use permits related to still photography and commercial filming in congressionally designated wilderness areas.”

As originally announced by Forest Service officials—and justified as implementing the Wilderness Act of 1964 which aims to protect congressionally-designated wilderness from exploitation for commercial gain—news organizations, except in breaking news situations, would be required to obtain a permit and follow a number of criteria if they wanted to film in designated wilderness. Permits cost up to \$1,500, a Forest Service spokesman said, and reporters who didn’t get a permit could face fines up to \$1,000.

Public comment, to be received in writing on or before November 3, 2014, was invited and would “be considered in the development of the final directive.” Such comment showed that the public—and especially the news media—had a problem with the action.

The Comment

Announcement of the rules scheduled to be finalized in November brought comment—and objections—from many quarters. Most comment—from representatives of the media through members of Congress to private citizens, criticized the proposed rules as a violation of the First Amendment.

“The problem is that the rules are so overbroad and vague,” *The Bulletin* editorial said. The Forest Service could use this authority to override the public’s right to freedom of speech. “We guess they read the First Amendment differently than most people where it says: ‘shall make no law...abridging the free-

dom of speech, or of the press.’”

A Forest Service official’s comment “If you were engaged on reporting that was in support of wilderness characteristics, that would be permitted” threw gasoline on that particular fire.

With regard to the Forest Service claim that the permit requirement would not apply to “breaking news situations” such as wildfires or search and rescue missions, media representatives objected to the Forest Service’s reserving the right to determine just what events qualified.

Critics across the board pointed out that the proposed rules give Forest Service supervisors discretion to decide whether a news agency’s planned video or photo shoots would meet the Wilderness Act’s goals and that they smacked of unconstitutional censorship.

Some noted that the permit could cost more than the fine.

The Clarification

“This is an example of where we need to clarify,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said when these concerns were brought to his attention. He responded by apparently reversing the agency’s ground on the issue. “The rule would apply to commercial filming, such as a movie production, but reporters and news organizations would not need to get a permit to shoot video or photographs in the nation’s wilderness areas,” a September 26, 2014, Associated Press reported.

“‘The U.S. Forest Service remains committed to the First Amendment,’ he said, adding: ‘It does not infringe in any way on First Amendment rights. [The new rule] does not apply to news-gathering activities, and that includes any part of the news.’”

“If they’re serious about it,” the general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association said of Chief Tidwell’s statement, “they need to craft unambiguous language that exempts news-gathering..., so there’s no question that someone out on a news story wouldn’t have a ranger or other employee saying ‘You need a permit.’”

“Professional and amateur photographers will not need a permit unless they use models, actors, props; work in areas where the public is generally not allowed; or cause additional administrative costs,” the Forest Service said in a release that further clarified the new rules.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Proposed Directive for Commercial Filming in Wilderness; Special Uses Administration” a notice by the U.S. Forest Service in The Federal Register on September 4, 2014; “Forest Service says media need photography permit in wilderness areas, alarming First Amendment advocates”, by Rob Davis in The Oregonian on September 23, 2014; “7 things you should know about the Forest Service’s media restrictions in wilderness,” by Rob Davis in The Oregonian on September 24, 2014; “Forest Service about to trod [*sic*] on First Amendment” editorial in The Bulletin on September 25, 2014, and “Chief: Media won’t need permit for photography” by Phuong Le of The Associated Press in The Bulletin on September 26, 2014.*



**“Caring for the land
and serving people”**

U.S. Forest Service Faces Challenges of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



President Barack Obama on October 10, 2014, exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to proclaim 346,177 acres of National Forest System land in the San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California as the San Gabriel National Monument.

The new national monument comprises about half of the Angeles National Forest immediately north of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. About 4,000 acres of the new national monument were carved out of the neighboring San Bernardino National Forest. It is the eighth national monument administered by the U.S. Forest Service rather than the National Park Service which traditionally administers most national monuments as units of the National Park System.

Carving the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument out of the Angeles National Forest is intended to enable what the *Los Angeles Times* termed “the chronically underfunded Forest Service” which could not “keep up with the [recreational] demand” of about 3 million annual visitors to this part of the Angeles National Forest, where “graffiti, trash, crowding, crime and wildfires are a constant problem,” to “give priority to managing the safety of visitors, protecting natural resources and installing improvements, including new parking areas, restrooms, signs, educational kiosks and trails, federal officials said.”

“Building on the monument designation,” the official October 10 White House press release said, “leading philanthropies are also announcing commitments to help jump-start public involvement and restoration of high-priority projects in Los Angeles County and the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The National Forest Foundation announced that they will commit \$3 million for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund to respond to community priorities and support restoration and stewardship of the new national monument. In addition, the Hewlett, Wyss, Packard, and California Community foundations, the California Endowment, and the Resource Legacy Fund are working to establish a \$500,000 San Gabriel Partnership Fund to support recreation and habitat improvement projects in the monument and surrounding communities. Secretary [of Agriculture Tom] Vilsack and the Forest Service are also stepping up by investing more than a million dollars in additional education staff and maintenance work on the monument’s trails and picnic areas.”

“More than 15 million people live within 90 minutes of the San Gabriel Mountains, which provides 70 percent of the open space for Angelenos and 30 percent of their drinking water,” the White House press release continued. “The 346,177 acre site contains high quality wilderness areas, habitat for rare and endangered animals like the California condor, and a rich array of cultural and historical features.”

“Designating the area as a national monument will ensure its resources are managed properly and protected for future generations to enjoy,” *USA Today* quoted Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti.

Designation of the San Gabriel National Monument, the *Washington Post* opined, also “will bring together two of the top priorities of what [President Obama] hopes will be his presidential legacy—environmental protection and cultural and demographic diversity.” The dedication “reflects a broader White House strategy to preserve public lands that resonate with key demographic groups.”

“What we want to ensure, and what the president has focused on, is that all Americans, and the great diversity of Americans, both have the opportunity to access these important places and can experience them in perpetuity,” the *Washington Post* quoted White House counselor John Podesta.

Designation of the San Gabriel National Monument was not without its detractors. Some among the area’s population protested that the move would hinder wildfire suppression efforts and restrict hunting and off-road vehicle use.

Prepared from multiple sources including White House News Release “President Obama Designates San Gabriel Mountains National Monument” issued by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 10, 2014; “Obama to publicly name San Gabriel Mountains a national monument today” by Louis Sahagan in the October 10, 2014, Los Angeles Times; “New San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Includes 540 Square Miles of the Angeles National Forest” by Melissa Pamer of KTLA5 Television; “Obama declares California forest a national monument” by Gregory Korte in the October 10, 2014, USA Today; and “In new monuments, minorities in mind” by Juliet Eilperin of The Washington Post in the October 10, 2014, The Bulletin of Bend, Oregon.

U.S. Forest Service Gets Final Go-ahead for Rim Fire Restoration Forestry

The last of three motions filed to prevent salvage logging on the high-severity burned area of the August-September 2013 Rim Fire that burned over 250,000 acres of Stanislaus National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and private forest lands has been denied in both federal district and appeals courts. As a result, a range of restoration activities continues and salvage logging has begun pursuant to a plan OldSmokey **Richard Stem** helped stand up as soon as the fire was declared out.

Salvage logging is one of many tools land managers can use to help restore landscapes after wildfires. Areas in need of salvage logging are areas that burned so intensely that forests have difficulty growing back. Salvaging burned trees and replanting a wide range of native species helps restore the landscape and make it less susceptible to catastrophic wildfire.

Since November 1, 2014, about 20,000 acres containing about 210 million board feet of Stanislaus National Forest timber has been sold to be salvage logged. Another 100 million board feet remain to be sold. Revenue from selling salvage logs can pay for restoration efforts. Salvaging this timber will maintain about 250 sawmill jobs in Tuolumne County, California, as well as 400 to 500 trucking and logging jobs.

Many see this forest restoration projects as a model which make positive environmental, economic, and social sense.

Prepared from “Final Motion to Halt Restoration Forestry on Rim Fire Denied” posted December 5, 2014, on Calforests blog.

U.S. Forest Service Female Firefighters File Harassment and Abuse Complaint

Current and former female firefighters of the U.S. Forest Service “have filed a complaint with the Department of Agriculture alleging that they suffered job discrimination, harassment and sexual abuse at the hands of male co-workers and that top agency officials failed to stop it,” the *New York Times* reported on September 19, 2014.

“The women said the complaint, the first step in a potential class-action lawsuit, was filed late [in August 2014] on behalf of hundreds of women who worked in the Forest Service’s Region 5, which encompasses more than 20 million acres in 18 national forests in California. The seven women who are the lead complainants said they faced retaliation when they reported the offenses to superiors.”

“The complaint was the latest in a number of race and gender disputes in the Agriculture Department, the parent agency of the Forest Service....” the report continued.

“In response to the firefighters, a Forest Service official said the agency would review the complaint and was focused on correcting any problems. ‘The Forest Service takes these and all allegations of civil rights violations very seriously and is committed to providing a work environment that is free of harassment and discrimination,’ said Lenise Lago, the Forest Service’s deputy chief [for] business operations. But advocates for past complaints said problems remain.

“Agency officials acknowledged that there had been past discrimination problems in Region 5 but said they had eased in recent years....”

“The current gender complaint is similar to ones filed in the 1970s and 1990s by female workers in Region 5 who said they were denied promotions and harassed by male co-workers. As part of the settlements stemming from those complaints, the Agriculture Department required the Forest Service to hire more women and to put in place civil rights enforcement programs, sensitivity training and a unit to investigate and resolve sexual harassment and hostile environment claims.

“According to the agency, women now represent about 12 percent of the fire service in Region 5 and nearly 24 percent of the fire leadership positions. Four of nine regional fire directors are women, including the director for Region 5.

“The complaint filed with the Agriculture Department is the first step in what could be a long process,” the report observed.

Quoted from “Women Allege Harassment and Abuse on Forest Service Firefighting Crews” by Ron Nixon in The New York Times on September 19, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Took Heat in Utah for “Forest Fire Inaction”

The charge that “dozens of Utah communities and thousands of state residents are a ‘spark away’ from the danger of catastrophic wildfires” because they are “restrained in reducing their risk by federal agencies that aren’t managing forests” was leveled at the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management during a Utah legislative committee discussion on October 15, 2014, the *Deseret News* reported on that date in an

article titled “Lawmakers vent to feds, assert forest fire inaction.”

“If you are going to be the landowner, the landlord, we look to you for the responsibility in taking the lead,” a Centerville state legislator lectured federal agencies charged with fire management inaction that committee claimed could result in Utah communities losing their watersheds and their tourism. Recent cases of the consequences of such alleged inaction were cited.

“I understand that view,” Steve Wilent, editor of the Society of American Foresters’ *The Forestry Source*, responded, then pointed out “the main problem is that the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are hamstrung [in their fire management and related efforts] by protracted environmental planning and collaborative processes, too-frequent lawsuits or the fear of them, and inadequate funding or misplaced funding priorities.”

Wilent noted the article might have been titled “Lawmakers vent to feds, assert Congressional inaction.” His suggestion points out that Utah legislators could chose a more appropriate target for their venting.

Prepared from “Lawmakers assert to feds: assert forest fire inaction” by Amy Joi O’Donoghue in the October 15, 2014, Deseret News, and a Steve Wilent’s comment on the article posted on the A New Century of Forest Planning blog on October 16, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service to Standardize All Official E-mail Signature Blocks

In a November 12, 2014, e-mail to all U.S. Forest Service personnel on the subject “Strengthening the Forest Service Message Via Email: FS Standard Email Signature Block,” Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell outlined a new policy for a standard Forest Service e-mail signature and expressed his expectation that the policy will be fully implemented by January 31, 2015.

As a result of an extensive review of employee e-mail signatures, an online employee survey, discussion groups, and interviews with key leadership, the Forest Service has “decided to implement a standard email signature that all employees will use,” Chief Tidwell announced.

The new standard e-mail signature block is built around the Forest Service Shield. “with your help we can continue to be recognized thru our electronic communications, first and foremost, as—THE U.S. Forest Service.”

U.S. Forest Service Reported to be Changing its Hiring Process

Word was received on your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* December 15, 2014, deadline that the U.S. Forest Service is moving away from using USA Jobs as its job announcement and application website.

In its place, some if not all national forests are using a new hiring system that will expedite the review and selection process for thousands of temporary or seasonal workers, including firefighters, for 2015. Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will monitor and report on this story in the next issue.

Regional News



The EA-18 Growler has replaced the EA-6B Prowler as the U.S. Navy's carrier-based electronic warfare aircraft. U.S. Navy photograph by MC3 Bradley J. Gee, USN

U.S. Forest Service Considers U.S. Navy Electronic Warfare Training Expansion on the Olympic National Forest

U.S. Navy plans to expand electronic warfare training on the Olympic National Forest for EA-18 Growler electronic attack (VAQ) squadrons based at U.S. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, face stiff public opposition.

Navy plans call for using up to 15 sites on remote Forest Service logging roads on the national forest as temporary locations for three trucks equipped with electronic equipment that simulates enemy anti-aircraft gun and missile surveillance and guidance radars and communications equipment that VAQ squadron aircraft are tasked with suppressing in support of attack missions. The Growlers accompany FA-18 Hornet strike-fighter aircraft to defend them against enemy opposition.

Concerns voiced by some national forest users and Olympic Peninsula residents about the proposed expansion of electronic warfare training on the national forest range from the possibility of increased noise through disturbance of rare animal species and aggravation of hikers and hunters to perceived possible dangers of electromagnetic emissions. They want the Navy to move the training elsewhere.

Navy officials say the expanded training should not make much difference to the national forest's neighbors, users, and visitors because the skies in the affected areas are already a designated military training area. "This isn't anything new. We are not adding significant flights. It's almost exactly what we've been doing for many years," the Navy's environmental program manager was quoted in *The News Tribune*.

The Boeing EA-18G Growler, that in 2009 began replacing the Northrup-Grumman EA-6B Prowler that began service in 1971 as the Navy's carrier-based electronic warfare aircraft, will continue the type training conducted by the EA-6B. Eleven squadrons comprising 84 Prowlers are based at Whidbey Island.

The difference associated with the enhanced electronic warfare training program would be the three camper-size trucks rotated among the 15 sites. The mobile electromagnetic emitters mounted on 14-foot towers on these trucks would be staffed by technicians and pose little if any risk to the public and wildlife, the Navy says.

After receiving about 1,700 public comments (including an October 9, 2014, letter from Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics reminding the Forest Service of its responsibilities under the law) and hearings (including an October 24, 2014, protest outside the Olympic National Forest SO in Olympia, Washington, and a raucous November 6, 2014, protest in Port Angeles, Washington), District Ranger Dean Millett, Pacific Ranger District, Olympic National Forest, said it will be "pretty deep into 2015" before he will be able to make a draft decision on the Navy's application for a special use road permit required for the enhanced electronic warfare range project. His draft decision will be followed by a 45-day objection period.

Prepared from multiple sources including an October 9, 2014, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics letter "Re: Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Special-Use Permit" to George Wahl, U.S. Forest Service Project Lead, signed by Andy Stahl, Executive Director; "Navy plan for radar detection training riles Olympic National Forest users" by Adam Aston in the October 18, 2014, The News Tribune; "Olympic National Forest extends review period for Navy's electronic warfare training plan" by Adam Ashton in the October 31, 2014, The News Tribune; "No action until 'deep into 2015' on Navy electronic warfare training" by Paul Gottlieb in the November 9, 2014, Peninsula Daily News; and "Opposition mounts to Navy's proposal for electronic warfare training on Olympic Peninsula," by Sarah Aitchison posted November 13, 2014, in Puget Sound Business Journal.

U.S. Forest Service, Nature Conservancy Find More Forest Restoration Need in the Pacific Northwest

"A new joint study by the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy finds that 9.5 million acres of forestland in Oregon and Washington are in immediate need of thinning followed eventually by controlled burning," according to the November 21, 2014, edition of Bend, Oregon's daily, *The Bulletin*.

"Building on earlier studies, the report [brought] together forest analyses by state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, and private landowners. The study covered 28.7 million acres of forest held by a variety of landowners, mostly east of the Cascades but also in southwest Oregon. Meeting the restoration needs laid out in the study would take an increase in the pace and scale of thinning and burning in Oregon and Washington, as well as more coordination among land owners," according to the article.

"Determining when and where to do the work will be up to local officials at national forests" and other public as well as private land managers and owners. While there is much forest that needs restoration treatment soon, the pace is likely to be slowed by such factors as "the time-consuming task of finding funding, determining how restoration work should unfold, and factoring in smoke concerns" listed by District Ranger Kevin Larkin, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service Asked to Expedite Forest Health Restoration on 720,000 Acres of National Forest Lands in Washington State

Governor Jay Inslee on October 31, 2014, asked U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to designate 720,000 acres of national forest lands in Washington State for expedited and prioritized forest health treatments and restoration efforts.

The work would be done on acreage selected by eastern Washington residents through a joint public engagement process conducted by the governor and Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark.

“Our state’s devastating wildfire season has again emphasized the need for broad efforts to restore forest health and resiliency across the eastern Washington landscape,” Governor Inslee wrote to Secretary Vilsack.

The Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly known as the Farm Bill, authorized governors to identify insect and disease treatment areas within national forests in their states that suffer from severe forest health issues and should be prioritized in federal planning of forest health treatments.

Areas of the Okanogan-Wenatchee, Colville, Umatilla, and Gifford Pinchot national forests are included in the governor’s recommendations. “These landscapes are suffering from acute forest health hazards caused by parasitic insects and tree diseases, resulting in heightened mortality risks,” the governor’s office said on October 31. “Forest conditions in many of these same areas also exhibit an increased susceptibility to wildfires.”

If Secretary Vilsack approves Governor Inslee’s request, the national forest lands in question would receive special authorities for quicker environmental planning. Projects would be accomplished through a collaborative process with multiple local stakeholder groups. The Farm Bill also allows for up to \$200 million a year to address forest health in the designated areas. Congress will consider appropriating funds in subsequent appropriations bills.

In June 2014, five stakeholder meetings were held throughout eastern Washington. Participating groups included the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, the Tapash Sustainable Forest collaborative, the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition, the South Gifford Pinchot Task Force, and the Umatilla Collaborative. In addition, members of the public and representatives of local, state, federal, and tribal governments attended many of these meetings. Members provided input on which high priority areas should receive designation.

“That’s good, but it’s a shame that the U.S. Forest Service can’t ‘do the right thing’ on its own,” a prominent commentator observed of the process of selecting areas to be treated based on collaboration and public input.

Prepared from October 31, 2014, Washington Governor Jay Inslee’s Office press release “Governor Inslee Requests Forest Health Restoration of 720,000 Acres of Federal Forestland” and other sources.

Forestry Loses Hal Salwasser

Harold James “Hal” Salwasser, former Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University and former U.S. Forest Service officer, died on October 5, 2014, at age 69.

Hal had been an active member of the OSU forestry faculty since stepping down as Dean in 2012 after 12 years leading the college. He had planned to retire from OSU at the end of December 2014.

As Dean, Hal oversaw a forestry program that is more than 120 years old. Today the OSU College of Forestry has an annual budget of some \$25 million and more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students. He guided the college through a period of transition in forest policies and management nationally and globally. He led efforts to maintain forest production while incorporating new concerns about biodiversity, climate change, wildfire, stream health protection, and other issues.

Hal was born August 4, 1945, in Bakersfield, California, where he grew up the son of a junior high school principal. After serving three years in the U.S. Army, he earned a B.A. degree in biology at Fresno State University, then a doctorate in wildland resource science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Hal served in executive positions in the U.S. Forest Service—including Northern Region regional forester—from 1978 to 2000 before serving as Dean of OSU’s College of Forestry. During his career, he helped bring new perspectives and sustainable forest practices to the United States. He was a professional member of the Boone and Crockett Club, and became the first Boone and Crockett endowed professor at the University of Montana. He also served on many state and national boards and commissions. His last venture was to lead the establishment of the High Lonesome Institute at the High Lonesome Ranch in De Beque, Colorado.

Survivors include his wife, Janine Salwasser, and young daughter Kaija Salwasser.

Prepared from multiple sources including an obituary in the Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Bob Gray: A U.S. Forest Service Original

“Bob Gray, a Southerner by birth but a Northern Californian by choice, died at home in McCloud on October 21 in the log home he had built by hand,” the *Redding Record Searchlight* on October 23, 2014, announced his death.

Bob was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on May 12, 1922, and came to Northern California in 1942 to a job that became his U.S. Forest Service career. “A punctured eardrum kept me out of the military service,” he explained.

During the 32 years he served on the Shasta National Forest, Bob married Betty Johnson with whom he had four children. “Bob lived life to the fullest...,” to the benefit of all who knew him and the national forests in which he served. He wrote about his career in *Forests, Fires, and Wild Things*.

Feature

A Future for the Past

Adaptive Reuse of Historic U.S. Forest Service Structures

By Les Joslin

I've always been pleased about—as well as proud of participating in—successful efforts to restore and reuse historic U.S. Forest Service ranger station and guard station structures.

“Simultaneous preservation of a Forest Service heritage resource while developing a National Forest System recreation resource” is the way I've usually phrased it while promoting action on the concept.

It makes good sense to save historic sites and structures that tell the agency's story for national forest visitors to absorb and appreciate as they experience these heritage structures returned to use as administrative sites, information stations and interpreted historic sites, or—pursuant to a provision of the recently renewed Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act—paying their own way as recreation rental cabins.

Almost a hundred examples of successful adaptive reuse of historic Forest Service structures—more than a quarter of those Pacific Northwest Region examples, most of which have appeared in the *Uncle Sam's Cabins* section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—are found in the revised edition of my book *Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitors Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West* published in 2012. OldSmokeys have been instrumental in the preservation of many of these.

Many more of these valuable resources right here in the Pacific Northwest Region await restoration and reuse before they and their opportunities for continued useful service—and, yes, their fascinating stories may be lost forever. I know. We can't save them all. But we can sort out the ones most amenable to and deserving of restoration and reuse and employ the many tools at our disposal even in this time of declining budgets to do the job we owe to them and to posterity.

A couple Pacific Northwest Region examples of such structures deserving attention sooner rather than later are the Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed Marion Forks Guard Station on the Willamette National Forest and the Deschutes Bridge Guard Station on the Deschutes National Forest.

“Our long-term plan is to restructure the facilities of the [Marion Forks Guard Station] enough to allow [it] to be rented out for public occupancy,” District Ranger Grady McMahon at Detroit Ranger Station told the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. “We are sure this would be a very popular recreation rental with its easy access to Highway 22 and location right on a beautiful stretch of the North Santiam River.” Many on the Deschutes National Forest see Deschutes Bridge Guard Station on the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway and the wild and scenic Deschutes River in the same light.

Both these historic guard stations are sound structures accessed by paved highways, surrounded by diverse recreational opportunities, and would be relatively easy, quick, and inexpensive to restore—or just repair and renovate—for recreation rental reuse. Imaginative application of available assets and Passport in Time volunteer labor could go a long way toward compensating for current limiting factors to get the job done. The same applies to similar opportunities throughout the Pacific Northwest Region and the National Forest System.



Historic Marion Forks Guard Station on the Detroit Ranger Station of the Willamette National Forest (left) and historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest (right) await restoration—in the case of both of these, more like renovation and repair—and return to service as recreation rental cabins that serve double duty as U.S. Forest Service heritage sites. Both are easily accessed by paved highways, on popular fishing rivers, and in good condition.

OldSmokeys can play an important role by encouraging district rangers and forest supervisors to ensure that these heritage resources are preserved to tell the Forest Service story and put back in service as the unique recreational resource they are. Once a restoration program is begun, OldSmokeys can volunteer their skills and services and even their grant funds to put them back in service—as they have others throughout the Pacific Northwest Region—before it's too late and they are lost.

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

- Baker, Terry T.** – New member: 816 S 32nd St, Springfield, OR 97478
Telephone: 850-443-1067 E-mail: terbak20@gmail.com
- Blakely, Ethel Eileen** – Change address: 1854 NE Beacon Dr, Grants Pass, OR 97526
- Brown, Gloria** – 870 York Rd, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Telephone: 503-744-0390 E-mail: pgwikelund@comcast.net
- Burgess, Carolyn T.** – Change telephone number: 541-708-0130
- Burgess, Veldon R. “Rico” & Leah** – Change address: 1700 NE Wells Acres Rd, No, 45, Bend, OR 97701
Change telephone to iphones: Rico 541-280-2632, Leah 541-390-3633
- Campbell, Beverly R.** – Deceased September 9, 2014
- Collier, Gwen** – New member: P.O. Box 135, Estacada, OR 97023
E-mail: gcollier7890@yahoo.com
- Collins, Sally D. & John L.** – New members: P.O. Box 1919, Lyons, CO 80540
Telephone: 303-823-0962 E-mail: sally.collins.colorado@gmail.com
- Defler, Alan S. & Marge A.** – New members: 7481 W Baron Ln, Boise, ID 83714
Telephone: 208-258-3735 E-mail: amdefler@cableone.net
- Deinema, Helen** – Deceased November 14, 2014; Jack survives
- Dumont, Mary Jane** – E-mail: delete address
- Gant, Norma** – Deceased September 19, 2014; Del survives
- Gordon, Carrie** – New member: P.O. Box 307, Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone: 541-447-8233 E-mail: clgordon@teleport.com
- Harkenrider, Daniel & Beth A.** – New members: P.O. Box 218, Underwood, WA 98651
Telephone: 541-490-5652 E-mail: bharkenrider@centurylink.net
- Harvey, Michael A. & Joni Quarnstrom** – New members: 426 NW 34th St, Corvallis, OR 97330
Telephone: 541-753-2625 E-mail: mharvey48@comcast.net
- Hernandez, Michael J. & Lorraine L.** – New members: 400 E Knoll Dr, The Dalles, OR 97058
Telephone: 541-288-6065 E-mail: mhernandez@gorge.net
- Johannsen, Walter B.** – Deceased September 26, 2014; Dee survives
- Landsberg, Joan** – Change telephone: 208-288-4468
- Looney, Ray L.** – Deceased September 15, 2014; Maxine survives
- Mafera, Tom & Deb**—Change e-mail: mafera@crestview-cable.com
- Opperman, Mary E.**—New member: 422 SW 5thPl, Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone: 541-447-7074 E-mail: timberbeast47@msn.com
- Pena, James W. “Jim” & Debbie:** Add address: 3152 NE 11th Way, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Add telephone: 503-648-0810

- Rassbach, Michael L. & Tracii L. Hickman** – New members: 1835 Woodmere Loop, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Telephone: 509-240-8231 E-mail: tmww@charter.net
- Rheinberger, Steven & Lori K.** – New members: 15024 S Mitchell Ln, Oregon City, OR 97045
Telephone: 503-341-2058 E-mail: berger@bctonline.com
- Robertson, F. Dale & Margie** – Change address: 10007 E Hillside Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85255
- Stamy, Roger S. & Clela** – Change address: 8870 W Ben St, Boise, ID 83714
Change telephone: 208-853-6062 Change e-mail: rcacres@centurylink.net
- Starkovich, Gary W.** – Deceased October 5, 2014; Linda survives
- Worthington, Viva** – Change address: P.O. Box 1096, Roslyn, WA 98941

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Terry T. Baker of Springfield, Oregon, joined September 16, 2014. Terry has been district ranger, McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, since 2011. As reported in the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, Terry was named McKenzie River Valley “Man of the Year” for 2013. District Ranger Baker earned 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 from Yale University. During his 14 years in the U.S. Forest Service—six of those years in Region 6, he’s worked across the eastern United States and the West in a wide spectrum of assignments.

Gloria Brown of Lake Oswego, Oregon, joined October 11, 2014. Gloria retired from the U.S. Forest Service in July 2007 as forest supervisor on the Los Padres National Forest after 35 years of federal service, 33 of those years in the Forest Service and 15 of those years in Region 6. Gloria joined the Forest Service in 1974, working in planning and public affairs in the WO while attending college at night. She earned a B.S. degree in journalism at the University of Maryland in 1985. A widow since 1981, Gloria moved with her three teenage children to Missoula, Montana, where she worked in public affairs and other offices at the Region 1 RO before beginning her Region 6 service at the RO in Portland, Oregon, where she was responsible for regional public involvement and legislative affairs programs. She became Willamette National Forest public affairs officer in 1989, and on sabbatical earned forestry credits at the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. Gloria returned to the Willamette as a deputy district ranger in 1994. After two Bureau of Land Management assignments, she returned to the Forest Service in 1998 as Mt. Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument manager. Gloria became the Forest Service’s first

female African-American forest supervisor in 1999 as Siuslaw National Forest supervisor. She became forest supervisor of the Los Padres National Forest in 2004.

Gwen Collier of Estacada, Oregon, joined October 29, 2014, as a lifetime member. Gwen is still serving in the U.S. Forest Service at Estacada Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest after 37 years in the Forest Service and Region 6.

Sally D. & John L. Collins of Lyons, Colorado, joined December 12, 2014. Sally, a former associate chief of the U.S. Forest Service, retired on August 1, 2010, as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Environmental Markets (OEM). Her 32 years of federal service included 25 years with the Forest Service, 17 of those in Region 6, five with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and two with OEM. Sally was born in Ames, Iowa, and earned a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation at the University of Colorado and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wyoming. After working in Colorado for the BLM, Sally began her Forest Service career in 1982 as a forest planner on the Siuslaw National Forest. She moved to the Deschutes National Forest in 1987 on which she served for 13 years in positions including deputy forest supervisor and, for seven years, forest supervisor. In 2000, Sally transferred to the WO as associate deputy chief for the National Forest System and in 2001 became associate chief for Chief Dale Bosworth. Since retiring, Sally has focused on international forestry with the Rights and Resources Initiative and managing the MegaFlorestais network of forest agency leaders around the world. John, an oceanographer, and Sally enjoy outdoor sports, especially cycling and cross country skiing.

Alan S. & Marge A. Defler of Boise, Idaho, joined October 14, 2014. Alan retired on December 31, 1999, as Director of Aviation and Fire Management for the Southwest Region after 36 years in the U.S. Forest Service, eight of those in Region 6. He spent a dozen years on various Region 1 ranger districts and was district ranger on two. He was the first Hells Canyon National Recreation Area overall manager, deputy forest supervisor and forest supervisor of the Coconino National Forest, and forest supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest. Alan did some AD assignments for the Forest Service in the first few years after his retirement, and he and Marge have traveled some both within the United States and in Europe. "I enjoy woodworking, reading, fishing, and have taken up the electric guitar and play lots of '50s and early '60s rock music," Alan writes.

Carrie Gordon of Prineville, Oregon, joined November 20, 2014. Carrie, forest geologist for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland for the past 20 years, has served in the U.S. Forest Service for 37 years, 32 of those years in Region 6. "My passion is geology; sharing the story of the rocks," still-on-the-job Carrie tells the story of her job that involves "incorporating geology into the mix...landslides, mining, rock resource, interpretation. Since I'm on geologic time, it's a long story." Between the Friends of Crook County Library and Crook County Historical Society boards on which she serves, Carrie explains "my free time is spent playing with fi-

ber—spinning, knitting, weaving, felting. I can also be found 'sharing the rock' story through local presentations."

Daniel & Beth A. Harkenrider of Underwood, Washington, joined October 13, 2013. Dan retired from the U.S. Forest Service as area manager, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, after 40 years of federal service; 34 years in the Forest Service that included 33 in Region 6, a couple other years that included a WO detail; a year with the Bureau of Land Management; and four years in the U.S. Air Force. He also served in various capacities on the Siuslaw, Wallowa-Whitman, Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie national forests and served two long-term details in the Region 6 RO and two long-term details in the WO. "I babysit my granddaughter two days a week, I'm on two non-profit boards of directors, and enjoy woodworking, golf, fishing, hiking, and travel," he says of retirement. After Beth retires this year, he says, they plan to travel even more. "I love the Forest Service, enjoyed my career, and am very happily retired."

Michael J. & Lorraine L. Hernandez of The Dalles, Oregon, joined October 16, 2014. Mike retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 12 years as district ranger, Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, on January 3, 2013, and 33 years in the Forest Service, all of those years in Region 6. Before accepting the job in Dufer, Oregon, Mike had been acting district ranger on the Blue Mountain Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, and before that had held numerous positions including district recreation staff, lands and minerals specialist, special uses, wilderness, trails, silviculture, reforestation, and TSI on the Deschutes, Colville, and Willamette national forests. He's spending retirement being a grandpa to his four grandsons who live in the Portland and Bend areas. He and Lorraine have just purchased a travel trailer they plan to use come summer. He's also been helping a friend in the Boyd area with a vineyard and plans to volunteer with some local non-profits in The Dalles area soon.

Michael A. Harvey & Joni Quarnstrom of Corvallis, Oregon, joined October 1, 2014, as lifetime members. Mike retired from the U.S. Forest Service as recreation & lands staff officer on the Siuslaw National Forest on August 27, 2012, after 34 years in the Forest Service, 24 of those years in Region 6. Joni is public affairs officer on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Mary E. Opperman of Prineville, Oregon, joined December 8, 2014. Mary retired from the U.S. Forest Service as timber sale administrator, appraiser, and special forest products officer on the Ochoco National Forest after 33 years in timber management in Region 6. Mary's retirement plans? "First, I am going to clean out all my cupboards, drawers, closets, and the garage! [Then] travel some in the United States this year, enjoy *my* time!

Michael L. Rassbach & Tracii L. Hickman of Walla Walla, Washington, joined November 8, 2014, as lifetime members. Mike has been district ranger, Walla Walla Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest, for the past seven years, and before that was district ranger, Sweet Home Ranger District,

Willamette National Forest, for nine years. He claims to “have been fortunate to have been able to work [his] entire career within Region 6,” in which he spent the previous 17 of his 33 years in the U.S. Forest Service on assignments on the Siskiyou, Malheur, and Mt. Hood national forests and at the RO in Portland. “I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, camping, hunting, gardening, and going to sporting events,” Mike writes of his off-duty hours. “I especially enjoy watching and cheering for the San Francisco Giants!”

Steven L. & Lori K. Rheinberger of Oregon City, Oregon, joined November 18, 2014. Steve graduated from Oregon State University in 1982 with a B.S. degree in forest management and earned a M.F. degree in forest engineering/logging engineering there in 1992. Steve retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 1, 2010, as business lead for Forest Resource Enterprises, a Forest Service enterprise team in the WO with which he was affiliated for 10 years. Of his 40 years of federal service, 38 were in the Forest Service. He served 28 years in Region 6, where his last job was timber program manager on the Mt. Hood National Forest from 1992 to 2000. The other two years were with the Bureau of Land Management. Steve worked in all aspects of timber management and logging/forest engineering. In retirement, he owns a small logging/forest engineering consulting business. When he’s not consulting, his seven-acre farm south of Oregon City, where self-employed Lori has three greenhouses full of orchids which require maintenance and care, keeps him busy. Steve enjoys summer fishing at Garibaldi on the Oregon Coast where he and Lori have a small home and spend a significant amount of time. He enjoys golfing, bicycling, and in the colder months motor home travel to warmer climes and skiing.

Memories

Beverly R. Campbell died September 9, 2014, at age 89. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of Don R. Campbell. Helen Beverly Jackson was born May 24, 1925, in Kenilworth, Utah, the granddaughter of Welsh immigrants brought to Utah by the LDS church and the daughter of a coal miner. Beverly graduated from Carbon County High School in Price, Utah, in 1943, and earned B.A. degree in education at Utah State Agricultural College in Logan in 1947. She married Don in Logan in 1948. Don’s career, primarily in the U.S. Forest Service, allowed them to live in a wide variety of places including Shiprock and Farmington, New Mexico; Prineville, Paulina, and Corvallis, Oregon; and Okanogan, Washington. They moved to Bellevue, Washington, in 1970, and after Don’s retirement in 1980 they traveled extensively in and out of the country. Beverly was an active member of Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue for 44 years; an elementary, special education, and ESL teacher; member of Phi Beta Phi women’s fraternity; Mariners, Seahawk, and cougar fan; and served many years as a docent at the Museum of History and Industry. Beverly moved to Mercer island, Washington, in 2007. Survivors include daughters Debra Burchard and Connie

Campbell-Blumen; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Frederick W. Dawson died September 23, 2014, at age 82. Fred was born January 30, 1932, and served in U.S. Forest Service engineering in the Region 6 RO in Portland, Oregon, and on the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis, Oregon. Survivors include Kay, his wife of 52 years.

Editor’s Note: This notification was provided by Ted Gump, PNWFSA Siuslaw area representative.

Helen Deinema died November 14, 2014, at age 90. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of retired Deputy Chief John W. “Jack” Deinema. Helen M. Madsen was born March 20, 1924, in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she grew up. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in home economics in 1946, and married Jack in 1947. Jack’s U.S. Forest Service career is the main reason she and he moved 35 times and lived in nine states during their 67 years of marriage. Helen was a high school teacher, worked as a home economist, and taught many classes in beading and other crafts. Survivors include her husband John; daughters Bobbie Jo Grimm and Jacelen Pearson; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Leola P. Estep died October 17, 2014, at age 89. She was a PNWFSA lifetime member and widow of Eldon Estep. A native of Portland, Oregon, Leola was born March 24, 1925. Eldon, her husband of 52 years, was a former president of the Thirty-Year Club, the 1945-2000 predecessor of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association. Survivors include her niece, Rev. Tammy L. Estep, nephew Samuel K. Estep, and her adopted family, Donna and Sam Babalai and their three children.

Norma Gant died September 19, 2014, at age 79. She was a PNWFSA member. Norma was born March 25, 1935, and worked all her U.S. Forest Service career in Region 6. She enjoyed interior decorating and water skiing. Survivors include her husband Del; son Marty; seven grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Walter Burton Johannsen died September 26, 2014, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Walt was born September 6, 1923, in McMinnville, Oregon. He graduated from Lebanon High School in 1941, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Hollandia, New Guinea, and on Luzon, Philippine Islands, and was released from active duty in 1946. Walt met Delores Metcalf at Oregon State College, where he enjoyed playing trombone in the dance band, and they married in 1948 before he graduated from the School of Forestry in 1949. Walt served in the U.S. Forest Service from 1949 to 1978, serving on the Ochoco, Gifford Pinchot, and Malheur national forests and retiring as a supervisory forester on the Siskiyou National Forest. Walt had a passion for the outdoors and was known for a commitment to high professional standards. He was a supportive parent to his and Dolores’ five children, and spent summer weekends throughout their childhoods helping with their participation in competitive swimming. He was a Boy Scout leader

for many years. Two of his children followed in his footsteps by working in the natural resources field. In retirement, he enjoyed travel, subdividing family property, rural living, and documenting family history. Along with his children and grandchildren, Walt participated for almost 20 years in the Pole Paddle multisport race in Bend, Oregon. Survivors include his wife Dolores (“Dee”); sons Cliff and Greg; daughters Karen, Darcy, and Connie; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ray Lee Looney died September 15, 2014, at age 74. He was a PNWFSA member. Ray was born May 2, 1940, in Gold Beach, Oregon, and grew up in Camas Valley. A 1958 graduate of Camas Valley High School, Ray began his forestry career there, and went on to serve 31 years as a U.S. Forest Service supervisory forestry technician on the Tiller and Diamond Lake ranger districts of the Umpqua National Forest. Survivors include Maxine, his wife of 54 years; sons Daniel Lee and Gayland Ray; and daughter Alice Thurman.

Gary W. Starkovich died October 5, 2014, at age 74. He was a PNWFSA member. Gary was born in Ronald, Washington, and later moved to Ellensburg, Washington, where he graduated from Ellensburg High School in 1958. After high school, Gary joined the U.S. Navy and served four years in the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger*. He returned from naval service to marry Linda Webster; they had two daughters Kathy and Sandy and had recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Gary and Linda moved to Oregon where Gary spent many summers working in the U.S. Forest Service before he received a permanent full-time appointment at Oakridge on the Willamette National Forest. His 25-year Forest Service career focused on fire and fire suppression. Upon retirement, he began a second career with longtime friend Rick Dice and the PatRick Corporation. His position as operations manager provided him the ongoing challenge and excitement that wildland fire and suppression had always brought him. He later moved back to Ellensburg, opening a local office and continuing his work. Gary was always active as a citizen of the communities in which he resided. He had a passion to “Go Fast” from hot rod cars to snowmobile and lawnmower racing and he enjoyed them all. He was an avid hunter, wood worker, and party planner. Survivors include his wife Linda; daughters Katherine Rood and Sandra Jirak; and one grand-stepson.

Letters

Lee Boeckstiegel *remembers Don and Beverly Campbell*

I had the pleasure of working for Don during his stay on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and had some wonderful visits with Don and his wife.

Zane Smith *remembers Helen Deinema*

Jack, with Helen at his side, was a tower of leadership during his remarkable Forest Service career.

Bob Blakey *remembers Norma Gant*

I have many nice memories of working with and alongside Norma. She was one of those RO employees who were hard

working and always working to support the field. When I was in the RO she was also someone [with whom] I could discuss alternative solutions to difficult situations and she often brought a fresh and welcome perspective. She and I traveled on a number of reviews and college recruitment trips and she was always an excellent representative of the Forest Service. When I was a personnel officer, she was someone I more than welcomed and even asked for to visit the forest. She was a good friend and a good Forest Service employee.

Jim Golden *remembers Bob Richmond*

Bob was instrumental in moving our dual careers forward. He was a mentor and a leader, and taught me a lot. Some good, come bad! Bob was well known for his humor, and used it effectively during our Leadership Team meetings. If someone was in the uncomfortable position of having to apologize for something, Bob would say: “Well, it’s better to eat a little crow now than to have to eat a whole flock later on!” Or, speaking about one of our detractors: “He’s so narrow minded he can look through a keyhole with both eyes!”

My all-time favorite, though, was his response when one of us whining rangers would entice him with what we could do “if only we had more funding...” Bob would say: “Yes, and if we had ham, we could have ham and eggs, if we had eggs.”

And Bob’s lack of patience during extended discussions at our meetings was betrayed by the shade of crimson in his face. There was a certain point, when Bob was glowing red, the discussion needed to come to a conclusion! He much preferred action to extended discourse.

Susan and I were sad that we could not make it over to Baker City for his service. But we’ll always remember Bob Richmond as one of our mentors and our friend. He cared about the land, and he cared about the people of northeastern Oregon. We’ll miss him.

Ed Schultz *remembers Bob Richmond*

I was deeply surprised to hear about Bob. Bob was a classmate at the University of Idaho and we finished our careers together in Region 6. I remember Bob as a friend who was always more than willing to give advice and help whenever requested. He had a great skill of bringing order back into a meeting by getting up and quoting a poem. Whether the quote fit the situation or not was immaterial, but it worked. Our hearts go out to Joyce.

Ted Stubblefield *remembers Hal Salwasser*

What a great loss with Hal’s passing.

Having known and worked with Hal since the 1970s, I will miss his valued counsel greatly.

I sought Hal’s guidance and critique on a current legislative proposal and, as always, he was both critical and constructive with his feedback. But over the last couple years, when meeting in Corvallis and later at Ken t’s retirement party, it was apparent he was suffering, both physically and emotionally. It was hurtful to see him this way being a friend for over 40 years.

It’s hard even now to believe he’s gone.

John Marker remembers Gary Starkovich

I knew Gary casually for years, but when I got back into the fire business after retirement I got to know him very well. In my opinion, we have lost one of the best field level leaders in the wildfire business. Gary also worked for Rick Dice, one of our partners in the founding of *Wildland Firefighter* magazine. Rick made a superb decision when he hired Gary into his PatRick contract fire operation.

Gary was also one of the leaders of the Bear Springs group that restored the Forest Service fire truck now on display at the High Desert Museum in Bend, which was a key part of the Museum's exhibition honoring the Forest Service's 100 years of service. Gary was a dedicated forest ranger, a sterling example of the many people who made the Forest Service great.

Eric Morse remembers Gary Starkovich

I chose Gary to be my FMO at Bear Springs. Of all the decisions I made in my long career, that was hands down the best. All of these death notices are sad, but this one really hurts. God bless his beautiful family.

Gordon Schmidt remembers Gary Starkovich

I worked with Gary on two separate occasions, once as a fellow FMO and once as Fire Staff with Gary at Bear Springs [Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest]. I never found much gray area in the discussions I had with Gary. He always knew his mind and told you what was on it. In fire management that is a good trait to have as long as those you are working with can accept it. Gary was a professional fire manager with special commitment and dedication to the job and the agency. He served the Forest Service well and you could always count on him.

I remember offering him the Type II incident commander job on the Mt. Hood. He was stunned that he was chosen, humbled by the opportunity, and excited to get on with the job. He had several fire assignments, but one that I remember in 1989 was on the Wallowa-Whitman [National Forest] with the fire threatening Memaloose. Gary and his team were the only firefighters around. He organized his team, handed them drip torches, and burned out around the buildings, thus saving most of them. He was definitely a man of action. Gary left the Type II team for a Type I team. In 1994 in Wenatchee he performed exemplarily in conducting operations on the several fires with Doug Porter's team.

On a more personal note, Gary introduced the FMO group on the Mt. Hood to a drink called "The Mexican Flag," a concoction of grenadine, vodka, and crème de menthe! At every FMO retreat thereafter we had one Mexican flag. Gary made it a point at my retirement party to present me and all the other members of "The Order of the Mexican Flag" that drink before the party could end. He did this with several others at their retirement parties as well.

I hadn't seen Gary for some time, but ran across him in Portland a little over a year ago. He was the same old Gary. We had good conversation that evening. I had no idea it would be the last one. He was a good guy and I will miss him.

Books

A replica of the 1905 Use Book (left) issued to early U.S. Forest Service rangers (left) and an actual copy of the 1907 The Use of the National Forests issued to the public (right).



The Use of the National Forest Reserves and The Use of the National Forests

By Les Joslin

Most, if not all, OldSmokeys know of the small book of instructions first issued to U.S. Forest Service rangers on July 1, 1905. Four and one-quarter by six and three-quarters inches, containing 142 pages, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves* contained just about everything the early ranger needed to know about the regulations and instructions that governed his job. He could slip the *Use Book* into his shirt pocket and patrol and administer his district on horseback. It was revised as necessary for a few years. Some OldSmokeys may have an original copy or a replica of this early guidance Gifford Pinchot gave his rangers.

Many OldSmokeys know of the June 14, 1907, abridged, popular edition of the *Use Book* entitled *The Use of the National Forests* issued for free distribution to the public by forest supervisors. As Harold K. "Pete" Steen described it in his book *The U.S. Forest Service: A History*: "The forty-two page book began with a notice 'To the Public' explaining the importance of having a general understanding of the national forest system." Its title reflected the new name applied to the forest reserves—*national forests*—that year.

"Many people do not know what National Forests are," Pinchot began the notice. "Others may have heard much about them, but have no idea of their true purpose and use. A little misunderstanding may cause a great deal of dissatisfaction. The National Forests very closely concern all of the people of the West and, indeed, of the whole country. They affect, directly or indirectly, many great business interests. It is the object of this publication to explain just what they mean, what they are for, and how to use them."

A rare find?

I could be wrong, but I have a hunch this little forty-two page book is rather rare. I'm not aware a replica has been printed. That's why, when I saw an almost pristine copy of this 108-year-old Forest Service publication in an antiquarian bookshop late last summer, I was pleased to pay the \$17.50 asked. I call this copy "almost pristine" because it is pristine except for the rubberstamping "Herb of d.d.Thornber" on the flyleaf and the words "Nat. Forests" neatly inked by hand on the spine.

These two little books reflect Pinchot's concern that both his rangers and the public they served clearly understood what the

Forest Service and the National Forest System were about—first efforts at a challenge the Forest Service still faces.

Editor's Note: The two Use Books are shown in the photograph with a post-1910 Forest Service badge for size. The badge was significantly larger when these publications were issued.

U.S. Forest Service Historian Lincoln Bramwell Focuses on WUI in *Wilderburbs*

Reviewed by Les Joslin

Lincoln Bramwell, Ph.D., Chief Historian, U.S. Forest Service, focuses on housing developments in the West that are part and parcel of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) issue in *Wilderburbs: Communities on Nature's Edge*, published in September 2014 by the University of Washington Press.

Among their many ramifications, Dr. Bramwell's "wilderburbs" have transformed the wildland fire management job of the Forest Service and other federal and state public land management agencies in the West.

"Since the 1950s, the housing developments in the West that [Bramwell] calls 'wilderburbs' have offered residents both the pleasures of living in nature and the creature comforts of the suburbs," the University of Washington Press release notes of this new book. "Remote from cities but still within commuting distance, nestled next to lakes and rivers or in forests and deserts, and often featuring spectacular views of public lands, wilderburbs celebrate the natural beauty of the American West and pose a vital threat to it.

Wilderburbs tells the story of how roads and houses and water development have transformed the rural landscape of the West. Bramwell introduces readers to developers, homeowners, and government regulators, all of whom have faced unexpected environmental problems in designing and building wilderburg communities, including unpredictable water supplies, threats from wildfires, and encounters with wildlife. By looking at wilderburbs in the West, especially those in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, Bramwell uncovers the profound environmental consequences of Americans' desire to live in the wilderness."

Colleagues have commented favorably on Dr. Bramwell's book.

Wilderburbs explores and intriguing and consequential new variation on the old story of humans imposing their ambitions and hopes on Western landscapes. Tracking the collision of human desire with nature's complexity, Lincoln Bramwell encourages Americans to mix a greater share of responsibility and humility with their visions of how to make a place into a home," writes Professor Patricia Nelson Limerick of the University of Colorado.

"With a firefighter's eye and a historian's sight, Lincoln Bramwell offers a brilliant and complex reading of the ecological impact and cultural significance of housing hammered into the American West's wildland urban interface. A stellar achievement," praises OldSmokeys' friend Professor Char Miller of Pomona College.

Wilderburbs (314 pages, hardcover, ISBN 9780295994123) is available for \$34.95 from University of Washington Press, c/o Hopkins Fulfillment Services, P.O. Box 50370, Baltimore, Maryland 21211-4370; phone 800-537-5487 or 410-516-6956; e-mail <hufcustserv@press.jhu.edu>.

A Tent By the Creek Relates the Joys and Rigors of U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station Life in the 1930s and 1940s

Reviewed by Les Joslin

A Tent By the Creek by Jean Werly, published by Friesen Press in August 2014, tells us much of life among young U.S. Forest Service couples on the Sierra National Forest late in the Great Depression and during World War II that will seem familiar to some OldSmokeys and foreign to others. It's a generation thing.

"Not one of the four Southern California best-friends could have imagined the significance of a summer dance at Bass Lake in 1938," the back cover blurb entices the potential reader. By the next summer, one of these four young women "was starting life on a U.S. Forest Service ranger station not far from Yosemite. Her first home wasn't a house at all, rather a tent next to a little creek. Ironically, that unique and rustic little tent home would be the spot at which [her] three hometown friends would each meet the man they would marry."

The author was one of those three. "By summer of 1941, Jean was a newlywed...starting married life on that same ranger station, in the same tent." How she and her Forest Service husband Clyde Werly fared at the old Miami Ranger Station just south of Yosemite National Park on California Highway 41—until, of course, world events took them away for a few years before they returned—is the stuff of this memoir.

"*A Tent By the Creek* is an extraordinary story," wrote Marie Mogge, cultural resources officer on the Bass Lake Ranger District, Sierra National Forest. "Once I started reading, I couldn't stop. It's a journey through lives filled with joy and sorrow, remarkable events, laughter and love that lasts a lifetime. We should all be so fortunate to live such a life. I am so glad that Jean thought to write it all down, and share her story with us. I can't wait to see where the story goes next."

That last sentence confirms that this book is the first of two. It covers 1939 to 1946. Carolyn Werly, the author's daughter, was born while they lived there—it was renamed Westfall Ranger Station about 1940—up to 1950. The second book will cover the years 1947 through Clyde's retirement.

District Ranger Dave Martin sees real value in the books. "This is so great. What we know about that time period is only in reports. This gives it a third dimension for us...."

The book also gives an added boost to Sierra Historic Restoration Project efforts to restore the historic Miami/Westfall Ranger Station. Memoirs can have practical value, too!

A soft cover copy of *A Tent By the Creek* may be ordered for \$19.95 plus \$5.90 freight (two books will fit in an envelope). Order by e-mail to <atentbythecreek@gmail.com> using code "OS" to get your PNWFSA a commission for the sale of the copy or copies you buy or by telephone at 209-966-2576.

Music

The Fiddlin’ Foresters Made My Day!

By Les Joslin

It was a beautiful October day in Central Oregon. I decided to visit some old Deschutes National Forest haunts along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway before the snow flew. I hopped into my Rav-4, hit the road, popped the Fiddlin’ Foresters CD *In the Long Run* into the player.



The Fiddlin’ Foresters
U.S. Forest Service photograph

In the mix of bluegrass, cowboy, gospel, and novelty numbers played and sung by the one-time official “old-time string band of the U.S. Forest Service” were several that spoke—or sung—to my road trip and spurred me to write the only music review ever likely to appear in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The fifth tune on the CD, Steve Nelson’s and Jack Rollins’ “Smokey the Bear” sung by lead singer and guitar Jane Leche, a Forest Service public affairs specialist, accompanied by the rest of the band, reminded me that Smokey isn’t “prowlin’ and growlin’ and sniffin’ the air” in the woods as much these days as when I was a fire prevention guard ensuring his visibility on the Toiyabe National Forest in the early 1960s.

In the seventh and longest cut, James Keelaghan’s “Cold Missouri Waters,” Jane sang of the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire in Montana in a way a firefighter understands and cannot forget.

The Fiddlin’ Foresters’ version of Michael Burton’s “Night Rider’s Lament” with its chorus “...why does he ride for his money? Why does he rope for short pay? He ain’t getting’ nowhere and he’s loosin’ his share. He must have gone crazy out there...” evoked my Three Sisters Wilderness trail partner OldSmokey **Jim Leep**. With his personal saddle horses and mule string, Jim patrolled and transported in that wonderful wild country for a dozen years.

“He must have gone crazy out there,” I figured, from the way he subsidized the mission, “losin’ his share” for the “short pay” he got for running a class operation not covered by meager salary and stock rates. He believed, as other dedicated Forest Service folks did and do, in serving the greatest good for the greatest number “In the Long Run” as sung in the CD’s title cut.

But the Fiddlin’ Foresters, mostly regular Forest Service personnel who volunteered their talents to carry the message of our mission to the public through music, became victims of a 2011 economy drive and no longer evoke the Outfit we love.

The “In the Long Run” CD remains available from Western Heritage Company, 337 E. 4th Street, Loveland, Colorado 80577; 800-303-57031 ranger@westernheritage.com.

Uncle Sam’s Cabins

Olallie Lake Guard Station

Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

Once a U.S. Forest Service guard station, the historic Olallie Lake Guard Station cabin that quartered the forest guard who patrolled and protected the Olallie Butte country of the southern end of the Mt. Hood National Forest is now, like many of its counterparts, a recreation rental cabin.



Olallie Lake Guard Station
Photograph by Les Joslin

As such, it offers forest visitors the “feel” of living at an old-time Forest Service guard station, a magnificent view of the north face of Mt. Jefferson, access to many outdoor recreation opportunities of the Olallie Lake Scenic Area, and immediate access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Non-motorized Olallie Lake is stocked with rainbow and brook trout, and the Olallie Lake Resort rents row boats and has a small store. Swimming in the lake can be a chilling experience. Some of the area trails—but not the Pacific Crest Trail—and most of its graveled roads are open to mountain biking.

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939, the two-story cabin is a classic example of the Pacific Northwest Region’s familiar Cascadian Rustic architectural style of many Great Depression era administrative buildings. The facility was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The name “Olallie” is Chinook jargon for “berry.”

Olallie Lake Guard Station is referred to as a “ranger station” on page 289 of Cheryl Strayed’s 2012 bestseller *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* made into a major motion picture just released in December 2014.

And, just for the record, Olallie Lake Guard Station is not to be confused with the Willamette National Forest’s former Olallie Guard Station in the French Pete Creek area of the Three Sisters Wilderness which was crushed by two large trees which fell on it in 1997 and is no more.

To get to historic Olallie Lake Guard Station from the Portland area, drive east on Oregon Highway 224 from Interstate Highway 205 through Estacada and past Ripplebrook Ranger Station for Forest Road 4690 and follow the signs 13 miles to Olallie Lake. The best route from the Salem area is through Detroit on Oregon Highway 22 to Forest Highway 46. Then turn right onto Forest Road 4690 and follow the signs 13 miles to Olallie Lake. Or, coming either from the west or the east on U.S. Highway 26, turn south onto Forest Road 42, also called Skyline Road and which is approximately 12 miles south of Government Camp, and follow the signs 35 miles to Olallie Lake. Forest Road 4690 is a primitive road.

Prepared from multiple sources and personal experience.

Out of the Past

Bud and Dorothea Burgess Remembered the Winter of 1926-27 at Rosland Ranger Station

*By Bud and Dorothea Burgess
as edited by Les Joslin*

After serving as a Deschutes National Forest ranger-at-large based in Bend, U.S. Forest Service Ranger Bud Burgess was assigned as district ranger on the La Pine Ranger District in March 1926. “The La Pine District in 1926 included substantially the present Bend District, the Newberry Crater area, and the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest [area],” Bud wrote in 1974.

“I had come out from Minnesota to teach school in Bend in 1925,” Dorothea Burgess wrote in 1979. It wasn’t long before she met Bud, just about the time he was stationed at La Pine. “Before long we knew there was something special between us. As we discussed marriage, he said he had a house that was completely furnished, and all I had to do was to pack my clothes and move in.”

Things were different in 1926. “The Dalles-California Highway [U.S. Highway 97] was nearly all graded that spring and rock work was started that summer,” Bud recalled. The railroad connecting Bend to Chemult wouldn’t be built until 1928, and that would be “all horse work.” Clearing for the Fremont Highway [Oregon Highway 31] wouldn’t start until 1929. The Pringle Falls Experimental Forest would be designated on Bud’s ranger district in May 1931.

“We had rehabilitated the old Rosland Ranger Station that summer,” Bud wrote. “Ben Estes, Headquarters Fireman, moved down there from La Pine and did such a good job of fixing it up [that Forest Supervisor R.L. Fromme] and I decided it would be good for the ranger to move down there and save driving back and forth all winter to feed the stock. ... [I] moved from La Pine to Rosland on September 19. This was a great bachelor set-up and we enjoyed fixing up the old station that fall.”

“Along about Thanksgiving time, the days were getting shorter and the ranger was getting older and [it was] time to get married! My diary is a little brief on this subject too, but my memory isn’t too bad on this score!” Bud and Dorothea married and honeymooned at the Ochoco Inn in Prineville.

“So after our weekend honeymoon..., we returned to the ‘completely furnished’ Forest Service cabin that my groom had provided,” Dorothea picked up the story in 1979. “My heart really sank as I looked at that forlorn Rosland Ranger Station, sitting all by itself several miles from civilization. It was two rooms—one a combined living, kitchen, and bedroom, measuring about 15 by 18 feet; the other was Bud’s office with a breezeway in between. The furnishings were a combined heating and cooking stove, built-in cupboard, small unpainted drop-leaf table, four straight-back chairs with rawhide bottoms, and an army cot. The walls were decorated with coyote hides. The

only convenience was a pump in the breezeway.

“Bud said he was a good cook and would get our evening meal. As I kept my tears back and unpacked, hanging my clothes (that had been bought in some of St. Paul’s better stores) in the corner of the kitchen, Bud prepared our dinner. We had tomato soup, with hunks of tomato floating around, and cocoa. I thought it was a strange menu, but my only comment was, as I pushed the hunks of tomato to one side, ‘It is very good.’ The next morning when he suggested the same menu for breakfast, I took over.”

Dorothea took over squaring away the cabin, too. “Our first morning we went back to Bend, bought a set of dishes and a few other things, including a day bed that looked quite elegant during the day and was more comfortable at night than a single army cot.”

And the cabin wasn’t as lonely as Dorothea originally thought it would be. “We had boarders from almost the first day of our marriage, a never-ending succession of foresters from the Bend office. They occupied the bunk beds in the breezeway.”

“While the men were out cruising [timber] or doing whatever they had to do, I kept busy cooking and making that one room more livable. I painted the furniture grey and blue—never my favorite colors, but the floor was grey, the house was painted grey, and of course grey was the standard Forest Service color at the time, so I guess I was just trying to stay in tune. Bud had built a closet in one corner, so with our clothes out of sight, the colorful day bed, some new scatter rugs and the newly painted furniture, it was quite cheery.

“At least I thought so, until my family came out one by one from Minnesota to see what I had gotten into. One sister was so depressed over the way I was living that she only stayed a couple of days—then too, I guess she did not like sleeping in a sleeping bag at the end of the day bed. When my oldest brother came to visit, [he looked around and said] ‘To think you would ever come to living like this! I think the only good thing about this deal is the fellow you married.’ And they all liked Bud, so that made me feel good.”

Dorothea was “afraid of everything!”—the telephone switchboard she had to operate, the wild animals. “And the car. Bud said I had to drive, as it would help him a lot. Shortly after we were married, he wanted to pick up a horse at Crescent, a distance of 20 miles. The highway was glare ice. I was driving and looked at Bud, to see he had his hat pulled over his eyes. He said if he were going to be killed he didn’t want to know about it, and that when I was going downhill I should take my foot off the accelerator. I said, ‘What’s that?’ With those instructions I learned how to drive.”

“One day I heard a knock at the door,” Dorothea wrote. “I looked out to see a grizzly-haired old man. Before I could slam the door in his face, he said, ‘Why, you’re Bud’s new bride and old Jake wouldn’t harm a hair on your head. I just dropped by to see if Bud had any coyote hides to sell.’ I couldn’t believe that I could get rid of those unsightly things and get money for them. Bud was really pleased. He said Jake had given me twice what the hides were worth.”

Out of the Past continues on page 31

My First Forest Service Job

OldSmokey Kent Mays is unique in many ways, and having had two “first Forest Service jobs” to write about may be one of those ways. So, here goes a double-header!

My First, Very Brief, Summer Job With the U.S. Forest Service

By Kent Mays

My very first summer job with the U.S. Forest Service wasn't a paying job. In reality, I was probably an illegal. It occurred in August 1953, when I was a 16-year-old counselor at YMCA Camp Meehan on Spirit Lake in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

We had experienced a good lightning bust one evening, and the Spirit Lake Ranger District had a number of small fires. District Ranger Marshall Stenerson called early the next morning and asked the camp director if he had any “woods wise” camp staff available to help. He had more fires than fire crews. Specifically, there was one spot fire on the east side of Coldwater Peak, above St. Helens Lake, he could use some help on.

At that time the YMCA camp had a strong hiking program, and many of us on the staff had put footprints on much of the ranger district from the summit of Mt. Saint Helens to Mt. Margaret, Bear Pass, Norway Pass, Green River, St. Helens Lake, Ape Canyon, Paradise Falls, Meta Lake, Ghost Lake, and many other locations, so we were familiar with the territory. Camp Meehan had been at Spirit Lake since the early 20th century and had a long history of cooperation with the Forest Service.

Camp Director Horace Taylor volunteered me and another counselor for the fire on Coldwater Peak. We took our boat from the north end of Spirit Lake and met Ranger Stenerson at the ranger station. We picked up our fire packs and the three of us hiked to the fire. When we arrived the fire was about a quarter of an acre, all on the ground, and the snag had been flattened by the lightning strike.

We quickly built a line around the blaze. Ranger Stenerson explained how he wanted the fire mopped up. He told us when the fire was dead out we should climb up to the lookout and wait for further instructions. Then he left to go to the Coldwater Lookout and check on fire status for the rest of the district.

Shortly before dusk we walked to the lookout. The lookout on duty was an Oregon State student and had several friends who had hiked up for a visit. Coincidentally, one of the visitors was a next door neighbor of my grandparents in Coos Bay, Oregon. After a brief reunion, the visitors explained they were a little concerned because it was going to be after dark before they could get back to their car and they weren't familiar with the area.

Shortly thereafter, instruction arrived stating that we were to return to the ranger station. So, happily for everyone, we were able to lead the visitors back to their car and returned to Camp Meehan for a shower. As volunteers, we didn't receive any pay for that little firefighting adventure. But we did eat our first C rations.

My First Real Summer Job With the U.S. Forest Service

By Kent Mays

When I graduated from high school I was too young to work in the woods in Oregon or Washington. But the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska was hiring 17-year-olds. I applied and was selected for a job on a survey crew for the Seward Division of the Chugach National Forest. So, in June 1954, on the day following graduation, I was on a plane from Portland to Seattle with a connection to Anchorage.

The sole daily flight from Seattle to Anchorage arrived about 4:00 a.m. My bag was not at the baggage claim and I was told it would be in on the flight the following day. When I went into Anchorage the only good hotel was full, so the clerk told me to catch some sleep on a sofa in the foyer and he was sure rooms would begin to open up by about 8:00 a.m. I phoned the Seward office and explained my problem. Wayne Sword, the division supervisor—in those days the Chugach had divisions in lieu of ranger districts—encouraged me to wait until the next day, get my baggage, and then hop on the once-a-day bus to Seward.

The next day my bag arrived and I jumped on the bus headed for Seward. The work center where I was assigned was located at Lawing, on the east side of Kenai Lake at milepost 23. I got off the bus, went to the office, signed the papers, met the crew and my boss, had dinner, was assigned a bunk in the bunkhouse, and was told we would be up at 0600, eat breakfast, make a lunch, load our gear, jump into the boat, and head to the job site. Since the survey site was remote, we typically left our instruments and tools on the P-line and carried only daily consumable gear like stakes, flagging, paint, and lath.

At 7:15 the next morning five of us huddled in the open boat and headed about 20 miles down Kenai Lake to the job. Travel on Kenai Lake in a 19-foot open boat, powered by an outboard, with no steering wheel or windshield, was a brisk experience. Many days the lake was calm and we cruised along rapidly. Sometimes in the morning, and often in the afternoon, the constant chop would force us to power down to a slower speed. Even then the spray would come over the bow and drench us with cold, blue-green, glacier water. When the crew discovered I was an experienced boat driver I was assigned the job. Of course, the boat driver faced forward while the passengers huddled down with their backs toward the bow. On those rough and windy days I learned to appreciate my waterproof raingear.

An island about ten miles west on Kenai Lake provided a brief respite from the cold, wind, and spray. Often we pulled into the calm water on the lee side of the island for a brief stop and a cup of coffee. The resident bald eagle perched above scolded us constantly for invading his domain.

Our project was to survey a road, later named the Snug Harbor Road, along the south side of the lake. The road began near the outlet by the village of Cooper Landing. This road would access possible recreation sites on Kenai Lake and a potential hydroelectric project at Cooper Lake. We worked from Monday through Saturday, with Sunday off. The site was remote

and there was a chance of grizzly bear encounters. Several days we packed rifles, but had no bear sightings.

The mosquitoes were large, hungry, and numerous. Later in the summer, the mosquito population diminished and clouds of “double-enders” took their place. In late July, mean little “white socks” appeared, and that summer was good for yellow jackets. It was a buggy place.

One day we heard loud animal squeals and bellows down on the lakefront. We were curious and gingerly edged closer to see what was causing the racket. We saw a cow moose trying to get her twins into the water for probably the first time. The small calves were not cooperating. Mama pushed them off the beach into the water and they tried end runs to get back on dry land. The cow would have none of that and bump them over. They bellowed and squealed loudly when they fell into the cold shallow water. The cow knew we were witnesses and turned and rolled her eyes at us, but we remained a good distance away and apparently did not present a threat. It was a scene that would have made a wonderful Disney movie.

Paving the highway from Anchorage to Seward was completed in 1954. The pavement stopped at the Seward city limits, and in town all streets were gravel roads. Seward experienced a polio scare that summer, so we did not go there for our days off. The main source of recreation was a Saturday night movie in a Quonset hut at nearby Moose Pass. The movies were usually black and white shown with a 16mm projector on a small screen. The price of admission varied with the amount of cash one had available. Money was collected by passing a hat during intermission.

The exception for not going to Seward was the July 4th holiday. The fourth of July in Seward was a big celebration. The round trip to the summit of Mt. Marathon attracted international contestants, and a several thousand dollar prize went to the winner. The gravel streets were perfect for erecting greased poles topped with fifty-dollar bills and sawdust pits were placed for kids who scrambled for tossed coins. Tables lined the street with every game of chance imaginable including dice, cards, and the shell game. There was a parade, an all-night dance interrupted by a few fights, and plenty of libations. It was a fun step back in time.

Late in July we completed the Snug Harbor road survey. The crew was reduced in size and assigned to survey a bridge site and short road project near Hope, Alaska, on the south side of Turnagain Arm. In 1954 Hope and Sunrise were abandoned mining towns. Sunrise had no occupants and Hope had a couple of old-timers who remained. The road into the area was a single lane graveled road with few turnouts. Before I was reassigned to other jobs I was told to take a 30-foot house trailer into Hope for the crew. Driving that crooked, narrow road, pulling the trailer behind a one-ton stake-bed truck, was a stimulating experience.

Turnagain Arm, off Cook Inlet, experiences the second highest tides in North America. A typical tide change was a drop, or rise, of 36 feet. I stayed in Hope only one night to set up the trailer, but one look at the speed of that tidal bore as it raced up the Arm convinced me that those tidal flats were no place to go for a walk.

The rest of that summer I was assigned a Dodge Power Wagon fire truck and fought a couple of fires, including one Alaska Railroad trestle fire. Campground construction and maintenance rounded out the remaining working time.

One day late in August my boss, Tom Seegar, called and said we had a short job to do at Cooper Landing. It took about three hours of driving on the highway and a washboard gravel road to reach the village. Tom picked me up early and we drove to the site. The issue was a man had fallen through the ice and drowned the previous winter. Village officials wanted to bury the remains in a cemetery. As part of a U.S. territory—Alaska was granted statehood five years later in 1959—almost all the land near Cooper Landing was federal property. Tom and I scouted around on Chugach National Forest land nearby and picked a nice sloping hillside with a southern exposure for the cemetery. Then, to determine the size of the graveyard, we discussed the serious question of how many people were likely to die in Cooper Landing over the next ten to twenty years. We decided 16 was a likely number, surveyed, platted, and marked 16 plots, and returned to the office.

In 2001, on a personal motor home trip with friends and family, we stopped in Cooper Landing for lunch. The village had increased in size tenfold. When Alaska became a state, most of the infrastructure was given to local communities. The cemetery was now owned by the village. I asked our young waitress if the town cemetery were still located nearby. “You mean that beautiful spot on the hillside?” she responded. When I told her the story, she grinned and said her grandfather and grandmother were in there and it was a wonderful place. The cemetery was much larger than the original 16 plots.

A few days after the Cooper Landing job I packed up, boarded the train when it stopped at Lawing, and headed home to start my first year of college. It had been an eventful, educational, and terrific summer job.

Editor's Note: Every OldSmokey has a good first U.S. Forest Service job story. So, please, no holdouts! Write your story up, send it in, and share it in this section!

Out of the Past continued from page 29

And so the winter of 1926-27 at Rosland Ranger Station went.

“This was a great place to honeymoon and we had some good times that winter with sleigh rides and what have you,” Bud wrote in 1974. “We found that it was rather unhandy getting in and out of Rosland that winter with two and three feet of snow. We had to go through Stearns and Frank Bogue’s pasture. ‘The Burgess Road’ to the highway was built the next year and we continued Roseland as a guard station, but [Dorothea] and I moved back to La Pine before the 1927 fire season [where our ranger station remained] until April 1933.”

Editor's Note: Developed from “The Deschutes Kid Ranger” by R.C. “Bud” Burgess published in the U.S. Forest Service Thirty-Year Club’s Timber-Lines of June 1974, and “You Asked for It” by Dorothea Burgess published in Timber-Lines of September 1979.

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