



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Fall 2016

## President's Message—Ron Boehm

The 2016 OldSmokeys Picnic in the Woods at the BLM's Wildwood Recreation Area is history.

It was a beautiful summer day and Chi Chang, culinary instructor at the Timber Lake Job Corps Conservation Center, and some of his students put on a fabulous feed for 145 OldSmokeys, their families and friends.

Deputy Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Becki Heath** spoke. She mentioned the new Forest Service employees she has met are motivated and enthusiastic about working for the Forest Service. After noting that the 2016 fire season has been quiet and seems to be on track to be more like a “normal” fire season in Region 6, she warned us that the Sunday *Oregonian* would contain a supplement very critical of the Canyon Creek Fire on the Malheur National Forest last year.

I read the article, “Burned” by Laura Gunderson and Ted Sickinger in the Sunday, August 14, edition of *The Oregonian*, and in my opinion it was a good example of “Monday morning quarterbacking” of Sunday’s football game. It was critical of many common practices of Forest Service firefighting. I wondered what were the qualifications of the critics with regard to fighting fires.

OldSmokey **Kathy Geyer** displayed an eye-catching lap quilt that she made incorporating signatures that she collected at the 2015 picnic. She has donated the quilt to the OldSmokeys for auction at our 2017 spring banquet at the Charbonneau Country Club. The proceeds will go to the Elmer Moyer Emergency Relief Fund.

OldSmokey **Cindy Miner** introduced the Acting Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Dr. Felipe Sanchez. Dr. Sanchez has been in that position only since July 18 of this year.

We were joined by several members of the board of directors of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Museum President and OldSmokey **Tom Thompson** spoke about their board meeting that morning and about plans for the future of the museum.

Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **Lisa Northrop** and her deputy Jim Demaag were in attendance, as was Zigzag District Ranger Bill Westbrook.

The raffle for the handcrafted Sycamore Shaker Box donated by OldSmokey **Dan Helm** was won by OldSmokey **Dottie Porter**.

I thank OldSmokey **Rick Larson** for coordinating the picnic; OldSmokeys **Bev Pratt, Deb Warren, and Mary Moyer** for greeting everyone, supplying name tags, and handling the raffle; and everyone else who contributed the success of our Picnic in the Woods.

**Finally, it's time to remind OldSmokeys who pay their dues annually that their 2017 dues are due by January 1, 2017. Please pay promptly to save our Membership Committee from spending hours and days reminding you to send in your \$20.00. This year you can use PayPal to renew your membership. See page 3 for details.**

**Ron Boehm**

<b>Forum:</b> “News You Want, News You Need” .....	<b>2</b>
<b>OldSmokeys News:</b> Picnic...Heritage Photos...Mike Kerrick Honored at Fish Lake...Mosquito Springs Project...more .....	<b>2</b>
<b>OldSmokeys Say:</b> “Chief Jack Ward Thomas’ Leadership Recalled” by Ron Pugh.....	<b>7</b>
<b>Forest Service News:</b> Canyon Creek Fire Criticism...Public Lands Threats...Wilderness Management Challenges...more .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Changes:</b> Updates to the OldSmokeys Membership Directory.....	<b>10</b>
<b>New Members:</b> Introductions of New OldSmokeys.....	<b>10</b>
<b>Memories:</b> Remembrances of Recently Deceased OldSmokeys.....	<b>11</b>
<b>Books:</b> America’s Ancient Forests by Thomas M. Bonnicksen and Ponderosa by Carl E. Fiedler and Stephen F. Arno.....	<b>13</b>
<b>Films:</b> “Kubo and the Two Strings and ‘DiscoverTheForest’ Seem Strange Partners” by Les Joslin.....	<b>13</b>
<b>Out of the Past:</b> “Plywood for Victory!” by Les Joslin.....	<b>14</b>
<b>Uncle Sam’s Cabins:</b> “Lake of the Woods Ranger Station and Suttle Lake Guard Station” by Les Joslin.....	<b>14</b>
<b>My First Forest Service Job:</b> “A Gentile in Mormon Land” by John Riis.....	<b>15</b>

Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: [www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)

**Annual Dues for 2017 are Due on January 1. See Page 3!**



## Forum

### News You Want, News You Need

I am not a professional journalist. My formal training in journalism is limited to a one-year Monterey Union High School course taught by a distinguished pre-World War II Prague newspaper editor who invited my strict attention to developing my skills.

I later wrote news releases and articles while a Toiyabe National Forest fire prevention guard in the 1960s and served as a collateral duty public affairs officer in a couple U.S. Navy commands later in that decade and early in the next.

Decades later I did not get any of the U.S. Forest Service public affairs jobs for which I applied. For the past 10-plus years I have edited our *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

On June 23 I read the obituary of Jack Fuller, an award-winning journalist and *Chicago Tribune* editor who made a distinction between “what people want to know and what they need to know.” I found it encouraging. “If concentrating on what people want to know means succumbing to direct democratic rule of the sort you can find on the internet” limits an editor, he wrote, “it abandons the editor’s mission.”

As one who sometimes publishes news some Old-Smokeys might not want to know, I believe I am accomplishing the mission of helping OldSmokeys who retain an interest in the Forest Service and its mission know some of what they need to know and do some of what they need to do. That is how I might help save the National Forest System and the Forest Service, the role I called “job one” for me as editor on the **Forum** page of the Spring 2006 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

And so it is that, over the past decade and more, I have

published my editorials and your op-eds as well as news articles about such topics as efforts to outsource Forest Service jobs and sell off National Forest System lands, the needs to restructure the Forest Service and better prepare its personnel for meaningful and productive public service, the misguided effort to abolish the Pine Tree Shield as the Forest Service symbol, an unnecessary plot to pay consultants millions to “rebrand” the Forest Service, and other topics that fall into the category of news we don’t necessarily want but news we definitely need and, in some instances, need to address and redress. Readers have responded in ways that have helped make a positive difference.

A responsible editor—which I strive to be—doesn’t make a “big story” out of every potential big story that comes along. This summer, for example, I received credible reports of inappropriate enforcement actions on the part of a “badge heavy” wilderness ranger whose over-reaching approach to this important job seems to require corrective action and seems to reflect a need for more selective recruiting, positive vetting, and better leadership for and training of seasonal forest officers who represent the Forest Service to national forest visitors. Instead of publishing a big story in this issue, I recommended the reporting parties present their cases to the responsible district ranger and apprise me of remedial action and resolution—if any—that may result.

Along with publishing the news I think OldSmokeys want, I will continue to publish the news I think we need as long as I remain editor.

--Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

## OldSmokeys News

### OldSmokeys Welcomed National Museum of Forest Service History Contingent to Annual Picnic in the Woods

A grand total of 145 OldSmokeys gathered on a hot, sunny, August 12 day at Wildwood Recreation Area near Welches, Oregon, for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Summer Picnic in the Woods to which they welcomed OldSmokey and National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) President **Tom Thompson**, officers, board members, and directors who had just held their annual meeting nearby.

A picture is worth a thousand words, and these captioned photographs by OldSmokey President-elect **Tom Mulder** capture the spirit and some memorable moments of this summer’s great OldSmokey picnic. Starting with our NMFSH guests...



*OldSmokey and National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) President Tom Thompson (center) and Kitty Thompson (right) and NMFSH Board Member Lynn Sprague arrived at the OldSmokey picnic fresh from the NMFSH annual meeting.*



*NMFSH Vice President and Emeritus Director Dave Stack and new Executive Director Lisa Tate told the Museum story and helped OldSmokeys renew their memberships or become new members.*  
*Photographs by Tom Mulder*



PNWFSA President Ron Boehm and Donna (left) and Linda and Carl Anderson (right) were among early picnic arrivals.



Dave Scott, Bob Hetzer, and Picnic Chair Rick Larson in caps.



*Supported by former Regional Forester and former PNWFSA president Linda Goodman, Deputy Regional Forester and OldSmokey Becki Heath provided the annual after-lunch Pacific Northwest Region update on behalf of Regional Forester and OldSmokey Jim Pena.*



Joining Linda Goodman (center) at the picnic were Lorena Corzett, who came all the way from Klamath Falls with Dick Cleveland, (left) and Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor Lisa Northrop (right).  
Photographs by Tom Mulder

## OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2017 are Due and Payable on January 1, 2017

It's the time of year that OldSmokeys who pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) dues on an annual basis pay those **Annual Dues** due on January 1. This year you may pay your annual dues by PayPal by going to the OldSmokeys website at <[www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)> and clicking on "Donations and Payments" and following the procedure.

Or you may use the Bill for Collection coupon below to pay your \$20.00 annual dues, convert to a Lifetime Membership for a one-time payment of \$250.00 that frees you from paying annual dues ever again, and/or donate to one or more PNWFSA funds.

### Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

#### Bill For Collection for 2017 Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and PNWFSA Fund Donations

Please make your check(s) for \$20.00 Annual Membership Dues or \$250.00 Lifetime Membership Dues and any amounts you may wish to contribute to any of the PNWFSA funds listed below payable to PNWFSA and mail to:

PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228

*Please check all that apply:*

First year of PNWFSA Membership—\$0 (Free)

Annual Membership Renewal—\$20.00

Lifetime Membership—\$250.00

Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Project/Grant Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Any changes to your contact information? \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments to share? \_\_\_\_\_



*Historic images which flank the main entrance doors to the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station help tell Deschutes National Forest stories.*

*Photograph by Robin Gyorgyfalvy*

## OldSmokeys Grant Funded “Glimpses of Deschutes National Forest History” at New Welcome Station

This summer’s visitors to the Deschutes National Forest’s new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station got a glimpse of that national forest’s heritage from a number of large historic images which flank the station’s main entrance and likely will for many years.

On one side of the entrance, the natural resources on which Central Oregon’s economy was built—timber, water, forage—are depicted. On the other, the amenity resources so important to sustaining the region’s booming recreation economy—wilderness trails, fishing, sailing—are featured. Included, also, are the forest’s first forest ranger, Cy Bingham, in 1903, and his 1942 successors in Forest Supervisor Ralph Crawford and his district rangers and fire staff officer.

Installed at the welcome station on July 8, 2016, the historic photographs stimulate visitor conversations with U.S. Forest Service information specialists about the Deschutes National Forest and its natural and cultural heritage—and help increase knowledge and understanding of its resources and their management “for the greatest good.” Production of the historic photograph exhibit was funded by a 2015 OldSmokeys grant and guided by two OldSmokeys.



*Deschutes National Forest Landscape Architect Robin Gyorgyfalvy (left) showed Deputy Chief for National Forest System Leslie Weldon (right) the new welcome center and the exhibit during the vacationing deputy chief's brief visit in July 2016. Both are OldSmokeys.*

*Photograph by Les Joslin*



*Regional Forester Jim Pena recognized Friends of Fish Lake Past President Mike Kerrick after speaking at the Friends' annual meeting and work week.*

*Courtesy of Rolf Anderson*

## OldSmokey Mike Kerrick Honored at Friends of Fish Lake Annual Meeting and June 2016 Work Week

**OldSmokey Mike Kerrick**, former forest supervisor of the Willamette National Forest and past president of the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL), was honored for his dedicated leadership of the continuing effort to restore and reuse the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot, now the Fish Lake Historic Site, during the FFL’s June 19-24 annual work week.

At the FFL’s annual meeting held during that work week, Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Jim Pena** thanked the FFL for their ongoing work at the site and presented Mike with a Pendleton blanket and a small statue of Gifford Pinchot in recognition of his outstanding service, dedication, and leadership in establishing the FFL and inspiring its work. Also attending the annual meeting were Forest Supervisor Tracy Beck and former Fish Lake fire guard and long-time site guardian Jim Denney, now a Brooklyn, New York, artist.

During the work week, 39 FFL members put in 685 hours of work that included finishing the restoration of the interior of the Commissary Cabin, repairing split rail fences and a corral gate, and reconstructing the Hall House stone steps and lava rock retaining wall as well as cleaning and oiling saddles and tack and general site cleanup.

Recent FFL accomplishments other than during the work week included purchase of shales to re-shake the Hall House roof in 2017, commissioning an historic buildings assessment of 12 structures to guide future restoration and maintenance, co-hosting with the Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon a week-long on-site livestock demonstration, and helping the Sand Mountain Society celebrate the 25th anniversary of the reconstruction of the nearby Sand Mountain Lookout.

Grants from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and the Kinsman Foundation helped pay for the shales and the building assessment.

Membership in the FFL is open to all who are interested in restoring and maintaining the Fish Lake Historic Site. See the website at <[www.fishlakehistoricsite.org](http://www.fishlakehistoricsite.org)> for information.

*Prepared from information and with photographs provided by OldSmokey Rolf Anderson.*



*These photographs show the historic Mosquito Springs Trail Shelter during (left) and after (right) the OGWBS restoration project.*

*Photographs by Phil Dodd*

## OldSmokeys and Other OGWBS Crew Restored Mosquito Springs Trail Shelter in June 2016

An Old Guys Who Build Stuff (OGWBS) crew of OldSmokeys and others “made it over the crest of the Cascades to the east side of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest” to restore the historic Mosquito Springs Trail Shelter, OldSmokey **Jim Bull**, Gifford Pinchot (east) PNWFSA representative, reported on June 19, 2016.

“On June 9, a crew of eight removed old roof shales, rafters, and purlins, and installed new rafters and purlins pre-made over the winter. On June 16, a crew of 13 installed new shales on the roof and along the bottom row of the north wall. Also, the accumulated duff was removed from the interior and immediate surrounding area,” Jim reported. “Old friends had a chance to reminisce and make new friends who share a common interest.”

“An additional 12 individuals involved in eight work parties between February 24 and June 8 gathered materials and pre-manufactured rafters, purlins, and shales. A total of 281 person-hours were logged on the project,” Jim added.

OldSmokey **Phil Dodd**, Gifford Pinchot National Forest PNWFSA area representative, narrated the process for a “Rat and Cat” online video series video that showed the crew in action and explained why OldSmokeys take on such volunteer jobs. “In addition to restoring the shelter, the OGWBS has volunteered to maintain it annually and will be signing an adopt-a-shelter agreement with the Mt. Adams Ranger District,” Phil added.

Originally built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide shelter for U.S. Forest Service personnel working in the field, the restored and maintained Mosquito Springs Trail Shelter is now and will continue to be available for use by Gifford Pinchot National Forest recreationists.

In addition to Jim and Phil, OldSmokeys **Roland Emetaz**, **Cheryl Mack**, **Rick McClure**, and **Tom Mulder** were among the 13 U.S. Forest Service retirees and total of 27 people who worked on the project.

*Prepared from information provided by OldSmokeys Jim Bull and Phil Dodd.*



## OldSmokeys Who Were RFRs Met in Bend, Oregon, in July 2016

Seven remaining RFRs (Regional Foresters Representatives), all of whom are OldSmokeys, met in Bend, Oregon, on July 29, 2016, for a reunion. Seated around a table at McGrath’s Fish House in the above picture they are (left to right) **Dick Blashill** of Portland, Oregon; **Fred Dutli** of McKenzie Bridge, Oregon; **Doug Coon** of Lakeview, Oregon; **Earl Tuininga** of Belfair, Washington; **Dean Groshong** of Pendleton, Oregon; **Bill Case**, their leader, of Prineville, Oregon; and **Nick Nicholas** of Ashland, Oregon.

The RFRs helped implement and sustain the Regional Sale Administration Certification Program for about 14 years. These remaining RFRs renewed friendships after 20 years or more, in most cases, as they shared old “war stories...as well as they could remember them,” according to Dick.

*Submitted by Dick Blashill.*



## OldSmokeys Among Oldtimers at May Malheur National Forest Retiree Reunion

Eleven OldSmokeys were among 16 U.S. Forest Service retirees who made it to John Day, Oregon, for a May 2016 Malheur National Forest retiree reunion tour of their old stomping grounds.

OldSmokeys in this group photograph taken in Summit Prairie on the Prairie City Ranger District are **Roger Williams**, **Bob Hilliard**, **Ron Ketchum**, **Don James**, **Claude McLean**, **Dick Grace**, **Woody Williams**, **Ron Skrip**, **Chuck Graham**, and **Phil Kline**, and **Fred Dutli** (not necessarily in the order shown).

*Prepared from submissions by OldSmokeys Woody Williams and Ron Skrip.*



## OldSmokeys Welcome Deputy Chief Weldon as PNWFSA Member

Among the new members welcomed to Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) membership on page 10 is Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service for the National Forest System **Leslie A. C. Weldon** and her husband **Mike Weldon**.

Deputy Chief Weldon began her Forest Service career in 1981 in the Pacific Northwest Region as a summer hire on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest where she monitored seedlings, fought wildfires, and surveyed spotted owls. In 1983, after graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, she was appointed a fisheries biologist on that forest. Later in her professional career she returned to Region 6 as Deschutes National Forest supervisor from 2000 to 2007.

*Photograph courtesy of Oregon Forest Resources Institute.*



*Leslie A.C. Weldon*

## OldSmokey Stan Kunzman Helped Save a Life, Taught Outdoor Skills to Kids

"If you guys weren't there on April 15, I wouldn't be here on July 5," an emotional Ed Pond of Redmond, Oregon, told career U.S. Navy veteran Jim Morrell and his friend OldSmokey **Stan Kunzman** at an award ceremony at the Sisters, Oregon, fire hall honoring the friends and emergency personnel who saved his life.

The two friends were helping Pond, 72, fall trees on his property near Sisters when he suffered full cardiac arrest. He was not breathing, had no pulse, was clinically dead. Jim administered CPR while Stan ran to a neighbor's house to call for help. The neighbor turned out to be a volunteer fire captain with Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District and help was soon on the way.

Later in the summer, Stan taught outdoor skills including basic land navigation—or what you do when your GPS battery goes dead—to about 30 youngsters at the July 8-10 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation annual Oregon Summer Rendezvous at Lake Creek Camp on the Malheur National Forest. After four hours of classroom instruction and a field exercise, these kids were better prepared to travel in the backcountry without getting lost, and to find themselves if they were to get lost.

Stan also served his eighth summer as a volunteer interpreting the OldSmokey-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station to visitors at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

*Prepared from multiple sources including "Celebrating a life saved" by Jim Cornelius in the July 12, 2016, Sisters, Oregon, NuggetNews.com.*

## OldSmokeys and Smokejumpers a Big Hit at High Desert Museum This Summer

A record 1,965 visitors experienced the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station while uncounted thousands saw the National Smokejumper Association (NSA)-sponsored "Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky" exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, this summer.

*OldSmokeys News continues on Page 7*

## OldSmokeys to Accept Grant Applications for Projects Meeting PNWFSA Criteria through December 31, 2016

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Grants Committee will accept applications for grants to help fund projects in 2017 that further PNWFSA goals within the Pacific Northwest Region.

Applications for PNWFSA grants to be awarded in 2017 are invited from private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations pursuing such goals. Grants will not be made directly to the U.S. Forest Service. About \$5,000 will be available for 2017 grants, and applications are due December 31, 2016, according to Grants Committee chair OldSmokey **Charlie Krebs**.

### **Grant criteria**

Grants are awarded to organizations that satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors on February 27, 2009. This policy specifies "Grants or gift proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Does it further the OldSmokeys mission?
- Will the project have a lasting influence on national forest management, natural resource management, and help sell the public on the importance of these resources?
- Will it reach large numbers of people?
- Can OldSmokeys funds be leveraged with other funds?
- Will a restoration or improvement project help sustain our Forest Service legacy?
- Will the PNWFSA receive visible and lasting credit for participation?
- Is it a project that 'feels good' to us and reminds us of why we chose to throw in with the Outfit for our careers?

Not all of these questions will apply to every proposal, but running through this checklist should help the PNWFSA get the most bang for its buck. Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifications and criteria.

### **Grant applications**

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

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

Grant applications should be submitted electronically to the Grants Committee via the <[Grants@oldsmokeys.org](mailto:Grants@oldsmokeys.org)> mailbox not later than December 31, 2016.

*OldSmokeys grants support many U.S. Forest Service heritage and natural resource projects which advance public appreciation and understanding of America's National Forest System!*



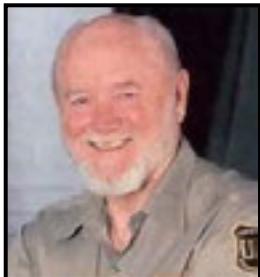


## OldSmokeys Say

### Chief Jack Ward Thomas' Leadership Recalled

By Ron Pugh

*Editor's Note: Many OldSmokeys have shared their memories of and tributes to our recently late Chief of the Forest Service online in OldSmokeys eForum messages. All are special. Ron Pugh's "story about Jack Ward Thomas that almost no one knew, but everyone knew about" is extra special in terms of the example of leadership it set.*



**Jack Ward Thomas**

In October 1996, the Oakridge Ranger Station on the Willamette National Forest was burned to the ground by arson. There was an immediate response from the FBI, ATF, Oregon State Police, and of course U.S. Forest Service law enforcement. The FBI assumed the lead, which typically means that all other agencies are to step aside—get out of the way.

Within a few days of the fire, Jack came to Oakridge and viewed the site and met with the devastated employees. I was there and watched him comfort each one of them. Later that afternoon, he asked me to meet with the agents involved in the investigation. My supervisor and I were there, as well as the supervisory staff of the FBI, ATF, and Oregon State Police.

After being briefed on what we knew, and unfortunately at that time what we *didn't know*, Jack thanked everyone. Then he turned to my supervisor and asked, "Who will be representing the Forest Service in this investigation?" My supervisor pointed to me and said, "Ron will be the Forest Service case agent." Jack pointed his finger straight at me and stated, "You will never have a more important assignment in your career than to solve this case." I looked at him and said, "I won't let you down, Chief." The room was silent for a moment. Then everyone thanked each other and Jack and my supervisor departed.

Then the FBI and ATF supervisors turned to me and exclaimed how impressed they were that not only did our agency head come here in person, but that he took such a commanding role. They were clearly impressed. Then they told me, "We want you to know that direct order from your Chief was not just for you. We heard it an 'we're in.'" Over the next ten years, they walked that talk.

For the next six years, I worked pretty much full time on that investigation, partnered directly with an FBI agent, with many others helping along the way. We followed hundreds of leads, all turning out to be false, all over the United States. Even though there were many frustrating times, we never gave up. Whenever we thought about it, one of us would mention Jack and his finger pointing, and we would get back at it.

By 2003 the case had really gone cold. I had the chance to move into management, and did. I called Jack and told him I had failed my direct order from the Chief. He was very gracious and asked that if anything ever changed, to please let him know.

In 2005, a new lead developed that turned the case from "cold" to "red hot." Since I was in management, I did not carry a case load, but I supervised those who did. I assigned this case to one of those subordinated, and followed Jack's lead. I pointed my finger at her and told her, "You will never have a more important case in your career than this one."

In January 2006, after dozens of secret indictments were handed down, a multi-agency, nationwide arrest operation was launched. During a few-day sweep, 23 people were arrested for 26 different arson fires, including the Oakridge Ranger Station fire. The responsible group went by the name of Earth Liberation Front (ELF). As soon as it was OK to do so, and before the media were alerted I called Jack and was finally able to say those three words I'd waited nearly a decade to say: "We got 'em." He was elated, and clearly touched and appreciative.

I'm not here to say that Jack Ward Thomas was the only person responsible for the success of that investigation. But *I do know* that his commanding leadership with and of the right people in that meeting in Eugene definitely had a huge impact on the course of the Oakridge Ranger Station arson investigation and how it became part of a much larger national assault.

So, in addition to all the hundreds of accomplishments and contributions Jack made to the Forest Service, and to humankind, this is one of which I doubt even he recognized the significance. I am honored to have known him.

#### Addendum to Summer 2016 OldSmokeys Newsletter Memories: **Jack Ward Thomas**

Jack is survived by his wife Kathy (Connelly), sons Greg and Britt, stepson and daughter Paul and Erin Connelly, and their families including six grandchildren. Jack met Kathy, who was Deputy Chief for Administration, while both were in the Washington Office. In 1996 they retired and married., moving to Florence, Montana. She was his constant companion and supporter, accompanying him on many trips for organizations such as the Boone and Crockett Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the University of Montana, among others.

*Many thanks to OldSmokey Beth Horn for providing this information missing from the Summer 2016 issue remembrance.*

#### OldSmokeys News continued from Page 6

Staffed on weekends during June and daily from July 1 through Labor Day by OldSmokeys Gail Carbiener, Dick Connelly, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Joan Landsberg, Doug Ridley, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio and several other dedicated High Desert Museum volunteers, the High Desert Ranger Station has told the story of the evolution of the Old West of natural resource exploitation into the New West of natural resource stewardship through the eyes of the U.S. Forest Service district ranger daily every summer beginning in 2009.

Opened on June 4, 2016, the "Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky" exhibit developed by the Springfield Museum in cooperation with the NSA will continue its vivid portrayal of the origin and evolution of smokejumping during the past 75 years through February 12, 2017. That means OldSmokeys who have not yet seen this fascinating exhibit may do so for the next five months by visiting the High Desert Museum on U.S. Highway 97 south of Bend until the exhibit closes on February 12.



## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Criticized by Press for 2015 Canyon Creek Fire Actions

“An investigation by The Oregonian/Oregon Live has found systemic problems within the Forest Service that left the Malheur [National Forest] primed to burn [and] a cascading set of tactical errors [which] slowed the agency’s response and squandered its chances to extinguish the fire early” concluded reporters Laura Gunderson and Ted Sickinger in a 19-page special section focused on the August 2015 Canyon Creek Fire in the Sunday, August 14, 2016, edition of *The Oregonian*.

“We did everything we could with the resources we had available at the time to put those two fires [the Mason Spring and Berry Creek fires which combined as the Canyon Creek Fire] out. Sometimes Mother nature has other plans. That’s what happened,” the report quoted Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin. The 110,000-acre Canyon Creek Fire “ultimately destroyed 43 homes and nearly 100 barns, workshops and other structures” as well as cherished pets, family heirlooms, livestock, tools, trucks, and timber, according to the newspaper’s report.

“While Forest Service managers have yet to produce any in-depth analysis of their strategy in fighting the Canyon Creek fire,” the reporters claimed their “investigation shows forest officials mismanaged the Canyon Creek fire on multiple levels.

“They discounted alarming weather reports, strayed from existing staffing plans and opted for conservative firefighting tactics when the two initial fires were small. Communication breakdowns hampered both firefighting operations and community evacuations.”

After enumerating alleged examples of mismanagement, the reporters concluded that “the Canyon Creek fire highlights the inability of the Forest Service to manage dueling missions of firefighting and forest management. It’s a national problem that has smoldered for decades and left millions of people and their properties exposed to risk.”

In an August 19, 2016, follow-up article “Burned: Lawmakers call for change within the U.S. Forest Service,” reporter Gunderson reported that “a bipartisan group of local, state and federal lawmakers in Oregon is renewing calls for a basic overhaul of the U.S. Forest Service.” Just what this means is not specified., but alluded to in the article. “Sen. Ron Wyden, along with U.S. Reps Greg Walden, Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader all expressed deep frustration with an ongoing congressional stalemate and an overly cautious agency that increasingly diverts money from land management programs to fight wildfires. The practice delays restoration work that makes forests more resistant to devastating fire, placing large swaths of Oregon’s federal timberland and nearby communities at risk.”

In an August 20, 2016, op-ed “Forest fuels pileup, not firefighter failure, made Canyon Creek fire a tragedy” in *The Oregonian*, Professor John Bailey and Research Associate Christopher Dunn of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University refuted Gunderson’s and Sickinger’s conclusions. Objecting to “second-guessing the tactical decision-making of firefighting professionals...,” Baily and Dunn wrote “the most critical mistake was the Forest Service’s failure to burn off fuels along Canyon Creek years before the fire. This failure was the result of misguided regulations and policies.”

### U.S. Forest Service Chiefs Emeritus and Others Cite Ten Extremist Threats to America’s Public Lands

Three former U.S. Forest Service chiefs—Dale Bosworth, Mike Dombeck, and OldSmokey Gail Kimbell—are among 32 former senior federal land managers who listed ten threats to public lands from anti-government extremism in a June 9, 2016, letter to Representative Raul M. Grijalva (Democrat, Arizona), ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Representative Rob Bishop (Republican, Utah).

“As senior federal land management agency employees and leaders, we have seen the threats to land and property, employee safety, and civil society that result from unchecked anti-government extremists,” they wrote of this “issue worthy of Congressional review.” These threats are:

- Threat to government property, lands, and natural resources belonging to all Americans.
- Threat to safety of government employees.
- Threat that lands will be sold off to private individuals and corporations.
- Threat to public lands recreation and tourism including the basic rights of public access.
- Threat to our national identity as a country blessed with unspoiled, open space.
- Threat that wildfires will become even more destructive and expensive to fight.
- Threat to wildlife and nature’s ability to adapt to climate change.
- Threat to interagency cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies and officials.
- Threat to a civil society where emerging community collaborations are becoming common.
- Threat of lost revenue and economic value to the American people.

Each of these threats is detailed in their letter to Representative Grijalva.

*Editor’s Note: Space limitations precluded inclusion of the descriptions of each of these 10 threats available at <<http://forestpolicypub.com/2016/07/08/patriot-attack-on-public-lands-and-its-users-and-employees/>>.*

### U.S. Forest Service Faces Potential Wilderness Management Changes

A bill proposing a “Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Act” introduced in mid July 2016 by Utah Republican Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee would, if passed, amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 and change U.S. Forest Service management of National Wilderness Preservation System lands within the national forests.

The bill, introduced at the behest of the Sustainable Trails Coalition, would permit use of mountain bikes and other machines within congressionally-designated wilderness. Earlier this year, over 110 conservation and wilderness organizations from across the United States wrote all members of Congress to urge them to oppose this attempt to amend and weaken the Wilderness Act of 1964 and its wilderness protections.



## U.S. Forest Service Faces Possibility of Proposed Sierra National Monument

A campaign is underway to change the 1.3 million-acre Sierra National Forest to Sierra National Monument between Yosemite National Park in the north and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in the south, the *Fresno Bee* reported on August 21, 2016.

"Proponents say the change would bolster outdoor recreation and tourism, while better preserving the landscape. They want to see the elimination of commercial logging and mining, and the phasing out of grazing," the paper reported. "Opponents are more concerned with how a monument could change outdoor recreation and forest management practices. Among those in opposition is Rep. Tom McClintock, whose 4<sup>th</sup> District includes Sierra National Forest."

National monuments may be created by presidents using the Antiquities Act of 1906—more than 130 have—or by Congress passing legislation. President Barack Obama has proclaimed several national monuments, including in 2014 the San Gabriel National Monument comprising about half of the Angeles National Forest.

While most national monuments are administered by the National Park Service, national monuments recently carved out of the National Forest System have remained under U.S. Forest Service administration. National monument status does not guarantee more funding to handle increased visitation.

Forest Service retirees oppose the proposal. "If we can't put an end to this one, I believe the flood gates will open," commented former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and OldSmokey **Lyle Laverty** on August 27, 2106.

*Prepared from multiple sources including "Campaign underway to turn Sierra National Forest into national monument" by Carmen George in the August 21, 2016, Fresno Bee.*

## U.S. Forest Service Management of National Forests is Threatened by Proposed Legislation

Proposed legislation which would let states manage parts of national forests to produce more timber, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives last year, passed the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources on June 15, 2016.

Representative Raul Labrador (Republican-Idaho) proposed HR 2316, the "Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act," that would let states establish a "community forest demonstration area" of at least 200,000 acres of national forest land to be managed by advisory committees appointed by state governors. The bill passed the committee by a vote of 25-13. The proposed act "provides an alternative to failing federal management," Representative Labrador said. "States will be able to show that they can manage our national forests in a manner that protects access, supports local communities, and creates healthy forests."

Introduced by Representative Don Young (Republican-Alaska), HR 3650, the "State National Forest Management Act," would permit states to pass laws to get up to two million acres of national forest lands conveyed to them through the U.S. Forest Service for timber production. It also passed by a vote of 25-13. "HR 3650 will give states an opportunity to

show they are in fact the best stewards of our lands," Representative Young said. "By reforming the federal government's broken system of forestry management, we will empower local communities, build resilient forests, and streamline burdensome management practices. This bill works to end the constant fighting between our forestry communities and the federal government by allowing states to resolve their differences at home."

Sponsors and supporters of both bills note the fast spread of insects and wildfires when federal lands are not properly managed, and have emphasized sawmill closures and job losses.

The proposals are opposed by the Obama administration "because they elevate one use above others on public lands and leave many fundamental questions of responsibility unanswered" and by many groups including the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), Outdoor Alliance, Trout Unlimited, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

*Prepared from House Committee on Natural Resources Press Release "Committee Advances Bills to Empower States and Localities to Improve Forest Management" of June 15, 2016, and "Groups fear bills a threat to public lands" by Hilary Corrigan in The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin of June 28, 2016, and an August 4, 2016, e-mail from Mike Bowman of NAFSR..*

## U.S. Forest Service Celebrated Centennial of First Region Six National Forest Campground

When the Eagle Creek Campground opened within the old Oregon National Forest in the Columbia River Gorge in 1916, a new era of U.S. Forest Service commitment to providing recreational experiences to national forest visitors was born. The centennial of this historic campground, now within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and the beginning of this new era were marked on July 15, 2016, at an Eagle Creek Centennial Rededication Ceremony.

This first campground was the product of the right people in the right place seizing an opportunity offered by changing times. The automobile transformed how Americans experienced public lands, and construction of the Columbia River Highway paved the way for visitors to explore the Columbia River Gorge not far east of Portland. Once dependent on steamboats and railroads, outdoor enthusiasts could now pack up their cars and visit the Gorge's best attractions on their own time table. Americans were just beginning to experiment with car camping, and the Forest Service—with the encouragement of Portland civic leaders and the enthusiasm for recreation of Chief Forester Henry S. Graves—developed Eagle Creek Campground with all the elements—parking areas, campsites with parking areas, picnic tables, camp stoves and fireplaces, and comfort stations—that reduced their impact on the land and made their experience more enjoyable.

And, at Eagle Creek Campground, the forest visitor met the forest ranger. Albert Wisendanger was assigned to ranger duties there in 1916 and became the first full-time ranger to live at a campground throughout the camping season. He and his wife lived in a tent until the Forest Service provided a small cabin. During the winters, Ranger Wisendanger gave talks in schools on campfire safety and campground etiquette. After managing Eagle Creek Campground for 24 years, he was transferred to Timberline Lodge in 1940 and in 1943 to Herman Creek Ranger Station as district ranger of the Mt. Hood National Forest's



Columbia Gorge Ranger District where he served until June 1948. Wisendanger epitomized the friendly face and helping hand ranger who won good will for the Forest Service.

All this was celebrated by those who officiated at and attended the Eagle Creek Centennial Rededication Ceremony.

*Prepared from information provided by Rachel Pawlitz of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.*

## U.S. Forest Service Celebrated Dorena Genetic Research Center's Fiftieth Anniversary on August 25

Fifty years of U.S. Forest Service genetic research at the Dorena Genetic Research Center near Cottage Grove, Oregon, were celebrated on August 25, 2016, with a set of short presentations and tours of the facility.

The event highlighted center accomplishments and looked to a future including continuing to address disease resistance, climate change, and providing native species for forest restoration work, according to Lisa Winn, silviculturist and center director. The celebration also acknowledged the many partnerships, local and international, and the many employees and cooperators who have made the center's unique programs successful.

A presentation by Diana Tomback, director of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation, highlighted the perils faced by some native trees and the potential that a program such as that at the Dorena Genetic Research Center offers to address those perils.

*Prepared from information provided by Lisa Winn and Cheryl Caplan, Public Affairs Officer, Umpqua National Forest.*

## U.S. Forest Service Benefitted from U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training

The Deschutes and Willamette national forests benefitted this summer from two-week deployments of a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve engineer company, part of Combat Logistics Battalion 23, based in Springfield, Oregon.

During two weeks in July, about 50 of the Marine Corps reservists deployed to the Deschutes National Forest completed projects such as demolishing an old guard station near Sisters and building more storage near the forest headquarters in Bend.

About 40 other Marines repaired, replaced culverts in, and cut hazard trees along North Shore Road, a gravel road that borders the Middle Fork of the Willamette River across from Oregon Highway 58 on the Willamette National Forest.

On both national forests the Marines accomplished deferred maintenance work which, according to a Deschutes National Forest spokesperson, "we just don't have the staff to do."

*Prepared from "Marines repairing Willamette National Forest road" by Tom Adams of KVAL, Eugene, Oregon, on July 21, 2016, and "Marines sharpen skills sprucing up forest sites" by Hilary Corrigan in the July 25, 2016, issue of Bend, Oregon's, The Bulletin.*

## U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Work Threatened by Timber Imports

"To what degree does this forest restoration effort rely on the continuing operation of the mill in Gilchrist?" this reporter asked Deschutes National Forest forester Pete Powers on May 2

*U.S. Forest Service News continues on Page 12*

## Changes

**Allen, James Charles** – Deceased August 15, 2016;  
Emily survives

**Case, William J. & Sue A. Bell** – New members:  
2543 NE Buckboard Ln, Prineville, OR 97754  
Telephone: 541-447-7462 E-mail: wjcase38@gmail.com

**Cooper, Gary E. & Betty A.** – New members:  
15725 Perimeter Dr, Beaverton, OR 97006  
Telephone: 503-645-4191 E-mail: coop270@yahoo.com

**Davies, Warren G. & Sally** – Change address:  
10061 Sweetwater Pkwy, No 344, Jacksonville, FL 32256  
Telephone: 707-217-5581

**Devereaux, John L.** – Deceased June 10, 2016  
**Fessel, Patricia Ann** – Deceased July 11, 2916; Bill survives  
**Geurds, William Anthony** – Deceased May 27, 2016;

Joann survives

**Johnson, Lawrence** – Deceased August 22, 2016  
**Krump, Don & Laurie** – Change telephone: 715-393-8182  
**Neal, Monica L.** – New member: 1163 SW Tovias Way,

Aloha, OR 97003  
Telephone: 618-694-8435 E-mail: monnilinn@gmail.com

**Risvold, Ann M. & Lawrence J. Donovan** – New members:  
10909 52<sup>nd</sup> Dr NE, Marysville, WA 98271  
Telephone: 360-659-2822 E-mail: annrisvold@aol.com

**Russell, James W. & Linda M.** – New members:  
32355 SW Del Monte Dr, Wilsonville, OR 97020  
Telephone: 541-200-4591 E-mail: travellight37@mac.com  
**Sears, Evelyn B.** – Deceased "several years ago"  
**Soule, Lloyd T.** – Deceased August 6, 2016; Elizabeth survives  
**Swartzlender, Roberta Louise** – Deceased August 4, 2016  
**Walter, Frank Raymond** – Deceased May 31, 2016;

Janet survives

**Weldon, Leslie A.C. & Michael K.** -- New members:  
12352 Open View Ln, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

**Wolf, G. Louis** – Deceased August 13, 2016

**Wood, Donald C. & Helen** – Change e-mail:  
skiandsew@crestviewcable.com

## New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Summer 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**William J. Case & Sue A. Bell** of Prineville, Oregon, joined July 30, 2016. Bill retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 8, 1993, as a contracting officer on the Ochoco National Forest, after 34 years, 13.5 of them in Region 6. Bill worked for the Forest Service on the Sequoia National Forest as a college student working on a KV crew, a recreation aid, a fire prevention technician, a tree planter, and a blister rust control contract checker. After college, as a junior forester, he worked as a scaler and in timber sale preparation. He continued his career as a sale administrator and silviculturist on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, fire management officer and lands officer on the Inyo National Forest, recreation manager on the Angeles National Forest, and sale administrator on the Six Rivers and Klamath national forests before moving to Region 6 as a contracting officer in the RO for 10 years before those last 3.5 years on the Ochoco National Forest. I retirement, Bill raises a garden



every year, hunts and fishes occasionally, travels, visits family, and keeps house.

**Gary E. & Betty A. Cooper** of Beaverton, Oregon, joined July 29. Gary retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 2, 1998, after 34 years, 18 of them in Region 6, and one year in the California Division of Forestry. Gary earned a B.S. degree in forest management at Humboldt State College in 1965. He served as a forester on the Coffee Creek Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, from 1965-1967; district lands officer on the Big Bear Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, from 1967-1971; land exchange officer in the Tahoe National Forest SO from 1971-1976; lands staff officer on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit from 1976-1980; and then as group leader-land adjustments for Region 6 in the RO in Portland, Oregon, from 1980-1998. In retirement, Gary and Betty enjoy their six grandchildren, fishing, hunting, gardening, traveling, and are active in their church.

**Monica L. Neal** of Aloha, Oregon, joined August 2, 2016. She's served 26.5 years in the U.S. Forest Service, and has been in Region 6 at the RO in Portland for the past year and one-half.

**Ann M. Risvold & Lawrence J. Donovan** of Marysville, Washington, joined June 9, 2016. Ann retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Darrington Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington after 30 years of service in Region 6. A lands and recreation forester for the first 10 years, Ann was a zone botanist for the remainder of her career. Retirement is full of hiking, skiing, gardening, boating, fishing, and reading.

**James W. & Linda M. Russell** of Wilsonville, Oregon, joined May 27, 2016, after attending the May 15 Spring Banquet; their application was received by the editor just after the Summer 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* deadline. Jim retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the RO in Portland, Oregon, on July 9, 2009, after 39 years of federal service, 28 in the Forest Service—including three with the Pacific Northwest Research Station—and 11 years with the Bureau of Land Management. His career focused on fire, fuels, prescribed burning, and aviation management, and he served as Region 6 program manager for smoke management and air resource management. He's since focused on volunteer work.

**Leslie A.C. & Michael K. Weldon** of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, joined July 22. Leslie has been Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service for the National Forest System since November 2011. A 1983 fisheries and wildlife biology graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia, she worked student summers on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest on which she was appointed a fisheries biologist on three ranger districts. After additional biologist assignments, she served as assistant district ranger and district ranger on the Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, Montana, from 1992 to 1996; Forest Service liaison to the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, from 1996 to 1998; and as executive policy assistant to Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck from 1998 to 2000. From there, Leslie, her husband Mike, and their two sons moved to Bend, Oregon, where she served as forest supervisor, Deschutes National Forest, from 2000 to 2007. After another stint in the WO, she and her family moved to Missoula, Montana, where she was regional forester, Northern Region, from 2009 to 2011. Mike is a fisheries biologist.

## Memories

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

**James Charles "Jim" Allen** died August 15, 2016, at age 93. Jim was born March 25, 1923, in Livingston, Montana, and lived most of his youth in the state of Washington where he worked at various jobs including at a paper mill and as a pipe fitter. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after the United States entered World War II and served as a paratrooper in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. His first combat jump was on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday during Operation Market Garden. He was wounded in the Battle of Bastogne. After the war, Jim returned to the Pacific Northwest and joined the U.S. Forest Service as a smokejumper at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base in Winthrop, Washington. The next spring he married Emily Jenkins and they began their life together. In 1953, just short of his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jim became project manager at the Siskiyou Air Center in Cave Junction, Oregon. Fourteen years later he was promoted to manage the relatively new Redmond Air Center in Redmond, Oregon. A much bigger operation, he worked there until he retired in 1976. Jim was active in civic affairs through local elective and volunteer positions and a passionate outdoorsman, hunter, and fisherman. He left his post as board president of the Juniper Golf Club in Redmond to become its manager. Later in life, Jim and Emily traveled widely, making friends and pursuing in-depth research on his family genealogy. Survivors include Emily, his wife of 68 years; daughters Kathleen Joy, Mary Beth Thouvenel, Nancy Dryden, and Peggy Schroeder; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**John Lawrence "Johnnie" Devereaux** died June 10, 2016, at age 96. Johnnie was born in Cle Elum, Washington, began working for the U.S. Forest Service on Cle Elum Ranger District trail crews when he was 15, and graduated from Cle Elum High School in 1937. He attended Central Washington State College in Ellensburg, then ventured to Alaska where he worked in the Juneau gold mines. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked on several projects including the road to Valdez and the Whittier tunnel. Called to service for World War II, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He married Panagiota "Pennie" when a fellow soldier, his future brother-in-law, took him home for a Green-Italian dinner. At the time, Pennie was only 15. In 1944 they eloped to North Carolina where they began their 66-year marriage that lasted until she died in 2010. His son Tommy was born in 1946; he died three days later. His daughter Pam was born in Ellensburg and his daughter Renee was born in Wenatchee. Johnnie continued in the U.S. Air Force when it was established in 1947 and served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Between those latter two conflicts, he served in the Forest Service in Oakridge, Oregon; he returned to active duty when his reserve unit was called to duty at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, during the Vietnam War. Johnnie's entire Forest Service career, from which he retired in 1977, was spent in fire management. He served on the Wenatchee National Forest at Cle Elum, Lake Wenatchee, Leavenworth, and Steliko (Entiat). His assignments in Oregon were on the Willamette National Forest in Oakridge, Mill City, and in the SO in Eugene, and on the Siuslaw National Forest as fire staff officer in the SO in Corvallis. Johnnie remained in the Air Force Reserve until he retired at the rank of lieutenant colo-



nel when the Eugene reserve unit disbanded. After retirement from the Forest Service, Johnnie worked for a landscape company caring for lawns around Corvallis and Albany, Oregon. While he and Pennie lived in Albany, they wintered in Arizona for 17 years before they moved to Surprise, Arizona, in 1998. Survivors include his daughters Renee Hollenbeck and Pamela Wilson; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Pam Wilson for the information from which this remembrance of her father was prepared.*

**Patricia Ann "Pat" Fessel** died July 11, 2016, at age 86. Patricia Ann Peterson was born July 25, 1929, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and attended public schools in Wyoming and Nebraska before graduating from Greybull High School in Wyoming in 1947. She continued her education by graduating from Cotey Junior College in Nevada, Missouri, in 1949, and earning a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Colorado in 1953. Pat twice married foresters. She and Robert E. Reed married in 1953 and lived in Burlington, Vermont, while he served in the U.S. Air Force; in Syracuse, New York, while he studied for a degree in forestry; and in Oakridge and Corvallis, Oregon, as he pursued his U.S. Forest Service career. Robert Reed died tragically in an automobile accident in 1968. Pat and William C. "Bill" Fessel, Jr., married in Corvallis in 1969, and lived in Corvallis and Boring, Oregon, and in Redmond, Washington, during his Forest Service career. They moved to Baker County, Oregon, in 1983, where Pat served as a deacon in the First Presbyterian Church. She was a 65-plus-year member of the PEO Sisterhood. Survivors include her husband Bill of Rock Creek, Baker County, Oregon, and her beloved foster daughter Julia Reed-Vodal of Federal Way, Washington.

**William Anthony Geurds** died May 27, 2016, at age 84. Survivors include his wife Joann of Battleground, Washington. No further information is available.

**Lawrence "Larry" Johnson** died August 22, 2016, at age 78. No further information is available.

**Evelyn B. Sears** of East Glacier Park, Montana, was reported by a niece on July 5, 2016, to have "died several years ago." No further information is available.

**Lloyd T. Soule** died August 6, 2016, at age 90. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth. No further information is available.

**Roberta Louise Swartzlender** died August 4, 2016, at age 90. Roberta was born January 28, 1926, in Tillamook, Oregon. She grew up in New York and in San Francisco, California, where she graduated from Lowell High School in 1944. She attended college and worked in a doctor's office before she married Richard "Dick" Swartzlender in San Francisco on October 30, 1949. They lived in Eugene, Oregon; Olympia, Washington; Vancouver, Washington; Lakeview, Oregon; and Roseburg, Oregon, during Dick's U.S. Forest Service career from which he retired as forest supervisor of Umpqua National Forest. They continued to reside in Roseburg until summer 2015 when they moved to Redmond, Oregon, to be near family. Dick died December 4 of that year, the 66<sup>th</sup> year of their marriage. Roberta enjoyed volunteering at her children's school and at a thrift shop in Roseburg, and was a longtime member of Beta Sigma Phi and the bell choir at the Presbyterian Church there. She liked going to the Oregon Coast with her family and shared an enthusiasm for baseball with Dick which took them on trips

to spring training and games all over the country. Survivors include her sons Dale and David, her daughter Lynn Henry, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Frank Raymond Walter** died May 31, 2016, at age 74. Frank was born September 7, 1941, in The Dalles, Oregon. Frank graduated from Roseburg High School in 1959, and served in the U.S. Forest Service for 34 years. More recently, a resident of Glide, Oregon, he was a member of the Motley Crew, the North Umpqua volunteer trail crew. Frank married Janet Anderson in 1966. Frank thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting. Survivors include his wife, Janet; sons Pat and Russ; and seven grandchildren.

**George Louis "Lou" Wolf** died August 13, 2016, at age 78. Lou was born December 16, 1938. Lou retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 33 years, and loved it so much he volunteered after retirement with the Motley Crew, famous for its Umpqua National Forest trail maintenance. He loved sports, was a marathon runner, and was a passionate Chicago Cubs and Notre Dame fan. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and very active in his church. He was extremely community oriented and donated his time to the UCAN Food Bank. Lou was predeceased by his wife Odena Faye Wolf, and is survived by four children Teresa L. Smith, Vicki Essary, Tommy Smith, and Donna Peterson; seven grandchildren, and a dozen great-grandchildren.

#### **U.S. Forest Service News** continues from Page 10

2016, as Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **John Allen** met with OldSmokeys at the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station adjacent to a large forest health logging operation.

"One hundred percent," Pete answered.

That answer reflected the degree to which forest health work such as that of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project—through which the Forest Service and community stakeholders work together to restore major areas within the national forests to healthier, more-resilient conditions through balanced, science-driven projects that produce forest products—depend on a viable forest products industry.

No timber sales, no restoration money is the bottom line.

To protect America's forest products industry and forest health initiatives, Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) in early August 2016 urged negotiators to hammer out a successor to the Softwood Lumber Agreement that limited the amount of lumber Canada can export to the United States—the latest such agreement which was ratified in 2006 and expired in October 2015—and thus keep local mills in business and continue forest health initiatives.

U.S. "lumber companies have contended that harvests up north were aided by subsidies from the Canadian government and created a product too cheap for local companies to compete with," wrote Troy Brynelson of *The (Roseburg, Oregon) News-Review*.

*Prepared by Les Joslin from multiple sources including "Timber execs, Sen. Wyden call for slowing of cheap imports" by Troy Brynelson of The (Roseburg, Oregon) News-Review published in The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin on August 4, 2016, and the editorial "Time to fix the issue with Canadian timber imports" in the August 5, 2016, issue of The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin.*

**Your OldSmokeys Newsletter strives to keep you apprised of news that affects the future of the National Forest System.**

## Books

### *America's Ancient Forests and Ponderosa Explore Their Topics Well*

By Les Joslin

Two books, one published in 2000 and the other in 2015, address America's forests and their restoration.

*America's Ancient Forests: From the Ice Age to the Age of Discovery* by Thomas M. Bonnicksen describes the forests that once stretched across nearly half the continent and efforts to bring back some of the diverse ecosystems of the era in the book's subtitle.

The author deftly weaves historical accounts and scientific knowledge into a dynamic narrative about the ancient forests and the events that shaped them between the Ice Age and the Age of Discovery and subsequent events that shaped and continue to shape them.

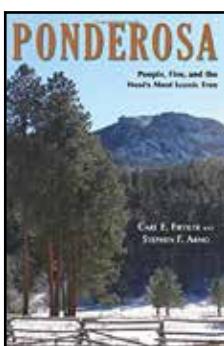
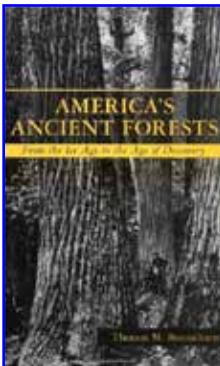
*America's Ancient Forests: From the Ice Age to the Age of Discovery* (ISBN 978-0-471-13622-4) was published in by Wiley at \$197.95 and is available from the publisher at that price or from Amazon new at that price or from \$28.85 used.

More likely to appeal to most readers is the more recent, much less expensive, and somewhat more approachable *Ponderosa: People, Fire, and the West's Most Iconic Tree* in which authors Carl E. Fiedler and Stephen F. Arno explore the vast ponderosa pine forest that has been home to people inhabiting the American West for thousands of years.

Ponderosa pines from distant mountains provided timbers for the ancient pueblos of the Southwest. Nomadic Native Americans often wintered among the large pines and peeled bark for food in the spring. Pioneers extolled the giant pines and grassy glades of yesterday's forest. Ponderosa timber was used to build Gold Rush-era flumes, sluice boxes, and mine shafts, as well as ties and trestles for the transcontinental railroad, and was the mainstay of many western timber towns and their timber-based economies.

As described by Fiedler and Arno, "that historic ponderosa pine forest is mostly gone now, and a different forest has taken its place. Heavy logging and successful fire suppression have transformed yesterday's forest into a forest overgrown with smaller trees, shredded by bark beetles, and ravaged by wildfires." That new ponderosa pine forest is at risk, and that is the story of this book that recounts the history of humans among the ponderosa pines, the historical role of fire, how and why the forest has changed, and what people can do to restore the forest to its former glory. A guide at the back of the book features 64 ponderosa places scattered across the West in which readers may experience ponderosa pines in widely varied settings.

*Ponderosa: People, Fire, and the West's Most Iconic Tree* (ISBN 978-0-87842-638-6) is new from Mountain Press for \$20.00 and available at book stores and online from Mountain Press (Toll Free: 1-800-234-5308) and Amazon.com.



## Films

### *Kubo and the Two Strings* and "DiscoverTheForest" Seem Strange Partners

By Les Joslin

A couple years ago Disney released *Planes: Fire & Rescue* which misrepresented almost every aspect of aerial firefighting to kids too young to know better whose parents should have known better. At least, so I wrote in the Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. And, reportedly, Disney did so in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

And now, the Forest Service and the Ad Council have partnered with the Oregon-based Laika animation studio's *Kubo and the Two Strings*, a 3D stop-action animated film fantasy released on August 19, 2016, in "a PSA campaign to encourage families to reconnect with nature" through DiscoverTheForest.org.

And again, there's misrepresentation.

This cartoon fantasy is set in ancient Japan. Kubo, a young boy, cares for his sick mother in a village. A spirit from the past turns Kubo's life upside down by reigniting an age-old vendetta. This brings on all sorts of havoc as gods and monsters chase Kubo who, to survive, must locate a magical suit of armor once worn by his late father, a Samurai warrior.

Kubo sets off on a journey that takes him into a forest. The connection? "The PSA messaging focuses around the idea that adventures can be found all around, but the best place to start is in the forest," the blurb tells us. "The *Kubo and the Two Strings* PSA invite (*sic*) users to DiscoverTheForest.org to find a forest nearby to plan their adventure."

Hmmmm. I may be just a grumpy old man, but as an OldSmokey with many forest adventures to my name and some of them shared with youngsters, I see this not as enlightened encouragement to seek a real forest adventure in any American forest but as a cynical commercial ploy to promote at partners' expense a product that misrepresents adventures to be found in forests.

Kids won't find any adventures of the ilk depicted in *Kubo and the Two Strings* in America's national forests. Indeed, and unfortunately, when they do not—when unrealistic expectations of impressionable young minds are not realized—they may well be turned off discovering the real forest and all it has to offer.

"The PSAs were produced pro bono by [the] animation studio that made the movie and feature clips and screen shots from the epic adventure," the blurb also tells us, perhaps anticipating criticism of the partnership and its product.

Bottom line? No kudos for Kubo.

*Wouldn't it be great if a really good filmmaker were to produce an inspiring film of Ivan Doig's brilliant 1984 novel English Creek about a 13-year-old district ranger's son and his summer of 1939 on the fictitious Two Medicine National Forest in Montana? There's a story that would encourage American kids to imagine a real American forest adventure—perhaps even a career in the U.S. Forest Service!*

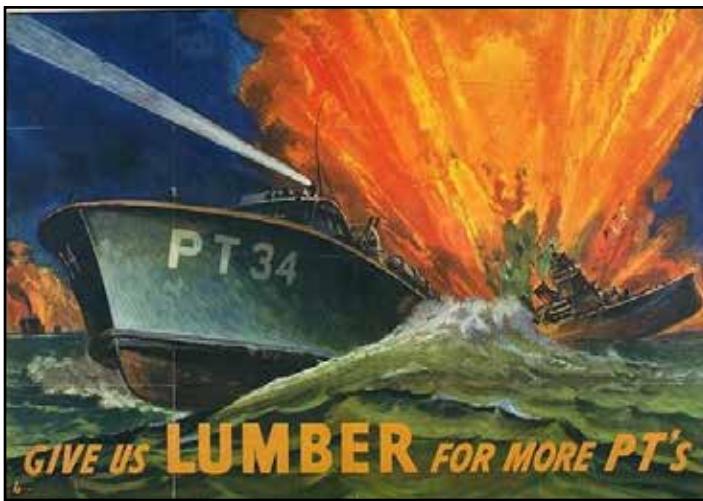


*Kubo's adventure hardly inspires any possible American forest adventure.*

## Out of the Past

### Plywood for Victory!

By Les Joslin



"Its fish and machine-gun ammunition expended," PT boat 34, "zigzagging violently, raced away" from a Japanese cruiser it torpedoed and into naval and forest products history.

This old World War II poster was published to impress on American citizens the importance of forest products to the war effort.

The plywood motor torpedo (PT) boat pictured is one of eight which comprised Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3 based in the Philippine Islands when the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the United States into the war. Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3 was commanded by Lieutenant John D. Bulkeley, USN, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for evacuating General Douglas MacArthur—along with the general's wife, son, and several staff officers—from Corregidor by PT boat on February 28, 1942.

The poster depicts one of Bulkeley's two remaining PT boats, PT 34 commanded by Bulkeley's executive officer, Lieutenant (junior grade) Robert Kelly, in the early morning of April 9, 1942, after torpedoing a Japanese cruiser. "Its fish and machine-gun ammunition expended, Kelly's 34, zigzagging violently, raced away," as William B. Breuer described the scene in *Sea Wolf*, his 1989 biography of Vice Admiral John D. Bulkeley, into an all-night running battle with Japanese destroyers which the little PT boat did not survive.

Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3's early-war exploits were immortalized in W.L. White's 1942 book *They Were Expendable* which John Ford made into the 1945 film by the same name. Their names changed for the movie, Bulkeley's character was played by Robert Montgomery and Kelly's by John Wayne.

And plywood from America's forests made it all possible!

*Editor's Note: This Out of the Past article is a bit different in terms of subject matter, but it does remind us of the strategic role forest products have played and continue to play in all aspects of American life—including national defense. Your submissions for this section are earnestly solicited.*

## Uncle Sam's Cabins

### Lake of the Woods Ranger Station and Suttle Lake Guard Station

Fremont-Winema and Deschutes National Forests, Oregon

By Les Joslin

Not all historic U.S. Forest Service ranger and guard stations available as rentals are rented from the Forest Service through its recreation lodging rental program.

As permitted by law, at least two in Region 6—the historic Lake of the Woods Ranger Station office and residence buildings on the Fremont-Winema National Forest and the historic Suttle Lake Guard Station structure on the Deschutes National Forest—have been integral parts of the resorts which have redecorated them and offered them at somewhat higher rates than charged by the Forest Service.

Historic Lake of the Woods Ranger Station, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1937 and 1939 at the northern end of Oregon; beautiful Lake of the Woods, served as a Rogue River National Forest district ranger station until 1961. After the Winema National Forest was formed from Klamath Indian Reservation lands, that part of the Rogue River National Forest containing Lake of the Woods, and lands carved out of the Deschutes and Fremont national forests, it was used as a work center and visitor information center. Right along Oregon Highway 140, 33 miles west of Klamath Falls and 43 miles east of Medford, the newly reappointed and redecorated office building sleeps up to 12 and the residence up to 10. Rental awaits permit renewal.



Historic Suttle Lake Guard Station, until recently operated by The Lodge at Suttle Lake on the Deschutes National Forest, is just off U.S. Highway 20 about a dozen miles northwest of Sisters, Oregon. Built in the 1930s, the secluded cabin with fully-equipped kitchen sleeps up to four people. The future of historic Suttle Lake Guard Station as a resort rental cabin is now in the hands of a Portland, Oregon, development company which purchased the lodge in September 2015 and, of course, acquisition of a Forest Service permit.

By the time you read this, one or both of these historic Forest Service structures may again be available for rental to guests of the respective resorts.



*Photographs of historic Lake of the Woods Ranger Station office (above) and historic Suttle Lake Guard Station (below) by Les Joslin.*



# My First Forest Service Job

## A Gentile in Mormon Land

By John Riis

Excerpted from his 1937 book *Ranger Trails*

*Editor's Note: Fresh out of OldSmokeys' first job stories, I'll ply you with those of my U.S. Forest Service heroes until you cough up a few.*

*John Riis (1882-1946), a son of famous New York investigative journalist and photographer Jacob Riis, whom President Theodore Roosevelt called "one of my truest and closest friends," went West as a young man and joined Gifford Pinchot's young U.S. Forest Service in Utah in 1907....*

Trees are friendly things, and timber trails might well be pleasant ones, I thought as the train clickety-clacked over the rails on its way to Park City. ... Perhaps, if I could land this Forest Service job, the way would be open to something that held a future and would hold me.

Fourteen husky young men from the range, the lumber camps and the mines.... None of us knew what lay ahead. We had come in for the Ranger examination and that in itself was an adventure.

For two days the examiners harried us. We rode to demonstrate our horsemanship and shot at a post while on the gallop to prove our marksmanship. We packed a horse and threw the diamond hitch, did some simple surveying, cut down trees, trying to fall them on a stake set by the examiner, mapped and estimated timber land, made out bills of lumber, camp supplies and many other things.

Late one February afternoon I rode down the wide lane between the barb-wire fences that marked the main street of Monticello, seat of San Juan County.

I had come to "look after the trees." In my saddle pocket was an appointment as an Assistant Forest Ranger, a copy of the Use Book, or "Ranger's Bible" and a miscellaneous assortment of blank forms.

Monticello was in truth merely a wide place in the road. Some thirty Mormon families made their homes there, tending their little farms, grazing their cattle and sheep on the Blue Mountains in the summer and out on the great dry desert to the east in the winter or herding them lower in the canyons along the banks of the San Juan River.

They were frankly suspicious of all "government men." The day when United States marshals rode through the country to arrest all Mormons found living in polygamy was still green in their memory. Since that time the visits of federal officers had been few and far between. ....

We were all in a hard place. They did not know the new forest laws and I did not know the country. They had settled it and felt it was theirs. I was here to tell them they must pay hard cash for the use of the range and their herds must be limited to the capacity of the range. Gentile and government man, I was under double suspicion in the eyes of these clannish folk.

Though respectful and courteous, the Mormons made me feel keenly that I was an alien in the land and my presence was on sufferance only. ... It was not an easy task; that of being the first Forest Ranger in the San Juan country.

Much of my time was spent on the mountain ridges posting fire notices and familiarizing myself with the country. At night I sat alone in a cold room working up reports or ventured into the big living room and took a silent place on the edge of the Perkins family circle. In later years I came to know the true worth of those rugged Mormon settlers, as industrious, law abiding and loyal people whose friendship, once won, was well worth the price.



John Riis,  
Forest Ranger

One evening I was stretched on the bunk reading when I heard the tramp of many feet outside and in through the door marched Parley Butts, a cattle man from Bluff City with four husky sons in his wake. Parley carried his Winchester, some of the rest were armed, and their long spurs clanked on the board floor of the cabin. They were fine specimens of the "Bluff City Tigers" as the cowmen from that section were called.

Parley took the only chair. The rest squatted around the walls of the cabin, sitting on their heels in cowboy style. I knew them by reputation. Parley Butts had taken an active part in more than one brush between the Indians and the cowmen. He was one of the early settlers. They had come for trouble or it was a case of bluff pure and simple. Parley opened up with the regulation protest against the Forest Service and its policies in general. It ran something like this:

"We cowmen came into this country before Uncle Sam even thought it worth lookin' at. When God finished makin' the world he had a lot of rocks left over an' he threw them down here in a pile in Utah. But we took this country and settled it. We killed off the Indians and the rattlesnakes and built roads and bridges to get in here. We've put up with all hell and damnation to make our homes here and never a bit of help did we get from Uncle Sam while we were doing it."

"Now, when we get the country halfway fit to live in, you come in here and tell us how much grass we can have and that we got to pay for it and we can put our cows on this here mountain for so long and no longer, by God!"

"We will like hell! This is our country and we aim to keep it! Parley Butts has seven sons and each of them can use a Winchester. We've fought the Indians and the rattlesnakes and I guess, by heck, we can fight Uncle Sam!"

*How'd young John Riis make out as a pioneer forest ranger in the West? In Utah and in California and in Oregon?*

*To find out, OldSmokeys may order a copy of the 2008 edition of his 1937 book **Ranger Trails** at the special price of just \$10.00 per copy postpaid. Five dollars will be donated to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, and the rest will cover shipping and handling costs.*

*To order, send name, address, and a check for \$10.00 per copy to:*

Les Joslin  
2356 NW Great Place  
Bend, Oregon 97703



*The Life and Times of a Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger in the West on the La Sel, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes National Forests, 1907-1913*

*Introduction by Gifford Pinchot*

*Reprint Prologue and Epilogue by Martha Riis Moore and Les Joslin*



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