



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2016

President's Message—Ron Boehm

The afternoon of May 15, 2016, was pleasant even if a bit rainy. There were 54 people who attended the OldSmokeys' annual Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club and enjoyed an excellent meal and great company. **Al Matecko** completed his three-year commitment which included one year as President-elect, one year as President, and one year as Past President, and was thanked by President **Jim Rice** for his service. Jim became Past President, **Tom Mulder** became our President-elect, and I assumed the task of chairing the monthly Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors meetings and other duties as the President of the OldSmokeys. You will read about and see more of the events of that day on pages 2 and 3 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* as **Les Joslin** was there with notebook, pen, and camera. **Paul Enberg** was on hand to take many candid shots during the festivities.

During the past year I got to observe and participate with the OldSmokeys leadership. It has been an educational experience working with Al Matecko, Jim Rice, and the dedicated Board of Directors and other committee members. I am looking forward to working with Tom Mulder and Jim Rice in the year ahead.

Our next major event will be the annual Summer Picnic in the Woods at BLM's Wildwood Recreation Area on Friday, August 12. We anticipate another enjoyable picnic lunch prepared by culinary arts students from Timber Lake Job Corps Conservation Center. Once again, since Job Corps students cannot serve alcoholic beverages, you are invited to bring your own. I am looking forward to seeing you all there. You may bring family and friends with you, and reconnect with old friends.

Ron Boehm



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

See Page 3 to Sign Up Now for August 12 Picnic!



Forum

U.S. Forest Service Centralization

Immediately behind land management issues, [the most important issue affecting the U.S. Forest Service] is the organizational issue of centralized, top heavy focus.

It seems abundantly clear, even to the casual observer, that strength on the ground, with direct interaction with local interested parties, will lead to the wave of the future. And the Forest Service is moving in the opposite direction.

C'mon folks, load the strength where the battles are waged. It is amazing that so much time has passed with no apparent recognition that distant communications cannot get it done. It is disheartening.

—Mack Moore

*Editor's Note: Mack wrote in support of Zane Smith's **Forum** piece "National Forest Lumping is Wrong" in the Spring 2016 OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

Mountain Bikers Covet Wilderness Trails

Mountain bikers who covet access to wilderness trails denied them by the Wilderness Act of 1964 exclusion of any "form of mechanical transport" within congressionally-designated wilderness have long sought access to wilderness for their mode of trail travel most consider inconsistent with permitted foot and horseback travel as well as with wilderness values.

Apparently recognizing that mountain biking does not "fit between the guard rails" of the Wilderness Act—as an editorial in my local Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper, *The Bulletin*, last September 19 claimed it did—mountain bikers who cannot accept that have taken another tact.

In proposed federal legislation euphemistically titled the "Human Powered Wildlands Travel Management Act" a Colorado-based nonprofit group called the Sustainable Trails Coalition proposes to overturn the Wilderness Act exclusion of bicycle travel on wilderness trails. And, just to expand their vision, they throw in such trails as Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail segments within national forests but outside congressionally-designated wildernesses from which U.S. Forest Service regulations ban bicycle as well as motorcycle travel.

According to an April 2016 Eugene *Register-Guard* editorial opposing the measure, the Sustainable Trails Coalition thinks its proposed legislation has a good chance of success because "We will be working with a Republican-controlled U.S. House and Senate that philosophically favor limited government and oppose severe and overzealous regulation...."

Writing in support of the *Register-Guard* editorial opposition to accommodation of bicycles in congressionally-designated wilderness, OldSmokey **Zane Smith** urged that "inventoried roadless areas should be carefully considered not only for Wilderness [designation], but for other appropriate back country uses such as mountain biking." Such an approach would address mountain bikers' concerns for expanding access to public lands without doing violence to wilderness values.

—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 Installed New Officers at May 15 PNWFSA Spring Banquet

Fifty-four OldSmokeys gathered at beautiful Charbonneau Country Club on Sunday, May 15, to enjoy the annual Spring Banquet at which OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** relieved OldSmokey **Jim Rice** as President of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA).

"To be seen, stand up. To be heard, speak up. To be appreciated, shut up," Ron intoned in perhaps history's shortest inaugural address before he sat down.

Newly-elected President-elect OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** assumed that office, and Jim relieved OldSmokey **Al Matecko** of the Past President position.

And thus the PNWFSA 2016-2017 leadership team took office.



The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association leadership team for 2016-2017 is (from left to right) President Ron Boehm, Past President Jim Rice, and President-elect Tom Mulder.



Fifty-four OldSmokeys—while a smaller-than-usual Spring Banquet crowd—still managed to fill the Charbonneau Country Club dining room with camaraderie and good cheer.

Photographs by Paul Enberg



In addition to enjoying each other's company and a sumptuous buffet dinner, lucky OldSmokeys won a variety of door prizes—bottles and books—and OldSmokeys **Don & Mickey Nearhood** won the beautiful wooden bowl crafted by Old-Smokey **Mike Ash** and raffled off to benefit the PNWFSA's Grant/Project Fund.



Past President Jim Rice awarded a door prize, one of Les Joslin's Forest Service heritage books, and Don and Mickey Nearhood showed off their beautiful Mike Ash wooden bowl.

And the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association began another year of service to "the greatest good."

OldSmokeys Must Reserve for PNWFSA's Summer Picnic in the Woods by August 5

By the time you receive this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and read this, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Summer Picnic in the Woods on Friday, August 12, will be less than a month off!

That means it's time now to reserve your place or places for this highlight of the OldSmokey social calendar to be enjoyed again this summer at the beautiful BLM Wildwood Recreation Area about 40 miles east of Portland, Oregon, on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag.

The picnic begins at 11:00 a.m. with socializing. Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m.

Again this summer, Job Corps culinary students will cater the picnic at the low price of just **\$15.00** per person (or \$7.50 per grandchild 12 or under). Job Corps students are not authorized to serve alcoholic beverages; you may bring your own.

If you have any questions, please telephone OldSmokey **Rick Larson**, PNWFSA Picnic Chair, at 541-380-0497 or e-mail him at <rlarson@gorge.net>.

***Use the registration form below
NOW to sign up for the Friday,
August 12, 2016, PNWFSA
Summer Picnic in the Woods
not later than August 5!***



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS—AUGUST 12, 2016

BLM Wildwood Recreation Area, U.S. Highway 26, Welches, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

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

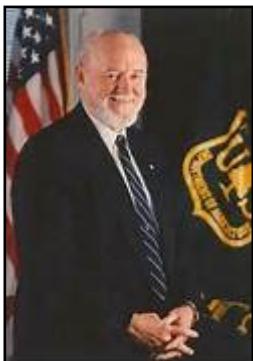
Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at **\$15.00** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

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

Please send your reservation form to be received not later than August 5, 2016!

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

OldSmokey and 13th Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas Died on May 26



OldSmokey **Jack Ward Thomas, Ph.D.**, a distinguished wildlife biologist who served as thirteenth Chief of the U.S. Forest Service from December 1, 1993, to November 29, 1996, died peacefully at his Montana home on May 26, 2016. He was 81.

A memorial service and celebration of his life is being planned for Missoula probably in August.

Jack is remembered in the *Memories* section on page 13.

OldSmokeys Lost Former Presidents Hirl and Poppino During Spring 2016



Assistant Regional Engineer **Phil Hirl** (second from left) joined (from left to right) Forest Supervisor **Neal Arsenault**, Bend Ranger District Recreation Assistant **Arlie Holm**, and Region 6 Recreation Director **Lyle Laverty** at the 1989 dedication of the Cascade Lakes National Forest Scenic Byway on the Deschutes National Forest. Arlie and Lyle are OldSmokeys.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

Two OldSmokeys who served as President of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) died this spring.

OldSmokey **Phil Hirl**, 78, died March 15, 2016, of cancer. Phil served as President from 2001 to 2003, and also as Archivist from 1997 to 2002. He was a regular at PNWFSA monthly meetings and luncheons and other OldSmokey events.

OldSmokey **John Poppino**, 84, died April 14, 2016, following a fall while working on his Lazy RB Tree Farm. John was 2007-2008 PNWFSA President and one of two regular photographers at most OldSmokey events.

Phil and John are remembered in the *Memories* section on page 12.

John Poppino



OldSmokeys May Plan Now for 2018 Forest Service “Reunion at the Cradle” in Beautiful Asheville, North Carolina

“U.S. Forest Service retirees, employees, and friends from throughout the United States will gather in Asheville, North Carolina, from September 24 through 28, 2018, for a week of renewing friendships and visiting the birthplace of American forestry” according to Sid Haggard, deputy chair of the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association team putting on the “Reunion at the Cradle” not far from the Cradle of Forestry on the Pisgah National Forest.

The venue for the reunion will be the Crown Plaza Resort just a mile from Asheville’s city center. This facility has guest rooms, 11 meeting rooms, and 34,000 square feet of meeting space including a large exposition center. Asheville is surrounded by forest history including the Cradle of Forestry at which Carl Schenck convened the nation’s first forestry school, the Biltmore estate on which Gifford Pinchot managed the forestlands, and eastern North America’s highest point atop Mount Mitchell among a plethora of field trip opportunities in country known for its fall color.

Registration is expected to begin as soon as September 2016, and hotel reservations are expected to be accepted in September 2017 (not until one year prior to the reunion). Reunion organizers encourage everyone to submit their registrations as soon as the process and forms are ready—even during 2016 and 2017—to give the planning team information about the number of attendees to expect useful for planning and preparing for an outstanding reunion.

Reunion information will be available in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and *OldSmokeys eNotes* as well as the Reunion website at <<http://2018.fsreunions.org>>.

Prepared from “Forest Service Reunion 2018” provided by Sid Haggard of the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association.

OldSmokeys Will Find Smokejumper Exhibit and Ranger Station Exhibit at The High Desert Museum This Summer

In addition to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station exhibit, now open for its eighth summer, OldSmokeys who visit The High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, this summer will see a new smokejumper exhibit.

“Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky” opened at The High Desert Museum on June 4 to run there through February 12, 2017. Developed by a Springfield, Oregon, museum in co-operation with the National Smokejumper Association, this exhibit tells the story of more than 75 years of smokejumping and its role in combatting wildfires in the United States.

The smokejumper exhibit explores the history and evolution of smokejumping over those years as it highlights changes in smokejumping practices and technology. It also tells the broader story of wildland firefighting in the Pacific Northwest and examines some of the major fires in the region over the last 100 years.

Continued on Page 6



OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees gathered on May 20, 2016, at the beautiful new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station on the Deschutes National Forest for another occasional meeting with Forest Supervisor John Allen.

Photograph by Dennis Dietrich

OldSmokeys, Other Retirees Met with Deschutes National Forest Supervisor at New Cascade Lakes Welcome Station

Deschutes National Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **John Allen** hosted 19 U.S. Forest Service retirees—about two-thirds of them OldSmokeys—at a Friday, May 20, update of current national forest affairs and opportunities for retiree involvement. The event was coordinated with the forest supervisor by OldSmokey **Dennis Dietrich**, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) area representative for the Deschutes.

Forest Supervisor Allen began the get-together by introducing the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station at which the meeting was held. Opened to serve the public just three weeks before the meeting, the facility is strategically located to serve visitors traveling to two of the national forest's more popular and heavily-used recreation areas as well as other needs. Among the many whose efforts spanned the dozen years from the facility's conception to its completion, the forest supervisor recognized OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, the forest's landscape architect and scenic byway program leader, for her persevering leadership of the project.

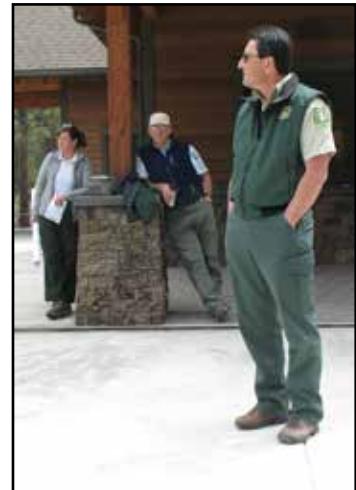
As his guests enjoyed their brown-bag lunches, Forest Supervisor Allen described the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project through which the Forest Service and community stakeholders work together to restore major areas within the Deschutes National Forest to healthier, more resilient conditions through balanced, science-driven projects that also produce forest products. He emphasized how community involvement in the collaborative benefits community understanding and acceptance of active forest management and restoration projects even when near or within popular recreation areas. One of the Deschutes collaborative projects is a significant logging operation adjacent to the new welcome station.

After Deschutes National Forest foresters Pete Powers and Shannon Berg described and answered questions about how this

collaborative project works, the forest supervisor and the two foresters led the group into the woods to see it in action. On that day they witnessed an excavator fitted with a ripping tooth and attached subsoiling wing subsoiling skid trails to promote ground cover vegetation restoration following logging. The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project is one of 20 landscape restoration demonstration projects in the nation established by Congress with Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 which established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

As the event ended, Forest Supervisor Allen listed a variety of projects retirees could volunteer to accomplish on the forest. Among these were opportunities ranging from rehabilitation of forest signs, maintaining forest trails, and serving as wilderness information specialists to posting blue-green algae signs at affected lakes and processing special use permit administrative data.

Get-togethers such as this evidence the level of interest Forest Service retirees retain in the National Forest System on which they spent their careers.



Forest Supervisor John Allen and foresters Shannon Berg and Pete Powers.



OldSmokeys David Summer (left) and Phil Cruz (center) share observations on the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project as they and the other attendees watch the subsoiler do its part in the forest restoration process.

Photograph by Dennis Dietrich

OldSmokeys remain relevant to and continue to play supporting roles in national forest management.





"High Desert Museum" continued from page 4

As they arrive at the High Desert Museum, OldSmokeys and all other Museum visitors see the American flag proudly flying over the historic High Desert Ranger Station sited between the entrance drive and the parking lots. There, again this summer as they have every summer since 2009, OldSmokeys and other Museum volunteers tell the story of the roles the Forest Service and the National Forest System played—and continue to play—in the evolution of the Old West of natural resource exploitation into the New West of sustainable natural resource management.

In addition to these two exhibits of special interest to all OldSmokeys, the High Desert Museum's panoply of natural and cultural history stories focused on the American West, its wildlife populations and human endeavors, captivate all.

Summer hours at the High Desert Museum are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except for July 4 when the museum is closed. General admission is \$15.00. Admission for visitors age 65 and over is \$12.00, and ages 5-12 is \$7.00. Children age 4 and younger are admitted free.

OldSmokeys Starred on Retiree Panel at Region 6 District Ranger Summit in Bend

OldSmokeys **Jim Golden, Ranotta McNair, and Susan Skalski** shared wisdom born of experience with Pacific Northwest Region district rangers at the April 12-14, 2016, Region 6 District Ranger Summit "Restoration and Resiliency" held in Bend, Oregon, and reported in the *Forest Service News* section on page 10.

Jim retired as Deputy Regional Forester of the Pacific Northwest Region and on May 1, 2016, completed a 6.5-year term as Chair, National Association of Forest Service Retirees. Ranotta retired as Idaho Panhandle National Forests supervisor, and Susan retired as Stanislaus National Forest supervisor.

OldSmokey **Sally Collins**, who served as forest supervisor of the Bend-based Deschutes National Forest and whose final Forest Service assignment was as Associate Chief, was unable to participate as scheduled because of her husband John's major surgery.

OldSmokey Jim Golden Left NAFSR Helm on May 1; James L. "Jim" Caswell Named as Successor

OldSmokey **Jim Golden** left the position of Chair, National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) on May 1, 2016, after 6.5 years at the helm of the leading advocate of the National Forest System and its health, the U.S. Forest Service and its mission, and the people of the Forest Service. Jim will remain editor of *The Lookout*, the NAFSR newsletter he co-edited with and then inherited from the late OldSmokey **John Marker**, "for the near future."

James L. "Jim" Caswell, a veteran public land manager, has accepted the position of NAFSR Chair. A former Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Caswell's career has included extensive service in senior U.S. Forest Service and other agency positions. Complete details will follow in the Fall 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Jim Golden assumed the NAFSR Chair from former Associate Chief of the Forest Service George Leonard at the 2009 Missoula, Montana, Forest Service reunion. "I was happy to

serve as the Chair for that time," Jim reflected on his service. "I believe that we improved our relationship with the Forest Service to the point we can say we are both friend and watchdog."

"We forcefully and gallantly defended the Forest Service shield from a misguided attempt by the Department of Agriculture to make the Forest Service just another agency, he added. Jim didn't mention that he and other NAFSR leaders spearheaded Forest Service retirees' adamant and successful opposition to defeat the late 2014-early 2015 initiative that the Associated Press termed a "plan to spend millions on [a] public relations campaign to better its image" through "rebranding" that made embarrassing national news. Also, under his leadership, NAFSR endorsed the Agency to Match the Mountains effort to establish a week-long Basic Forest Officer Course.

"In that time." Jim recalled of the 6.5 years he served as Chair, "we also grew [NAFSR] membership by fifty percent. And, with the leadership of [OldSmokey and] Executive Director **Darrell Kenops**, we also greatly expanded the list of partners that we worked with routinely to work toward our common goals. In general, I would say that NAFSR turned its sights more toward the future and focused less on the past. For that I am proud."

OldSmokeys Opt for One-Year Test of PNWFSA Payments by PayPal

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at their May 27, 2016, meeting approved a one-year trial use of PayPal as an online alternative method for OldSmokeys to pay annual dues, pay for PNWFSA activities such as the annual Spring Banquet and Summer Picnic, and donate to PNWFSA funds.

Details of this trial and its progress will follow in future issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey Al Sorseth Appears Twice in *Images of America: Fire Lookouts of Oregon*

Cheryl Hill's recently published book *Images of America: Fire Lookouts of Oregon*, announced in the *Books* section of your Spring 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, includes two references to OldSmokey **Al Sorseth** during his fire lookout days.

"Al Sorseth had just moved to Sweet Home in 1938, escaping the Dust Bowl in North Dakota." Cheryl wrote in the page 43 entry on the Twin Butte Lookout on the Willamette National Forest. "He lucked into a job at Twin butte that summer when the previous lookout was responding to a fire, fell off a cliff, and was too injured to return to duty. Sorseth's supervisor trained him how to do the job over the telephone."

And, in her page 41 piece on that national forest's Tidbits Mountain Lookout, she reported: "Al Sorseth was stationed here in 1941 and remembers that, due to the lack of roads at the time, it was an 18-mile hike to get to the lookout."

As announced in the Spring 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* it would be, Cheryl's book was released in late March—after the spring issue deadline—and is now available at bookstores—your editor got his copy at Barnes & Noble in Bend, Oregon, other outlets including the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp, Oregon, and from the publisher at <www.arcadiapublishing.com> as well as <Amazon.com>.



OldSmokeys Treasurer Dick Bennett Presents 2015 PNWFSA Financial Report

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association has continued to do well financially in 2015. The two annual events, the May banquet and August picnic, were well attended. We funded publication of four quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletters* and our annual *OldSmokeys Membership Directory* and funded four grants. There was a \$3,000 decrease in our year-end balance due mainly to increased funding of our grant program.

In 2015 we funded four grants totaling \$8,985. A grant of \$2,975 was made to Discover Your Northwest for the Oregon Highway 58 Viewpoint Restoration Project on the Deschutes National Forest. The Friends of Fish Lake received a \$3,000 grant to complete restoration of the Commissary Cabin at the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest. A unique project of the Mount St. Helens Institute on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to establish an interview and indexing process for the retention of Forest Service social history was granted \$1,860. The final grant of \$1,150 went to the Forest Fire Lookout Association to help rehabilitate the cab of the Big Butte Lookout on the Umatilla National Forest.

The devastating 2015 fire season resulted in a number of Forest Service employees on the Okanogan and Malheur national forests sustaining losses to homes and property. Funds from the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund totaling \$7,000 were given to 12 families. When OldSmokeys learned how many families their PNWFSA was assisting, a flood of donations more than covered the funds disbursed.

Member donations during the year included \$471 to our Operating fund, \$910 to our Grant/Project Fund, and \$8,840 to our Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund. The PNWFSA Board of Directors thanked OldSmokeys for their generosity.

Because of a concern for interest rate fluctuations, we changed the mix of our investments to approximately 50 percent in a short-term bond fund, 25 percent in a total stock market index fund, and 25 percent in a money market fund. The year-end balance in our investment account was essentially unchanged from 2014.

—Dick Bennett

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2015

Assets		
Checking	\$	4,697
Investments	\$	128,833
Total Assets	\$	133,530
Equity		
Operating Fund	\$	6,769
Raffle/Auction Fund	\$	2,501
Grant/Project Fund	\$	710
Moyer Memorial Fund	\$	12,104
Lifetime Trust Fund	\$	111,446
Total Equity	\$	133,530

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Statement of Revenue & Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2015

General Operating Income/Expense

Income

Dues Collections for 2015	\$	4,800
Banquet/Picnic Receipts	\$	5,737
Gifts and Donations	\$	401
Forest Service Participating Agreement	\$	4,000
Raffle/Auction Income	\$	831
Fund Transfer Income	\$	5,579
Total Income	\$	21,348

Expenses

Administration	\$	463
Bank and State Fees	\$	211
Tax Return Preparation	\$	425
Liability Insurance	\$	525
Newsletter and Directory	\$	8,677
Technology Expenses	\$	216
Banquet Expenses	\$	2,915
Picnic Expenses	\$	3,122
Gifts and Donations	\$	225
Fund Transfer Expense	\$	60
Total Expenses	\$	16,839
Net Income Less Expenses	\$	4,509

Restricted Fund Income/Expense

Grant/Project Fund

Income

Book Sales/Raffle	\$	339
Gifts and Donations	\$	910
Fund Transfer Income	\$	2,163
Total Income	\$	3,412

Expenses

Friends of Fish Lake	3000
Mount St. Helens Institute	1860
Discover Your Northwest	2975
Forest Fire Lookout Association	1150
Total Grants Made	\$
	8,985
Net Income Less Expenses	\$
	(5,573)

Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund

Income

Donations	\$	8,840
Expense		
Emergency Payments	\$	7,000

Net Income Less Expenses

\$ 1,840

Lifetime Fund

Income

Lifetime Dues	\$	3,680
Interest/Dividends	\$	2,528
Realized Capital Gain (loss)	\$	(2,620)
Total Income	\$	3,588

Expenses

Transfer to Grant/Project Fund	\$	2,163
Net Income Less Expenses	\$	1,425

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Treasurer Dick Bennett for providing this article and data in a timely and easily formatted manner!



OldSmokeys Say

Law and Order on the National Forests

By Rico Burgess

I'm proud and fortunate to have served a U.S. Forest Service career. The outfit has many men and women who take ownership in and have a passion for the Service and its work. Unfortunately, it also has some who don't.

It grieves me to hear and read about Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) incidents around the nation that seem bazaar and heavy-handed. Stories of ticket quotas, police dogs straining at their chains, and law enforcement officers (LEOs) exiting vehicles with "automatic weapons" to confront senior citizen woodcutters—and tragic "line of duty" deaths—dominate water cooler sessions, editorials, and newspaper headlines. These reflect negatively on the Forest Service as a whole, and Smokey Bear will have to prevent more than forest fires if we are not careful. Supervisor management is ultimately responsible and sets the tone.

In my perspective, LEI started losing credibility after the "straight-line" reorganization mandated by Congress. Many LEOs and special agents (SAs) no longer saw themselves as Forest Service and having any obligation to the local ranger district or national forest. And many LEOs and SAs welcomed this "freedom" and more or less alienated the local line officers they previously served. "I don't work for the ranger" or "I don't work for fire" or "I don't work for timber" or "I don't work for recreation" became their mantra. I have heard all of these. This view was and still is reinforced by LRI supervisors who believe the same. It doesn't take long for a district ranger or forest supervisor to pay lip service to LEI but privately wish they didn't take up space in their offices.

This is exacerbated in the new LEI generation taking the place of us "old dogs." They may have police skills but neither training nor experience in any natural resource field and have little interest in acquiring skills and knowledge in timber, fire, wildlife, recreation, archaeology, etc. Many lack working knowledge of Forest Service history or their assigned resource areas, and are not encouraged to learn same by supervisors who lack historical perspective and see little value in it. This makes it more difficult for the LEO or SA to interact with local ranchers, loggers, lodge owners, forest permittees, and others—especially Native Americans—who have historic interest in national forest resources. To remedy this, the Forest Service desperately needs a "Forest Service Academy" or "boot camp" in which new personnel—especially LEI personnel—engage the culture, history, mission, structure, ethics, and expectations of the agency. New personnel I have been assigned to mentor had never heard of the Forest Service until a recruiter in college approached them. Even with some training, they cannot be thrown into some community east or west and expected to thrive—especially if they have no personal ownership or passion for the land and its people.

I and others perceive that LEI recruitment could be greatly improved by looking within the agency at young men and



Rico Burgess

women with a few successful years in fire, timber, recreation, etc., who aspire to serve as LEOs or SAs. Sure, diverse candidates and experienced law enforcement officers from other agencies should continue to be recruited, but recruiting some LEI within the Service would round out a diverse workforce and improve effectiveness and morale.

Finally, I implore leadership not to permit Forest Service LEI to become the "jack-booted thugs" the public sometimes sees in its local, county, state, and federal agencies which tend to look and act like military "Gestapo." Too many LEI want and wear "tactical" gear, display camouflaged shotguns and "automatic rifles" along with backup weapons on their legs and inside their vests, a couple knives in their waist belts, and a full duty belt with baton, taser, handgun and four extra magazines. Clip on a mini camcorder, insert an earphone, and add stylish sweepback sunglasses to complete your LEO. Throw in a K-9 unit with a dog that won't quit barking and it's no wonder folks at the campground, ski resort, or logging show become upset fast. And now the district ranger or forest supervisor has to deal with a situation over which he or she has no control. There is a time and a place for all that, but LEOs need to learn the time and place!

Whatever happened to the friendly "ranger"? What happened to the "ranger" who could identify wildflowers and caution about campfires, identify mud-covered logs at a landing and assist with timber sale inspections? What happened to the "ranger" who helped out the wildlife folks during hunting season? What happened to the "ranger" who pointed out a great picnic spot? What happened to the "ranger" the district ranger could depend on for assistance even if it didn't involve law enforcement?

Editor's Note: OldSmokey Rico Burgess knows what he's talking about. Straight out of high school in Beaverton, Oregon, Rico served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 to 1970 with a 1969 to 1970 tour in Vietnam as a combat correspondent. Rico and Leah moved to Bend in 1973 where he earned an associate in science degree in forestry at Central Oregon Community College in 1975. He worked a couple U.S. Forest Service summers as a student, then as a logging supervisor for Brooks-Scanlon and DAW Forest Products from 1975 to 1985. After two years with the family lift-truck business, Rico joined the Forest Service and served as a timber harvest inspector from 1987 to 1990 when he began the Forest Service law enforcement career from which he retired on the Deschutes National Forest in 2010. During that career, Rico served as a security manager on a National Incident Management Team for many years and worked incidents from Alaska to Florida. He was sent by the Forest Service Office of International Programs to help Liberia's Forest Development Authority (FDA) and partner non-governmental organizations develop collaborative law enforcement techniques as the agency reorganized after a prolonged civil war. He was detailed to drug interdiction along the U.S. border with Mexico and to a Rainbow Family gathering. As a member of many regional timber sale audit teams Rico interviewed and had many "off the record" discussions with LEOs and SAs and developed a unique perspective on past and present Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation (LEI) operations.

Have you got something to say? If so, write it up, send it in, and be heard!



Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service and Partners Gear Up for Significant 2016 Wildfire Season

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell met in Washington, D.C., with Forest Service regional foresters on May 17 to discuss preparations for this summer's anticipated significant wildfire potential. They met even as the 2016 fire season had begun with five times more acres already burned than by the same time last year during 2015's record-setting fire season.

"The 2016 wildfire season is off to a worrisome start. Southern California, the Great Basin in Nevada, and portions of the Southwest, and even Florida and Hawaii are particularly vulnerable this year. In California, more than 40 million trees have died, becoming dry fuel for wildfire," said Secretary Vilsack. "Congress must take action now to ensure that we, and ultimately the firefighters we ask so much of, have the resources to do the restoration and wildfire prevention work necessary to keep our forests healthy."

Chief Tidwell underscored the Forest Service's commitment to ensuring the protection of firefighters' lives. Last year, seven members of the Forest Service firefighting team were lost in the line of duty, and 4,500 homes were damaged or destroyed. This year the Forest Service is able to mobilize 10,000 firefighters, 900 engines, 300 helicopters, 21 airtankers, two waterscoopers, and over 30 aerial supervision fixed-wing aircraft. Together with federal, state, and local partners, the agency is positioned to respond wherever needed.

"The job of fighting wildfires has become increasingly difficult due to the effects of climate change, chronic droughts, and development within wildland-urban interface areas," Chief Tidwell said. "We must do what is necessary to ensure we have the resources to perform restoration and wildfire prevention work essential to keep our forests healthy."

Longer wildfire season, exhausted wildfire budget

Climate change has led to fire seasons that are, on average, 78 days longer than they were in 1970 and, on average, the number of acres burned each year has doubled since 1980. As a result, the Forest Service's firefighting budget is regularly exhausted before the end of the wildfire season, forcing the Forest Service to abandon critical restoration and capital improvement projects in order to suppress extreme fires.

The cost of the Forest Service's wildfire suppression reached a record \$243 million in a one-week period during the height of suppression activity in August 2015. With a record 52 percent of the Forest Service's budget dedicated to fire suppression activities, compared with just 16 percent in 1995, the Forest Service's firefighting budget was exhausted in 2015, forcing a transfer of funds away from forest restoration projects that would help reduce the risk of future fires, in order to cover the high costs of battling blazes.

Last December, Secretary Vilsack told members of Congress that he will not authorize transfers from restoration and resilience funding this fire season. Instead, he directed the Forest Service to use funds as they were intended. For example, restoration work through programs like the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and implementation of the National Cohesive Strategy are reducing the size and severity of

wildfires. The Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior or natural resource management agencies, and other partners are working with at-risk communities to promote community and homeowner involvement in mitigating wildfire risk, reducing hazardous fuels, and accomplishing treatments that increase forest health and resilience.

A forest service or a fire service?

"We keep setting records we don't want to see beat. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, over the last 10 years we've seen 16 of the most historically significant wildfires on record," Secretary Vilsack said. "Only focused prevention and forest restoration work can help us turn the corner, so I have directed the Forest Service to aggressively use the funding provided in the 2016 fiscal year budget to support forest management, restoration, research, and partnership work to help get ahead of the severe wildfire problem and to focus on providing other services that the American public expects from the Forest Service."

Even a so-called normal year is far worse than it used to be. On average, wildfires burn twice as much land area each year as they did 40 years ago, and the threat continues to increase.

Over the past two years, \$237 million has been permanently shifted from the Forest Service non-fire budget, forcing abandonment of critical restoration and capital improvement projects in order to suppress extreme wildfires. This loss in funding took place before a single fire broke out this year.

For the first time in its 111-year history, over half of the Forest Service's 2015 budget was designated to fight wildfires, compared with just 16 percent in 1995. Last year's fire season was the most expensive fire season in the agency's history, costing more than \$2.6 billion on fire alone and again raising the questions: Is the U.S. Forest Service becoming the U.S. Fire Service?

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service May 17, 2016, News Release "USDA Forest Service and Partners Gear Up for Significant 2016 Wildfire Season."

U.S. Forest Service Fire Borrowing Addressed by Bipartisan Draft Legislation

A group of U.S. senators from both parties has released draft legislation to change the budgeting of federal money for wildland firefighting.

Senators Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon), Lisa Murkowski (Republican-Alaska), Maria Cantwell (Democrat-Washington), and Mike Crapo (Republican-Idaho) released draft legislation of the proposed Wildfire Budgeting, Response and Forest Management Act of 2016 on Wednesday, May 25, that calls for ending the practice of "fire borrowing" that transfers funds from other priority projects such as fire prevention and forest restoration to pay for fire suppression.

The draft law calls for adjusting budget caps to allow a transfer of funds to the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior when fire suppression funds have been used up, according to a news release from the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The agencies could also invest any excess suppression funds in years with fewer fires into fuel reduction work in order to reduce threats of wildfires near communities that are at risk and to protect certain watersheds.

Prepared from "An attempt to change budgeting" by Hilary Corrigan in the Friday, May 27, 2016 issue of Bend, Oregon's daily, The Bulletin, and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Will Distribute Rural Schools Payments in 2016

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced on May 18, 2016, that “the investment of more than \$272 million will go to 41 states and Puerto Rico this year in support of local schools, roads, and forests through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) administered by the U.S. Forest Service.”

“The Secure Rural Schools program has allowed USDA to work directly with community leaders to meet rural communities’ unique education, transportation, and conservation needs,” said Secretary Vilsack. “This support is part of the Administration’s ongoing commitment [to] help rural communities remain self-sustaining and prosperous.”

The payments from the Forest Service may be used to support public schools and roads, to help maintain and improve the health of forests, and for other county needs like implementation of “Firewise Communities” projects, development of community wildfire protection plans, and reimbursements for emergency services on national forests. Forest projects are reviewed and recommended by resource advisory committees made up of local residents working together to improve the environment and to help provide jobs in rural communities.

“I’m extremely pleased that the Forest Service is once again participating in this essential program,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “As we’ve seen repeatedly in past years, the Secure Rural Schools program not only provides funding for schools and roads, but also provides funding for conservation projects recommended by the collaborative resource advisory committees.”

The Secure Rural Schools local resource advisory committees (RACs) provide the public with opportunities to collaborate on the management of national forests and grasslands. This year almost \$27 million of the SRS funding will be used to complete conservation projects on federal lands proposed by the local RACs. SRS increases educational opportunities and contributes to local economies through the jobs for implementation of local projects and the increased recreational opportunities those projects support.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service May 18, 2016, News Release “USDA Announces Rural Schools Payments.”

U.S. Forest Service Region 6 Ranger Summit Held in Bend

Regional Forester and OldSmokey Jim Pena welcomed Pacific Northwest Region district rangers to the 2016 Region 6 District Ranger Summit in Bend, Oregon, which began in April 12 sunshine and ended with April 14 snow in that beautiful city of 87,000 souls at the eastern foot of the Cascade Range.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, other national and regional agency leaders, and three OldSmokeys comprising a retiree panel joined about 45 district rangers from throughout Oregon and Washington for sessions of the “Restoration and Resiliency” themed meeting at the new Hampton Inn on the Deschutes River in Bend’s beautiful Old Mill District.

Panel discussions centered on the value of U.S. Forest Service officers sustaining their connections with the communities they serve and, of course, sustaining services for increasing numbers of visitors and users with fewer resources.

Feature

Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Photographer Fred Cleator Preserved Ranger Life on the Umatilla in the 1930s



Fred Cleator

This early 1930s district ranger on the Umatilla National Forest is shown living the life and doing the work that appealed to many who chose U.S. Forest Service careers as their way of life.



Stocking fire tool caches was a springtime job on the Umatilla National Forest and national forests throughout the West. During his 35 Forest Service years, Fred Cleator captured the spirit and substance of life and work on the Umatilla National Forest and other Pacific Northwest national forests.



Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren and Membership Database Manager Bill Funk*

Brown, Jerry J. – Deceased March 2016; Patricia survives

Buckman, Robert E. – Deceased April 2, 2016

Chaudet, Mollie & Curtis Juhl – New members: 65915 Twin Bridges Rd, Bend, OR 97703

Telephone: 541-384-4839 E-mail: blarney@web4mix.com

Fitzer, Linda K. – New member: PO Box 242, Crescent, OR 97733

Telephone: 541-433-2041 E-mail: Fitzlink@aol.com

Hirl, Philip E. – Deceased March 15, 2016; Joy survives

Krell, Robert K. – Deceased November 16, 2014

Krell, Patricia Mae – Deceased September 26, 2014; Robert survived for several weeks

Mountz, Tom C. & Dawn M. – New members: 706 NE Lookout Ave, Prineville, OR 97754

Telephone: 541-420-2437 E-mail: moose.706@gmail.com

Poppino, John H. – Deceased April 13, 2016; Mary survives

Roach, Dorothy K. – New member: Lake Leota Senior Care, 16028 NE 184th Pl, Woodinville, WA 98072

E-mail: rdobroman@uno.com

Sorseth, Al & Arlene – Change address: Sheldon Park Assisted Living, 2440 Willakenzie Rd, Apt 242, Eugene, OR

97401 Change telephone: 541-852-4619

Styskel, Edward W. & Elly – New members: 545 Quail Loop, Newport, WA 99156

Telephone: 541-678-1144 E-mail: edstyskel@gmail.com

Thomas, Jack Ward – Deceased May 26, 2016

Williams, Loretta Elaine – Deceased August 22, 2014

New Members

Linda K. Fitzer of Crescent, Oregon, joined May 6, 2016. Linda retired from the U.S. Forest Service on November 1, 2012, after 38 years in the U.S. Forest Service on the Deschutes National Forest. Linda began her career as a personnel and mail clerk and then served as a computer clerk before she became a forestry technician involved in timber sale administration. Since retiring, Linda has been reading, knitting, traveling, and playing on the computer.

Mollie Chaudet & Curtis Juhl of Bend, Oregon, joined April 4, 2016. Mollie retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 2012, as a case management specialist on the Deschutes National Forest. She enjoyed a 35-year career in the Forest Service in project planning, NEPA appeals and litigation, wild and scenic rivers, geothermal exploration, community collaboration, timber sale preparation. Curt retired in 2004 from the Deschutes National Forest after a 30-year career in fire and fuels management that began as a smokejumper at the Redmond Air Center. They spend much of their retired time camping, fishing, boating, travelling, and working on home projects.

Tom C. and Dawn M. Mountz of Prineville, Oregon, joined May 9. Tom retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 1, 2011, as safety manager for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests for the last three years of 33 years of in fire management on the Rogue, Willamette, Malheur and Ochoco national forests and 38 fire seasons. “As my brain is pretty full,” Tom responded when asked what he is doing in retirement, “I’m forgetting NEPA in order to retain more fishing information.”

Dorothy K. Roach of Woodinville, Washington, joined April 17, 2016. Dorothy, now 94, served 12 years in the U.S. Forest Service on the Okanogan National Forest as a clerk-typist at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base and then as timber sale clerk on the Twisp Ranger District before she retired in 1985. Dorothy reports herself “enjoying new friends at my senior care home” and “totally relaxing.”

Edward W. “Ed” and Elly Styskel of Newport, Washington, joined May 15, 2016. Ed retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1992 as forest wildlife biologist on the Deschutes National Forest after 29 years of service, 25 of those in Region 6. As a college student, Ed worked early 1960s summers on the Dinkey Creek Ranger District, Sierra National Forest, on tree pruning and thinning, campground maintenance, and firefighting jobs. After college, he classified and mapped rangeland ecosystems in the Goat Rocks, Tatoosh, and Mt. Adams wildernesses on the Trout Lake and Packwood ranger districts, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. In 1967, he began a permanent range conservationist appointment on the Silver Lake Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, followed by promotion to resource assistant responsible for all district functions except timber, fire, engineering, and building maintenance. From 1977 until retirement in 1992, Ed promoted to forest wildlife biologist on the Fremont, Helena, and Deschutes national forests, all of which he considered “the most satisfying of my government career.” During the 13 years since his retirement, Ed established a wildlife and fish management consulting firm with three other agency biologists and contracted for a wide variety of government and private projects in Oregon and Washington. Since 2007, he’s had fun managing his 26 acres of conifer forest and deciduous wetland in northeastern Washington. He also writes articles for a forestry magazine read by almost 4,000 private forestland owners in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

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

Jerry James Brown died March 29, 2016, at age 81. Jerry was born August 5, 1934, in Enid, Oklahoma. He grew up in western Oklahoma, and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1956 where he earned a forestry degree. Jerry and his wife Pat, whom he met at OSU and married in 1955, spent their first summer together at Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona where Jerry worked as a park ranger. They soon moved to the North Umpqua River country of Oregon where Jerry began the U.S. Forest Service career that took him and his family to Mt. Hood, the Olympic Peninsula, and southeastern Oregon. Jerry and Pat lived in Nigeria, West Africa, for a year where Jerry was on a special assignment for the United Nations teaching and mentoring Nigeria’s forestry department about fire control and fire suppression. As fire management officer on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Jerry was involved with the aftermath of the 1980 Mount Saint Helens eruption. Jerry and Pat retired to the Bitterroot Valley of Montana in 1994 where they watched their grandsons grow up and became involved in community affairs. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Jerry was a member of the Lion’s Club as well as the PNWFSA. Survivors include Pat; daughter Kim Selig and son Douglas Brown; and three grandchildren.



Robert Erwin “Bob” Buckman, a retired U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief for Research, died April 2, 2016, at age 89. A native of Wisconsin, Bob attended the University of Minnesota where he earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry in 1950 after serving in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1947, and a master’s degree in forestry in 1953, after again serving in the Army from 1950 to 1952. In the Forest Service, he served a decade at the Lake States Forest Experiment Station laboratory at Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where he quickly rose to project leader, then moved to the WO Division of Timber Management Research. On a Charles H. Ballard Fellowship, Bob earned a second master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University in 1969. Bob left the WO for Portland, Oregon, in 1971 to head the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station where he demonstrated his ability to facilitate action in collaborative settings while at the same time supporting basic research on the biological control of the Douglas-fir tussock moth. Bob returned to the WO in 1975 as Associate Deputy Chief for Research for a year prior to his appointment to the top job and the culmination of his Forest Service career as head of the largest forestry research organization in the world. As Deputy Chief for Research, he was in charge of all studies and experiments conducted under the aegis of the Forest Service during a time when there were nearly a thousand scientists at eight experiment stations, the forest Products Laboratory, the Institute of Tropical Forestry, and nearly a hundred each of field locations and experimental forests and ranges. Throughout his tenure, he dedicated himself to upgrading the quality of forestry research. After his retirement from the Forest Service in 1986, Bob returned to the Pacific Northwest. He took a part-time professorial appointment at Oregon State University in Corvallis where he taught international forestry and forest policy and guided the degree programs of several graduate students. Simultaneously, he served as president of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) from 1986 to 1990. He lived in Corvallis until his death.

Philip Edmond “Phil” Hirl died March 15, 2016, at age 78. Phil was born November 19, 1937, to Lorene Heath, a one-room school teacher, and Edmond Hirl, a ranch hand on the Hirl ranch in Morrow County, Oregon. Phil’s father died when he was six months old, and Phil and his mother spent most of his school years in Toledo, Oregon. Phil graduated as a civil engineer from Oregon State College in June 1960, and married Joy Bonham in August 1960. Phil joined the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, Oregon, in 1962, and served in John Day and Eugene, Oregon, and Redding, California, before he retired as Assistant Regional Engineer for Region 6 in Portland in 1993. Phil became active in the Thirty-Year Club/Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association in which he served as Archivist from 1997 to 2002 and President-elect and President from 2001 to 2003; after which he remained an active leader and advisor. Phil and Joy enjoyed their condo on the Oregon Coast and camping in the Cascades. Survivors include Joy; son Robert Hirl and daughters Kelleen Maniscalco, Corinne Rice, and Tracy Hirl; and five grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: Phil’s death was announced in the Spring 2016 OldSmokeys Newsletter which went to press that day.

Patricia Mae Krell died September 26, 2014, at age 84. Pat was born October 18, 1929, in St. Helens, Oregon. She married Robert K. Krell on May 14, 1949, and they were married for 65 years. Pat worked as an assistant administrator for North Valley

Hospital in Tonasket, Washington, for over 30 years. In her spare time and retirement years she enjoyed gardening, walking, family activities, and especially her grandchildren. Survivors include Robert; four children Ken, Rick, Kathy, and Randy; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: This late notice of Pat Krell’s death was developed from an obituary published in the October 21, 2014, Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune.

Robert K. “Bob” Krell died November 16, 2014, at age 87. He was married to Pat Krell who predeceased him by several weeks.

Editor’s Note: This late notice of Bob Krell’s death was developed from a death notice published in the November 20, 2014, issue of The Wenatchee World. No further information was available.

John Harlan Poppino died April 14, 2016, at age 84, following a fall while working on his tree farm. John was born June 21, 1931, at his grandmother’s house in Portland, Oregon. He grew up in Portland and Estacada, and graduated from Estacada High School. While in high school, John signed on with the U.S. Forest Service as a temporary firefighter in 1947 and the next year began summer work on the Mt. Hood National Forest. After high school, John served four years in the U.S. Air Force; during this service, in Rockville, Indiana, he met Mary Ruth Harphold, and they married on January 29, 1954. They returned to Oregon where John earned a forestry degree at Oregon State College and served summers as a Forest Service fire lookout and forest guard. John’s professional career in the Forest Service included service as assistant district ranger of the Estacada Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest, as an Oregon river basin field party planner in the RO in Portland, and as district ranger of the Sisters Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest. In that position, John was responsible for the combination of the Sisters and Metolius ranger districts into the current Sisters Ranger District and the transaction which created the scenic easement access to the Headwaters of the Metolius scenic viewpoint on private land within the national forest. From the Sisters Ranger District he went to the Malheur National Forest as leader of a study of the John Day River basin to support a Bureau of Reclamation evaluation of water storage potential. John then became that national forest’s assistant forest supervisor for such functions as watershed, land use planning, information and education, etc. He returned to the RO as forester on the Land Use Planning Team. John’s life as a forester continued in retirement. A member of the Society of American Foresters since joining as an Oregon State College student in 1957, John was elected a fellow of the SAF in 2002. He was an ardent OSU Extension supporter and one of its original master woodland managers, a founding member and member of the board of directors of Forests Forever, and 2007-2008 president of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association. He served as interim director and president of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). He was forester and chief laborer on over a hundred acres he inherited in 1971 and managed as the Lazy RB Tree Farm, and he and Mary were twice honored as OSWA’s Tree Farmers of the Year. John was an active member of St. Pauls United Methodist Church, Milwaukie, Oregon, and the Beaver Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. Survivors include Mary; daughters Robin Kuntz and Teri; son Bruce Poppino; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Jack Ward Thomas, the thirteenth Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, died May 26, 2016, at age 81. Jack was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 7, 1934. He earned a B.S. degree in wildlife management at Texas A&M, an M.S. degree in wildlife ecology at West Virginia University in 1969, and a Ph.D. in forestry with an emphasis in natural resource planning at the University of Massachusetts in 1972. After earning his baccalaureate degree, Jack began his long career in wildlife research with the Texas Game and Fish Commission in the late 1950s, and in 1966 joined the U.S. Forest Service in Morgantown, West Virginia, as a research wildlife biologist. In 1969 he moved to the Urban Forestry and Wildlife Research Unit at Amherst, Massachusetts. In 1974, he became the chief research wildlife biologist and project leader at the Blue Mountains Research Laboratory in La Grande, Oregon. There, in addition to the work on elk management for which he is perhaps best remembered, Jack was a member of several late 1980s-early 1990s studies of spotted owl and old growth habitat in the Pacific Northwest. In the spring of 1993, in the wake of President Bill Clinton's forest conference in Portland, Oregon, Jack was named to head the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) to present a resolution based on the best scientific evidence to resolve the spotted owl crisis in the Pacific Northwest and northern California. It was partially as a result of his work on this project that Jack was chosen to succeed Chief F. Dale Robertson as the new Chief of the Forest Service. Amid controversy about how new Chiefs should be appointed, Jack began service as Chief on December 1, 1993, as a political appointee, the first since Gifford Pinchot and Henry Graves, with assurance he would be converted to a career appointment through the Senior Executive Service, through which Chiefs Max Peterson and Robertson were appointed. According to the Forest History Society's profile, Chief Thomas "moved quickly to address a demoralized agency, with the public in opposition to practically anything that the Forest Service proposed to do. The controversy about President Clinton's Forest Plan for the spotted owl region was especially troubling. Yet Thomas supported the implementation of a new ecosystem management approach on the national forests and grasslands." Jack served as Chief until November 29, 1996. On February 10, 1994, during his three years as Chief, his wife Margaret died after a 14-month battle with cancer. Jack left Washington, D.C., for Montana, where he lived in Florence, taught at the University of Montana, and wrote. His recent trilogy of memoirs, published by the Boone and Crockett Club, was reviewed in the Spring 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

*Editor's Note: Adapted from the Forest History Society's profile of Jack Ward Thomas supplemented with information from his 2004 *Jack Ward Thomas: The Journals of a Forest Service Chief* edited by Harold K. Steen and published by The Forest History Society.*

Loretta Elaine Williams died August 22, 2014, at age 91. Loretta Elaine Farlow was born January 23, 1923, in Milwaukee, Oregon. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 36 years, and then volunteered at Woodland Park Hospital for another 18 years. She married Ronald King in 1942; he died in 1966. Eleven years later she married Roy Williams and they spent most of their time living in Mexico on the Sea of Cortes. *Editor's Note: This late notice of Loretta Williams's death was developed from an obituary published by the Gateway Little Chapel of the Chimes in Portland, Oregon.*

Books

Steve Olson's *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens*

Reviewed by Les Joslin

OldSmokey **Bob Tokarczyk** was forest supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest when, on Sunday morning, May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted, snuffed out 57 souls, caused more than a billion dollars in property and resource damage, and changed the physical and political map of southwestern Washington. Others who became OldSmokeys also served on that national forest on that fateful day.

These and other OldSmokeys may find Steve Olson's account of this cataclysmic event—one of the largest volcanic eruptions in human history—and its cultural context of interest. Some may buy Olson's interpretation, some may not. But all should find at least the facts of the story—especially the many accounts of the people involved, some of whom survived and some of whom didn't—of interest. And many people were involved.

For example, there's the story about Forest Supervisor Tokarczyk and President Jimmy Carter during a May 21 helicopter flight to survey the damage. "I'm amazed at all this destruction," President Carter said to Supervisor Tokarczyk. "We're not there yet, Mr. President," said Tokarczyk. "Those are clearcuts."

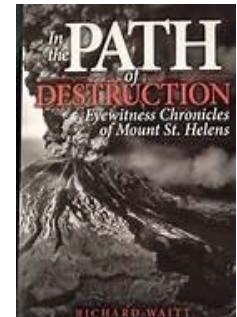
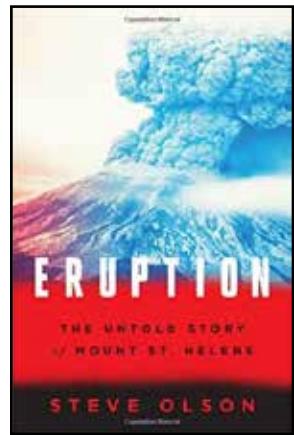
Among the many stories not included is late OldSmokey **Bill Shenk**'s recollection of his May 19 assignment as incident commander of a fire overhead team "to reconnoiter the eruption area [in an Oregon National Guard Huey helicopter] and determine the extent of fire activity" published in Vancouver, Washington's *The Columbian* on April 27, 2010. But not all anecdotes can be included in one book.

Olson's book is a treatment which, as a result of some of its perspectives on public land management as well as its conclusions about actions taken—and not taken—before and after the eruption, may well prove controversial. Whether that proves the case remains to be seen—at least partially—in possible reactions and responses of those directly involved once they have read the book.

Eruption by Steve Olson (ISBN 978-0-393-24279-9) was published in 2016 at \$27.95 by W.W. Norton & Company and is available from retail and online booksellers.

Richard Waitt's *In the Path of Destruction* is Another Mount St. Helens Book

Published by Washington State University Press in January 2015, Richard Waitt's book offers eyewitness accounts of Mount St. Helens' May 18, 1980, eruption. A geologist with intimate knowledge of the napping volcano that "blinked awake in March 1980" and





“roared” two months later, Waitt was one of the first to arrive following the mountain’s early rumblings.

According to the publisher, Waitt’s “eruption story unfolds through unforgettable, riveting narratives—the heart of a masterful chronology that also delivers engrossing science, history, and journalism.”

In the Path of Destruction by Richard Waitt (ISBN10 0874223237, ISBN13 9780874223231) was published on January 15, 2015, by Washington State University Press at \$22.95 and is available from retail and online booksellers.

--Les Joslin

The Way We Were

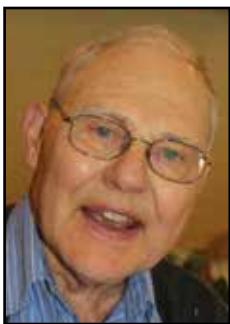
Deschutes National Forest
District Rangers of 1980
are OldSmokeys Today



Deschutes National Forest district rangers in 1980 were **George Chesley** (Fort Rock Ranger District), **Jeff Blackwood** (Sisters Ranger District), **Ted Lewis** (Crescent Ranger District), and **Walt Schloer** (Bend Ranger District). All are OldSmokeys today!

U.S. Forest Service photograph courtesy of George Chesley

OldSmokeys Need New Photographer!



Paul Enberg

OldSmokey **Paul Enberg**, who did a wonderful job photographing the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Spring Banquet on May 5, 2016, does not want to reassume the role of OldSmokeys photographer on a permanent basis.

Paul was PNWFSA photographer for many years, and was happy to turn the job over to the late OldSmokey **John Poppino** whom he quickly replaced when needed on May 5.

Are you an OldSmokey who could lend his or her camera and skills to providing photographic coverage of PNWFSA events? If so, please contact a member of the PNWFSA leadership team as soon as possible.

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Paisley Ranger Station

Fremont-Winema National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin



The flag flies proudly over the Paisley Ranger Station on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Photograph by Les Joslin

The small south-central Oregon town of Paisley is the home of the legendary 1,300,000-acre ZX Ranch, the Paisley High School Broncos, an annual mosquito festival, and the Great Depression-era Paisley Ranger Station that remains in service after more than seven decades.

Still the headquarters of the Paisley Ranger District on the combined Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Paisley Ranger Station compound was built between 1937 and 1939 by a work force of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees and local experienced men (LEM) under U.S. Forest Service supervision. The entire compound—a ranger’s residence, office building, barn, warehouse, garage, and gas house—cost Uncle Sam less than ten thousand dollars.

Although a “new” office building was added in 1963 and the CCC-constructed buildings have been modified to accommodate current uses, the well-kept compound retains much of the feel and flavor of a pre-World War II ranger station.

So, the next time you’re headed southwesterly toward Lakeview—where the lumped forests’ supervisor’s office shares a modern office building with BLM’s Lakeview District south of town on U.S. Highway 395—on Oregon Highway 31, stop in at the Paisley Ranger Station during regular business hours for a good glance at the past that seems almost present there. A self-guided tour of the ranger station compound is available at the office.

Do you have a favorite Pacific Northwest Region historic ranger station you’d like to share with your fellow OldSmokeys? If so, write it up and send it in with a good photograph and become a famous writer!



My First Forest Service Job

This OldSmokey's first U.S. Forest Service job lasted the dozen years in which he gained...

The Knowledge of Mules

By Jason Fisher

I know more about mules than I want to. I know the scent of their sweat mixed with their steaming breath at three in the morning. I know the sight of a fully packed mule string, nine animals long, under the light of a full moon. I know the taut sound of a manila breakaway as it snaps tight, right before it breaks under a thousand pounds of mule. I know the thunder of a wreck.

I've been packing mules since I was 19. I'm 32 now and have led strings of these long-eared critters through the back-country of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. I know that I am half crippled and that anyone looking at me would think I'd been in a bad car crash.

I know that a lot of folks would call a job like this romantic. I call it loneliness. I know that I am a single man who is apparently unable to maintain any kind of stable relationship. I'm gone for weeks at a time, and when I do return I am covered in the sweet smell of manure, dust, and sweat. I earn enough to almost cover the bills.

In the hills I crave the town. In town I dream of the hills.

I sit in bars, outmatched by North Face-clad climbers in my quest for companionship. My threadbare wool jacket and calloused hands mark me as someone without a trust fund. The lout music and sterile women make me wish for the start, the silence, and the loneliness.

I talk to the mules. They answer with the braying replies that gave them the moniker of "mountain canary."

"Knock it off, we're in this together."

They look at me, their long ears swiveling to the front.

"I've got good news and bad news. The bad news is that this is our job. The good news is that we're good at it."

They gaze at me quizzically. They never applied for this job; they were born into it. Suddenly I smell more like a mule than ever before.

These animals will do anything I ask. They will travel 30 miles in a day, march through bogs in the darkness of a new moon, or stand patient while I adjust their saddles. They are not my friends, but co-workers. I never ask too much and they never refuse.

I know the feel of warm mule blood as I gently remove sharp stobs from the puncture wounds marring the thin hide. Her soft eyes trust me even though it was my poor judgment that got us here. I bite my lip until it bleeds because men in black hats don't cry.

I know the difference between a decker and a sawbuck saddle. I know how to tie a basket hitch, barrel hitch, squaw hitch, box hitch, fast diamond, single diamond, or double diamond. I can load lumber, add in a crow's foot, and make up knots for whatever you have in mind. If I can pick it up, I can pack it.

I know the smell of oiled leather, the cuts, scrapes, burns, and calluses that come with cotton ropes. I know the feel of a frozen picket and fingers that refuse to work in the cold of a November morning. I know the smell of elk and the sound of a



U.S. Forest Service packer Jason Fisher paused with his mule string at Tin Cup Pass in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Montana sometime during the years in which he was gaining his knowledge of mules.

Photograph courtesy of Jason Fisher

grizzly popping its jaw. I know that I've been packing so long that I don't know what else to do.

And I know that things are different now. Now I know the softness of pillows and the firmness of a bed, the kindness of friends and the love of family. I know the pain of that 80-pound load as I lifted it onto the side of a mule, and the shock when I realized I was on the ground and could barely move my legs. Minutes passed before I rose, almost an hour before I had the rest of the string loaded.

I've watched my muscles atrophy from disuse and my skin turn pale from lack of sun. I've been warned of bedsores and movements that are quick and sudden. I've become acquainted with pain that I had never imagined and learned the patience of dealing with government agencies as I try to get approval for surgery. I've endured the numbness of painkillers and the lethargy of injury. I know the harsh sound of a doctor's voice and the sharp knife of reality. "If you want to walk, you'll never pack mules again."

I know that my life is changing and that I need to find a new career. The obvious problem is that the only jobs I've ever had included mules or shovels, and I cannot use either again.

The gap between what I know and what I will learn widens every day. I am trying desperately to hang onto the other side, to bring it closer, instead of being stretched to my limits.

I know that the future holds fear, transition and hope, and that this elixir will slowly heal me. I know that joy will once again fuel me.

I know all this and more, and sometimes, it seems like I'll never know enough.

Editor's Notes: The author no longer packs mules. Ten years later, at age 42, Jason lives in Central Oregon and is happy to be walking again, happily married, and the father of a little girl. After transferring to the Deschutes National Forest in 2007, he earned a master's of science degree in natural resources from the University of Idaho. He serves as the Deschutes National Forest wilderness specialist.

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