



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2017

## President's Message—Ron Boehm

As I write this message it is approaching Thanksgiving Day and I am reflecting on the many things for which we have to be thankful. Among them we did not have to help any OldSmokeys, their families, or current Forest Service folks with our Elmer Moyer Emergency Relief Fund this year! That fund remains healthy at slightly more than \$12,000 for if and when it is needed.

In our approved 2017 budget, we were able to allocate \$10,000 for our Project/Grant Fund.

Our Nominating Committee was able to convince **Kent Connaughton** to agree to serve as President-Elect. Please see the article and send in the ballot on page 3. Thank you **Bob Devlin**, **Linda Goodman**, and **Mike Ash** for your good work!

Speaking of good work, our Board of Directors has continued their good work through this year. See who they are and what they do on page 16.

Also, a big THANK YOU to **Les Joslin** for this newsletter and the other 43 issues he has produced over the past 10-plus years. Here is a request from Les in his own words: "This will be the **44th issue** of this newsletter I will have produced since assuming this job from **Wendall Jones** with the Spring 2006 issue. While I may have a few more issues left in me, I think you will agree it is time for a change and time for the PNWFSA to recruit a **new editor**. The *OldSmokeys Newsletter* could well benefit from a fresh approach, format, and perspective, as well as from more input from the membership."

It is true that many hands make light work. I'm reminded of a line from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech, which I paraphrase: "Ask not what your PNWFSA can do for you. Ask what you can do for your PNWFSA." So, if you have some time and talent, and I'm sure that you do, please don't be shy about helping with some of the many necessary tasks it takes to keep our association running.

I am personally thankful that the tree that fell on our boat during the October windstorm was not larger than it was. The structure of the boat and trailer remain intact. The canvas top and its aluminum frame, however, did not survive.

To those members who pay dues annually and have paid, thank you. For those who have not yet paid, it is time.

By the time you read this, the excitement of the Holidays will be over. The cookies and other goodies will be gone and you'll be making resolutions for the new year. I wish all OldSmokeys, their families, and their friends, a healthy and happy 2017.

*Ron Boehm*

## In This Issue...

<i>Forum: "Rally Around the Flag...and the Shield!"</i> .....	2
<i>OldSmokeys News: Kent Connaughton Nominated...Spring Banquet...Dunbar Scholarship...more</i> .....	2
<i>OldSmokeys Say: "Badge-Heavy Wilderness Ranger Dismayed National Forest Visitors" by Dick Spray</i> .....	7
<i>Forest Service News: Administration Transition...Malheur Verdict...Wildfire Season...more</i> .....	8
<i>Feature: "PNWFSA is Oldest U.S. Forest Service Veteran's Organization</i> .....	10
<i>Changes: Updates to the OldSmokeys Membership Directory</i> .....	11
<i>New Members: Introductions of New OldSmokeys</i> .....	11
<i>Memories: Remembrances of Recently Deceased OldSmokeys</i> .....	11
<i>Letters: Sharing of News and Thoughts Among OldSmokeys</i> .....	13
<i>Books: "Char Miller and Tim Palmer Produced America's Great National Forests, Wildernesses..." by Les Joslin</i> .....	13
<i>The Way We Were: "Fire Suppression, Old Style" by Harold E. Smith</i> .....	14
<i>Uncle Sam's Cabins: "Pelican Guard Station, Fremont-Winema National Forest" by Les Joslin</i> .....	14
<i>My First Forest Service Job: "My First Four Months as a Forester..." by Dave Scott</i> .....	15

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

***Vote! PNWFSA Election 2017 Ballot on Page 3!***

## Forum

### Rally Around the Flag—and the Shield!

With perhaps the most divisive presidential election in American history finally behind us, it's time to come together to help a new administration address the critical problems that confront the nation, to end years of partisan gridlock, and to usher in a new era of what columnist Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* on November 16, 2016, wrote "we need most and have enjoyed least this century: effective government."

"We have too much deferred maintenance to fix, too much deferred leadership to generate and too much deferred reimagining to undertake to wait another four years to solve our biggest problems, especially in this age of accelerating technology and climate change," Friedman continued in words which seem directly applicable to the U.S. Forest Service.

"If we will have indulged in almost two years of electoral entertainment and pathos just to end up back where we were, only worse, with even more venomous gridlock in Washington, ...we'll really start to decline as a nation," he warned. With all that needs to be addressed, it's likely the real challenges facing the Forest Service and its stewardship of the National Forest System could be lost in the rush to address those perceived as the "really big" national issues if not in partisan gridlock.

That doesn't mean the Forest Service cannot continue and even improve "caring for the land and serving people" even if major challenges—such as modifying its budget process to keep the cost of fighting wildfires from jeopardizing funding for its other programs—are not successfully addressed.

It does mean doing the best we can with what we have. Forest supervisors and district rangers could take positive measures to improve public appreciation and support. One such measure could be relatively inexpensive maintenance of national forest signage that, when well cared for, conveys the identity and character of the National Forest System and communicates the positive impression that the Forest Service "really cares."

Another could be a better focus on "the art and science of rangering" in the way people are served. Putting their "best foot forward" by fielding more competent and credible and visible personnel who are able and eager to serve, forest supervisors and district rangers can leave forest visitors and users feeling well served by "rangers" (to the public, everybody in the Forest Service is a "ranger") they encounter. They can get the biggest bangs for their few bucks by developing and deploying personnel who represent the Service and the System well. They don't need a lot more money to field at least some better trained, properly motivated, uniformed forest officers to help regain and retain the trust and confidence of the public.

These and other positive and possible measures are not just window dressing. These are essential—and doable—steps along a very long trail toward agency survival and mission success.

Now is the time for all members of the Forest Service to rally around the Pine Tree Shield and to do all they can do until they receive the resources they need to do all they should do.

Now is the time for pride and professionalism.

—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 Board Nominates Kent Connaughton to Serve as Next PNWFSA President-elect

Retired Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** has accepted the Board of Directors' nomination to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the 2017-2018 term, and then as President for the 2018-2019 term.

After approval of this nomination by the PNWFSA membership (see "*Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2017*" article and ballot on page 3), Kent will be installed in that office at the annual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 21, 2017, and be in line to succeed OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** as President in May 2018.

Please look at page 3 right now, refresh your memory of Kent's distinguished career, and cast your ballot in support of his acceptance of this challenging three-year commitment.

***Please note that this ballot is back-to-back with the Spring Banquet 2017 reservation coupon. You can both vote and reserve your seat(s) at the banquet at the same time using only one postage stamp!***

### OldSmokeys May 21 Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club Features PNWFSA's Biennial Silent Auction

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

Before that annual peaceful transfer of power occurs, all in attendance will socialize and enjoy fine dining with their fellow OldSmokeys and join in the fun of bidding on the many super items now being donated for the every-other-year silent auction. As always, the success of this popular fundraiser depends on auction items donated by you and other members. OldSmokey **Mary Moyer** at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> is the person to contact about donating silent auction items. "We also need donations of door prize items," OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** reminds. Bev's at 503-255-3265 or <bev58@comcast.net>.

Complete information about and an early reservation form for Spring Banquet 2017 are on page 4 of this issue and will be available again in the Spring 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

All this fine fun, fellowship, and food will cost only \$25.00 per person.

***Why wait? Why not turn to page 4 right now and use the banquet reservation form on the flip side of the ballot form to reserve your Spring Banquet seat(s) for just \$25.00 each. It's quick and easy, so do it now!***



**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2017**

**OldSmokeys Are Asked to Confirm Kent Connaughton as PNWFSA President-elect**

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) has nominated OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect for the 2017-2018 term.

Many of you know Kent as our former Regional Forester and in other contexts over the years. For those who don't, here's a brief biography of the man nominated to begin a three-year PNWFSA leadership journey to start with your confirmation of his nomination by February 15 followed by his installation as President-elect at the May 21 Spring Banquet.

**KENT CONNAUGHTON**

Kent Connaughton was born into the U.S. Forest Service as the son of Charles A. Connaughton whose distinguished career included the position of Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, from which he retired from the Forest Service in 1971 after 43 years of service and from which Kent retired in 2014 after 36 years as a forest land manager, professional forester, and researcher.

After earning a B.A. degree in biological sciences at Stanford University in 1969 and serving as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, Kent set out to be a forester. He earned a Master of Forestry degree at Oregon State University in 1973 and a Ph.D. degree in forest economics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1978, before he joined the Forest Service.

Kent began his Forest Service career at the Pacific Northwest Research Station in forest economics research. He subsequently had assignments implementing the Northwest Forest Plan for Oregon, Washington, and northern California from 1993 to 1996; as forest supervisor of the Lassen National Forest from 1996 to 1998; as project manager for the Sierra Nevada Framework for Conservation and Collaboration amending 11 national forest plans in California from 1998 to 2001; as Deputy Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region from 2001 to 2005; and as Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in the Washington Office from 2005 to 2008.

Between 2008 and 2011, Kent served as Regional Forester for the Eastern Region where he was responsible for the 17 national forests in the 20 states from Maine to Minnesota to Missouri to West Virginia. In his last position as Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region from 2011 to 2014, he was responsible for the 17 national forests in Oregon and Washington. During that assignment, Kent joined the PNWFSA of which he has been an active and supportive member. His professional affiliations include membership in the Society of American Foresters and membership on the board of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Kent and his wife Susan Little reside in Portland, Oregon.

*Please use the ballot form below or e-mail Secretary Debra Warren at <debrawarren@gmail.com> right now to show your support for Kent's willingness to take on this three-year responsibility!*

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association**

**Winter 2017 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA  
President-elect Nominee Kent Connaughton**

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Kent Connaughton** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect for the 2017-2018 term.

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

I cast my ballot for **Kent Connaughton** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect \_\_\_\_\_ (check here) or

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

*Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, by February 15, 2017, or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Debra Warren at <debrawarren@gmail.com>.*

*(While you're at it, use the flip side of this ballot to register for the May 21, 2017, Spring Banquet!)*



*Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet 2017*

**OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA’s Sunday, May 21, Spring Banquet 2017!**

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

As announced on page 2...

***The annual Spring Banquet will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017, beginning at 1:00 p.m., and this year will include our biennial Silent Auction!***

You can use the form below to reserve your place or places **now** at this first of the two big gatherings of the OldSmokey year. At the banquet you will visit with friends, witness our new President **Tom Mulder** and new President-elect **Kent Connaughton** take office, enjoy an outstanding meal, outbid your friends for exciting silent auction items, win door prizes, and have an all-round good time.

Doors and the **no-host bar** will open at 1:00 p.m., and **socializing** with drinks and appetizers as well as **silent auction bidding** will be well under way by 1:30 p.m. The buffet-style **dinner**, catered by our old friend and honorary OldSmokey Dave Dalton, will be served by 3:00 p.m. As dinner winds down, PNWFSA officers will be installed, door prizes will be awarded, and silent auction winners will be announced. We’ll all leave well in time to get home or to other overnight destinations well before dark.

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

Driving directions to Charbonneau Country Club for any OldSmokeys who don’t already know the way will be provided in the Spring 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

*And, since this years Spring Banquet is a SILENT AUCTION BANQUET, you’ll want to be thinking now about exciting items you can donate. OldSmokey Mary Moyer at 503-254-7302 or <mandemoyer@yahoo.com> is the person to contact regarding donations of silent auction items. To donate door prize items, contact OldSmokey Bev Pratt at 503-255-3265 or <bev58@comcast.net>.*

***Complete and send in the reservation form (or a copy of it) below to reserve your place(s) not later than May 5, 2017. Better yet, send it in before February 25 to reserve early even as you send in the ballot form on the flip side to support the nomination of Kent Connaughton to serve as PNWFSA President-elect!***

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

**SPRING BANQUET—MAY 21, 2017**  
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

**RESERVATION FORM**

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$25.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:*

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

***Please send this reservation form and your check in to be received not later than May 5, 2017.***

## OldSmokey Randy Dunbar Helps Sponsor McKenzie High School Grad Scholarship

Every year OldSmokey **Randy Dunbar** donates one of his beautiful wildfowl woodcarvings to be raffled off in support of the Doug Dunbar Memorial Scholarship Fund at McKenzie High School, McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. Randy's son Doug was one of nine Prineville Hotshots who lost their lives in the South Canyon Fire in Colorado on July 6, 1994. Doug graduated from the high school in 1990 and was in his fifth year of fire fighting in 1994.

Administered by the McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, of which Randy was district ranger from 1980 through 1992, the fund was begun with funds allocated to the lost firefighters' families. The Dunbar family decided to use the funds they received to establish the scholarship. Since then, many people have donated to and helped raise money for the scholarship. To date, over \$22,000 have been awarded to McKenzie High School graduating seniors. The presentation is made at the annual graduation ceremony by a McKenzie Ranger District employee.

Scholarship recipients are chosen from applicants who submit a thoughtful paper on some aspect of natural resources. Successful fundraising now supports an annual scholarship award of \$1,500. One of Randy's donated waterfowl carvings is raffled each year to supplement fund donations. These carvings are identified as the "Storm King Series" for Storm King Mountain on which the fire occurred. Last year's carving of a Northern Saw-whet Owl is shown at right. This year's carving will be a Sharp-shinned Hawk.



Raffle tickets sell for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Checks made out to "Doug Dunbar Memorial Scholarship" should be mailed to: McKenzie Ranger District/Attn: Brenda Hamlow/57600 McKenzie Highway/McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413. Names will be entered for a mid-June drawing. Donors will not receive tickets in the mail; however, donors may request confirmation of check received and name entered from Brenda at <bhamlow@fs.fed.us>.

## OldSmokey Dave Govatski is Co-Curator of White Mountain National Forest Centennial

OldSmokey **Dave Govatski** of Jefferson, New Hampshire, is serving as co-curator of the White Mountain National Forest's centennial celebration sponsored by the Museum of the White Mountains—on the Plymouth State University campus in Plymouth, New Hampshire—scheduled for 2018.

The 750,802-acre White Mountain National Forest, most of which is in New Hampshire save for a small part in Maine, was established in 1918 after the Weeks Act of 1911 led to establishment of national forests in the eastern United States. Co-author of *Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests* (Island Press, 2013) and leader of the restoration of the White Mountain National Forest's historic Fabyan Guard Station reported in the Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys*

*Newsletter*, Dave, who spent much of his 30-plus year U.S. Forest Service career as a forester on that national forest, looks forward to telling the story.

There's much to tell. Passage of the Weeks Act resulted in establishment of 41 national forests containing 20 million acres in 24 eastern states. A look at historic photographs of the White Mountain region shows why this is important. "One hundred years ago," according to Dave, "the White Mountain region was a different site...mountainsides stripped of trees..., streams choked with silt..., and ash from forest fires falling on nearby towns. Factory owners relying on water power bemoaned the flooding that occurred after heavy rains and the low flows during the summer droughts. Hotel owners heard the complaints of the summer tourists who did not like the blackened slopes and streams choked with sawdust and silt."

Passage of the Weeks Act authorized federal purchase of forest lands at the head of navigable streams and provided for cooperation in fire control between federal and state authorities. After almost a century of Forest Service management, the White Mountain National Forest serves both the lumber industry and the visitor industry in an environmentally sound way. New Hampshire and its national forest have much to celebrate.

*Prepared from multiple sources including input from Dave Govatski.*

## OldSmokey Bob Boyd Recognized for Contributions to Oregon Culture

The Deschutes Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust presented its fifth annual Ben Westlund Memorial Award to OldSmokey **Bob Boyd** on Wednesday, October 12, at The High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

Bob spent most of his working life interpreting America's past as a public school teacher, consulting historian, and for more than 25 years as curator of western history at The High Desert Museum. There he researched and developed permanent and temporary exhibits that told myriad stories of the Intermountain West about Native American life, Euro-American exploration and settlement, the region's Hispanic, Chinese, and Basque heritages, the buckaroos and others who worked the land, and—especially important to OldSmokeys—forest rangers and others who conserved and protected the land's resources.

At that museum, in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) and others, Bob produced "The U.S. Forest Service in the High Desert: Century of Service, 1905-2005," a major exhibit that commemorated and celebrated the Forest Service centennial. As that exhibit ran, he worked with OldSmokeys and others to acquire, transport, and restore the historic Forest Service district ranger's office building which in 2008 opened as the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit staffed by OldSmokeys. As a result of his contributions to Forest Service history, Bob was invited to become an honorary OldSmokey and remains a dues-paying PNWFSA member.

The annual Ben Westlund Memorial Award was established in 2012 to honor the memory of former Oregon legislator and state treasurer Bend Westlund who championed the creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2001.

**Have you paid your 2017 PNWFSA dues?  
The due date for 2017 dues is January 1.  
If you haven't, please pay your dues now!**



## OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Hosts Cross Cultural Awareness Series on Deschutes National Forest

OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, Deschutes National Forest Scenic Byways Program Leader and Landscape Architect, has been hosting the HAPA EA Cross Cultural Awareness Storyteller Series on the Deschutes National Forest since 2013. HAPA EA is the local chapter of the U.S. Forest Service’s Asian Pacific Islander Employee Association (APAEA). Its name is taken from the Hawaiian word which means breathing life into crossing cultures.

“We’re trying to bring different perspectives, bring cultural perspective and sensitivity in our community and especially in the workplace,” Robin explained. The periodic series began in Fall 2013 when her mother, Teruko Okuno Lee, visiting from Hawaii, shared her experience as a California high school student incarcerated with her family from 1942 through 1944 in a Japanese-American “concentration camp” in Gila River, Arizona, during World War II. It was the beginning of a powerful series.

Every month Robin invites a guest story teller to share his or her experience and journey, culture, family customs and traditions, and the challenges of living in a diverse society.

*Prepared from “2016 HAPA EA Storyteller Series” in the September 2016 APAEA Newsletter.*

## OldSmokey Jon Stewart Trekked the Grand Enchantment Trail this Fall

OldSmokey **Jon Stewart** wore out yet another pair of boots when he spent 55 days this past October and November hiking the little-known and little-traveled Grand Enchantment Trail which meanders 770 miles from the outskirts of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to near Phoenix, Arizona.

Jon’s route followed a variety of trails, roads, watercourses, fence lines, flag lines, cairns, and compass headings through remote deserts punctuated by forested sky islands. He traversed four national forests (the Cibola, Gila, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto), half a dozen wildernesses including the Aldo Leopold and the Gila, and portions of the Continental Divide Trail and the Arizona Trail.

Along the way, he passed through dusty and declining small towns and some ghost towns, ranching and mining territories, and massive wildfire burns. He saw few other hikers but many mostly-motorized hunters.

## OldSmokey Les Joslin Refurbished Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway Signs

As part of an opportunity afforded Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members to help get things done on the Deschutes National Forest coordinated by OldSmokey Area Representative **Dennis Dietrich** with OldSmokey and Forest Supervisor **John Allen**, OldSmokey **Les Joslin** spent a couple August 2016 days refreshing signs along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway.

Over time these fiberglass signs, installed not quite 20 years ago, lost their deep brown luster to apparent oxidization. The before, during, and after photographs below show how well such signs respond to a Turtle Wax cleaning compound and a little elbow grease. Many looked brand new again, and all were more visible to motorists. Even small jobs can make a big difference.



### On The Trail...

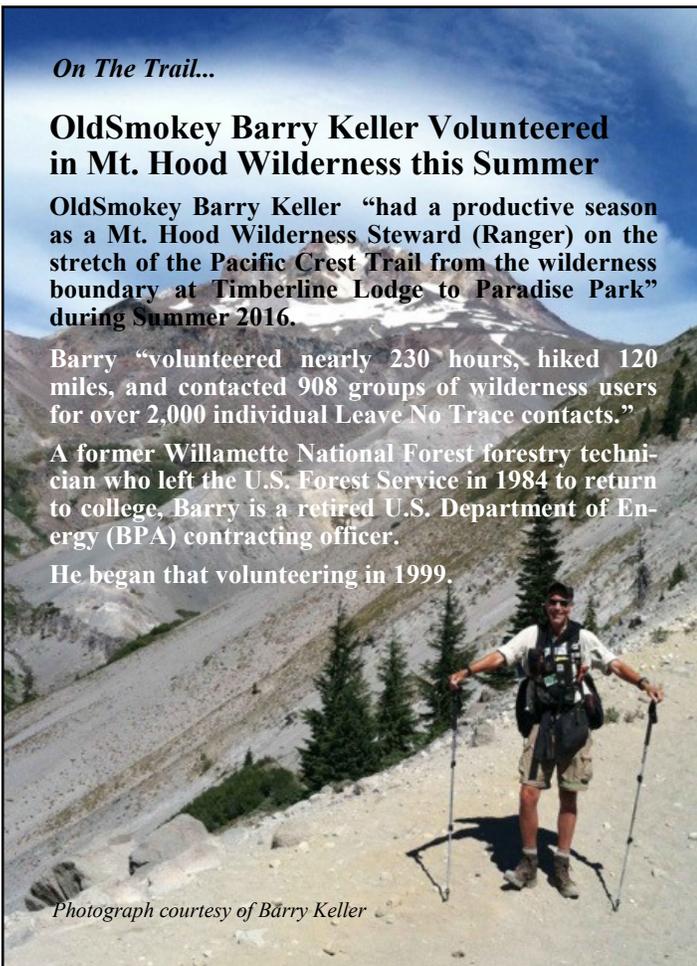
## OldSmokey Barry Keller Volunteered in Mt. Hood Wilderness this Summer

OldSmokey **Barry Keller** “had a productive season as a Mt. Hood Wilderness Steward (Ranger) on the stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail from the wilderness boundary at Timberline Lodge to Paradise Park” during Summer 2016.

Barry “volunteered nearly 230 hours, hiked 120 miles, and contacted 908 groups of wilderness users for over 2,000 individual Leave No Trace contacts.”

A former Willamette National Forest forestry technician who left the U.S. Forest Service in 1984 to return to college, Barry is a retired U.S. Department of Energy (BPA) contracting officer.

He began that volunteering in 1999.



*Photograph courtesy of Barry Keller*

## OldSmokeys Say

### Badge-Heavy Wilderness Ranger Dismays National Forest Visitors

By Dick Spray



As a retired U.S. Forest Service recreation and wilderness management professional, I have long been concerned about the quality of those who represent management of these resources to national forest visitors. I have seen good and bad over the past couple decades or so during which I have led wilderness hikes as a permitted guide for a metropolitan parks and recreation district as well as for groups of friends. This past summer, two separate groups organized by a friend experienced a disturbing encounter with a Forest Service wilderness ranger on a wilderness trail in a Pacific Northwest Region national forest.

My friend reported he had divided 17 hikers into a faster group of 12 and a slower group of five to comply with the wilderness group size regulation. The leader of the group of 12 and a member of the group of five each completed a self-issued wilderness permit. The slower group followed the faster group way back out of sight and sound. After lunch, the lead group met a wilderness ranger at a downed tree across the trail. He was talking to a horsewoman with an unleashed dog. The group carefully passed by but was called back and detained by the ranger. This resulted in the following group catching up with and getting bunched up with the leading group, spooking the horse and the dog. The horsewoman wisely moved on, and the ranger reportedly launched into a “tirade” directed at the two hiking groups.

His tone was described as “accusatory, arrogant, and disrespectful.” He combined the separate hiking parties by stopping the slower party and calling back the faster party. He demanded wilderness permits and legal identification from the two groups’ leaders. He asked if they had read and understood the permits. The leader of the fast group admitted she had not signed the permit, and the leader of the slow group who had signed his permit admitted he had not read the permit this time because he had likely filled out hundreds in the past 15 years. This exacerbated the wilderness ranger’s disdain. He informed the slow group leader he would be cited and fined for leading a larger-than-permitted group of 17, and the fast group leader she would be warned because she had not signed her permit.

“In simple terms, he was ‘badge heavy,’ exerting a level of punitive authority where it wasn’t necessary,” my friend wrote in a letter relating the incident to two district rangers on that national forest. “People were a bit aghast and began asking respectful questions. One of the group took photographs” including one of the wilderness ranger. The wilderness ranger “became noticeably irritated and responded that he could fine every one of the hikers \$100 if they persisted in their questioning. ... He then lectured the group for at least twenty minutes about his personal concept of a ‘proper’ wilderness experience which could be summarized as hiking alone in solitude.

“He then demanded that at least five of the hikers return to the trailhead. Five of the slow hikers volunteered to do so but he detained...both volunteer leaders so he could fill out the [paperwork], a process that took an additional 20 minutes for the warning and nearly 45 minutes for the citation,” the letter to

the district rangers continued. “This resulted in both groups hiking without their leading guides [and] the inexperienced hikers who volunteered to return [getting] lost on the way back and...hiking an extra 3 miles searching for the trailhead parking lot. This could have led to more serious consequences.”

In the writer’s view, “the behaviors of the ranger we encountered were not warranted” by the circumstances, and the ranger “failed to show the situational awareness or common sense judgement we would expect from a professional being the public face of the USFS.”

At a time in its history when Forest Service stewardship of National Wilderness Preservation System lands is challenged by those who would weaken the Wilderness Act of 1964 or turn those lands over to the states or private entities to manage, the Forest Service should make certain that those who represent the wilderness concept to the public act and appear as constructive public servants dedicated to education and using enforcement as a last resort. My friend’s letter indicates that the wilderness ranger in this case failed to act thus, and in the photograph of the wilderness ranger made by a member of his group certainly did not appear thus.

About five weeks after my friend sent his letter to the district rangers, he received “a response from USFS ‘management’” that expressed full support of the wilderness ranger “and even reinforced his heavy-handed approach by threatening a \$200 fine for every person present.” My friend “also received a Notice to Appear in U.S. District Court in the same mail with the highlighted notice ‘By paying the amount due you may be admitting to a criminal offense and a conviction may appear in a public record with adverse consequence to you.’”

“They totally disregarded the collective opinion of 17 adult citizens who were, to say the least, appalled by [the wilderness ranger’s] behavior,” my friend concluded. They were also appalled by his “slovenly” appearance. “Apparently [the wilderness ranger] is going to be rewarded for being a dirty, sloppily dressed, overbearing, rude idiot...and the USFS is going to proudly support, even reinforce such behavior and attitude.”

I am embarrassed for the agency to which I dedicated a lifetime of service.

*Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Dick Spray retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 1988, as Recreation, Wilderness, and Interpretive Services Officer for Region 3. The purpose of this article—which, of course, tells only one side of the story—is not to call anyone on the carpet but to reinforce the need to ensure that all who represent the Forest Service and the National Forest System to the public do so in a way that reflects credit on and promotes good will toward and understanding of the Service and the System essential to mission accomplishment. That is why the name and the photograph of the Forest Service employee involved and the name of and location within the national forest in which this incident occurred are not published in this article.*

*Coming in the Spring 2017 OldSmokeys Say section of your OldSmokeys Newsletter, Dick Spray answers the sometimes thorny question “When is a ‘Permit’ Not a Permit?”*

## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service and Other Agency Personnel Face Malheur Verdict Threat

When a U.S. District Court jury in Portland, Oregon, on October 27, 2016, acquitted Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five accomplices in the 41-day armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in southeastern Oregon, “the lives of federal land managers in the American West got a whole lot more difficult,” wrote Christopher Ketcham of Moab, Utah, in an October 31 *New York Times* op-ed.

On January 2, 2016, armed militants seized the headquarters and occupied it until law enforcement made a final arrest on February 11. The leader of the occupiers was Ammon Bundy, who participated in the 2014 standoff against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the Nevada ranch of his father, Cliven Bundy. Others of the occupying group were loosely affiliated with non-government militias and the sovereign citizen movement. The organizers of the occupation sought to advance their view that the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM, and other agencies are constitutionally required to turn over most of the federal public land they manage to the individual states.

The defendants and their attorneys were elated by the acquittals which they seemed to view as license to continue their cause. “We came to Oregon—to Harney County—seeking justice,” defendant Neil Wampler said after his acquittal, “and today we found it.” Wampler said he and others in the so-called patriot movement plan to “build on this tremendous victory for rural America.”

Ketcham saw the Bundy acquittal of the government’s primary charge of “conspiracy to impede federal officers by force, threat or intimidation” at the refuge as “more than just a court victory.” It was “a blow against a culture of public service embodied by the federal employees responsible for maintaining law and order and protecting our wildest Western landscapes.”

As a result of the acquittals, many public land managers and their personnel are more apprehensive about the safety of doing their jobs. Figures compiled by the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility “show assaults and threats of violence against federal employees on public lands in the West went up [in 2015], following Cliven Bundy’s standoff but before the takeover of the Oregon refuge by his sons.” That year, “Threats and assaults against BLM rose to 28 from 15, and to 155 from 97 against employees of the Forest Service.” The Utah office of the BLM “went so far as to hire a former military terrorism expert, who advised that in the event of ‘security threats’—which are constant—BLM employees should not go out in the field, wear BLM uniforms, or drive BLM-marked vehicles,” a credible source told Ketcham.

In an October 27, 2016, “Dear Region 6 employees” e-mail regarding the Bundy case acquittals, Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Jim Pena** stressed that the “safety and security” of Forest Service personnel “is absolutely paramount” as they go about their work. “Please continue to be vigilant and situationally aware in our offices, while we are in the field, traveling from place to place, and while off on personal status,” he urged.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “All 7 Defendants Found Not Guilty in Refuge Occupation Trial” by Amelia Templeton and Conrad Wilson for Oregon Public Broadcasting on October 27, 2016, and particularly “Bundy Verdict Puts a Target on the Backs of Federal Workers” by Christopher Ketcham in the October 31, 2016, edition of The New York Times.*

### U.S. Forest Service Claims of Progress in Firefighter Sexual Abuse Questioned in Congressional Hearings and Media Reports

A recent article in *The Washington Post* about sexual bias against and abuse of female wildland firefighters called U.S. Forest Service claims of progress in addressing these issues into question. In the more than 40 years since women began to be employed in this male-dominated field, they have been subjected to sexual discrimination, harassment, and abuse that forced many of them out.

This persistent problem that affects the Forest Service, National Park Service, and other federal agencies resulted in September 22 and December 1 hearings before the U.S. House of Representatives Full Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. “Many [committee members] seemed genuinely shocked and deeply troubled at the numerous examples of sexual harassment” testified to by female firefighters “possibly putting their careers in jeopardy and risking retaliation” for doing so, Bill Gabbert reported in a *Wildfire Today* article.

A female Forest Service fire prevention technician whose report “of being harassed for years by her supervisor and being victimized again with reprisals” led to “an OIG investigation” that resulted in the retirement (to avoid being fired) of the offending supervisor. His subsequent hiring on an incident management team put her “in a situation where we could both be assigned to the same fire incident” and “allowed him to continue working with women. ... I have continued to be harassed by the same individuals that protected him.” To some this reflects what another female firefighter characterized as “a culture of tolerance and acceptance of this kind of behavior.”

“The Forest Service, which employs more than 10,000 federal firefighters, far more than any other agency, acknowledges past problems but said it now has zero tolerance for sexual harassment,” reporter Darryl Fears wrote in the November 20 article in *The Washington Post* entitled “Few women fight fires. That’s not because they’re afraid of flames.”

“The agency said it requires civil rights training for every employee, conducts surveys and has bulked up its contingent of investigators and case workers for rapid response to complaints,” the article continued. “‘We do have positive trends,’ said Lenise Lago, deputy chief for the agency’s business operations. ‘Data shows that our cases of harassment based on gender are half of what they were five years ago.’” But many other sources see it differently: The training is ineffective. Chauvinists laugh it off, bureaucrats check boxes, contractors and lip service get paid, and nothing improves.

“Critics say many women don’t report bad conduct because they’re afraid of repercussions,” the article countered the agency’s data claims. After detailing numerous instances of sexual discrimination, harassment, and abuse suffered by those female firefighters who, despite it all, have succeeded at the work they love, “nearly all of about 15 women interviewed for this article quietly asked that their comments not be included. And each one said the same thing: It would hurt their career.”

*Prepared from “Few women fight fires. That’s not because they’re afraid of flames.” by Darryl Fears in The Washington Post on November 20, 2016; “National Park Service whistleblowers testify to Congress about sexual harassment” by Bill Gabbert in Wildfire Today on September 22, 2016; “Former firefighter reports sexism on a Utah hotshot crew.” by Bill Gabbert in Wildfire Today on October 1, 2016; “Congress holds another hearing about sexual harassment of firefighters” by Bill Gabbert in Wildfire Today on December 2, 2016; and other sources*

## U.S. Forest Service and Other Agencies Faced Challenges of Longer But Lighter Fire Season

A long 2016 wildfire season in the United States—beginning in Alaska in February and climaxing dramatically in the Southeast in early December—saw many large and destructive wildfires burn significantly less acreage nationwide than burned during the record 2015 wildfire season. During the 2016 season, about 4.9 million acres burned compared with 2015's record-setting 9.1 million acres blackened.

Despite warm and dry conditions, the Pacific Northwest got off relatively easy and Oregon, where wildfires had burned only 186,317 acres as of October 1, got off especially easy. That is the lowest total in Oregon since 2010 and well below the 10-year average for the state. Major reasons included the lack of dry lightning storms this summer and a far better winter 2015-2016 snowpack.

California experienced its usual siege of large wildfires—especially in the southern part of the state. On the central coast, the two-month Big Sur Fire ignited on July 22 by an illegal campfire on the Los Padres National Forest burned over 185 square miles, shut down popular tourism and recreation destinations, and cost over \$200 million to suppress.

A very dry autumn brought numerous wildfires to the Southeast where 38 active fires burning in early November brought all available suppression resources to the region. At the end of the month a major wildfire in and around Great Smoky Mountains National Park claimed 14 victims and damaged or destroyed much of the popular Tennessee resort town of Gatlinburg.

*Prepared from multiple sources.*

*Editor's Note: The longer the fire season, it seems, the trickier the number crunching. If a better computed, more comprehensive summary is prepared by and available from NIFC, your OldSmokeys Newsletter will attempt a better wrap-up.*

## U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Urged “Seamless Transition” to New Presidential Administration

“Even as this Administration does the important work of preparing to pass the torch for a changeover to a new administration on Inauguration Day, we remain focused on getting as much of the work of the Forest Service done for the American people as we can during the remaining days of the Obama Administration,” U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell wrote in a Monday, November 14, 2016, message to all Forest Service personnel.

“The mission of the Forest Service remains unchanged,” Chief Tidwell wrote before quoting the mission statement.

“President Obama has made it clear that a seamless transition is one of his top priorities and I share that goal. The President's Executive Order on transition reminds us that ‘It is the policy of the United States to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that Presidential transitions are well-coordinated and effective, without regard to political party.’”

Chief Tidwell went on to explain the U.S. Department of Agriculture's process “to make sure this transition runs smoothly and seamlessly” and thanked Forest Service personnel “for the work you do every day to deliver impact to so many people across America and around the world”

## U.S. Forest Service Observed 40 Years of National Forest Management Act in 2016

As “America [spent 2016] celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service,” Martin Nie noted in an essay in the November 22, 2016, issue of *High Country News*, October of that year marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 which—as all OldSmokeys know—mandated for the U.S. Forest Service a long-range planning process implemented by interdisciplinary teams to produce “forest plans” for each national forest.

“The National Forest Management Act emerged as a response to the clear-cutting and timber harvest controversies of the 1960s and ‘70s,” Nie wrote. “To this day, people differ as to whether it provided much-needed course correction for the Forest Service or instead was a solution to a ‘nonexistent’ problem. What the law does, essentially, is require the agency to prepare management plans for every forest. It also places significant environmental constraints on the Forest Service and gives it a mandate to manage for wildlife diversity” and—as Steve Wilent, editor of the Society of American Forestry's *Forest Source*, added—“other resources and values.”

Each of “these two almost unknown laws” have “inspired such resistance” because “each in its own way transformed the federal lands into law-abiding areas that could be managed for our collective good,” Nie explained. This, of course, inspired such adversaries as “the Bundy Clan [which] occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon after decades of flouting federal grazing laws” and the “more insidious threat to public ownership [that] comes from those politicians and interest groups seeking the transfer of federal lands to the states or into private ownership.”

*Editor's Note: Martin Nie is director of the Bolle Center for People and Forests in the College of Forestry and Conservation at The University of Montana.*

*Prepared from the High Country News article cited and other sources.*

## U.S. Forest Service 2012 Planning Rule Requires “Ecosystem Services” Looks

“Since 1960, the U.S. Forest Service has been guided by the multiple-use concept, which recognizes five major uses for public lands—timber, water, range, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat—and mandates that all five should be equally considered in management plans,” the Pacific Northwest Research Station wrote in August 2016. “In recent decades, however, it has become evident that people also value many other benefits offered by the natural world, such as support for indigenous cultures and sustainable communities, protection for endangered species, and carbon sequestration. The ‘ecosystem services’ concept has emerged as a way to describe a much broader suite of goods and services, including those that are more difficult to quantify than the traditionally recognized major uses.

“The 2012 Forest Service planning rule requires that ecosystem services be addressed in assessment and planning” of national forest land uses. “Researchers at the Pacific Northwest Research Station are working nationally with individual forests to apply ecosystem services approaches to operations and management decisions. They are working to characterize commonly

*U.S. Forest Service News continues on Page 13*

## Feature

### PNWFSA is Oldest U.S. Forest Service Veteran's Organization



Veteran's organizations are as old as history. But it wasn't until August 1941 that known consideration was given to the organization of U.S. Forest Service old timers. This eventually resulted in the founding of the Thirty-Year Club of the Pacific Northwest Region that just over 15 years ago became the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

One day in August 1941, Forest Supervisor Kirk P. Cecil of the Columbia (now Gifford Pinchot) National Forest called at the office of the Mt. Hood National Forest in Portland, Oregon, and in the course of conversation with Assistant Forest Supervisor Foster Steele of that forest the matter of bringing the veteran foresters of Region 6 into an "old timers" club was discussed. The two parted with the avowed purpose of establishing such an organization to preserve the traditions of the Forest Service in Region 6 and to maintain contact between those in retirement and those still in active service.

The press of official duties—and, of course, World War II—delayed action on their project and almost forced it into oblivion. But, early in 1944, Cecil and Steele discussed the subject again and determined to do something about it. On July 8, 1944, Steele sent a memorandum to Regional Forester Horace J. "Hoss" Andrews describing the project and asking for a list of members, active or retired, with thirty or more years of service. On August 12, Assistant Regional Forester A.R. Standing replied to Steele's memorandum, approving the idea and enclosing the list requested. On August 17, Steele sent a letter to each person on the list, describing the proposed organization and inviting suggestions and active participation in perfecting such an organization.

An organizing committee comprising Glenn E. Mitchell, Thornton T. Munger, Kirk P. Cecil, Alex J. Jaenicke, and Foster Steele met at Mitchell's home in Portland and planned organization of a Thirty-Year Club. Prospective members were invited to comment on and make suggestions. Some of the more helpful suggestions came from Albert Wiesendanger, a Mt. Hood National Forest district ranger, who researched the organization and operation of the Union Pacific Railroad and Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company old timer's organizations.

#### Thirty-Year Club

Almost another year of organizing work—including the first dinner meeting of the evolving club on March 31, 1945, in the banquet room of the Imperial Hotel in Portland—led to formation of the club of 24 charter members in June. Among these were names that still ring in Forest Service and Region 6 history. The first veteran forester's club in the history of the Forest Service was launched and began operations.

The objectives of the Thirty-Year Club were:

- To perpetuate and preserve the traditions and esprit' de corps of the Forest Service which its founders developed and nurtured.
- To maintain contact and good fellowship among those nearing retirement and those retired from the Forest Service, and keep alive that friendly family feeling so characteristic

of the relations between Forest Service employees.

- To assist in the compilation and dissemination of information dealing with the accomplishments of the Forest Service and its personnel in Region 6.

The social activities of the Club included an annual dinner meeting in the spring and a picnic in August of each year. These gatherings enabled members and their families to form new friendships and exchange early experiences with many of the "grass roots," some of whom were in Gifford Pinchot's original group of dedicated foresters.

In 1947, the Club issued its first annual publication called *Timber-Lines*. Early issues were small and included mostly news of members. Since the year 1955 was the fiftieth anniversary of the Forest Service, *Timber-Lines* that year included a "Memoirs" section that contained Chief Richard A. McArdle's article "Forestry Over Fifty Years" and numerous other articles by retirees who shared interesting and informative early-day experiences. This was popular, was continued in all subsequent issues, and made *Timber-Lines* the best unofficial collection of early Forest Service history in Region 6.

#### Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

On August 24, 2001, the constitution and bylaws of the Thirty Year Club were amended and the organization was renamed the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA). The membership chose the nickname "OldSmokeys" to characterize themselves. And the annual *Timber-Lines* became the quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Today's OldSmokeys, over 900 members strong, carry on the traditions of their Thirty-Year Club predecessors. At the social end of the spectrum, they still enjoy that annual Spring Banquet and annual Summer Picnic in the Woods, and have added monthly luncheons following the PNWFSA Board of Directors meeting on the last Friday of each month. Bridging their social and heritage endeavors, the PNWFSA in September 2005 put on the Forest Service's national Centennial Reunion in Portland, Oregon.

In the Forest Service heritage preservation arena, the OldSmokeys sponsored such publication in 2005 of 570-page centennial anthology *We Had an Objective in Mind: The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest 1905 to 2005*. Subsequent projects have included acquisition, restoration, and operation of the historic High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, and restoration and operation of the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest through major grants of money and generous expenditures of elbow grease. Annual grants also help fund other Forest Service and forestry-related heritage projects.

In the Forest Service support arena, the OldSmokeys have established the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund from which they provide needed assistance to Forest Service people whose lives have been impacted by unfortunate circumstances. OldSmokeys remain a font of constructive action and ideas that have benefitted or have had the potential to benefit the Forest Service and the National Forest System. In recent years OldSmokeys as an organization and as individuals to improve agency operations and stave off proposed actions that would damage the agency and its operations.

As individuals, OldSmokeys continue to lead. OldSmokeys **Darrel Kenops** and **Corbin Newman** are the recent past and current executive directors of the National Association of For-

est Service Retirees (NAFSR), and NAFSR's recent chairperson **Jim Golden** continues to edit its periodical *The Lookout*. OldSmokeys **Richard Stem**, **Tom Thompson**, and **Ranotta McNair** represent Region 1, Region 2, and Region 6, respectively, on NAFSR's Board of Directors, and more than a third of that board is made up of PNWFSA members—including Chiefs Emeritus **Gail Kimbell**, **Max Peterson**, and **Dale Robertson**.

The continuing viability of your PNWFSA depends directly on the continuing ability and willingness of OldSmokeys to continue their critical work on behalf of the organization and the agency it has supported for over seven decades. This is a growing challenge in a changing world in which personal identities are slowly but surely overtaking organizational identities. But that is a topic for another time.

*Prepared by OldSmokeys Newsletter editor Les Joslin from multiple sources including "Organization of the Forest Service Thirty Year Club of the Pacific Northwest Region" in the June 1967 Timber-Lines and recent articles in the OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

## Changes

**Bennett, Chester Allyn "Chet" Jr.** – Deceased September 26, 2016; Kay survives

**Chase, Dick & Kela** -- Change e-mail: rachase@aol.com

**Culbertson, Richard W. & Mae** — Change e-mail: dickculbertson@gmail.com

**Dahms, Lorna Mae** – Deceased July 17, 2014

**Downen, Charles T. & Janet** – Change telephone: 360-628-8580

**Dumont, Mary Jane** – Change address: 1801 Garden Valley Blvd, Apt 206, Roseburg, OR 97471

**Groshong, Dean L. & Marie** – Delete current address in Pendleton, OR; no new address provided  
Change telephone: 541-377-1227

**Hamell, Michael L. & Catherine** – Change telephone: 503-784-9045

**Iwamoto, Y. Robert & Marianne** – Change e-mail: yukirobma@gmail.com

**Kreger, Richard A. & Nancy** – Change e-mail: dnkreger@mydfn.net

**McDonald, Kathleen "Kate"** — New member:  
20354 Silver Sage St, Bend, OR 97702  
Telephone: 541-815-2737  
E-mail: kdmcd1@bendbroadband.com

**Morden, William E. & Donna** – Change address:  
684 N Asp Rd, Manistique, MI 49854  
Change telephone: 906-286-0842

**Morrow, Sandra Anette** — Deceased December 26, 2015

**Porter, Douglas D. & Dorothy** – Change address:  
PO Box 1638, Redmond, OR 97756

**Reeves, Richard A. & Sandra** – Change telephone: 541-659-4595

**Reeves, Sara M.** – Deceased March 4, 2014; son Richard A. Reeves survives

**Soule, Lloyd Thomas** — Deceased August 5, 2016; Betty survives

**Strombom, Freda** — Deceased November 20, 2016; Bob survives

**Waterbury, William & Elaine** -- Change address:

68822 Butte Place, Sisters, OR 97739

**Weaver, Fred C.** – Deceased November 28, 2016; Anne survives

**West, Laura Jo** – Change address:  
3850 S Wagon Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005

**Wetteland, Judie J.** – Change address:  
4417 147<sup>th</sup> Street Ct, Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
Add e-mail: jmotormom@gmail.com

**Please remember to advise PNWFSA (Membership Database Manager Bill Funk at <billfpdx@gmail.com> or c/o PNWFSA, PO Box 5583, Portland, OR 97228-5583) of any changes in your status such as home address, e-mail address, or telephone number!**

## New Members

Welcome to this new OldSmokey who has joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Fall 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Kathleen "Kate" McDonald** of Bend, Oregon, joined December 8, 2016. Kate retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, on July 31, 2011, after 22 years of service which included various reforestation and silvicultural jobs at which she "worked mostly independently in the field." In retirement, Kate enjoys kayaking, hiking and walking with her best dog Buddy, gardening, taking Bend Senior Center classes, time with her Bend daughter and family, reading, movies, dining out, and "sleeping in!"

## Memories

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

**Chester Allyn "Chet" Bennett, Jr.**, died September 26, 2016, at age 84, while vacationing in Pine Top, Arizona. Chet was born January 6, 1932, in Corvallis, Oregon, into the U.S. Forest Service family of Chester A. Bennett, Sr., and Ruby Hines. His mother died while Chet was a young boy, but his father later married Ruby Farlow. As a Forest Service kid, Chet spent his childhood years in the small Oregon communities of Paisley, Bly, John Day, and Enterprise, where he graduated from high school in 1949. "The raucous exploits of four boys growing up under one roof include legendary tales involving a baby porcupine loose in the house and a brush fire the boys started that was quite embarrassing to their forest supervisor dad," Chet's obituary published in the October 10, 2016, *Hermiston Herald* recounted. Chet attended Eastern Oregon College in La Grande for one year before enlisting in the U.S. Army at the onset of the Korean War in 1950. Chet served in a combat engineer battalion during that war and at Fort Carson, Colorado, after his unit returned to the United States. He resumed his education at Oregon State College while continuing to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve in which he attained the rank of sergeant first class. Chet married Joan Finlayson of Eugene in 1956, while both were still in college, and their son Don Allyn was born the next year in Corvallis. Another son, Jon Robert, was born in Eugene in 1961. Chet and Joan were married 47 years until her death in 2003. Chet graduated from the School of Forestry at Oregon

State in 1958 and began his professional career in the U.S. Forest Service in which he had spent college summers on trail and fire crews. First assigned to the Willamette National Forest in Oakridge, Chet moved his young family to John Day in 1962 where he served in various positions on the Malheur National Forest until his retirement in 1988. During his long Forest Service career, Chet was a leader of local and state chapters of the National Federation of Federal Employees. After retirement, he worked a number of years as a school bus driver for Grant School District No. 3, and served as president of the classified employees union. In John Day, Chet was constantly involved in church and community affairs. He was an avid deer and elk hunter. In 2006, Chet married Kay Burns of Hermiston, Oregon, and they enjoyed ten years of married life. Chet was recently recognized as a 50-year member of John Day Elks Lodge No. 1824 of which he was a past exalted ruler. He also served as district deputy for the Southeast District of the Oregon State Elks Association. Survivors include his wife Kay, sons Jon and Don, two granddaughters, and stepdaughter Heather Powers and her two children.

**Lorna Mae Dahms** died July 17, 2014, at age 94. She was the widow of the late Walter G. “Walt” Dahms, a U.S. Forest Service scientist long associated with the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest and the Bend Silviculture Laboratory. Lorna was born September 23, 1919, in Custer, South Dakota. After completing nursing school in South Dakota and becoming a registered nurse, she met Walt who was in South Dakota working on the shelter belt project. When the United States entered World War II, Walt joined the U.S. Navy, and Lorna and Walt married while he was in naval officer training at Harvard University. Their early Navy days took them to Virginia Beach and San Francisco. After the war ended, Walt joined the Forest Service and continued his education. One school year was in Washington, D.C., and a summer was spent in an old CCC camp in the Blue Mountains of Oregon. Another school year was spent in Syracuse, New York, and a summer at the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest. Walt enjoyed working in the woods and Lorna loved the “mini Yellowstone lodges” and handcrafted furniture of these accommodations and their forested surroundings. Walt received advanced degrees and became a research forester.

They moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1950, where Walt worked at the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest and Lorna worked as a registered nurse at the Bend Memorial Clinic until Walt retired from the Forest Service at age 62. Lorna and Walt remained in Bend where she bought Walt a Bend Country Club membership as a Christmas present and learned to play golf in order to spend time with him. The two played golf for 26 years, sometimes 36 holes a day. Lorna had a document seven holes-in-one at the club. Both died on July 17, six years apart, Walt at age 95 and Lorna at age 94. Survivors include their son Bill.

**Sandra Annette Morrow** died December 26, 2015, at age 73. She was the widow of the late David “Dave” Morrow and lived in Medford, Oregon. Sandra was born December 10, 1941, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where she grew up. Survivors include her daughter Tonya, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. No further information is available.

**Sara M. Reeves** died March 4, 2014. She was the widow of the late Ralph “Sparky” Reeves and lived in Grants Pass, Oregon, and mother of PNWFSA member Richard A. Reeves, also of Grants Pass. No further information is available.

**Freda May Vincent Evans Strombom** died November 20, 2016, at age 94. Freda May Vincent was born November 13, 1922, in New Pine Creek, Oregon, where she was raised in a strictly religious farm home and attended a one-room school where her daughters later were taught by the same teacher. Her first marriage to an abusive husband produced two daughters and ended in divorce; left without child support, she often worked several jobs to support herself and her daughters. Freda joined the U.S. Forest Service in Lakeview, Oregon. While on the Fremont National Forest, she was sent from her desk to a fire camp to work Maps and Plans on a major forest fire. There she saved the life of a young firefighter, unconscious after trying to outrun the fire when the wind shifted, by successfully administering CPR after others had given him up as dead. Another wind shift blew that same fire roaring into the fire camp. Freda was one of three people leaving in the last pickup truck; as they braved their way through the wall of fire, the paint was scorched from the truck and the heat made their metal hard hats so hot they could not hold onto them. Freda worked Maps and Plans on many fires during her remaining Forest Service years. Transferred to the Mt. Hood National Forest SO in Portland, Oregon, she met Bob Strombom who became her second husband on July 9, 1971. As their 45-year marriage began, Freda once again became a working mother when Bob’s three children opted to live with them. All three soon came to call her Mom. In addition to her regular duties at the Mt. Hood National Forest office, Freda was selected as traveling secretary to the forest supervisor at public meetings that led to designation of the Columbia River Gorge as a national scenic area. Later, promoted to the RO in Portland, she served in Lands and Minerals where she headed administration land use permits and fees. She retired in 1983 after more than 20 years of service. Freda and Bob went to Washington, D.C., where they worked as consultants to the World Bank from 1987 until 2000. Their consulting work took them to eight third-world countries where, in her spare time, she focused on learning local traditions and concerns. When they returned to Washington state, they settled in Ocean Shores. Survivors include Bob.

*Editor’s Note: Prepared from a memorial provided by Bob Strombom.*

**Lloyd Thomas Soule, Sr.** died August 5, 2016, at age 90. Lloyd was born April 23, 1926, in Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Johnsonburg High School, Lloyd enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during World War II in the European theatre as a combat medic with the 232<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (the famed “Rainbow Division”), from 1943 to 1946. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he re-enlisted for six months and performed escort duties for returning deceased war hero remains from Europe to their Pennsylvania families. Lloyd met Betty, a student nurse, in 1947; they married on September 11, 1949, and spent 66 years together. Lloyd graduated from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1952, and spent his entire career as a forester serving in the U.S. Forest Service. Lloyd was active in the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Rainbow Veterans Memorial Foundation, the Presbyterian Church, and American Legion Post 46. He served as a Boy Scout leader in his earlier years. He enjoyed hiking, fishing, hunting, gardening, woodworking, and golf. Survivors include Betty; their sons L. Thomas Jr. and Michael, and their daughter Vicki Ochs; and a granddaughter and a grandson. *Editor’s Note: Lloyd’s death was announced in the*

*Memories* section of the Fall 2016 OldSmokeys Newsletter, but information for this remembrance published in the Woodburn Independent was not received before that issue went to press.

**Fred C. Weaver** died November 28, 2016, at age 77. Fred was born October 7, 1939, in Fort Collins, Colorado. He graduated from Oregon State College in 1961 with a B.S. degree in forestry and from Michigan State University in 1975 with a B.S. degree in forest economics. During his lifelong career in the U.S. Forest Service, Fred served on the Winema, Wenatchee, Umpqua, Willamette, Black Hills, and Olympic national forests before he retired in 1996. Fred enjoyed square dancing, woodworking, handyman stuff, gardening, hiking and camping. He was a member of Master Gardeners and Toastmasters International and an active member of the first Presbyterian church in Klamath Falls, Oregon. In addition, Fred logged many volunteer hours with the American Red Cross, Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank, and Klamath Hospice. Survivors include Anne, his wife of 56 years; their daughter Deborah Wagner and their son Scott; six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

## Letters

This section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* provides available space in which OldSmokeys may share news and thoughts.

### *U.S. Forest Service News* continued from Page 9

overlooked values, provide incentives for sustainable practices, and encourage inclusive, collaborative policymaking methods to ensure that input from stakeholder groups and individuals is considered prior to implementing management decisions. In a recent general technical report produced by station scientists, the Deschutes National Forest is used as a case study to explore the application of the ecosystem process.

“Multiple use really changed the way the agency did the work, but there was still a strong emphasis on commodities and timber,” Pacific Northwest Research Station and OldSmokey **Bob Deal**, one of the authors of “What People Value: An Ecosystem Services Approach to Managing Public Lands” addressed in the August 2016 issue of the Station’s periodical *Science Findings*. “We weren’t fully valuing all the other services that come from public lands.”

### CORRECTION

#### *It’s Norm (not Neal) Arsenault!*

In the caption for the photograph accompanying the article “OldSmokeys Lost Former Presidents Hirl and Poppino During Spring 2016” on page 4 of the Summer 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, former Deschutes National Forest supervisor Norm Arsenault was mistakenly identified as “Neal Arsenault.” The editor regrets this and any other error, and appreciates errors being called to his attention so they may be corrected.

Almost every issue contains a few errors—mostly typographical errors instead of errors of omission or substance—in spite of proofreading efforts. Corrections such as this address the latter two types of errors.

—The Editor

## Books

### Char Miller and Tim Palmer Produced *America’s Great National Forests, Wildernesses & Grasslands*

By Les Joslin

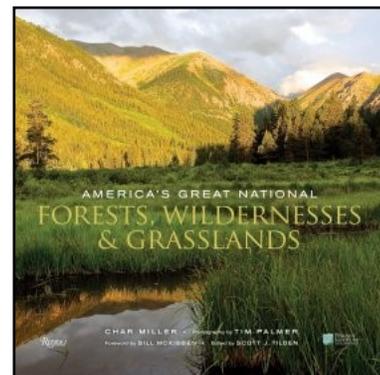
Professor Char Miller and photographer Tim Palmer have collaborated to celebrate the National Forest System in *America’s Great National Forests, Wildernesses & Grasslands* published in 2016 by Rizzoli.

Miller wrote about and Palmer photographed “the thirty most notable national forests” featured in this book edited by Scott J. Tilden and praised by the National Forest Foundation. “While American’s thoughts typically default to the National Parks when considering natural landscapes, Miller and Palmer reveal that equally beautiful scenes abound in our National Forests,” the Foundation wrote. “Armchair travelers and hard core National Forest fans alike will find their National Forest experiences enriched by this tribute to ‘The People’s Lands,’ and [*America’s Great National Forests, Wildernesses, and Grasslands*] helpfully explains how the Forests earned that sobriquet and why it remains true today.”

I’m hard put to figure how Miller and Palmer sorted out “the thirty most notable national forests” from the 100 or more—that number used to be about 150 but it’s hard to keep track in this era of national forest lumping—that comprise the National Forest System. I’m pleased the authors did so “while also celebrating more than one hundred national forests in forty-four states” as the publisher’s review noted. I have a couple favorites—favorites because I worked on them, and I’m sure that would have affected any such effort I might have made to come up with “the thirty most notable” national forests.

At 10 inches by 10 inches in size, *America’s Great National Forests, Wildernesses, and Grasslands* probably meets the specifications of a “coffee table book.” Its size and colorful cover are certain to draw attention to its fascinating subject.

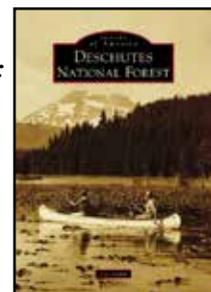
Published in hardcover by Rizzoli in March 2016 at \$50.00, *America’s Great National Forests, Wildernesses, and Grasslands* (ISBN 978-0-8475-4195-4), 272 pages, illustrated, is available from booksellers as well as from online sources such as Amazon sometimes for a lower price.



### Coming This Spring...

OldSmokey Les Joslin’s *Images of America: Deschutes National Forest* is scheduled for publication by Arcadia Publishing on April 3, 2017. In 128 pages, this new book shows and tells the fascinating story of this Pacific Northwest Region national forest’s establishment and stewardship.

Watch this column!



## Out of the Past

### Fire Suppression, Old Style

By Harold E. Smith

Trailing a band of cattle up the north slope of the Paulina Mountains, Deschutes National Forest, for the purpose of checking on the number of cattle and ownership of same, I came across a fire burning merrily in a thick carpet of pine needles. It evidently had been started by a cigarette dropped by one of the cowpokes.

The fire was only about 10 feet in diameter, but conditions were right for rapid spread. Having no tools, I put “Old Doll” into a long swinging trot around the fire. By the end of 75 to 100 turns, the pine needles were pretty well submerged in the volcanic soil. I parked Doll on the side line and finished the trench by kicking away whatever loose duff still remained in the trail. It didn’t take long for the fire to eat its way to the inner edge of the trench and die out for lack of fuel.

Upon catching up with the cattle men, they denied having any knowledge of the fire.

To “Old Doll” this was just another example of the many services she and many others of her kind were called upon to perform. In fact, very few segments of pioneer history would be complete without paying a high tribute to horses and the faithful services they rendered.

Just to mention a few, it was Doll who made the 36-mile run from Pine Mountain Ranger Station to Bend in 3 hours and 48 minutes. What was the hurry? No hurry, just jogging along. Again it was Doll who carried me, on a snow flecked night, from East Butte to Pine Mountain Ranger Station, 10 miles over the old fire road, in just 55 minutes flat. Had we been in a hurry, I think that time could have been shortened considerable.

And also it was Doll who packed the doors, windows, shingles and hardware to the top of Paulina Peak in 1915 for the lookout house. Dick and Jack, the two little mules, handled the longer timbers on narrow gage sleds. Incidentally, I was the “teamster” on that project.

One writer recently gave Vern Harpham credit for that little chore. Vern did, with the help of Greg Allen, build the shack on Paulina Peak, but the lumber toting detail was handled by me and the two other mules and Old Doll.

*Editor’s Note: Harold E. Smith began his U.S. Forest Service career in 1911 as a forest ranger on the Deschutes National Forest. With the assistance of Ranger Harvey E. Vincent of the Sisters Ranger District, he built the Pine Mountain Ranger Station at Antelope Springs in 1914. After his wife died there in the flu pandemic of 1918, Harold transferred to the Alaska Region where he served until his retirement from the Forest Service in 1945. He worked his way up from forester on the Sitka Ranger District to district ranger on the Juneau Ranger District and ultimately deputy regional forester. Harold was a prolific contributor to Timber-Lines published by the Thirty-Year Club, predecessors respectively of your OldSmokeys Newsletter and Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association. This is one of eight of his stories published in the September 1979 Timber-Lines. Harold Smith lived his later life in Berkeley, California, where he died on December 19, 1986, at the age of 100—just a few weeks short of his 101st birthday on January 28, 1987.*

## Uncle Sam’s Cabins

### Pelican Guard Station

Fremont-Winema National Forest, Oregon

Story and photographs by Les Joslin

Historic Pelican Guard Station was constructed by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Crew in 1933 on the Rogue River National Forest almost three decades before the Wine- ma National Forest—more recently lumped with the Fremont National Forest into the Fremont-Winema National Forest—was carved out of the Rogue, Deschutes, and Fremont national forests and the Klamath Indian Reservation in 1961.

A cabin and garage were built first, and a barn was added a couple years later. CCC Crew No. 1642, based at the Lake of the Woods CCC Camp F-104, built the station. The restored cabin exhibits a simple, low cost, quickly built, utilitarian design style referred to as “stripped rustic.”

Just west of Upper Klamath Lake, Pelican Guard Station served as a residence and base of operations for the U.S. Forest Service seasonal fire guard and fire crews who worked for the Rogue River National Forest district ranger headquartered at Lake of the Woods Ranger Station. The fire guard and crews stationed there during the summers fought forest fires and forest pests such as the western pine beetle and accomplished other project work. A mortar-rock fireplace built of basalt cobbles by a summer crew remains on the site.

Located along the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, historic Pelican Guard Station is the preserved and interpreted centerpiece of Pelican Guard Station Day Use Area just off Oregon Highway 140.

*This sign (right) marks the Pelican Guard Station Day Use Area.*

*Pelican Guard Station is interpreted at this scenic byway kiosk (below).*



*Pelican Guard Station*



## My First Forest Service Job

### My First Four Months as a Forester and Reflections on a Forest Service Career



Dave Scott--back when!

By Dave Scott

*Instead of writing about my first job, I have decided to write about my first four months as a professional forester.*

My score on the junior agricultural assistant's exam was barely passing, so after finishing school at the University of Idaho in June 1953 I still didn't have a permanent job. I took a temporary job on the Deer Lodge National Forest and spent three weeks rooming with a little old lady in Boulder, Montana, attending "fire school" and doing various odd jobs.

At the end of three weeks I received a professional job offer on the Six Rivers National Forest at Salyer, California. That was a great day! My pay would be \$3,410 a year. I bunked in an old abandoned Forest Service dwelling at the mouth of the South Fork of the Trinity River with Tom Beard, another junior forester. Wes Hotelling was the district ranger. I spent a month cruising timber out of the small town of Hoopa with Rob McGregor, a great teacher.

I spent one night on the fire line "alone" with 15 inmates from the Blue Mountain Work Camp. Nobody told me the Forest Service used inmates on the fire line which made it interesting for me in as much as I was the only "free man" out there. Following that I spent four days at fire camp doing flunky work. Sometime during those days I received notice to report for a U.S. Army physical exam in San Francisco.

Upon return from San Francisco, I was given a transfer to the Shasta National Forest. To get there I took a bus from Salyer to Redding, a Forest Service plane from Redding to Mott Field near Mt. Shasta, and a car to Dunsmuir. There I was lodged in a storeroom in the back of a warehouse which had a window that opened directly onto the Dunsmuir city swimming pool.

District Ranger Clem Crouch didn't know I was subject to the draft at any time. In any case, off I went for 10 days of trail maintenance on the Hazel Creek Trail. When I got back from the trail work a Selective Service System draft notice was waiting for me. I was to report in Minneapolis for active duty on October 7. I returned two years later.

All of the above took place between June 15 and October 1, 1953. Only one of the moves was of my own volition, yet each move benefitted me. I never questioned making the moves. I moved many times during my 30 years in the Forest Service. And now I share a few thoughts regarding my work in various positions within the Forest Service organization during those 30 years.

I never sought a position of influence and responsibility during my 30 years with the Forest Service. I often looked for positions that would give me happiness and contentment. I find that far more important for my own wellbeing. As strange as it

seems, I never had any particular career objective I never applied for any job before going to my final job as Director of Recreation in Region 6.

With that in mind, a key to my career was mobility—a willingness for me and my family to move. I turned down only one job offer in my career. Wherever the outfit said go, I went. That was made possible by an exceptionally loving and understanding wife who was able to wrap up her career in each case and take off and start anew, and by our kids who were adaptable and prepared to move.

Some of the negative results of that kind of a career are:

- My wife did not have an opportunity to climb an organizational career ladder like I did. That doesn't seem fair in hindsight.
- You move away from your children as you get older and leave them behind. That is probably the most difficult of any part of this kind of career.
- You are hardly ever close geographically to extended family members.
- I have sold five houses in my career, broke even on two, made money on one, and lost substantial amounts on two. You have to understand that a move is costly, and you pay out of your own pocket.

A couple other points about my career I think were important. One is that, during the first 17 years, I counted up one time that 20 percent of that time was spent acting in positions of a grade higher than I was being paid. I never gave it a second thought then, and was delighted to have the opportunity to do so. I also have to credit fate or timing—being in the right place at the right time with an average amount of talent—as being very important.

Some of the personal characteristics I believe are important are:

- Be impatient with the status quo; challenge the status quo. Shout and wave the banner; and when that is done, understand that significant change only takes place over the long run.
- Don't give up your ideals. Take your positions based on your professional training and your personal experiences. Understand the system and use it to accomplish your goals. When all is said and done, you must understand you have to look for and find solutions that work. All the idealism in the world is no good without a dash of pragmatism.
- Be ambitious. It is desirable to be ambitious in the Forest Service, but not too ambitious.
- Be a responsible advocate for your position. To be successful you have to take your position into a group and compete. You have to compete for all you are worth. If you can't bring the group to believe in your position, you will probably have to change. When you compete with the group, tempers may flare and, indeed, you may have to change. But when you walk out of the room, you have to walk out the best of friends with all of those people who were there with you. The hard feelings and any harsh words that might have passed simply have to be left in the room, and you go about the rest of your life with good friends.

A final thought: Not moving, in my opinion, has done more to change the Forest Service than all of the environmental laws passed or the court decisions made.



**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association**  
**P.O. Box 5583**  
**Portland, OR 97228-5583**



**www.oldsmokeys.org**

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT NO. 1

## Winter 2017

*Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows “17” your dues are paid through December 31, 2017. If it shows “LT” you are a lifetime member and owe no further dues.*

**Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month at the The Old Spaghetti Factory, 0715 S.W. Bancroft Street off Macadam Avenue, just south of downtown Portland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.**

### *Officers*

**President**, Ron Boehm; **President-elect**, Tom Mulder; **Past President**, Jim Rice; **Secretary**, Debra Warren; **Recording Secretary**, Susan Triplett; **Treasurer**, Dick Bennett; **Membership Database Manager**, Bill Funk; **Archivist**, Ray Steiger; **Newsletter Editor**, Les Joslin; **E-Mail Editor**, Vern Clapp; **Website Manager**, Don Nearhood; **Membership Chair**, Doug MacDonald; **Community Outreach Chair**: Bev Pratt; **Banquet Chair**, Jean Loff; **Picnic Chair**, Rick Larson; **National Association of Forest Service Retirees Representative**, Ranotta McNair.

### *Area Representatives*

**Regional Office**, Al Matecko; **Research Station**, Cindy Miner, Debra Warren; **Colville**, Al Garr; **Deschutes**, Dennis Dietrich; **Fremont**, Richard “Buck” Woodward; **Gifford Pinchot**, Phil Dodd; **Gifford Pinchot (east)**, Jim Bull; **Gifford Pinchot (west)**, Ray Scharpf; **Malheur**, vacant; **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie**, Lee Boecksteigel; **Mt. Hood**, Jim Tierney; **Ochoco**, Denise Reinhart, Dave Zalunardo; **Okanogan**, vacant; **Olympic**, Chris Anderson, Dave Yates; **Rogue River**, Jerry Wojack, Tom Lupes; **Siskiyou**, Eileen Blakely, Joel King; **Siuslaw**, Ted Gump; **Umatilla**, Phil Kline; **Umpqua**, Bill Blackwell; **Wallowa-Whitman**, Art Schimke; **Wenatchee**, Kjell Bakke, Fred Walk; **Willamette**, Al Sorseth; Doug MacDonald; **Winema**, Ted Yarosh, Mike Gouette.

***Address Changes? Please let PNWFSA know. A few weeks delay can result in not getting your newsletter.***

The *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the benefit of its members and various offices of the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6. Copies are also made available to all other U.S. Forest Service retiree organizations. Annual PNWFSA membership is \$20. Lifetime membership is \$250. Specific requirements for membership eligibility and a membership application are available from the PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.