



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2018

President's Message—Tom Mulder

Greetings, friends! A fresh year is upon us, and exciting 2018 adventures call. With a brand spanking-new season to plan, we Mulders are daydreaming about exploring hidden parts of the Pacific Northwest which have eluded us. In spite of living here for most of our lives, we know there are still unseen special outdoor places across Oregon and Washington to beckon us. Time's a' wastin'! Building a list! Waterfalls to discover. Painted canyons to explore. Forested cathedrals to steal our breath. Historic fire lookouts to climb.

I also have favorite old haunts to re-experience, and 2018 may be the year. Take me back to Eagle Creek's Punch Bowl in the Gorge, and Wind River's Trout Creek on the Gifford Pinchot. Let me soak in Lehman Springs on the Umatilla, and bask in Olallie Lake sunshine high on the Mt. Hood. How about you? What adventures and nostalgic outings do you envision in 2018? We would love to hear about your favorites across the Northwest. I invite you to share your memories and recommendations for best lakes to canoe, most scenic trails to tread, most beautiful waterfalls to photograph, or historic cabins to visit so we can add them to our lists and dreams. Share your suggestions on our OldSmokeys Facebook page at...

<<https://www.facebook.com/pg/OldSmokeys-Pacific-Northwest-Forest-Service-Association-688130288056124/posts>>

...or e-mail me at <tommulder4bear@gmail.com> and we can get them posted. Tell us about your favorite outdoor spots, and share a few words about what makes them special. If you have a photo of yourself and friends enjoying the spot, add it. It is so often the connection with friends that makes these special spots resonate. I'm counting on you to help me build this list!

Cheers, and a hearty welcome to the newest OldSmokeys! And congratulations and welcome to the nearly 200 newest Forest Service retirees in the Northwest over the past year. We honor you and are eager to stay in touch, and hope that 2018 brings plenty of adventures to you. And let's offer our thanks to the Forest Service employees who carry on in service on the national forests and conduct amazing research in the Pacific Northwest. Staying connected with you, that's just what OldSmokeys do. How we stay connected is the focus of the recent OldSmokeys Board statement found on pages 2 and 3. I encourage you to take a look, and stay involved.

Great news to share! **Rob Mangold** has agreed to be our nominee for President-elect of OldSmokeys. Retired from the Pacific Northwest Research Station and brimming with ideas about and interest in fostering the future of OldSmokeys, Rob is on the ballot on page 3 and I am very pleased to recommend him. If elected, Rob will follow **Kent Connaughton** as President-elect and be part of an outstanding Board leadership team. So use the ballot on page 3 to cast your vote. Be well! Adventure on!

Tom Mulder

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

PNWFSA Election 2018 Ballot on Page 3!

Forum

PNWFSA Board of Directors Statement Guides Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

At their November 24, 2017, meeting, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors adopted a vision statement regarding “Who We Are and What We Are Going to Be” (*see the next two columns*) that, *inter alia*, establishes a new editorial policy for your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

As it charts a way forward for the OldSmokeys, that vision statement specifies what the PNWFSA is and is not. With reference to the latter: “We are not a political or activist organization, nor a policy advice group. While we are not a policy consulting group, we understand and support the rights of members to individually speak out *through other venues*.”

Three words in the second of those two sentences—words italicized by your editor—modify the “bully pulpit” policy— which provided the editor and the readers a voice with which and a platform from which to address a range of issues of concern—adopted by your editor some twelve years ago in the absence of any specified editorial policy.

Henceforth, those words in that statement guide this editor’s editorial policy.

— Les Joslin

Too Much Central Oregon Stuff in Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*?

The *OldSmokeys News* section of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter* issue contains quite a lot of reporting about Central Oregon members of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) and not as much on members in other parts of the region. So have some previous issues of this publication.

“Why is that?” readers might rightly ask.

One reason could be that your editor lives in Bend. He’s more in touch with OldSmokeys and their activities in Central Oregon than in other areas.

Another reason might be that OldSmokey **Dennis Dietrich** is very active as a Central Oregon PNWFSA area representative in terms of recruiting new members, connecting members with each other and with current Forest Service leadership, and getting the word out to members. All this generates news.

Still another reason might be that OldSmokeys in Central Oregon have continuing efforts such as the High Desert Ranger Station project at The High Desert Museum south of Bend that keep them involved in a newsworthy manner.

That’s not to say OldSmokeys in other areas aren’t active or aren’t newsworthy. But it does raise the question why their newsworthy activities don’t reach the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* editor so he can share them with the rest of the readership.

This brings us to your editor’s plea for your submissions of information on your OldSmokey activities—individual or group—he knows must be going on out there, but information about which does not reach him and thus is not reported as it should be in the pages of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

— 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 of Directors Adopted Who We Are & What We Are Going to Be Vision Statement on November 24, 2017

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) at their November 24, 2017, meeting, adopted a vision statement that expresses “Who We Are & What We Are Going to Be” as an organization dedicated to benefitting the U.S. Forest Service, its personnel, and the goals of both. That statement follows.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association “The OldSmokeys”

A Statement of the Board of Directors

Who We Are & What We Are Going to Be

November 2017

As an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association supports the mission and goals of the U.S. Forest Service and its personnel through a wide range of activities associated with the stewardship of the 25 million acres of National Forest System lands in Washington and Oregon and supportive natural resource research, outreach, and education.

Our primary focus is to achieve specific goals as an effective social network. We have fun, enjoy comradery, and remain connected with people with whom we share Forest Service experiences. We feel affinity for both retired and current employees. We are not a political or an activist organization, nor are we a policy advice group. While we are not a policy consulting group, we understand and support the rights of members to individually speak out through other venues. We foster communication among retirees, and between retirees and active employees, and stay in touch with the Forest Service and each other via events, emails, a newsletter, and social media.

We serve as a helpful and friendly information conduit from the Forest Service, particularly the Pacific Northwest Region and the Pacific Northwest Research Station, to retirees.

We unequivocally support the current Forest Service workforce, and maintain the view that they are all good people facing many challenges. We have affection for and remain connected to the workforce at all levels of the Forest Service.

We are a welcoming community of Forest Service veterans, and offer support and resources to individuals transitioning to and in retirement. We support both retirees and current employees in time of need. We also support Forest Service families which have suffered loss from fire, floods, or other causes with funding and other resources.

We want to actively reach out and recruit members, and realize that our membership will be smaller in the future as there

are fewer employees in the Forest Service than there have been in the past. A vibrant outreach and recruitment strategy should be ongoing, although richness of shared experiences is of greater importance than sheer numbers.

We contribute to sound education of the public and our members, conveying information rather than controversial opinion. We acknowledge controversy, but prefer to educate rather than foment or alienate. We are active in the preservation and sharing of the Forest Service's unique heritage resources, valuing their special mystique to promote accomplishment of the agency's mission.

We support Forest Service goals by providing grants to other non-profit natural resource oriented organizations which propose projects that improve Pacific Northwest Region national forests and/or provide educational opportunities on natural resource management and issues.

We aim to be active at a local scale, connecting with Forests, Districts, and Labs and welcoming new and younger members as OldSmokeys. So they know we are interested in and feel connected to them, we emphasize communication and visibility with the current workforce. We recognize and honor recent and pending retirees.

We watch and emulate similar organizations and learn from their successes and innovations. We innovate and try new things, sometimes fail, but enthusiastically try some more.

We (as officers and members of the board of directors) envision visits to Forests, meetings with Forest Supervisors and Leadership Teams and local retirees to describe who we are, and ask this question: "How can we be of service to the current workforce and you?"

We propose an addition to the grant program, asking: "What can we do to benefit the current workforce and let them know we stand behind them?"

We want to explore whether the OldSmokeys non-profit can be a parent organization, an incubator, or an affiliate in support of building local non-profit "friends" groups of retirees. The intent is to visibly serve as a supportive and relevant network of retirees.

The PNWFSA Board of Directors adopted this statement as a positive perspective that guides OldSmokeys' efforts even as it interprets the nature and scope of the organization and its operations for its members and others. The Board anticipates periodic review and revision as conditions require.

OldSmokeys Honor 2017 Region Six Retirees

"The OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) congratulate each and every one of the 170 members of the U.S. Forest Service who completed their careers in the Pacific Northwest Region during 2017," says PNWFSA President **Tom Mulder**. We heartily invite all of them to join the PNWFSA and continue their commitment to the Forest Service and its mission with us."

OldSmokeys Board Nominates Rob Mangold to Serve as Next PNWFSA President-elect

Retired Pacific Northwest Research Station Director and OldSmokey **Robert D. "Rob" Mangold, Ph.D.**, has accepted the Board of Directors' nomination to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the 2018-2019 term, and then as President for the 2019-2020 term.

After approval of his nomination by the PNWFSA membership, Rob will be installed in that office at the annual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 20, 2018, and will be in line to succeed OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** as President in May 2019.

Rob has been an OldSmokey since January 2014, joining after completing a 27-year career in the U.S. Forest Service as Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland. Prior to reporting to the station, he served as Associate Deputy Chief for Research and Development in the WO, and before that as director of the agency's forest health protection program. Rob, who has experience in State and Private Forestry, Research and Development, and the National Forest System, as well as in private industry, joined the Forest Service in 1988 as a geneticist on the Umpqua National Forest. He earned his Ph.D. degree in genetics at Oregon State University.

Please use the ballot below right now to support Rob's acceptance of this challenging three-year commitment. On the opposite side if this ballot is a Bill for Collection for use by annual dues payers who have not yet sent in 2018 annual dues. If one of the latter, you can send in both your ballot and your annual dues at the same time using the same stamp!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Winter 2018 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect Nominee Rob Mangold

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated
Robert D. Mangold, Ph.D.
to serve as PNWFSA President-elect for the
2018-2019 term.

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

_____ I cast my ballot for **Robert D. Mangold** to serve
as PNWFSA President-elect.

_____ I cast my ballot for _____
to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

Mail your ballot to:

PNWFSA
P.O. Box 5583
Portland, Oregon 97228
by February 15, 2018

or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to
Secretary Deb Warren at
debwarren69@gmail.com

OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2018 were Due and Payable on January 1, 2018

OldSmokeys who pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) dues on an annual basis but who have not yet paid their **Annual Dues** are asked to pay those dues as soon as possible to save fellow OldSmokeys the time and trouble of calling them to remind them to pay those dues.

You may pay your annual dues by PayPal by going to the OldSmokeys website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> and clicking on “Donations and Payments” and following the procedure.

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

On the reverse side of this Bill for Collection is the ballot for approving the nomination of OldSmokey **Rob Mangold** to serve as the next PNWFSA President-elect that you can send in at the same time with the same stamp!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Bill for Collection

for 2018 Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and PNWFSA Fund Donations

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

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

Please check all that apply:

_____ First year of PNWFSA Membership—\$0
(Free if before October 1 of year in which joined)

_____ Annual Membership Renewal—\$20.00

_____ Lifetime Membership—\$250.00

_____ Elmer Moyer Memorial
Emergency Fund Donation—\$ _____

_____ Project/Grant Fund Donation—\$ _____

_____ General Fund Donation—\$ _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Any changes to your contact information or comments?

OldSmokeys Spring Banquet is May 20, Summer Picnic is Set for August 10

Mark your calendars now for the two top Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) social events of 2018!

The annual **Spring Banquet** at the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, has been scheduled for Sunday, May 20, 2018, and the annual **Summer Picnic in the Woods** at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood has been scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2018.

Complete information about and a registration form for the Spring Banquet will be in the spring issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, and information about and a registration form for the Summer Picnic will be in the spring and summer issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys are Registering Now for Reunion at the Cradle in Beautiful Asheville!



**Reunion at
The Cradle
Asheville 2018**

Just nine months from now, OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees from all over the United States—and active duty Forest Service folks, too—will converge on beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, for the September 24-28, 2018, national “Reunion at the Cradle” hosted by the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association (SFRA) at the beautiful Crown Plaza Resort.

You want to be there!

Your Fall 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* contained information about registration for this greatly anticipated reunion, and complete current information on all aspects of the reunion as well as registration is available at the reunion website at <2018.fsreunions.org>. If you haven’t already, visit that website now and click on its five fascinating sections!

- **Home Page** provides a taste of what is planned.
- **History and Culture** introduces the Southern Region.
- **Venue Overview** shows you the Crown Plaza Resort.
- **Program Overview** previews such reunion offerings as day-long field trips to the Biltmore Estate and to the Cradle of Forestry on the Pisgah National Forest as well as the silent auction and raffle.
- **Registration** provides complete information on registration and a registration form you can download as well as room reservation information. You can register and reserve rooms now!
- **About Us** introduces the fine Southern Region retirees who are putting on the reunion.

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

OldSmokeys Dick & Mary Ferraro Play a Role in “Reunion at the Cradle”

“Over the years, [OldSmokeys] **Dick and Mary Ferraro** have generously donated a delightful wine package to the past [Forest Service] reunions, and will do so again in 2018,” writes OldSmokey **Liz Agpaoa** in the “Reunion at the Cradle” website

Ferrero continues on page 5

OldSmokey Tom L. Thompson Received Gifford Pinchot Award from Society of American Foresters

OldSmokey **Tom L. Thompson** received the Gifford Pinchot Award at the Society of American Foresters' national convention held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 15-19, 2017. Presented at the convention on odd-numbered years, the Gifford Pinchot Award recognizes outstanding contributions by a forestry professional in the administration, practice, and professional development of North American forestry.

A former Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Tom continues to contribute to the profession of forestry in retirement from his home in Littleton, Colorado, in many ways. Among these, he supervised planning of the September 2012 Forest Service Reunion in Vail, Colorado, and he currently serves as the President of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

OldSmokeys Take On PNWFSA Roles

Three OldSmokeys have recently taken on roles that get Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) jobs done.

OldSmokey **Carol Cushing** on Friday, November 10, 2017, assumed the Board of Directors role of E-Mail Editor from OldSmokey **Vern Clapp**. Since then, Carol has been cranking out the OldSmokeys eNote, eForum, and eMemorial e-mails that had been Vern's bailiwick for many years. This family of OldSmokeys e-mails is the "real time" communicator of news that helps OldSmokeys keep up-to-date on what's going on in the Forest Service and in their PNWFSA. Carol's e-mail address for all PNWFSA communications is <carol@oldsmokeys.org>.

After several years of guiding the activities of the PNWFSA Grants committee, OldSmokey **Charlie Krebs** was named a member of the Board of Directors some months back. Listing of Charlie in this position was inadvertently omitted from the Fall 2017 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, an error corrected on page 16 of this issue. In this capacity, Charlie leads the Grants Committee in considering and approving applications for annual grants totaling as much as \$10,000 through which PNWFSA supports projects pursued by organizations which satisfy the policy adopted in 2009.

As reported in the Fall 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, PNWFSA President **Tom Mulder** has launched "a Facebook page for OldSmokeys as an additional means of communication...." Former PNWFSA President and OldSmokey **John Berry** "has volunteered to serve as back-up administrator" for that Facebook page," President Tom reported recently.

Ferraro continued from page 4

"Artists Behind the Auction" section of the Program Overview.

Liz recalls Dick's explanation of his and Mary's winemaking found in his "sage advice for a successful retirement. 'You know, you actually do not fully retire. Find something you love and do it!' Dick and Mary live that philosophy and love creating and crafting their delicious wines.... Since the Reunions are always scheduled in the Fall, the busiest time of the year for Ferraro Cellars, Mary and Dick are not able to attend. But their wines will!"

Dick's story, "My Love of Wine," is included in Liz's "Artists Behind the Auction" section of the Program Overview.



OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy (center), on stage with other American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) officers at that professional association's recent annual meeting in Los Angeles, completed a two-year term as ASLA's vice-president for government affairs. Photograph courtesy of Robin Gyorgyfalvy.

OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Completed Two-Year Term as ASLA Vice-President for Government Affairs

OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy** completed two years of service as American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) vice-president for government affairs on October 23, 2017, at ASLA's Annual Meeting & EXPO in Los Angeles. In that capacity, Robin provided leadership on the ASLA Executive Committee and advocated for the work landscape architects provide to communities in transportation planning and design, green infrastructure, and parks and recreation design. She assisted in training landscape architects to communicate how their project work benefits the quality of life and sustainability for their own communities. She was involved with an annual event in May in Washington, D.C., called Advocacy Day, at which landscape architects meet in the Capitol to promote their profession. The empowerment and voice they gain through ASLA's advocacy tools and training are also applied in their home states.

Robin's accomplishments included advancing ways to promote diversity throughout the profession, enhancing the visibility and image of the profession, and promoting closer collaboration with the other design professions. A highlight was involvement in the design review of the new Center for Landscape Design, ASLA's Washington, D.C., home. She also served as the Executive Committee liaison to the government affairs, licensure and state government, and policy advisory committees made up of ASLA members.

An ASLA fellow since 2012, U.S. Forest Service veteran Robin is Deschutes National Forest landscape architect and scenic byways program manager.

Come on, OldSmokeys!
We know you're out there doin' good stuff. Send your stories in to your OldSmokeys Newsletter and share your good news with your friends!





OldSmokeys Linda and Dick Connelly celebrated after Dick was named High Desert Museum Seasonal Volunteer of the Year for ten years of dedicated High Desert Ranger Station service.
Photograph by Les Joslin

OldSmokey Dick Connelly Honored for High Desert Museum Volunteer Service

OldSmokey **Dick Connelly** was named Seasonal Volunteer of the Year at the High Desert Museum's annual volunteer recognition dinner on Thursday, September 12, 2017, in recognition of his ten years of dedicated volunteer service to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station project.

Dick's volunteer service to the High Desert Ranger Station project began on June 26, 2008, when the historic structure arrived at the Museum after a 550-mile trip from central Nevada, continued through its year-long restoration and then through the following nine summers of interpretation. Dick and his wife Linda helped restore the structure and, following its June 30, 2009, dedication, Dick was one of the original four OldSmokeys who staffed it daily that summer from July 1 through the Labor Day weekend.

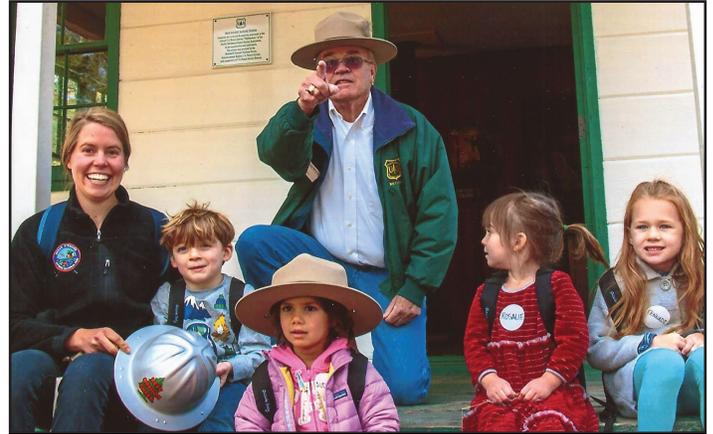
Dick has served faithfully on that High Desert Ranger Station interpretation team every summer since. He also helps set the historic station up for interpretation every spring and close it down every fall, and is always ready to fill vacancies in the staffing schedule. A true friend of U.S. Forest Service heritage resources, Dick is also a member of the Friends of Fish Lake board of directors.

OldSmokeys Worked on Restoration of Historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station

OldSmokeys **Les Joslin** and **Jon Stewart** worked with a small U.S. Forest Service crew to accomplish another phase of restoration work on the Deschutes National Forest's historic Deschutes Bridge Guard Station in late September 2017.

Featured in the *Uncle Sam's Cabins* series article in the Spring 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, this 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps-built guard station structure 40 miles from Bend, Oregon, on the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway and on the Deschutes River is being restored to return to service as a recreation rental.

On this job, the crew scraped, sanded, primed, and painted the historic structure's exterior walls and trim. This restoration project is scheduled for completion in 2019.



Interpreter Kelsey Ward ensured that the preschoolers visiting the High Desert Ranger Station paid rapt attention to everything "the ranger" told them.

High Desert Museum photograph by Heather Duchow

OldSmokeys Welcomed Preschoolers to High Desert Ranger Station in October

High Desert Museum interpreter Kelsey Ward sent a picture card to OldSmokey **Les Joslin** in October, thanking him "for coming in during your off-season to open the High Desert Ranger Station to show my classes of little kiddos around. Couldn't have done it without you."

The High Desert Ranger Station is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and has been operated by OldSmokeys every summer beginning in 2009. Open daily from July 1 through Labor Day, it is staffed by OldSmokeys and other High Desert Museum volunteers who share the story of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System with Museum visitors.

OldSmokey Les Joslin Recognized for Forest Service Heritage Contributions

The Deschutes Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust presented its sixth annual Ben Westlund Memorial Award to OldSmokey **Les Joslin** on December 13, 2017, at an event in the beautifully restored Liberty Theatre in downtown Bend, Oregon. The award honors the memory of former Oregon legislator and state treasurer Ben Westlund who championed creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2011.

"It looks like an 'inside job' to me," Les quipped, noting that friends and colleagues OldSmokey **Bob Boyd**, emeritus curator of western history at The High Desert Museum and 2016 recipient of the award, OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, landscape architect and scenic byways coordinator on the Deschutes National Forest, and Kelly Cannon-Miller, executive director of the Deschutes County Historical Society of which Les served two terms as board president, were members of the selection committee.

Turing serious, Les thanked the Deschutes Cultural Coalition for recognizing him for doing things he has enjoyed doing for the past 25 years. These included authoring or editing half a dozen books on various aspects of Forest Service history in Central Oregon and instigating restoration and reuse of half a dozen historic Forest Service ranger stations and guard stations in the area.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service May Have Entered New Wildfire Era in 2017

Compiled from multiple sources by Les Joslin

The long-heralded “Era of Megafires” seems to have arrived with a vengeance during the long 2017 wildfire season which took a heavy toll on U.S. Forest Service resources as well as National Forest System and other wildland acreage and wildland-urban interface lives and property.

It wasn’t supposed to happen. “Early models of the fire season said that last winter’s big mountain snows, which lasted deep into summer in higher elevations, would probably keep many places damp,” the *New York Times News Service* reported on September 17. “But then a severe heat wave settled in over a vast area from Montana to Northern California and across the Pacific Northwest, and some places went more than 100 days without measurable rainfall. ... ‘The long-range weather models that we had through the spring and toward summer, they were just flat-out wrong,’ said Bryan Henry, a meteorologist at the National Interagency Fire Center.... What forecasters predicted ‘was completely the opposite of what actually happened.’”

What happened was a wildfire season that, by the middle of September, had “ravaged the West...with 64 large fires burning across 10 states as of [September 14], including 21 fires in Montana and 18 in Oregon. In all, 48,607 wildfires [had] burned nearly 13,000 square miles..., destroyed more than 500 homes and triggered health alerts as choking smoke drifted into major Western cities,” the Associated Press reported. And, by the middle of September, “the Forest Service [had] spent more than \$2 billion battling forest fires around the country [and U.S. Department of the Interior agencies more than \$390 million more]—a record as wildfires [would] continue to blacken the American West in one of the nation’s worst fire seasons.”

In the Pacific Northwest Region, this severe fire season was symbolized by the Eagle Creek Fire allegedly ignited on September 2 by a 15-year-old boy—whose case is now in the courts—playing with fireworks along the popular Eagle Creek Trail in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The resulting fire just east of Portland, Oregon, swept 13 miles in 16 hours, jumping Interstate Highway 84 and the Columbia River to set fires in Washington state. “That’s not our typical fire behavior,” the press reported Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Jim Peña** on the fire’s almost unprecedented rate of spread. “The Eagle Creek Fire burned through 48,831 acres of forest in the gorge, threatening landmarks including Multnomah Falls and destroying others including the Oneonta Tunnel on the Historic Columbia River Highway,” *The Oregonian* reported on November 19. “Hundreds of people were evacuated in cities between Hood River and Portland and Interstate 84 was closed for 10 days. It threatened 5,000 homes and buildings and destroyed four homes.” In addition to firefighting costs exceeding \$20 million, millions more were lost in the Cascade Locks and other areas where visitors were evacuated at the height of the visitor season. Many area trails and campgrounds remain closed. Restoration costs will add additional millions to the total.

The largest Pacific Northwest Region wildfire was the Chetco Bar Fire in southwestern Oregon. Ignited by lightning in July, this Siskiyou-Rogue River National Forest blaze burned 191,125 southwestern Oregon acres as it threatened coastal communities. Among many other major blazes was the 24,025-acre Milli Fire near Sisters, Oregon, one of several large late-season wildfires in Central Oregon Cascades national forests that closed recreation facilities—including the Pacific Crest Trail and some national scenic byways—and contaminated the area’s air.

And then, early in October, major wildfires broke out in California’s “Wine Country” north of San Francisco Bay that eventually killed 43 people and destroyed more than 8,900 homes and other structures as they burned at least 245,000 urban, suburban, wildland-urban interface, agricultural, and wildland acres. Many Forest Service assets were committed to battling these essentially non-national forest blazes.

And then, again, early in December, a series of Santa Ana wind-driven wildfires raged for days in parched Southern California. By your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* December 15 deadline, these fires had killed two, destroyed over 1,000 homes, blackened at least 285,000 acres, and forced tens of thousands to flee. And again, Forest Service firefighting assets joined the battle against these massive wildfires, which eventually burned into the Angeles, Cleveland, and Los Padres national forests.

The bottom line seems to be that the definition of a “typical” fire year in the West is changing. In the past 40 years, rising spring and summer temperatures, along with shrinking winter snowpacks, have significantly increased wildfire incidence in and impacts on most parts of the West to the extent that many now conclude that the “Era of Megafires” is upon us.

Compiled from multiple sources including “Police believe they know who started wildfire: giggling teens” by Cleve R. Wootson, Jr., of *The Washington Post* in the September 7, 2017, issue of *The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin*; “Forest Service spends record \$2B battling fires” by Matthew Daly and Dan Elliott of the Associated Press in the September 15, 2017, issue of *The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin*; “A wild turn for wildfires in 2017” by Kirk Johnson of the *New York Times News Service* in the September 17, 2017, issue of *The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin*; “The American West is burning” by U.S. Senator Steve Daines (Republican-Montana) special to *The Washington Post* in the September 24, 2017, issue of *The (Bend, Oregon) Bulletin*; “Alleged teen suspect’s family is ashamed” by Fedor Zarkhin in the November 19, 2017, issue of *The Oregonian*; XXXXX Also, “Massive fires burning across the West in September 2017” by Tom DiLiberto in September 7, 2017, *Climate.gov*; “Wildfires Running Amok in California” on October 10, 2017, and “California Still Under the Throes of Wildfire Woes” on October 16, 2017, from NASA online source; numerous December 2017 *Los Angeles Times* reports, and numerous INCIWEB and CALFIRE reports.

U.S. Forest Service Scientist Spreads “Era of Megafires” Word Across West

Dr. Paul Hessburg of the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station has been touring the West with a 60-minute, multi-media, traveling presentation called “Era of Megafires” to “increase awareness and stimulate conversation about this important issue across all levels of society” according to the Wenatchee Museum and Cultural Center.

Dr. Hessburg will have presented this program in about 70 western communities by the time you read this article. For more information about this project and to schedule a presentation, contact Sara Rolfs by e-mail at <sararolfs@nwi.net> or telephone at 509-679-2043. Please see page 9 for related article.

--Coordinated with Sara Rolfs of the Wenatchee Museum and Cultural Center.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke Shares Five National Priorities

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, sworn in as eighteenth Chief on September 1, soon shared his “Five Priorities for Our Work” which follow.



Chief Tony Tooke

These five national priorities do three things: They give urgency and focus to critical needs; help foster the work environment we want for our employees; and set expectations for the manner in which we accomplish our work with citizens, partners, volunteers, and each other.

1. Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.

I have enormous respect and admiration for the work every employee does. I am committed to ensuring our work environment is safe, rewarding, respectful, free of harassment, and resilient—that every one of you works in an environment where you are recognized and valued for your contributions. I want every employee to be empowered to continuously improve our work.

2. Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.

We will work with efficiency and integrity with a focus on the people we serve. I envision a broad, diverse coalition for conservation, working across boundaries and using all authorities available to us. We have a backlog of special use permits, range allotment work and deferred maintenance and other needs to address. To increase customer service, we must understand customer requirements, expand our use of best practices, apply innovative tools, and address barriers that get in the way of doing good work. Each and every visitor, forest or grassland user, contractor, partner, cooperater, permittee, volunteer, and citizen deserves our very best service.

3. Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.

We can't do this alone and only on National Forest System lands. It takes others to help us make a difference on the whole landscape. We will work with all citizens—from rural and urban communities—as we pursue the work in front of us. Strengthening and expanding partner and volunteer programs around shared values is critical for a sustainable future.

4. Improving the conditions on forests and grasslands.

About 80 million acres of the National Forest System are at risk from insect, disease and wildfire. About one-third of these lands are at very high risk. Drinking water, homes, communities, wildlife habitat, historic places, sacred sites, recreation opportunities, and scenic vistas are among many of the values at risk of loss. Having sustainable, healthy, resilient forests and grasslands in the future depends on our ability to increase work on the ground and get increased outcomes. We will use all management tools and authorities available to us to improve the condition of our forests and rangelands. Improving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis and decision-making processes will help us increase our capacity

and ability to improve the condition of forests and rangelands. This work will also restore ecosystem function, deliver dependable energy, provide jobs and economic benefits for rural communities, and be responsive to the American taxpayer.

5. Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure.

Most Americans experience the national forests and grasslands through recreation activities. Although these lands offer some of the most valued outdoor recreation settings in this country, the settings and visitor experiences are increasingly at risk. Deteriorating recreation facilities and roads, eroding trails, and increasing user conflicts pose numerous challenges and a decline in the quality of the visitor experience. Currently, we can only maintain to standard half of our roads, trails, facilities, and other components of our infrastructure. Access to the National Forest System is more limited. We will take steps to address these challenges and create more enhanced, sustainable recreation opportunities, access, and infrastructure to better meet the needs of visitors, citizens, and users.

NEPA environmental analysis and decision-making improvements can help us achieve goals and objectives for enhanced recreation, improved access, and a more sustainable infrastructure.

After promulgating these priorities, Chief Tooke continued: “My questions for you are: What do you see standing in your way? What are you experiencing that we can collectively learn from?”

U.S. Forest Service News Available Online at *Inside the Forest Service* and *R6 Update*

Because the *Forest Service News* section of your quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is limited in the amount and timeliness of U.S. Forest Service news it can provide, this section includes only a few articles of national and regional significance selected to help OldSmokeys keep up on major themes and events of interest and importance.

More and more current news about the Forest Service is compiled and published online daily by the Forest Service Office of Communications in *Inside the Forest Service* available to you at <www.fs.fed.us/inside-fs/>. In addition to news provided by Forest Service field units and WO staff, links to articles of interest produced by external or third-party sites are also included.

Also, news and feature articles about the Pacific Northwest Region—and sometimes even news about OldSmokeys happenings—are published monthly by the RO in the *R6 Update* available online at <www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r-6/home>. The September 2017 issue included a great photo story about our annual Picnic in the Woods, held on August 11, and the October 2017 issue a great photo story about our August 23 meeting with the Friends of Fish Lake at the Fish Lake Historic Area.

Forest Service News continues on page 13

Helping OldSmokeys keep current on Forest Service news is a main job of your OldSmokeys Newsletter!



Feature

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Trekking Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango

By Jon Stewart

Peripatetic OldSmokey Jon Stewart spent 28 July and August 2017 days walking the 486-mile Colorado Trail from the mouth of Waterton Canyon southeast of Denver to Durango in the southwestern part of the state. He shares impressions of that trek.



Jon atop Mt. Elbert

This past summer, while smoke choked the Pacific Northwest, I tackled the Colorado Trail. Thanks to an unseasonably heavy monsoon that blanketed the Rocky Mountains in July, hailstones and lightning bolts were the afternoon norm for over half the 41 days I hiked 46 muddy miles from Denver to Durango.

The trek involved climbing—and then descending—over 89,000 vertical feet or almost three times the height of Mount Everest. Much of the trail is over 11,000 feet in elevation; its high point in the San Juan Mountains near the abandoned mining town of Carson is at 13,271 feet. The trail accesses most of Colorado’s 58 fourteeners (peaks over 14,000 feet) but the only summit I paused to climb was the state’s highest (and the continental United States second highest), Mt. Elbert at 14,440 feet.

It is an extremely popular hike. Early on a sparkling Sunday afternoon I joined a crown of 45 people atop Mt. Elbert who were flying everything from American flags to drones. I estimate there were at least another 250 folks climbing the peak that day. This climb echoed a dramatic shift in outdoor recreation I noticed since hiking the 3,200-mile-long Continental Divide Trail through Colorado a decade ago. Although the Colorado Trail Association claims that only 150 folks complete the entire trail each year, thanks to heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada and wildfires in the Pacific Northwest blocking access to much of the Pacific Crest Trail this summer, the Colorado Trail was packed with long-distance hikers.

In early July, from 30 to 50 hikers ranging in age from 10 to 80 began the hike up Waterton Canyon every day, although far less than a quarter of that number completed the entire trail. Toss in three annual self-supporting backpacking bicycle races and a dozen multiple-day runs that overlap all or portions of the trail each summer and the Colorado Trail often feels like hiking in the Swiss Alps. On one summer afternoon near Breckenridge I met over 65 cyclists and three dozen hikers on the trail.

Thanks to Colorado’s unique mix of geography and public lands, Denver is the most youthful city in the nation and Boulder the happiest according to a recent article in *National Geographic*. These cheerful demographics are echoed in the booming mountain towns lining the Rockies where a recent flood of young adults has settled to bike, hike, run, ski, snowmobile, and ride motorcycles and off-road vehicles through Colorado’s national forests in unprecedented numbers. At the same time, many of their elders, escaping skyrocketing summer temperatures in the Midwest, flock in to purchase or rent homes or pack the state’s public and private campgrounds in their lavish trailers and motor homes.



The Colorado Trail winds for 486 miles through the Rockies.

Overuse and a lack of adequate maintenance all too often result in heavily eroded stretches of trail that meander for miles through beetle-killed and burned-over forests. Rising temperatures are not only toasting the Great Plains, but Colorado’s remote alpine wildernesses as well. I was particularly struck by the dramatic loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of high elevation spruce and pine forests in Colorado’s wildernesses that have succumbed to beetle outbreaks over the past decade.

It is sad to see that, just as thousands of young people flock to Colorado to enjoy the alpine beauty of the Rockies, global warming is stripping them of their unique flora and fauna. Few newcomers realize how quickly so much has been lost.



Signage maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Trail Association helps keep Colorado Trail hikers—and, where permitted outside congressionally designated wildernesses, mountain bikers—on the trail.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Jon Stewart, who has walked many a long-distance trail and has recorded his Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide Trail experiences in two books, is currently completing a book on the long, lonely, essentially unmarked, and little-traveled Hayduke Trail of Utah and Arizona.

Dr. Paul Hessburg’s “Megafires” TED Talk May be Seen Online

Dr. Paul Hessburg’s 15-minute TED talk “Why Wildfires Have Gotten Worse and How We Can Stop Them” may be seen online at www.ted.com/talks/paul_hessburg.

Dr. Hessburg is a Pacific Northwest Research Station research landscape ecologist based in Wenatchee, Washington. He earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Minnesota in 1978 and a Ph.D. degree in botany and plant pathology at Oregon State University in 1984. “My current research focuses on four themes: the landscape and disturbance ecology of western U.S. forests, climate change effects on forests, wildfire resiliency mechanisms, and the ecology and sociology of landscape restoration,” he explains.

Changes *Compiled with the assistance of Secretary Deb Warren and Membership Database Manager Bill Funk*

- Andrade, Thomas D. & Karen** – New members:
64715 Hunnell Rd, Bend, OR 97703
Telephone: 541-382-6501 E-mail: tdandrade@msn.com
- Beck, Tracy B. & Jan** – New members:
3590 Mountain Quail Ln, Eugene, OR 97405
Telephone: 503-867-0210 E-mail: tbeck@fs.fed.us
- Bersheid, George** – Change e-mail: george13820@me.com
- Bunster, Orlando “Ray”** – Deceased September 14, 2017;
Ursula survives
- Cooley, Mary** – Change e-mail: marycooley07@gmail.com
- Chrostowski, Vivien** – Deceased January 9, 2016;
Hank survives
- Crocker, Marvin D. “Marv”** – Deceased September 20, 2017;
Lauri survives
- Deaver, L. Roger & Nancy L.** – New members:
17 Tierra Madre Rd, Placitas, NM 87043
Telephone: 505-867-6736 E-mail: rnndeaver@comcast.net
- Drum, Jan** -- New member:
P.O. Box 1677, Redmond, OR 97756
Telephone: 541-771-1291 E-mail: cowazy1@yahoo.com
- Frost, Dale O. “Jack”** – Deceased September 19, 2017
- Perske, Doris J.** – Deceased November 2, 2017;
Robert survives
- Peterson, William C. “Bill” & Gini S. Stoddard** – New members:
16 Pasquale St, North Chittenden, VT 05763
Telephone: 802-483-9493 E-mail: foresterpete@gmail.com
- Revis, Debra** – New member:
2688 NE Buckbrush Ct, Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone: 541-447-2855 E-mail: demrevis@msn.com
- Sorseth, Alvin L. “Tyke”** – Deceased November 7, 2017;
Arlene survives
- Stout, Katherine Arnold “Kitty”** – Deceased September 17, 2017
- Tye, Alice (Doremus) & Bill** – New members:
1214 NE Watson Dr, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-388-7596 E-mail: alicebtye@yahoo.com

CORRECTION: The “August XX” date in the Mike Cooley entry in the *Changes* section on page 9 of the Fall 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* represents a proofreading error that resulted in a failure to replace a space-holder with a date known by the time of publication and reporter in the *Memories* section of the same issue. The editor regrets this error.

New Members *Compiled with the assistance of Secretary Deb Warren and Membership Database Manager Bill Funk*

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

Tom & Karen Andrade of Bend, Oregon, joined November 2, 2017. Tom retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Deschutes National Forest in 2000 after 33 years of federal service, 31 of those years in the Forest Service, of which 13 were in Region 6, and 1.5 years with the Department of Homeland Security. Tom’s career included a variety of assignments in

recreation management; fire, fuel, and aviation management; and law enforcement. After his federal career, he served 10 years with the Oregon Department of Forestry. He also taught part-time at Central Oregon Community College for 15 years and owned and operated a wildland fire litigation consulting business for six years. In retirement, Tom restores vintage vehicles, horse packs, and volunteers with the Forest Service to maintain eight miles of wilderness trail annually.

Tracy & Jan Beck of Eugene, Oregon, joined as lifetime members on August 29, 2017. A veteran of 37 U.S. Forest Service years, Tracy earned a B.S. degree in forest management at The University of Montana in 1980, joined the Forest Service, and has been Forest Supervisor of the Willamette National Forest since May 2015. From July 2009 to May 2015 he served as Assistant Director for Natural Resources at the Pacific Northwest Region RO in Portland, and before that was district ranger of the Black Duck Ranger District, Chippewa National Forest, in Minnesota. He also worked on the Lolo, Tongass, Willamette, and Payette national forests as a forester earlier in his career.

Roger & Nancy Deaver of Placitas, New Mexico, joined October 28, 2017. Roger retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2000 as Director of Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage Resources for the Southwestern Region after 42 years of federal service, four in the U.S. Army and 38 in the Forest Service of which 21 were in Region 6. A forester from the University of Washington, Roger began his Forest Service career in Region 6 in which he served in several capacities including district ranger on the Zig Zag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, before going off to the WO Legislative Affairs Staff for a few years. Returning to Region 6 in 1984, he served as recreation staff officer on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest before that dozen years in the Region 3 RO and retirement in New Mexico. After 30 years in the Land of Enchantment, where they’ve become almost part of the landscape as they’ve enjoyed skiing the West and boating Lake Powell, Roger and Nancy will soon return to the Pacific Northwest and a new home on Vashon Island in Puget Sound closer to their family. An active Forest Service retiree, Roger is a member of the Agency to Match the Mountains project foursome.

Jan Drum of Redmond, Oregon, joined November 1, 2017. A veteran of 23 U.S. Forest Service years, Jan currently serves as purchasing agent for the Region 6 Fire & Aviation Management Contracting Team.

Debra Revis of Prineville, Oregon, joined October 30, 2017. Debra retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 3, 2018, from the Deschutes National Forest after just one month less than 25 years of federal service, all in the Forest Service. During her well-rounded career, Debra served as a clerk-typist, frontliner, purchasing agent, support services supervisor, personnel clerk, engineering aide, and resource specialist in timber sale accounting. As a retiree, camping, ATV riding, gardening, following her grandchildren’s activities, and spending time with her family are on her list of things to do.

Bill Peterson & Gini Stoddard of North Chittenden, Vermont, joined September 29, 2017. Both Bill and Gini, who met on the Malheur National Forest, are U.S. Forest Service retirees. As a University of New Hampshire forestry student, Bill worked the 1978 through 1980 field seasons out of remote Clarks Fork Ranger District, Shoshone National Forest, stations, gaining a

wide range of resource management experience. After earning a bachelor of science degree in forestry, his work as a career forester began in 1981 in timber management on the Bear Valley Ranger District, Malheur National Forest. After five years there, he spent two years as a graduate student at Oregon State University where he earned a master of forestry degree in silviculture before returning to the Malheur as a certified silviculturist. A few years later he took on a Pacific Northwest Research Station job on the Interior Columbia Basin Project in Walla Walla, and a couple years later moved on to the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, in supervisory silviculture, line, and staff jobs. In 2007, he transferred to the Green Mountain National Forest SO in Rutland, Vermont, as forest management program lead, the job from which he retired in 2011 after 32 years in the Forest Service. Gini (“Ginny”) earned a bachelor of science degree in natural science and began her Forest Service career on the Tongass National Forest in 1979. After working on the Malheur where she met Bill, Gini also served on the Deschutes and Green Mountain national forests in GIS analysis and applications—using skills she learned on the job—until she retired from the Forest Service in 2011 after over 30 years of service. In retirement, Bill and Gini “have done the typical things that newly-retired folks usually do, such as taking time for music, gardening, cross-country and alpine skiing, travel, and catching up on reading. A focus for Bill has been his collection of classic automobiles which includes four old sports cars. “If any OldSmokeys are in the Vermont vicinity, please look us up,” Bill and Gini say.

Alice & Bill Tye of Bend, Oregon, joined September 24, 2017. Alice—who was Alice Doremus during her U.S. Forest Service career—retired from the Forest Service in September 2005 after 29 years of federal service, four of those in the Bureau of Land Management and 25 in the Forest Service in which she served as a range conservationist, geothermal project manager, and retired from the Deschutes National Forest SO as a realty specialist. After retirement, Alice “worked as a geothermal permitting consultant for several years, but now takes on various part-time temporary work on occasion.” She and her husband Bill raise commercial Sim-Angus cattle “and even had a Forest Service grazing permit,” and she enjoys working with fiber arts, training and working with their dogs, and spending time with family and friends.

Memories

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

In a few instances, memorials were pieced together from available information; certain specific information not available by press time will be provided in a subsequent issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* if obtained.

Rene Orlando “Ray” Bunster died September 14, 2017, at age 82. Ray was born January 6, 1935, in Evanston, Illinois. Following graduation from Evanston Township High School, he attended the Michigan College of Mining and Technology on an ROTC scholarship. After earning a B.S. degree in forestry, Ray was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was posted in Nuremburg, Germany. At a dance sponsored by the USO, Ray met his future wife, Ursula Rintzel; they were married in 1959. Ray completed his Army service in 1961

and returned to the United States with Ursula and their baby daughter, Jacqueline. Ray then began a U.S. Forest Service career in Bend, Oregon, on the Deschutes National Forest. His career subsequently took him to Forest Service offices in Eugene, Oregon, on the Willamette National Forest; then to the Region 6 RO in Portland, Oregon; and finally, to the WO where he oversaw the Forest Service’s nationwide computer network. Following retirement in 1998, Ray published an online newsletter for Forest Service retirees. Survivors include his wife Ursula; their daughter Jackie Steinhauser, their son, Mark; and three grandchildren.

Vivien Chrostowski died January 9, 2016, at age 89. Vivien Carlson was born February 14, 1926, in Two Harbors, Minnesota, to Swedish immigrants, and grew up in that town. In 1954, in Juneau, Alaska, she found work as a secretary with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There she met Henry P. “Hank” Chrostowski, who served in the same agency. Vivien and Hank married in her home town of Two Harbors in 1957 and returned to Alaska to settle in Anchorage. Summer months were spent at Sand Point in the Shumagin Islands and the winter months were spent in Anchorage. When Alaska became a state in 1959, Hank was promoted and transferred to Washington, D.C., where they established a home in nearby Fairfax, Virginia. And raised their four children Carol, Andres, Karen, and Steven. The family moved to Orem, Utah, in 1970 when Hank transferred to the U.S. Forest Service, and to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1977 where Hank served on the Siuslaw National Forest. In the Pacific Northwest, the family spent many summers fishing, crabbing, and boating in the San Juan Islands. Survivors include Hank; their children Carol Sabin, Andrew, Karen Smolin, and Steven; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Marvin D. “Marv” Crocker died September 20, 2017, at age 83. Marv was born August 26, 1934, in a dugout in Baca County, Colorado. After graduating from Rose Hill High School in Kansas, he worked at the Boeing Airplane Company in Wichita, Kansas, and then served as a radarman in the U.S. Navy. Marv married Lauri Noell on June 1, 1957, in Kansas City, Missouri, and the couple spent two years as resident directors of a University of Kansas men’s residence hall. In 1959, Marv began his academic journey at San Diego State College. Transferring to the University of Kansas, he earned a B.A. degree in Latin American studies in 1964 followed by a M.A. degree in urban planning in 1968. From 1966 to 1970, he was a geography instructor at the University of Southwestern Texas. Marv earned a Ph.D. degree in geography at Oregon State University in 1973. Marv and his family lived in Mexico where he researched his doctoral dissertation, *The Evolution of Mexican Forest Policy and Its Influence Upon Forest Resources*, which the Mexican government translated into Spanish as an official document. After teaching at Buffalo State University, Marv joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1975 to work as a resource geographer on the RARE II project. He later became a member of the Fremont National Forest planning team and then served as that national forest’s public affairs officer. Marv loved bowling, reading, thinking, and discussing world issues. In every community in which he resided, he sang in church choirs and performed in musicals including the leading role of “Showboat” at the Lakeview Community Theater. During his more than four decades in Lakeview, Oregon, he helped found the High Country Harmonizer barbershop group and his favorite annual community event, the Community Christmas Chorus. He also liked

to quietly serve his community, and did so in many meaningful ways. Survivors include his wife Lauri, daughters Jennifer and Molly McDermond, and one grandson.

Editor's Note: Thanks to PNWFSA Area Representative Buck Woodward for some of the information in this remembrance.

Dale O. "Jack" Frost died September 19, 2017, at age 89. Dale was born July 12, 1928, in Oregon City, Oregon. Jack began working for the U.S. Forest Service on the Clackamas River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, during World War II. His first job in 1945 at the age of 16 was lookout on Thunder Mountain. He worked seasonally every year after that while a student at the School of Forestry, Oregon State College, from which he graduated in 1952 with a B.S. degree in forest engineering. He was assigned to the Mt. Hood National Forest SO where we worked primarily on road engineering projects until, in 1957, he was selected to fill the forest engineer position on the Wenatchee National Forest. He later filled the same position on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. In 1973, Jack went to the WO Engineering Staff as a management engineer and, a year later, was assigned to Region 4 as assistant to the regional engineer. A few years after that, Jack was assigned to Region 3 as Regional Engineer, a position in which he served until he retired after more than 40 years of service. After retiring, Jack became active in mission work in Mexico and at Utah State Prison. Dale and his late wife Mary were married for more than 50 years. Survivors include his son Tim; his grandsons Dale and Patrick, and his great-granddaughter Max Marie Frost.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bud Unruh for some of the information in this remembrance.

Doris J. Perske died November 2, 2017, at age 90. Doris was born in 1926 in Iowa where she attended college and became both a registered nurse and a teacher. She moved to Illinois where she married John Schlamp, raised three children, and taught in Elk Grove Village for many years. John died after 40 years of marriage, and Doris later married Robert A. Perske, to whom she was married for over 20 years before she died in Roseburg, Oregon. Survivors include her husband Robert; her children Randy, Susan, and Jay; three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Alvin L. "Tyke" Sorseth died November 7, 2017, at age 98. Tyke was born March 14, 1919, in Hettinger, North Dakota. When he was 15, the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl forced his parents to move their family west and they settled near Sweet Home, Oregon. It was there Tyke finished high school and met hometown girl Arlene Sportsman. Tyke first worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a lookout smokechaser on the Twin Buttes Lookout, Cascadia Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, the summers of 1938 through 1941. He and Arlene graduated from high school in 1939 and became engaged to marry when Tyke enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 to become a naval aviator. They married on Christmas Eve, 1942, in a little church in Jacksonville, Florida, where Tyke was based. After completion of flight training and commissioning as an ensign, Tyke flew patrol bombers searching for enemy subma-



Lieutenant (j.g.)
Alvin L. Sorseth,
U.S. Naval Reserve

rines and escorting ship convoys in Atlantic waters from Nova Scotia to Brazil. After the war, Tyke joined many other armed forces veterans as a student at Oregon State College from which he graduated in 1948 with a degree in forestry and by which time he and Arlene had two sons. Tyke began his 35-year career in the U.S. Forest Service on the Willamette National Forest on which he ultimately served as district ranger on the Detroit, Mill City, and Oakridge ranger districts. His first district ranger assignment, however, was on the Malheur National Forest where he was based in Burns. After his ranger district years, Tyke served as a staff officer in the Willamette National Forest SO until he retired in 1977. After retirement, Tyke committed himself to converting Arlene's parents' farm near Sweet Home from pasture to timber production. He began planting trees in the early 1990s, and along with his sons planted seedlings and pruned trees until he was well into his 80s. The 35-acre farm, which was Arlene's birthplace, is now well stocked with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Tyke and Arlene were honored as Tree Farmers of the Year by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association. Also in retirement, Tyke and Arlene enjoyed traveling which included trips to Norway, Russia, and the Holy Land. Their favorite domestic destination was Death Valley where, for almost 30 years, they joined friends to spend every March together. Tyke and Arlene were members of churches in all the small communities in which they lived and he served, and have been members of Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene for 30 years. Tyke was a member of several professional and fraternal organizations including the Society of American Foresters and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Survivors include Arlene; sons Steve and Craig; three grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

Katherine Arnold "Kitty" Stout died September 17, 2017, at age 93. She was the widow of the late Ed Stout. Katherine Arnold was born December 13, 1923, in Madison, Wisconsin, and moved to Connecticut when her divorced mother took a teaching position at a girl's school. After serving as a cadet nurse during World War II and graduating from St Catherine's School of Nursing in 1945, Kitty worked at various New York City doctor's offices. In 1949, Kitty's sister Elinor convinced her to move to Bend, Oregon, where she met and married Edwin C. "Ed" Stout in 1950. Ed was in the U.S. Forest Service and soon was transferred to Eugene, Oregon, where they lived for 64 years and raised four children. In 1964, adventurous Kitty cruised aboard ocean liner *Queen Elizabeth II* from New York to Europe with an elderly relative with whom she spent a month exploring Germany, Austria, and Switzerland by automobile. Always active, Kitty also worked as a lecturer for Weight Watchers, a Welcome Wagon hostess, an Avon cosmetics representative, an associate with a financial planning firm after Ed's retirement in 1978, and an author of short stories. And, after Ed's retirement in 1978, she and Ed traveled widely in the United States and abroad, enjoyed sailing their own sailboats, and went white-water rafting on their 50th wedding anniversary. Kitty volunteered at the Lane County Jail where she was named 1982 volunteer of the year. In the late 1980s, Kitty took up acting and modeling for advertisers; as a result of the latter, her face became familiar on billboards and busses around Eugene in advertisements for various senior citizen programs and products. Survivors include three of her and Ed's four children—Barbara Share, Randall Stout, and Christina Koepke, 10 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

OldSmokeys Also Remember retired U.S. Forest Service wildland fire professional Gary Stelle of Powell Butte, Oregon, who died October 5, 2017, at age 74. Born on November 27, 1942, in Portland, Oregon, Gary grew up in Shady Cove, Oregon, and graduated from Eagle Point High School in 1961. Gary soon began joined the Forest Service in which he served for 36 years. Nearly his entire career was in aviation and wildland fire management, and he was director of the Redmond Air Center at the time of his retirement. He served on the Rogue River, Willamette, Winema, Deschutes, and Ochoco national forests. His service included many years on elite interagency fire management teams which responded to fires and natural disasters around the nation. Survivors include Linda Collins Stelle, his wife of 44 years.

Letters

A “space available” section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the **Letters** section offers *OldSmokeys* opportunities for brief comments on topics of choice—oftentimes remembrances of deceased colleagues and friends—that are not op-eds which would appear in the **Forum** section. Herewith are a few letters which have been awaiting available space.

Allen Gibbs remembers working with Marv Crocker

Marv Crocker! Takes me back to the late 1970s when I first became Okanogan National Forest PAO. Much to learn about RARE II, NEPA, NFMA, etc. Marv was among those I&E/PIO folks with time in harness who took time to teach me the ropes beginning in 1978. I enjoyed hearing his stories about Central America, too.

As we both were working in the more remote areas of Region 6, we had much in common to share when we got to the big city (PDX).

Linda Goodman remembers Gary Stelle

I have such good memories [of Gary Stelle] when he was my boss on the Blue River Ranger District. I was a forestry technician and he was the assistant zone dispatcher. It was a challenging time and Gary taught me a lot. He was one of the good guys.

Kirk & Beth Horn remember Wendall Jones

We both worked on the Waldport Ranger District when Wendall was on the neighboring Hebo Ranger District...and got to know Wendall as a gracious, caring person who loved the land and the Forest Service. We really got to know him and Jessie when we were neighbors outside Portland. After we left Region 6 we always stopped by to visit as we traveled through the area. They came to visit us outside Yellowstone National Park one summer. Just knowing Wendall was special....

Zane Smith remembers Al “Tyke” Sorseth

Tyke was an extraordinary career Forest Service individual having served 35 years [including assignments] as a district ranger and ultimately as the long-respected recreation staff on the Willamette National Forest. Those of us who worked with Tyke had tremendous respect for his leadership and for our valued colleague. Another “giant” has left us.

Murray Johnson thanks Vern Clapp

I just want to say a great big THANK YOU (!!!) for what you have given to all OldSmokeys!

Forest Service News continued from page 8

U.S. Forest Service Finds Spotted Owl Habitat Can Be Compatible with Managing Forests for Fire, Drought

In what is believed the largest spotted owl study in terms of area analyzed, remote sensing technology is providing a more precise look at habitat preferences for the sensitive species with implications for greater flexibility in forest management.

“For the last 25 years, forests in the western United States have been managed to protect habitat for spotted owls based on ground surveys that were limited by plots with a small sample area and what could be seen from the forest floor,” said Malcolm North, a research ecologist with the Pacific Southwest Research Station and leader of the study. “We’re employing relatively new technology to get a new vantage point into the forest canopy—across an unprecedented amount of terrain—to better understand what that means for spotted owls.”

Using Light Detection and Ranging imaging, or LiDAR, North and colleagues from partnering organizations studied forest attributes across 1.2 million acres, encompassing 316 documented owl territories, along California’s Sierra Nevada. LiDAR uses laser pulses shot from an instrument mounted in an airplane to measure a forest’s canopy, including tree height, distribution of tree foliage, and any forest gaps.

While previous research concluded that spotted owls need dense canopy cover across a broad landscape, LiDAR data show it’s more the height of the canopy, as opposed to the expanse of it, that matters most to owls.

“Cover of tall trees best predicts California spotted owl habitat,” recently published online by the *Journal of Forest Ecology and Management*, reports spotted owls typically were found in forests with high concentrations of tall trees measuring at least 105 feet in height, but preferably taller than 157 feet. Meanwhile, dense stands of trees measuring 52 feet or shorter were generally avoided by the owls.

“We rarely found owls in high canopy cover without tall trees. We also found owls in areas with tall trees but low surrounding density,” North said. “It’s really the big trees that the owls are selecting for.”

The study’s findings could have implications for land management strategies to improve forest resilience to wildfires, drought, insects and diseases. Forest with tree densities greater than historical ranges—especially with high densities of smaller trees—are more susceptible to extreme wildfire behavior or vulnerable to the effects of drought, insects, and disease.

Also, canopy gaps, sometimes avoided by land managers to maintain canopy cover, do not seem to affect owl habitat significantly. Other than avoiding placing their nests directly adjacent to a gap, owls showed no difference in the areas they used compared to the surrounding landscape with regard to gaps.

North and his colleagues’ study comes on the heels of a newly available report synthesizing the last two decades of spotted owl research. “The California Spotted Owl: Current State of Knowledge” from the Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Research Station represents a comprehensive review by scientists of the ecology, habitat use, population dynamics, and current threats to the viability of the California spotted owl.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station News Release “Study: Supporting owls compatible with managing forests for fire, drought” of October 5, 2017.

Books

Two New Books About Wildfire: *Megafire* and *Firestorm*

By Les Joslin

Two recent books share similar points of view about the increasing incidence of severe wildfires in North American forests.

In *Megafire—The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame*, award-winning journalist Michel Kodas, who is now deputy director of the Center for Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has produced what Google Books calls “a brilliant exploration of the rising phenomenon of megafires—forest fires of alarming scale, intensity, and devastation—that explains the science of what is causing them and captures the danger and heroism of those who fight them.”

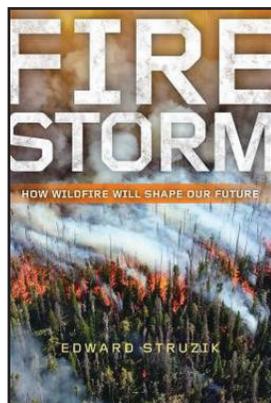
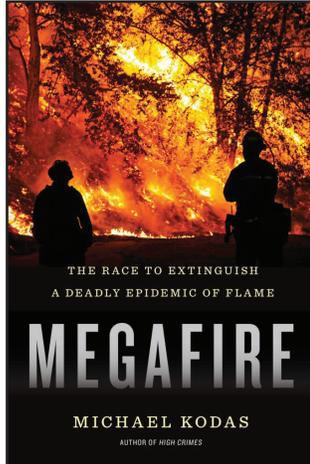
In the book’s prologue, Kodas wrote that, in recent years, he “came to see that despite the size and ferocity of the last decade’s fires, the biggest and baddest of them all are still to come.” In 2015, wildfires affected more than 10 million acres of U.S. forest and range lands for the first time. “Fire scientists anticipate within a few years, 12 to 15 million acres a year will burn, and U.S. Forest Service researchers warn that by mid-century that number could reach 20 million—an area nearly the size of the state of Maine.” And the costs rise concomitantly.

Among his many contributions, Kodas redefines “megafire” and identifies the factors which produce them. He finds the National Interagency Fire Center’s definition of megafire as a blaze more than 100,000 acres in size too simple, stating that smaller fires qualify as megafires because of their damage to populated areas. Even using that definition, he found that before 1995 the United States averaged one megafire a year, but between 2005 and 2014 the number jumped to 9.8 a year.

Kodas sees four factors responsible for the megafire surge: forest management practices, increased development within the wildland-urban interface, global warming, and political and economic decision-making.

Of course, there’s much more to *Megafires* (ISBN 978-0-547-79208-8), 365 pages, illustrated, published in August 2017 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt at \$28.00, and available at booksellers and from online vendors such as Amazon.com.

The second title, *Firestorm* by Canadian journalist Edward Struzik, introduces the scientists, firefighters, and resource managers making the case for a radically different approach to managing wildfire in the 21st century of increasingly great and costly risks and dangers. A gripping narrative about wildfire in North America published in October 2017 by Island Press at \$30.00, *Firestorm* (ISBN 9781610918183), 272 pages, is available from Island Press and online vendors such as Amazon.com.



The Way We Were

On the Willamette National Forest in the 1930s and the 1970s



Tools in hand, twenty Willamette National Forest personnel formed this early fire crew lined up in Sweet Home, Oregon, for this 1939 fire season photograph.

Photograph courtesy of Norman Silver



Forest Supervisor Jack Alcock (third from left) corralled his Willamette National Forest district rangers (left to right) Bob Barstad (Rigdon), Tom Thompson (Lowell), Joe Ragsdale (Detroit), Fred Walk (Sweet Home), Bob Burns (Blue River), Don Pederson (McKenzie), and (seated) Wayne Orr (Oakridge) at Fish Lake Remount Depot on October 10, 1978.

Photograph courtesy of Fred Walk

The above historic Willamette National Forest photographs, coincidentally received by your editor almost simultaneously, prove that “the way we were” is wherever you may find it.

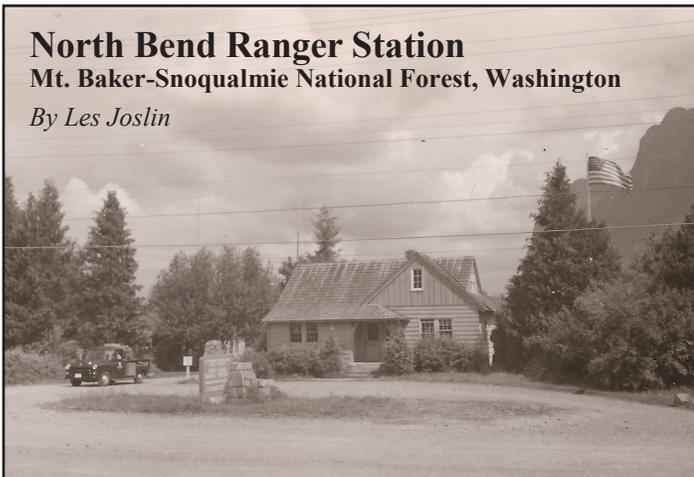
The 1939 photograph was provided by OldSmokey **Elton Thomas** who received it from Region 5 retiree Ray Quintanar who received it from California Division of Forestry retiree Norm Silver who found it in a box of his father’s memorabilia and authorized its publication. The 1978 photograph was provided by OldSmokey **Fred Walk** in which he appears with the colleagues he termed “a pretty successful group of guys.” All in this photograph except the forest supervisor and the Oakridge district ranger are current active OldSmokeys.

—Les Joslin

Uncle Sam's Cabins

North Bend Ranger Station Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin



The historic North Bend Ranger Station on the old Snoqualmie National Forest was photographed in 1957, 21 years after it was constructed in 1936. Behind the flag, Mount Si looms above the station in Washington state's Snoqualmie Valley.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

Construction of historic—but still in use—North Bend Ranger Station began in 1936 on land in the town of North Bend, Washington, purchased by the U.S. Government in 1935.

This ranger district's headquarters was initially located on Denny Creek, 20 miles east of North Bend. But, after closure of the Sunset Highway, the headquarters was moved to North Bend for better access, easier contact with forest visitors and users, and more efficient administration.

North Bend is named for its location near the north bend of the south fork of the Snoqualmie River in the foothills of the Cascade Range about 30 miles west of Seattle.



In addition to the office building, garages, warehouses, and other structures, residences for the district ranger and his staff and their families were constructed on the compound.

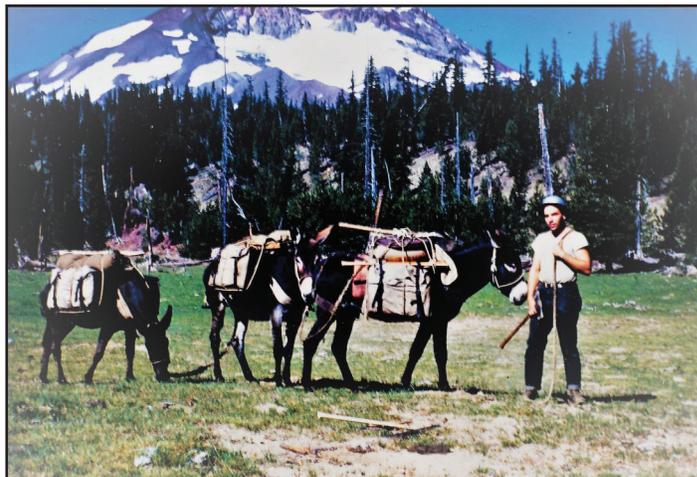
The former North Bend Ranger Station, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps 80 years ago, is now Snoqualmie Ranger Station on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The two national forests were merged in 1974.

A new sign and new name.

U.S. Forest Service photographs



My First Forest Service Job



Sisters Ranger District trail crewman Bob Miller led three pack burros on the trail through Park Meadow in the then-Three Sisters Wilderness Area during the summer of 1952 as South Sister loomed in the background.

Photograph courtesy of Bob Miller

Sisters Ranger District Trail Crew in 1952

By Bob Miller

I spent the summer of 1952 on a Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, trail crew of two. My buddy and I worked with three pack burros, axes, and a misery whip maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail and various other feeder trails within and between the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, and Three Sisters wilderness areas.

We worked on the move and made a new camp every night. We slept under a tarp that we made into a lean-to when the weather turned bad. We cooked over a wood fire. Most of our work was on the trails from Mount Jefferson to Broken Top.

When we were not on the trails, we stayed at Allingham Guard Station, on the west side of the Metolius River, and did occasional slash piling along roads and in areas that had been recently logged. Of course, we also worked on some wildfires on the north end of the district.

It was ten days on and four days off in those days. Most of our days off were spent getting our boots re-soled and shopping for food supplies for the next tour. On the weekends we were at the station, we were welcomed at the local square dances that were held in nearby Camp Sherman almost every weekend. It was back when people appreciated the Forest Service.

Although I have spent time on the Wallowa-Whitman and Gifford Pinchot national forests, in the Region 6 RO, in the WO, and on national forests in other regions, I still think my best and most memorable time in the Forest Service was spent on those Sisters Ranger District trails!

Coming in "My First Forest Service Job" in the Spring 2018 OldSmokeys Newsletter...

OldSmokey Pamela Devereaux Wilson will share the story of her first job representing the U.S. Forest Service in uniform in the Bridger Wilderness in Wyoming in the curiously-titled recollection "Out of Uniform in 1969."

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www.oldsmokeys.org

Winter 2018

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

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