



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees— Spring 2019

President's Message—Kent Connaughton

A pleasant greeting to you all! I hope you plan to attend our annual banquet, which will be held at Charbonneau on the afternoon of May 19. This event is delightful and is an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues as well as share news of the Forest Service. We have much to celebrate, including the new grants for deserving projects within the Region that were recently approved by your Board. As per custom, **Rob Mangold** will be installed as your new President, and we will welcome **Steve Ellis** as President-elect.

Our membership numbers remain strong. I ask each of you to review the information in the enclosed directory. You can make changes to personal information through our web portal, and I encourage you to keep your contact information current. I also ask each of you to consider bringing your time and energy to our volunteer positions. **Tom Mulder** is looking for several members to serve as area representatives, who are our first line of contact with local units, local members of our Association, and active employees. **Les Joslin** reminds me that he wishes to be relieved as newsletter editor, and he is prepared to assist in the transition.

My tenure as President is concluding and I want to thank you for your support for our Association, your appreciation and respect for one another, and your loyalty to the Forest Service. This year began with a shutdown of government that affected all employees, some severely so. Your sincere concern was heartwarming, and mirrored your willingness to help employees who lost their homes in last fall's fire that destroyed Paradise, California. Such widespread concern among members reflects well on you as citizens and confirms the purposes and values of our Association. It has been a privilege serving as your President.

Kent Connaughton

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

See Page 3 to Sign Up for May 19 Spring Banquet

Forum

OldSmokeys Newsletter Needs New Editor

Your editor—now “interim editor” eager to pass the baton to a new editor—has begun his fourteenth year of producing your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* with this, his fifty-third issue.

Producing this quarterly newsletter for the nation’s largest U.S. Forest Service regional retiree organization is a pleasure and a privilege he plans to pass on to another very soon.

Exactly what your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* may look like in the future seems at least somewhat up to members of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors who have been considering the organization’s newsletter needs and how those needs may best be served in terms of format, frequency, and other criteria.

Perhaps you are the OldSmokey to inform that process and to apply the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed keep our *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in production. Your interim editor is confident that PNWFSA’s population of some 880 members—at least a few of whom are retired Forest Service public affairs professionals—includes the person to whom to pass the baton.

OldSmokey Writers Contributed to This “Double Feature” *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Your editor has always emphasized the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* as a members’ newsletter, and in this issue OldSmokeys have rallied yet again to make it so!

In addition to routine news articles for which their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association positions—or positions in other organizations—make them responsible, this issue boasts two feature articles, a book review, and a first job story penned by OldSmokeys who do not routinely write for this newsletter. That makes this issue even more of a members’ newsletter than usual.

Those feature articles, “The Motley Trail Crew: Twenty Years of Volunteering on the Umpqua National Forest” by OldSmokey **Bill Blackwell** and “Riders in the Dirt Sang of ‘The Green and the Gold’” by OldSmokey **Jo Booser**, may be read on pages 9 and 10, respectively.

OldSmokey and Chief Emeritus **Gail Kimbell**’s review of Forest Service retiree Lauren Turner’s book *Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018* graces a page 13 column.

And, on page 15, you’ll find OldSmokey **Roger Deaver**’s account of his “first fire with my name on it.” Roger had fought fires before, but this 1964 lightning fire was, as he puts it, “all my responsibility to control and put out.”

Many thanks to these members for these fine contributions!

CORRECTION

In the article “U.S. Forest Service Supervisors Announced New Permit System for Oregon Wildernesses” on page 7 of the Winter 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the name of the forest supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest was incorrectly spelled. Forest Supervisor Allen’s first name is **John**, and not “Jon” as incorrectly indicated in that article.

The interim editor regrets this error...and, for that matter, any other error in the issue he may not yet have noticed.

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Assisted U.S. Forest Service Personnel Affected by Nation’s Longest Government Shutdown

“The five-week government shutdown was a trying time for Forest Service employees and their families,” Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa wrote in the U.S. Forest Service Region 6 “Your Northwest Forests” blog on February 19, 2019. “Our partners, volunteers, permittees, and contractors were also impacted, as well as many businesses and communities closely tied to national forests and the work they do.

“On behalf of the Forest Service employees across the Pacific Northwest, I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help and support our employees and the national forests during this challenging time,” Regional Forester Casamassa continued, before describing many aspects of this help and support.

A share of this help and support came from the OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) which has become known for assisting members of the Forest Service in emergencies—most often in cases of loss of life and property as a result of wildfires through the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund as reported in your *OldSmokey Newsletter* over the past several years.

But there’s a big difference in scope and scale between assisting 16 Forest Service families adversely affected by the tragic November 8-28, 2018, Camp Fire, as reported in the last issue of this newsletter, and attempting to identify the needs of and provide meaningful assistance to those among the thousands of Forest Service personnel and family members affected by the December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019, partial shutdown of the U.S. Government.

That information and resource gap was partially filled by the individual kindness of others—including OldSmokeys—who on their own provided moral support and monetary assistance to Forest Service friends frustrated at not being able to accomplish their part of the mission or, in some cases, pay their bills.

Throughout the Region, on an unknown personal scale, OldSmokeys—and others—took furloughed Forest Service friends out for breakfast or lunch or for coffee or a beer, and offered them moral support and, sometimes, financial support to help them through a rough time not of their own making.

“On behalf of the Forest Service employees across the Pacific Northwest, I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help and support our employees and the national forests during this challenging time,” Regional Forester Casamassa wrote.

OldSmokeys Ruth Voltz and Bev Pratt to Coordinate May 19 Spring Banquet

OldSmokey **Ruth Voltz**, recently named Banquet Chair by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors, and OldSmokey **Bev Pratt**, who’s played a big role in coordinating the Spring Banquet since Smokey was a cub, have teamed up to co-coordinate the annual Spring Banquet set for Sunday, May 19, at Charbonneau Country Club.

As a Charbonneau resident member, Ruth is PNWFSA’s official host for this annual event at this fashionable venue near Wilsonville, Oregon.

OldSmokeys to Install 2019-2020 Officers at Sunday, May 19, Spring Banquet

OldSmokeys will gather at the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, on Sunday, May 19, for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Spring Banquet at which they will witness the PNWFSA’s annual peaceful transition of power and enjoy good food and good fun with good friends.

After all that fine dining and fun fellowship, OldSmokey **Robert Mangold** will relieve OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** as President of the PNWFSA, and Kent will assume a year of Past President duties from OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** whose three-year leadership commitment will come to an end.



And then, OldSmokey **Steve Ellis**, whose nomination to serve as President Elect was approved by the recent election, will begin a year in that office during which he will prepare to assume the PNWFSA presidency in May 2020.

That’s Steve at left, riding in the 2009 Rose Parade in Portland, Oregon, when he was forest supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Before all that business, all who attend will enjoy socializing and fine dining with their fellow OldSmokeys as

they get caught up on what’s going on with each other and with the U.S. Forest Service in which they served. There will be the usual raffle and door prizes, *but the every-other-year silent auction has not been scheduled for this spring’s banquet.*

Doors and the no-host bar will open at 1:00 p.m., and socializing with drinks and appetizers will get under way. The delicious buffet dinner will be served by 3:00 p.m. As dinner ends, officers will be installed and door prizes will be awarded.

All this will set you back just **\$25.00 per person**, and you can use the Reservation Form (or a copy of it) at right to reserve your places not later than May 10, 2019.

OldSmokeys May Reserve Now for August 9 PNWFSA Summer Picnic

Why not kill two birds with one stone by using the Summer Picnic reservation form on the page 4 flip-side of the Spring Banquet reservation form to sign up for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Summer Picnic in the Woods scheduled for Friday, August 9, at the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 near Welches, Oregon?

Again this summer, this always fun picnic will cost you just **\$15.00 per person**, and just **\$7.50 for kids 12 years old and under!** This invitation with more details and registration form will appear again in the Summer 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, *but if you’re sure you can make it to this summer’s picnic you might as well sign up now* and send in two reservation forms with the same postage stamp!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

SPRING BANQUET—MAY 19, 2019
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 to be received not later than May 10, 2019.

If you’d rather sign up for the Spring Banquet online, go to <www.oldsmokeys.org/events>, scroll down to find the Banquet event, click on that event and find the “Register” button, and then just follow the instructions.



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

**SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS
AUGUST 9, 2019**

RESERVATION FORM

**Socializing at 11:00 a.m. followed by
Lunch at 12:00 noon.**

**Mail this reservation form and check for
\$15.00 per person*
(payable to PNWFSA) to:**

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

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

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please print your name here:

**Please send your reservation form and your check
To be received not later than August 1, 2019!**

**If you'd rather sign up for the Summer Picnic
online, go to <www.oldsmokeys.org/events>,
scroll down to find Picnic event, click on that
event and find the "Register" button, and follow
the instructions.**

*Grandchildren 12 years old and younger cost \$7.50 each.

**OldSmokeys Grant \$10,000 to
Four Worthy Projects in 2019**

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors on February 22, 2019, awarded a total of \$10,000 to four of six projects totaling \$18,060 proposed to the PNWFSA Grant Committee comprising OldSmokeys **Charlie Krebs** (chair), **Bob Tokarczyk**, **Kent Mays**, and **Phil Cruz**.

The grant recipients, amounts awarded, and projects for 2019 are:

- **Friends of Fish Lake** (in cooperation with the McKenzie River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest) received \$2,000 to help purchase and secure the devices necessary to show the four Fish Lake Historic Site videos mostly funded by a 2018 PNWFSA grant (see article "OldSmokeys Grant Helped Fund Fish Lake Historic Site Videos" below) at the four sites those videos interpret.
- **Heart of Oregon Corps** (in cooperation with the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Crooked River National Grassland) received \$3,000 to help support one Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) crew to work on resource projects on those lands. Crew members are exposed to natural resource management methods and issues as they develop self-confidence and financial self-sufficiency.
- **The High Desert Museum** received \$1,000 to help fund production of a video *Fired Up About Oregon's Forests!* for use in conjunction with the forty-plus classes about natural resource management and fire taught annually at the Museum. The video will include scenes of the May 2018 prescribed fire conducted by the U.S. Forest Service on the Museum's forestlands adjacent to the Deschutes National Forest.
- **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council** (in cooperation with the Cottage Grove Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest) received \$4,000 to support renovation of the historic Musick Guard Station, now a popular recreation rental, primarily to procure 150 square feet of custom milled pine siding to match the structure's existing siding.

As moved by OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** and agreed by Board members, grant funds for projects on national forest lands will be disbursed only after approving communication from an appropriate line officer (e.g., forest supervisor, district ranger, etc.). Board members also expressed the need to ensure that the PNWFSA receives visible credit for project support and the need to identify means to entice future grant proposals.

**OldSmokeys Grant Helped Fund
Fish Lake Historic Site Videos**

Production of four videos interpreting aspects of the Fish Lake Historic Site on the Willamette National Forest was mostly funded by a \$2,000 OldSmokeys 2018 grant to the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL). Produced by SpringFed.media for the FFL and narrated by OldSmokey **Randy Dunbar**, these four-to-five minute-long videos focus on: Fish Lake—Past and Present; Fish Lake—The Blacksmith and Tack Rooms; Fish Lake—The Dispatcher Cabin; and Fish Lake—The Hall House.

These videos, on YouTube to publicize the Fish Lake Historic Site, are also intended for on-site interpretation.

“The videos of Fish Lake brought many memories of time spent on various ranger districts, especially the Oakridge and West Boundary districts on the Willamette National Forest,” effused OldSmokey **Bev Pratt**, who as a Forest Service daughter and wife grew up on and lived on those districts.

“For many years I would tearfully say goodbye to my favorite mules and horses when they were taken to Fish Lake for their vacation season,” Bev recalled. “My animal friends would be [taken to Fish Lake] in the spring when the packer was ready to supply the trail crews or pack in the lookouts or take supplies to the telephone crews or [go] wherever there was work for them to do.”

You may view these videos online at <www.youtube.com/playlistlist=PLLrtMf7K15nlg92X4trADOJAzVTsVMOvB>.

OldSmokeys, Friends of Fish Lake to Gather for June 23-28 Work Week at Fish Lake Historic Site

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) have scheduled their annual work week at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot—the Fish Lake Historic Site—on the Willamette National Forest for Sunday, June 23, through Friday, June 28, 2019, according to FFL President and OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson**.

“We plan to begin renovation of the interior of the Fish Lake bunkhouse this summer. Our goal is to make it more amenable for education groups and others for classes, seminars, and workshops,” Rolf said. “Anyone interested in participating is invited to spend one or more days on this job,” he added. “Contact **Mike Kerrick** at <makerrick@q.com> to sign up.”

“Our annual FFL luncheon and membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25,” Rolf reminded FFL members.

June 2014 Fish Lake Work Week Video

OldSmokeys who would like to relive the June 2014 Fish Lake Historic Site work week or who would like to see what it’s like if they haven’t participated in one of these great weeks may do so by watching the *Preserving Historic Fish Lake* video available on YouTube simply by Googling (Is that really a verb?) <Fish Lake Historic Site Oregon video>.

In addition to commentary by then-Mckenzie River District Ranger and OldSmokey **Terry Baker** and Fish Lake Site Manager **Jim Denny**, viewers will see and hear from FFL members and OldSmokeys **Phil Raab** and **Randy Dunbar** and watch many other familiar faces as they happily labor on aspects of this great Forest Service heritage resource project.

OldSmokeys May Sign Up Now to Staff High Desert Ranger Station’s Eleventh Summer Season of Interpretation

Bright and shiny as a new penny—its shingles and trim repainted green and its exterior walls boasting a fresh coat of white paint—the historic High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, stands ready for its eleventh year of interpretation on June weekends and then daily from July 1 through Labor Day.

For ten summers, volunteer teams of OldSmokeys and a few other Museum volunteers have provided one-on-one interpretation of the U.S. Forest Service and its role in the evolution of

the Old West of natural resource exploitation into the New West of natural resource stewardship to about 1,500 visitors at this world-class museum of natural and cultural history.

Readily identifiable in their forest green polo shirts, these volunteers’ five-hour duty days are individually scheduled by volunteer team leader OldSmokey **Les Joslin** based on each volunteer’s availability and convenience. Les trains new volunteers, updates returning volunteers, and serves days not scheduled for other volunteers. Les will have to be away from Central Oregon for a few days early in July and several days late in July and needs to recruit a strong volunteer team like last summer’s team to ensure all 74 scheduled days are staffed.

High Desert Ranger Station volunteers sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers, and first-year volunteers pass a criminal background check, attend Museum volunteer training, and receive a full-day of on-the-job ranger station staffing orientation. Volunteers pay for their own uniform polo shirts worn tucked into regular blue jeans set off by proper belts and footwear. Warm uniform jackets are provided for rare spells of cool weather.

An OldSmokeys project—sponsored since its inception completely by your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) as an organization and as individuals—the High Desert Ranger Station is a great way OldSmokeys help citizen-owners of the National Forest System appreciate the current and historic roles of the Forest Service and the national forests and grasslands it administers for them.

For more information, contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331 (leave message if nobody’s home), by email at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or by letter addressed to him at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97703.



OldSmokeys Hats Available Again!

First made available some years back by OldSmokey **Bob Williams**, the popular OldSmokeys Logo Hat that identifies wearers as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members is available again for an unbelievably low price! As seen in the photo, this

tough, high quality hat in green and tan has the PNWFSA logo embroidered on so it won’t wear off over time.

You may order one or two hats per order online from the OldSmokeys Store for \$13.00 each (\$10.00 for the hat and \$3.00 for shipping). Go to the OldSmokeys website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> and click on “HOME” and find “OldSmokeys Hats For Sale” on the bottom right of the page, click on “More Information” and follow the instructions.

Or, you may order any number of hats by emailing Bob Williams (see your hardcopy or online PNWFSA directory for Bob’s email address). In the email, tell Bob the number of hats you wish to order and where to ship them. For orders of one or two hats, the charge is \$13.00 per hat (includes \$3.00 for shipping). For orders of three or more hats, the charge is \$10.00 per hat plus actual shipping cost. Bob will email you back with instructions to send him a check for the hats plus shipping.

Or, you may buy the hat for \$10.00 at a PNWFSA event such as the monthly luncheon or the Spring Banquet.

OldSmokey Gordon Schmidt Recommits to PNWFSA Lifetime Membership

“It seems like I have been a member [of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association] for two lifetimes, so it is time that I paid for the second lifetime membership,” OldSmokey **Gordon Schmidt** wrote early in March 2019.

And so he did, by way of a donation to the PNWFSA at the current lifetime membership rate of \$250.00.

OldSmokey Rex Holloway Has Returned Home from Antarctica

“My bags are packed...I’m ready to go” wrote OldSmokey **Rex Holloway** who “couldn’t resist borrowing the words from a John Denver song” to open his February 16, 2019, “Working in the Land of Ice” blog post from Antarctica.

Many OldSmokeys have enjoyed following Rex’s adventures at McMurdo Station as a shuttle driver for a National Science Foundation contractor, transporting scientists and support personnel around that station. Those who followed his beautifully-produced blog gained real appreciation of and insight into life and work in Antarctica.

After visiting Australia and New Zealand, Rex planned to return home to Bend, Oregon, on March 18.

OldSmokey David Summer Led Conservation VIP Trail Crew in Chile

OldSmokey **David Summer** was one of two volunteer trip leaders of 20 Conservation Volunteers International Program (Conservation VIP) volunteers recently returned to the United States after constructing a new boardwalk and stream crossing in Torres del Paine National Park, Chile.

The result of this February 4-16, 2019, project permits the park to open a new trail, providing an alternate route to reduce congestion and foot traffic in a very popular and heavily traveled part of the park.

OldSmokeys in Oregon May Get Smokey Bear License Plates in August

Keep Oregon Green, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), has launched a new Oregon license plate design featuring Smokey Bear set against a forested backdrop and the words “Keep Oregon Green” to honor Smokey’s 75th birthday.

According to Keep Oregon Green CEO Kristin Babbs, the Smokey Bear license plates will be available at every Oregon DMV office beginning August 1, 2019. For information, go to <<https://keeporegongreen.org/smokey-bear-license-plate/>>.

You can say
“Happy 75th”
to Smokey Bear
with this super
license plate
on your car!



OldSmokeys are Encouraged to Join the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana

The National Museum of Forest Service History—the only museum in the nation dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the U.S. Forest Service and its conservation mission—is eager for OldSmokeys—and other Forest Service folks—to join its ranks and to help develop to do its job.

The Museum is a nonprofit corporation separate from the Forest Service but working diligently and collaboratively with it to archive and share its important history. A capital campaign to complete a world-class facility on its Missoula, Montana, campus continues. This facility (shown in the architect’s rendering above) will join other campus facilities—including an historic ranger station structure and fire lookout—as the center which will house a current collection of over 50,000 items used to help tell the Forest Service story to visitors as well as teachers and students to enhance their understanding and support of the Forest Service and the National Forest System.

Join the National Museum of Forest Service History today and join the hundreds of your Forest Service retiree colleagues in supporting your history, your legends, and your dedication to conservation. Go to <<https://forestservicemuseum.org/become-a-member/>>to join now!

Memories continued from Page 13

the agency even as he made a name for himself as an historian of the agency. That career began on the Umpqua National Forest, continued on the Willamette National Forest, and took him to the Pacific Northwest Region RO in Portland, Oregon, before, in 1998, he went to Washington, D.C., to be the Forest Service’s national historian in the WO. Jerry authored several books and wrote numerous journal articles as well as professional papers and reports. He continued working after his 2005 retirement from the Forest Service as a Portland-based—and, later, Ridgefield, Washington-based—history researcher and writer. His book *The Forest Service: Fighting for Public Lands* was published in 2006 by Greenwood in its Understanding Our Government series, and his book *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History*, published by Oregon State University in 2009, remains the definitive history of the Pacific Northwest Region. Jerry’s research papers and publications, as well as his collection of historic Forest Service publications and photographs, comprise the Gerald W. Williams Collection of Forest and Northwest History Publications maintained at the Oregon State University Special Collections and Archives Research Center in Corvallis, Oregon. Survivors include his daughter Maggie Williams and son Colin Williams.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service People and Mission Hit by Long U.S. Government Shutdown

As many as 24,000 U.S. Forest Service personnel and the jobs they do were among the nearly 800,000 U.S. Government employees and the missions they accomplish affected by the longest partial government in American history. About 380,000 of those federal personnel were furloughed, and about 420,000 were expected to work without pay. Forest Service personnel fell into both categories.

That shutdown, which began on December 22, 2018, and ended on January 25, 2019, resulted from President Donald J. Trump's budget demand for \$5.8 billion for construction of wall sections along the Mexican border and his refusal of a U.S. House of Representatives \$1.3 billion compromise proposal. It ended when President Trump and congressional leaders signed a three-week continuing resolution to, in the words of Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen, "reopen the federal government after 35 difficult days." During the shutdown, only a skeleton crew of "excepted" personnel continued working on the national forests.

"Those five weeks were "like nothing we've experienced before," Chief Christiansen wrote on January 27 of "a trying time for our personal and professional lives, our families, and out livelihoods. Further, the shutdown and ensuing narrow focus on only a few aspects of our mission went against the core values of our agency." And, as Chief Christiansen predicted, it is taking "some time to regroup in every facet of our lives and work."

Citing the more crucial facets of Forest Service work, including preparations for the upcoming wildfire season, three U.S. senators from the Pacific Northwest were among a dozen who sent a mid-January letter to President Trump urging him to "cease the ongoing government shutdown" which, among myriad other costs, would put firefighter lives at risk. As it happened, a national wildland fire training course on fire suppression skills for Incident Management Team commanders and general staff to be offered by the Pacific Northwest Training Center in Redmond, Oregon, was cancelled. Beyond the significant implications of halting firefighter training and recertification, the shutdown delayed critical forest health projects and put more people in rural forested communities at risk.

Forest Service personnel returned to work on Monday, January 28, to resume, recover, and reset work for which they had lost over a month of critical time with help from a "Resuming Operations Checklist and Guide" which Chief Christiansen promised to each and which also was available on the "Inside the Forest Service" website and the "Resume, Recover, Reset" intranet page.

Prepared from multiple sources including "Furlough Information for Forest Service Employees" in Inside the Forest Service, January 10, 2019; "Shutdown hurts Western wildfire prep," by Stuart Leavenworth, McClatchy Washington Bureau, in The Bulletin, January 11, 2019; "Stop the Shutdown," by Jim Caswell, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, posted on The Smokey Wire, January 14, 2019; "Shutdown Cancels Federal Wildfire Training in Oregon as Northwest States Scramble to Prepare," by Emily Schwing, on publicbroadcasting.net, January 15, 2019; "Wildfire training is stalled" by Gillian Flaccus, The Associated Press, in The Bulletin, January 31, 2019; "Chief Vicki Christiansen's message to all employees as the federal government reopens" in Inside the Forest Service, January 27, 2019; and "USFS Back At Work Following Furlough" by Heather Roberts, KBND, Bend, Oregon.

U.S. Forest Service Adopts New Strategy to Protect Watersheds from Wildfires

In a new publication entitled *Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes* (FS-118 dated August 2018), the U.S. Forest Service announced what the publication's subtitle describes as "an outcome-based investment strategy" through which public land managers and private land owners may together "face urgent challenges, among them catastrophic wildfires..." which increasingly threaten the nation's water supplies and expand "risk to communities, natural resources, and the safety of firefighters."

Accordingly, according to the publication's executive summary, the Forest Service is "rethinking our approach to land management" that will involve working "closely with States to set landscape-scale priorities for targeted treatments in areas with the highest payoff."

"For decades, we have worked with States, Tribes, local communities, and collaborative groups to reduce fuels and improve forest conditions," the summary begins its review of past accomplishments. "By offering a powerful vision for improving forest conditions across fire-prone landscapes, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy provides a foundation for building even stronger relationships."

"The 2014 Farm Bill gave the Forest Service tools to get more work done on the ground, for example, providing for cross-boundary work with states through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). As of June 2018, we have signed 163 GNA agreements on 153 national forests in 25 States to complete a variety of restoration activities. The 2018 omnibus bill further expanded the GNA and other authorities, enabling us to do more work across boundaries."

"Since the 1990s, the average annual area we have treated has steadily grown. We are protecting more communities and watersheds, producing more timber volume, and treating more acres for hazardous fuels than at any time in the past 20 years. Yet catastrophic wildfires and the corresponding loss of lives, homes, and natural resources have continued to grow, partly because our treatments have been uncoordinated and not at the right scale. Although locally successful, we have rarely succeeded at the scale needed for lasting impacts across landscapes."

"A steady increase in collaboration capacity and recent breakthroughs in Forest Service science, mapping, and technology are providing new tools for planning investments to reduce fire risk and improve forest conditions," the summary states before listing how the Forest Service "will implement these new authorities and advances in technology."

"Through shared stewardship, the Forest Service and State and other partners have unprecedented opportunities to co-manage fire risk for desired outcomes at the most appropriate scales," the summary continues. "Our concept for an outcome-based investment strategy has three core elements:

- Determining management needs on a State level.
- Doing the right work in the right places at the right scale.
- Using all available tools for active management.

"The Forest Service plans to share this concept for an outcome-based investment strategy with partners and stakeholders across the nation as a starting point for dialogue. We realize that what we envision will require experimentation, co-learning, and adaptation. Working with States and others, we

envision stakeholders coming together across landscapes to co-manage risk, use new tools to better target investments, focus on outcomes at the right scale, and recalibrate our wildland fire environment for the benefit of people, both now and for generations to come.”

The urgency of this new strategy is recognized by many. For example, in a February 19, 2019, article “For a Warming World, a New Strategy for Protecting Watersheds” in *Yale Environment 360*, writer Jacques Leslie noted: “In increasingly arid regions such as the western U.S., water managers are learning that careful management and restoration of watershed ecosystems, including thinning trees and conducting prescribed burns, are important tools in coping with a hotter, drier climate.”

Prepared from the sources indicated and from Gil DeHuff’s review of Jacques Leslie’s Yale environment 360 article in a February 22, 2019, post on The Smokey Wire: National Forest News and Views.

U.S. Forest Service Faces \$5.2 Billion in Infrastructure Deferred Maintenance

The U.S. Forest Service, which manages over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands across 44 states and territories, has a huge backlog of infrastructure deferred maintenance which the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) on February 7, 2019, reported at \$5.2 billion.

This infrastructure includes over 370,000 miles of roads, 13,400 road and trail bridges, 159,000 miles of trails, 1,700 dams and reservoirs, 1,500 communication sites, 40,000 facilities, and 27,000 recreation sites.

More than \$5.2 billion in infrastructure repairs and maintenance have been postponed year-over-year due to budget constraints. This is known as “deferred maintenance.”

This backlog impacts every aspect of the Forest Service mission, including wildfire fighting, active management of our nation’s forests, and access for the millions of Americans who depend on these forests for their livelihoods and recreation.

This infrastructure annually supports over 300 million travelers across Forest Service roads, 149 million recreation visitors, and 50 million hikers; with recreation related activity alone yearly contributing approximately \$10.3 billion to the U.S. economy

As of September 30, 2018, deferred maintenance for all infrastructure totaled \$5.2 billion, which can be broken down into two broad categories:

- Transportation infrastructure: **\$3.7 billion** (includes all roads, trails, bridges, and tunnels)
- All other facilities: **\$1.5 billion** (includes buildings, housing, campgrounds, dams, waste water systems, water systems, utility systems, parking areas, marinas, aviation hangars, airfield pavements, towers, interpretive sites)

Addressing this deferred maintenance is a critical issue affecting the Forest Service’s ability to accomplish its mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations.

With adequate funding and a long-term comprehensive capital improvement plan, deferred maintenance can be reduced to a manageable level.

Prepared from “Restore Our Forest Infrastructure” in the “What’s New?” section of NAFSR’s website at <www.nafsr.org>.

U.S. Forest Service Cautioned State and Contractor about Weed Killer

Thousands of trees—mostly ponderosa pines—killed by a weed killer applied by a State of Oregon contractor along a 12.5-mile scenic stretch of U.S. Highway 20 through the Deschutes National Forest will be removed as traffic hazards and wildfire fuels beginning this spring.

“In 2012, contractors selected by the Oregon Department of Transportation chose Perspective, then a relatively new herbicide, over concerns raised by a Forest Service employee at the time,” Bend, Oregon’s daily *The Bulletin* reported on February 13, 2019. That “Forest Service employee” was a knowledgeable professional, now retired.

“The active ingredient—aminocyclopyrachlor, also known as ACP—had been linked to tree deaths in other states, and sales of a separate herbicide containing the component were suspended by the Environmental Protection Agency prior to its use on the project. The EPA’s product label [to which the former Forest Service person referred the users] advised users not to use it near ‘desirable trees,’” the February 13 article reported.

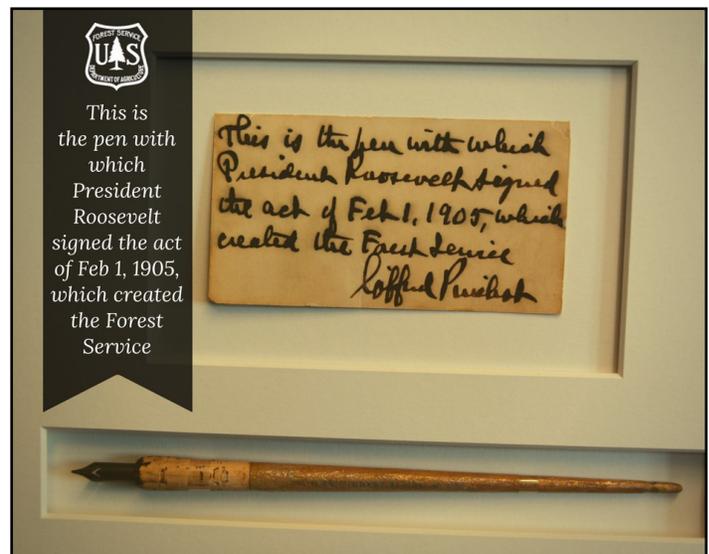
Sales of this agent, originally produced by DuPont as Imprelis, “were suspended in 2012 after the product was linked to tree deaths across the country,” *The Bulletin* reported on January 27, 2019, “However, Bayer bought a suite of chemicals from DuPont, including ACP, which it used in a new weed-killer called Perspective.”

“This is a tree-killing pesticide that’s masquerading as a weed-killing herbicide,” *The Bulletin* quoted Rose Kachadorian, program manager for the Oregon Department of Agriculture which oversees pesticides and herbicides statewide.

Prepared from “Tree deaths spawn probe” in the January 27, 2019, issue of The Bulletin, “New state rule would limit use of weekkiller” in the January 31, 2019, issue of The Bulletin, and “Weedkiller claims more trees than expected” in the February 13, 2019, issue of The Bulletin, all by Stephen Hamway.

U.S. Forest Service Celebrates 114 Years

On February 1, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Transfer Act which placed the United States’ forest reserves, administered since 1891 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, under the new Forest Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new agency’s first Chief got and kept the pen.



Features

The Motley Trail Crew: Twenty-one Years of Umpqua National Forest Volunteering

By Bill Blackwell

For twenty years the Motley Trail Crew has been volunteering on Thursdays to do trail maintenance for the Umpqua National Forest. On its twentieth anniversary, the crew had completed over 46,000 hours of trail maintenance.

Their work began on January 20, 1998, when OldSmokey **Jim Talburt**, retired Umpqua National Forest trail staff, and four other U.S. Forest Service retirees went out to the Boulder Creek Wilderness and completed tread work on the Boulder Creek Trail. Jim, along with another three of these five original volunteers, OldSmokeys **Ken Jensen**, **Steve Sand**, and **Chuck Young**, are still volunteering.

Since that beginning, the crew has picked up a number of members. Currently there are 15. Jim told me, “When I was recruiting volunteers, everyone said they would do the work as long as it wasn’t paperwork. So I do all the paperwork and coordinate with the Forest Service. The forest supplies all the tools and Gene Mitchell keeps and maintains all of them.”

Most of the crew are Forest Service retirees, but a few are retired from the Bureau of Land Management, the forest products industry, or are friends of crew members. The four who have been volunteering since the beginning have from 4,100 hours to over 5,000 hours each as of January 2018. Fire crew members have between 2,500 and 3,800 hours each, and four have over 1,000 hours each. Randy Menke and Randy Lopez are the youngest on the crew and have been volunteering for three to four years, while OldSmokeys **John Rosenberger** and **Ken Jensen** are the senior members. The newest member, Jim Henricksen, has just started. Unfortunately, four members have passed away and one has retired due to health issues.

Each Thursday, crew members gather at Munchies Restaurant in Glide. After breakfast or coffee, Jim informs the group where they will be heading and what the project will be. Chuck Young told me with a laugh, “Jim doesn’t tell us ahead of time what we will be doing. If we knew ahead of time that we were going to be running crosscut all day, some of us might find a reason not to show up. This way he knows we will all be there.” Jim said, “Usually we have 10 to 12 crew members any particular day. About the only things that prevent us from working are snow, forest fires, or hunting season.”

On the Thursday I worked with the Motley Trail Crew, Jim told the crew after breakfast that we were headed up the Marsters Segment of the North Umpqua Trail. We would be clearing any down logs, removing branches, and anything else that needed to be done. We loaded up in the pickups and headed to the trailhead. Once there, the crew members took various tools and passed around treats prepared by Janet Walter. She is the widow of Frank Walter, one of the crew members, and she still bakes treats for the crew every Thursday.

As we hiked, I had a few questions for Jim, like how did the Motley Trail Crew come up with the name. Jim replied, “There was a market in Glide that had a deli where we would gather for breakfast. Dan Van Slyke, now with Wildlife Safari, owned the place, and when he saw us coming in he would say, ‘Oh, here comes that motley bunch’ and the name soon became the Mot-

ley Trail Crew.” Jim said, “I appreciate what everyone does. We have a good time and get a lot of trail maintenance done.”

After a few hours, the crew took a quick break for lunch, then finished the maintenance on the trail. At the trailhead, the crew enjoyed a few more of Janet’s treats and then headed back to town. On the way back, Chuck told me he has “enjoyed coming out with the crew for so many years because they joke around, have fun, and get a lot of work done. It is great being out on the forest and maintaining all the trails.” Dennis Webber added, “Thursday is one of the best days of the week for me, to come out and work with the Motley Trail Crew.”

Last spring and summer, the Motley Trail Crew spent a number of weeks working on the Twin Lakes Trail and portions of the North Umpqua Trail that had been damaged by the 2017 Umpqua North Fire. In addition, the Wolf Creek Hotshots, the Northwest Youth Corps, and Kyle and Sarah Schartz with ZT Rahcs, Inc., all worked on the North Umpqua Trail so it could be reopened for public use. In addition, volunteer groups like Land of Umpqua Mountain Bike Riders (LUMBR), Southern Oregon Trail Alliance (SOTA), and individual volunteers worked with Forest Service personnel to improve the tread at multiple locations along the trail.

I asked Vern Shumway, the assistant forest recreation staff on the Umpqua, what the Motley Trail Crew meant to the forest. He replied, “The maintenance work the crew does on the trails is invaluable! The forest has over 580 miles of hiking trails, and there is no way we could keep up with the maintenance needs without the expertise and continued support of the Motley Trail Crew year after year. These folks are skilled, put in countless hours, and make possible numerous recreational opportunities for the public. We really appreciate all that they do, and we couldn’t do it without them.”



The Motley Trail Crew ready for another day of volunteer work on Umpqua National Forest trails. Alone in the first row, except for canine mascots Cooper and Kitare, is OldSmokey Stu Carlson. In the second row (left to right) are Randy Lopes, Randy Menke, and OldSmokeys John Rosenberger Steve Sand,, Ned Davis, and Jim Talburt. In the back row (left to right) are Chuck Young, Gene Mitchell. OldSmokey Ken Jensen, and Dennis Webber. Crew members not present for the photograph are Kevin Adamski, OldSmokey Janie Dumont, Jerry Harryman, and Jim Henricksen.

Photograph by Bill Blackwell



Riders in the Dirt played at the U.S. Forest Service Centennial Reunion in Portland, Oregon, in September 2005.

Riders in the Dirt Sang of “The Green and the Gold”

By Jo Booser

Riders in the Dirt was a band of U.S. Forest Service women who played and sang great “cowgirl music” during the early years of this century.

The group originally included Judy Haigler, Gayle Hunt, and Ann Roberts, all of whom worked on the Ochoco National Forest. When I—a Deschutes National Forest silviculturist—found out about their band, I really wanted to be a Rider in the Dirt, too, and they were kind enough to let me join them. What fun we had!

In the band, Gayle played banjo and guitar and mandolin, Judy played guitar and train whistle, Anne played wash tub bass, and I played fiddle, flute, ocarina, and saw. And we all sang, sometimes in four-part harmony! Gayle, a songwriter, wrote some really good songs we performed as well as our Forest Service “theme song” called “The Green and the Gold” below.

We played for many Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture events in various regions for over a decade. We represented the Forest Service at many events in 2005 to celebrate the Forest Service Centennial. This included playing music for two weeks on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and at the Kennedy Center. A crowd favorite was our “Smokey Bear Rap.” Anne learned how to rap (She did a great job!), and then-Deschutes National Forest Supervisor Leslie Weldon helped us choreograph the dance moves. We got to meet Folklife Festival participants from Oman, and I taught an Omani bagpipe player how to play musical saw.

We also played at the September 2005 Forest Service Reunion in Portland, Oregon, put on by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association. Our most recent Forest Service gig was playing for the Willamette National Forest centennial celebration at historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot in 2012.

One of my all-time favorite band memories was playing “Home on the Range” on my fiddle for a herd of bison with calves on a side trip during a gig in North Dakota. They came close and listened intently!

OldSmokey Jo Booser, a retired Deschutes and Ochoco national forests silviculturist who played fiddle, flute, ocarina, and saw as a Rider in the Dirt, authored this article and supplied the photographs.



We were quite a sight, carrying all our instruments through airports on the way to our gigs!

Anne still works for the Forest Service and currently serves as a wildlife biologist on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Montana. The rest of us are retired from the Forest Service but still actively doing all sorts of things.

The Green and the Gold

*My old horse picks his way through the cholla and shale
Sun’s beatin’ down on this antelope trail
My rations are slim, got an empty canteen
Two hungry coyotes are the people I’ve seen*

*Some want to hang me with scoundrels and thieves
They give no respect to the badge on my sleeve
The miners and sheep men and cowpunchers too
Seem more like strangers than friends I once knew*

(chorus)

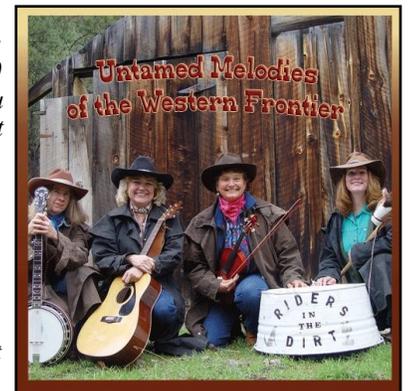
*Ridin’ through wildfire, the Ranger must go
No matter the heat or the cold
For all o’ these miles I got nothin’ to show
But pride in the green and the gold*

*Over the next ridge the fallin’ axe swings
Mill’s in the black and the Ranger is king
But fortunes will turn quick as lightning can flash
And I’ll get the blame for the charcoal and ash*

*Where the river bends west, there’s a tent hung from poles
Three or four kids in a cool swimmin’ hole
With a tip of my hat I’m headed upstream
Thinkin’ this job’s not so cursed as it seems*

(repeat chorus)

The Riders in the Dirt CD, shown at right, is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. You may request one or more at <jobooser@gmail.com> and, when Jo’s home from her worldwide peregrinations, you and she can figure out the easiest way for you to pay and her to ship. “Since I’m traveling a lot, I can only ship when I’m at home!” Jo says.



Editor’s Note: The only downside to this whole deal is Riders in the Dirt’s signature song “The Green and the Gold” is not on their Untamed Melodies of the Western Frontier CD.

New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Bob & Debbie Hemus of Gold Beach, Oregon. Bob is river manager and special uses officer on the Gold Beach Ranger District, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

John K. McKelligott of Grants Pass, Oregon, began his U.S. Forest Service career in 1987 as a timber marking crew foreman and moved to developed recreation work in 1993. “Fire,” he says, “has been a consistent love. Crew boss for over 30 off-forest assignments, felling boss, C-feller, field observer, and my number one love, fire lookout at Dutchman Peak and Squaw Peak, both National Historic Register sites. Also chief union steward on the Rogue River-Snoqualmie National Forest.” Off work, John is “socially and politically active, love being a grandfather to two of the cutest little ‘hamsters’ in the world. My family owns eight acres in the Applegate River Valley, and we are avid gardeners. Our property is a mini-arboretum because I am a tree freak!”

Daniel J. Norris of Portland, Oregon. Dan retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Deschutes National Forest after 29 years of federal service, 25 of those years in the Forest Service during which he worked at “many different jobs” and four which he served in the U.S. Navy. In retirement, Dan reads, communicates by emails and Skype, and pursues computer work.

George A. Reinhart of Monitor, Washington. George retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Wenatchee National Forest after 34.5 years in the Forest Service, 33 of those years in Region 6 and 1.5 of those years in Region 9. George regularly worked in timber cruising and log scaling. He also served as a snow ranger and, when needed, in firefighting as a crew boss or in ground support assignments.

Michael R. “Mike” & Barbara Williams of East Wenatchee, Washington. Mike has been forest supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest since May 2015. Mike’s Forest Service career started in Oregon as presale forester on the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, in 1977. After several jobs on the Salmon River Ranger District, Klamath National Forest, he served as district ranger on the Greenville Ranger District, Plumas National Forest, and Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest. Then, after a couple years in Washington, D.C., on the WO Forest Management Staff, Mike moved to the Kaibab National Forest in Williams, Arizona, as forest supervisor in 2001. Mike and Barbara enjoy exploring Washington state and traveling around the Pacific Northwest.

Memories

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

James R. “Jim” Bull died January 25, 2019, at age 79. Jim was born December 19, 1939, in Buffalo, New York. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in forestry in 1961. Jim served nearly 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service,

starting as a temporary in 1958, obtaining a permanent appointment in 1962, and working on the Siuslaw and Deschutes national forests before serving more than half of his Forest Service years in Trout Lake, Washington, as district ranger of the Mt. Adams Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. As district ranger in Trout Lake, Jim initiated establishment of youth crews to provide employment opportunities for inner-city youths and later an AmeriCorps residential camp called the Northwest Service Academy. Jim and his wife, Pauline, remained in Trout Lake after he retired in 1995. He was very involved in community affairs and organizations including community theater groups and book clubs, the Trout Lake Art Festival, community counsel, and local business associations. As a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association member, Jim served as PNWFSA’s Gifford Pinchot National Forest (east) area representative. In 2002, he was a member of the first-year team of Passport in Time volunteers who staffed Historic Elk Lake Guard Station on the Deschutes National Forest. Survivors include his wife, Pauline; daughters Carol Schmid and Robin Bull and son Gary Bull; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Henry “Hank” Clow died January 8, 2019, at age 86. Hank was born September 27, 1932, in Laconia, New Hampshire, where he grew up. After graduation from Laconia High School, he entered the University of New Hampshire to study engineering. These studies were interrupted by the Korean War during which he served in the U.S. Army in Korea and later in Japan. Hank returned to school and, using the GI Bill, completed a degree in civil engineering at New England College. His first engineering job was with the New Hampshire Department of Highways during which he was resident engineer on the connecting link of the Kangamagus Highway through the White Mountain National Forest. On that job, he got to know U.S. Forest Service personnel who encouraged him to look into a career with “the Outfit.” In 1959, Hank and his wife Pat, their daughter Petreena, and their German shepherd headed west in their remodeled Volkswagen microbus. Their first stop was in Missoula, Montana, where the Forest Service made an offer, but they continued westward. His career in the Forest Service began later that year on the Quilcene Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest. In 1962, Hank transferred to the SO in Olympia, then on to the Intermountain Region RO in Ogden, Utah, prior to his first forest engineer assignment on the Challis National Forest in 1963. He continued to serve in Region 4 on the Payette National Forest from 1966 to 1968. The next move took Hank and his family back to Region 6 and the Willamette National Forest. Four years later he accepted a position at the Pacific Southwest Region RO in San Francisco, where one of his favorite assignments was working on the Pacific Crest Trail. One more transfer in 1976 placed Hank on the Eldorado National Forest in Placerville, California, where he remained until he retired from the Forest Service in 1987. By that time, Hank was sure he was the longest-serving forest engineer who somehow had avoided an assignment in the WO. Hank retired to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he enjoyed sailing on Lake Superior. Survivors include Pat, his wife of 61 years; their daughter Petreena and son Aarne; four grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Dennis L. Frasier died February 14, 2019, at age 79. Dennis was born November 15, 1939, in Enumclaw, Washington. After graduating from Montana State University in 1965, Dennis

joined the U.S. Army and served 17 months in Vietnam before he began his 33-year U.S. Forest Service career. He married Margie Lynn Buttram in 1968, and they had three children. After several career moves, Dennis finally realized his life-long dream of owning a small farm in Central Oregon where the family lived for 25 years before moving to Idaho in 2005. Dennis focused on helping others. He was a staunch advocate for people with disabilities and served several years as the parent representative on the Oregon State Advisory Board for the Education of Disabled Children as well as on the board of the COPE Project that helped parents obtain needed services for their disabled children. After moving to Nampa, Idaho, he and Margie joined the First United Methodist Church through which he volunteered as a cook for the Salvation Army and for Love, Inc., until stopped by vision problems and a stroke. He was a 12-year member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) which he served in various capacities including one year as service officer, two years as vice-president for membership, and four years as president. A gentle man, Dennis brought light and laughter to all who met him. Survivors include Margie, his wife of 50 years; sons Michael and Andrew and daughter Sarah; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Kirk Malcolm Horn died February 10, 2019, at age 79. Kirk was born November 30, 1939, in Eugene, Oregon, and grew up on a family farm north of Cottage Grove, Oregon. He attended Clark College and graduated from Pacific University, then earned a master's degree in biology at the University of Arizona. Kirk taught high school biology in Heppner, Oregon, for four years before he joined the U.S. Forest Service in which he held summer positions on the Waldport Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest and the Zig Zag Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest. He then served as forest biologist on the Mt. Hood National Forest and Region Six regional wildlife biologist. Kirk moved to the WO where he was the national endangered species program manager. He retired as Northern Region director of wildlife and fisheries in 1999 and worked two years for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation mapping elk habitat on an IPA assessment. In retirement, Kirk settled on the shores of Hebgen Lake outside Yellowstone National Park where he and his wife Beth spent the last 20 years enjoying fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, and other outdoor activities they loved. Kirk stayed active in wildlife issues and was chairman of the board for the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana. He and Beth celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in August 2018. Survivors include his wife Beth and daughter Frances Malcolm.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey **Beth Horn** who provided this remembrance of her husband.*

George Edward Jansen died February 20, 2019, at age 94. George was born June 27, 1924, in South Dakota. He graduated from Mission High School in Mission, South Dakota, joined the U.S. Army in 1944, and served in the Philippines with the 37th Infantry Division during World War II as a combat infantryman, becoming first gunner and acting squad leader and earning the Bronze Star medal, the Philippine Liberation medal, and the Infantry Combat medal. After discharge from the Army in 1946, he returned to work on the family farm near Mission and, in 1949, married Violet E. Miller. They resided on the farm until 1955 when he entered South Dakota State College from

which he graduated in 1959 with a degree in civil engineering. He began his U.S. Forest Service career in Oregon and in 1968 he transferred to Olympia, Washington, where he served as the Olympic National Forest engineer until his retirement in 1988. George was a devoted husband of 64 years and a dedicated father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who maintained strong ties with family members. He enjoyed music, dancing, travel, card games, sports, fishing, gardening, antiques, puzzles, and feeding the local wildlife. George was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), was a past post commander of the American Legion and a former member of Kiwanis. Survivors include his daughters Barbara Ritchie and Roberta Brooks, his sons Dr. Edward Jansen and Donald Jansen, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Emil Michael Sabol died February 25, 2019, at age 92. Emil was born May 6, 1924, in Ironwood, Michigan, where this son of parents who had immigrated from Croatia in 1910 grew up. After graduating from Luther L. Wright High School in Ironwood in 1941, Emil enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) where he worked on such projects as tree planting, forest fire fighting, and forest campground construction. Following his CCC service, Emil joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in December 1942. After completing pilot training in Douglas, Arizona, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and served as a B-17 bomber pilot in the 305th Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force, in England. On a bombing mission to Berlin, his plane was shot down and he became a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft No. 1, a German POW camp. Following his World War II service, Emil attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1950 with a B.S. degree in forestry. On November 11, 1950, he and Dorine Tippet married in Ironwood. After serving as Gogebic County, Michigan, forester, Emil began a 40-year U.S. Forest Service career. After starting on the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan, he was assigned to the White River National Forest in Colorado. This was followed by various Pacific Northwest Region assignments on the Deschutes, Willamette, Rogue River, and Olympic national forests including district ranger and forest staff officer positions. In 1970, Emil became branch chief of Timber Sale Valuation and Preparation in the Portland, Oregon, RO. This was followed by assignment as deputy director of Timber Management, Northern Region, in the Missoula, Montana RO. Emil retired from the Forest Service in January 1986. Emil was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, the Masonic Order, and several service organizations including Elks, Kiwanis, and Lions. As president of the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of the Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni for ten years, Emil played key roles in accomplishing such commemorative projects as the bronze statue of a CCC worker at the Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters in Salem and 17 signs and plaques on national forests in Oregon where CCC camps were located. He arranged for the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps to participate in these projects. Emil was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Ex-Prisoners of War, and the 305th Bombardment Group Association. An avid golfer since his 1930s caddy days at Gogebic Country Club in Ironwood, he was a member of Western Oregon Seniors and the Sweet 16 group at Charbonneau where he and Dorine resided. He especially enjoyed golfing at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona where much of his state-

side Army Air Corps service was based. Survivors include his wife Dorine; son David; daughters Jan Brosnan and Patricia Dreher; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Grace Ellen Sprague died December 26, 2018, in St. Helens, Oregon, at age 88. Grace Iversen was born May 28, 1930, in Korbel, Humboldt County, California, and grew up in Cave Junction, Oregon. She attended Kerby Union High School, north of Cave Junction, graduated from Medford High School in 1947, and took a few classes at Southern Oregon College in Ashland. Grace married George Leland Sprague in Medford, Oregon, in 1958, and was best known for her 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service on the Rogue River National Forest. George died in 2008. Grace was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Medford and was a past president of Rogue Valley Federal Executives Association. She played the flute, piano, and organ. Survivors include her daughters Carla Kildahl and Ruth Sprague, her son Jerald, and a grandson.

Norman Perry “Norm” Stauffer died January 16, 2019, at age 75. Norm was born July 25, 1943, in Myrtle Point, Oregon. Norm served in the U.S. Forest Service for 40 years before he retired in 2003. He loved working on cars and did so until the end. Survivors include Janice, his wife of 47 years; their daughter Nina Gandert; three grandsons and a granddaughter; and seven great-grandchildren.

William Robert “Bill” Tye died January 6, 2019, at age 74. Bill, husband of U.S. Forest Service retiree known during her career as Alice Doremus, was born August 25, 1944, in Auburn, Washington, but lived in Bend, Oregon, nearly all his life. After graduating from Bend Senior High School in 1963, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 81st Airborne Artillery Division before he earned a 1973 bachelor’s degree in engineering at Oregon State University. After working for his brother Tom’s Compass Engineering & Surveying firm in Portland, Oregon, Bill returned to Bend in 1976 to partner with his brother Mick in Sun Country Engineering & Surveying and to establish himself as a cattleman. In 1990 he founded Tye Engineering & Surveying. As an engineer, Bill was involved in a wide range of civil engineering projects throughout Central Oregon and beyond and he promoted engineering through the Professional Engineers of Oregon of which he was named a fellow in 2016 in honor of his exemplary service to the profession. He simultaneously and successfully pursued the life he loved as a cattleman and involvement in community service. Survivors include his wife Alice, stepsons Harleigh and Evan Doremus, and nine nieces and nephews.

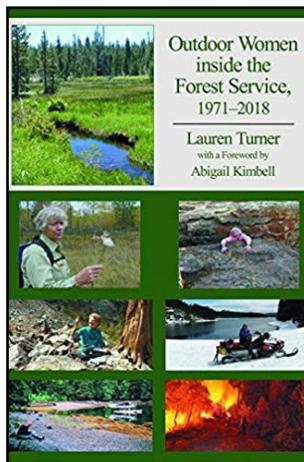
Gerald Walter “Jerry” Williams died January 3, 2019, at age 73. Jerry was born June 30, 1945, in Oregon. Jerry earned a B.S. degree in sociology in 1971 and an M.S. degree in social science in 1972 from Southern Oregon State College (now Southern Oregon State University) in Ashland, Oregon, and a Ph.D. degree in sociology at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, in 1976. He taught as an assistant professor at Indiana State University for two years and worked as recreation research director for the city of Eugene, Oregon, for a year before he joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1979. His 24-year Forest Service career focused on aspects of social and policy analysis, long-range planning, social impact analysis, and socioeconomic and human dimension assessment at all levels of

Memories continue on Page 6

Books

U.S. Forest Service Retiree Lauren Turner Shares Her 30-year Career Perspective in *Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018*

Reviewed by Gail Kimbell,
Chief Emeritus, U.S. Forest Service



Lauren Turner’s new book will draw many readers. *Outdoor Women Inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018* profiles the careers of 42 women in professions uncommon to their gender. Lauren weaves in Forest Service history and the changing demographics through the decades. This book surprised me. Who were all these women?

When I started as a junior forester, there weren’t any others for miles around. After a while, I needed some female company. I tried the Tupperware party thing. Not for me. You start stalking

women in other agencies, distant offices, meetings, book clubs, etc. And here in this book are all these women who also wore boots and hardhats to work, studied insects, could pack and ride a horse, jumped out of airplanes into fires, hooted for owls in old growth forests, not only could read maps but make maps, could back a trailer and change a tire. They were out there the same time I was thinking I was the Lone Ranger.

It wasn’t always easy. Some of the stories describe hardships in the workplace or in the work/life balance. Opportunities for training and advancement were not always equitably provided. Oversight of workplace communications and interplay was inconsistent. Fire camp and other travel sometimes got out of control. There is no limit to the number of jerks put upon this earth, even inside the Forest Service.

You will find in these stories a number of women who chose to do it all. They chose careers, life partners, and children. The testament to how well this worked out is to visit with the offspring—some of the most put-together young people around. They know as little ones they can do anything they are willing to work hard for. They love the out-of-doors and have an innate sense of conservation.

As I write this, I sit at the shore of Lake Mead, 140 feet below full pool. Read Lauren Turner’s book. It doesn’t include every story, but it includes a range that encompasses the tremendous transitions made in the U.S. Forest Service from 1971 to 2018.

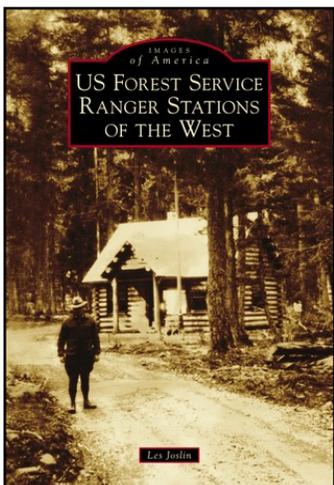
Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018, by Lauren Turner (ISBN-13 978-1935778455), 466 pages, paperback, published November 15, 2018, by McDonald & Woodland Publishing at \$29.95, is available online from Amazon.com or from McDonald & Woodland Publishing, 695 Tall Oaks Drive, Newark, Ohio; 740-641-2691 or toll free 800-233-8787; or at <mwpubco@mwpubco.com>.

Books *Continued from page 13*

OldSmokey Les Joslin’s New Book, *Images of America: U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West*, from Arcadia

Twenty-two of the 92 historic U.S. Forest Service ranger and guard stations pictured and profiled in OldSmokey **Les Joslin’s** new book, *US Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West*, published on April 8 by Arcadia Publishing in its popular Images of America series, are Pacific Northwest Region stations.

Many of these historic stations remain in use. The cover photograph of a forest ranger in front of the Silver Creek Ranger Station on the old Snoqualmie National Forest, taken in 1933 by pioneer Forest Service photographer Fred W. Cleator, shows one of the Pacific Northwest Region’s historic ranger stations which continues in service as a Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest summer visitor center. Many others are used for a range of administrative and visitor service purposes as well as for recreation rentals even as they preserve Forest Service history.



It’s no news to *OldSmokeys Newsletter* readers that their newsletter editor is a serious ranger station historian. To him, old ranger stations represent a Forest Service heritage he considers himself lucky to have been a part of on the Toiyabe National Forest of the 1960s, about which he has published three editions of a memoir called *Toiyabe Patrol*. * The fate of the 1933 Bridgeport, California, one-room district ranger’s office building at which he was based is revealed in the epilogue of this new Images of America series title.

The rest of the West is accounted for in the new book by 14 historic stations in the Northern Region, 15 in the Rocky Mountain Region, 12 in the Southwestern Region, 13 in the Inter-mountain Region, and two in the Alaska Region. “The real challenge was picking the 92 historic stations that would fit the publisher’s prescribed 128-page format from among at least 200 candidate stations,” Les says. “Many really worthy historic ranger stations just could not be squeezed in.” The 92 that made the cut are pictured in 189 mostly historic photographs and profiled in something over 17,000 words.

Images of America: US Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West by Les Joslin (ISBN-13 978-1-4671-0315-2), 128 pages, paperback, published by Arcadia Publishing at \$21.99, is available from Arcadia Publishing at <arcadiapublishing.com> or by toll-free phone at 1-888-313-2665, online from Amazon.com, and should be available soon at national forest sales outlets throughout the western United States.

*The 2017 third edition of *Toiyabe Patrol: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s* is available for \$10.00 postpaid. Order by check from Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97703.



OldSmokeys Newsletter Editor Les Joslin visited Rager Ranger Station on July 12, 2018. This historic Civilian Conservation Corps-built structure served as the Paulina Ranger District office from 1941 to 1964. Photograph by Dave Govatski

**Rager Ranger Station
Ochoco National Forest, Oregon**

By Les Joslin

Historic Rager Ranger Station was headquarters of the Paulina Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest from 1908—the year in which national forests were subdivided into ranger districts—until 2012.

There, for 104 years, the U.S. Forest Service district ranger, his co-workers, and their families comprised their own community at which children were born and raised, families came and went, and many Forest Service careers began and flourished and ended even as it was integrated into the upper Crooked River valley community the ranger station served.

How well integrated? Well, the ambulance for that remote area was typically staffed by Forest Service personnel and based at the ranger station. More often than not, a teacher at the Paulina School 15 miles distant in the ranching community town of the same name was from a ranger station family. The timber and rangeland resources that supported the area’s economy were managed and protected from the ranger station.

Rager Ranger Station was closed in 2012 when the Paulina Ranger District office and personnel were co-located with other Ochoco National Forest offices and personnel 75 miles away in Prineville. When it closed, Rager Ranger Station was the most remote Forest Service ranger station in the Pacific Northwest.

Most Rager Ranger Station facilities may be removed by the end of 2019. Among those to remain are the three CCC-built structures which, along with this plaque, should be managed to tell the story of the “Rager Rats” who served the greatest good from this historic station for over a century.

Photograph by Dave Govatski



My First Forest Service Job

My First Fire

By Roger Deaver

The terms “first job” and “first fire” beg clarification. As a temporary employee in the U.S. Forest Service assigned to Engineering in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest SO, I worked on a road reconnaissance crew rarely picked to go to fires unless it was a big bust or during slash burning. I’d gone to guard school, been trained in basic fire behavior and use of fire tools, issued my own copy of the 1950s *Western Fire Fighting Manual* by W.B. Osborne. I got my initiation to firefighting on the line of several fires and many hours of “standby.”

For this story, my first fire was the one with my name on it. It was all my responsibility to control and put out. And it happened in July 1964 during my first permanent Forest Service assignment on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Our district had just been hit by the biggest afternoon lightning storm in several years. Although rare in the Cascades, this was a “dry” storm with a multitude of ground strikes and the lookouts calling in smokes rapid-fire. The “fire out by 10 a.m. the next day” policy was not to be questioned. Our district fire control officer (FCO) had exhausted his regular fire resources on smokes in areas of high risk. But wait, there was still that GS-5 reforestation and wilderness technician just returning from field surveys. Me. I received a call to immediately return to the station and be on standby. There I waited.

Just as the sun was setting over the ridge to our south, the FCO called me outside on the back stoop and pointed to a prominent butte that formed the west shoulder of Packwood Lake and a boundary of the newly-designated Goat Rocks Wilderness. “See that smoke up there?” he said, indicating the 4,500-foot roadless ridgetop. “I want you to rustle up a crew and go put that fire out. We can’t drive you there. You will have to walk. Go to the fire warehouse, pick up your backcountry fire pack, and we’ll drive you to the Packwood Lake Trailhead. Good luck!”

Okay, I can do this. I picked out three fire packs, one each for me and my erosion control crew of two summer temporaries. Each pack had two days of C rations, fire tools, headlamps, and water. No radio and no sleeping bag. But my pack had a crosscut saw. You’d think my biggest concern was the size of the fire. But no, my biggest concern was that crew of two worthless kids who, I swear, could not pour pee out of a boot even if instructions were written on the heel. How would I ever get these two city kids up the mountain trail at night?

So, there we were. Ten o’clock on a Saturday night, dark and only a topo map and old abandoned trail to find *my* fire and have it out by 10 a.m. We hoisted our packs, flicked on our headlamps, waived to our driver, and headed four and one-half miles uphill. I’m pretty certain such a deployment in today’s Forest Service would be a no-no. But I was not thinking of that. I was assigned this fire and given a crew—such as it was—and determined to make my boss and the FCO proud.

Following that old CCC trail up the mountain through old-growth timber was a challenge made even harder by doing it in the dark with two kids who had not so much as a lick of exposure to the forest before this job. I pushed on as fast as I could, despite the whining behind me, all the time wondering how I

would find this fire in the dark timber. Smoke! Yes, I caught a faint smell of smoke! Just me, not my crew who thought I was nuts. I told them to take a break and wait in place for me. “No,” they did not like that idea, thinking it better to endure fast-pace scrambling than being left alone in the woods. In just another fifty yards, they too caught the whiff of smoke. I removed my pack and ordered them to stay with it and keep talking—loud.

Within just minutes of picking my way through downed logs and undergrowth, I saw a glow high in the canopy with glowing cinders falling to the forest floor. Just a minute more, and there was the fire—a very large old-growth hemlock with the top out, spewing fire like a Roman candle and sending cinders all over.

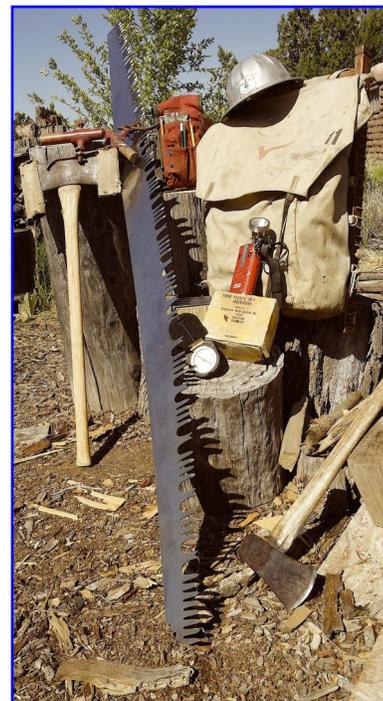
It was just one a.m. on Sunday, and the first priority was to stop the spread of ground fire into the numerous down trees. That was the easy part, once we threw some dirt to dowse the small, slow-spreading flames. The bigger task was to fell that old hemlock snag that measured four feet-six inches at the base. I quickly attached the saw handles to our six-foot whipsaw and quickly picked the beefiest of my two boys to whom to teach the art of *pulling* the saw through the cut, not *pushing* it. It was a steep learning curve, but finally both got the knack of using this tool enough that we got an undercut on the down-leaning side of the half-live snag.

There was, of course, another issue at hand. A six-foot crosscut saw with stop guards on the handles has an effective draw of about five feet and eight inches of working teeth, and this was a four foot-six diameter tree at three feet up. This meant we had to side-notch on both sides to the felling direction to get enough room for effective handle draw. Even then, we could pull only a foot in either direction when just 18 inches into the back cut. It was exhausting to the point of nearly fainting, and all the while sparks and cinders were raining down upon us. This required the third guy to brush off the embers.

At dawn, we still had another eight inches to cut before we could have any hope of wedging it over, and the next to worst thing happened. The crosscut saw fractured just nine inches from one handle, turning it into a single-person saw. With just one sawing at a time, another two hours were added to the job. We were nearing the ten o’clock “fire out” rule I was determined to observe. At just nine a.m., we wedged it over and sent fire scattering everywhere. *I was mortified!* What had I done? Exhausted and scared as we were, we aggressively attacked the burning treetop and put it out as fast as we could.

It was required to “cold trail” a fire and remain on it for 12 hours after “dead out.” I never did report that it was *not* out at 10 a.m. More like 11:20 a.m. But who knew?

Roger’s fire tools
Submitted photograph





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Spring 2019

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