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OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees - Spring 2020



Get to Know NAFSR Chair Caswell
see interview with James Caswell on page 3

Scott Lake and Mount Washington on the Willamette National Forest. Courtesy of USFS Pacific Northwest Region.

Incoming President's Message - Steve Ellis

Colleagues, I look forward to serving as President of our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA), an organization that dates from the end of World War II. I recently reviewed the list of previous presidents and board members of our organization dating back to 1945! Like us, they were dedicated public servants, members of the “long green line” who devoted their careers to the sound management of our nation’s public lands.

As most of you are aware, we’ve had to cancel our annual spring banquet this year because of the pandemic. The Board also recently cancelled our annual August picnic at the Wildwood Recreation Area. This uncommon time reminds us of how important our communities are and how inspiring our friends, neighbors, and colleagues can be to us all. It’s important for us to stay connected and to support each other and current Forest Service members and their families.

I recall a conversation with a colleague, an American citizen born in the United Kingdom, who told me about her parents and others in her family who lived during the Blitz. She described the uncertainties of survival, what the future might bring, how they never knew where the bombs would fall each night and who would be suddenly and randomly gone in the morning. Her family lived through those dark times and came out with appreciable resolve. I know many of you have been through tumultuous times. You know, as I know, it will take working together and thinking of each other as we move through this time

to better the chance to minimize damage to us and to our communities. I am optimistic because that is what we do, what we have always done throughout our agency’s and our country’s history.



In April, our organization reached out to the region and offered financial help and support current employees and their immediate families from the PNWFSA Emergency Fund. These funds can be used to help with buying food, securing medicine and other critical needs as a result of the pandemic. We will advise membership of the results of this outreach in a future newsletter and/or website posting.

Thank you for embracing the extraordinary legacy of the Forest Service with your PNWFSA membership. Thank you to those who volunteer to serve on our board, on a committee, as an area representative, and in other valuable capacities. I encourage others to do so. Continuing to make the PNWFSA an organization of which you are proud to be a part and call your own will be of utmost importance to me in the months ahead.

Yours in service,

Steve Ellis

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A Conversation with James Caswell

Chair of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR)

Photo courtesy of USFS PNW Region. Hells Canyon, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

The OldSmokeys' editorial team met online with James (Jim) Caswell in April 2020 for an interesting conversation about his career and his tenure as Chair of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR).

James has a long and distinguished career with federal and state natural resources agencies, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Idaho. In our conversation, we learned about his leadership in Idaho's Roadless Rule, the strategies and issues that are NAFSR's focus, and some of his advice for young career professionals. Enjoy.

Tell our members and readers about your background and career experience.

I'm from the Midwest, born in Michigan. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1967, I took a job in Western Oregon with BLM for six months before reporting for active duty as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After that service, which included a tour in Vietnam, I went back to work for BLM and then spent a few years with Bonneville Power Administration. From there, I spent much of my career with the Forest Service.

That took me from the Umatilla National Forest as a presale forester to the Umpqua as a timber management assistant. I was a District Ranger at Blue River on the Willamette, did appeal and litigation coordination work in the Regional Office. I moved to Region 4 as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Boise National Forest in 1986. I've been in Idaho ever since. I also served as Supervisor on the Targhee and Clearwater National Forests.

In 2000, Governor Kempthorne asked me to lead a new department called the Office of Species Conservation that

coordinated with the federal government on the Endangered Species Act. I intended to work a couple of years and move off into the sunset, but it was such a good position, I stayed seven years and worked for three different governors.

Governor Kempthorne went on to serve as Secretary of Interior under President George W. Bush, and he asked me to serve as director of BLM. I was nominated by the President and confirmed by U.S. Senate as 16th Director of BLM for the last 18 months of the Bush Administration.

Since retiring in 2009, I've done some consulting and have been involved with Idaho's Roadless Commission, a statute-driven oversight commission that works with the Forest Service on implementation of Idaho's Roadless Rule. I chair that commission. Then in 2016, I agreed to take on the chairmanship of NAFSR (National Association of Forest Service Retirees).

What are some of the important milestones and changes that you observed during your career?

That's almost an endless list. Coming into the agency in the 1960s, I watched the controversies develop that were driven by the environmental laws that were passed in the 60s and 70s. Each of those laws are independent, but also overlap, which complicated National Forest management and created many unintended consequences. There was a shift in some public opinion that called into question the very purpose of National Forest management, which effected some of the agency's social license to act.

Other big policy changes were environmental analysis and

NAFSR focuses its advocacy on big picture, national issues, like NEPA reform, workforce capacity, and keeping public lands in public hands.

decision making, ecosystem management, forest Planning and the growth of the agency in terms of disciplines, which necessitated a more interdisciplinary approach. Also, the change in technology was significant over the years. Think about when we started using DG (Data General system) in the mid-1980s, then moving to Microsoft and all the change that came from that.

One of the big changes that impacted the agency and personnel was the consolidation of units and pulling out of communities - all on the premise of saving money. It contributed to a loss of trust with local communities.

Were there any memorable experiences along the way?

My most memorable, from a professional standpoint, was the development of Idaho's Roadless Rule. The Bush Administration, who inherited the national Roadless Rule from the Clinton Administration, was dealing with a lot of challenges to the rule - 13 lawsuits, including one from Idaho, and more in the queue. To deal with that, they created another rule designed to allow states to voluntarily develop their own rule about how to manage roadless areas.

I was working for Governor Kempthorne at the time and we agreed it was something we should take on, and he put me in charge. My goal was to do this in a practical way and develop community support. We made the decision to ask the counties to lead the effort, rather than the state, and determine how their communities wanted to see roadless areas managed.

We took that information from the counties and compared it to what was prescribed by Clinton's rule and what the forest plans said. We also opened up comment to the general public and received input from environmentalists, the timber industry, and ranching and mining interests. We sifted through all that and developed a framework.

That framework allows for some flexibility to manage roadless areas for the long-term. The Rule has stood the test of time, been supported by the courts, and has given people the space and ability to sit down and collaborate. And it's been largely successful.

What is NAFSR and how does it differ from regional Forest Service retiree organizations such as the Old Smokeys? What are some of the issues NAFSR has engaged in?

The role of NAFSR is advocacy. As a group of retirees,



Jim Caswell (far left) serves as chair of NAFSR. Shown here at a meeting of the Board of Directors in February 2020. *Courtesy of NAFSR.*

we are an independent, nonpartisan, professional, science-based association dedicated to sustaining the heritage of the National Forests and Grasslands. We partner with and support the Forest Service, but we also push back on the agency when we disagree with them.

Jim Golden, who was a past chair, had a set of principles that I continue to use. These include focusing on national issues and staying away from regional ones. We have a limited capacity, supported solely by membership dues, so we need to stay focused on our top priorities.

Another is to remain relevant. That means identifying the appropriate issues to work on and the right people to engage in those issues. We also want the Board to be relevant. If you look at a picture of the Board, we're pretty old and that's not a bad thing, but it's difficult to find younger retirees interested in spending time on the Board. Lastly, we maintain a relationship with the Forest Service that is both as a friend and as a watchdog. We think it's really critical to walk that line.

Our program of work has two elements: operational and strategic. From an operational standpoint, we continue to make improvements on how we function. We've recently developed a succession plan to make sure we have a strategy to bring in new leadership. We've also done some great work on records management, pulling together all of our records and submitting them to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula for archiving.

Our strategic program focuses on national issues. That includes keeping public lands public and watching for

the sagebrush rebellion takeover of public lands. We're also engaged in reform of NEPA, both at the agency level and at the CEQ level. This Administration has worked on some issues that we're pretty supportive of, like reform. We've built a fairly strong, working relationship with Secretary Perdue and we're providing recommendations and suggestions. NAFSR is also working on streamlining the ESA approach to consultation through the Secretary's office.

Another issue we are working on is restoration and fire, particularly related to the Executive Order signed after the Paradise Fire. We've made an in depth budget request showing what it will really take to implement the active management outlined in the EO. It can't be done with the current level of funding. Related to that is workforce capacity. We completed a comprehensive report that shows the current workforce cannot meet the increased need for restoration. An analysis of personnel levels over the years showed a reduction in the skill base of foresters, engineers, and technicians. Those positions have migrated to a focus on fire.

We also conducted interviews at the ranger and forest supervisor levels with all the regions. At the end of the day, no matter what part of the country, there was almost unanimous agreement on what the issues were and what needs to be fixed. To implement active restoration and management, the Forest Service needs to hire more people with the necessary skills.

NAFSR's also been working hard on infrastructure and some gains were coming with the bipartisan-supported Great American Outdoors Act, until the pandemic surfaced. We're hopeful Congress will pick that back up soon. We're also addressing issues like reforestation and the forest climate working group, using reforestation to sequester more carbon, as well as Covid-19 and the upcoming fire season.

How has research helped the agency and the public they serve over the years?

Credibility comes from the research community. There's always been great collaboration between research and management. When I was District Ranger at Blue River, we worked with researchers from the Andrews Experimental Forest all the time. It was so beneficial. Researchers help us interpret the science and provide new insights on management. NAFSR continues to push for funding research because it is key to long-term, on-the-ground work.

What would your advice be to young career professionals coming into the agency these days?

Understand the agency and its organizational structure. How does it work? Understand the relationship between line and Staff from Chief's office to the Forest and District level, and understand how they operate. Understand the agency's history and the ideas of decentralized decision making and delegated authority. In the Forest Service realize that every employee is expected to lead in whatever position you are working in. Learn the land that you're charged to manage and why it is important to the local community. Build relationships internally with mentors and learn why they built their career with the agency. And ask yourself, where do I want to be in 10 years, 20 years? Is this the right place for me? And if it isn't the right place, don't be shy about deciding to make a change.

Any closing thoughts you want to share with our OldSmokeys audience?

We are always looking for more members and are interested in hearing how they view NAFSR's work and what sort of issues they want us to address. I would emphasize again that we focus on national issues. If there is something regional in nature, we just don't have the capacity to take that on. We look to the regional organizations to address regional issues.

Interested in joining NAFSR?

NAFSR is the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. This is a group of Forest Service retirees who are "dedicated to sustaining the Forest Service mission and adapting to today's and tomorrow's challenges."

They have a lot of clout and have met with Forest Service leadership and even the Secretary of Agriculture. They serve as agents for positive change. OldSmokeys is more

of a social group. So, if you want to be politically active or at least hear about all the exciting things going on right now in the agency, go to their website at nafs.org and think about signing up.

NAFSR offers the first year of membership for free, then it is \$25 a year after that.

A District Ranger's Technical Assistance Trip to Liberia

By Kurt Wiedenmann

In 2005, while serving as the La Grande District Ranger on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, I had the opportunity to participate in a technical assistance trip with the Forest Service's International Programs to Liberia, West Africa. I had a strong background in land use planning and International Programs was providing support to Liberia's Forest Development Authority (FDA) to develop new forest management plans. Liberia's need for new forest management plans followed 13 years of civil war where the highly prized tropical forests were illegally harvested and exported. At the end of the civil war, the United Nations established sanctions, prohibiting any timber exports until these new forest management plans were developed.

The FDA was in the process of developing a forest management plan for both immediate needs and long term management goals. My task was to help the FDA staff identify areas for specific uses and designations, such as parks, wilderness, and commerce, in addition to teaching the concept of developing long term management goals. It was quite a challenge, particularly for FDA staff to understand and develop long term management goals.

One concept that I learned from the FDA was of "community forestry," how villagers manage the forest they live in to meet their needs. The FDA staff were very eager to learn and extremely appreciative of the technical assistance from the Forest Service. At the end of my assignment, I felt as if I had accomplished my goals in



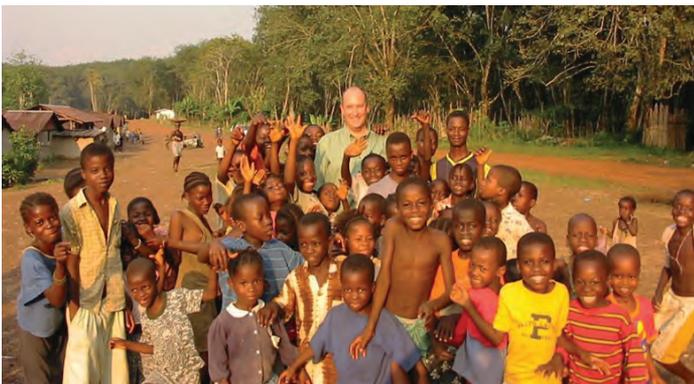
Kurt Wiedenmann working with Forest Development Authority staff on their forest management plans.

helping the FDA refine their forest management plans.

Beyond the technical aspect of the trip, there was the personal side of observing life in a developing country. During my two-week visit, I was housed at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. The city was decimated by the civil war and most of the basic infrastructure, such as electricity, water, and sewer was non-functioning. There were a multitude of bombed and burned out buildings that were full of squatters, because they had no where else to go, and the government was not fully functional yet to address their needs.

Some highlights of the trip for me were field trips to villages to talk with people about their work and needs. I was impressed with how happy and open people were, particularly the children. In one meeting with the villagers, local children were present and sat there quietly observing the discussion. After the meeting, the children wanted to meet me and have their pictures taken with a digital camera. That was a special day for me.

I was very grateful for the opportunity to assist the Forest Service's International Programs. It was a very rewarding experience for me and I would always encourage fellow employees to explore opportunities with International Programs.



Kurt Wiedenmann with children of a village following a meeting on forest management issues.

Putting the Power of Experience to Work!

Forest Service Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program

By Becki Lockett Heath

In 2018, the Forest Service received authority, by way of the 2018 Farm Bill, that gives line officers a new tool for accomplishing work. The Forest Service Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program provides the opportunity for experienced personnel, age 55 and older, to assist with conservation-related programs executed on or directly impacting National Forest System land. ACES allows the Forest Service to use the services of 55+ individuals with a process that is simple, efficient, and promptly executed. These individuals do not have to be federal retirees; rather anybody 55+ who is qualified to do the work.

The agency's objective in implementing the ACES program is to expand capacity to complete conservation work, by filling employment gaps, mentoring and training less experienced agency employees and to complete "short term" surge work.

The Forest Service administers the ACES Program through Master Agreements with two non-profit partners, National Older Worker Career Center (NOWCC) and Senior Service America, Inc.

The ACES program was piloted in 2017, based largely off the ACES program that was already being utilized by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. The pilot was focused solely in Forest Management and had an initial investment of \$1M provided by the Washington Office to jump-start program utilization.

Based on the success of the pilot program, the program was expanded in early 2018, with the signing of a new five-year master agreement that allows the expansion of ACES to all eligible program areas. This expansion enables broader program utilization, providing additional means to expand Agency capacity in critical program areas.

To date, 100 supplemental project agreements have been executed by the WO, Job Corps, Research Stations, Forest Products Lab, and Regional, Forest and District units across the nation. ACES enrollees are geographically spread across all areas of the country, including Alaska! Approximately \$10M under the



Glenda Goodwyne – retired Forester and certified Silviculturist. She worked for the USDA Forest Service for 36 years and participated in ACES as a silviculture mentor for Pathways and Recent Graduates in Region 6. *USDA Forest Service photo.*

national implementation effort has been obligated to ACES agreements for nearly 250 program enrollees.

ACES enrollees work to support a variety of Forest Service programs, including Forest Management, Engineering, Geology, Lands, Hydrology, Archeology, Recreation, Special Uses, Range Conservation, Research Science, Forest Planning, and Fire Management.

Currently in Region 6 there are 30 enrollees across most forests, research stations and the Regional Office. The jobs include timber sale administrators, land surveyors, lands and realty, research scientist, fire program specialist, engineers and engineering technicians, frontline workers, environmental coordinators, and silviculture.

Are you interested in exploring these jobs? Or do you know others who would be great fits? To find more information on the ACES Program, please visit <https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/aces-program>. Or contact Becki Lockett Heath who is working for NOWCC as a Program Consultant for the Forest Service ACES Program at blheath@nowcc.org.

Forest Service News

PNW Regional Forester Casamassa issues guidance for 2020 Fire Season

On April 8, 2020, Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa published guidance to the 2020 Fire Season in a letter to agency leaders.

“To meet the challenges of emergency response and wildland fire management in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am sharing my overarching leader’s intent for the 2020 fire season. More so than ever before, this intent is rooted in our core values of safety, service, and interdependence.”

“Our overall objective this fire season is to minimize risk to firefighters and communities as we rise to the call of service in wildfire response in the midst of the pandemic. Specifically, my direction for wildland fire response actions is to focus on suppression strategies with the goal of reducing the total number of responders needed to safely achieve objectives by using the full range of fire management tactics.”

To best achieve this, he directed agency leaders to operationalize the objectives from the Chief’s Letter of Intent for Wildland Fire 2020. He also asked that guidance from the Pandemic Response and Preparedness Plan be incorporated in to fire preparedness planning, that wildfire agencies work together with local and state public health officials, and that agencies plan for prioritizing use of local

suppression resources to implement a predominant strategy of rapid containment that will reduce the impacts to the public sector.

“Our purpose this year is clear: we must protect our firefighters and communities from two vastly different events – wildfires and COVID-19. Each, left unchecked, could spread uncontrolled, thereby increasing unacceptable risk to each other and those we serve. To do this, we will manage risks for each but will, at times, assume greater risks on one front to be able to best manage the other.”

“Now is the moment for each of us to adjust to new ways of thinking and responding to fire. We will need to be adaptive and innovative. We will need to fully consider how our actions, or inactions, will affect people and communities challenged by COVID-19. Success this year may look entirely different than in previous years, and that’s okay.”

“The 2020 fire year will redefine what it means to be in service to each other, to our communities, and to the greater public. I can’t think if a finer groups of folks I would want to face this challenge with.”

Excerpted with permission.

U.S. Forest Service Rolls Out New “Wildfire Risk to Communities” Website

“Wildfire Risk to Communities” is a new, free, easy-to-use website with interactive maps, charts, and resources rolled out by the U.S. Forest Service on April 13 to help communities understand, explore, and reduce wildfire risks.

This new website was created by the U.S. Forest Service under the direction of Congress and is designed to help community leaders such as elected officials, community planners, and fire managers. This is the first time wildfire risk to communities has been mapped nationally with consistent methodology. Unlike other risk assessments that may focus on multiple values at risk, this analysis was designed to provide information related to the risk to homes and other buildings.

You can check it out at <http://www.WildfireRisk.org>.

“The highest mission priority for the Forest Service is sustaining our ability for wildfire management and emergency response,” the announcement stated. “This interactive website provides valuable information on what communities can [do] to mitigate wildfire risks.”

Prepared by Les Joslin (quoted almost verbatim) from “New Forest Service ‘Wildfire Risk to Communities’ announcement by Kevin Vogler in an April 13, 2020, The Smokey Wire: National Forest News and Views website article.

FOREST SERVICE NEWS continued on page 15

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokey Carrie Gordon Appeared in PBS's Recent "Nick On The Rocks" Crooked River Caldera Episode

By Les Joslin

OldSmokey Carrie Gordon appeared in the recent Smith Rock Caldera episode of "Nick On The Rocks" featuring Central Washington University geology professor Nick Zentner. The series is produced for Public Broadcasting System television stations across the Pacific Northwest by a small team at that Ellensburg, Washington, university. Carrie helped the famous Professor Nick interpret the cataclysmic explosion and collapse of a magma chamber some 29 million years ago expressed in today's Crooked River landscape centered on Smith Rock State Park and partially within the Crooked River National Grassland.

Armed with a B.A. degree in geology from then-Central Washington State College—the same institution at which Zentner now teaches—and summer experience on Forest Service fire crews, Carrie in 1977 began the 40-year Forest Service career that led to her service as forest geologist on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland from 1992 until she retired on April 1, 2017. Carrie's years in that job, during which she was part of the team of geologists that discovered the Crooked River Caldera on which this "Nick On The Rocks" episode was based, along with years of interpreting and teaching Central Oregon geology, made her a natural for a "gig" on this episode.



Carrie Gordon. *Photo courtesy of Central Washington University Alumni Association.*

If you missed it, you can go online at nickzentner.com/pbs-nick-on-the-rocks and enjoy the episode entitled "Smith Rock Caldera" (just another name for the same feature) and catch Carrie's contribution to the story. You may even get hooked on some of the other 18 episodes which may interpret landscapes from your own Forest Service careers!

OldSmokeys Annual Picnic Cancelled

Due to the continuing pandemic, we regret to inform OldSmokeys members that the Board of Directors has decided to cancel the Annual Summer Picnic that was scheduled for August 14th at Wildwood Recreation Area.

Send your updates for the Annual OldSmokeys Directory

The OldSmokeys Annual Member Directory will be sent out soon and the Board is asking you to update your information. Please send any changes to your contact information (emails, addresses, phone numbers) to Bill Funk at db-web-mgr@oldsmokeys.org or go to the contacts page at www.oldsmokeys.org.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2020 OldSmokeys Newsletter went to press:

Murray and Liz Brown of Carson, Washington. Murray did a variety of Forest Service jobs during his career. He did presale, from layout to contract preparation. On fire crew, he was digger to crew boss, Fobs, etc. For wildlife he conducted various surveys and more.

During retirement, Murray is enjoying taking pictures, writing, flying drones, rock hunting, hiking, taking care of his dogs, horses, chickens and ducks, and playing in the garden. He's also still working a bit.

Bill and Collene Shaver of Damascus, Oregon. Bill did timber sale preparation, silvicultural prescriptions, plantation management, reforestation planning, operations, and Forest-wide troubleshooting. In retirement, Bill is enjoying life and reminiscing in the upper Clackamas River area where he spent most of his career.

Jeff Uebel of Corvallis, Oregon. Jeff started in the summer of 1978 as fisheries biologist on Mt Hood NF (Zigzag RD). In 1999, he went to the RO as Regional Fisheries Program Assistant. In 2009, he was NR Staff Officer on Siuslaw NF. He did several international assistance trips for watershed restoration. He and his wife spent two years as Peace Corps volunteers in Cuenca, Ecuador, in 1988-90 for fisheries/watershed and health programs. In retirement, Jeff volunteers with the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative and the Marys Peak Stewardship Group on the Siuslaw NF. He and his wife enjoy hiking/camping, hunting/fishing, motorcycle touring, and international travel.

Other new members (no profiles available):
Bob Anderson of Klamath Falls, Oregon
Vane Day of Klamath Falls, Oregon
Paul Boehne of La Grande, Oregon

Update from the Mt. Hood Cultural Center Museum

By Lloyd Musser, Curator

a 2018 grant recipient

We are pleased to report this grant is finally complete. What should have been a quick and easy project was not to be. At the time the grant was requested we had a firm bid from the best contractor in the area. When the grant was approved, the contractor had a priority job of replacing windows on Timberline Lodge, and would not be available until next season. Next season arrives in the spring of 2019 and the contractor does not want to do the project. We finally found a contractor that would do the project for the original bid price. Finally, in November, just ahead of winter snow, the door is installed and the project is complete.

This Emergency Exit Door completes the transformation of an unfinished two car garage into a Museum Gallery. The transformation was accomplished 100% by OldSmokeys' volunteer labor and donated funds in

2001-2002. The project removed one overhead garage door, sheetrock, painting, lighting and installation of exhibits. The gallery is titled Forest Gallery. Using exhibits from the R6 traveling "The Way We Were" program, the gallery includes a fire lookout, 1920 Rangers Office, CCC exhibit, and a logging exhibit. OldSmokeys members put in many volunteer hours installing this gallery.

One overhead garage door was not removed, as access for elevator installation was a future need. The elevator was installed in 2011, so it was time to remove the drafty overhead garage door and install a code compliant Emergency Exit Door.

Thank you OldSmokeys for helping the Museum complete the Forest Gallery.

Memories

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

Robin Lee Gyorgyfalvy peacefully passed away at her home on January 14, 2020, at age 68, just a few months after her September 2019 retirement from a distinguished 32-year career in the U.S. Forest Service. Robin was born September 16, 1951, in Washington, D.C. in Walter Reed Army Hospital, the daughter of a U.S. Army medical officer of Korean descent and his Japanese-American wife.



After graduating from high school in Hawaii, Robin earned a B.A. degree in Sculpture at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. Returning to Hawaii, she entered the University of Hawaii's graduate school of architecture and regional planning. Deciding to focus on environmental design, she earned Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degrees at the University of Oregon, where she also excelled as a varsity soccer player. Robin worked in private practice for several years before she joined the Forest Service in 1987. She married Martin Gyorgyfalvy, a partner in a Bend, Oregon, engineering firm, in 2001.

During her Deschutes National Forest career, Robin's innovative work as Landscape Architect and Scenic Byways Program Leader enriched the experiences of national forest visitors along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway, within the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, at visitor centers and along scenic trails, and at museums in surrounding communities. International assignments took her to China and Indonesia.

Robin was also a leader in her profession. For her contributions to the body of knowledge concerning leadership in public practice, she was elevated to the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2012 and entitled to put the letters FASLA after her name. She served as ASLA's Vice President of Government Affairs from 2015 to 2017 and was instrumental in forming the High Desert Section of ASLA Oregon. She was also active in

civic affairs in her community of Bend, Oregon. "Robin was such a great advocate for the profession, women and diversity in landscape architecture, public practitioners, and building beautiful roadway infrastructure," said ASLA President Wendy Miller, FASLA.

Survivors include her husband, Martin, her mother, Teruko "Terry," her brothers Eric and Jeff, and her sister, Wynnie. *Editor's Note: Prepared from multiple sources including OldSmokeys Newsletter articles and the January 29, 2020, LAND: Updates from ASLA. Submitted by Les Joslin.*

Allan Joseph Hessel died Jan. 8, 2020, at the age of 90. Al was born in Greenburg, N.Y. and grew up in Westchester County, N.Y. He was the youngest of five children with three sisters and a brother. He graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Forestry in 1953. After graduating, he joined the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of Captain. After leaving active service, he was in the Marine Corps reserves and went back to school and obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado in 1958. While attending University, he met his wife-to-be Peggy, they married in 1959 and were married for 60 years. In 1958, he joined the Forest Service as a civil engineer and started a family with Peggy where they had three children, Debbie, Lori and Mark. He moved to Oregon in 1976 and retired in 1986 from the Forest Service.



Al was an avid pistol shooter and downhill skier. He was in the ski patrol in his younger years and was active in local gun clubs. His leadership, hard work and integrity helped improve quality and safety of the gun club facilities that he belonged to. He loved his family and enjoyed taking his grandchildren to the shooting range. He could fix almost anything.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy; daughter, Debbie; son, Mark (wife Carrie); and his five grandchildren, Adam Janetsky, Ryan Janetsky, Kyle Janetsky, Cole

Hessel and Rachel Hessel. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lori Janetsky. *Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Bill Funk for providing this information published in The Oregonian.*

Connie Ardella Boos Franz died Jan. 11, 2020, at the age of 73. A wonderfully articulate, intelligent and very determined lady passed into Heaven surrounded by her family in Canby, Ore., where she had lived with her wonderful husband, Jerry Franz, for many years. She was born March 17, 1946 in Portland and at the time of her passing she was 73. She was the youngest of three children of George W. Boos and Ardella (Schreiber) Boos of Milwaukie. She graduated from Milwaukie High School in 1964 the attended several colleges in the area. On March 22, 1965 she married Jerry E. Franz from Canby in Milwaukie after meeting him while working at United Grocers. They had a wonderful marriage for 54 years. She started at a local A & W Root Beer store, worked for several finance companies, and then the U.S. Army as a civilian payroll employee. Her other employment included the EPA, U.S. Forest Service where she retired as a Senior Procurement Specialist. She was active in and supported the DAR, American Legion, NRA and Oak Hills Presbyterian Church where she was a member for many years. She is survived by her husband, Jerry E. Franz; son, Clint (Judy); daughter, Sherrie (Kevin) Irwin of McMinnville; brothers, Stuart of Gladstone and Keith (Beverly) of Ocean Park, Wash.; brother-in-law, Ray Franz (Connie) of Iowa; and seven grandchildren. *Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Tom Nygren for sharing this information.*

Larry E. Matson, 84, a resident of the Beaverton community, died February 6, 2020, at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital in Clackamas, Ore. Private Cremation Rites were held at Hoyt Crematory in Forest Grove, Oregon. Arrangements were entrusted to Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives in Beaverton. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Bruce Hendrickson for sharing this information.*

Ronald C. "Ron" Thompson, 77, a longtime resident of the Forest Grove community, died February 12, 2020 at his home. Ron was born November 1, 1942 in Ardmore, Oklahoma, the son of the late Jack David Thompson and Lucy (Hall) Thompson. He was raised and received his education in Texarkana, Texas, having been



a graduate of Liberty-Eylau High School Class of 1961. Upon his high school graduation, he attended Texas A&M and Louisiana State University, having received a bachelor's degree in Forest Management in 1965. He continued his education at Louisiana State completing a master's degree in Outdoor Recreation Planning in 1969. Ron then went on to attend Michigan State University, finishing a master's degree in Resource Economics in 1976. He was a Veteran of the Vietnam era, having joined the United States Army on March 30, 1966 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Ron served for one year and nine months, until receiving his honorable discharge on November 16, 1967 at the rank of SP5. Ron was united in marriage to Donna Rae Curtis on April 2, 1983 in Forest Grove, Oregon. They celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary in April 2019. Following their marriage, they made their home in the Forest Grove community.

Ron had worked as a policy and program analyst for the U.S. Forestry Service for 30 years, until he retired in the mid-90s. Following his retirement, he served as the City Planner for the cities of Yachats and Waldport, Oregon for eight years. Survivors include his wife, Donna Thompson, two daughters and two grandchildren. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Tom Nygren for sharing this information.*

Don H. Boelter passed away on December 4, 2019 in White Bear Lake, Minn., at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife of 63 years Diane; four children, along with seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Don was born on September 1, 1933 on his family farm in Stately Township near Sanborn, Minn. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Soils from Iowa State University. He received his Master of Science in Soil Physics from the University of Minnesota as well as his Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Physics in 1962.



He had a notable 35-year career with the Forest Service, first as a research scientist and later as an Assistant Station Director. Don was initially stationed at the North Central Forest Experimental Station in Grand Rapids, Minn. and was later transferred to offices in Washington D.C, Corvallis, Ore. and St. Paul, Minn. He traveled extensively, both nationally and internationally, presenting his scientific research. His studies on peatlands, watershed management and forest ecology

continue to be cited in research to this day. He was truly a conservationist ahead of his time.

Robert Joel Hemus, 59, of Gold Beach, passed away on Oct. 16, 2019 surrounded by his loving wife Debbie and family. Bob was born in Riverside, California on April 17, 1960. He started his career with the Forest Service in 1978, working in Timber, Fire, Sales Administration and Recreation. In 2013, Bob relocated to the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to serve as a River



Permit Manager on the Gold Beach Ranger District. Bob's career with the Forest Service spanned almost 40 years. He loved his job as a River Permit Manager; being on the river with his partners Will Sayne, Mark While and longtime friend Merve George Jr. He also enjoyed growing dahlias. He was often in the yard tending to them while listening to his favorite music. It was what made him the happiest. Together Bob and his wife Debbie took great joy in delivering dahlias all over town. Bob most loved delivering dahlias to the hospital to brighten everyone's day and to see the smiles. He also donated his dahlias to other businesses in the community. Bob is survived by his wife Debbie, his beloved pet Ellie, his stepchildren, grandchildren, and the rest of his family and friends. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Bill Funk for sharing this information from The Coastal Curry Pilot.*

David Weilep Scott, 88, passed away surrounded by his loving family on March 7, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Audrey; three children, and his grandchildren and great-grand child. David began a career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1955. With the exception of two years in the Army, he proudly served the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years. On the first of more than 40 firefighting experiences, young David arrived at the fire to the surprising discovery that he would be supervising an



inmate crew. He retired as Director of Recreation for Region 6.

Key to his long career was the willingness to move self and family, depending on the needs of the job and career opportunities. David and Audrey set up homes in several places in California, as well as Georgia, Washington, D.C., and Portland. David also had an innate sense of curiosity. After each of his discoveries, he would proclaim, "I think that is neat!"

After retirement, David enjoyed a variety of hobbies and jobs including initiating the writing and publication of the book titled, "The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest," volunteering at the 2nd Edition Resale shop, and his greatest passion: buying and selling antiques and collectibles. *Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Gordy Schmidt for sharing this information from The Oregonian.*

Arlene Sorseth died March 5, 2020 at the age of 98 in Eugene, Ore. Arlene was the mother of OldSmokey Steven Sorseth and wife of OldSmokey Alvin "Tyke" Sorseth. Alvin spent nearly his entire FS career on the Willamette National Forest and retired in 1977 as a staff officer. He had been district ranger on three ranger districts. He died November 7, 2017 at the age of 98.



Arlene and Alvin were high school sweethearts and married Christmas Eve 1942. They were together nearly 75 years. They had two sons, Steve and Craig. For Arlene and Tyke, relationships with family and friends were paramount. Arlene met people easily and developed acquaintances into lifelong friendships. She had ample opportunity as a career FS wife and mother who moved frequently throughout Oregon when Tyke's transfers occurred. Arlene had a passion for music, singing in church choirs and belonging to the Eugene Sweet Adelines barbershop choir for many years. She is survived by her two sons, three grandchildren, and three great grandsons. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Steve Sorseth for sharing this information.*

Boyd Leonard died March 13, 2020. OldSmokies Dan Nichols and Tom Mulder shared that OldSmokey Boyd Leonard passed away. Dan Nichols adds, "I just talked

with Boyd's son David. I know Boyd had some heart issues later in life and David told me that Boyd went into the hospital about a week ago and had a stent put in. Boyd came home last Wednesday and said he felt better than he had for years. Got up Friday morning feeling great. They found him later sitting in his recliner after he had passed away. David said all the family was there with his mom (Diane) and they are doing as well as can be expected. David said they are currently planning to do a Celebration of Life for Boyd in May sometime with all that still being contingent on it being safe for people to attend based on the crazy world we have at the moment. Once the family is able to make firm plans I know they will let me know and I will let all of you know."

Lloyd Ketchum died March 19, 2020, at the age of 83 in Stayton, Ore. He was born in Dover, Idaho. He moved to Detroit in 1942 graduating from Detroit High School in 1954. Lloyd married Verna Warthen on May 25, 1956 and raised two children. The family moved to Stayton in 1996. Lloyd was a self-employed logger and had an affection for cedar. After being employed with logging company's Champion and Simpson he started his own company L.D. Logging and later operated a mill, Split Cedar Products, specifically for cedar and would split cedar planks by hand. Lloyd is survived by his wife Verna; his two children, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. At his request no public services were held.

Benjamin Carson of Beaverton, Ore., died March 22, 2020, at the age of 97. He is survived by his wife, Helen, a son, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Ben was born in Henderson, Minn., on Feb 23, 1923, and stayed on the family farm until he was 18. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, he joined the Marine Corp where he earned a spot with Carlson's Raiders. He fought in five major battles: Midway, Makin, Bougainville, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima. He was part of the initial group in to occupy Japan and after spending 39 months overseas, came back to Minnesota and married his sweetheart, Helen. They were married for 75 years.



In 1952, Ben joined the Forest Service, which took him and his family to Iowa, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama,

Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alaska, D.C. and Oregon. They retired to a small farm in Oregon where they grew filberts and kiwi. Ben's love for agriculture gave him the opportunity to serve the State Department, traveling to the Republic of Georgia, Uzbekistan and Turkey to help them cultivate kiwi vines. Later in life, Ben's focus turned back to the Marine Corp. He became the primary force behind the recovery of nine marines left on Makin Island. He worked with Louis Zamperini and traveled back to Quadralene Island to observe the recovery. A documentary titled "Execution Island" catalogued their journey.

Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Tom Nygren for sharing Ben's obituary and these thoughts, "Ben was certainly a historic figure in the Forest Service - not only for his long service, but also his service as a member of Carlson's Raiders in WWII, on Makin Island. I first met Ben in 1960 when, as a student in forestry at Michigan Tech, I visited a Ranger District on the Ottawa National Forest, where he was District Ranger. I didn't cross paths with him again till we both ended up in the Regional Office in R-6. He had retired by the time I arrived here, but I did run into him in a barbershop in Hillsboro! I'm sure some of the R-6 timber folks will remember Ben - he worked in the timber management staff."

Erika Coon Cox passed away April 29, 2020 in Klamath Falls, Ore. OldSmokey Dennis Dietrich shares "It is with great sadness I write to inform you that Erika Coon, daughter of OldSmokey Mary Coon and deceased OldSmokey Doug Coon, passed away after suffering a brain aneurysm. Erika lived in Klamath Falls with her husband Zach and son Cody. Erika was a nurse working for the Radiation Oncology Clinic, while Zach is a fireman and paramedic. Mary had recently moved to a house in Georgia she had built to be near where daughter Natalie and husband Ken and grandson Korbin lived. Mary's address in the 2019 OldSmokey Directory still lists her former Lakeview home. Her current correct address is:

Mary E. Coon, 150 Windmill Way, Carrollton, GA 30117
Her email address is: coonie53@hotmail.com

Mary is in the Bend area right now where Erika was taken before she passed away. She was an organ donor, as was her father Doug, and the family is busy taking care of personal arrangements. A card to Mary in Georgia or an email would be the best way to contact her right now. If I obtain contact information for Zach, I will pass it on. Please take a moment to silently honor this hero that was a part of our Forest Service family."

National Forests in Washington plan for late May phased opening

The USDA Forest Service will maintain its alignment with state “Stay at Home” orders and the first phase of Washington state’s “Reopening of America” plan by conducting a comprehensive review of the agency’s developed recreation sites in Washington in the coming weeks. The agency aims to lift select closures at many Washington national forest trailheads and developed recreation sites by late May.

Across most of the National Forests in Oregon and Washington, Forest Service roads, trails and dispersed areas and trails are open. Hunting and fishing are also allowed in undeveloped areas on National Forest lands in accordance with state laws and if the area isn’t affected by a closure order. Forest supervisors and staff have begun assessing recreation areas and are planning how to safely reopen areas and facilities in a phased

manner. “Many of these sites have been closed all winter. There is pre-work we need to perform before we can open them,” said Glenn Casamassa, regional forester for the Pacific Northwest Region of the USDA Forest Service. “Some work was delayed due to the operational challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to take deliberate actions which consider community impacts and the safety of our employees and volunteers before we make the decision to reopen each location.”

When sites reopen, forest visitors should be prepared to be self-sufficient as possible, since services – including visitor centers, restrooms, and trash collection – will remain unavailable.

Source: USFS news release

Phased reopening of some developed recreation sites in Oregon to begin

The U.S. Forest Service will continue to maintain alignment with state “Stay at Home” orders by beginning the phased transition to reopen some developed recreation sites on National Forests in Oregon in coming weeks. Forest supervisors and staff are planning how to safely reopen areas and facilities in a phased manner.

“Our recreation landscape is interconnected, and changes to access will have an impact across many jurisdictions. Decisions about what sites to reopen, and when, involves careful consideration of potential effects on nearby communities,” said Glenn

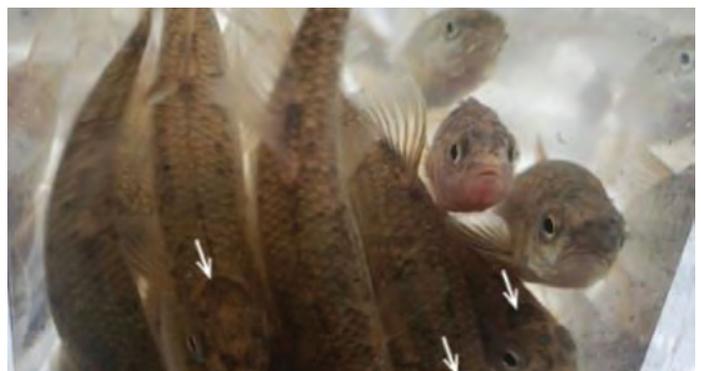
Casamassa, regional forester for the Pacific Northwest Region of the USDA Forest Service. “A deliberate process and a gradual transition will also allow us to reopen individual locations while prioritizing the safety of our employees and volunteers.”

As developed sites reopen, please remember to avoid congregating at trailheads and/or parking areas and refrain from gathering in groups of 10 or more. Visitors should be prepared to be self-sufficient as possible, since many services – including visitor centers, restrooms, and trash collection – may remain unavailable. *Source: USFS news release*

Thought to be extinct for nearly a century, Umpqua chub rediscovered

The Pacific Northwest Research Station reported in February that fisheries biologists discovered Umpqua chub in the North Umpqua River for the first time in nearly a century. The chub is a small minnow found only in the Umpqua River Basin. It was thought to be extinct from the North Umpqua. Biologists say Umpqua chub have been in decline due to invasive predators like small mouth bass. The surprise discovery happened last spring when the biologists set baited traps to catch minnows and ended up counting 34 Umpqua chub in one day.

Source: USFS news release



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MEET US FOR LUNCH IN PORTLAND
Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month
at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 715 S.W. Bancroft
Street off Macadam Avenue, just south of down-
town Portland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.

--The June lunch has been cancelled. During this pandemic,
please look for cancellation updates on our Enews
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