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# *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees - Summer 2020

Get to know your National Museum of Forest Service History

An Interview with executive director Lisa Tate

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*Black Woman in Green*

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Cape Perpetua after a storm, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon. Courtesy of USFS Pacific Northwest Region.

# President's Message - Steve Ellis

It seems like many of us find ourselves looking for some safe place of normalcy in this time of widespread uncertainty. For me this often entails taking my horse out for a day on the trail, or paddling a kayak on the Clackamas River. I have even found taking an occasional day off from reading, or listening to the news a help. In these precarious times of a prolonged public health crisis, economic uncertainty, working from home, struggling families, catastrophic wildfire, and protests of division, there are some things our organization has done that we can feel good about, and also says we care and that you are not alone.

The OldSmokeys recently provided financial assistance from our Elmer Moyer Emergency Fund to a few employees in the region whose families were struggling financially to meet their basic needs of shelter and food as a result of the pandemic. We remain willing to consider providing assistance for other current and retired members of our Forest Service family in need during the weeks and months ahead. More than \$11,000 has been distributed from this fund since it's inception.

We recently finalized a scholarship program that will grant financial assistance to individuals for continuing their post high school education. And our grants program continues to provide much needed funding for many on-the-ground projects throughout the region. Since the program started in 2011, we

have disbursed more than \$87,000 for various projects including historic building restoration, trail maintenance, and interpretive kiosks.

OldSmokeys is trying to make a difference to all concerned, the whole community. During my federal career I learned the importance and benefits of having a workforce that encompasses the diverse population we served. Many of us moved around geographically in our careers and were enriched by working in an assortment of different communities with people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. We served all Americans regardless of their cultural identity because we recognized that they all had a stake in their national forests and grasslands. There was also strength in implementing various ideas they brought to the table. I believe our ability to respect and integrate differences, and assist each other will be key to getting us through these uncharacteristic times. May we strive to be beacons of hope in this regard.

While these are uncomfortable and challenging times, I remain hopeful that things will eventually get better. Remember that as with all difficult times, we can often learn valuable lessons about ourselves, our interactions with others and our impact on the environment.

Stay healthy and safe,

*Steve*

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# Get to know your National Museum of Forest Service History: An Interview the Executive Director Lisa Tate

The OldSmokeys editorial team sat down last month via Zoom with Lisa Tate, executive director of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana, to learn more about what the museum has to offer. Enjoy.

## Can you please tell our readers about the history of the museum, including how it came about?

The museum preserves the history of the Forest Service and its partners and shares that history with the public. It was founded in 1988 by a group of historians who felt that the history of the Forest Service was being discarded and not properly preserved. A state forester named Gary Brown, along with several Forest Service retirees, were the original founders. It became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a national board of directors.

Fifteen years ago, the museum leadership thought we needed to have a place to showcase this history and started looking at building a world-class facility where people could come and explore and learn. At the time there was anticipation of a federal appropriation of funds to assist with the construction. The organization had a very high level of confidence that would happen and they started a capital campaign to raise the additional moneys that would have been necessary. They launched the capital campaign and then the appropriation did not come. Much to the credit and dedication of our board of directors and volunteers, they didn't give up. They were still very passionate about the project, so they continue to work diligently to raise the money.

The organization was led by a team of volunteers for a long time and Dave Stack was volunteer executive director for most of those years. Then when Tom Thompson, former Deputy Chief, became our president, he led an evaluation of the organization's needs. It was determined the museum should hire a professional executive director to manage affairs and assist with the capital campaign management. That would allow Dave to focus on the collection and its preservation – something he is very passionate about. I was hired four years ago and I have 34 years in museum management, a degree in non-profit management, considerable training and experience with fundraising, and a very strong interest in the Forest Service.

We've been able to elevate the awareness of the museum,

elevate our fundraising for the new building, and also develop some fantastic mission-driven programming. That is the real source of pride for the organization, because constructing the building is not our mission - our mission is to share the history and the story of America's conservation legacy.



Lisa Tate

Dave Stack is still with the organization as a full-time volunteer and Vice President of the Board. He manages the collection which is managed in top industry standards. We were also able to bring on a former consultant, Tom Peterson, as a paid staff person.

## Tell us about the various facilities and programs the museum has.

Even though we don't have a physical brick and mortar building yet, we do have several ways that we showcase history to the public. One of those ways is through our museum campus where the future building will be. At that location in Missoula, we have a historic ranger's cabin from the Bungalow Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest that currently serves as the visitor's center and gift shop. We also have an L-4 fire lookout that is a replica built 15 years ago here in Missoula and taken to the mall in Washington, DC, in 2005, for the Forest Service Centennial. It was brought back here and given to the museum to use as an exhibit. The campus opened to the public in 2017. We have a wonderful forest discovery trail with interpretative signage and exhibits that talk about the history of the Forest Service. We have interactive activities for kids, and a beautiful timberframe stage and amphitheater for events.

We have exhibits that travel coast to coast. We also have some great virtual exhibits on the website, and a learning library. We work with the Library of Congress. We have curriculums available at no cost for teachers to incorporate Forest Service history in the classroom. We also host an annual workshop for teachers in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

### **What are some of the unique and remarkable items in the museum's collections?**

That's one of the things that I think is really astonishing. We have over 55,000 items in our collections. They're all professionally catalogued using industry best practices, and many of those items are available for viewing in an online portal. If you go to our website and click on the collections tab you can actually view items from the collection, and you can use a search engine to look up names, dates, locations, etc.

We have several items that are one-of-a-kind or we're the only place known to have one. One of my favorites is this gyroscopic operated trail cargo carrier. It was developed as a prototype to take materials out on mountain trails, but it never went into production. It just has great history of technological advancement. Another unique item we have is called the Bitterlich's regression calculator. A Forest Service retiree passed away and his kids found this thing and didn't know what it was, only that it had something to do with their father's forestry career. They donated it to the museum and we didn't know what it was either. Dave Stack did a lot of research on it and determined it was a tool made by the Bitterlich company in Austria to measure regression curves. As far as we know, there are only two in existence.

### **What kinds of historic items are you interested in ?**

Right now, we are not pursuing a specific wish list of items, but we are interested in talking with people about any items they think might be of interest. We have people contacting us all the time and Dave talks with them individually to discuss the object. Sometimes, if we can't use it in our collection, we may be able to identify another museum that is interested. We encourage people to call first.



Opening ceremonies 2017

### **Do you also collect oral histories?**

Oral histories are something we are very proud of. We started a new innovative oral history program, let me give you an example. Last year we did an oral history collection on the Higgin's Ridge Fire in 1961. It was a little-known story, hardly anything had been written about it, and no formal accounts had been documented. The story is about a group of 20 smokejumpers who were trapped on Higgin's Ridge just outside of Missoula and how they were rescued. Their situation was reminiscent of the Mann Gulch Fire, there was no place for the smokejumpers to go. A helicopter pilot, Ron Snyder, was a Forest Service contractor working for Johnson aviation, and learned of the situation and took it upon himself to look for them. He finally found them, but his small helicopter was equipped to only carry the pilot and one passenger. He was able to ferry all 20 of those individuals out to safety. It is one of those stories that is so crazy, you'd never believe it. He put two in the cockpit with him, and carried two on the skids - way overloaded and dangerous, but he was able to get everyone out. Amazing.

We were able to locate 14 of the remaining survivors who are in their 80s and 90s, and the pilot who rescued them. We did phone interviews with everyone, and then 12 of them, along with the pilot, were able to come to Missoula for a comprehensive oral history collection. Every interview was filmed and transcribed. We also had a public panel discussion at our beautiful amphitheater. It was just fantastic, and it will be part of a documentary being produced by Montana Public Television.

### **Who are the visitors who walk in the door?**

We have a lot of different visitors and demographics, we touch all age groups and walks of life because we have so many different programs. Visitors to our campus are tourists, school groups, Forest Service retirees, and current employees. And then for our online collection, we have a lot of researchers.

### **What are the museum's greatest needs and how can people contribute?**

One of our greatest needs is just to help spread the word. I encourage people to go to our online collection and look at what we have. That helps foster discussion and spreading the word. We also have a membership program with a newsletter we publish four times a year and a great annual report. The membership program is a great way to support the museum and is the lifeblood of

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# A Conversation with Gloria Brown

Author of *Black Woman in Green*

& former Forest Supervisor on Siuslaw National Forest

Photo courtesy of USFS PNW Region. Cascade Head Summit, Siuslaw NF.

Becki Heath, Linda Goodman, and JoAnn Grant of the OldSmokeys editorial team sat down last month via Zoom with Gloria Brown for a conversation about her book and career in the Forest Service. *Black Woman in Green* is a moving and intense personal story about Gloria's journey in the agency, from a transcriptionist to a forest supervisor.

**What made you write the book? What pushed you in that direction, or have you always wanted to write the book?**

I haven't always wanted to write the book. My co-author, Donna Sinclair, convinced me to write it. She had interviewed me for a dissertation she was writing called, "Caring for the Land, Serving People: Creating a Multicultural Forest Service in the Civil Rights Era." Those conversations led to the book.

We wanted to design the book in such a way it could be used in classes like social justice or political science classes. The real push for me though was my children. They told me they didn't know my story, all they knew is that I kept going away for work. So now, they have my story, my grandchildren know my story, and they can tell great-great grandma's story when the time comes.

**It was an engrossing book with lots of detail. Your journalism background really shines through. Did you keep a diary or notebook during your career?**

I did not keep a diary. But people were my passion. By writing the book by each event in my career, it was very easy to recall the people that were in that event.

**Tell us a little bit about the challenge of writing such a personal recounting of your life.**

It took five years to write the book. I'd pick it up, put it back down, go to the beach, cry a little bit, and come back to it. It was a struggle from the standpoint that I was concerned about its reception. I was such a non-traditional change agent in Oregon and I didn't know if that would be held against me. I didn't know how the old guard would receive it. I know a lot of the old guard and some of them

I love and still visit. Outside of the Forest Service I didn't really have concerns. Universities were already calling.

**You tell the story of change that occurred in the agency over four decades that, in some cases, was forced upon the agency. When I think about our OldSmokeys audience, what do you want them to hear about that change?**

I want them to hear that I did love the agency, and I did love the opportunities. When I was able to return to the Forest Service after working at the BLM, I knew I was home. That's the place I should be and where I wanted to complete my goal. And I could never have made it to where I got without mentors - like Tom Hamilton, because I wouldn't have gotten out of DC without him. And then John Butruille, Mike Kerrick, Linda Goodman, and Elaine Zielinski. Margaret Peterson... So many.

**Before the pandemic, you had some book signings like one at the Oregon Historical Society. What are you doing now to share your book during the pandemic?**

I thought when the pandemic struck after the Oregon Historical Society book signing that was it, I was doomed. But actually, with this scenario it is the perfect storm. People are dealing with social justice issues and with health care and it came at the same time as my story was published. I am so honored and so humbled by how much interest there is. I'm booked solid with Zoom meetings.

**Will we see another book in the future?**

I'm trying to decide if it will be a novel or another nonfiction book. I can't leave the forest, so it will be about the forest and have some pieces about the Forest Service.

**Is there anything else you would want to add or share with the OldSmokeys?**

To the OldSmokeys, I would say, let me help them find a way to get more diversity into the group. I'm 69 years old, we're all getting older and I don't want to see the OldSmokeys organization die. I think it is a great piece of the Pacific Northwest.

# Black Woman in Green

## Gloria Brown and the Unmarked Trail to Forest Service Leadership

From an unlikely beginning as an agency transcriptionist in her hometown of Washington, DC, Gloria Brown became the first African American woman to attain the rank of forest supervisor at the US Forest Service.

As a young widow with three children, she transferred to Missoula, Montana, and embarked on a remarkable journey, ultimately leading the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon and later the Los Padres in California. The story of Brown's career unfolds against the backdrop of a changing government agency and a changing society.

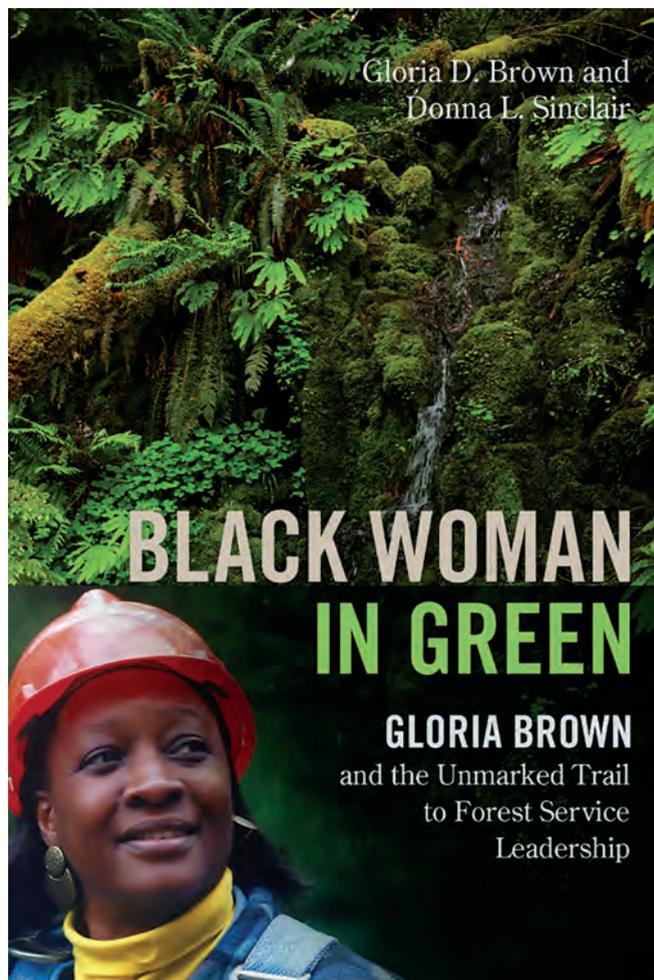
As scholars awaken to the racist history of public land management and the ways that people of color have been excluded from contemporary notions of nature and wilderness, Brown's story provides valuable insight into the roles that African Americans have carved out in the outdoors generally and in the field of environmental policy and public lands management specifically.

Drawing on her powerful communication and listening skills, her sense of humor, and her willingness to believe in the basic goodness of humanity, Brown conducted civil rights trainings and shattered glass ceilings, all while raising her children alone.

Written in an engaging and accessible style with historian Donna Sinclair, Brown's story provides a fascinating case study for public administration and contributes to a deeper understanding of the environmental and civil rights movements of the twentieth century, particularly the role that racial discrimination has played in national forests, parks, and other wilderness spaces.

It also highlights issues of representation in the federal government, women's history, the history of the American West, and literature associated with African American experiences in predominately white societies.

GLORIA BROWN started work for the USDA Forest



Service in Washington, DC, in 1974 and worked her way up in the agency by moving west and qualifying as a forester through Oregon State University. As a forest supervisor, Brown received many awards for mediating conflicts between the government and environmentalists. She lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

DR. DONNA L. SINCLAIR is an adjunct history professor, public historian, and museum professional who specializes in oral history, Clark County, Washington community history, and politics. Sinclair lives in Washougal, Washington, where she serves on the school board.

Available now from Oregon State University Press.

# OldSmokeys to Accept Grant Applications through December 31, 2020

By Kurt Wiedenmann, Grants Committee Chair

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Grants Committee will accept applications for grants to help fund projects in 2021 that will further PNWFSA goals within the Pacific Northwest Region.

Applications for PNWFSA grants to be awarded in 2021 are invited from private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations pursuing such goals. Grants are not made directly to the US Forest Service. About \$10,000 will be available for 2021 grants, and applications are due December 31, 2020, according to OldSmokey Kurt Wiedenmann, chair of the committee, which also includes OldSmokeys Kent Mays, and Phil Cruz.

## Grant Criteria

Grants are awarded to organizations that satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors on February 27, 2009. This policy specifies “Grants or gift proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Does it further the OldSmokeys mission?
- Will the project have a lasting influence on national forest management, natural resource management, and help sell the public on the importance of these resources?
- Will it reach large numbers of people?
- Can OldSmokeys funds be leveraged with other funds?
- Will a restoration or improvement project help sustain our Forest Service legacy?

- Will the PNWFSA receive visible and lasting credit for participation?

- Is it a project that “feels good” to us and reminds us of why we chose to throw in with the Outfit for our careers?

## Grant Applications

If you know of a worthy potential recipient of a PNWFSA grant, please let that party know of this opportunity. Grant applications should be prepared as letters that describe the proposed project and enumerate how its accomplishment would satisfy the above criteria. Additionally, for grant requests supporting US Forest Service projects, a statement of support for and commitment to the project signed by the cognizant line officer (e.g., forest supervisor or district ranger) must be submitted with the application. Grant applications should be submitted electronically to the Grants Committee via [grants@oldsmokeys.org](mailto:grants@oldsmokeys.org) not later than December 31, 2020. Questions and comments are welcome via this mailbox.

## Grant Significance

Grants are one way the PNWFSA satisfies the requirements for Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status while accomplishing important Forest Service heritage and National Forest System resource management tasks. Since its grants program began in 2009, the OldSmokeys have awarded a total of \$88,564 in grants to 39 projects. A listing of grants approved from 2014 through 2020 is available on the OldSmokeys website at [oldsmokeys.org](http://oldsmokeys.org).

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the organization. It's very inexpensive – only \$30 a year. And right now, we are having a special 2020 membership drive. We are trying to reach 1,000 members by the end of 2020 by offering memberships for \$20.20 for the first year.

We are a non-profit organization and do not receive Forest Service funding, although they do support us in other ways, like providing us with no cost office space

and warehouse space.

## Why should the museum be important to our readers?

The Forest Service touches so many lives and has such a rich history. We're here to help tell the stories of the people who lived it, who worked for the Forest Service, the unsung heroes who were doing their jobs to the best of their ability in a great organization.



## Pack Strings - A dying breed in the PNW

By Darcy Wesseman

Pack strings have a long history with the Forest Service, serving a crucial role for more than 100 years in supporting backcountry projects where traditional equipment is needed to move materials.

The Umatilla National Forest is home to one of the Pacific Northwest Region's three remaining pack strings. The Umatilla National Forest takes pride in their pack string horses and mules, which support a wide variety of projects on the National Forest, including hauling materials and gear to support Forest Service and volunteer trail crews, packing sand or gravel for trail maintenance and reconstruction, loading timbers, and hauling junk out of backcountry areas. The pack string is even utilized during fire season to pack out smoke jumpers from wilderness fires.

The Umatilla National Forest utilizes a mixture of horses and mules to complete this important work on the Forest. In 2017, the Umatilla National Forest took a new approach to replenish the stock by acquiring several wild mustangs. The mustangs were wild horses and came to the Forest from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada's Wild Horse and Burro program in partnership with the Northern Nevada Correctional Center/Stewart Conservation Camp Saddle Horse and Burro Training Program. Each horse was trained for about 120 days by inmates at the correctional institute before being donated to the Forest Service. District employees worked hard to integrate the mustangs in with the forest's existing stock.

Beyond work in the backcountry, the Forest's pack string is also called upon each year to leave the dusty trails behind for pavement and represent the Forest in the Westward Ho! Parade, which is a long-standing tradition

of the world-famous Pendleton Round-Up. This unique parade is completely non-motorized and pays tribute to the early days of the West and pioneers whose descendants now participate in the world-famous rodeo. In 2019, the Forest Service was represented by employees from the Pacific Northwest Regional Office and the Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. A crowd favorite, the entry featured employees on horseback, the Umatilla National Forest's mule pack string, and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's rustic wagon.

The Umatilla National Forest is fortunate to have a stock program that provides crucial aid to employees in carrying out the agency's mission. These horses and mules get the work done and serve as ambassadors to the public, representing the history and legacy of the US Forest Service and the value of its pack string program.



Packstring and FS employees at Westward Ho! Parade



# Continued Service through Conservation - The Umatilla Veterans Crew

By Darcy Wesseman

Established in 2014, the Umatilla Veterans Crew is a partnership between the Umatilla National Forest and the Mt. Adams Institute's (MAI) Vetswork - Green Corps program. This unique organization is the only Forest Service crew of its kind and includes only military veterans. The crew has proudly had representation from every branch of the military throughout the years.

Beloved by crew members for the brotherhood and comradery, the Umatilla Veterans Crew provides leadership and career development opportunities for military veterans interested in public lands and natural resource management careers, as well as the sense of purpose most veterans seek after serving in the military. The crew is trained as a hand crew focused on integrated vegetation management in support of the Umatilla National Forest's wildfire landscape management objectives.

The overall vision of the Umatilla Vet Crew is to create broader prescribed fire opportunities, increase the capacity for the forest to manage wildfires, and reduce the risk to firefighters and the public by implementing restoration activities in targeted areas.

Stationed at the Frazier Guard Station on the North Fork John Day Ranger District, the crew's primary work is completing integrated vegetation management (thinning). Most of the work is located on a high-use Forest Service road where wildfire activity has resulted in even-aged "dog-hair" stands of lodge-pole pine. So far, the crew has been able to clear more than 300 acres, reducing the risk of severe wildfire, improving wildlife habitat and aesthetics along a high-visibility travel corridor.

Participants also receive a variety of training that helps them gain qualifications for firefighting, including S-212 (chainsaw), S-130, and S-190 (basic wildland firefighting). This time is used to build cohesiveness, camaraderie and functionality as a full crew.

Each year, MAI recruits for and hires half of the Umatilla Veterans Crew members as interns through the AmeriCorps program. The remaining crew members are employed by the Forest Service. After 12 weeks of training and on-the-ground project work, the MAI VetsWork GreenCorps participants graduate from the MAI AmeriCorps program. The Forest Service then hires graduates interested in continuing employment with the Umatilla Veterans Crew using a veteran direct-hiring authority. From this point on, the Umatilla Veterans Crew is ready to be deployed for fire suppression efforts across the nation. When not on assignment, the crew continues to make progress on the on-going fuels reduction project. The Umatilla Veterans Crew has brought the Umatilla National Forest recognition for the creative approach to fuels reduction work, as well as the crew's commitment to service, community and relationship building. There aren't many events that happen in the small town of Ukiah, Oregon, without the Umatilla Veterans Crew being involved. The crew participates annually in the Ukiah Fourth of July parade, fishing derby, the local Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Volunteer Weekend and a number of other community events across the region.

The crew has most recently been on a severity assignment on the Tonto National Forest. For more information visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umatilla/about-forest/jobs/?cid=fseprd563263>

# International Wildfire Symposium in South Africa

By Steve Ellis

Several years ago, I was a member of an interagency Forest Service and Department of Interior contingent who participated in an international wildfire symposium in South Africa. I presented a paper on reducing wildfire impacts on the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem and the impacts climate change is having on the spread of exotic species.

One of the most rewarding experiences of this trip was the opportunity to interact with local South African wildfire personnel. We did most of this during a conference field day and post-conference field visits. We spent much of a day watching them conduct a prescribed fire near Pilanesberg National Park. It was interesting to see zebras and giraffes strolling around and casually taking in the events. It was also something new to have accompanying personnel armed with hunting rifles to protect us and the local firefighters from 4-legged animals higher up the food chain. As I watched a helicopter busily dip with a bucket from a nearby lake, I was reminded how unhealthy it would be to float-tube fish there, or in many other lakes in the country. Yes, I was learning about the habits of local crocodiles. I spoke with two young medics who accompanied our group. They told me how poisonous snakes pose a real hazard to firefighters. I was clearly in a different environment than I had experienced on prescribed fires in Oregon.

The local wildland fire personnel were very professional and impressive. They were part of an organization named “Working on Fire” (WoF) which is a government-funded, job creation program, focused on implementing integrated fire management in South Africa. They employ more than 5,000 young men and women, who are fully trained as wildland firefighters and stationed at more than 200 bases across South Africa. Many of the firefighters I spoke with indicated they planned to use their earnings for continuing their education. The aerial WoF resources I observed included Cessna spotter planes, single engine air tankers (SEATS) and Huey helicopters. Ground resources included hand crews and engines. I also had opportunity to interact with what we refer to in this country as “helitak” firefighters. We saw how video cameras on towers are used for spotting wildfires, much as we have historically used humans in fire lookouts here in the US. South Africa uses an incident command system much like we do here. I learned that just like here in the US, wildfires are both human and lightning caused. What I did not know is that



Steve Ellis (far right) with members of a WoF “helitak” firefighting crew on an airstrip northwest of Pretoria.

in mountainous areas, some are ignited by sparks from falling rocks. Exotic and invasive plants are also becoming a problem in South Africa much as they are here in the US.

As for prescribed fire resource objectives, it was interesting to learn how tourism plays a role. Tourism, of course is an important part of the South African economy. Many tourists visit the country to partake in a safari experience and see and photograph the “big five” in the bush. The big five consists of African elephant, lion, leopard, cape buffalo and rhinoceros. We saw all the “big five,” and probably all the little five (if there is such a thing) on our conference related field travels, including the Kruger National Park area. I learned that a healthy balance in native vegetation is necessary to maintain quality habitat for these animals and subsequently, robust population levels. Prescribed fire is one of the tools that is used to maintain this balance in the savannah areas. As one WoF official told me, if tourist cannot see and photograph the “big five” in South Africa, they, and the money they bring in may go to another African country. The expansion of human development into fire adapted ecosystems was also an issue. South African fire officials were working actively to manage fuel loading in what we refer to here as the wildland urban interface.

International cooperation and sharing are important in natural resource management around the globe. The Forest Service continues to be looked at as an important player in this regard, something we should all be proud of.

# Gifford Pinchot's 1905 *Use Book* Reprint Again Available

By Les Joslin

Fresh on the heels of the Transfer Act of 1905, which transferred the forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to his new Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Forester Gifford Pinchot lined out his forest rangers in a little handbook.

“Four and one-quarter by six and three-quarters inches, containing 142 pages,” as Harold K. “Pete” Steen described *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions*, and forever after known as the *Use Book*, Pinchot's slim volume took effect on July 1, 1905.



The *Use Book* set the necessary tone for early-day Forest Service rangers to earn public support for administration of the lands which in 1907 became the National Forest System.

“Forest officers are agents of the people,” the *Use Book* declared. “They must answer all inquiries fully and cheerfully, and be at least as prompt and courteous in the conduct of Forest business as in private business. They must obey instructions and enforce the regulations for the protection of the Forests without fear or favor, and must not allow personal or temporary interests to weigh against the permanent good of the Forests.”

It then, in the words of Dr. Jamie Lewis of the Forest History Society, “laid out Forest Service policy in typical Pinchot style—concise, clear, and direct” for rangers who patrolled their districts on horseback then and those who would follow their trail.

Small enough to fit easily in a ranger's shirt pocket, the *Use Book* did a big job toward establishing an agency which gained the trust of diverse publics as a fair and square outfit.

As the Forest Service and its responsibilities grew, so did

the *Use Book*. By 1907, it contained more than 240 pages. By the time the agency was fifty years old, the *Use Book* had long been replaced by the multi-volume green-bound *Forest Service Manual* many OldSmokeys remember so well. But the concepts and the ethic embodied in the *Use Book* remain a part of the Forest Service heritage.

Revisiting that heritage has been made possible by republication of the 1905 *Use Book* by the Western Heritage Company—a company founded by former Medicine Bow National Forest district ranger Pat Lynch of Encampment, Wyoming.

OldSmokeys can order a copy of the faithfully replicated 1905 *Use Book* for \$24.95 plus shipping by going to [www.westernheritagestore.com](http://www.westernheritagestore.com) and using the search bar by typing in “First Use Book.”

And, by the way, OldSmokeys familiar with Pinchot's penchant for public education won't be surprised to learn that, on June 14, 1907, the Forest Service published a short 42-page edition of *The Use of the National Forests* for distribution to the general public. Just a few years ago, this writer discovered a pristine copy of that little reddish-covered volume for sale at a Bend, Oregon, antiquarian bookstore. It is now a part of his library.

# Welcome New Members

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

**Paul and Jakki Boehne of Cove, Oregon.** Paul was a fish biologist working on habitat restoration, consultation for ESA-listed fish, and broad-scale planning. He is volunteering for Ducks Unlimited serving as a national board member and a number of different national committees. He continues to farm small grain and produce.

**Ken and Joan Kittrell of La Pine, Oregon.** Ken was in

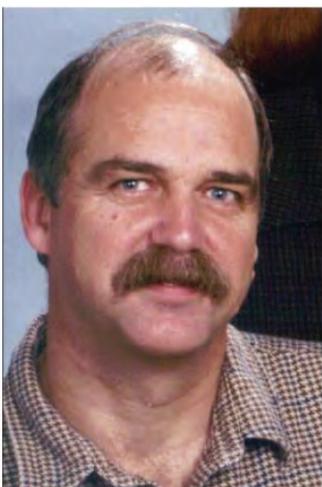
transportation engineering, doing planning, road surveys, contract administration, transportation system management. Over the past five years, lots of training on motorized mixed-use assessment, safety, etc. He now enjoys yardwork and those “deferred” maintenance projects on the house.

**Bill Hamm of Bend, Oregon.** A former Land Surveyor, now enjoying hunting, reading, hiking, and worship.

## Memories

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

**Mark Allen Sigrist, 71,** of Kamiah, Idaho, passed away at Schneidmiller Hospice House in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, on Sunday, August 2, following a year-long battle with lymphoma. He was born in Millersburg, Ohio, on March 20, 1949.



He studied forestry at the University of Idaho in Moscow. He proudly served in the US Army from 1968-1971, including a tour in Vietnam. He retired from the US Forest Service after a notable career as a Forester and a Wildland Firefighter. He married Sundi K. Hood on June 29, 1991.

Following his retirement Mark enjoyed collecting and restoring his historical military vehicles, planning and traveling convoys with the Military Vehicle Preservation Association across the US and New Zealand, writing articles for Military Vehicles Magazine, and spending time on his beautiful ranch in Idaho.

Mark will be remembered for his sense of humor, storytelling, love of the outdoors, hunting, beloved pets, and being a good husband, father, and friend. His

philosophy in retirement was “Havin’ Fun!” He will be greatly missed by all family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Sundi, son William, stepchildren Holly and Daniel, and many relatives. Condolences can be sent to Sundi and family at PO Box 58, Kamiah, ID 83536. *Editor’s Note: Thank you to Dennis Deitrich and Ellis Twitchell for Mark’s obituary.*

**Frank Johnson** passed away August 7th. Frank retired as a Regional Silviculturist. *Editor’s Note: Thank you OldSmokey Bob Devlin passing laong this announcement.*

**George Chesley** died July 11 at age 79. George was born on January 21, 1941, in New Britain, Connecticut. After graduating from Michigan State University, George was commissioned an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers and served in the Republic of Korea with a heavy equipment unit. Upon completion of active duty, George worked as assistant director of parks and recreation for the city of Eau Claire, Wisconsin,



where he met and on April 20, 1968, married Joy Krische. After earning a degree in forestry at Colorado State University, George joined the US Forest Service in which he served on the Lowell and Sweet Home ranger districts of the Willamette National Forest and the Republic Ranger District of the Colville National Forest before assignment in 1978 as district ranger on the Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. George was district ranger there when, in 1990, Congress established the Forest Service-administered Newberry National Volcanic Monument within his district, a transition in which he was directly and successfully involved.

When, in 1995, the Fort Rock Ranger District was combined with the Bend Ranger District to form the current Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, George succeeded OldSmokey Stan Kunzman as Deschutes National Forest fire staff officer. In that position, he was instrumental in promoting the cooperation of federal fire and fuels management agencies in Central Oregon, consolidating Deschutes and Ochoco national forest and the Bureau of Land Management's Prineville District fire assets as the Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS) which he led for several years. "In my opinion, this was one of his most significant accomplishments," said OldSmokey Don Pederson. "Fire organizations are notoriously territorial. Getting everyone on one forest to work together is an accomplishment, but getting two national forests and a different agency, the Prineville BLM, to all work together took exceptional leadership skills."

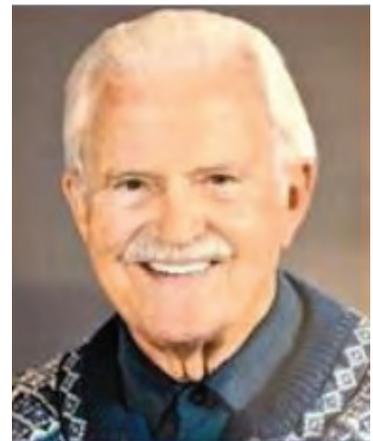
George applied those leadership skills beyond the federal arena with his work on Project Wildfire. "After two disastrous wildfires that burned numerous homes in Bend in 1990 and 1996, George worked with county leaders, various firefighting organizations, and other interested parties to form what was, at the time, the only group formed by county ordinance to specifically address the risk of wildfire in a community," Don Pederson recalled. "The group was able to raise a tremendous amount of money for fuels reduction and education on defensible space. George was one of the original board of directors members, and was still on the board when he died."

Always a forester, George was honored with the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the OSAF annual meeting in Bend, Oregon, on April 19, 2018, in recognition of his lifetime commitment to the Society of

American Foresters and the forestry profession. He had served as OSAF treasurer from 2002 to 2012, and for years on the executive committee of the OSAF chapter. George was one of the original four OldSmokey volunteer interpreters of the PNWFSA-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend which opened for daily visitation during the summer of 2009, and continued this summer service as long as his health permitted.

George is survived by his wife Joy, their son Shawn who lives with his wife and two daughters in Alfalfa, Oregon, and their daughter Megan of Atlanta, Georgia. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokeys Les Joslin, Dennis Dietrich and Don Pederson who provided essential information for this remembrance.*

**Kjell Bakke**, known as the "keeper of the ski-jump flame for Leavenworth," passed on May 28 at Mountain Meadows Assisted Living in Leavenworth, after a long illness. Kjell was 87. Born in 1933 in Merrit, Near Nason Creek, to Norwegian immigrants, Kjell carried on the



work begun by his father and his uncle to promote skiing and ski-jumping in Leavenworth on what became known as Bakke Hill. With its 90-meter ski-jumping hill built in 1933, Bakke Hill once hosted national and international jumping competitions and held a world ski-jump record of 345 feet. The big ski-jump closed in 1978. Kjell recounted that his father was a supervisor in building the Leavenworth Ski Hill Lodge under the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936. The Leavenworth Ski Hill continues to operate under a permit from the US Forest service, first granted in 1930.

After learning to ski at the age of three, Kjell went on to compete nationally in downhill, cross-country, and ski-jumping. After graduating from Leavenworth High School, he won a ski scholarship to the University of Washington and skied with the UW ski team. He even competed for a position on the US Olympic team, but unfortunately it wasn't to be. Kjell graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1956 and then married Eleanor Loomis in 1957. After ROTC and a brief stint in the regular Army he served 30 years in the Army

Reserve, retiring in 1986 with the rank of Bird Colonel. He began his career as a civil engineer with the US Forest Service in the Wenatchee National Forest and later transferred to Oregon, retiring in 1985. He continued to work free-lance as a Value Engineer and then began his body-building career. From his late 50's to late 60's he competed in body-building earning 4th place nationally for men over 60.

After his full retirement in 1993, Kjell returned to Leavenworth, where he continued the Bakke ski legacy and served his community. He served on the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club Board; founded the Leavenworth Ski Hill Heritage Foundation with his friend Don White; and secured funding, initiated and oversaw construction of the 15- and 27-meter ski jumps for the training hill to ensure that future generations can enjoy the sport Kjell loved. The annual Bakke Cup, started in his honor, is a Nordic Combined Ski Tournament that fosters competition for community young people in alpine skiing, cross-country and, of course, ski-jumping. Kjell's protégés remember how he "coached new generations of ski jumpers with knowledge and humor." Kjell belonged to the Northwest Ancient Skiers Association and, along with his father, Magnus, and uncle Hermod, is an inductee into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame. He has been most recently active in planning a Mountain Sports Museum and Training Center in Leavenworth that would include the Northwest Ski Museum and Hall of Fame. Kjell continued downhill and cross-country skiing into his early 80's.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia Bakke-Tull; daughters Sonja Lahana, Sandra Rome, and Brenda Bakke and their mother, Eleanor Loomis Bakke; four grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and step children Exxene Tull, Karla Tull-Esterbrook, Gavin Tull-Esterbrook, Kendal Tull-Esterbrook and 5 step grandchildren.

Memorials in Kjell Bakke's name may be sent to the Leavenworth Ski Hill Heritage Foundation, a 501C3, at PO Box 54, Leavenworth, WA 98826. The LSHHF funnels financial support to LWSC and the NWSM.

A celebration of Kjell Bakke's life is tentatively set for September 5 at the Leavenworth Ski Hill Lodge. *Editor's Note: Thank you to his wife and OldSmokey Georgia Bakke-Tull for sharing Kjell's obituary.*

**Raymond Perry Connelly** passed away peacefully at his home on May 7, 2020. Ray was born in Alturas, California. Ray married his true love Maxine A. Quast, on April 28, 1950 in Burley, Idaho. They celebrated 70

years together. Ray lived in Burley, Idaho, Ogden, Utah, Portland, Oregon, and Washington D.C. during his 40 years of employment with the US Forest Service. After retiring back to Ogden, Utah, Ray and Maxine enjoyed wintering in Arizona. Ray enjoyed hunting, camping, fishing and loved old cars. He especially loved spending time with his family.



Ray is survived by his wife Maxine; daughter Susan R. (Jeff) Clontz; sons Kent J. (Kathy) Connelly; David R. (Linda) Connelly; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Special thanks to Intermountain Health Care Hospice and Visiting Angels. Condolences may be sent to the family at: [www.myers-mortuary.com](http://www.myers-mortuary.com). *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Doug Porter share this news.*

**John Vosburgh** passed away May 3, 2020. He was born September 10, 1936 in Amsterdam, New York. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Forestry, then moved to Oregon to begin his career. John was working on the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon when he married Jeanne Caroline Maines. They had two children, Jodie and Jaret. After living in Beaverton and working on the Siuslaw National Forest, he had a brief stop in Corvallis. Then the family moved to Burns where John worked on the Ochoco National Forest. In 1976 the final move was to Tumwater, Washington. John was Timberland Management Planner for the Olympic National Forest. During his career, John received three certificates of Merit from the US Dept. of Agriculture. John retired in 1994 after 34 years with the Forest Service.



John loved being in the great outdoors, skiing, hunting, camping, canoeing, and more. John believed in God, he was generous, he was an example of unconditional love to his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, children, and many relatives. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Deb Warren who shared John's obituary.*

**Alice Arlene Jack**, wife of OldSmokey Lyle Jack, passed away April 17 at a Nice Place II adult foster home in Albany. Alice was born July 1, 1933 in Gilbert, Iowa. Alice met Lyle on a blind date at college. They

were married December 18, 1954. They had three children. Alice followed Lyle through his term in the US Air force and his career with the US Forest Service. They lived in many locations, including Iowa, Montana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. Alice was a very outgoing person and never met a stranger. She made many friends throughout her life and particularly enjoyed driving needy clients through the Interfaith Care Givers of Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Corvallis. She is survived by her husband and a son and daughter. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Deb Warren for sharing this obituary.*

**Agnes Edgington Williams** passed away April 16, 2020. She was born on December 16, 1918, and was under the care of Ross Hollywood Chapel and Killingsworth St. Johns Lombard Little Chapel of The Chimes. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Janet Harrington for sharing this announcement.*

**Ethel Eileen Blakely** of Grants Pass, Oregon, passed away peacefully on December 30, 2019. She was born October 21, 1923 in Orrville, Ohio. She was "Eileen" to her friends. In 1944, Eileen joined the US Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service). She went to boot camp at Hunter College, Bronx, New York, then to Yeoman School at Cedar Falls, Iowa. After graduating as a Yeoman Second Class in June of 1944, she was stationed in Washington D.C. Eileen was assigned to the Bureau of Ships, in the Technical Engineering section, as a member of the "Flying Squadron." Her most exciting job during that duty was her assignment to Rear Echelon, Joint Task Force One, Operation Crossroads, which was the name of the Bikini Atom Blast project. She had the responsibility of processing orders to the USS WHARTON for seamen, officers, and civilians.

In 1946 she sent in her application for release from the Navy, since the GI bill was available for her to attend college. Eileen enrolled in Kent State University and

graduated in 1953. She was interested in Navy Activities, after being in the WAVES, and joined the Naval Reserve Training Unit in Canton, Ohio. She was on Volunteer Status. When the Korean Conflict broke out in June of 1950, she happened to be at the Station when the Commander of the Unit came and ordered the duty personnel to put on



side arms. Rumors circulated the WAVES were being called up to active duty on the East Coast stations. She enlisted for a volunteer 2-year hitch. Eileen was ordered to Philadelphia to await further orders, and then sent to Washington, DC, where she worked in Public Relations.

At this time she met Walter Earl Blakely, a Chief Boatswain's Mate in the US Navy. They married August 16, 1952 in Canton, Ohio. Then lived in Washington D.C., and Walter retired from the Navy in 1953, after 20 years of service. In February 1953 Eileen was discharged from her 2-year obligation.

After leaving the Navy, Eileen and Walter moved to Clarkston, WA. They lived there for five years, and moved to Grants Pass, Oregon in 1958. Eileen worked for the Siskiyou National Forest for 25 years, in the engineering section at the Supervisor's Office, retiring in 1986. Eileen was featured in a documentary released in 2014: Homefront Heroines, The WAVES of WWII (available on Amazon).

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Blakely, in 1997. *Editor's Note: Thank you to OldSmokey Jerry Elliott for sharing this obituary.*

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## Treasurer Hunt!

By Steve Ellis

After many years of dedicated service as our esteemed "OldSmokeys" Treasurer, Dick Bennett has decided to step down at the end of this year. As a result, we are on a PNWFSA "Treasurer Hunt." Dick says his duties involve "maybe a few hours a week." It primarily involves managing our checking and investment accounts using Quickbooks, paying bills using our bank's bill-pay system or preparing checks in Quickbooks and recording income from cash or check receipts received by our Secretary, or credit card receipts reported by an outside

contractor. The Treasurer prepares a monthly statement of financial position and quarterly statements of income and expense which are given to the Board, an annual budget, and works with an outside accountant who prepares our annual non-profit tax reports. If you are interested in this key position, please reach out to Dick Bennett or Steve Ellis. There is no need to live in the Portland metropolitan area to successfully serve as our Treasurer, or in any other Board position. Today's electronic meeting technology, such as the Zoom platform enables meeting participation from just about anywhere!



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**Note:** Your mailing label shows your next membership renewal date. For example, if it shows 1/1/2022, your next dues payment is due on that date. If you are a lifetime member, it will show "Lifetime".

### **VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **Friday, October 16, at 11:00 a.m. PST**

Please join us for a virtual general membership meeting. This webinar will include a presentation and Q&A sessions with both the Regional Forester and PNW Research Station Director.

Further details will be forthcoming on our website and via email.

The *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the benefit of its members and various offices of the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6. Copies are also made available to all other U.S. Forest Service retiree organizations. Annual PNWFSA membership is \$20. Lifetime membership is \$250. You can find the requirements for membership eligibility and how to apply at [www.oldsmokeys.org/join](http://www.oldsmokeys.org/join) - or reach us by email to [membershipappl@oldsmokeys.org](mailto:membershipappl@oldsmokeys.org) or mail at PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97728-5583.

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