



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Winter 2012

President's Message—John Berry

As I write this President's Message, I am looking forward to having Christmas with all our grandchildren—at two, five, and eight years old the perfect ages to remind me how fun and magical Christmas can be.

I hope the holidays were great for you and your families, too.

I am very pleased that retired Regional Forester **Linda Goodman**, who became an OldSmokey during her tenure leading the Pacific Northwest Region, has accepted your Board of Directors nomination to serve as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) President-elect. Please use the ballot on page 7 to confirm this nomination. Thanks to OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** and the Nominating Committee for recruiting Linda.

I am very grateful for your outstanding response to the call for donations to our PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund. We now have a well established fund to help if and when the need arises, and I am confident we will maintain this viable service. To each of you who has given, many very generously, "Thank You!"

We had the first financial review of our organization in several years, and I am pleased to announce that we passed with flying colors (that's a good thing). Your Board of Directors will be looking at a couple of follow-up items to make our operations even better.

I want to thank OldSmokey **Les Joslin** for the outstanding work he does on our *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. In addition to the professional look of the newsletter, he always manages to cajole members into writing interesting articles. His news is accurate. I have read a couple books I probably never would have picked up if it were not for his book reviews. And Les even manages to get a thought provoking commentary in now and then. I don't know what we would do without you, Les.

I am looking forward to the New Year.

John Berry

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

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Forum

*Because of their knowledge of, informed long-term perspectives on, and dedication to the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System in which they served, many OldSmokeys comment constructively on both through Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association outlets such as the online OldSmokeys eForum and this section of the OldSmokeys Newsletter. Contributions published in this section are edited for brevity without changing their meaning; some have been published in eForum and are republished in this section to ensure widest possible dissemination. There's a lot going on, so this **Forum** section is considerably larger than usual.*

--Editor

OldSmokey Hank Hays on Chief Tidwell's Cultural Transformation Policy

Chief Tidwell's "Cultural Transformation" policy is directed from above. One of the critical elements for anyone in the Senior Executive Service is compliance [with] and aggressive promotion of affirmative action. ...

I recall an opinion piece I wrote for the Society of American Foresters (SAF) *Journal of Forestry* some years back. In it, the dysfunctional state of the U.S. Forest Service was focused on in its present form as compared to earlier days. Noted was the tribal nature (meaning a workforce of a generally common background) which enabled cohesiveness and a high work ethic. The reference to [a] tribal ethic did not sit well with a young woman in the SAF headquarters, so it had to be removed she informed me. That is not what we are all about, she said. My first encounter with political correctness.

[This] is merely an example of the politicization of the U.S. Forest Service and agencies in general. The results are mixed and debatable. I have my own take....

—Hank Hays

OldSmokeys Ted Stubblefield and Bob Zybach on Chief Emeritus Dale Bosworth's County Payments Op-Ed in the *Los Angeles Times* and the Situation in General

I think Dale's final alternative [in his December 18, 2011, *Los Angeles Times* op-ed "Rural America's timber dilemma" quoted in the county payments article on pages 12-13 of this newsletter] is similar to what retired Skamania County, Washington, commissioners are working on and appears to be a good strategy with a reasonable likelihood of success.

The option "based on economic need" is fraught with game-playing political tactics. We've certainly seen enough of that, so that option's approach worries me. It's fairly obvious that the more collaborative approaches (popular with the current administration) primarily target thinning, and while good in their own right they are not the most appropriate holistic ecosystem approach needed for solid, long-term ecosystem management. This is particularly true in those regions (little "r") where bug kill has run rampant for years. All the while, the industry manufacturing capacity has been in steady decline and is almost absent in many areas.

What lies ahead, given the ever-growing national debt, is not going to be pretty *if and when* a real effort to address the required cut-backs is mounted and supported. Not only the counties but America will need to have her forests productive again at a sustainable level that brings monies into federal coffers and supports local entities.

National forests are not unlike the untapped oil and gas reserves in America except that forests are sustainable. The "elephant in the room" seems to be just how much longer Congress will be co-opted by radical environmentalists. I realize we each have our own perspective on this.

I recall suggesting to a regional forester in 1977 that "good NEPA preparation and a quality EA" would greatly reduce appeals and lawsuits. Boy, was I ever naïve.

When I think back to the climate in Congress 20 to 30 years ago, it strikes me the Forest Service had strong support in both the House and the Senate. Today I'm struck by the lone sentinels of support; the total lack of a critical mass of congressional support for productive ecosystem management. If that's true, it's hard to believe there's much of a "light at the end of the tunnel" on the goal of achieving what we're talking about above.

When the term "restoration" became the key to Congress as something it could support and not be nagged by the environmental community, we got an overdose of restoration—which is not long-term forest management by any stretch of the imagination. Sure, it's a worthy effort for a period, but what then as the forests begin to crash from insects and disease and fires become larger and more catastrophic? Using terms that dodge the true need is dangerous, and I'm willing to say also a bit self-serving of a short-term interest.

I hope America does not need to become bankrupt to once again realize she has renewable resources she can address in such times of need.

—Ted Stubblefield

I agree with everything [Ted has] written, except [his] problems with "restoration." Yes, the term has been abused by the neo-conservationists, who survive on acronyms and such terms as ecosystem services, riparian functionality, and biodiversity, but that doesn't mean it's a bad word.

My background for nearly 25 years was in reforestation, which can be seen as a type of restoration in many instances. Restoration has the advantage of having laws written in its support. It is now up to resource professionals and knowledgeable scientists to inform Congress what the term means, and not leave it up to the environmental industry.

Restoration means returning something to a past condition. The current passive management policies driving our nation's forests are a proven failure. The evidence is everywhere. This type of abandonment, neglect, and mortality are unprecedented. If we can restore our forests to a past condition, then that means one in which the land is actively managed for a wide range of food, fiber, and energy products—a process that has been sustainable for thousands of years.

—Bob Zybach

I can't disagree with anything you say, Bob. My point is that restoration has become a catch-all term and hasn't stirred up a great deal of action within the agency for bringing forth the entire range of tools. Restoration is certainly not a bad term, but then neither are harvesting, overstory removal, fuel treatments for hazard reduction, herbicide use, etc. We simply need to be bringing the entire toolbox to work each day.

Congress totally blew it with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which promotes single species "management of the day." As an example, just look at what "our best and brightest" in the Fish & Wildlife Service are currently suggesting as the next best approach to saving the spotted owl—shoot the barred owls. Such an approach with the ESA could well lead the public to a point of not trusting any of the professionals involved. We have got to apply more intelligence to long term management.

—Stub

OldSmokeys Share Opinions on National Park Service Interest in Acquiring Certain National Forest System Lands

Ever since Congress created the National Park Service in 1916, the U.S. Forest Service has been concerned about National Forest System lands being transferred to the National Park System. Many national parks have been carved out of national forests. Since 1982, when President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress established the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as the first of several national monuments in four Pacific Coast states administered by the Forest Service rather than the Park Service, the tension between the two agencies has grown and has been exacerbated by the idea the Park Service budget makes it more capable of administering such national monuments. Recent proposals that the two agencies be combined or that the lands managed by one be turned over to the other combined with a current proposal for the Park Service to manage or co-manage parts of the Angeles National Forest have again heightened these tensions and again elicited OldSmokey comment.

I was Deputy Forest Supervisor for Supervisor Bill Dresser on the Angeles National Forest from 1972 to 1975. When I arrived, Los Angeles County was hot to make the Angeles a county park. This was before land management planning so the forest leadership team sat down and brainstormed just why the Angeles was a national forest.

Although we had no timber harvest program to speak of, we felt an important part of the National Forest System because of our critical watershed management role. We had a major flood prevention role in the City and County of Los Angeles. We provided much of the wildlife habitat in a very urban area and were a critical source of outdoor recreation. We had an important role in environmental education in a county that had a larger population than Israel and the equivalent of the sixth largest budget in the world. We also had an important role state-wide in fire management policy as Safety First and subsequent coordinated fire terminology and tactics were being developed. The forest had liaison with numerous congressmen and both senators.

Much of this was possible because of the character and dedication of Bill Dresser who was born and raised in Glendale and served as forester, district ranger, staff officer, and forest supervisor of the Angeles National Forest. Bill knew the forest frontwards and backwards. He knew the politics and the politicians and they knew him. Bill was instrumental in developing the Angeles High Country Recreation Plan and marketing it to the politicians in an attempt to secure funding to accomplish the non-timber tasks that made the forest unique. The Angeles remains an important part of the National Forest System and an important Forest Service presence.

The National Park Service has a distinctly different authority from that of the Forest Service. They have exclusive jurisdiction and do not usually have to adjust to local and state ordinances or politics. They are better funded and have their whole work force clad in distinctive uniforms. If you have been to a national forest lately, chances are you did not see anyone in uniform and your recreational contacts were with concessionaires. How would joint administration work when the state and county try to exercise law enforcement and rescue? The National Park Service thinks those are its jobs. What laws would guide the management of the forest? It was established largely to regulate stream flows and that is still an important task. Would Congress rescind all the myriad laws and legal mandates that control management of the forest?

The National Park Service is an aggressive organization. It is hungry for adjacent or interesting national forest and BLM lands. Here in the Northwest, it and its backers are still after the rest of the Cascade Range. It seems to have license to advocate expansion. By contrast, it seems the Forest Service just toes the mark and keeps its mouth shut.

There really is another alternative to National Park Service administration. Fund the Forest Service adequately. Return to the principle that local decisions should be made locally. Get out of the way and give the Forest Service the resources to do the job.

--Doug MacWilliams

I spent seven years on the Angeles National Forest, and back then the Forest Service wore the “white hat” in Southern California. The forest was in full operation, all campgrounds full every weekend and reservations for holidays, an excellent fire organization that other agencies studied and tried to duplicate, and many rangers and staff who went on to become leaders at the regional and national levels of the organization.

It is sad to see that forest, a real jewel in the National Forest System, fall into such neglect and under-use. It really has so much to offer. I am sure it is not the fault of the present forest leadership who are trying their best to keep the forest open with fewer staff and dwindling funding...worse each year and impossible to meet the public’s expectations and management challenges. Other city and county resources are also in short supply and some of the former funding partnerships have been curtailed.

I don’t think the Park Service could do any better than the Forest Service in managing the forest. The only difference would be the availability of funds for the management area. The way I read it, the Park Service is not proposing to take the entire forest, only the better developed recreation areas; the rest of the forest apparently would be managed by the Forest Service “cooperatively.”

I hope this is resolved to benefit the public and that the Forest Service retains management responsibility for the forest. I would not want to see this as precedent for funding problems facing other forests.

--Dick Deleissegues

... Maybe private industry can get the job done.

In this climate of budge retrenchment coupled with Congress’s attempts to freeze federal employment, reduce salaries, and cut benefits, it will be increasingly difficult to recruit federal employees to stay with what is appearing to be a sinking ship. ...

It may be too far afield to just offer to sell the land to private industry and let them come up with a more efficient organization. Very well, how about a long term lease or permit or concession? A contract could spell out...the services needed and give the industry folks the freedom to organize a [way] to provide what is needed at the lowest cost to the taxpayer.

At the very least, this might create a public and a Congress that has a better appreciation of what a federal agency needs to enable it to satisfy public demand. And who knows, perhaps with less regulations, restrictions, and legal limitations, they could actually do the job with little or no cost to the taxpayer.

--Bob Schramek

...Are folks a little off the mark when they focus on how to secure a greater degree of funding from the federal government

to support their special area or program? Do they not realize that the government is broke?

Proponents of transferring management of major parts of the Angeles National Forest to the Park Service seem to hang their hat on the notion the Park Service will receive more funding to provide the care and services they [see] as desirable for this particular area. This seems a narrow minded and perhaps selfish view. (Is that the sound of feathers ruffling I hear?) At a time the government is broke and the country is not far behind, no funds will be available without taking them from somewhere or someone else. (If you want to create more efficient management by doing away with an agency or department, that is a different proposal.)

I hope we can keep in mind that whatever land and resource management strategies and administrations we put into place, proposals should be tempered by the need to generate wealth in this country. I don’t mean someone getting wealthy by moving numbers around in rows and columns; I mean real wealth of the nation created by growing, harvesting, mining, manufacturing, inventing, refining, marketing—real wealth resulting from raw materials being mixed with sweat, ingenuity, determination, and so on to produce physical or intellectual products. Furniture wood, floral greens, mushrooms, and other minor products may seem insignificant, but these vestiges of robust multiple-use management are important to those who work in these small industries and may be the linkage between the past and the future in terms of securing a range of values from our renewable resources.

Let’s not make management moves out of frustration that take away future choices.

As an aside: I’m not opposed to OldSmokey **Bob Schramek**’s suggestion of turning the land in question over to a private entity to manage—with the caveat that any federal funds would be capped at the level provided the Forest Service to manage the same lands. (Don’t forget that state and local governments are broke, too, so don’t even go there.)

Lastly: The cynical streak in me wonders which organizations and individuals benefit in terms of prestige or income from pushing the current proposal.

--Dave Craig

There’s been a lot said about this National Park Service proposal and others, but I am beginning to feel “we are just moving the deck chairs” while a much bigger elephant in the room is about to pounce: the National Debt Crisis.

I wouldn’t be the least bit surprised if the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service (and perhaps others) were not all merged into a single agency. I know, it’s been tried before (natural resources agency under President Jimmy Carter), but not under present-day circumstances when Congress has few choices it can make with reductions of the domestic portion of the budget.

--Ted Stubblefield

**“I may disapprove of what you say,
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”**

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Set 2012 Banquet and Picnic Dates

The dates for two annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association events, the Spring Banquet and the Summer Picnic, have been set.

The Spring Banquet is set for Sunday, May 20, at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon. Complete information and a registration form will be in the Spring 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. OldSmokeys **Don** and **Jean Loff** are banquet chairs.

The Summer Picnic is being planned for Friday, August 10, at the Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag, Oregon. This date will be confirmed early this year once picnic chair OldSmokey **Rick Larson** confirms the date with the Bureau of Land Management. Complete information and registration form will be in the Spring and Summer 2012 issues of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Be sure to reserve these two dates now!

OldSmokey Debra Warren Assumed Secretary Job from OldSmokey Bev Pratt

OldSmokey **Debra Warren** has assumed the duties of secretary of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association from OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** whose outstanding 16 years of dedicated service in the job is an important reason PNWFSA is the organization it is today.

Deb retired from the U.S. Forest Service on November 3, 2011, as an economist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. "I started at PNW on October 1, 1969, as a GS-2 clerk-typist, then became a purchasing agent, computer technician, statistical assistant, and finally an economist," she summarized her 42-year career. "That last step was under the supervision of Richard Haynes who must've believed in me! I studied at Portland State University while working and raising my son as a single parent."

OldSmokeys Contribute Generously to PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund

A spate of contributions during the final quarter of 2011 has boosted the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Emergency Relief Fund to a growing total of \$3,712 as of December 27. The fund was established this year to assist Forest Service folks in need.

Many of these contributions, ranging from \$10 to \$500, were submitted along with calendar year 2012 membership dues. The "Bill for Collection for Annual Dues" published in the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* facilitated this means of contributing to the fund.

Donors to the fund so far (in alphabetical order) are **Tom Adams, Rolf Anderson, Mike Ash, Walt Bennett, Richard Bennett, John Berry, Hank Chrostowski, Vern Clapp, Bob**
PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund continues on page 6

"Rendezvous in the Rockies"

OldSmokeys Are Offered Many U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2012 Options and Opportunities

OldSmokeys who join their friends and colleagues for the September 17 to 21, 2012, U.S. Forest Service Reunion in Vale, Colorado, are in for an enjoyable, educational, and activity filled week.

Vale in the fall is truly a magical location. "What a beautiful setting to reminisce your glory days while learning how your organization operates today, first hand, from current leadership," the Reunion 2012 Team says.

So plan now for a great time in the fall! To stay abreast of the latest happenings and opportunities watch the Rendezvous in the Rockies website at <<http://fsreunion2012.com>>. Reunion registration opens in February, and rooms can be booked now by clicking ACCOMMODATIONS on the website.

Volunteers Needed

Would you like to volunteer for a few hours at the Reunion? From registration to close-out there is a variety of ways you can serve.

The team seeks volunteers to work in shifts for a few hours at a time so no one is "on duty" for a long time. They estimate 80 to 100 volunteers can be used during the week for a one-time shift helping with registration, guiding to events, assisting with the silent auction, assisting with field trips, etc.

Volunteer recruitment will be formalized in the registration process beginning in February. For more information now contact the organizers at <Volunteer@fsreunion2012.com>.

Silent Auction Items

A fun and traditional part of all previous Forest Service reunions has been the silent auction fundraiser. A silent auction committee is working with artisans, quilters, carvers, painters, and carpenters across the country to ensure a wide variety of choices and make certain you can find that special remembrance to take home with you.

If you are especially talented at something other than spraying blue paint on trees, consider bringing one of your own creations to offer as a donation for the silent auction. Send Steve Deitemeyer a note at <sdeitemeyer@msn.com> to tell him of your interest and he will provide the specifics you need. If you have a friend who could provide an auction item, please don't be shy about asking them to donate.

The team is trying a new silent auction twist by requesting items of historical significance to the National Museum of Forest Service History attendees might have in their personal collections. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on those items and then the pleasure of contributing those items to the Museum in both the original donor's and the high bidder's names. So, for the benefit of the National Museum of Forest Service History, look on that shelf in the basement or garage and ask: "Am I going to use that again or would it be better to share it with the future?"

Old Timers Tales

Reunion organizers are looking for your Forest Service related work experiences. You can help build the Forest Service history knowledge bank for all to view and remember.

Send your stories in now. As stories are told some will be added to the website at < <http://fsreunion2012.com/OldTimerTales>>. All will go to the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Keep In Touch

Again, to stay abreast of the latest “Rendezvous in the Rockies” happenings, visit the website mentioned above frequently. And you can e-mail the U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2012 Team at <KeepUpdated@fsreunion2012.com> to share your ideas and suggestions and ask your questions.

Prepared from a Forest Service Reunion 2012 e-mail of October 23, 2011.

OldSmokeys Can Contemplate U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2015 With the Amigos in Albuquerque!

Even as they plan to attend this year’s September 17-20 U.S. Forest Service Reunion “Rendezvous in the Rockies” hosted by the Region 2 retirees in Vail, Colorado, OldSmokeys may now start thinking about the next reunion the Region 3 Amigos have begun planning for October 12-16, 2015, in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

That’s right! The Amigos of the Southwestern Forest Service Association have asked Lou Romero to lead planning for a 2015 reunion in Albuquerque immediately following the city’s scheduled October 3-11, 2015, International Balloon Fiesta.

Lou has formed a Core Leadership Team of 12 to 15 volunteers to get started. Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Dale Robertson** and Former Region 3 Regional Forester Dave Jolly have agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs of this team. OldSmokeys interested in joining the effort may contact Lou by e-mail at <LRomero705@aol.com> or by telephone at 505-275-1570 and indicate their interest in a particular role or committee.

Nothing’s set in concrete yet. There’s a lot of planning to do. But October 12-16, 2015, are dates to pencil in on your long-range calendar. Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will keep you informed of developments.

PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund continued from page 5

Deane, Bob Devlin, Bill Funk, Robert Hilliard, Ken Johnson, Les Joslin, Carl Juhl, Jack Kerr, John Marker, Dave Mohla, Jim Overbay, Peyton Owston, Gene Pong, Bev Pratt, Constance Ronayne, Bill Shenk, Ray Steiger, Betty Taylor, Curt Townsend, Dave Trask, Sue Triplett, and Deb Warren.

OldSmokey **Bob Williams’** PNWFSA baseball cap sales (see complete ordering information on page 8) are also helping this fund grow. Bob contributes the revenues from the sales of these great caps to the fund.

This fund, which OldSmokey **John Marker** calls “in the best tradition of the U.S. Forest Service and the OldSmokeys,” will benefit from your contribution.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Who Are We? OldSmokeys Facts 2012

By Ken White, Database Manager, with Bill Funk, Treasurer

How Many. At the start of 2012, the membership of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) stands at **912**, up from 887 this time last year. We have had **33** new members sign up. This gain was offset by the deaths of **19** members (some of whom were replaced by their spouses). There are **20** members currently “lost” to inadequate addresses.

Age. Our average age is holding at about **74** years. The average age of 2011’s new members is **64** years. There are **37** in our ranks (members and/or spouses) who are nonagenarians (between 90 and 100. **Six** are over 100.

Where. We are all over the United States. Most of us are in the Pacific Northwest: **567** in Oregon and **179** in Washington. There are **24** in Arizona, **21** in Montana, **19** in California, **15** in Virginia, and **14** in Idaho. The balance is spread through another 30 states. We keep moving; there were **16** address changes recorded in 2011 (and about 20 wrong addresses in our database were identified by our last newsletter mailing that have to be corrected). As usual, there were so many e-mail address changes last year we lost count.

Dues Status. We have **533** lifetime memberships (including **142** older memberships at just \$50.00 for lifetime dues.) So far, **125** members who pay dues annually have paid for 2012.

Donations. Members contributed **\$876** in general donations to PNWFSA in 2011, significantly up from last year. And members donated an additional **\$3,712** to PNWFSA’s new Emergency Relief Fund.

Editor’s Note: Data as of December 28, 2011.

OldSmokeys Donated \$876 to PNWFSA General Fund in 2011

Fifteen OldSmokeys donated a total of \$876 to the PNWFSA’s general fund during 2011. This sum is significantly greater than the \$531 donated in 2010. Thanks to **Mike Ash, Chet Bennett, Dick Buscher, Bob Devlin, Phil Hirl, George Jansen, Philip Jaspers, Les Joslin, Dave Kolb, John Marker, Jill McLean, Ollie Peters, Richard Pomeroy, Richard Reeves, and Steve Sorseth** for their generosity.

OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2012 Were Due and Payable on January 1

OldSmokeys who pay their PNWFSA dues annually and who have not yet paid those dues for 2012 are encouraged to pay as soon as possible.

The “Bill for Collection for Annual Dues” on page 4 of the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* may be used for this purpose, or you may just go ahead and send your annual membership check for \$20.00 payable to PNWFSA to: PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Election 2012

OldSmokeys Are Asked to Approve Retired Regional Forester Linda Goodman's Nomination as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association President-elect

OldSmokey and Retired Region 6 Regional Forester **Linda Goodman** has accepted the Board of Directors' Nominating Committee's invitation to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA). If approved by the membership, Linda will begin service in that office in May 2012 and be on tap to relieve current President-elect OldSmokey **Mike Ash** as President in May 2013.

Every year, according to PNWFSA bylaws, the OldSmokeys elect one of their number to serve as President-elect for one year, to lead the PNWFSA in the office of President during the following year, and then serve a third year in the office of Past-president.

So, to show Linda how much the OldSmokeys appreciate her willingness to accept this three-year leadership commitment, be sure to use the ballot below to send in your vote to approve her nomination.

A Few Words about Linda Goodman

A native of Yakima, Washington, OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** began her U.S. Forest Service career in 1974 as a front desk receptionist on the Olympic National Forest and worked her way up through positions on the Mt. Hood, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Willamette, and Deschutes national forests. She also served as Director of the National Field Office of the Job Corps, overseeing 18 Job Corps centers around the country, before serving as Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, for five years from 2003 to 2008.

Linda saw firsthand how much help the OldSmokeys are when she was the Regional Forester, and wants to be "more active in such a worthy organization." Linda is married to Mark Engdall who has supported her through her many moves across the country during her time in the Forest Service. Mark, their golden retriever Teddy Roosevelt, and Linda live in West Linn, Oregon.

Please Cast Your Ballot By February 15!

Clip or copy the ballot below or just use a plain piece of paper or even send an e-mail to cast your ballot to approve your Board's nomination of **Linda Goodman** to serve as President-elect or to write in the name of your own candidate for the job. Please vote not later than February 15, 2012. E-mail ballots may be sent to Secretary **Debra Warren** at <debrawarren@hotmail.com>.

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Winter 2012 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect**

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Linda Goodman** to serve as its new President-elect.
Confirm your support of this nomination by casting this ballot for this nominee or writing in another name.

I cast my ballot for **Linda Goodman** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect _____ (check here), or

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

*Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, by February 15, 2012,
Or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Debra Warren at <debrawarren@hotmail.com>.*

Thanks for voting!

OldSmokey Says Thanks and Happy New Year!

The strength and effectiveness of our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association depends on the continuing interest and involvement of each and every OldSmokey depending on his or her personal abilities and interests. Thanks for all you do—from paying your dues, through enjoying banquets and picnics, recruiting new OldSmokeys, donating to the Emergency Relief Fund and writing articles and stories for your OldSmokeys Newsletter, to serving in leadership roles and functional jobs—and, most of all, for just being you! Thanks for a great 2011 and have a happy 2012!



OldSmokey Cap Caplan Pens Series on Legal Basis of National Forest System for Roseburg, Oregon, *News-Review*

OldSmokey **Jim “Cap” Caplan** wrote four articles exploring the historic and legal basis for U.S. Forest Service management of the National Forest System—and specifically the Umpqua National Forest of which he is the retired forest supervisor—for readers who question and challenge federal management of the peoples’ forestlands.

These articles were published in the Roseburg, Oregon, *News-Review* on consecutive Sundays beginning on November 13, 2011. The first article, illustrated by six historic black and white photographs provided by the Forest Service, “ran on more than a full page,” Cap reported. “Those are slow news weeks for the Outdoor section,” Cap observed. “The second article was appropriately downsized to a quarter page after the first really nice bull elk picture arrived on the editor’s desk.”

In the first of these articles, Cap asks and answers the question “Who Owns the Umpqua National Forest?” by demonstrating how the U.S. Constitution supports federal ownership of public lands like the Umpqua National Forest. In the second, he asks and answers the related question “How come the U.S. Forest Service Gets to Manage the Umpqua National Forest and Why Can’t We Do It Ourselves?” by explaining how and why the Forest Service is charged by laws passed under the Constitution to manage the national forests.

After laying that background, Cap asks and answers the questions “What Will It Take for Local People to make Decisions about How the Umpqua National Forest is Managed?” and “What Would Putting Local People in Charge of Public Lands Look Like?” for readers in general and especially for readers who advocate local management of national forest lands.

“As a result of these articles, I got some good feedback from all sides of the natural resource discussion around here as well as the general public, which asked for more. The paper is interested in having me provide a regular column. I may begin writing it late this spring. The proposed column would follow a similar question-and-answer format.”

Cap’s fascinating series is scheduled to be published in the Spring 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey Bob Deal’s Boy Scout Troop Put Out Deschutes Canyon Brush Fire

OldSmokey **Bob Deal**’s Boy Scout Troop 198 of Washington County, Oregon, was rafting down the Deschutes River on Saturday, August 13, 2011, when the boys noticed a cloud of black smoke.

One of the adults went to investigate and discovered a fire. The boys raced up the hill, created a bucket brigade, and doused the 600 square-foot fire with water from the river.

“It wasn’t crazy out of control,” said one of the Scouts. “We had it settled, but a tree caught on fire next to it so we had to get it out quickly before it caught everything else on fire.”

“They did a great job,” added Scoutmaster Deal. “I’m proud of these guys.”

A malfunctioning camp stove seems to have ignited the blaze.

“Beside my day job, I am quite active in the Society of American Foresters [of which he is the Portland program chair] and I am scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 198. The boys keep me active,” Bob said. Bob is Research Forester and Science Team Leader, Ecosystem Services, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon.

Prepared from communications with Bob Deal and kgw.com “Oregon Boy Scouts put out Deschutes Canyon fire” by Mike Benner posted on August 16, 2011.

OldSmokey Kim Boddie Named Volunteer of the Year at the High Desert Museum

OldSmokey **Kim Boddie** was selected among the High Desert Museum’s corps of nearly 300 teen and adult volunteers as Volunteer of the Year according to the Winter 2011-2012 issue of the Museum’s quarterly newsletter *Desert Sage*.

“For the last 14 years, Kim had been a volunteer at the Museum, offering his expertise to many areas of the Collections department, from data input to artifact photography,” *Desert Sage* told its readers. “Kim has also been a Birds of Prey interpreter, and a sawmill volunteer.”

Through exhibits, wildlife, and living history, the world-class High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, creates learning experiences to help audiences discover their connection to the past, their role in the present, and their responsibility to the future. Among these experiences is the High Desert Ranger Station sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and staffed daily during the summer season by OldSmokeys.

OldSmokeys May Order PNWFSA Cap from OldSmokey Bob Williams

OldSmokey **Jack Smith**, who celebrated his 98th birthday on November 18, 2011, is looking good in his Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) ball cap.

You can look good in a PNWFSA ball cap, too. These super caps are available from OldSmokey **Bob Williams** for just \$10.00 each plus a little postage. Contact Bob by e-mail at <rwwms35@comcast.net> to order one or more today.

Revenues from the sale of these great ball caps are donated to the PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund.

Photograph by John Poppino



Forest Service News

One of the primary purposes of your OldSmokeys Newsletter, a purpose for which it is partially funded by the U.S. Forest Service through a participating agreement, is to help keep you, as Forest Service retirees, informed of what's going on in the Forest Service. There's a lot going on, so this **Forest Service News** section is considerably larger than usual.

--Editor

U.S. Forest Service Named Leslie Weldon Deputy Chief for National Forest System

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced on November 8, 2011, that Leslie A. C. Weldon would be the new Deputy Chief for National Forest System, replacing retiring Deputy Chief Joel D. Holtrop.

“Leslie brings a wealth of expertise and diverse experiences at all levels of our organization to this position,” Chief Tidwell said. “She has served as Regional Forester in the Northern Region for the past two years, where she has provided tremendous leadership in both national and regional issues. Her abilities to manage programs, guide employees, involve communities and build partnerships to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities for progress will serve the agency and the public very well.”

“Prior to serving as Regional Forester, Leslie was the agency's External Affairs Officer in the Chief's Office, where she headed Communication, Legislative Affairs, and National Partnerships,” the Chief continued. Her other assignments have included forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest from 2000 to 2007 and district ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest. She holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Prepared from Chief Tidwell's November 8, 2011, letter “Leadership Change—New Deputy Chief, National Forest System.”

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Reflected on 2011 and the Future

In a December 19, 2011, end-of-year letter to “all employees” U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, reflecting “on where we've been and what the future holds in store,” concluded: “Thanks to you, we've made tremendous strides” and observed he is “immensely proud to serve as your Chief.”

“We have a lot of accomplishments to celebrate,” Chief Tidwell continued. “For example, we sustained a vigorous response to a record fire season across our southern tier of states. We have completed more than half of our ARRA projects, providing thousands of jobs, and we have expanded our capacity to restore forests through collaborative efforts. We celebrated another clean audit, continuing our excellence in financial management. In addition, we are poised to finalize a new planning rule, capping 20 years of efforts with a successful collaborative approach.

“These accomplishments dovetail with our five broad focus

areas:

- **Safety.** We have completed safety training for all senior executives, and we are now engaging our entire Forest Service family in transforming our safety culture. Our agency wide safety journey puts us on course to become a zero-fatality organization.
- **Inclusiveness.** We are expanding our culture of diversity and inclusiveness. Today, more than 35 percent of our top leadership comes from ethnic minorities, and almost 60 percent represents either racial or gender diversity. Diversity of thought is key to successful organizations, and we have increased collaboration to broaden the circle of conservation, tapping the skills and abilities, the talents and contributions of all Americans in our work.
- **Restoration.** We should celebrate the many ways we are restoring the health and resilience of America's forests and grasslands. Thanks to your efforts, we have greatly enlarged the area restored, increased watershed restoration, and expanded community-based stewardship. In responding to climate change, we are well on our way toward meeting our goal of 100 percent compliance with our Climate Change Roadmap by 2015.
- **Fire.** Building on our fire science, we are working with partners to implement our interagency Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. You have continued to suppress 98 percent of our fires during initial attack while reducing unnecessary risk to firefighters, and you have picked up the pace in hazardous fuels treatments to protect communities from wildfires while using fire where appropriate to restore healthy, resilient ecosystems.
- **Communities.** Through your outstanding work, 8,550 communities nationwide now have urban/community forestry programs with Forest Service assistance, exceeding our goal for 2015. Your work has also supported social and economic opportunities for rural communities nationwide, including 237,800 recreation-related jobs alone.

“I know that concerns remain about agency morale. I continue to meet regularly with my sensing group, and we established a discussion board on the Web to get more feedback. We have also redeployed human resource professionals in the field, and I want to thank everyone involved for helping to improve the way we deliver services to the field.

“The challenges ahead may seem daunting. They include regional drought, loss of open space, the spread of invasive species, severe wildfires and outbreaks of insects and disease, the overarching effects of a changing climate, and a growing demand for recreation opportunities. Our work is cut out for us.

“I am confident that we will continue to excel in fulfilling our conservation mission by working together with communities and expanding our collaborative efforts with partners. Today's Forest Service includes some of the finest professionals I have ever known. I deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission—your dedication to delivering all the benefits that Americans get from their forests and grasslands. You are simply the best, and I am both proud and humbled to serve as your Chief.”

GAO Station Fire Report

U.S. Forest Service Response to 2009 Station Fire Offers Potential Lessons for Future Wildland Fire Management

The U.S. Governmental Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, released its long-awaited report on the August 26 to October 16, 2009, Station Fire on December 16, 2011.

The GAO “inquiry has concluded that the U.S. Forest Service failed to make use of all the aircraft that might have been available during the critical early hours of the 2009 Station fire, but the findings left unanswered key questions of why the planes and helicopters were not deployed,” wrote Paul Pringle of the *Los Angeles Times* on December 17. Pringle has covered the story since day one of the disastrous fire.

GAO conducted the study of the Angeles National Forest wildfire that burned more than 160,000 acres, led to the deaths of two firefighters, and destroyed 89 homes and dozens of other structures at the request of the two U.S. senators and several U.S. congressmen from California.

The study’s findings are reflected in the 80-page report’s title, *Forest Service’s Response Offers Potential Lessons for Future Wildland Fire Management*. The report: (1) describes key events in the Station Fire and the Forest Service’s response, including strategies, tactics, and assets used; (2) examines key issues arising from this response; and (3) identifies lessons the Station Fire offers for wildland fire management in the future, including lessons specific to Southern California.

On the basis of the study’s findings, the GAO recommended that the Forest Service (1) clarify when it expects agency fire-fighting assets to be used instead of assets from other sources, and (2) document the steps it plans to take in response to the lessons identified in its review of the Station Fire.

The Forest Service generally agreed with GAO’s findings and recommendations in the report.

Others did not, as Pringle reported.

“Some critics of the Forest Service’s handling of the fire said the inquiry should have gone further in clearing up whether poor decisions, including any motivated by budget worries, hampered the firefight in the Angeles National Forest.

“Bronwen Aker, a resident of Big Tujunga Canyon, where dozens of homes burned, dismissed the report as a ‘bureaucratic two-step, saying little that has not been said before and making excuses for why it does not draw any conclusions about the events it reports.’

“William Derr, a former Forest Service investigator, said the report is ‘less than complete.’

“While many questions have been answered, a few critical ones, particularly involving air tanker ordering and use, have not been fully addressed,” said Derr, who has led a group of Forest Service retirees seeking a broader investigation of the fire.

“Anu Mittal, a GAO director who headed the inquiry team, said it ‘tried to provide as many facts as we could find,’ but sometimes they were left with differing accounts of the same

circumstances, such as those involving aircraft orders. ‘We decided we’d present both sides and people would come to whatever conclusion they want,’ she said.”

Prepared from GAO Report GAO-12-155 “Forest Service’s Response Offers Potential Lessons for Future Wildland Fire Management of December 16, 2011 and “Inquiry faults Forest Service on Station fire, but leaves questions” by Paul Pringle in the Los Angeles Times of December 17, 2011.

U.S. Forest Service Approves Aerial Fire Retardant Use with Precautions to Protect Species

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell signed a record of decision on December 14, 2011, that established “new direction for the use of fire retardant applied from aircraft to manage wildfires” according to Forest Service News Release 1154 of December 15, 2011.

As Rob Chaney put it in the *Missoulian* that same date, Chief Tidwell “has cleared the way for continued use of aerial fire retardant as long as pilots use special maps to avoid hurting threatened or endangered species.”

“To decide when or where to drop fire retardant, fire managers now have roughly 12,000 maps identifying avoidance areas on 98 National Forest System units,” the Forest Service release said. These maps “identify locations of waterways and areas for hundreds of plant and animal species” to be protected from retardants.

“When fire managers determine retardant is the right tool to use on a wildfire, they will direct pilots to avoid applying fire retardant in the newly-mapped areas. All other firefighting tactics will be available in the avoidance areas.”

“These new guidelines strike a balance between the need to supplement our boots-on-the-ground approach to fighting wildfires while protecting our waterways and important plant and animal species at the same time,” Chief Tidwell was quoted in the December 15 release. “Our new approach will benefit communities, ecosystems, and our fire crews.”

“The new rules will make it challenging for fire management, according to Neptune Aviation President Dan Snyder,” Chaney reported. “The Missoula-based company is the nation’s largest provider of retardant-dropping airplanes.”

“‘It won’t be much of an issue for our operations,’ Snyder said, noting Neptune pilots already fly to avoid water bodies. ‘But for fire commanders on the ground, when an aircraft shows up on the scene, they’re going to have to keep these guidelines in mind.’”

The new direction was initiated as a result of a lawsuit in Montana filed by Andy Stahl of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics which claims to be skeptical that fire retardant contributes to any firefighting objective and maintains the Forest Service supports the claim it does with cherry-picked evidence from a biased sample.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Press Release 1154 “Forest Service Chief signs record of decision for aerial fire retardant application” of December 15, 2011, and “U.S. Forest Service to use aerial retardants, with precautions to protect species” by Rob Chaney in the December 15, 2011, Missoulian.

U.S. Forest Service and Congress Hear from NAFSR on Planning Rule

Dr. Ron Stewart, representing the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell testified before Congress on the Forest Service's new draft planning rule on November 15, 2011. When finalized, the planning rule mandated by the National Forest Management Act will provide a framework for future management of the 193 million acres of national forests and national grasslands. It will be the first revision of the planning rule since 1982.

Chief Tidwell's Take

"We need a planning rule that has less process and costs less, with the same or higher level of protections," said Chief Tidwell.

In his testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Chief Tidwell explained how the new rule would decrease the costs of forest planning while delivering better protections for forests, wildlife, and water resources and supporting "ecosystem services" and multiple uses on the National Forest System.

"What started as a very strong proposed rule will now be even better thanks to the hundreds of thousands of constructive comments we received from people and groups across the country," Chief Tidwell said. "We firmly believe that the final rule will deliver an efficient planning process that will reduce costs, facilitate the restoration and management of our forests and watersheds, safeguard natural resources, and help deliver a sustainable flow of benefits to the American people."

Chief Tidwell noted that the new rule will greatly reduce the amount of time required by individual national forests and grasslands to revise a plan, which will ultimately save time and money at the ground level. The proposed rule would direct plans to conserve and restore watersheds and habitats and would strengthen community engagement and collaboration during the development and implementation of individual plans."

The 1982 planning rule procedures have guided the development, amendment, and revision of all existing Forest Service land management plans. However, Chief Tidwell noted that since 1982 much has changed in the understanding of how to create and implement effective land management plans. He also said that plans often take from five to seven years to be revised under the 1982 rule, with some taking a decade. The new rule, in contrast, would create a more adaptive planning process that helps units respond to changing conditions so they may better focus their efforts on the most important work facing their units.

Dr. Stewart's Take

Dr. Stewart testified that NAFSR's Forest Service Planning Regulations Review Team supported several provisions of the proposed new rule but sees several key aspects of it differently.

Dr. Stewart led NAFSR's team of Forest Service retirees whose combined length of service was more than 150 years and

breadth of experience included Office of the General Counsel as well as former line officers from district ranger, forest supervisor, regional forester, station chief, and deputy chief ranks, an experiment station, and the Washington Office.

"We believe that the overall content of the proposed rule is overly ambitious and optimistic, complex, costly, and promises much more than it can deliver," Dr. Stewart said. "Rather than providing a simplified, streamlined process for developing and amending plans, we fear that the opposite will result. This is especially troubling in what are likely to be difficult times for funding of federal programs of all kinds."

In NAFSR's view, the proposed rule moves away from the multiple use direction for national forests, increases opportunities for litigation, and makes it more difficult to manage the forests. Dr. Stewart's testimony also pointed to the challenge to state and local governments to be involved as planning partners because of the time and expense involved in the process. He also called attention to the fact the Forest Service is in an equally challenging financial and personnel squeeze for carrying out planning work.

To improve the proposed planning rule and process, Dr. Stewart shared specific NAFSR recommendations:

- The planning rule should be simplified to a land-use zoning process with articulation of purposes for and expectations of management activities, uses, and outcomes for each zone. Analyses should reflect only the requirements of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, the National Forest Management Act, and other relevant federal statutes such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act.
- National Environmental Planning Act requirements for the planning rule and for forest plan revisions and amendments should be dispensed with because there are no commitments to activities on the ground or effects on the environment in the planning process itself.
- Reliance on the National Forest Management Act requirement for diversity in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives and coordination with the states and other federal agencies responsible for population management under state statutes or the Endangered Species Act for all other species concerns.
- Forest planning use of science and other sources of applicable and relevant knowledge to inform analysis and decisions.

As far as the planning rule and ensuing process impacts on local communities are concerned, Dr. Stewart emphasized that "counties and communities will need help, not additional paperwork and staff time."

In conclusion, Dr. Stewart testified that NAFSR recognized that "the Forest Service has attempted in good faith to revise the original planning regulations a number of times beginning in the early 1990s with no real success. My personal experience," he continued, "suggests that the problem is not so much in the process itself but in the polarization of the various interest groups around their individual values and preferences. While values and preferences inform our judgments about what is

acceptable and right, rarely do people base their public arguments for or against a proposed action or activity on this basis. Rather, all sides exploit uncertainties in the science to advance their own point of view. In response, the agency produces larger and more complex documents with lengthy discussions of the science. Since the underlying differences in values and preferences are never identified, understood, and evaluated in the final decision, the issues are not resolved and frequently end in appeals and litigation.”

After the hearing, several subcommittee members personally thanked Dr. Stewart and NAFSR for the testimony.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Press Release 1146 “U.S. Forest Service Chief Testifies on New Direction for Forest Planning” of November 15, 2011; the transcript of Dr. Ronald E. Stewart’s testimony “Forest Service Regulatory Roadblocks to Productive Land Use and Recreation: Proposed Planning Rule, Special-Use Permits, and Travel Management” before the U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, of November 15, 2011; and John Marker’s November 2011 NAFSR Update for PNWFSA of November 23, 2011, and subsequent e-mail communications.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Announced Planning Rule Committee

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced November 14, 2011, that the Forest Service will form an advisory committee that will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on the implementation of the new planning rule set for finalization this winter.

“This new committee will keep the collaborative momentum going on what has been a remarkably open and transparent process for the country’s first planning rule in 30 years,” Chief Tidwell said. “Stakeholder input has been instrumental in allowing us to develop a strong draft rule up to this point—we need to continue to tap into our strong partnerships to carry this rule forward.”

Late in December 2011, the Secretary of Agriculture announced his intention to establish the National Advisory Committee for Implementation of the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule in the *Federal Register*. A discretionary advisory committee operating under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, it will provide advice and recommendations on implementation of the planning rule to the Secretary through the Chief.

Not more than 21 members with diverse backgrounds, who represent the full range of public interests in management of the National Forest System lands, and who represent geographically diverse locations and communities, will be appointed by the Secretary. Any organization or individual may nominate one or more qualified persons to serve on the committee. Individuals may also nominate themselves. The committee will meet three or four times a year or as often as necessary to do this job.

Visit the Forest Service’s planning rule website for the latest information on formation of the committee—including nomination procedures—and the status of the new planning rule.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release “Forest Service Chief Tidwell announces future advisor committee for Planning Rule” of November 14, 2011, and “Planning rule FACA Committee—Your Chance for a Seat at the Table” posted December 30, 2011, on A New Century of Forest Planning blog .

Chief Emeritus Bosworth Speaks Out

County Payments Pursuant to Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Await Congressional Reauthorization

Unless the so-called “Counties Payments Program” pursuant to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act passed by Congress in 2000—and in 2008 extended until October 1, 2011—is reauthorized in 2012, guaranteed revenues to counties based on past timber receipts will end and the payment system will revert to the old method of compensation for national forest and other federal lands they cannot tax in which counties received 25 percent of actual-year timber revenues.

Given drastically reduced national forest timber harvests, this would, as U.S. Forest Service Chief Emeritus Dale Bosworth put it in a December 18, 2011, *Los Angeles Times* op-ed, “return uncertainty and drastically reduce payments to counties at a time when rural America is already struggling.” Many counties in the West depend on these payments to fund schools and other local government operations.

Just how big a threat is this? Chief Bosworth offered a Pacific Northwest Region example. “A working paper put out [in November 2011] by the Oregon State University Rural Studies program estimated that Oregon (with about half of its land owned by the federal government) stands to lose about 4,000 jobs and would have to make deep cuts in school funding unless the bill is reauthorized.” Oregon, of course, “is just one of many states affected.”

“Instead of allowing the program to end,” Chief Bosworth wrote, “the act should be renewed, and Congress should take the opportunity to better align payment incentives with current economic realities and forest health goals.”

“Unfortunately, current proposals from the Obama administration, the House and the Senate all fall short. The president’s 2012 budget...proposes to phase out the payments over two to five years, with no clarity for how the federal government will assist counties with large amounts of public land going forward.

“In addition, the administration proposal would, for the first time, fund the payments directly from the Forest Service budget, a budget already stressed by deep cuts. Subjecting the county reimbursements to the annual appropriations process rather than setting up a multiyear reauthorization would make it difficult for many counties to provide basic services.

“In the House, a draft bill proposes a timber-only approach in which logging would pay for all future federal payments to counties. This would be accomplished largely by rolling back environmental laws and abandoning collaborative efforts [and] would require unsustainable logging levels to maintain payment levels....

“In the Senate, a draft bill proposes continuing the current payment system at a reduced level for five years, but that only kicks long-term reform down the road.”

After detailing the problems he perceives in these proposed measures, Chief Bosworth suggested a couple potential solutions.

“One promising idea would be to deliver payments to counties based on economic need, so that payments are targeted to ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars. Another would be to link funding to efforts by counties to improve ecosystems and recreation opportunities on federal lands.

“Although logging alone cannot lift rural economies, logging combined with forest and watershed restoration work—a timber-jobs bill—could be the basis for both funding and job growth in counties.”

Prepared from Dale Bosworth's op-ed "Rural America's timber dilemma" published on December 18, 2011, in the Los Angeles Times and posted on December 18, 2011, on the A New Century of Forest Planning blog, and other sources.

Oregon Congressmen Weigh In

Three Oregon Congressmen Propose a “Center Path” Approach to Forests and County Payments Impasse

Three Oregon congressmen recently outlined a plan aimed at breaking the management impasse on federal forests and providing basic county services across timber country.

“Democrats Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader and Republican Greg Walden say they have worked through their differences and are preparing a bipartisan plan that would create thousands of new jobs by expediting harvest of previously logged forests, protect old-growth and critical wildlife areas, and provide steady funding for rural schools, roads, and law enforcement,” according to a December 29, 2011, post on the *A New Century of Forest Planning* blog.

“Of course, lawmakers have raised hopes for this sort of grand forest legislation before, only to have their best-laid plans go nowhere in the face of environmental opposition and congressional inattention,” the post warned. “But now there’s an unmistakable fiscal crisis looming across timber country, where federal payments to counties have expired and some local governments could plunge into insolvency....

“The three Oregon congressmen...describe a plan that would allow a steady and sustainable level of timber harvest primarily from younger second-growth forests. Sensitive areas and mature old-growth forests would be set aside and protected. The forest lands open to harvest would remain under the ownership of the federal government, but be managed by a diverse, public board in trust for the counties.

“Other elements of the plan will appeal to those concerned with the future of the old-growth and other sensitive areas,” the post opined. “The management of mature and old-growth forests would be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the U.S. Forest Service. The plan also proposes major new wilderness and wild and scenic river protections in key areas, such as the Rogue River area.”

Prepared from A New Century of Forest Planning post "Oregonian Editorial—Down the center path on federal forests" of December 29, 2011.

Editor's Note: There are many details to be addressed, ranging from management to infrastructure to market. Your Old-Smokeys Newsletter will try to help keep you informed.

Analysis

U.S. Forest Service Prerogatives Face State and Local Challenges

“There are serious indicators that [the U.S. Forest Service] may be about to see a full-scale rebellion in at least four regions in the West,” OldSmokey **John Marker** observed of state and local challenges to Forest Service land management and law enforcement prerogatives in Oregon, New Mexico, and other locales. “I think this is a ticking time bomb.”

The basis for challenges to Forest Service land management seems to be loss of confidence in the management practices of a seemingly arrogant but perhaps just hamstrung federal agency. This fuels the search for alternative management regimes.

“Communities all over the country feel that their hands are tied with one-size-fits-all DC Brand Red Tape” is the way one Marita Noon characterized the situation in her Townhall.com blog this autumn. “The rules and regulations prevent them from doing what is best for their specific circumstances. The situation has escalated to the point where elected officials are now taking charge to do what is local and logical.”

What is “local and logical” in terms of protecting communities from increasingly large wildfires in the Southwest often impinges on management policies and procedures mandated by federal laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and others many locals see as causing dangerously unhealthy forest conditions.

Ten years ago, New Mexico’s state legislature passed legislation signed into law by then-Governor Gary Johnson that claimed local sovereignty over public lands. The Forest Service’s less-than-effective efforts to reduce or remove fuels building up in unhealthy forests put “the lives and property of the citizens of New Mexico” at risk.

The specter of the Wallow and Las Conchas fires during the summer of 2011 seems to have stimulated local action such as the September 17, 2011, “Otero County Tree Party” in the rural town of Cloudcroft on the Lincoln National Forest that tested the New Mexico law. U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (Republican-New Mexico) led some 300 citizens in what some have billed “the opening engagement of the Chainsaw Rebellion” by defying federal authority and thinning the forest. Congressman Pearce cut the first tree which was cut into slabs and handed out to the crowd as souvenirs by Otero County Sheriff Benny House. The locals “defied the Feds, cut the trees, and... nothing happened.”

An unfortunate aspect of this whole situation is that the good work done by so many Forest Service field people usually goes unrecognized while the issues and frustrations grab the headlines. Still, the growing frustration of local people and authorities is not to be ignored.

Such confrontations between the U.S. Government and local authorities are dangerous and represent the “ticking time bomb” John and others fear and “the Feds” must disarm through appropriate “caring for the land and serving people.”

--Les Joslin

Prepared from "A Tree Party Rebellion" by Marita Noon at Townhall.com and other sources.

NAFSR Supports

U.S. Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Authority Faces Congressional Reauthorization

The U.S. Forest Service's ten-year Stewardship Contracting authority expires in 2013. Six retired Forest Service chiefs have joined the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and other Collaborative Forest Service Landscape Restoration Coalition entities in urging Congress to reauthorize this "essential tool for forest restoration" in the FY 2012 Interior Appropriations Bill.

In a September 19, 2011, letter to the leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, OldSmokeys **Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, and Jack Ward Thomas** joined fellow retired chiefs Mike Dombeck, Dale Bosworth, and Gail Kimball in urging reauthorization of this "important tool in achieving forest management objectives, and increasing and diversifying job opportunities in rural communities."

They note that "stewardship contracting is rapidly becoming the contracting 'tool of choice' throughout the USFS. Treatments authorized under these contracts promote healthy forests, reduce wildfire hazards, increase watershed resilience, and increase business and job opportunities. Stewardship Contracting encourages collaboration and long-term commitments among agencies, contractors, local communities, and other interested stakeholders. Organizations across the 'political spectrum' collectively agree that Stewardship Contracting authority extension is needed at this time to support public land management agency activities."

NAFSR Executive Director and OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** was among the leaders of "organizations across the political spectrum" as well as individuals who signed off on an October 26, 2011, letter to the subcommittee echoing the retired chiefs' sentiments.

Prepared from letters provided by Darrel L. Kenops, Executive Director, NAFSR.

U.S. Forest Service Has Suffered from Information Technology Centralization, GAO Report Concluded

"In an effort to streamline and reduce the cost of information technology operations, the U.S. Forest Service centralized IT in the early 2000s, but the resulting self-service approach at field units led to IT trouble-shooting decentralization, according to a Governmental Accountability Office report" published on August 25, 2011, an article "GAO: Centralizing IT has decentralizing effect at Forest Service" published on August 29, 2011, in *FierceGovernmentIT* (<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com>), and quoted here explains.

"Now all employees are expected to have the knowledge or expertise to carry out those specific self-service tasks themselves," write report authors.

"The report says IT centralization has had 'widespread,

largely negative effects.' Rather than rely on a local field unit-based technician to assist with computer problems, workers are now expected to seek self-help tools, says the report.

"Because staff might do such tasks infrequently, and because the processes or procedures for carrying them out may change often, field unit employees told us they must spend time relearning how to perform certain tasks every time they carry them out," write report authors.

"What's more, centralized IT systems are not user-friendly, finds the report. Field unit employees repeatedly told auditors that help desk interaction is time consuming. Not only did help-desk support take hours and even days for a response, workers often must speak with two or three separate agents. Workers also reported a lack of understanding and context on the part of help desk customer service agents and employees said they had little confidence in the information help desk agents provide.

"As a result, many field unit workers ignore computer problems for extended periods. This has led to less time for mission work, increased reliance on workarounds, increased frustration and low morale, and increased safety concerns—especially in the case of radio equipment problems.

"IT centralization has allowed the Forest Service to more easily track equipment and address infrastructure issues holistically, but the primary goal of cost savings remains unrealized. 'The Forest Service could not reliably demonstrate cost savings resulting from centralization,' finds the audit. 'Achieving significant cost savings was one of the key goals of the agency's centralization effort.'"

Editor's Note: This isn't news for those of us around recently enough to have experienced dealings with the End User Support Center (EUSC) run by some contractor in Colorado we were required to telephone to get a "ticket" that put us in a queue for self-help assistance from some agent or series of agents who often referred us to somebody right there in the office from which we called. Whether EUSC was able to help or not, the contractor got paid. Much time and money was wasted.

U.S. Forest Service Criticized for Workforce Diversity Hiring Initiative

The National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Forest Service Council called a U.S. Forest Service summer 2011 initiative "to improve workforce diversity throughout out agency by hiring 100 highly qualified individuals into the Forest Service in the next 30 days" an approach it viewed as "counter-productive to a genuine and lasting cultural transformation" in a November 3, 2011, letter to its membership signed by Mark W. Davis, President, NFFE Forest Service Council, and other Council officials .

"We asked how the agency would comply with obligations in Master Agreement Article 16.2, which provide that employees be informed about and given an opportunity to compete for permanent, non-entry positions [to] ensure that employees' career advancement opportunities do not take a back seat to other priorities," the letter said.

"The Council reached out to leadership to work toward a solution consistent with Master Agreement provisions; leader-

ship assured us that it was their intent to comply. Ultimately, the original plan was implemented, based on guidance from technical advisors that doing so would not conflict with Article 16.2. Unfortunately, we were not afforded an opportunity to discuss the technical evaluation with those who made it or to examine information needed for us to make an independent judgment.

“The Council believes that violations may have occurred. We were faced with the choice of standing aside or of standing up for employees’ rights. We chose the latter course. The Council filed a national grievance on the issue, along with an information request pursuant to 5 USC 7114(b)(1).

“This has created an unfortunate and difficult situation. Individuals—through no fault of their own—may have already been placed into positions in violation of Article 16.2. These new employees are our brothers and sisters, and we welcome them. As the Council works through this difficult issue, we will strive to ensure their rights are protected. On the other hand, current employees who may have been wrongfully excluded from consideration have rights as well. Further, to take no action would be to acquiesce to potential violations and encourage similar future violations. In the end, the Council had no choice but to use the negotiated grievance procedure.

“This is a national-level grievance because the 100 position/30-day initiative was at the national level. Local and Regional union officials are advised to be vigilant about compliance with article 16.2 at their levels.”

The letter went on to list “requirements that must be followed prior to the filling of any permanent non-entry position in the bargaining unit” and provide other direction to ensure the cultural transformation initiative to hire individuals from groups that are under-represented in the Forest Service observes the rights of all personnel.

Prepared from the November 3, 2011, NFFE Forest Service Council to bargaining unit employees and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Authorized to Add Summer Activities at Winter Sports Areas on National Forest System Lands

The new Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act signed into law on November 7, 2011, amends the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 by expanding potential recreational uses of federal lands used by ski resorts, according to Jason Blevins in the November 18, 2011, *Denver Post*.

As result, summer use facilities such as zip lines, canopy walks, mountain-bike terrain parks and trails are soon likely to join traditional winter sports at National Forest System winter sports areas.

Under the 1986 act, the U.S. Forest Service had little direction for approving and permitting such summertime activities at winter sports areas. Most summer-oriented development was limited to private land at base areas. The new act will change that, and the Forest Service is developing policy to implement it.

“One thing we are really concerned about is staying relevant and in touch with the youth of America and changing demo-

graphics, and we think outdoor recreation is one of the key ways the Forest Service can interact with people these days,” Blevins quoted Jim Bedwell, the agency’s national director of recreation and heritage resources.

Bedwell has two years to come up with a new policy for resort development, but said his agency should be ready to entertain resort proposals this winter. He expects to see things like zip lines, canopy walks, and mountain-bike terrain parks and trails emerging in the already-developed areas of ski resorts. More pristine areas will retain their natural qualities.

Geraldine Link, National Ski Area Association public policy director, said winter sports resorts on national forest land will likely quickly pursue things such as zip lines and canopy tours. “Ski areas will begin investing in more summer facilities because this summertime question mark has been removed,” Blevins quoted her. “This act means we won’t see turmoil or issues based on the appropriateness of summer activities. I think we are going to see resorts go full bore and try to create a critical mass they need for a successful summer program.”

Resorts will still need to follow the established process of submitting a master development plan to the Forest Service and assessing project impacts through federal environmental review.

Prepared from “New policy lets ski resorts add warm-weather activities to Forest Service land” by Jason Blevins in the November 18, 2011, Denver Post, and posted on the New Century of Forest Planning blog on November 18.

U.S. Forest Service Names Maureen Hyzer as Pacific Northwest Deputy Regional Forester

A woman who began her U.S. Forest Service career in Washington state has been named one of two deputy regional foresters for Region 6. Forest Supervisor Maureen Hyzer of the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forest in Virginia and West Virginia will begin her new duties in Portland, Oregon, in February.

“I am pleased Maureen has agreed to return to the Northwest and join our team,” Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** said. “She brings a wealth of natural resource and executive experience, and I know she will help us work in collaboration with our partners to build healthy forests.”

Hyzer started her career in 1981 as a student trainee forester on the Galice Ranger District, near Grants Pass, Oregon, on the Siskiyou National Forest. She held various positions on the Okanogan National Forest between 1983 and 1998 after graduating from Washington State University in 1983 with a degree in forest and recreation management. She was a district ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest, Acting Director of Planning, Inventory and Monitoring for the Southern Region, deputy forest supervisor on the Ouachita National Forest, and became forest supervisor in 2005 after a number of acting assignments.

Maureen has been married to Steve Hyzer for 26 years. They have a daughter who is married and lives in Arkansas.

Prepared from “R6 Deputy Regional Forester Selected” by Tom Knappenberger in the December 15, 2011, R6 Update.

Feature



A U.S. Forest Service ranger stood next to the rustic Fish Lake Ranger Station sign in 1942. *U.S. Forest Service photograph*

A Future for Fish Lake

By Les Joslin

Photographs by the U.S. Forest Service and Les Joslin

A once obscure and still peculiar little lake in the central Cascade Range of Oregon has been many things to many people.

Native Americans visited its environs during the spring and summer for millennia to fish, hunt, and gather huckleberries.

Beginning in the mid 1800s, travelers and their livestock, pack animals, and freight wagons passed through the area and found the peculiar lake—sometimes a lake and sometimes a meadow—a place of rest along the trail.

In 1867, a roadhouse was built by the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company to accommodate travelers along the Santiam Wagon Road that passed by the then increasingly less obscure lake.

Fish Lake became a popular camping area. It was common to see 100 wagons or more camped near the lakeshore in the spring and early summer or the meadow in late summer and early fall—Hackleman Creek, which flows into the peculiar Fish Lake from the west, harbors the lake’s fish when it drains naturally through its porous lava-rock bottom and becomes a meadow.

And then, at the beginning of the twentieth century, our Outfit showed up.

Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot

Pursuant to the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, President Grover Cleveland proclaimed the Cascade Range Forest Reserve on September 28, 1893. In 1905 the new U.S. Forest Service assumed administration of the forest reserves from the U.S. De-

partment of the Interior’s General Land Office, and in 1907 the forest reserves were renamed national forests. On July 1, 1908, the Fish Lake area was part of the Cascade National Forest and three years later was within the Santiam National Forest carved from the Cascade National Forest.

While forest arrangers were organizing the several Cascade Range national forests, Forest Service rangers were realizing and representing that organization on the ground. A log cabin ranger station was built in 1908 along the Santiam Wagon Road on the northeastern shore of Fish Lake on a 20-acre site withdrawn from potential homestead entry for Forest Service administrative use. The roadhouse had closed in 1906. The station began service as the Santiam National Forest’s summer field headquarters in 1911.

The original Fish Lake Ranger Station cabin was crushed by snow during the winter of 1912-1913. By the summer of 1914, the Cascadia Ranger District had replaced the cabin with another cabin and a horse barn. As time passed, other buildings were added. Among those that remain on the site are the dispatcher’s cabin built in 1921, the supervisor’s cabin built in 1924 to house Santiam National Forest supervisor C.C. Hall (so it’s called “Hall House”), and the commissary cabin also built in 1924. In 1926, the station was described as “a group of very attractive log cabins...[that] house the [fire] dispatcher and his office, the two or three firemen stationed here, [and the] packer and pack animals. Its bed dry by midsummer, Fish Lake was used to grow hay for the pack animals.

During the 1930s, Fish Lake became an important fire-fighting remount station for crews and pack animals sent to forest fires throughout the central Cascades, and served as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work camp on the Willamette National Forest formed in 1933 by merging the Santiam and Cascade national forests. Beginning in 1934, the CCC built several buildings and other facilities at the site. These included the barns, sheds, corrals, and lava rock walls of the Fish Lake Remount Depot that provided pack animals to support fire control and later fire management as well as wilderness and trails operations through the 2005 field season.

Friends of Fish Lake and Their Vision

As the perceived need for what had become Fish Lake Guard Station waned in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, the perceived need to preserve the Fish Lake heritage waxed.

Lloyd Van Sickle, a Forest Service packer at Fish Lake from 1971 to 1984, pioneered the station’s preservation by protecting a number of historic buildings from being burned for want of maintenance funds. He also worked on projects to restore the site. Jim Denney, a long-time Fish Lake forest guard, and others followed in Lloyd’s wake. Thus inspired, active and retired Forest Service personnel carried on with numerous summer work parties conducted by an informal group called Friends of Fish Lake that in 2010 incorporated as an Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to:

- Preserving the historic Fish Lake area on the Willamette National Forest,
- Operating the associated Fish Lake Cascades Institute and



*The 1921 dispatch cabin and 1924 commissary cabin in 1926 (above) when Fish Lake Ranger Station was Santiam National Forest summer field headquarters and in 1994 (below) when it was Fish Lake Guard Station before restoration work.
U.S. Forest Service photograph (above) and Les Joslin photograph (below)*

Historic Center [for] teaching wildland backcountry skills and the ecology of the Central Cascades,

- Interpreting the natural and cultural history of the site, and
- Providing public use of its buildings and grounds.

Led by OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**, Willamette National Forest supervisor from 1980 to 1991, and populated by OldSmokeys as well as others, the Friends of Fish Lake partnered with now-retired District Ranger Mary Allison of the McKenzie River Ranger District to hammer out a Fish Lake Historic Area Master Plan during the spring of 2011. Mary was so interested in the project that she postponed retirement long enough to approve this document that coordinates Forest Service, Friends of Fish Lake, and other partner efforts on behalf of the Historic Area toward mutually agreed objectives.

These objectives implement a vision for the area and its operation spelled out for the five years and ten years to come.

“We see a future within five years where the Fish Lake historic structures have been completely restored to a high standard and

funding and maintenance commitments are in place to keep them for the foreseeable future; a conference center complete with state-of-the-art instructional facilities as well as student accommodations has been completed to support the Fish Lake Cascades Institute; brochures are available as well as signage that interprets the natural and cultural history of the Fish Lake area; the public has good access to most of the historic structures, volunteers are available on weekends during the summer to guide visitors through the site.”

“We see a future within ten years where the Friends of Fish Lake is a highly successful organization; its success is indicated in part by a broad array of active partners including federal, state, corporate, and non-profit entities working effectively to fulfill the Friends vision and purpose; the partners are well represented among the Friends officers and directors; success is also indicated by the continuing grants and donations sufficient to support fulfillment of the vision and purpose; volunteers are available to guide visitors to historic buildings and interpret the natural and cultural history of the area; a replica of the hotel that was lost to fire has been constructed and is the area’s new visitor center staffed by volunteers in period dress.”

There is also a ten-year vision for the Fish Lake Cascades Institute.

“We see a future within ten years where the Institute is a widely accepted and acknowledged center of excellence in backcountry traditional skills education and training; the Institute is fully functional and effectively staffed by experts who offer a broad curriculum of courses to hundreds of satisfied students; the institute is best known for its courses in horsemanship and packing, trail maintenance and hand tool use, backcountry survival skills and navigation, leave no trace camping, historic building restoration and maintenance; select courses in the ecology of the Central Cascades are also offered.”

As reported in the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, 2011 saw great strides on all fronts toward realization of that vision.

The Future of Fish Lake and You

That’s quite a vision of the future of the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot and environs collectively called the Fish Lake Historic Area.

It’s a vision that needs the support of many—many more Friends of Fish Lake members—to be realized. It’s a vision that needs you!

Contact the Friends of Fish Lake by mail at 37871 Shenandoah Loop, Springfield, Oregon 97487, or e-mail <fishlake05@gmail.com> for a membership application.

Join Friends of Fish Lake!

Lloyd Van Sickle, packer at Fish Lake from 1971 to 1984, had this vision. He helped protect the station’s historic buildings from being burned for lack of maintenance.

U.S. Forest Service photograph



Changes *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

The following changes do not include those derived from the annual *OldSmokeys Newsletter* U.S. Postal Service “Change Service Requested” process conducted with the Fall 2011 issue. Those changes, as well as these, are reflected in the PNWFSA *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2012*.

- Abernathy, Lawrence “Jim” & Carole** – Change e-mail:
abernace@gmail.com
- Anderson, David W. & Jo Ann** – Change e-mail:
davjoann@nwi.net
- Baumgartner, Bud & Barbara** – Add e-mail: budbaumgartner@centurytel.net
- Clinton, Mike G. & Marjorie** – New members: 27360 Overlook Dr, Evergreen, CO 80439
Telephone: 303-888-5601
E-mail: Mike_Clinton1@mac.com
- Cochrane, James S.** – Deceased October 1, 2011; Annerose survives
- da Luz, Michael A. & Aletha** – Change address: 14397 W 56th Way, Aravada, CO 80002
- Dils, Clifford J.** – Change address: 8273 Krim Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
Change telephone: 505-977-1927
- Elton, Shirley Mae** – Deceased January 23, 2011; Claude survives
- Franks, Don** – Change e-mail: donfranksfortrock@gmail.com
- Fruits, Gordon Warren** – Deceased October 3, 2011; Wanda survives
- Herzstein, Leonard** – Change e-mail: 2002leonard@mail.com
- Hickerson, Bobbie June Harris** - Deceased December 7, 2011; Carl survives
- Higgins, Dorothy F.** – Change address: 11205 SE Summerfield Dr, No 259, Tigard, OR 97224
- Jensen, Lyle E. & Jeanne** – Change e-mail: ljensen7510@gmail.com
- Kleidosty, Wayne** – Change e-mail: wkleidosty@gmail.com
- Kline, John P. & Sharon** – Change e-mail: pkline@wtech-link.us
- Morris, Jane B.** – Change address: 229 N Bellevue Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362
- Perkins, Anne Elizabeth Boulton** – Deceased June 20, 2011; John survives
- Peterson, Devan Harry** - Deceased March 26, 2011; Judy survives
- Robertson, Betty Lou** – Deceased September 11, 2011; Les survives
- Tokarczyk, Beverly** – Deceased October 31, 2011; Bob survives
- Vancil, Lynn E. & Rosalind** – New members: 10700 SW Starr Dr, Tualatin, OR 97062
Telephone: 503-692-3754 E-mail: lynnvancil@gmail.com

Please keep PNWFSA advised of any changes in your mailing and e-mail addresses and telephone number.

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new members who have joined the PNWFSA since the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Mike G. & Marjorie Clinton of Evergreen, Colorado. Mike retired in February 2000 after 41 years of federal service, 36 of those in the U.S. Forest Service and five in the U.S. Air Force. As Mike told it: “I joined the Deschutes National Forest out of the Air Force in 1969 [where he] formed a partnership with Gene Zimmerman to start forest land management planning. Did most of the engineering jobs there and had the greatest learning cycle of my life with the district ranger cadre teaching me most aspects of their resource responsibilities. In 1975 [he went to] Willamette National Forest as Assistant Forest Engineer for Forest Roads and Trails O&M. I transferred to [Region 2 and] the San Juan National Forest in 1978 as Forest Engineer [then moved] to RO Engineering in 1981 and RO Recreation in 1995 before retiring. Don Loff motivated me to join the OldSmokeys.”

Editor’s Note: Mike, thanks for the write-up!

Lynn E. & Rosalind Vancil of Tualatin, Oregon, joined on November 28, 2011. Lynn retired from Information Resources Management in the RO in Portland, Oregon, on January 3, 2005, after 37 years of federal service, 35 of those in the U.S. Forest Service.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

Chuck Banko died December 6, 2011, at age 86. Chuck was born October 18, 1925, in Yakima, Washington, and attended Yakima schools until 1941 when he moved to Selah, Washington, with his parents. He graduated from Selah High School in June 1943 and joined the U.S. Navy. Chuck saw action with a gunboat squadron supporting beach landings and underwater demolition teams in combat operations at Kwajelien, Tinian, Saipan, Guam, and Iwo Jima where he was wounded in action on February 17, 1945, and received the Purple Heart. Discharged from the hospital in July 1945, he returned to sea duty before being honorably discharged in April 1946. Taking advantage of the G.I. Bill and working summers on the Snoqualmie National Forest, Chuck attended Yakima Valley Junior College and Washington State College in Pullman, Washington, where he graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife management with a minor in forestry. After working for the state of Washington, Chuck joined the U.S. Forest Service at Lowell, Oregon, on the Willamette National Forest in 1952, serving as Forest Service liaison officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Cougar Dam Project from 1956 to 1958. He then served as district ranger on the Tieton, North Bend, and Leavenworth ranger districts from 1958 until retirement after 32 years of federal service in 1980. Wildfire was a specialty, and Chuck was a graduate of the National Fire Generalship School in Missoula, Montana, and the National Fire Behavior School in Marana, Arizona. On retirement, he and his wife Barbara, whom he met in Yakima in 1962 and married in

1963, lived in East Wenatchee and Leavenworth, then moved to Wenatchee in 1991. Survivors include Barbara; son Michael; daughters March Gibson and Andrea Rymill; son Radd Hastings; and three grandchildren.

John W. Chaffin, Jr., died October 10, 2011, at age 82. John was born January 23, 1929, in Nowata, Oklahoma, and grew up in Okmulgee and Stillwater, Oklahoma. He served two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later earned forestry degrees at Oklahoma A&M and Yale University. John served in the U.S. Forest Service in various positions including district ranger, forest supervisor, and various fire staff posts. He retired as a Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and lived in Green Valley, Arizona. Survivors include Sue, his wife of 59 years.

James S. Cochrane died October 1, 2011, at age 81. He was a PNWFSA member. Jim was born September 21, 1930, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and earned a B.S. degree in forest management at Utah State University. Jim married Annerose Stratmeyer in December 1957. He served 41 years as a forester in the U.S. Forest Service. Jim and Annerose, who were married almost 54 years, lived in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, after he retired. Survivors include Annerose; sons Michael H. and K. Scott; daughter Miquette Orr; and grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Annerose enclosed a copy of Jim's obituary with an October 17, 2011, note.

Shirley Mae Hammer Elton died January 23, 2011, at age 83. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Claude R. Elton. Shirley Mae Hammer was born March 2, 1927, in Valier, Montana, where she was raised and where she met Claude after he returned from service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. During 63 years of marriage Shirley lived in several states, from Alaska to Virginia, during Claude's career in the U.S. Forest Service. Claude and Shirley moved to Sun City, Arizona, in 1995 where Shirley enjoyed friends, bridge, golf, and other activities. Survivors include Claude; sons Kim, Keith, Bruce, and Brad; daughter Elisa Hammond; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Claude informed PNWFSA of Shirley's January 23 death on November 7, 2011.

Gordon Warren Fruits died October 3, 2011, at age 84. He was a PNWFSA member. Gordon was born February 7, 1927, in Merrill, Oregon, where he grew up and attended school. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Gordon earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Oregon State College in 1951. He married Wanda Hardin of Gary, Texas, in 1950. Gordon worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry from 1951 until 1964, then joined the U.S. Forest Service from which he retired in January 1992. He lived in Merrill, the town in which he was born, when he died. Survivors include Wanda; their daughter Annie Earls and Mollie O'Neal, and Michael Stahr; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

David Earl Gutcher died October 5, 2011, at age 75. Dave was born July 21, 1936, and served in the U.S. Forest Service as a forest products measurement specialist—check cruiser and scaler—on the Deschutes National Forest's Crescent Ranger District and in the Bend SO from the 1970s to the 1990s. Dave was an avid horseshoe tosser and musician. Survivors include his wife Kay and their children and grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Andy Coray for bringing Dave's death to our attention.

Bobbie June Harris Hickerson died December 7, 2011, on her 82nd birthday. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Carl W. Hickerson. Bobbie was born December 7, 1929, in Vernon, Texas, and grew up mostly in the Bakersfield, California, where she graduated from Kern county High School. In December 1948, Bobbie married Carl following his U.S. Army service with the occupation forces in Japan as a member of General Douglas MacArthur's Honor Guard Company. Bobbie earned her Ph.T. ("Pushed Hubby Through") degree when Carl, studying on the G.I. Bill, earned a B.S. degree in forest management at Oregon State College in 1951. Bobbie lived in many locations throughout the United States as a U.S. Forest Service wife; her first such experience, while Carl was still a student, was a summer 1949 stint at the North Fork Station on the Clackamas River, Estacada Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Bobbie and Carl returned to Oregon in 1973 when he was assigned as Director of Fire Management, fuels Management, & Aviation at the RO in Portland from which he retired in 1979. Bobbie then lived in New Delhi, India, while Carl worked for the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Bobbie and Carl eventually settled in Scottsdale, Arizona. Survivors include Carl; their son Larry; daughter Lisa Webster; and three grandchildren.

Anne Elizabeth Boulton Perkins died June 20, 2011, at age 77. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey John Bryant Perkins. Anne Boulton was born March 25, 1934, in Evanston, Illinois. She attended Albion College and graduated from Iowa State College. After her marriage to John in 1957, she and her U.S. Forest Service husband lived in Portland, Oregon; Methow Valley, Washington; Gold Beach, Oregon; Petaluma, California; Klamath Falls, Oregon; and since 1972 in Hoodspport and Lacey, Washington. Poet, homemaker, musician, and teacher of piano and cello, Anne was artistic and adventurous. She loved canoeing, campfires under the stars, family gatherings, and travel, and had a life-long association with Scouting and the United Methodist Church. She was a 50-year member of PEO and a founding member of PEO Chapter GQ in Mason County, Washington. Survivors include her husband John; sons Brian, Daniel, and David; daughter Ruth Huling; and five grandsons.

Editor's Note: Thanks to John for informing us of Anne's death.

Devan Harry Peterson died March 26, 2011, at age 66. He was a PNWFSA member and husband of OldSmokey Judy A. Peterson. Devan was born July 21, 1944, in Frederic, Wisconsin, and raised in Luck, Wisconsin, where he graduated from

Luck High School. His 1964 to 1968 service in the U.S. Air Force included duty in Vietnam. Devan married Judy Smith in Gresham, Oregon, in 1967. Survivors include his wife, Judy.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Judy for informing us of Devan's death.

Betty Lou Robertson died September 11, 2011, at age 59. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Les Robertson. Betty Lou Olson was born May 21, 1952, in Waterloo, Iowa, and grew up in Bend, Oregon, where she graduated from high school in 1970. Betty retired from the U.S. Forest Service with 34 years of federal service in August, 2008, as budget analyst on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Her career also included service on other national forests and with the National Park Service and the BLM. Betty had a love, talent, and passion for quilting. She was an artist, and gave most of her quilts to friends and family; she was also a core member of a community sewing group that produced clothing for less fortunate children. She enjoyed traveling, time in the forest, watching the ocean from a favorite spot in Bandon, trailer camping, word find and jigsaw puzzles. Survivors include her husband Les.

Beverly A. "Bev" Tokarczyk died October 31, 2011, at age 86. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Bob Tokarczyk. Beverly A. Heald was born August 13, 1925, in Spokane, Washington, and grew up in Seattle where she attended Franklin High School and the University of Washington. Bev was active in women's business organizations and had a bookkeeping business in Seattle and Honolulu before retiring and marrying Bob, widower of Barbara Tokarczyk, 22 years ago and moving to Vancouver, Washington. Bev's previous marriage to the late Robert A. Ripley, with whom she had two daughters, ended in divorce after 15 years. Bev had a keen interest in anthropology and enjoyed travel to visit historic sites. She was an avid reader and Huskies, Seahawks, and Mariners fan. Survivors include Bob; her daughters Lynda Morrison and Sandra Ripley Distelhorst; step-daughter Marsha Ham and step-son Bruce Tokarczyk; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lawrence M. "Whit" Whitfield died November 8, 2011, at age 85. Whit was born July 22, 1926, in Portland, Oregon, and married Carol Bergstrom in McMinnville, Oregon, on June 7, 1947. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1944 to 1946 during World War II and from 1950 to 1951 during the Korean War. Whit graduated from Oregon State College's School of Forestry in 1950. He began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Trinity National Forest before serving on the Sierra and Sequoia national forests, in the WO, and in the Region 1 RO in Missoula, before serving as regional forester for Region 8 in Atlanta, Georgia, where he retired in 1981. In 1965, about mid-point in his Forest Service career, he was admitted to the California State Bar to practice law. In 1982, Whit and Carol moved to Redding, California, where he began an 18-year-long law practice. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, and he and Carol traveled widely. Survivors include Carol; daughter Susan Pass; son James; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Letters

Dave Anderson *remembers Chuck Banko*

I worked for Chuck for a couple years when he was district ranger at Leavenworth. I was his fire management officer. Chuck was great to work for. He was a straight forward guy who let you run your shop. Chuck also served as a forest fire team incident commander. In 1970 when the Entiat fires were threatening Entiat Ridge on the north side of the Leavenworth Ranger District, Chuck sent John Segle and Ben Allen up to the ridge with many Cats and had them build what was later called "Banko's Boulevard." It was a massive fireline that in places was over 100 feet wide for miles along the ridge. It was an effective barrier and kept the fire off Chuck's district. I had a lot of respect for Chuck.

Mike Kerrick *remembers Chuck Banko*

I remember Chuck Banko being the "Dam" man in 1956 at Cougar Dam [on the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest] during the clearing project behind the dam; I was district assistant. I will never forget the presidential election that year, my first time to vote. Sue and I lived on the east end of the compound and did not have a TV, but next-door neighbors Bankos and Sabols did. Banko was a staunch Republican and Sabols were Democrats. Both Sue and I were registered Democrats but I had voted for Eisenhower and she voted for Adlai Stevenson. She was invited to watch the election returns at Sabols' and I wasn't welcome at either place and was relegated to listening to the radio. Ha!

Rich Stem *reflects on Chuck Banko and others*

It never ceases to amaze me reading these obituaries of former Forest Service folks. The courage and the gifts they gave to people, this country, and the agency are immeasurable. I did not know Chuck Banko, but I would have liked to.

Sometimes I wish we could celebrate these folks more than we do. They are truly the heroes.

Jeannie Brittell *remembers Gordon Fruits*

I worked with Gordon on the Fremont National Forest from 1980 until his retirement in 1992. He was a bit intimidating at first but it didn't take long to realize he was just a big old teddy bear. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a twinkle in his eyes as well as a great work ethic and tons of knowledge. It's hard to imagine now, but back in those days people could actually smoke at their desks or even walking around in the halls. Gordon always smoked a pipe with the best smelling cherry pipe tobacco. One of our co-workers, Saira Clemens, brought her baby to work for the first few months. At break time Gordon would come and take Cody for a walk around the halls. It was quite a change in altitude from his mom's height. Gordon was rather proud of his self-proclaimed title of Forest Curmudgeon. After he retired I used to run into him once in a while and we'd stop for a while and talk about the good old days and how much things have changed and not necessarily for the better. I will always remember Gordon fondly.

Jack Kerr *remembers Gordon Fruits*

Gordon and I were both fire wardens for protective associations beginning in 1948, he for Lane County at Gales Creek and I for Douglas County at Tyee. We both wed girls who were employed as lookouts, Wanda Hardin who was on a lookout in southern Douglas County and Peggy Meachum who was on Bateman Lookout in Coast Range. Peggy and I visited Wanda and Gordon while they were stationed in John Day for the Oregon Department of Forestry. At a later date I had the pleasure of visiting briefly with Gordon in Lakeview. He was truly a fine and unique gentleman. My heart goes out to Wanda.

Andy Coray *remembers Dave Gutscher*

Dave was an all-around great guy and colleague.

Wendall Jones *remembers Larry Whitfield*

Larry Whitfield served as attorney for the smaller timber industry association for the Pacific Northwest and northern California. Larry brought to that association a higher level of respect and I think gave some lessons on how to deal with the U.S. Forest Service. I had many opportunities to deal with Larry on a one-to-one basis at their meetings. He was a pleasure to spend time with.

Jack Kerr *renews PNWFSA membership and makes very generous contribution to PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund*

Thank you for the dues reminder and the opportunity to help with the emergency fund. [The Emergency Relief Fund contribution is] a small token in memory of some of the great folks I worked with during my years with the Forest Service: Stan Undi, Al Sorseth, Bud Baumgartner, Ralph McCurdy, Ken Roberts, Orval Jess just to name a few. And memories also of some who I knew that have passed on: more recently, Paul Brady, Hal Simes, and Gordon Fruits. These are just a few in a legion of outstanding characters the Forest Service seemed to attract!

Eric Morse *appreciates OldSmokeys Newsletter and upgrades to PNWFSA lifetime membership*

I've gotten a lifetime worth of good from the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, so I'd better pay up.

Greetings to all of the great friends over the years. Come see us if you're in the neighborhood. Still healthy and keeping out of trouble. Nine grandchildren—one will graduate college next year, one just turned one year old. I can generally remember their names.

Editor's Note: Eric and Sheila live in Camdenton. Missouri.

Connie Ronayne *appreciates OldSmokeys Newsletter, donates to PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund*

Each edition of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* continues to be of great interest to me. I am sorry at the continued loss of old acquaintances, but appreciate the nostalgic articles and Forest Service updates.

Enclosed is a donation to the OldSmokeys Emergency Relief Fund.

Carl Berntsen *checks in from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and upgrades to PNWFSA lifetime membership*

Just celebrated year 91. Mary is 90. We also celebrated anniver-

sary 68. Retired from U.S. Forest Service in February 1983. Served 18 years in U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Piled up 300 missions in the "Molly B" in the sounds of the Outer Banks, North Carolina. Son Keith taking over as a second retirement activity without pay. He recently retired from a teaching career in Alaska. He lived in Wasilla. He says, "No, I did not know her." Regards to all!

Ray Schoener *checks in from Ironton, Ohio*

I had my 87th birthday on November 23; still miss Oregon.

Dick Zechentmayer *checks in from King City, California*

Mary Lou and I are doing well down here in California. We so enjoy all the reports of the group's get-togethers and the resultant photographs. The Fish Lake get-together is on my calendar. I spent one summer there with Charley Lord's inventory crew. Memories of photo plot locations using 1942 aerial photographs, which often meant chaining one or two miles and then finding the plot right next to a road.

Gerald Gause *comments on the OldSmokeys*

R6ers really go all out. Big membership, big paper.

Editor's Note: Gerald Gause is a Region 5 RO retiree.

Bill Derr *comments on the Fall 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter and the OldSmokeys*

The two pieces [in the Fall 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] in [the] **Forum** on page 2 are quite profound as is the article on the Planning Rule on page 9. In fact, the newsletter contains a host of very interesting and valuable information that I'm sure accounts for [the PNWFSA's] large membership and the active involvement of retirees in contributing to and publishing the newsletter. A big job and very well done.

Other [U.S. Forest Service] retiree organizations may want to consider expanding their newsletters in a similar fashion to build their respective memberships. Another approach would be for the other organizations to merely incorporate portions of the R-6 newsletter that have national significance or [are of] special interest into their respective newsletters.

With the many challenges facing the Forest Service today a well informed retiree group can be a strong voice to Congress, local politicians, the press, and other parties of interest in recommending measures to assist the Forest Service in managing the National Forests consistent with the intent of the Organic Act.

Can retirees make a difference? I think so, when fully informed of the issues and willing to take individual action.

Editor's Note: Bill Derr is the retired Special Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement and Investigations in Region 5.

Letters is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. Some letters are sent directly to the editor or forwarded by the secretary. Others are reprinted from *OldSmokeys eNotes* and *OldSmokeys eForum*. Letters may be edited to make them more readable or to fit space available, but not to change their meaning. You may send your letters direct to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>. "**Keep those cards and letters comin' in!**"

Books

OldSmokeys Jon and Donna Skovlin's *Into the Minam* Hits U.S. Forest Service and Local History Marks

OldSmokeys Jon M. and Donna McDaniel Skovlin have done the State of Oregon and the U.S. Forest Service a singular service by researching and writing *Into the Minam: The History of a River and its People* published late in 2011 by Reflections Publishing company of Cove, Oregon.

How? Jon and Donna have packed 277 pages comprising 22 chapters illustrated by 69 historical photographs supplemented by five appendices with the most comprehensive accounting of the natural and cultural history of the Minam River country in northeastern Oregon likely to see print.

Successful books of this genre give the attentive reader a chance to get a hold of a piece of country in their minds and tempt such readers to experience that piece of country themselves. Therein lies the promise of *Into the Minam* for those who will want to see more of that remote country after reading about it and the lives Native Americans followed by homesteaders, stockmen, loggers, miners, trappers, hunters, dude ranchers, and recreationists have pursued in it.

OldSmokeys will especially appreciate the book's interpretation of the roles U.S. Forest Service rangers—some of whom, indeed, were or still are Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members—who worked with all these groups as well as other resource managers on what was sequentially the Wallowa Forest Reserve from 1905 to 1908, the Minam National Forest from 1911 to 1920, the Wallowa National Forest from 1920 to 1954, and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest since.

Jon and Donna, both of whom are graduates of Oregon State University and have lived in northeastern Oregon most of their lives, are the right people to have researched and written this book. Jon is a retired Forest Service forest and range researcher “who is obsessed with gathering history” and Donna “likes to make sense out of it.”

They begin making sense of it by orienting the reader to the Minam River that begins in Blue Lake, high in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, and winds through canyons and meanders across alpine meadows as it cuts its way through the rugged Wallowa Mountains. They finish by recommending policies to maintain the health of the Minam's watershed.

“The only way to get into the Minam is by foot or horse back or small airplane,” they tell us, except that now there's an easier way: “*Into the Minam* will let even the most sedentary traveler visit the river” and the country that shares its name.

Most OldSmokeys have their special place. It's obvious that the Minam has been and remains a special place for Jon and Donna who live in Cove, Oregon, a little town of 680 souls about 10 miles east of La Grande and as close to that special place as one can live. They felt the need to write the history of this river before the stories were lost. They've done the Minam country and its myriad stories justice.

Into the Minam: The History of a River and its People (ISBN 978-0-9649449-4-7) retails for \$19.95 at booksellers and may be ordered by contacting Jon and Donna (who are in Yuma, Arizona, until May) at <skovlin@gmail.com> for that price plus \$3.95 shipping and handling, or from Amazon.com.

--Les Joslin

Friedman's and Mandelbaum's *That Used to Be Us* Has a Message for the U.S. Forest Service

About midway through the year 2011 Thomas L. Friedman, one of the *New York Times* most influential columnists, and Michael Mandelbaum, one of The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies leading foreign policy thinkers, warned us that America is in trouble in *That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World it Invented and How We Can Come Back* published in New York by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Their chilling commentary on America today isn't—yet is—about the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System, two American institutions not mentioned by name in their assessment of what's gone wrong and how it can be fixed. Yet, by logical extension—at least in this reviewer's mind—it is, and ought to be read and pondered and understood by all responsible for any aspect of the American dream and its practical realization through public policy and process.

Why? Because the National Forest System is a part of the American dream that depends on Forest Service accomplishment of an appropriately defined and implemented mission that results in nothing more or less than “caring for the land and serving people” and that is impacted by the major challenges that affect the nation's future and that the nation's leaders and institutions are failing to meet.

“As we were writing this book,” the authors wrote, “we found that when we shared the title with people, they would often nod ruefully and ask: ‘But does it have a happy ending?’ Our answer is that we can write a happy ending, but it is up to the country—to all of us—to determine whether it is fiction or nonfiction. We need to study harder, save more, spend less, invest wisely, and get back to the formula that made us successful as a country in every previous historical turn. What we need is not novel or foreign, but values, priorities, and practices embedded in our history and culture, applied time and again to propel us forward as a country. That is all part of our past. That used to be us, and it can be again—if we will it.”

How many OldSmokeys on a visit to a national forest have said to themselves “That used to be us” only to wonder what has happened to us and why and what we can do about it. Restoration of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System could be and should be part and parcel of the national happy ending toward which all Americans must strive.

A best seller, *That Used to Be Us* is available at booksellers everywhere.

--Les Joslin

Films

Classic Smokejumper Movie “Red Skies of Montana” is on DVD

By Les Joslin

“After all these years, no film says ‘Missoula’ like ‘Red Skies of Montana.’” So wrote Kim Briggeman of the *Missoulian* on April 2, 2011, to announce the 1952 movie would “make a reappearance on the big screen” at the Wilma Theater in Missoula, Montana, on the evening of Tuesday, April 5, “in conjunction with the four-day International Wildland Fire Safety Summit.”

“The movie premiered in Missoula in January 1952 at the Fox and Roxy theaters,” Briggeman wrote. “This will be the third screening at the Wilma since then.”

Did you miss it? So did I! But you don’t have to catch one of the film’s rare showings in Missoula—it previously showed at the Wilma in 2005 in conjunction with that year’s International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and in 2000 when the Museum of Mountain Flying showed it there as a fundraiser—to see it. You can get it on DVD and see it some cold, dreary, rainy or snowy afternoon in the comfort of your own home. How? Read on.

Many OldSmokeys have seen the film and know the plot. Loosely based on the disastrous Mann Gulch Fire of 1949 and shot in various locations in and around Missoula in 1951, the film tells the story of fictitious U.S. Forest Service smokejumper crew foreman Cliff Mason (played by the late Richard Widmark), the only survivor when the Bugle Peak Fire he and his crew jumped blows up. Rescued wandering through the burn, Mason recovers in the hospital but can’t remember how he got separated from his men and why he was the only one to survive. The smokejumper son of a smokejumper old-timer on the lost crew suspects Mason of cowardly abandoning his crew to its fate, and the plot thickens.

The cast of the film also includes Constance Smith as Mason’s wife, Richard Boone as his boss, Jeffrey Hunter as the young smokejumper who is Mason’s accuser, and an obscure yet familiar actor named James Griffith who puts in a fine performance as a smokejumper named Boise Petersen. Look real close, and you’ll see future stars Charles Bronson and Richard Crenna in uncredited smokejumper roles.

As interesting as the cast are the locations including the Region 6 RO in downtown Missoula, long-gone Hale Field, and the equally-long-gone old smokejumper base near the Lolo National Forest’s historic Ninemile Ranger Station.

And, as interesting as the locations are the aircraft. I thought it was neat to see an old Ford Tri-Motor in Forest Service colors until class of ’49 smokejumper Joe Rumble told me “they just painted that shield on for the movie” and burst that bubble. They were Johnson Flying Service birds, he said.

The firefighting sequences show us how much smokejumping and firefighting equipment has evolved. Jumpsuits and aircraft have seen a quantum leap forward. So has communica-

tions equipment, from the bulky walkie-talkie Widmark’s character struggles with in the film to today’s small hand-held radios. I doubt that rotary trencher that builds fire line and throws dirt, featured in the film and used in the northern Rockies, is still around. Pulaskis, McLeods, and shovels always will be. The movie demonstrated the need for the modern fire shelter.

Well, you’ve read on, so I better tell you how to get the DVD as I promised. You can Google “Red Skies of Montana DVD” and find a few sources. One outfit called Only Classic Movies at <www.onlyclassicmovies.com/redskies.html> offers it for \$12.35. Another purveyor called Loving the Classics at <www.lovingtheclassics.com> lists it for \$14.99. There’s bound to be an additional charge for postage. An alternative to ordering a DVD is VGuide’s offer to watch it online for free. If that appeals, just Google <www.ovguide.com/red-skies-of-montana> to see what happens.

Here’s my disclaimer: I’ve not used and don’t vouch for or guarantee any of these sources. I got my copy several years ago but can’t recall from whom.

Prepared from “‘Red Skies of Montana’ to grace Wilma Theatre screen on Tuesday” by Kim Briggeman in the Missoulian, April 2, 2011, and by playing around on Google and watching the movie many times.





A U.S. Forest Service officer provided information to a visitor at Silver Creek Ranger Station during the late 1930s. U.S. Forest Service

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Silver Creek Ranger Station

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin

Photographs by U.S. Forest Service

One of only three log office buildings known to have been built at Pacific Northwest Region ranger stations during the Great Depression is the centerpiece of the Silver Creek Guard Station Historic Site. Nestled in a forest of Douglas-fir and Pacific silver fir along the Mather Memorial Parkway, Washington Highway 410, the historic log office building is just north of the White River entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

Silver Creek Ranger Station was established just after World War I when completion of a road to the locality and the growing popularity of the automobile made Sunday trips from Seattle, Tacoma, and other nearby cities and towns to Silver Creek and Mount Rainier National Park popular. The ranger station, staffed during the summer only, was conveniently situated to administer the U.S. Forest Service's share of this growing recreational use. Winter work was carried out from the old Snoqualmie National Forest's headquarters in Tacoma.

The original facilities at Silver Creek Ranger Station were a frame building that housed an office, living quarters, and storage space, and a three-sided garage-woodshed. A residence and some outbuildings were added during the 1920s.

When the main structure burned to the ground in 1930, that new log office building—a Forest Service rarity in that time and place—was built the following year. A log addition was added in 1936. The fact that the ranger station was surrounded by one of the larger groupings of log cabins in the United States—many built in the 1920s on national forest summer home plots—may explain why the office was built of logs. Nevan McCullough, district ranger at the time of construction, attributed the log building to Olie Strom and Peter Brien whom he said “were exceptionally good workmen, taking pride in their joints.”

Today, after decades of service as a ranger station and a guard station, the well-preserved log office building is operated seasonally as the Silver Creek Visitor Information Center.

Editor's Note: The remarkable historic photographs that illustrate this article were supplied by several sources. Forest Service photograph 411547 at the top of this page was scanned from a copy of the 1990 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for historic Silver Creek Ranger Station

Uncle Sam's Cabins continued on page 25



The Way We Were

Willamette National Forest Supervisor and Rangers 1955

OldSmokey **Al Sorseth** reminds us of the way we were with this photograph of Forest Supervisor Bob Aufderheide and his Willamette National Forest district rangers made “in front of one of the barracks in the McKenzie CCC camp” in 1955. From left to right: Ed Anderson, McKenzie Ranger District; Ralph “Larry” Worstell, Lowell Ranger District; Jack Saubert, Cascadia Ranger District; Forest Supervisor Aufderheide; Bill Cummins, Oakridge Ranger District; Otto Hannell, Rigdon Ranger District; and Al Sorseth, Detroit Ranger District. Al reminds us he “is the only one still living.”



Uncle Sam’s Cabins continued from page 24

provided by Jan Hollenbeck, *Historic Preservation and Tribal Programs Officer, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest*. The 1931 image was provided by Rick McClure, *Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager, Gifford Pinchot National Forest*, as a copy of a hand-colored lantern slide. The 1936 image was provided by OldSmokey **Jerry Williams**, *retired U.S. Forest Service National Historian* as a copy of a hand-colored lantern slide. Jan identified the photographers and dates of these two photographs, and provided additional assistance with the article. The more recent photograph of what is now called Silver Creek Guard Station also was supplied to the writer by Jan back in 1994, and is superior to those made by the writer that year. Thanks for the great help!

A U.S. Forest Service officer (perhaps District Ranger Nevan McCullough) stood in front of the new Silver Creek Ranger Station log office building when Region 6 recreation officer Fred W. Cleator made this photograph in 1931 (top). A log addition was added to the rear of Silver Creek Ranger Station log office in 1936, as shown in this photograph by District Ranger R. N. McCullough (middle). Historic Silver Creek Ranger Station, now Silver Creek Guard Station, is well preserved and used as Silver Creek Information Center (bottom).

**Sincere thanks to my wife
Pat Joslin
for six years of applying her computer skills
to help realize my vision for the
OldSmokeys Newsletter.**

—Les Joslin

My First Forest Service Job

The Beginning of the End: The Unraveling of the Winter Rim (Part II)

By Jon Stewart

The summer of 1966 flowed on through a series of lightning fires, weekends of overtime manning Fremont Point Lookout, hunting for arrowheads (now strictly illegal) during our lunch breaks, repairing cattle fences, and thinning pine thickets. The monotony was relieved by occasional weekend parties at widely dispersed guard stations and romantic visits to Shake Butte Lookout staffed by the only young unattached female within a couple hundred square miles.

A fire call

We were painting our guard station with a fresh coat of Navy surplus battleship gray paint one quiet Monday morning in mid August when we received a fire call from Shake Butte. She'd spotted smoke rising from the eastern slope of Winter Rim. Fremont Point reported the same smoke and we plotted the nexus of their azimuths at about seven miles from our station. We jumped in our newly repaired Dodge Power Wagon and roared up a maze of old logging roads and cattle trails to the summit of the rim. We looked down to see a thin smoke curling up from a forested basin surrounded by 70-foot rimrock cliffs.

Five hundred yards below us, in a stand of freshly felled and bucked ponderosa pine, was a fire about a quarter-acre in size. A logging tractor had just finished building a cat line around it and half a dozen loggers were using shovels to extinguish the last of the smokes. It was high noon when we radioed our observations to the dispatcher in Paisley. It was too far to run a hose lay to the fire from where we were parked, so we told the dispatcher we would pack a couple five-gallon bladder bags down to the fire to help out the loggers. Leon reported confidently that, with the loggers and cat already on the fire, we could handle it. We told the dispatcher we'd be out of radio contact once we dropped below the rim but we'd report within the hour.

We used a live reel to string hose 150 feet down the cliff face to refill our bladder bags for the mop up. The hose also proved handy for rappelling to the talus slope below the cliff. Ten minutes later we joined five loggers and the cat on the fire line. Clambering across the knee-deep dusty cat line to the fire, we and the loggers extinguished the flames in half a dozen burning logs. Soon only one towering burning snag remained inside the line. As we threw dirt at the flaming snag, they told us the fire started when the Caterpillar tractor's cleats had acted like flint against the basalt of the moss-covered talus slope. The dry moss burned like cured tinder, and the fire quickly spread into the logging slash.

A fire blows up

Except for the flaming snag in the center of the fire we'd made good progress. Leon was getting ready to climb back up to our rig to report to the dispatcher when a sudden gust of wind changed our plans. The hot air rising from Summer Lake two

miles east of and a couple thousand feet below us had become a steady 20-mile-an-hour wind. It suddenly gusted to 35 miles an hour and the top sailed out of the flaming snag. It tumbled into a thick pocket of broken limbs and pine needles well outside the fire line. Gusty winds and well-cured logging slash did the rest. The forest exploded into flame. In ten minutes the cat skinner had abandoned his cat and joined us in a footrace for our lives.

At first we tried carrying our 20-pound pack set radio with us. Leon repeatedly tried to call for backup, but the steep cliff walls and alpine bowl blocked our transmissions. The fat smoke column rising into the blue sky told its own story to our Shake Butte and Fremont Point friends. As the column ballooned into a massive thunderhead fed by an expanding ring of creamy white smoke the airwaves crackled with calls for help.

We abandoned the radio in a cleft between two boulders and sprinted for a talus slope half a mile away. It was a close call for the hefty cat skinner who competed in our wildland hurdles. We helped him over a couple downed logs before, bathed in sweat, we joined his five buddies huddled against the half-acre



The smoke of the August 1966 Winter Rim Fire billowed above our Dodge Power Wagon.

Photograph by Jon Stewart

talus slope. We peeled off layers of dry moss coating the shattered rocks as the fire swept through the forest around us. I still had a gallon of water in my canteen. We used it to wet our handkerchiefs and the backs of our shirts as skin-singeing embers tumbled from the sky. With a blast of heat, sound, and smoke, the fire was upon us. We squirmed into the rocks, poking our heads down pika holes for fresh air as smoke choked our lungs and embers burned holes in our cotton jeans and shirts.

Pushed by gusty winds, the flaming front passed quickly. But the danger lingered. A nearby tree burned through and its trunk collapsed. It came at us like a flaming sword, cleft the orange smoke in a blazing scarlet comet of sparks and embers. It crashed onto the rocks in the middle of our small group and exploded like an incendiary bomb, tossing shattered limbs and hot coals across our already charcoal-peppered backs. Fortunately, none of us was hit by the burning trunk, but a shattered limb broke one logger's arm.

An hour later, the man's arm held tightly to his torso by a makeshift bandage, our small firefighting crew stumbled out of the smoke looking like chimneysweeps from some Dickens novel. We scrambled through a blackened wasteland and up a defile in the cliffs to the top of Winter Rim. The fire formed a smoking arc below us as far as our eyes could see. Air tankers rumbled overhead and a helicopter pattered on the horizon. As we worked our way back to our rig's radio to call for medical help, we extinguished a couple small spot fires that had jumped the rim. We were a defeated and chagrined group. We felt guilty as hell.

A fire's aftermath

The Winter Rim Fire of 1966 was over 5,000 acres in size and Oregon's largest project fire of the year. And it was more. This man-caused wildfire was a signature event in the unraveling of the Fremont National Forest's ecosystem. The beginning of the end, it was prelude to a series of wildfires that culminated 36 years later in the Winter Fire of over 34,000 acres, the Toolbox Fire of over 49,000 acres, and the Silver Fire of over 21,000 acres in 2002.

Now, a generation and a half after I started my career as a forest guard, Winter Rim looks much different. The old-growth pine forests that Captain John C. Fremont and Kit Carson first reported as they camped on Winter Rim and at Summer Lake in the winter of 1843-44 and I first saw in the summer of 1966 are gone.

Climate change has played a role in these much larger and more devastating fires that are transforming our world. The forests burned by the Winter Rim Fire of 1966 were replanted, but they too later succumbed to wildfire because we continued doing our duty as forest guards all too well. Above the Rim, to the north and west, the massive well-managed pine forests once owned by Weyerhaeuser fell to the chainsaw. This left plantations of young pine rich in brushy fuels that carry fire faster and easier than towering, fire-resistant, old-growth ponderosa pine.

For almost a century forest guards successfully kept fire out of these forests. Our temporary ability to extinguish thousands

of small lightning fires that dominated the ecosystem of thousands of years allowed forest fuels to accumulate. This set the stage for the much larger fires becoming the norm in this twenty-first century of an ever-warming world.

We have learned our lesson, but now seem to lack the ability to correct our mistakes. The mills in Paisley and Klamath Falls are gone, the loggers are gone, and now with the unraveling of our financial system our federal budget is disappearing as well. With all three goes our ability to correct our mistakes.

Historically and scientifically we all have 20/20 hindsight vision. We know now that we did wrong, but have neither the will nor the wherewithal to make it right. We are challenged to assemble the resources to thin, let alone understory burn our remaining legacy. Today's Winter Rim stands as brushy tombstone testament to our mistakes.

Perhaps, on that hot August 1966 afternoon, from that Winter Rim cliff top some 45 long years ago, I really did witness the beginning of the end.

Editor's Note: Jon went on to a U.S. Forest Service career in fire management and public affairs after earning degrees in history and journalism, working on the small-town Tuscola Journal in central Illinois, and serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal. After retiring from the Forest Service in 2005, he became probably the OldSmokeys' leading long-distance walker by completing the Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, the Great Divide Trail in Canada, and several other lesser treks including the Long Trail the length of New Hampshire this past fall. His 2010 book, Pilgrimage to the Edge: The Pacific Crest Trail and the U.S. Forest Service, was reviewed in the Fall 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

My First Job in the Forest Service Stories Coming in Future Issues...

Stories in the queue for publication in the *My First Forest Service Job* section of the next several editions of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* (and the year in which each story occurred) are:

- *Toiyabe Rookie* by Les Joslin (1962)
- *The Product of a Federal Agency I Knew Nothing About* by Gordon Schmidt (1966)
- *How Much Can You Learn in Two Months?* By Kathy Manning Geyer (1971)
- *Go West Young Man, Go West* by John Marker (1955)
- *TSI Crew at Fort Valley, Arizona* by Fred Henley (1955)

OldSmokeys are Encouraged to Submit My First Job Stories for Publication

There are more ways to have started out in this Outfit than there are OldSmokeys, so every first job story is unique.

Your story is needed for publication in the *My First Forest Service Job* series and for the planned book. So sit down, think back, write your story, and send it in to Les Joslin attached to an e-mail addressed to <lesjoslin@aol.com> or hard copy addressed to 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.



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Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104th Avenue, off Canyon Road, just east of Highway 217, at 11:00 a.m.

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