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Northern Region

News

Photo by K. Wattenmaker

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 3

Summer 2000

A Message from the Regional Forester

This has been an unprecedented fire season. People use 1910 as a benchmark in fire history, but in years to come 2000 will be another fire year that people will look at and measure against.

As of August 22, large fires were burning on over 800,000 acres in the Northern Rockies. The fire season has affected the entire Northern Region, most employees, and many retirees. Especially hard hit is the Bitterroot National Forest, with over 288,000 acres burned.

A total of 10,842 people are now involved in the fire fighting effort in Montana and northern Idaho. That number includes the Task Force Lumberjacks, made up of soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. We were also lucky to get a contingent from the Montana National Guard and experienced leadership from Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

I am proud of the outstanding job all of you are doing. It is a stressful time for the public and for employees. In our work with communities, we need to emphasize that we are witnessing catastrophic fires. When you look at the economic and social effects, we can't consider them "good fires."

Although you are focused on the matter at hand, which is fire suppression and dealing with the public's immediate concerns, I do want us to be thinking ahead to when the worst of the fire season is over.

We should be part of the healing process, working with other agencies and groups within our communities to restore and recover. During the winter months we will continue our deliberations on how to make our forests less susceptible to fires.

Again, I wish to thank all of you for your performance under pressure. I know we will continue to pull together after the fire season as we have during this crisis.

Dale Bosworth

1910 FIRE

- 2,595,635 acres of National Forest System land burned
- Most affected was northern Idaho and western Montana
- small Montana towns of Taft, DeBorgia, Haugan, and Tuscior completely destroyed, along with 1/3 town of Wallace, Idaho
- total of 85 lives lost



Shoshone National Forest. It runs from Red Lodge to Cooke City, Montana, and the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park. CBS's Charles Kuralt called it America's "most beautiful roadway."

The Department of Transportation administers two national road designation programs, the National Scenic Byways and the most prestigious All American Roads.

The department announced that five other roads on National Forest System lands

received All-American Road or National Scenic Byway status. They include the Seward All-American Road, Alaska; Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway, Georgia; North Shore Scenic Drive All-American Road, Minnesota; Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, New Mexico; and Hells Canyon Scenic Byway All-American Road, Oregon.

An updated video program on the Beartooth Highway, produced by Gene Colling with R-1's Regional Office, is available for loan through the Forest Service Video Library, c/o Audience Planners, telephone 1-800-683-8366, fax: 818-865-1327.

The Beartooth Highway

The Beartooth Highway has achieved the highest landmark designation awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Secretary of Transportation announced it is now an "All-American Road," considered the country's finest byways - the best of the best. The roads are recognized for their important scenic, natural, historical, cultural, archaeological or recreational qualities.

The Beartooth Scenic Byway is a 69-mile road located within the Custer National Forest and Region 2's

The Story of the Rainbow Family Gathering

*by Buck Feist, information officer
2000 Rainbow Incident Team*

Ever had unexpected family members show up during the holidays? How about 23,000 of them?

About that many people arrived for the National Rainbow Family 2000 gathering on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest the first week of July. The site selected was about 10 miles west of Jackson, Montana—population 48.

Forest employees were involved as well, especially staff in resource protection work. Almost daily, Deb Gale, resource specialist with the Wisdom Ranger District, and others were in the camp, showing the Rainbows where to park cars, set up structures, and conduct activities in ways that would have less long-term impact. Family members were generally receptive to these suggestions.

The population of the group fell off sharply after July 4. By that weekend about 90 percent of the group had left the Saginaw Creek area. About 50 family members remained until August 1 in an attempt to rehabilitate the subalpine meadow area where the gathering was held.

The Rainbow Family, who claim to have no leaders, consistently refuse to apply for the noncommercial, large group use permit required for gatherings of more than 75 people. They claim the requirement violates their constitutional right to assemble. This year, three members of the family were cited for failure to obtain a permit. They face up to 6 months in jails, and fines of up to \$5,000, if convicted.

To learn more about the Rainbow Family, visit the Beaverhead-Deerlodge website, www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d and select the Rainbow icon, or visit their unofficial website, www.welcomehome.org/.



Family members at welcome center

Roadless Areas:

"A Unique and Valuable Resource"

Over the past several months, many Northern Region employees have been heavily involved with the proposal for roadless area conservation. The proposed rule would provide criteria to determine how the Forest Service would manage and use inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas, and it would put in place a prohibition on the construction of new roads.

This spring staff hosted over 60 public meetings across the Northern Region where employees offered information and gathered comment on the proposal.

"Public interest in the issue comes as no surprise," stated Regional Forester Dale Bosworth. "Public lands are valued by people who want them preserved, by people who want to use them, by people who make living from them, and by people who just want to know they are there."

Inventoried roadless areas comprise only about two percent of the total land base in the United States. The small number of acres takes on a greater importance because they are among the last of the nation's large, undisturbed landscapes.

"These lands provide clean, clear water," commented Bosworth. "They serve as important habitat for rare plant and animal species. They contribute to the American economy through products and jobs. They are increasingly unique and valuable."

"One of my fears," Bosworth said, "is that one day we would end up with everything being either roaded or wilderness. I think these roadless areas provide something in between. The proposed rule gives us some common sense approaches toward conserving this special natural resource."

A final decision on the proposal is expected late this year.

Unsupervised 4-Wheelers Do Repair Work

by Jack de Golia, public affairs officer
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Two families learned the hard way that driving all-terrain vehicles in a national forest means taking responsibility for the results of that driving.

Over the Memorial Day holiday, two families camped together along the West Fork of the Madison River, about 40 miles south of Ennis. While the adults visited, four of the boys in the two families went off on four-wheelers. Unbeknownst to their parents, the boys, ages 9 to 11, decided to do some hill climbing near their campsite.

This part of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is open only to motorized travel on designated trails and roads. Richard King, a Forest Service law enforcement officer, happened by, saw the damage, and talked to the parents. He also reported the problem to Madison District Ranger Mark Petroni.

"After I took a look at the damage, it was clear we were looking at about \$500 of work to avoid having spring rains and runoff create horrendous gullies," Petroni said. He also wanted to prevent others from following the trails the boys made. Petroni gave the families two options: pay to have the damage repaired or do the rehabilitation work themselves.

Both families were eager to cooperate. "They offered to bring their kids back to do the work," Petroni stated. "They not only acknowledged their children's error, but held them responsible for correcting it. It was a great lesson for those boys."

Petroni commented that while the Forest Service doesn't generally prosecute children under 16, it can hold parents responsible financially, whether for putting out a fire or repairing vehicle damage. He also said parents need to know the laws governing vehicle use for underage drivers.

Petroni emphasized that drivers must comply with state law to operate on either trails or roads. Trail vehicles must be fully "street legal" and drivers on roads open to cars and trucks must be licensed. In addition, all-terrain vehicles need a state sticker allowing their use on Forest Service trails, and must carry a bucket, shovel, and spark arrestor.

River Ranger Saves Rafters

by Kathy Thompson, public affairs assistant
Clearwater National Forest

Linda Hagedorn stood along the north bank of the Lochsa River 42 miles east of Kooskia, camera ready, waiting for the next boaters to come into view. It was early June, a year ago, and the white water was running loud and fast.

Suddenly she spotted two people clinging to an overturned raft in a rapid, rocketing downstream. In moments she and private boaters attempted rescue. That attempt failed. Linda rushed to her pickup and headed down U.S. Highway 12.

Two more stops, two more failed rescue attempts. Once again Linda rushed to her pickup. At the next stop she teamed up with boaters on shore to pull a man and teenage boy to safety, then administered first aid for hypothermia.

"The neat thing about the rescue," said Linda, "was it involved a whole lot of people." Helping were a couple from West Virginia who pulled off the highway at the rescue site and got out blankets to cover the shivering man and his stepson; a guy on a motorcycle who brought back a rope left at one of the rescue attempt sites upriver; and private boaters who kicked into rescue mode as if on automatic pilot.



Left to right - Wild and Scenic River administrator Lisa Klinger presenting Linda Hagedorn a plaque for her "quick response to two individuals in a life-threatening situation."

Linda is a river ranger for the Slate Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, assigned seasonal duty on the Salmon River. From May to June she's on loan to the Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, for duty during the Lochsa River whitewater season.

For her efforts in this rescue, Linda garnered the Regional Forester's Honor Award for Emergency Response for her "quick response to two individuals in a life-threatening situation."

Respect earned, an honor awarded, two grateful souls saved. Not bad for one day's work in the life of Linda Hagedorn, river ranger.

"Star Spangled Banner" Raised in Honor of Lewis and Clark

by Jack de Golia, public affairs officer
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

A ceremony was held July 6 at the USDA Service Center in Dillon to raise the 15-star, 15-stripe flag that was the national banner during the Lewis & Clark Expedition's travels from 1804-1806. The center houses the Supervisor's Office for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The historic flag was flown from July 6 through July 11, marking the period in 1806 when William Clark and part of the Corps of Discovery traveled back through Beaverhead County, on their return trip.

The flag will be flown again August 8 through 26, to commemorate the Corps' 1805 visit to the county, as the expedition was westbound toward the Pacific Ocean.



"At Lemhi" by Robert F. Morgan, courtesy Montana Historical Society Museum.

The plan is to fly the flag each year through 2006 during these two times when the expedition passed through Beaverhead County.

The flag was later dubbed the "Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key, during the War of 1812. It is unique among U.S. flags for having more than 13 stripes.

It wasn't until 1818 that Congress fixed the number of stripes on the national flag at 13, and ordered that a star be added each time a state joined the Union. When Lewis & Clark came through Beaverhead County, there were 18 states, though the flag had just 15 stars.



Joni Packard

replaces George Weldon, who moved in February to the Lewis & Clark National Forest as deputy forest supervisor.

Joni came to the Helena from the Tongass National Forest in Alaska where she had served since 1992 as the recreation staff officer for the Juneau Ranger District and the Admiralty National Monument. She had responsibili-

New Ranger on the Townsend District

*by Kimberly Landl,
public affairs specialist
Helena National Forest*

Joni Packard arrived June 18 as the new ranger for the Townsend Ranger District, Helena National Forest. She

ties for all recreation programs and planning for over 3.5 million acres of National Forest System lands. She was also responsible for 160 miles of trails and the planning and management of district roads and facilities.

Packard started her career with the Forest Service working seasonally in Washington and Alaska. She also held a variety of positions in the National Marine Fisheries Service. Prior to joining the Forest Service, Joni worked in the private sector as a business and marketing consultant.

Joni has a B.A. degree in zoology from the University of Washington. She enjoys canoeing and other outdoor recreation.

Pittman is New Assistant Director for PGR

Maggie Pittman is the new assistant director for R-1's Public and Governmental Relations unit. Maggie comes to the Regional Office from the Helena National Forest where she was the public affairs and administrative officer. She replaces Dale Dufour, who retired in December 1999.

Maggie began her Forest Service career in 1977 at Mount St. Helens on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest where she worked in trails and recreation. She graduated from the forestry school at the University of Montana in 1982. Pittman worked as a forester on the Lolo and Gallatin National Forests prior to moving to Helena in 1991.

In addition to public affairs and administration, Maggie's career has been a mix of recreation, engineering, and timber functions, with a smattering of range and minerals included. Her passion lies in the "people side" of resource management, looking for ways to communicate effectively about the work that we do. An avid bicyclist and hiker, Maggie also enjoys fiber arts, rock and roll, and old time music.

Maggie's family includes her husband, Dan, a forest consultant, and their two boys, Matthew, 12 and Will, 10.



Maggie Pittman

Cheryle Miller Joins NPS at Bryce Canyon

*by Laura Smith, public affairs assistant
Nez Perce National Forest*

Cheryle Miller, former employee relations specialist for the Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office, accepted a position with the National Park Service at Bryce Canyon, Utah. She began her new job as personnel management specialist in March.

Miller started her Forest Service career in November 1987 as a receptionist at the Lassen National Forest in California. Other positions include: personnel clerk, Plumas National Forest, CA, 1988-89; personnel management specialist, Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan, Alaska, 1989-90; personnel management specialist, Nez

Perce National Forest, 1990-98, and employee relations specialist, 1998-2000.

For Cheryle, the highlight of her career with the Nez Perce was as Federal Women's Program manager for the Human Resource Team from 1993-1994. She was instrumental in helping start the annual "Bring Your Child To Work Day" and "Women's History Day," as well as establishing an up-to-date library for the Federal Women's Program.

"The Park Service couldn't have selected a more qualified candidate. Their gain is a tremendous loss to Nez Perce forest and the Forest Service," said Julia L. O'Neill, personnel officer, North Idaho Personnel Zone.

Clearwater Partnership Gets National Rise to Future Award

By Kathy Thompson, information assistant
Clearwater National Forest

Employees of the Clearwater National Forest Road Obliteration Program and the Nez Perce Tribe fisheries/watershed program took national honors among nearly 20 nominees for their accomplishments in restoring watersheds on Clearwater National Forest lands in the past year. Their combined efforts have accelerated watershed recovery across those lands since 1997 when they began to work together in two major drainages.

Several members of the partnership team traveled to Washington, D.C., in April to be recognized for their work. They received the "Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship" award of the Forest Service's "Rise to the Future" fisheries program.

Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck presented the group with the award and a certificate of appreciation from representatives of fisheries organizations, including

Trout Unlimited, the American Sportfishing Association, and the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

The Forest Service-Tribal watershed restoration work includes obliteration of roads subject to failure or erosion, fencing of land to keep grazing cattle out of fragile riparian areas, stabilizing streambanks, planting in riparian areas, replacing failing culverts, and

removing barriers to fish passage.

Clearwater National Forest employees who work in the road obliteration program include Anne Connor, Christine Bradbury, Brian Hensley, Brooks Beegle, Richard Jones, Guy Chislett, Skip Stonesifer, and on-the-ground crews. Nez Perce Tribe fisheries program employees are Ira Jones, Emmitt Taylor, Felix McGowan, Jack Yearout, Heidi McRoberts, and members of work crews.



Left to right, front row: Annie Connor, Chief Mike Dombeck, and Jaime Pinkham; back row: Christine Bradbury, Ira Jones, Felix McGowan, Emmitt Taylor, and Jack Yearout.

Regional Honor Awards Presented

The Regional Forester's Honor Awards were presented at the Regional Leadership Team meeting in Missoula on April 12. Recipients include:

Safety

Dave Diezger, Missoula Technology and Development Center (previously with the RO Engineering staff) for his significant quality improvements to the Region's Defensive Driving Program and the Driver/Operator Testing and Qualifications Program.

Tammy Glen, Bonner's Ferry Ranger District, IPNF, for her significant commitment and improvements to the safety and health program on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District.

Emergency Response

Linda Hagedorn, Nez Perce National Forest, for her quick response to two individuals in a life-threatening situation while performing her duties as River Ranger.

Environmental Protection

Bruce Anderson, Nez Perce National Forest, for his leadership in developing an integrated noxious weeds program for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Personal and Professional Excellence

David L. Turner, Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest, for his significant contributions to the documentation and preservation of the history of the Mann Gulch Fire of August 5, 1949.

Outstanding Lands Work Recognized



RMLH&W director Gary Morrison and three of this year's Lands award recipients: From left to right, Gary Morrison, Gina Gabagan, Susan Newell, and Dan Smiley. Photo by Brenda Nipp.

by Scott Bixler, realty specialist
Regional Office

This year, four individuals were recognized at the R-1 Lands Program Officers' meeting for their outstanding contributions to the Northern Region's real estate management program. The awards were presented in Great Falls

during the annual Lands meeting.

Recipient of this year's Lands Director's award was **Gina Gabagan**, legal documents examiner, Gallatin National Forest, for her consistent excellence, professionalism, and personal commitment in the consummation of the Big Sky Lumber Company (Gallatin Land Consolidation) and Royal Teton Ranch projects.

Susan Newell, realty specialist, Custer National Forest, received a Lands Special Achievement Award for her pro-active role in land adjustments, specifically the RMEF-Baertsch and Cave Hills Cattle Company purchases.

Roylene Gaul, legal assistant, Bitterroot National Forest, was presented with the Land Uses Special Achievement Award for her efforts while serving as Regional Special Uses Database System (SUDS) coordinator and her willingness to tackle difficult issues such as wilderness dams, ditch bill easements, and water rights.

Dan Smiley, lands program officer, Flathead National Forest, received a Lands Special Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership and support for the Regional Lands program. Dan's willingness to serve as the team leader for the Special Use Service Team on the Flathead National Forest exemplified his continuing concern for lands issues.

Districts Receive Governor's Award

By Deb Bond, Libby Ranger District
Kootenai National Forest



The Libby and Three Rivers Ranger Districts received awards presented by Montana Governor Marc Racicot from the Kootenai Valley Headstart for "Outstanding Community Support."

For the past four years, the districts have worked with preschoolers to plant trees. District staff members visit local schools throughout the school year to talk about forests, trees and wood products and help them celebrate wildflower week.

Another successful conservation education program has been the "Tree Trunk," a learning lab developed by Kootenai forest employees.

It was on loan to the Libby School district this spring. The trunk contains books about trees and forests, forestry field equipment, cones, tree slices or "cookies," posters, audio cassettes and a user guide.

Local teachers have integrated lessons on forest ecology into their curriculum, which has helped district foresters who visit the pre-schools, elementary schools and the middle school during the school year. The Forest Service employees are excited about the students' knowledge of forests and their enthusiasm to learn more.

R-1 Volunteers Receive Chief's Award

Region One is the proud winner of five of the Chief's National Awards for Volunteerism. The following people or groups were presented with this prestigious award:

Individual Volunteer Service

Bob Madden, Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest, has served the Beartooth District for the past two years as the livestock packer and caretaker for the Meyers Creek Ranger Station. His horsemanship, packing, and primitive skills served hundreds of wilderness visitors. He demonstrated true professionalism and presented an image of the Forest Service that our customers noticed and respected. Bob rode hundreds of miles and packed many loads of gear in and out of the wilderness to support our trail maintenance and wilderness ranger crews in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Sponsored Volunteer Service

The **Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club**, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Bitterroot National Forest, is a group that made significant contributions to the development and maintenance of the Lost Trail Pass/Chief Joseph Pass Ski Area over the past 10 years. They played an important role in helping the Forest Service



Left to right: Bob Madden accepts volunteer award from Beartooth District Ranger Rand Herzberg.

provide free public access to high quality groomed ski trails, which has boosted the economies of the local communities and added to the quality of life of local residents. The club groomed and cleared trails, maintained the Chief Joseph parking lot and visitor facilities, developed ski trail maps and a "learn-to-ski" program, and constructed a warming hut at Chief Joseph Pass.

The **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center Volunteer Corp**, Lewis & Clark National Forest, provide crucial services that benefit center visitors, advance public understanding of the Forest Service mission and encourage volunteerism. Since the center opened in 1998, more than 150 volunteers have provided over 28,000 hours of service. These hours have permitted Forest Service staff to broaden programming and provide quality services. Volunteers have provided many skills – office support, creating elaborate databases for tracking visitation statistics, landscaping, and researching, developing, and presenting varied interpretive programs.

The **Salmon Mountain Lookout Volunteers**, Bitterroot National Forest, is an organization that coordinates the logistics, scheduling, and staffing of the Salmon Mountain Lookout. The lookout is located in the center of the Frank Church-River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas. It is 80 miles to the nearest stores, medical care, and services down a rough 4x4 road. Since 1985, the Salmon Mountain Lookout Volunteers have staffed the lookout 24 hours a day for three months each year, providing fire detection and monitoring. They also provide a critical "after hours" communication safety link for Federal, State, and local employees and public users working and recreating in the two wilderness areas.

Youth Volunteer Service

The **Big Sky High School Watershed/Road Reconnaissance Team**, Lolo National Forest, was comprised of a high school science teacher Andrea Stevens, and ten of her students. This energetic group found, measured, inventoried, photographed, and assessed stream, forest road, and culvert locations and conditions in the Lolo Creek and Dunham Creek watersheds (over 130 square miles of watershed). The team completed reliable work that placed the Lolo forest in a position to better understand existing road conditions and plan watershed restoration projects accordingly.

Custer Celebrates Good Report Card

By Buck Feist, forest supervisor's assistant,
Custer National Forest

What happened if you threw a party, and no one came? That certainly wasn't the case during the Custer National Forest's barbeque, held on the evening of May 18. The evening's festivities were the culmination of the successful Regional Forester's General Management Review (GMR) held across the forest earlier that week. These forest reviews, which focus on management and leadership, are held about every four years.

The setting was the shores of Lake Elmo State Park in Billings. The weather was perfect, and a host of retirees, including former Custer Forest Supervisors Curt Bates and Dan MacIntyre, gathered to share freshly grilled steaks with Regional Forester Dale Bosworth, members of the GMR team, and members of the Forest Leadership Team, including Forest Supervisor Nancy Curriden.

"This barbeque was a chance for the GMR team to meet with folks who have an interest in National Forest



Right to left: Regional Forester Dale Bosworth presents award to Tom Alt and Gary Grocholski.

System lands, and to renew our affiliations with members of the local community and retirees," Curriden said.

"We really had a great turn-out," she added, "with representatives from the Crow Tribe, local interest groups, and the newly-elected Northern Cheyenne Tribal Chair Joe Walksalong and his wife attending."

About 70 people attended the event and were there as Regional Forester Bosworth presented Custer Forest volunteers Gary Grocholski and Tom Alt with awards "for their untiring efforts in support of the Custer's Conservation Education Program."

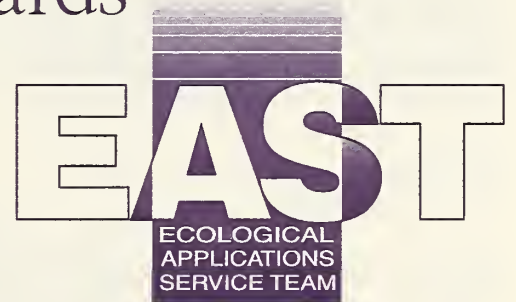
EAST Team Wins Two Awards

by Greg Enstrom, research forester
Ecological Applications Service Team

The Ecological Applications Service Team (EAST), hosted by the Northern Region, recently won two awards for poster design.

EAST is a consortium of federal and non-federal personnel involved in landscape ecology research, development, and applications activities. Five Forest Service employees and a network of cooperators work in research activities important to decision-makers in land management involved in ecological assessments and ecosystem management.

The team submitted posters for competition at the Intermountain GIS Users' Conference. Over 350 individuals attended the event, all with interests in geographic information technologies. Participants came



from a broad cross-section of businesses, universities, organizations, and state, federal, and local governments throughout the West.

There were two categories in the professional division; the team won first place in both. The entry titled "Footprints on Federal Lands: Modeling of Human Use on National Forests in Western Montana" won for best cartographic design. "How Wide Is My Valley?," a depiction of a computer program process that automates data on valley bottom settings in the Rocky Mountains, won first place for best poster display.

Mann Gulch Fire - History Becomes Real for Students

*excerpted from a story by Sherry Devlin,
of the Missoulian*

The assignment began as a book report. Read *Young Men and Fire*. It ended as a lesson in the frailty of life and the strength of memory.

"It got real," said Stephanie Abraham, one of 27 Helena High School students who read Norman Maclean's account of the Mann Gulch fire, then wrote their own testaments to the 13 young men who died in a canyon above the Missouri River 50 years ago this summer.

In pairs, the students researched the young men, interviewing friends, relatives and co-workers. They learned that Eldon Diettert, a Missoula boy, left his birthday dinner to fight the fire. He was 18.

As the class project grew, the students collected oral histories, produced a multimedia show of remembrances, and secured a National Register of Historic Places designation for Mann Gulch. On March 24, they buried a time capsule of letters, obituaries and personal belongings at the National Wildland Firefighter Memorial in Missoula.

Fire Education...

Smokey Quilt Comes to RO

*by MaryAlice Stoner, education specialist
RO-Fire, Aviation and Fire*

The quilt that was displayed in Washington, D.C. for Smokey's 50th birthday is hanging in the Regional Forester's office. The idea for the quilt developed from a discussion in 1994 with Region 6 and IPNF employees Wally Huff, Grady Meyers, and Sandy Groth.

Sandy, Grady, and Wally used a Smokey poster as a concept to guide the design of the quilt. They worked with a local designer of stage backdrops, Penny Nelson of Post Falls, Idaho, to bring the concept to reality.

The quilt took over 500 hours of labor to construct, along with 50,000 yards of thread, and hundreds of yards of materials from Idaho, California, Montana, Arizona, Washington, and New York.



Helena High School students participate in ceremony at National Wildland Firefighter Memorial on the grounds of the Aerial Fire Depot.

"We want people to know this story 50 years from now, on the 100th anniversary of Mann Gulch," Abraham said after the time capsule was buried and capped with a granite marker. "I want to come back here when I'm 70 years old and remember what I learned during my last year in high school."

Jack Harrison, whose brother James died at Mann Gulch, was grateful for the students' interest. "It is really gratifying to note that 50 years after this happened, these kids got involved in the story," he said. "They never met my brother, but it feels like they know him."



Bertie Pearson, executive assistant to the Regional Forester, poses in front of quilt.

The quilt is being displayed in the Regional Office to highlight the Region's Fire Conservation Education program.

Fishing Derby Celebrates Kids – and Fish

by Carolyn Wren, fishery biologist
Nez Perce National Forest

It was a cold and rainy day out at Wilkins Pond for the annual Free Fishing Derby this year. However, a total of 79 staunch young fisherpersons braved the weather to partake in the activities, in conjunction with National Fishing Week.

The Clearwater Ranger District organized this year's derby with additional help from Cottonwood Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Jeff Wilkins family once again generously donated their pond for the day's event. The Grangeville Sunrise Lion's Club provided free hot dogs and soda, with much appreciated hot coffee also available.

Even though Fish and Game had stocked the pond with approximately 100+ hatchery rainbow trout, the kids were only able to bring in a total of 21 fish. However, Grangeville businesses had generously donated lots of prizes and each kid was given a free gift, so no one went home empty handed.

Top award winners included: *Ages up to 8*: Largest Fish: Joshua Seloske (son of Nez Perce National Forest employee Garry Seloske), Grangeville, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Smallest Fish: Michael Mazingo, Grangeville, 8 oz.; Casting Contest: Luke Dammerman, Orofino, 1st place and Michelle Oja, Grangeville, 2nd place. *Ages 9-12*: Largest Fish: JD Schmidt, Grangeville, 1 lb. 12 oz.; Smallest Fish: Collette Cuadra, Grangeville, 8 oz.;



From left to right: Matt, Abby, and Luke Silveria display their catches at the Free Fish Derby.

Photo courtesy of Idaho County Free Press.

Casting Contest: Tiffany Graves, Grangeville, 1st place, and Kelsy Wilkins, Grangeville, 2nd place.

This year's educational events featured *gyotaku* or fish printing. The process involves applying ink to a (dead!) fish and then pressing the fish onto paper. It was something new for the kids and they really enjoyed it. They also learned about the habitat and life history of the specific fish they painted. In addition, they discussed fishing ethics and conservation.

A total of 47 local merchants supported this year's fishing derby, which reflects the widespread community involvement in this popular event.

Kids Celebrate Wildflowers

by Scott Laughlin, information assistant
Livingston Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest

This May, a whopping 528 children participated in the Livingston Ranger District's "Celebrating Wildflowers Week" poster contest. It is an annual event sponsored by the district for local elementary schools as a way to promote and educate students in conservation. It is a community effort with prizes donated from many local businesses.



The participants were from nine different schools and home schools. The grand champions received a tee shirt with their drawing on it, plus top grade awards. The top individuals of each grade (kindergarten through 5th) received a ribbon, a plant, wildflower book, and a wildflower magnet.

Over the years, the contest has proved a popular outreach activity for district staff to connect with children and the local schools.



by Kathy Sweet, Pintler Ranger District
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

This year, the goal for Earth Day for the Pintler Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, was to work with partners to teach kids more about fish.

At Philipsburg Elementary School, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) presented two programs on bull trout, a threatened species. It included a 17-minute bull trout recovery video designed for kids. MFWP then talked about dams and their effects on fisheries; taught children to identify trout in Montana; played a fish card game with the kids; instructed kids how to release fish; and taught water safety practices to the kids.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge forest staff set up five stations on knot tying, casting, fish anatomy, fish painting, and fly tying. MFWP provided two aquatic trunks for teachers and students to use during the first two weeks of April. The items in these trunks may be used for lessons and may provide ideas for the poster contest.

The forest also sponsored an Earth Day poster contest for grades K-6. The theme was "The Stream Scene." Children based their posters on ideas from the "Habitat" section of MFWP's activity guide, which include: basic needs of fish in streams, habitat in a stream, how streams get polluted, and how humans impact streams and how this affects fish.

The forest presented ribbons to the winners. The top two posters from each class which most creatively addressed the focus areas received a special prize: hand-tied wooly bugger flies and Swedish gummy fish candy! All posters were displayed in downtown windows for one week following the Earth Day program.

Pintler Ranger District staff who participated in the events include employees Joyce Cummings, Steve Gerdes, Joe Harper, Heidi Hinkle, Wendy LaBahn, Gina Mickelson, Kathy Sweet, and Joan Williams, as well as volunteers Anita Harper and Jed Hinkle.

Going After Noxious Weeds in the Wilderness

Float-boaters, horse-packers, and hikers may have seen individuals involved in noxious weed suppression in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness this summer. Pulling out all the stops, employees are using an aggressive program that includes herbicide application, hand-pulling, and biological control measures.

Around 2,000 acres of noxious weeds have been inventoried in this wilderness area. Of the greatest concern are rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, Dyer's woad, sulphur cinquefoil, and Scotch thistle.

The project is designed to protect about half a million acres which have been identified as susceptible to noxious weed infestation. Past weed management efforts on private land adjacent to the wilderness, particularly at Mackay Bar on the Main Salmon River, offer encouragement for effective control of weed species.

Because weeds do not recognize administrative boundaries, the Forest Service is improving its coordination with other land managers. "A spotted knapweed plant doesn't care if it's growing on Forest Service land, BLM land, or private ground. All it cares about is that it has suitable habitat," says Andy Klimek, noxious weed

coordinator for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The agency is also enlisting the support of outside partners. "The need to protect over 500,000 acres of wildlands from noxious weed infestation has brought a diverse group of people together united by a common cause," says Ken Wotring, wilderness coordinator for the Salmon-Challis National Forest. "Whether folks are float-boaters or jetboaters, pilots, hikers, or hunters they are getting involved in wilderness weed management."

Current partners include private landowners, the Student Conservation Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Western White Water, the National Outdoor Leadership School, and the Idaho Aviator Association. Partners have provided treatment and monitoring work, funding and other resources, and staffing and logistical support.

For more information contact Ken Wotring, wilderness coordinator, Salmon-Challis National Forest, at 208-756-5100 or Bruce Anderson, resource specialist, Nez Perce National Forest, at 208-839-2211.

Retirements

Fred Dalbec, Helena National Forest engineer, retired March 3. Fred had 32 years of federal service, 29 with the Forest Service. He worked for the Deerlodge National Forest, 1971-75, Nez Perce National Forest, 1975-78, and the Helena National Forest, 1978-2000.

Fred and his wife Vernetta plan to build a house, and simply enjoy some free time. Then Fred plans to look for part-time work.

Ray Mills, forestry technician, Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, retired June 2, after 40 years with the Forest Service. Ray worked at the following locations: Sun River Ranger District, 1955-63; Teton Ranger District, 1964-78; and Rocky Mountain Ranger District, 1978-2000.

Ray plans to do some outfitting and lots of fishing.

Bill Sabo, computer technician with the Regional Office, retired July 1. He had 40 years of government service, 20 with the U.S. Air Force and 20 with the Forest Service.

Born in New York, Bill joined the Air Force in 1954. He served in Korea, Japan, and with the Air Commandoes in Viet Nam. He was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, when he retired in 1974 with the rank of staff sergeant. He moved to Missoula in 1977 and began working for the Forest Service in 1980.

Bill and his wife Barbara have a trip to Australia planned for next year to celebrate his "second" retirement.

Dave Scott, former fire management officer for the Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, retired February 29. He worked 27 years for the Forest Service at the following locations: Troy Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, 1973-77; Yaak Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, 1978-84; Chemult Ranger District, Winema National Forest, R-6, 1984-88; and Lincoln Ranger District, 1988-2000.

Dave plans to spend more time with his family at their new home in Missoula.

Charlie Scott Remembers

*By Lois Peterson, engineering data clerk
Nez Perce National Forest*

Charlie (or Chuck, as he is also called) Scott came to work for the Forest Service because of a sympathetic clerk in the Selective Service office. It was 1962 and Charlie was feeling bad that he had been rejected for military duty because of injuries from a car accident. The woman behind the desk saw how disappointed he was and suggested he look into another line of government work. "What about the Forest Service?" she said. That summer he began fighting fires for the Slate Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest.

After 37 years he still has a clear memory of the first day on the job. He was feeling nervous and inexperienced, wondering if he could do the work. The supervisory ranger called the crew together, along with Charlie, and made it very clear that they were all responsible for Charlie's success. In order for the unit to be effective, he said, it was up to all of them to teach the new recruit what he needed to know to do the job well and to do it safely. "His words still ring in my ears," Charlie remembers.

Charlie grew up in the Los Angeles area as a member of the Tongva Tribe, also known as the Tontos. He moved to Idaho in the 1950's where he began work for the Forest Service. Part way through his career, Charlie made a big job switch from fighting fires to administering timber sales, where he remained until retirement on April 1.

As for something to do in retirement, Charlie said he might write a book. He and his wife Janis are interested in the history of the Idaho County area, its Native American influences and culture. They also would like to start making silver jewelry. Charlie's co-workers presented him with a silver ingot as a retirement present to launch him and Janis into their new craft.

To Charlie it was a privilege to work for the Forest Service. "This has been my family for so long. I've met a lot of people who have that little flame that keeps the candle lit. But I can't hold on to the apron strings; it's time to move on."



Charlie Scott

In Memoriam

Donald Lee Biddison died May 3 of multiple myeloma at his Lewiston, Idaho, home. He was 70.

Biddison was born and raised in California. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1950-1952, he graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in forestry. Biddison then worked for the U.S. Forest Service in several locations in California until 1963.

Other positions in the Forest Service include: district ranger, McCloud Ranger District, near Redding, CA, 1963-67; fire management officer, Lassen National Forest, Susanville, CA, 1967-68; assistant to the deputy chief of the Forest Service, Recreation Management, Washington, D.C., 1968-70; forest supervisor, Arapaho National Forest, CO, 1970-73; special assistant to the division chief, Recreation and Lands, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO, 1973-74; forest supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, ID, 1974-82; director, Recreation, Wilderness, and Lands, R-1 Regional Office, 1982-84.

Biddison retired in March 1984 and settled in Lewiston. Survivors include his wife Joan, daughter Judy Felgenhauer, and son Jim.

Timothy "Stu" Burns, passed away March 23. Born in Red Lodge, MT, Stu entered the U.S. Army in 1950. He served with the 45th Infantry Division in Korea and was discharged in 1958 with the rank of sergeant first class.

With a degree in wildlife technology from Western Montana College, Stu began work for the Bitterroot National Forest, Darby, MT, in 1959. Other jobs include: assistant ranger, Sula Ranger District; district ranger, Sioux Ranger District, Custer National Forest, Camp Crook, SD; wildlife biologist, Bitterroot National Forest, 1971-75; assistant district ranger, Sheridan Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest, Sheridan, MT, 1975-88. He retired in 1988 after 34 years with the agency.

Stu is survived by his wife Judy, son Malcolm and daughter Kathy Miller.

Lila Cleveland, 73, of Hamilton, MT, died March 11 at her home. Born and raised in Hamilton, Lila was a Montana State University graduate. She worked for the Sula Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, for 35 years.

Philip Drake, 50, died July 11, in Boston after a long battle with cancer. He worked for the Engineering staff in the Regional Office as a land surveyor.

Originally from California, Phil had worked 26 years for the Forest Service. He began his government career in 1971 as a survey/engineering technician for the Inyo National Forest in California. He later worked for the Shasta-Trinity National Forests (R-5), Dixie National Forest (R-4), Fishlake National Forest (R-4), and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. He transferred to the Northern Region in 1991.

Phil is survived by his wife Marie, son Matt and daughter Jennie, all of Florence, MT.

Donald Grant, 57, of Hamilton, MT, passed away May 3 at his residence. Don was a Hamilton native. He worked for the Forest Service after high school as a civil engineering technician, surveying roads in the West Fork area. He later worked for the Ravalli County Road Department and the Ravalli Electric Cooperative.

Survivors include his wife Carol and sons Dustin and Andrew.

Elizabeth "Betty" Hope, 90, died February 17, in Hamilton, MT. She was employed for many years as a resource clerk for the Bitterroot National Forest. Betty retired in 1971.

Leroy "Frosty" Kirchner, 72, died March 16, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. Frosty was first employed by the Forest Service as a temporary in 1961. He secured career status the following year and worked as a forestry technician until 1989 at the Ninemile Ranger Station, Lolo National Forest.

Survivors include his wife Leora; sons Dennis, David, and Lloyd; and daughter Lorna Buss.

George Kinnick, 77, died March 1 at Cottonwood, ID. He worked for the Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, as a brush crew foreman and on fire suppression crews. He retired from the Forest Service August 24, 1985.

Terese Landon, 77, of Missoula, died March 22, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. Born in Cache, ID, Terese worked for over 19 years as a voucher examiner for the Administration unit in the Regional Office. She retired in October 1984.

Terese is survived by her husband Ira "Ike" Landon; sons Forrest and Randy; and daughter Nanette Preszler.

Charles "Chuck" Loucka, 87, died of cancer May 26, at his home on Kidder Ridge near Kooskia, ID. Born in Chicago, Chuck moved to Montana in the late 1950s where he started his career as a carpenter with the Clearwater National Forest at Powell, ID, and later in Orofino. He built many lookouts and bridges. Chuck's two favorite lookouts—Black Mountain and Eagle Mountain—were of his own design.

Loucka retired in 1979 and moved to Stites, ID. Survivors include his wife Mary, daughter Jill Richards, son John Loucka, stepsons, Larry and Jerry Flerchinger, and stepdaughter Sharon Murray.

Ray Miner, Jr., 74, of Libby, MT, died May 17 at his home. Born in Colusa, CA, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa and served in China. In 1952, he graduated from the University of California and began working for the Nez Perce National Forest in Grangeville, ID. In 1972 Ray transferred to the Kootenai National Forest in Libby. He retired in 1985.

Ray is survived by his wife Dorothea, sons John, Richard, and Dave, and daughter Susan.

Ruth Munden, 81, a retired Nez Perce National Forest employee, died of complications of asthma and congestive heart failure February 18 at her home in Mason, MI.

She was born in Flasher, ND. After her marriage to Dale Munden they lived in Riggins, Kooskia and Grangeville, ID. Ruth worked as an administrative assistant for the Nez Perce National Forest until her retirement in 1981.

Survivors include three sons: Donald Williams, Douglas Williams, and Michael Williams, stepson Donald Munden, and stepdaughter Joy Presley.

Thomas Pritchard, 67, died January 8, in Missoula. At the time of his retirement, Tom worked as a material handler at the Northern Rockies Fire Cache located at the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. Previous to that, he worked in the Regional Office mailroom. He had 26 years of service with the agency.

John Savochka, 78, of Stevensville, MT, died February 23. He was born in Cleveland, OH, and moved to Montana in 1937. He worked at Trapper Creek in the Civilian Conservation Corps before joining the Army during World War II. John served in Luzon in the Philippines, and in Hiroshima, Japan. He worked at various jobs in the Bitterroot Valley before his retirement.

John is survived by his wife Donna, son John, daughter Darlene, and stepsons Carter and Ron Mason.

Merlyn Umphenour, 70, died March 20 in Orofino, ID. He formerly worked for the Lochsa Ranger District in Kooskia, Idaho, as an engineer. Merlyn retired in 1988.

Jerald Watkins, 73, died May 6 of complications of leukemia at his Weippe, ID home. A native of Spokane, Watkins served in the U.S. Navy from 1944-46. He was discharged as a petty officer, second class. He worked for the Clearwater National Forest as a construction engineer from 1960-1983.

Survivors include his wife Georgia, son Ronald, and daughters Sherri and Karen.

Elsie Wescott, 85, passed away March 22 in Missoula. She worked at the Regional Office for 15 years.

A Note to Retirees

The *Northern Region News* is now electronic! If you have a computer and have the capability of receiving e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Simply fill out the form below and send it to: Gloria Weisgerber, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

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