



News Northern Region

No Swan Song for Trumpeters

By Kenda Kitchen, Helena National Forest

Four years ago a pair of trumpeter swans—the largest and rarest swans in the world with wingspans up to seven and a half feet—took residence in the ponds below Boumas' Post and Pole just east of Lincoln, Montana. The following spring, three swans arrived at the ponds, although only two remained through the summer.

In 2002, a pair returned only this time becoming territorial, chasing away the no-longer welcomed geese. When the pair returned this May, they constructed a nest on an island in one of the beaver ponds. On May 25 the female began brooding her clutch of four eggs.

On the morning of June 18, tragedy struck. The female swan was found dead in the Post and Pole yard. She had been electrocuted in a collision with an overhead powerline that resulted in a power outage. The clock inside the shop had stalled at 12:45 a.m., indicating several hours had passed since the female had been on the nest. With the eggs now more than two-thirds of the way into their 33-37 day incubation period, the embryos would be well developed and time was critical if they were to survive.

After a series of phone calls that cascaded from one contact to another, it was discovered that the Montana Waterfowl Foundation on the Flathead Reservation had a pair of trumpeter swans that had lost their clutch of eggs to ravens. The female had been sitting on an artificial egg, and hopes were that she would produce another clutch of eggs. But that had not happened. With this information a swift course of action followed.

With the use of an old wooden skiff that leaked profusely and a snow shovel as an oar, the eggs were rescued from the nest. They were carefully placed in a straw-filled bucket, covered with a heating pad, then driven approximately 50 miles to Clearwater Junction between Lincoln and Missoula where they were handed off to another driver.

After a couple of stops along the way to rehear the heating pad, the eggs finally arrived that afternoon at the Montana Waterfowl Foundation where they were temporarily placed in an incubator. That same evening when the unknowing surrogate mother left her nest to feed, her artificial egg was replaced with the four from Boumas' Ponds. Eleven days later—35 days after their biological mother began brooding the clutch—three of the four eggs hatched.

The cygnets remained with their surrogate parents until September 10, when they were captured, banded and returned to the ponds at Boumas' Post and Pole. That night the young cygnets were placed in a holding pen at the edge of the pond. The lone male, who had remained at the ponds throughout the summer, watched curiously.

Anticipating that it would take several days for the father and the young swans to bond (if in fact they did), the aggressiveness of the male the following morning suggested he had already assumed the role of parent and guardian. The cygnets were released that morning and eagerly swam to the male who proudly led his family further out into the pond (see photo above).

The Bouma ponds are quiet now beneath their winter layer of ice and snow. With fall rapidly approaching, the male led his young in their first short and awkward flight on October 13.

Just 10 days later, the three swans, following their fathers' lead, began their first winter migration. Their destination remains unknown at this time. One can only hope that with the return of spring, the male—with a new companion at his side—finds his way back to Boumas' Ponds and that one or more of his offspring follow his lead to claim the Blackfoot Valley as their summer home for generations to come. That in itself would be the most gratifying and rewarding recognition of success and achievement for all those individuals who played a role in saving the trumpeter swans at Boumas' ponds.



Rescuing the trumpeter swan eggs.

Editor's note: The male and two of the young swans were spotted by a biologist on November 11 on the National Elk Refuge outside Jackson, WY.

Message from the Regional Forester

The end of the year will soon be upon us, and what a year it has been. Fire dominated our summer with over 350,000 national forest acres burned in the Region. Unlike 2000, every unit experienced large fires, and often, many more than one fire. Very quickly the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation work was underway, while at the same time record numbers of fire payments were processed, and tools and equipment were refurbished. Despite the tremendous effort required to manage these events, we continued to work on our assigned regional targets and to do so safely. Thank you for your extra efforts!

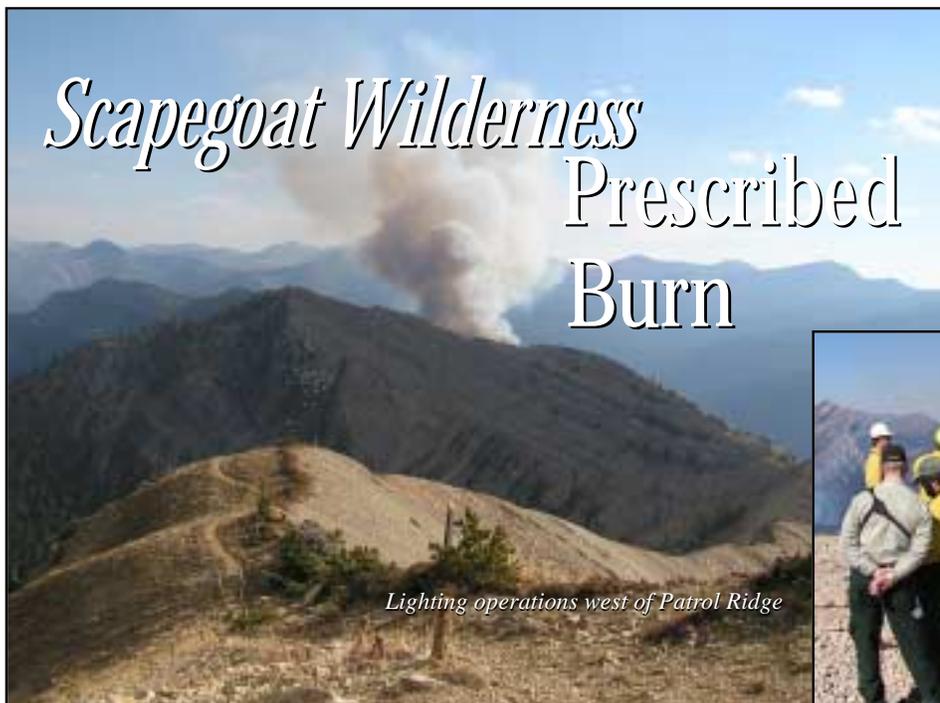
In this new fiscal year we will once again emphasize forest plan revisions, sound fi-

nancial health, National Fire Plan activities, and public health and safety. Two of these elements include fire preparedness and response as well as post-fire forest restoration and rehabilitation. The National Fire Plan emphasis includes focus on reducing hazardous fuels, especially fuel accumulations near communities. Work will involve many disciplines pulling together to achieve even more fuels reduction than in past years.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday. Take this time to relax and to enjoy family, friends and festivities, and please travel safely. We thank you for your hard work and dedication and look forward to working together in 2004.



Brad Powell



By Paula Nelson, Regional Office

On a gorgeous, cloudless fall day, the Rocky Mountain district of the Lewis and Clark National Forest took the first giant step in lighting the South Fork Sun River Prescribed Burn—a project in the planning and coordination stages for over 8 years.

The burn, located within the Scapegoat Wilderness west of Augusta, Montana, will ultimately introduce fire into 16,500 acres. This first lighting opportunity brought to-

gether forest personnel, the Swope/Clifford Type II Incident Command Team, air quality, aviation and fire behavior specialists from across the Region. After three days of hand lighting, helitorch and plastic sphere dispenser (PSD or ping pong ball dispenser) ignition, nearly 4,200 acres had fire introduced. Forest fire managers will hope for the right fuels and weather conditions next spring or fall along with the necessary resources to continue the work.

Since inception, the project has received public scrutiny and criticism regarding fears the fire would escape control and race eastward through private forest and ranch lands and on to Augusta. The district held numerous public meetings and worked with local landowners, media and representatives over the planning years. The night before

lighting commenced, another meeting and power point program was offered in Augusta.

In an effort to share information with the greatest number of people in the quickest time possible, the forest arranged for representatives from television stations, newspapers and Congressman Denny Rehberg's Great Falls office to fly to Patrol Look-

out to observe lighting operations. District Ranger Mike Munoz, Incident Commander Tom Clifford and others were at the lookout to answer questions so that participants could learn more about the reasons for and the techniques employed to carry out a project of this complexity. Local news media were updated daily as were key community contacts to maximize this educational opportunity.



Media members at Patrol Lookout

Signs of the Times

By Ellen Davis, Bitterroot National Forest

The lives of motorists and firefighters depend on motorists slowing down and being able to maneuver safely past fire camps. It is not an insignificant problem in that the Forest Service is responsible for wildfire suppression throughout 192 million acres of National Forest System lands. In the course of a fire season, hundreds of work zone areas related to fire suppression are created nation-wide, many in the urban interface.

These work zone areas are often times made more confusing and congested because of road closures in and around fire areas, smoke impairing visibility, as well as the increased volume of traffic. More than 1,000 persons die each year in accidents at highway work zones, said Donna Sheehy, R1's regional sign coordinator. Most fire accidents and fatalities are, in fact, traffic related.

In the past, firefighters made their own signs to indicate work zone areas, using whatever supplies were available, including cardboard and paper plates. Since 2000, thanks to the R1 Traffic Safety Teams, most fire camps in Montana and northern Idaho have had signs professionally produced to

the standards for highway work zone signs.

Working with Donna and the Traffic Safety Teams, area sign contractors produced signs for 30 separate fire priority sites this year, for a total of \$110,000. Special signs were also produced for the fire camps themselves for traffic control and to identify areas within camp, such as supply, information, medical services, or personnel.

In future years, Donna hopes that sign kits of professionally-produced signs will automatically be included with other supplies when new fire camps are being established.

In fact, highway signs for fire camps and camps used to manage other incidents, such as hurricanes or earthquakes, may have their own color—coral (a fluorescent pink). The Federal Highway Administration worked with Donna and Regions 1 and 6 to experiment with the proposed new Incident Sign color. It was found that the coral color made it much easier to find the fire camps and associated incident locations than the standard orange.

Comments from all individuals involved with camp management or transportation and deliveries have praised the improved



Makeshift signs of the past.

level and quality of signing at the fire incidents.

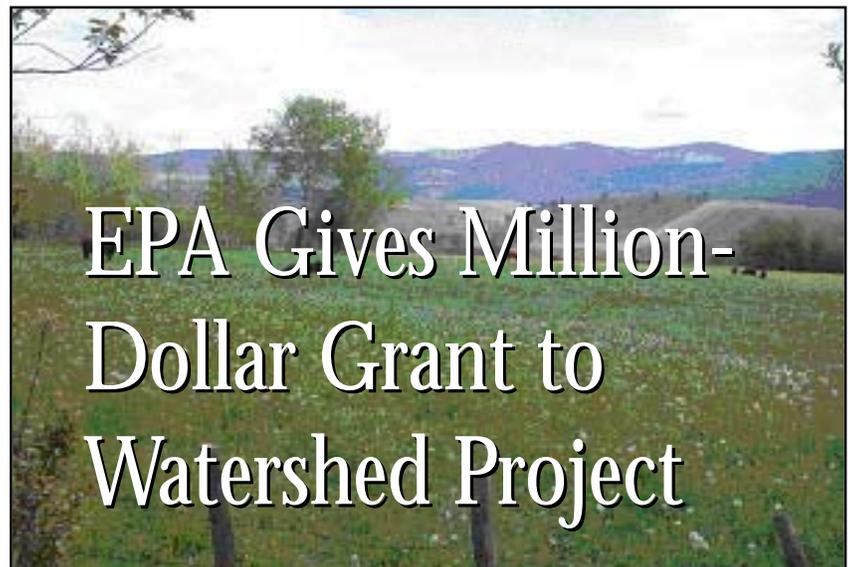
The 2003 Traffic Safety Teams members and support personnel include: Jim Abernathy, R6 regional sign coordinator; Dave Walter, R6; Robert Coats, Lewis and Clark NF; and RO employees Joe Knudsen, Carl Cain, Mary Alice Stoner, Fred Bower, John Kattell, Tony Bachman, Brian Story, Steve Oravetz, Marcia Hughey, Sharon DeHart, and Mary Ester Betson.

By Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a \$1 million grant recently to benefit water quality projects throughout western Montana and northern Idaho, including projects in the Bitterroot Valley.

The 26,000 square-mile Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Watershed collaborative was spear-headed by the Tri-State Water Quality Council and includes partners in the Bitterroot, Clark Fork, Blackfoot and Flathead river basins in Montana. EPA representatives cited the vast geographic area and the large number of local entities who partnered together as a primary reason for this project's selection. The agency found the proposal attractive because its scale allows for well-orchestrated accomplishments throughout a significant watershed.

The Bitterroot Watershed Partnership will use a portion of the EPA funds to further projects started in 2001. These projects include assisting in the design of a livestock grazing rotation system to reduce pressure on riparian areas, noxious weed management, the reduction of sediment and nutrient inputs in Threemile Creek, and the development of a waste management system for a dairy farmer near Victor.



Designing a livestock grazing rotation system to reduce pressure on riparian areas is one way EPA funds will be used to benefit water quality projects.

The partnership is a collaborative group working to invest in the social and environmental capital of the Bitterroot Watershed in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of our community and its natural resources. Primary partners include Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, Bitter Root Water Forum, Tri-State Water Quality Council, Bitterroot Audubon, Bitter Root RC&D, National Forest Foundation, Hackett Ag-Consulting and the Bitterroot National Forest.

Fuels for Schools is Off and Running

By Angela Farr, Regional Office

By now you have probably heard the catchy phrase “Fuels for Schools”—a State & Private Forestry Program (S&PF) designed to heat rural public schools with “waste” wood from hazardous fuels reduction work. With \$2.5 million in S&PF grants in 2003, Fuels for Schools is off and running in Idaho, North Dakota, Montana, Utah and Nevada.

Phase 1 of the program wrapped up this summer, as three schools in Darby, Montana, installed a brand-new wood chip-fired boiler, storage and delivery system. An added bonus of the Darby demonstration was experience gained by Bitter Root RC&D, with whom we have partnered to coordinate future feasibility studies throughout Regions 1 and 4. The program is also benefiting from the leadership of the state foresters, who are the primary partners for the program.

Following Darby’s lead, Montana’s program is progressing rapidly—schools in Eureka and Victor are well on their way to new wood-fired systems, with the financial

and technical assistance from S&PF and the Forest Products Laboratory.

Phase 2 of Fuels for Schools is in progress, with feasibility studies for four more schools complete, and another 12 studies underway. By early January, we will select additional demonstration sites for construction, with one each in north Idaho, south Idaho, Nevada and North Dakota. Establishing demonstration sites in each major geographic area within our two regions will help us showcase the program using state and local community leadership.

In Phase 3 of the program, also currently underway, we are designing a funding scheme to supplement traditional financing while maximizing the scope and effectiveness of our grants.

Fuels for Schools solves multiple problems for rural communities. Annual school fuel bills are reduced by over 50%, while



Construction at a Darby, MT school for a wood chip-fired boiler, storage and delivery system to heat their school.

forests become healthier and more fire resistant. Because our schools are located throughout forested areas, the cost of transporting fuel is low, making its economic use more viable. Local, non-fossil fuel sources help reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And today’s biomass heating systems are extremely efficient, producing a tiny fraction of the emissions associated with open burning, and they are comparable to the systems they replace. In short, Fuels for Schools is good for our schools, our communities, our air and our forests.

Madagascar Gets Some R1 Advice

By Jack de Golia, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Madagascar is a former French colony off the southeast coast of Africa. Just slightly smaller than Arizona, Madagascar is renowned for its unique wildlife. The tropical climate of the coast contrasts with the temperate conditions of the high



L to R - Jeff Trejo, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, and Rex Baumbach, WO.

inland plateau and mountains. Agriculture—including fishing and forestry—is a mainstay of the economy. Deforestation and erosion are serious concerns, escalated by the demand for firewood as the primary fuel source.

When the Malagasy government began to examine its natural resource management, it found that the country’s forest-product-permit system had big problems. They turned to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for help. In August, USAID sent Jeff Trejo, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and Rex Baumbach, Washington Office, to Africa to review the current permitting system used by the government forestry agency, called the Directorate General des Eaux et Forêts (DGEF), and help the agency create a system that works.

After 10 days touring the country, meeting with officials and visiting with locals, Trejo and Baumbach came up with a series of recommendations for the DGEF. First and

foremost, the team recommended that the DGEF consider preparing a resource management plan that would allow the agency to choose where trees are cut based on what’s best for the forest. They urged officials to begin the permitting process at the lowest possible level, and to allow only the DGEF to issue permits. The team also suggested that the agency determine the value of and monitor each area under permit. Finally, Trejo and Baumbach urged that permits for more than 1,235 acres be subject to environmental impact statements, as required by Malagasy law.

Trejo said similarities exist between the U.S. and Madagascar when it comes to the managing public lands by trying to balance people’s demands with the needs of the land. “There are some inherent elements here that make it easier to set up a process,” stated Trejo. “People over there are really poor. When you ask somebody to enforce a law and yet their compensation is minimal, it’s tough to expect them not to be thinking of other ways to support their families.”

An Old Friend Returns

By Bernadette Heckle, Clearwater National Forest

While revisiting Powell Ranger District on August 30, Chief Dale Bosworth was presented with a Powell Fire Crew “red card” making him an “official” Honorary Powell Fire Crew member.

The qualifications on his red card were accrued through Dale’s many years of experience on the Powell District when he was district ranger. They include BRDE-Bathroom Design Engineer, pertaining to his contributions to the district office’s second floor urinal that is placed unusually higher than normal, and PLEO-Pretend Law Enforcement, for his perseverance in enforcing laws around the district. Dale’s perseverance drove him and another employee into the mountains at night in the middle of winter in his 2-wheel drive Subaru in pursuit of an escaped criminal. Perhaps thankfully, the two eventually turned around with-

out a successful catch.

Other qualifications included a VYLO-Volleyball Lookout and SMKC-Smokechaser. Dale earned these qualifications while employees were finishing the second floor of the Powell district offices. One evening the employees were playing volleyball on the lawn, when one of them saw what they thought was steam coming off the roof of the building. Dale quickly realized it was *smoke*—coming from abandoned, stained rags combusting on the second floor. The rags were extinguished and the building saved.

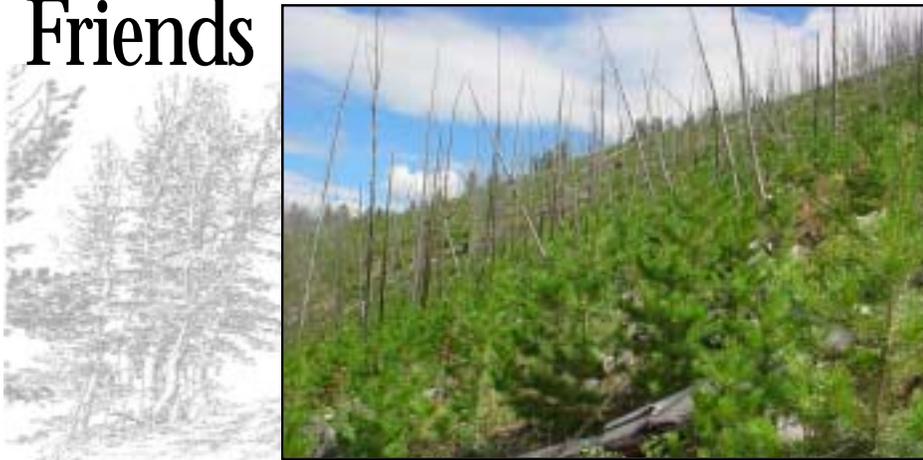
Finally, the card lists Dale’s on-the-job



L to R: Powell District Ranger Joni Packard with Honorary Powell Fire Crew member Dale Bosworth

training needs (forester, carpenter) that he’s still working on and should be checked off when he masters those skills. Until then, the Powell district is always happy to welcome Dale and his wife Carma home.

With a Little Help from Friends



A forest under regeneration after fire on the Gallatin NF.

Help with fire restoration has come from some unusual sources. *Country Living* magazine is asking its readers this fall to join in creating the *Country Living* 25th Anniversary Forest, a project co-sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The project aims to assist reforestation efforts in five national forests across the country. One of the five is the Gallatin National Forest. Supervisory forester Tim Hancock is the Gallatin’s liaison with the magazine on the project.

The premise is that for every \$25 donated, 25 trees will be planted in the forest of the

reader’s choice. The concept originated in 1990, when *Country Living* approached the National Arbor Day Foundation to assist with efforts to reforest areas devastated by the Yellowstone fires of 1988. A total of 10,000 people responded to the call with donations. Now, 13 years later, Marylou Krajci was able to report in the October 2003 issue of *Country Living* that “lodgepole and whitebark pines, Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce provide food and habitat for grizzly bears, moose, elk and birds, among other wildlife.”

RTA Will Return Because R1 Employees Want to Learn

By Joyce Pritchard, Regional Office

No doubt about it—the Regional Training Academy (RTA) can draw a crowd. Last year, nearly 1,000 employees attended a variety of classes at the academy. In 2004, RTA will be held March 29-April 2 in Missoula.

The course catalog for RTA will be available on-line in mid-December. You can access the RTA web site from the left side of the R1 homepage. The web address for the RTA website is: <http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/rta/index.htm>

The general session will be a brown-bag lunch on Wednesday, March 31 from 11:30- 1:30. Plan now to grab some lunch, enjoy the speaker, and join the Regional Forester and his staff for this special session!

If anyone has comments or questions concerning RTA, please contact MaryAlice Stoner in the Regional Office, 406-329-3449, mstoner@fs.fed.us.



Movin' In, Movin' On



Nez Perce National Forest

Clearwater National Forest

Paul Christy “Chris” Jenkins is the new heritage program manager at the Supervisor’s Office, Clearwater National Forest. Chris first worked for the Forest Service as a district archaeologist on the Umpqua and Klamath National Forests in Oregon. After a 21-year hiatus, Chris returned to work for the Forest Service in June 2001 as a resource area archaeologist for the Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts on the Santa Fe NF.

Chris and his wife Deborah live in Orofino with their eight-year-old son, Asahel.

Helena National Forest

Jane Kollmeyer has accepted the deputy forest supervisor position on the Helena National Forest. Jane has been the district ranger at the Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest for the past seven years. Her previous managerial assignments include the Fortine district ranger on the Kootenai National Forest, deputy district ranger at Wallace Ranger District on the IPNF and district FMO/resource officer at Happy Camp Ranger District, Klamath National Forest. Jane’s also worked for the BLM as a forester in Oregon and with a private consulting firm in California in land reclamation.

Mike Oliver was recently selected as the Montana Capital City coordinator. Mike began his career as a fuels management specialist at the West Fork Ranger District in 1982. He then spent eight years serving as a public affairs officer for the Bitterroot and Helena National Forests. From 1997-98, Mike served as natural resources leader before assuming the duties of operations team leader for the Helena National Forest until December 1999. For the past three years, Mike has served the Forest Service as a congressional liaison. He was detailed to the coordinator position in January 2003.

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Rolando Ortegon recently took over as the new forest supervisor for the Lewis and Clark National Forest. He hails from Washington, where where he served as the acting forest supervisor for the Colville National Forest. Prior to his current assignment, Ortegon was the regional legislative affairs officer for the Pacific Northwest Region. From 1989-92, he was the assistant ranger at the Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. His next job was as Evans Notch district ranger at the White Mountain National Forest in Maine. Earlier in his career, Ortegon worked as the lands and recreation forester on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota, and soon after served as the assistant ranger on the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan.



Rolando Ortegon

Randall Walker has joined the Nez Perce National Forest as the forest silviculturist. Previous jobs were in R6 and include: silviculturist, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District (1975-87) and the North Fork John Day Ranger District (1988); zone silviculturist, Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat/Chelan Ranger District (1989-95); and district silviculturist, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District (1995- 2003).



Randall Walker

Randall and his wife Kathy have two daughters, ages 4 and 8 months.

David Wilcox is the new forest facilities and bridge engineer for the Nez Perce National Forest. David recently worked for private industry at an engineering firm. His work has taken many interesting directions over the years, from a surveyor’s aid on the Tonto National Forest and an engineer in training on the Stanislaw National Forest, to testing nuclear power plants aboard naval ships, to writing software at Microsoft.

Dave’s wife Verna is a published writer of mystery series. They have five grown daughters.

Regional Office

Tom Puchlerz, former Region 1 employee and most recently supervisor of the Tongass National Forest, is the region’s new director of Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness. Tom had served as the Tongass forest supervisor in Alaska since 1999. Some of his previous positions include: forest supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest (R4); national grizzly bear habitat coordinator, R1 Regional Office; Fortine district ranger, Kootenai National Forest; and wildlife biologist, Hebgen Lake District, and resource assistant on the Gardiner district, Gallatin National Forest.

Tom and his wife Gerry have two grown daughters Molly and Megan.

Ed Monnig recently accepted the deputy forest supervisor position on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. For the past seven years, Ed has been the Fortine district ranger on the Kootenai National Forest. Prior to his present position, Monnig held a variety of positions in the Regional Office in Missoula, Montana. Those assignments included working as a pesticide specialist on forest and range health and weed problems, serving on the Region’s timber salvage implementation task force, and overseeing the Region’s appeals and litigation review process.

Regional Forester's Honor Awards

Customer Service Category: Awarded to **Rita Allison**, receptionist, Flathead NF, for her exceptional service as a frontliner in the Supervisor's Office. The award recognizes individuals with an outstanding level of customer service contributions and who demonstrate the spirit and intent of a "customer-driven" Forest Service.

Ecosystem Management Category: Awarded to two recipients: **Slough Creek Willow Project, Gardiner RD, Gallatin NF**, for the cooperative efforts between forest staff and outside organizations to reduce the erosive effects of Slough Creek through a successful willow planting project. **Nez Perce Fire Zone Leadership Team, Clearwater NF** for safely and cost effectively accomplishing a difficult and aggressive fuels treatment program in the face of a very complex and busy fire season nationally.

Budget and Financial Accountability Category: Awarded to **Flathead National Forest Budget and Finance Section** for providing exemplary service to the Flathead NF and the entire Region by adopting, adapting, and implementing a "Work Chunk" process of program planning that defines basic "chunks" of work with their associated activities and anticipated costs. This program aids and assures that the highest priority projects are worked on first.

Safety and Occupational Health Category: Awarded to **Darcy Pederson**, District Ranger, Clearwater RD, Nez Perce NF, for her exemplary support and promotion of safety and occupational health since her arrival on the Clearwater RD eight years ago. Darcy's strong role in having staff take an active role in making the district safety program a success helps guarantee that all employees go home safe at the end of the day.

Technology Transfer Category: **Northern Region Structures Group - John Kattell, David Scovell, William Fowler** for their work and collaboration with their Wilderness colleagues in identifying a unique resource issue associated with wilderness management and identifying a need for a packable trail bridge. They developed a packable bridge design that has been proven in the field and accepted as a national standard.

Gridlock Breaking Category: Awarded to **Little Missouri National Grassland Dragon Assessment Team** for completing a landscape scale assessment of the Little Missouri National Grassland. The product provided essential information needed to revise the management direction for range allotments on the Little Missouri grassland in a cost effective manner.

Labor-Management Partnership Category: Awarded to **Kootenai National Forest Partnership Council** for their highly successful and uniquely cooperative efforts in facilitating the forest's reorganization process. Council members actively participated in every phase of the reorganization effort to assure that employees' views and concerns were given careful consideration.

Law Enforcement and Investigations Category: Awarded to three recipients: *Special Agent Awards* went to **Lorney (Jay) Deist** and **Kimberley West**, R1, LE&I, Kalispell, for their involvement and dedication to the war on illegal drug trafficking on the northern border. Both agents played critical roles in establishing the North-

ern Border Drug Task Force in western Montana and northern Idaho which has conducted over 20 missions. *Law Enforcement Award* went to **John Allendorf**, supervisory law enforcement officer, R1, Helena, MT, for his involvement and commitment in the issue surrounding bison migration out of Yellowstone National Park and the activities of a protest group known as the Buffalo Field Campaign. Also noted was John's networking with the Gallatin NF line officers on both the bison and snowmobile issues.

New Century of Service Category Awarded to three recipients: **Dixie Dies**, public affairs officer, Bitterroot NF, for her extensive involvement and leadership in the Bitterroot Valley community. The forest has greatly depended on Dixie and her local networks as the community has moved from a landmark fire season in 2000 through fire recovery processes and planning for the future. **Skip Hegman**, human relations specialist, RO, for outstanding achievement in the New Century of Service values of collaboration, mentoring, and devotion to serving employees and the public. **Gregory Beck**, AFMO, Tally Lake RD, Flathead NF, for his mentoring, leadership, dedication, and innovative ideas regarding the National Joint Fire Apprenticeship Academy. Greg has worked laboriously to track the completion of the program for each apprentice on the forest, offering support wherever possible.

Stewardship Category: Awarded to two recipients: **Guenter Heinz**, district resource staff, Kootenai NF, and **Ed Monnig**, district ranger, Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai NF, for their work on the replacement of Graves Creek irrigation structure, and the successful development and completion of the Graves Creek diversion modification and screening project. They have worked for several years to maintain relations between the partners, working through complex issues that could easily have stopped the project at any time. Their diligence resulted in a successful stream enhancement and a strong partnership on which to build future success.

At the Regional Leadership Team meeting October 15, recognition was given to the following employees for work accomplished in 2003:

For their efforts with wildland fire use fires: **Cathy Barbouletos, Larry Dawson, Bruce Bernhardt.**

For leadership on competitive sourcing: **Bob Kirkpatrick**, Regional Office.

For exceptional work on competitive sourcing: **Judith Fraser**, Bitterroot NF; **Doug Gober**, Clearwater NF; **Gordon Ash** and **Chuck Harris**, Flathead NF; **Rick Ellison** and **Gene Gibson**, Gallatin NF; **Fred Fischer**, IPNF; **Frank Votopka**, Kootenai NF; **Bob Gardiner** and **Neil Wynn**, Lewis & Clark NF; **Marty Schmidt** and **Brian Webber**, Lolo NF; **Daryl Mullinix**, Nez Perce NF; **Bruce Fahrni**, Prescott NF, R3; **Willie Boyer**, **Dave Browder**, **Debbie Charley**, **Bruce Crockett**, **John Favro**, **Marcia Hughey**, **Jane Kipp**, **Joel Krause**, **Terry Knupp**, **Marge Schafer**, **Christine Sopko**, RO.

For wildlife expertise and assistance to Rocky Mountain Research Station: **Cindy Swanson** and **Jim Claar**, RO.

For leadership in safety: **Dave Piper**, Dakota Prairie Grasslands.



More Awards

Rick Stowell, recently retired regional fisheries biologist with the Regional Office, was presented with the national *Rise to the Future Mentoring Award* by Chief Dale Bosworth in Washington D.C. in June. Rick was cited for his ability to build programs with a limited budget, always with a goal of getting as many dollars to the ground as possible. Noted was Rick's passion for fish and his untiring efforts to help other biologists. Rick's talents and his fostering of new staff have helped to leave the agency with an incredible pool of talented fisheries biologists.



L to R: Rick Stowell with the Chief.

The Small Business Administration has named the **Forest Service, Region 1**, *Agency of the Year for the State of Montana*. This award is in recognition of the Region's support to minority-owned businesses in Montana through our acquisition programs. The Forest Service awarded over \$22,000,000 in contracts to Contractors under the 8(a) minority program.

Lochsa Ranger District Recreation Forester **Carol Hennessey** was recently given the *Clearwater Forest's Spice of Life* award, given to a forest employee who makes outstanding contributions in the areas of equal employment opportunity, civil rights or community relations. Carol has assisted with the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nez Perce Tribe that allows tribal members to camp free-of-charge in Lochsa District campgrounds. She also recruits and manages a diverse workforce, including retirees, for the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station, students for intern positions, and individuals from all walks of life for the summer seasonal workforce.



Carol Hennessey



L to R: Lynn Kaeding, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bruce May.

Bruce May, multi-regional inland cutthroat trout coordinator, recently received a *Star Award from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)*. Bruce, who works out of Bozeman at the Gallatin National Forest, was recognized for his role in developing and implementing the procedures used in status updates for both the Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout. These updates are key to the FWS's assessment of the status of cutthroat trout subspecies as part of the Endangered Species Act listing considerations. Bruce was cited for his "tireless efforts to foster cooperation among the western states and their respective federal agencies."

Butte Sheltered Workshop Honored

By Jack de Golia, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Butte Sheltered Workshop (BSW) was selected as the top national contractor in its class by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. BSW contracts to do grounds keeping at the Butte Ranger Station. The grounds around the office looked so nice that the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce gave the Forest Service an award for its contribution to civic pride.

BSW works with the Forest Service under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD), a 1938 law allowing federal agencies to buy services and products from disabled people and groups.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest nominated the workshop for the JWOD "contractor of the year" award. The group won Region One's recognition and later became the Forest Service's choice for JWOD contractor of the year. The icing on the cake came in early 2003, when the Agriculture Department named the Butte Sheltered Workshop the top JWOD contractor in the nation.

The BSW received the national award on July 8 at a ceremony at the Butte Ranger District, with Forest Supervisor Tom Reilly as emcee. Speakers included Cliff DeWitt from National Industries for Severely Handicapped, a federal agency responsible for carrying out JWOD. DeWitt said JWOD is the "best kept secret in America." With 70 percent unemployment among disabled per-



Jodel Petroni, representing BSW, and her employees who helped earn the JWOD award.

sons, JWOD helps give many the pride and economic benefit of work. The Department of Agriculture's Richard Holcombe traveled from Washington to honor BSW at the ceremony.

DeWitt presented certificates of appreciation to **Fawn McKenzie**, Beaverhead-Deerlodge purchasing agent, who helped make the workshop's contribution possible, and to Jodel Petroni, BSW's education director.

Migration Mania

By Julie Schreck, Bitterroot National Forest



Program participant petting the puppets during Migration Mania.



The Bitterroot National Forest has been a strong partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in creating the annual Migration Mania, a community festival celebrating the return of the migrating birds to the Bitterroot Valley.

Over 300 people attended the annual celebration. Other partners include the Montana Audubon, Bitterroot Valley Chapter of the Audubon, Stevensville Main Street Association and the Trapper Creek Job Corps.

This summer Migration Moon, a Forest Service interpretive series program, kicked off the event at the refuge. Presentations by historian and Stoneydale Press owner Dale Burke, Raptors of the Rockies director Kate Davis and University of Montana assistant biology professor Chris Guglielmo made the event a huge success!

The next day, we brought all the festivities to Stevensville's town center. In conjunction with local merchants and the farmers market, the event provided an exhibition of local art work, children's activities, educational booths and a puppet show by the Trapper Creek Job Corps students. Throughout the event, merchants displayed artwork by local students in storefront windows and bird mobiles hung from city street lampposts giving the streets of Stevensville a festive look. The Chantilly Theatre showed free films on birds and the North Valley Library personnel read bird stories to enthusiastic bystanders.

The event also included tours of the wildlife refuge. Additional tours led by naturalists provided opportunities to look at insects, birds and plants on the national forest.

Learning about Nature is Where It's At

By Debbie Anderson, Helena National Forest

Funding natural resource education is often an issue on national forests. Providing assistance to the Helena forest is the Helena Forest Foundation (HFF).

HFF's outreach includes partnering with the forest, Mikal Kellner Foundation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the Adopt-a-Species Program, a habitat education program reaching Helena-area elementary students. The 2003 program challenged students to read and research about wildlife and then write their own stories. HFF helped bring the Banana Slug String Band, a group of talented "eco-tainers," to Helena last spring. In the fall, the partners brought award-winning children's author Roland Smith to town.

Last summer, the HFF partnered with the forest and Helena College of Technology on the Youth Forest Monitoring Program, which teaches high school students about natural resource management and career opportunities. HFF assisted with financing, marketing and recruitment, with some hands-on involvement, including planning, chaperoning and providing meals.

In the forefront of conservation educa-

tion for HFF is the volunteer-based Community Naturalist Program. In the past year, we have reached over 2,000 children and adults with a variety of natural resource subjects. With hands-on activities and an emphasis on outdoor education we work to increase the knowledge and awareness for improving wildlife habitat, watershed health, responsible recreation ethics, and other outdoor subjects. Students might learn about tracking wildlife in winter, or perhaps count macroinvertebrates and test pH to find the water quality in a stream, or apply their creative side to a variety of nature crafts.

The program is also involved in an ongoing vegetation monitoring project on Mt. Helena City Park in cooperation with the Helena School District, the American Society of Foresters, the Kelsey Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society and the Helena National Forest.



2003 Youth Forest Monitoring Program crew.

HFF is committed to achieving healthy landscapes and believes that communities should play a strong role in determining the future of their forests. To that end we will continue to develop and build on the education programs that are in place. Forming partnerships and involving community members in preserving and caring for the historical, cultural and aesthetic integrity of the Helena National Forest is what the HFF is all about.

If you would like more information, please call 406-449-5201 ext. 267 or check out our website at www.helenaforestfoundation.org

Celebrating the Prairie

By Kathy Bushnell, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

“The prairie, in all its expressions, is a massive, subtle place, with a long history of contradiction and misunderstanding. But it is worth the effort at comprehension. It is, after all, at the center of our national identity.” Wayne Fields, *Lost Horizon*, 1988

North Dakota Prairie Day—co-sponsored by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands—celebrates the strength, fortitude and uniqueness of the prairie. It is a day where families can return to the simplicity of life where no telephones, televisions, video games or malls can interrupt their time together, and offers them a chance to learn more about *their* national grasslands.

“People think that North Dakota has little to offer, but there’s a lot out our back door,” said Darla Lenz, Dakota Prairie Grasslands botanist and Prairie Day co-founder. “The prairie is a beautiful place, and Prairie Day is a great way to showcase that.”

This year’s Prairie Day occurred at the

Cross Ranch State Park and Nature Preserve northwest of Bismarck. More than 100 people participated in various activities, including presentations on horse-drawn wagons and bison, and guided hikes about birding, butterflies and insects, and wildflowers and grasses led by prairie experts.

Visitors enjoyed a free barbecue lunch, which included a presentation on Lewis and Clark.

Prairie Day is headquartered in a different area of North Dakota every year so people can learn more about the special, and very diverse, places on the prairie.

“The prairie is very subtle,” said Kristine Askerooth, Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge biologist and Prairie Day co-founder. “It hooks you when you’re out there. It’s fragile and strong. It can handle



Prairie Day participants learn about wildflowers and grasses found on the prairie from land management experts.

drought, flood, bison and fire. It’s exciting to share that with people.”

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Ducks Unlimited, Lewis & Clark Wildlife Club, Minot State University, North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, North Dakota Game & Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Science Society, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey-Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center sponsored this year’s event.

Studying Dakota Prairie Grasslands Earns College Credit

By Kathy Bushnell, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands manages public land for multiple uses. This is only one of the lessons Williston High School students learned this summer during the Rough Creek Institute project. This conservation education project – a partnership between the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Williston High School and Williston Tech Prep – allows high school students to earn college credit from summer courses. The students also learn more about resource management, future career opportunities and leadership skills.

The Rough Creek Institute project is a combination of classroom and field instruction. The students receive classroom instruction on natural resources and Dakota Prairie Grasslands resource management, fol-

lowed by one week on the Little Missouri National Grassland, McKenzie Ranger District. The students learn about multiple topics including recreation, minerals, range, wildlife, archeology, paleontology, botany, wildland fire and GPS.

The Rough Creek Institute program began as a fire restoration project after a major wildland fire – the Rough Creek Fire Complex – ravaged the Rough Creek prairie and badlands area in October 1999. The program grew from fire restoration into an overview of natural resource management on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. This summer’s session was the second Rough Creek Institute project held on the grasslands.

“Out of a catastrophic event that burned



Williston High School students observe a drip-torch demonstration to learn more about prescribed burning.

prairie and home rose an opportunity to develop a partnership to teach our youth about the interrelationship between people, the land, and naturally occurring events,” said Judi Lang, grasslands partnership coordinator. “Students interested in natural resource careers are given the opportunity to experience hands-on application of land and resource management principles.”



Hamilton Junior High School 7th graders at Blodgett Campground, Bitterroot NF.

By Julie Schreck, Bitterroot National Forest

This summer the entire 7th grade class of Hamilton Junior High School—130 students in all—participated in a field and restoration day at Blodgett Campground on the Bitterroot National Forest.

The students rotated through several educational stations learning about compass

Hamilton Jr. High School Helpers!

orienteeing from firefighters, wildlife biology from Forest Service experts, proper backcountry horse travel from the Backcountry Horseman Club, fire ecology from conservation educators, and creative writing from Jeanette Ingold, a local writer.

Later in the day, students “got down and dirty” helping to plant 250 native plants in the Blodgett Creek riparian area, placing bark chips on 300 feet of new trail and moving 15 tons of topsoil to the trail and planting site. The students’ work was instrumental in helping the Blodgett Campground restoration plan get off the ground and into full swing this summer.

Bus transportation for the students was paid entirely in part by a grant from the Forest Service State and Private Forestry program. The junior high school Booster Club provided a grant for the writing workshop given by Jeanette Ingold. The students enjoyed a barbecue lunch of hot dogs and other treats provided by the Booster Club and Hamilton IGA.

The class plans to adopt the Blodgett Campground as a field trip/work site, meaning they will visit the area each spring to assist with campground maintenance, as well as learn about other key subjects determined by teacher coordinators.

Teri Vore, Hamilton Junior High School English teacher and lead coordinator for the event, said, “The day was a grand success and the 6th graders this year are now looking forward to the field trip next year!”

Slash Bundler Debuts

By Angela Farr, Regional Office

The first machine of its kind in North America came to the Bitterroot Valley in August to test its potential to help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The demonstration, open to the public, was part of a series of events organized by the Forest Service’s Southern Research Station and the machine’s manufacturer, John Deere/Timberjack.

Called a slash bundler, the new machine is like a giant trash compactor for the tree tops and limbs typically piled and burned during logging and fuels reduction. The bundler moves through the forest, picks up slash, compresses it and rolls it into “logs” bound with twine, which can be cut to any length and fed into a chipper to make wood chips for heat or energy generation.

Millions of forested acres in the West are at higher than normal risk for catastrophic wildfire, in part due to high tree density and

a buildup of undergrowth following years of fire suppression. Reducing the risk often requires removing brush and some trees. New bundling technology may lower the cost of fuels reduction by providing an easier way to dispose of

brush, small trees, tree limbs and tops, which are typically expensive and difficult to remove, and have no commercial value.

The bundler creates a commercial product and a healthier, cleaner alternative to openly burning slash—since wood chip fired furnaces emit less greenhouse gasses and particulates than open burning. The bundler is engineered for minimal impact to the ground.

Slash bundlers are manufactured by John Deere/Timberjack in Scandinavia, where



The slash bundler.

more than 20 are now in use. The Bitterroot demonstration was the fourth of seven held during the summer to determine how well the machines work in our dense western forests. The tests studied how well the bundler maneuvers in various forest types and conditions, its impact on the ground, and its operation costs compared to other fuels reduction methods.

For more information on the study, contact Robert Rummer at the Southern Research Station (334) 826-8700.

College Students Collect Native Seeds

By Steve Schaller, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

This fall, Montana State University-Great Falls partnered with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center to gather native seeds for landscaping projects.

Dr. Cherie McKeever and nine students from Biology 200 started the day learning about native versus exotic plants and the idea behind the interpretive center's native landscaping, which was named one of the top 10 public lawns in the country in 2000. They then spent six hours gathering seeds from 12 different native plants growing nearby. Some seeds were sent to the Forest Service's greenhouse to be grown into seedlings, while others will be scattered across the interpretive center's landscape in 2004.

"These types of service-learning projects represent a real win-win situation for everyone involved," said McKeever. "They provide an opportunity for our students to go beyond the classroom to apply what they are learning, while at the same time allowing them to contribute to the community in a meaningful way. What an incredibly valuable experience for any student."

The students did a wonderful job. They gathered the correct seeds and lots of them. This is one project the interpretive center couldn't have accomplished without the students' assistance. The center will need these seeds once construction projects are completed.

The day ended with a program about plants that Lewis and Clark collected and wrote about during their expedition. McKeever and



From left, clockwise: Robert Lauver, Michelle Ray, Amanda Sheasby and Sheila Frederick process seeds collected from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

her students plan to assist the interpretive center staff with additional native landscaping projects.

A Cooperative Effort in Horse Safety

By Cindy Schacher, Nez Perce National Forest

On June 25, the Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) of North Central Idaho and the Nez Perce National Forest Safety Committee co-hosted a Defensive Horse Safety Course at Fenn Ranger Station along the Selway River. Sixteen people participated in the course, including Forest Service employees and volunteers as well as Idaho Department of Fish and Game conservation officers.

The course fulfilled the horse safety policy adopted by Region One in 2000 requiring all volunteers and employees who work around or ride stock to take an eight-hour Defensive Horse Safety Course. A four-hour refresher course is required every three years.

BCH provided excellent instruction on the basics of horse safety, including catching, haltering, saddling and loading horses, as well as tips on horse psychology and centered riding. Participants also learned about equine and human first aid, and instructors presented a brief demonstration on packing and low impact horse camping at the end of the day.

A big thank you to BCH members Beth Wykle, Roger and Janice Inghram, Don and Lorraine McPherson, Jim Renshaw and Steve Didier for organizing the course and sharing their expertise and experience.



Learning to halter a horse at the Defensive Horse Safety Course.

"OLD-TIMERS" get Make-Over

Historic Slough Creek

By Lorette Ray, Gallatin National Forest



Volunteers building a new front porch at Slough Creek Cabin, Gallatin NF.

The Gardiner Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, joined efforts in June with the Northern Region Pack Train and volunteers from Denver, University of Pittsburgh and Silver Tip Ranch to improve Slough Creek Cabin. Built in 1923, the historic cabin is located in the heart of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and is used by the district for work crews.

Because the cabin had been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the district consulted with the Montana Historic Preservation Office before work was initiated and developed a detailed work plan for the volunteers.

During the week-long project, volunteers built and installed a new front porch for the cabin. They disassembled the old porch with

great care, saving any useable logs. They used cross-cut saws to cut down trees for new logs and used stock to skid the logs back to the cabin, where they peeled them with draw knives. The enthusiastic volunteers also fixed pasture fence, worked on the tack shed, and put linseed oil on the porch and exterior walls of the cabin.

According to project coordinator JoLynn Sharrow, "We really tried to place an educational value on the program. We held training sessions on leave-no-trace camping, grizzly bear awareness, noxious weeds, stock handling, and safe and proper use of nonmotorized tools. Our volunteers complimented us on how much they learned and the amount of fun they had."

Morgan Case Homestead Project

By C. Milo McLeod, Lolo National Forest



Morgan Case Homestead c. 1940.

Fifteen PIT volunteers from across the United States spent two weeks in October installing a new cedar shingle roof on the Morgan Case Homestead, formerly known as the Puyear Ranch. Located in the upper Rock Creek drainage on the Lolo National Forest, it is named for former slave Annie Morgan and her common law husband Jack Case, who homesteaded the property in 1890. The Lolo has had substantial help from its partners Historical Research Associations and James McDonald Architects, who, along with PIT volunteers, have contributed over \$65,000 in cash contributions, professional design work and labor toward the preservation project. Now over half way done, the tentative date for completion is the fall of 2006.

Once restored the facility will serve as an interpretive/administrative site during the summers and as a cabin rental the remainder of the year.

By Greg Lemon, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo NF

It has been a long time since the Bonita Work Center on the Missoula Ranger District had a face-lift, but this spring, the buildings at the nearly 100 year-old facility got new roofs. Anaconda Job Corps students made it possible.

"Without them there's no way this would've happened," said Dewey Lumpry, assistant fire management officer at the Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest.

The buildings, located about 30 miles east of Missoula, were built as a ranger station at the mouth of Rock Creek. Currently they temporarily house government employees working in Rock Creek and as storage for the district. The aging structures were in dire need of repair, said Lumpry. The leaking roofs were the first step. The project took

about six weeks to complete.

The Anaconda Job Corps Center is a Forest Service facility for men and women age 16 to 24 located between Philipsburg and Anaconda. The center does contract work for government agencies and non-profit organizations, charging only for the cost of materials. The center works closely with local unions and is careful to get their blessing on jobs they take on. In fact, many of the center instructors are from local unions, said programs manager Jim Johnson.

The students replaced the worn shingles with new green metal roofs. They also replaced the fire escape on the bunkhouse. They did all the work themselves under the close supervision of their carpentry instructor.

On-the-job training is crucial for the students, said Johnson. Jobs range from roof-

Bonita Work Center



Anaconda JCC students replacing roof at Bonita Work Center.

ing at Bonita, to building a Forest Service lodge outside of Butte, to building bleachers for the high school in Miles City. At Bonita, seven to 12 students worked 10-hour days Tuesday through Friday, and traveled 136 miles by van round trip to and from the site. Students switched off each week so every carpentry trainee at the center had a chance to work at Bonita.

The End of an Era – *Thank Goodness!*

By Kathy Bushnell, *Dakota Prairie Grasslands*

Roughing it might appeal to some, but for most campers being without water is a drag. Until recently not all campgrounds along the Maah Daah Hey National Recreation Trail (MDHT) had potable water available for recreationists. As of this summer, though, the last well was completed and drinking water is now available at Elkhorn Campground.

The completion of this inter-agency project is celebrated not only by the agencies and organizations involved – Dakota Prairie Grasslands, National Park Service, and MDHT Association – but also by recreationists. The MDHT is a 96-mile trek

on the Little Missouri National Grassland, and during the hot summer days in North Dakota drinking water is a necessity. The Elkhorn well increases the availability of drinking water along this rugged trail.

The Maah Daah Hey Trail is one of the most popular trails in the nation,” Curt Glasoe, grasslands engineer, said. “It was crucial for this well to be completed and ready for next year’s tourist season. Hundreds of people hike or bike this trail, and the increase in drinking water sites will make their visit more enjoyable, convenient, and safe.”

The popularity of MDHT preceded its creation in 1996. People used the trail even



All campgrounds along the Maah Daah Hey Trail now have potable water wells like this one at Elkhorn Campground.

before it was completed. In 2002, the MDHT was designated as a National Recreation Trail, and named as a local hot spot on Travelocity.com’s “Local Secret, Big Finds” list.

Crime Doesn't Pay

By Josh Oudman, *Custer, Gallatin and Dakota Prairie Grasslands*

On September 9, the U.S. District Court in Montana sentenced James Pollender to 190 months in prison, and Tomi Mann, 155. The two were convicted on June 19 by jury for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of listed chemicals with intent to manufacture, two counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession of an illegal firearm and one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation arrested them in September 2002 at a remote camp in the Cherry Creek

on the Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest. The arrests occurred after officers from the Forest Service, Missouri River Drug Task Force, and the Sweet Grass County Sheriff’s Office executed a search warrant at their camp and found numerous chemicals, materials and equipment used in the production of methamphetamine. Officers also recovered several grams of finished methamphetamine and several firearms, including an illegal “pengun” during the search.

Methamphetamine laboratories are a common illegal activity on national forest lands. Usually these meth labs are small in scale, but mobile operations can be set up

anywhere. These labs and dumpsites produce hazardous materials that may leech into soil and water, negatively affecting vegetation, wildlife and drinking water. They also increase the risk of wildfire resulting from lab explosions or chemical reactions.

Partnerships are critical in providing an integrated and coordinated approach to address methamphetamine and other illegal drugs on our public lands nationwide. Many forests have forged partnerships with state, county and local government agencies to develop strategies to protect the public and our treasured natural resources.

WIF – A New Employee Advocate

Working Into the Future (WIF) is a team recently formed in Region One to assist with efforts to develop communication and implementation strategies related to competitive sourcing. The group tasks itself to be proactive in helping employees be in the best position to deal with current and emerging competitive sourcing

issues.

The team is exploring competitive sourcing-related Human Resource tools such as pre-WRAPS, WRAPS, RIF, CTAP, VERA, training opportunities, and State Job Service Programs (i.e., displaced worker grants), etc. The aim is to promote coordination between the union, regional office directors,

forests and grassland supervisors to ensure employees and managers are aware of competitive sourcing issues and decisions and associated options and impacts.

Team members include four field staff, five Regional Office staff and a union representative.

English “Countryside Ranger” Works on R1 Firelines

By Mike Cole, Helena National Forest



Clemency West from Warrington, England.

Clemency West was the latest foreign firefighter to help with efforts on the Helena National Forest last summer. West, a “countryside ranger” from Warrington, England, (just outside of Liverpool) came to the Gold 1 Fire in a roundabout way as a member of the Oklahoma Apache Type II crew. West, 29, is an international volunteer assigned to Oklahoma’s Kiamichi Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest, where she has volunteered since April 2000. But when fire season starts, she changes hats and becomes a paid firefighter through her work visa. West has been on fires in Idaho, Oregon and

Montana, and spent six weeks with crews in Texas this past spring as part of the Shuttle Columbia recovery efforts. West is currently working on her Squad Boss qualifications. Her goal is to improve her resume in hopes of securing a full-time natural resource job in England. But there are some major differences between the two countries in regard to natural resource management.

“England does not have an Incident Command System,” said West. “Most fires in England are much smaller than in the United States and are normally handled by rural and city fire departments.” She sees the value of an ICS system in England as handling situations such as search and rescue, floods and other situations that are more common in that country.

West says there are few large expanses of public land in England, so management is on a much smaller scale. Management is

handled by “countryside rangers” who are employed by local authorities (equivalent to county governments), private estates or conservation trusts. A ranger’s day may begin by opening the gates to a private estate for entry by the public. Other duties may include “hedge laying,” fencing, mowing, tree felling and other conservation projects. Rangers also conduct conservation education programs for school children—such as “pond dips” and “mini-beast hunts” (to collect and identify insects)—and plan fundraisers to generate income for projects. Winter projects may include supplemental feeding of deer herds and stock checks.

West said her family is very supportive of her chosen field. “My twin sister thinks I’m crazy to want to fight fire,” she said, “although I don’t know why since her hobby is skydiving.”

Veteran Jumper to the Rescue

By Carl Gidlund, Forest Service Retiree

It wasn’t your typical smokejumper fire. There wasn’t a plane or parachute, not even a pulaski. And, the jumper was 68 years old. But the results were the same as with most jumper fires: The little blaze was knocked down.

According to Spotted Bear District Ranger Deborah Mucklow, “If Stan hadn’t taken charge, we might have had a huge problem.” Stan Linnertz, who jumped out of Missoula in 1961, was the cook for a five-man National Smokejumper Association trail crew working for the Bob Marshall Foundation on the Spotted Bear River in the Flathead National Forest in late July. Linnertz’ mess tent was at the Beaver Creek Campground. “With the rest of the crew working on the trail, I was thinking about

dinner and swatting horseflies when I heard this high little voice coming down the trail hollering ‘Mr. Smokejumper, Mr. Smokejumper!’”

It was an 8-year-old boy, summoning Linnertz to a fire. He and the boy ran to a grassy slope near the river, and Linnertz saw several campers grouped around the fire. Four-inch flames licked from duff and crept up a 60-foot pine. A nearby rotted log was fully engulfed.

Linnertz had the men gather tools – a chainsaw, some shovels and a pair of folding army entrenching tools—and formed a crew. He lined out the women as a water brigade, passing water up from the river in diaper pails, wash buckets and cooking pots. He put the men to work digging line

and directed the sawyer to cut the burning portion from the log, which they tossed it into the river. Linnertz also formulated an escape plan.

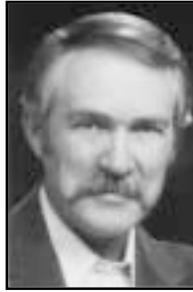
Once they established a fire line and put the flames down with water, Linnertz set his crew to digging into hotspots. The group kept an eye on the burned area until the crew came from the ranger station. When finished, there were handshakes all around.

“We had extreme fire conditions at the time, and Stan and the campers did an excellent job supporting our forest’s suppression efforts until our district initial attack crew arrived to support them,” Mucklow said.



IN MEMORIAM

Curtis “Curt Bates, 63, died at his home near Roberts, MT, October 1 of cancer. Born in Ada, OK, Curt began his career with the Forest Service as a seasonal on the Plains RD, Lolo NF, in 1958. He received a permanent appointment in 1966 as a fire dispatcher on the Plains district. He worked in several western national forests, including the White River NF, R2, where he was deputy forest supervisor. He was forest supervisor, Custer NF, from 1988 until his retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Lou and family.



Curt Bates

Ronald G. “Ron” Doucette, 64, died August 22 in Missoula, MT. Born and raised in the Missoula area, Ron began his career with the Forest Service in 1963, when he worked as an accountant for the Clearwater NF. In 1968, Ron returned to Missoula, where he worked for the Regional Office in the Budget unit as an accountant until his retirement in 1998. Ron is survived by his wife Kathy, son Bryan and daughter Traci Knoyle.

Paul August Grossenbach, 91, of Council, ID, died September 25. Paul, born in Chicago, Paul worked for the Forest Service in Idaho and Utah (locations unknown). He retired in 1967. A son and daughter survive him.

Jack M. Hoppe, 78, of Victor, MT, died September 12 in Gardiner. Jack was born in Livingston, MT. After high school, he entered the Army, serving from 1943-45. When he returned, he worked for the Forest Service (locations unknown). Jack is survived by his wife Joann, sons Walter and Michael and daughters Jackie Nielsen and Carolyn Steinbrenner.

Stuart P. Hughes, 77, died August 4 in Missoula, MT. Stuart was born in Lansing, MI. He worked for the Forest Service as a geologist, both in Missoula (unit unknown) and Denver, CO, before transferring to the WO, where he worked until his retirement. Stuart is survived by his wife June.

Johnny Lee Johnson, 50, of Whitefish, MT, died July 6 in Whitefish from complications associated with diabetes. Johnny began his career with the Forest Service on the Flathead NF in 1972 as a forestry aide. He was an engineering technician at the SO at the time of his death, responsible for the survey, design, and contract administration on a variety of engineering projects. Johnny is survived by his son Bryan and daughter Kari.

Ralph Dana Kizer Jr., 76, of Hayden Lake, ID, died September 29 at Pinewood Care Center. Ralph was born in Centralia, WA, and served U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet in the Pacific. Following his graduation from college, Ralph began his career with the Forest Service: assistant district ranger, Palouse RD, St. Joe NF; district ranger, Superior RD, Lolo NF (1960-63); timber staff officer, Nez Perce NF (1963-66);



Ralph D. Kizer

management analyst, R1 RO (1966-67); chief, administrative branch, R9 RO (1967-69); forest supervisor, Ottawa NF, R9 (1969-71); forest supervisor, Kaniksu NF, now part of IPNF, (1971-73). He retired in 1983. Ralph is survived by his wife Darlene and family.

Kenneth O. Meves, 64, of Hamilton, MT, died September 22 in Missoula. Ken was born in Sheboygan, WI. He served in the Army from 1964-69. Ken then worked for the Forest Service for 28 years in the Midwest, Idaho and Montana, retiring in 1991 from the Sula Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest. Ken is survived by his wife Carol.

David Bruce Dayhoff Nesbitt, 52, died August 16, 2003, at his home in Eureka, MT. David, born and raised in Sandpoint, ID, joined the Merchant Marine Academy in New York and served in Vietnam after high school. In 1975, after graduation from college, David began his career with the Forest Service in Idaho. In 1982 he transferred to the Kootenai NF, Fortine RD, where his love for the backcountry enabled him to develop a widely recognized recreational program on the forest. David worked on the Fortine district until medical reasons caused him to leave. David is survived by his wife Karen Nesbitt, son Noah Nesbitt, daughter Ana Walker and stepdaughter Hannah Whitney.

Hazel Lucille Purdy, 89, died September 13 in Missoula, MT. Born in Hardin, MT, Hazel had various jobs throughout her life. Her last employer was the Forest Service, where she worked as a secretary in the R1 Regional Office. Hazel is survived by her husband Glen, son Gary and daughter Glenda Ransom.

Charles Rebman, 81, of Noti, OR, died October 31. Charles was born in Portsmouth, Ohio and raised in Michigan. He worked for the Forest Service in the Lincoln and Augusta, MT areas. Charles is survived by his wife Leonia and stepson Edwin Triniman.

Colvin W. Samsel, 71, of Corvallis, MT, died July 26 in Missoula. Cal was born in Missoula, and entered the Marine Corps in 1951 to serve in the Korean War. Following his discharge he returned to Montana, where he began working for the Forest Service as a packer in 1956. From 1969-78, Colvin managed a ranch near Grangeville, ID. Afterward he returned to Montana to work for the Forest Service. Colvin is survived by his wife Michele, sons Keiffor, Forrest and Bill, and daughters Cindy Young, Carole Burton and Tima Brown.

Clyde Shipe, 74, died September 22 in Polson, MT. Clyde was born in Columbia, MO. He served in the Korean War and worked as a forester for the Forest Service (location unknown). Clyde is survived by his wife Marjorie and daughters Kathy Shipe-Moon, Vicky Tusler and Jacky Reeve.

Ed Slusher, 86, of Rockport-Fulton, TX, died September 29. After service in the Navy in the Philippines during World War II, Ed worked for the Forest Service in several locations: forester, Deerlodge NF (1946-48); assistant district ranger, Butte RD,

IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Deerlodge NF (1948-49); recreation staff, Custer NF (1949-52); Stillwater District Ranger, Custer NF (1952-56); Hebgen District Ranger, Gallatin NF (1956-58); and chief, special areas branch, Division of Recreation and Lands, RO (1958- 71). He retired in 1972.

John C. Stephenson, 83, of Moab, UT, died June 19. Born in Olney, IL, John was raised in Missoula and attended the University of Montana. In 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served during World War II. Upon his discharge, John went to work for the Forest Service. He worked in administrative capacities in various national forests, starting with the Kaniksu in Idaho and the Bitterroot in Montana, then transferring to the R1 Regional Office in 1954. In 1958, John transferred to the Uncompahgre National Forest in Colorado before moving to the San Juan National Forest. He retired in 1983. John is survived by son Fred and daughter Carol.

Norman R. Tripp, 94, died October 4 in Hamilton, MT. Born in Orrington, ME, he began his career with the Forest Service at the

Colorado RD, Roosevelt NF as assistant ranger. Other jobs include: district ranger on the Medicine Bow NF (1942-48); Rocky Mountain Experimental Station, Missoula (1948-50); Northeastern Experimental Station, WO, and the Agency for International Development (1950-64); and chief of R1 division of soils and watershed (1964 until his retirement in 1969). Norman is survived by his wife Olga, son James and stepsons Jack and Larry Jakub.

Rita Pauloski Williams, 65, of Plymouth, NH, died of ovarian cancer August 1 in Concord. Rita was born in Cleveland, OH. In 1971, she began her career with the Forest Service, working in a variety of planning positions on the Lolo, Bitterroot and Flathead national forests. In 1984, she became the first female district ranger on the Saco District, White Mountain NF. She held the position until 1987, when she then became director of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark. In 1988 she left the Forest Service after marrying John Williams of Plymouth. She is survived by her husband John.



Boy Scout Tim Yudysky (left) and fellow scout Kyle Boyd install the first of several signs in the Northfork of the Flathead River drainage, site of the 2001 Moose Fire.

Scouting for a Project

By Mark Stanley, Flathead National Forest

During the fall of 2002 I was contacted by Forest Service retiree and former resource forester Fredrick Flint. For many years, Flint has served as a scoutmaster for Troop 41 of the Montana Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was looking for a project for a young man who was working towards his Eagle Scout.

The project had to be community oriented. The Three Forks Zone of the Flathead National Forest needed some new fire prevention signs. Tim Yudysky, a 16-year-

old junior from Columbia Falls High School in Columbia Falls, Montana, took on the project.

Over the winter he constructed six new fire prevention signs. He made the signs out of native material, consisting primarily of lodgepole pine logs. Tim spent the majority of his spare time over the winter building the signs. The Three Forks zone provided the raw materials.

Tim did a good job for us and we'll keep eagle scouts in mind for future projects.

How Adults Learn

By Joyce Pritchard, Regional Office

As a fuels specialist for the Palouse Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, Tami Parkinson has seen fire personnel move from having little interaction with the public to being in the spotlight, and not always favorably. Often, the conflict arises from people not having enough of an understanding of fire management to make informed decisions.

As part of pursuing her Master's degree in fire management, Tami set out to educate the public about the role of fire. After attending a workshop on how to teach children about fire using hands-on materials, she began to create a similar learning environment for adults. Tami surmised that

making information applicable to real life would make it easier to understand. She also felt that people needed to know more about the Forest Service's fire management policies.

Tami consulted with the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Jane Kapler Smith, creator of the FireWorks educational trunk. Jane helped Tami submit a proposal for funding to the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project (BEMRP), who granted \$12,500 to the project. Region 1 contributed \$2,500 and the Clearwater-Nez Perce forests gave \$10,000. Tami then conducted evening workshops on fire, fuels and ecology. Hands-on activities included igniting three kinds of wildland fuels to explore

how and at what rate fires burned, and examining cross sections from different tree species. Facilitators/helpers included district personnel Karl Dekome, Cletus Case, Glenn Heitz, Todd Zumhofe and Toni Ball.

Participants filled out questionnaires before the workshop, immediately after and one month later. Results showed increased knowledge and more positive attitudes toward fire and fire management. Tami suggests the workshops be used in campground presentations, public meetings or for community outreach.

For more information, see an article on Tami's report in the *Journal of Forestry* (Oct-Nov 2003).

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BRAACH, KEELY, office automation assistant, Lolo NF, promotion, support services specialist, Dillon RD
 CLARK, TAMARA, forestry tech (fuels), promotion, supervisory forestry tech, SO
 CULBRETH, TIMOTHY, forestry tech, promotion, lead forestry tech, Pintler RD
 DUECK, SANDRA, business management assistant, Jefferson RD, performance award
 GARCIA, BARBARA, student trainee-wildlife, promotion, wildlife biologist, Dillon RD
 GREENWOOD, KEVIN, range management specialist, Caribou-Targhee NF, promotion, range management specialist, Wisdom RD
 KAMRUD, TED, civil engineering tech, Jefferson RD, performance award
 LANGE, TERESA, civil engineering tech, SO, promotion, realty specialist, SO
 MARTIN, CHERYL, writer-editor, Jefferson RD, performance award
 MCCRAY, ROBERT, supervisory forestry tech, career promotion, supervisory forestry tech, Jefferson RD
 PADDOCK, ERIN, forester, career promotion, Wisdom RD
 ROUNDY, JAYSON, accounting tech, career promotion, SO
 TRETTER, ROBERT, forestry tech, IPNF, promotion, forestry tech, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

CAMPBELL, GREGORY, lead forestry tech, Salmon-Challis NF, reassignment, Wisdom RD
 DOWNING, DANIEL, fishery biologist, USFWS, transfer in, fishery biologist, Wisdom RD
 EGELINE, STEVEN, supervisory wildlife biologist, Fremont NF, reassignment, district ranger, Butte RD
 KNAUB, PHILLIP, supervisory forestry tech, Helena NF, reassignment, lead forestry tech, Madison RD
 MCCRAY III, ROBERT, supervisory forestry tech, Lewis & Clark NF, reassignment, Jefferson RD
 MONSON, FAYE, Helena NF, reassignment, business management clerk (OA), Dillon RD
 MULLEN, BENDAN, forestry tech, Lewis & Clark NF, reassignment, supervisory forestry tech, Jefferson, RD

New Employees

BREngle, JASON, range tech, Black Hills NF, Pintler RD
 LAYNE, NEAL, forestry tech., Jefferson RD
 O'DELL, CHANCEY, range tech, Wisdom RD
 SAMPSON, JOSEPH, forestry tech, Jefferson RD
 SORENSEN, BENJAMIN, forestry tech, Jefferson RD
 WALTER, TERRY, lead forestry tech, Pintler RD
 WEGLEY, GORDON, forestry tech, Pintler RD
 WRIGHT, DOUG, student trainee, landscape architect, excepted appointment, SO

Retirements & Resignations

KIECKBUSCH, SANDY, support services specialist, Jefferson RD, retirement, 07/26/03
 SMITH, PETER, rangeland mgmt specialist, Dillon RD, retirement, 09/02/03

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards and Promotions

HOLLINGHEAD, TRACY, wildlife biologist, Evanston RD, promotion, district ranger, Sula RD

Reassignments and Transfers

KASTNER, JOHN, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, reassignment, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC
 OLIVER, CHARLES, district ranger, Parks RD, transfer, district ranger, Darby RD
 SCHRECK, JULIE, conservation education coordinator, SO, reassignment, public affairs specialist, SO
 STALEY, MARYJO, purchasing agent, Trapper Creek JCC, reassignment, purchasing agent, SO

New Employees

ABBEY, JUSTIN, forestry tech, Sula RD
 CARLSON, ERIK, forestry tech, Darby RD
 CRAWFORD, DEANNA, human resources assistant, SO

Resignations and Retirements

BENTON, CHARLES, range tech, Sula RD, resignation
 CASE, WILLIAM, center director, Anaconda JCC, retirement
 JONES, SUSAN, nurse, Trapper Creek JCC, resignation
 MADSEN, AARON, supervisory forestry tech, SO, resignation
 SANDERS, CAROL, forestry tech, Darby RD, resignation
 THURMAN, KENNETH, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, resignation

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ANDERSON, BABETE, secretary, promotion, SO
 ANGENY, LEE, forestry tech, promotion, Ashland RD
 ARZY, DEIDRE, information technology specialist, promotion, GIS coordinator, SO
 BELL, PAMELA, purchasing agent, SO, QSI
 HELLESON, KATRINA, forestry tech, promotion, Beartooth RD
 JONES, TERRILL, rangeland management specialist, SO, promotion, Beartooth RD
 LESTER, LEISA, grants and agreements specialist, SO, performance award
 PIERSON, PATRICK, forester, promotion, geologist, SO
 PRETTY PAINT, BRENDA, purchasing agent, SO, QSI
 STEPHENS, GARY, contracting specialist, SO, performance award
 VIIG, MICHAEL, lead forestry tech, promotion, Beartooth RD

Reassignments & Transfers

EUBANK, VICKEY, forestry tech, re-assignment GIS specialist, SO
 PUCKETT, DAVE, forestry tech, reassignment, forester, Sioux RD

DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS

Reassignments & Transfers

MADRID, JULIAN, wildlife biologist, McKenzie RD, transfer, law enforcement officer, Park RD, Colorado

New Employees

GONZALES, MARK, soil/hydrologist, SO
 KEMPENICH, BRIAN, rangeland management specialist, Medora RD
 KNUTSON, KATIE, range management, SCEP, McKenzie RD
 MCNEE, SHEILA, rangeland management specialist, SO

Retirements

MCGUIRE, DONALD, civil engineer, Medora RD

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ARNOUX, KAREN, information technology specialist, SO, promotion
 SCRIBNER, PATRICK, forestry tech, SO, career-conditional appointment, forestry tech, Tally Lake RD
 TRIPP, JAMIE, forester, Tally Lake RD, promotion
 WILLITS, JANICE, investigative assistant, SO, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

BOELMAN, SHAWN, civil engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, Billings, transfer, civil engineer, SO
 BRAUNBERGER, EMA, biological science tech, Tally Lake RD, reassignment, geographic mapping system specialist, Tally Lake RD
 MOORE, MARSHA, forester, Bitterroot NF, reassignment, forester, Flathead NF, SO

Retirements & Resignations

BROSTEN, ARNE, supervisory natural resource specialist, Swan Lake RD, retirement
 BURNS, NORMA, information assistant, Swan Lake RD, retirement
 STINE, WILLIAM, civil engineering tech, SO, retirement
 YATES, JOSEPH, forestry tech, Swan Lake RD, retirement
 YOUNG, DANIEL, wildlife biologist, SO, retirement

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

AMES, KEVIN, supervisory forestry tech, promotion, Big Timber RD
 DUNCAN, LEVI, supervisory forestry tech, promotion, Big Timber RD
 LAVES, KEVIN, wildlife biologist, San Isabel NF, promotion, resource assistant (INT) Hebgen Lake RD
 MARTELL, STEVE, forestry tech, promotion, SO
 QUEEN, BILL, district ranger, promotion, Hebgen Lake RD
 SMITH, STEVE, lead forestry tech, Livingston RD, supervisory forestry tech, Shenango Work Station
 STOEFFLER, LISA, deputy area ranger, Sawtooth NRA, promotion, ecosystems staff officer, SO
 UELAND, JON, supervisory forestry tech, smokejumper, promotion, West Yellowstone Interagency Fire Center

Reassignments & Transfers

AMES, KEVIN, lead forestry tech, Livingston RD, reassignment, supervisory forestry tech, Big Timber RD
 GUEST, ANDREW, forestry tech, Helena NF, reassignment, forestry tech, Shenango Work Station
 RIXFORD, AUDREY, forestry tech, West Yellowstone Interagency Fire Center, reassignment, lead forestry tech, Livingston RD
 RIXFORD, TRAVIS, lead forestry tech, NPS, transfer in, supervisory forestry tech, Livingston RD
 ROCK III, NORMAN, forestry tech, reassignment, forestry tech, Big Timber RD
 SHEA, MELISSA, lead forestry tech, NPS, reassignment, lead forestry tech, Hebgen Lake RD
 STEIN, COLLEEN, computer assistant, reassignment, GIS specialist, SO

New Employees

BENNETT, WILLIAM, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Hebgen Lake RD
 BREKKE, CARRIE, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Livingston RD

Retirements & Resignations

GOWAN, NANCY, voucher examiner, retirement 09-19-2003

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST:

Awards & Promotions

CAMPBELL, SADIE, information assistant, promotion, forestry tech, Lincoln RD
 CUYLE, DEBBIE, office automation clerk, promotion, office automation assistant, Lincoln RD
 DUNNAM, JUDITH, forestry tech, SO, quality step increase
 HANCOCK, TIM, supervisory forester, Gallatin NF, promotion, forest eastside timber zone contracting officer, SO
 OLIVER, MIKE, public affairs specialist, SO, promotion, public affairs specialist (Montana capitol city liaison), SO
 PENGINEOTH, DENISE, forest wildlife biologist, SO, quality step increase
 SCOTT, SHARON, supervisory forester, promotion, forester, Helena RD

Reassignments & Transfers

GUEST, ANDY, forestry tech, Helena Dispatch, reassignment, forestry tech (assistant helitack manager), Gallatin NF
 HALLEN, DAVID, contract specialist, SO, reassignment, contract specialist, RO, Portland
 KASHMIER, CHAD, forestry tech (wilderness ranger), Gallatin NF, reinstatement, law enforcement officer, Central Montana Zone, Hebgen Lake RD
 KNAUB, PHILIP, forestry tech, Townsend RD, reassignment, lead forestry tech, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Sheridan Work Center
 KOLLMEYER, JANE, district ranger, Flathead NF, reassignment, deputy forest supervisor, SO
 LAMPSHIRE, CHRIS, law enforcement officer, Gunnison NF, reassignment, law enforcement officer, Central Montana Zone, SO
 MONSON, FAYE, office automation clerk, Helena RD, reassignment, business management clerk, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
 MUESTER, DEBBIE, forestry tech, Lincoln RD, transfer, forestry tech, Arapaho & Roosevelt NF

New Employees

DENSION, DONALD, law enforcement officer, career-conditional, Central Montana Zone, Rocky Mountain RD
 HOPPE, JACOB, forestry tech, career-conditional, Townsend RD

Retirements

MAINWARING, DAN, supervisory forester, Helena RD, retirement
 BADGETT, WILLIAM, civil engineer, SO, retirement

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

ADAMS, MARLENE, SCSEP, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 BEHRENS, PAT, forester, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion, supervisory forester
 BROOKS, DONNA, office automation clerk, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 BURNSIDE, SUZANNE, executive assistant, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 BUTLER, DEBRA, resource forester, R1, IPNF, Priest Lake RD, performance award
 DAVIS, KEVIN, hydrologic tech, R1, IPNF, Sandpoint RD, career conditional appointment, hydrologic tech
 DEVORE, RISA, realty specialist, R1, IPNF, Sandpoint RD, performance award
 DOUGHERTY, WENDY, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 FRANK, ROBYN, grants & agreements specialist, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 GLEASON, WINONA, administrative officer, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 HANSEN, LORI, accounting tech, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 HARTJES, LOUIS, supervisory forestry tech, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 HODEL, DIANE, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Sandpoint RD, performance award
 KNOX, KIM, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Priest Lake RD, performance award
 MACINTOSH, BILL, SCSEP, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 MOTTERN, BERTALEE, supervisory property management specialist, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 PETESCH, STEVE, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 REED, FLORENCE, SCSEP, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 STONE, CLYDE, forestry aid, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 TANAY, DREW, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award
 THOMAS, RANDY, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 TRULOCK, SUSAN, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry, performance award
 WALLACE, LARRY, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Boners Ferry RD, performance award
 WALLACE, WILMA, forestry technician, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry, performance award
 WILLIAMS, JULIE, resource assistant, R1, IPNF, SO, performance award
 WYNSMA, BARRY, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry RD, performance award

Transfers & Reassignments

BENNINGHOFF, BARBARA, administration, R1, IPNF, SO, reassignment, supervisory contract specialist, Lolo NF, SO R1
 BERGSTRAND, DON, forestry tech, R1, IPNF, Bonners Ferry, reassignment, safety & occupational health specialist, R2, Arapaho-Roosevelt NF
 GOODE, HAROLD, supervisory forestry tech, R1, Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF, reassignment, supervisory forestry tech, R1, CDA River RD
 MCNABB, JOAN, supervisory contract specialist, R1, Lolo NF, SO, reassignment, R1, IPNF, SO, supervisory contract specialist

New Employees

GEBHARDT, JIM, supervisory civil engineer, R1, IPNF, SO, CCA
 SCHWEHR, TIMOTHY, supply tech, R1, IPNF, SO, CCA

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BROTHERS, TYLER, forestry tech, R1 Lolo NF, promotion, forestry tech, SO
 COOPER, BOBBY, forestry tech, Fortine RD, promotion, forestry tech
 DICKINSON, ERIC, forestry tech, Three Rivers RD, promotion, forester
 FIELDS, LINDSEY, accountant, SO, promotion, accountant
 GILL, GLENN, wildlife biologist, Three Rivers RD, promotion, wildlife biologist
 HAINES, KATHY, human resource assistant, SO, promotion, human resource assistant
 HAMMONS, HARMONY, forestry tech, R1 Bitterroot NF, promotion, forestry tech Cabinet RD
 JUSTUS, DORTHY, resource clerk, Rexford RD, promotion, resource tech
 LEMER, DANIAL, forestry tech, Rexford RD, promotion, forestry tech
 LUNETTA, DAMIAN, forestry tech, Rexford RD, promotion, forestry tech
 MALYEVAC, ROBERT, civil engineering tech, East Zone, promotion civil engineering tech
 MARTINS, MATTHEW, supervisory forestry tech, Libby RD, promotion, forestry tech, Cabinet RD
 MONNIG, ED, district ranger, Fortine RD, promotion, deputy forest supervisor R4, Humbolt-Toiyabe NF
 MYERS, CARMIN, forestry tech, Cabinet RD, promotion, forestry tech
 STEVENSON, JEFF, supervisory forestry tech, Three Rivers RD, promotion, forestry tech
 STROM, MEGAN, forester, Rexford RD, promotion, forester
 TURK, JANETTE, forestry tech, Libby RD, promotion, forestry tech

Reassignments & Transfers

FIELDS, LINDSEY, student trainee, RO, reassignment, student trainee, SO
 GIDLEY, ZACHARY, forestry tech, Three Rivers RD, reassignment, forestry tech
 GOULD, JESSICA, student trainee, R3 Black Hills NF, reassignment, student trainee, Rexford RD
 HAMMACK, DON, supervisor range tech, BLM, transfer, forestry tech, Fortine RD
 POWERS, PETER, forestry tech, Libby RD, reassignment, forester, R6, Maluhar, Ochoco, Deschutes NF
 REYNAR, CHARLES, forestry tech, Rexford RD, transfer, forestry tech, USDI, Denali NP
 ROSS, CAROLYN, computer assistant, Three Rivers RD, reassignment, business management assistant

New Employees

CASTILLO, DANIEL, forester, career conditional, Cabinet RD
 FIELDS, LINDSEY, accountant, career conditional, SO
 RECKLEY, DALE, contracting specialist, career conditional, SO

Retirements & Resignations

BILLS, MICHAEL, contracting specialist, retired
 CARR, MICKEY, forestry tech, Three Rivers RD, resigned

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST:**Awards & Promotions**

DIEMERT, MIKE, civil engineer, SO, promotion
 GILBERT, RANDY, forestry tech, Rocky Mountain RD, promotion
 HOMISON, JIM, forestry tech, promotion, assistant fire management officer, Belt Creek RD
 KOSS, AL, wilderness specialist/recreation forester, Flathead NF, promotion, district ranger, Belt Creek RD
 VEJTASA, WILLIAM, forestry tech, Judith RD, promotion
 WOODS, MARILYN, financial assistant, quality step increase

Reassignments & Transfers

BRANDVOLD, LINDA, civil engineer, Wallowa-Whitman NF, reassignment, civil engineer, SO
 FINNEGAN, PATRICK, law enforcement officer, Rocky Mountain RD, reassignment, criminal investigator, Nez Perce NF
 GONZALEZ, MARY, forestry tech, Musselshell RD, reassignment, biological resource information specialist, Midewin National Grasslands, Illinois
 MCCRAY, ROBERT, forestry tech, Musselshell RD, reassignment, forestry tech (engine), Jefferson RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
 MULLEN, BRENDAN, supervisory forestry tech, Rocky Mountain RD, reassignment, supervisory forestry tech, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
 OWEN, RUSSELL, supervisory forestry tech, reassignment, forestry tech (fuels management), Rocky Mountain RD
 TEIG, RON, forestry tech, White Sulphur Springs RD, reassignment, forest aviation officer, SO

New Employees

DODGE, DOUGLAS, district ranger, career-conditional, Musselshell RD
 RAFFERTY, BRIAN, information assistant/reception, career-conditional, SO
 RUZYL, MARK, park ranger, career-conditional, Interpretive Center
 SCRIVER, LYNETTE, park ranger, career-conditional, Interpretive Center

Retirements

ADOLPHSON, GORDON (Buzz), maintenance mechanic, SO, retirement
 FOWLER, DONALD, forestry tech, Musselshell RD, retirement
 MEYERS, RONALD, civil engineer, SO, retirement

Personnel Actions

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

FLICK, REBECCA, lead forestry tech, Moose Creek RD, promotion
 HAMMOND, THAYNE, student trainee forestry tech, Red River RD, promotion
 HINDS, LINDA, financial management officer SO, promotion
 ISAACSON, TYKO, student forestry trainee, Clearwater RD, promotion
 OSBORN, JOSLYN, forestry tech, Clearwater RD, promotion
 WREN, CAROLYN, fish biologist, Clearwater RD, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

SEIMS, SHARRON, wildlife biologist, Red River RD, transfer

Retirements & Resignations

ARTLEY, RICHARD, special projects planning specialist, SO, retirement

REGIONAL OFFICE

Awards and Promotions

CARLSON, ANN, promotion, WWF&RP, regional aquatic biologist
 EGGE, SHANNON, performance award AFD, supply tech
 HEGMAN, SKIP, promotion, HR, Human Resources specialist
 HUBBERT, DONNA, promotion, HR, director
 HUTCHISON, CARL, promotion, HR, Human Resources assistant
 IRVINE, MARGIE, promotion, CR, Equal Employment specialist
 LEVESQUE, DAVID, performance award, AFD, supply management officer
 MASON, PHILLIP, performance award AFD, materials handler leader
 MILLER, WILLIAM, J, performance award AFD, small engine mechanic
 MOULETTE, PETER, promotion, HELENA NF, supervisory law enforcement officer
 RESNER, BONNIE, performance award AFD, supply management specialist
 TUCK, THOMAS, promotion, HR, Human Resources assistant

Reassignments and Transfers

PUCHLERZ, THOMAS, reassignment, RMLHW, director

New Employees

GROB, IAN J., photographic technologist, MTDC
 THRALL, KRISTEN E., information assistant, MTDC

Retirements and Resignations

KAY, MARTHA, retirement, resource support
 STEWART, FRED, retirement, EAP
 TSUNEMORI, ADELE, resignation, ENG

When Wildfire Becomes Art

Mark Stanley,
 Flathead
 National Forest

Smokey Bear an art connoisseur? Yes indeed. Smokey, in his usual attire, attended the wildfire exhibit opening this summer at the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell. Thanks to the efforts of museum director Linda Engh-Grady and Flathead National Forest conservation education specialist Teresa Wenum, the opening was a big success.



Wildfire art exhibit in Kalispell.

Around 150 people attended the opening. The display was put together from various local artists and agency firefighters of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation and the USDA Forest Service.

Also, many thanks to the engine crew from the Swan Lake Ranger District (Kari Boyd and Eli Schmed) as well as Steve Brady and Allen Rowley with the Supervisor's Office of the Flathead National Forest for their help with the project.

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