



# The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

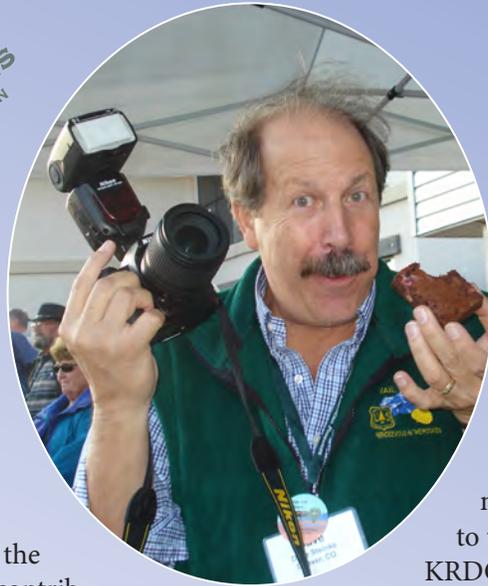
Special Edition  
Dave Steinke Retirement  
January 2, 2015

## A Dave Steinke Story:

The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to bring you this “Special Edition” of the Rendezvous as a tribute to Dave Steinke. Dave’s retirement is well deserved and gives us a chance to remember what he has done and how much we appreciate that he has been such a wonderful part of the Rocky Mountain Region. He has contributed so much over the years to our experiences, our successes, our enjoyment, our memories, and our Forest Service lives that we felt it important that we properly acknowledge and express what a difference he has made to so many of us. To do that we have collected letters, notes, memories, and stories that are shared in the following pages.

As we all know Dave’s story is actually a lifetime that has been dedicated to artfully telling many stories in a number of different ways. He has such a special talent for being able to capture the important things in life. He brings film, photo, sound, music, words, and writing together in such a way that seems to always enlighten, enrich, educate, and engage folks. Before you begin reading some of the stories people have shared here, we want to share just a bit about Dave Steinke’s life and his years with the Forest Service.

Every story has a beginning chapter. This is usually known as the introduction. Dave was born in Denver to Gene and Doris Steinke on August 19, 1953. He was one of six children and grew up in a loving and caring family with strong values. Both of his parents had journalism degrees. He graduated from St. Francis de Sales High School in 1971. The school earned a reputation as being one of the best



high schools in the city before it closed in 1973. He attended the University of Denver and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media in 1975.

After graduating from DU, the next chapters of Dave’s life began to unfold. He went to work for KRDO television station (Channel 13) in Colorado Springs, CO, an ABC affiliate.

It was there in Colorado Springs with KRDO that he met his wife to be Sue Robinson, who also was working for the television station. Dave did well at the station and was viewed as a great up and comer. His work as a videographer gave him great experience and he made important connections in the community.

Another story was developing during these years. After the National Forest Management Act was passed in 1976, the Forest Service knew it needed to better understand and communicate with the public as planning became a much more important part of their daily work. Pike-San Isabel Forest Supervisor R. N. (Bob) Ridings and Deputy Forest Supervisor R.M. (Jim) Nelson were intent on strengthening their ability to connect with the public but they struggled with how to do that with the traditional focus and staffing available. Sometime in early 1977, through a connection of Pikes Peak District Ranger, Steve Deitemeyer, a contact was made with a bright young, energetic, and promising professional talent at KRDO named Dave Steinke. Dave went to Pueblo with his portfolio in hand for an interview for a job with the Pike-San Isabel Forest. He made a very favorable impression and was hired in a temporary position and assigned to work out of the South Platte

Ranger District Office with the Forest Public Affairs Officer, Marge Smith.

The South Platte office was located in Lakewood in a small business complex just north of Jewel Street between Sheridan and Wadsworth. The office was on the lower level with other offices above on the main floor. Larry Gadt was the Ranger on the District. In August of 1978, Dave was converted to a permanent position on the District and thus his career with the Forest Service began.

Dave brought new ideas and approaches to the Forest and was able to use his skills in videography to produce informative and educational videos intended to help improve communication and connectivity with the public. Four years out of school and with permanent Forest Service job, Dave and Sue were married in 1979.

Dave's work on the Forest was very successful and he quickly earned the respect of folks not only the Forest but also in the Region. The challenges faced by the Forest were not unique. The Region struggled as increasing environmental pressure and public interest came to play in the planning processes. The Region recognized Dave's talent and sought to add a new chapter to Dave's story by bringing Dave into the Region to help the entire Region.

Dave's career in the Regional Office of the Rocky Mountain Region thus began in 1981. It has now been thirty-three years working there and amazingly, Dave has been perhaps the most stable feature in the entire Region, in more ways than one. Over the years there have been many different organizational changes and designs. He has worked for at least seven directors and seven Regional Foresters. He has seen many initiatives and many changes in direction and priorities. He has had the pleasure of working with some very talented individuals and has mentored many a young person coming into the "outfit".

Describing all that he has worked on and all that he has accomplished is nearly impossible. His work, his videos, his facilitation, his support, his creativity, his passion, and the feeling of friendship that he seemed to always be able to genuinely express to others, made difficulties and challenges disappear. He seemed to always see the positive and always looked at the bright side, albeit, there were times he had to occasionally

swallow hard. He is a wonderful teacher and communicator. His character is strong and his ethics unquestionable. His word and his credibility are rock solid. To help remember all that he did, it is important to reflect upon what has happened in the Forest Service and the Rocky Mountain Region over the last thirty-five years or so and we have, therefore, tried to capture some of that in the summary that is written below.

*Note:* On the following page is a brief chronology of the "Office of Information, Public Affairs, Public Services, Public Information, Communications and Legislative Affairs, and now External Affairs" unit and the issues and changes that dominated the times.

Dave's interest in the history of the agency and the people who made that history has grown to be an important part of who he is and what he has given back to the "outfit". The passion and interest he has for history has driven much of the most significantly recognized contributions of his career. Without a doubt, Dave's role in producing both "*The Greatest Good*" and "*Green Fire*" has in many ways capped a tremendously successful career. These two outstanding historical documentaries have left a mark on conservation history themselves by helping all of us to be able to understand and learn from that history.

For so many of us, Dave feels just like family. But outside the Forest Service family, he has a great family also. Dave and Sue were blessed with a daughter, Erin, in 1987. Erin is now twenty-seven and has worked as a video editor for a TV station and has inherited many of Dave's talents. Sue is an artist and paints regularly and participates in art shows and often sells her work. She also loves to garden and is a certified as a Master Gardener. It is so special to see how important Dave's family is to his life.

He dearly enjoys his family, Sue, Erin, his mother Doris, and all the rest. The time he has with them is always truly special. Dave lost his father just a year ago and they had many fun times over the years. They would often be seen at Rockies games taking in the game and enjoying a hot dog and:

*"If they don't win, it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,  
At the old ball game."*

The Rocky Mountaineers, nearly four hundred strong, join together in this “Special Edition” of our newsletter to wish Dave a long and satisfying retirement. We look forward to having him be a part of the retiree community as a retiree. In reality, he has been so close and connected to all the retirees in the

Rocky Mountain Region that it has always felt that he has been a part of us, but that is just the way Dave is. We will miss not having him to help keep us up-to-date and apprised of what is happening in “our outfit”. We have leaned on him and relied upon him, and now he is one of us!



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The Rocky Mountaineers invite you to add your own congratulatory letters or notes to Dave by sending them to our email at [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com). We will make certain Dave gets your messages. If you are not a member of the Rocky Mountaineers and want to join this association, we would love to have you let us know and we will get you the application form. For info about the Rocky Mountaineers, you can visit our website that can be found at “[rockymountaineers.us](http://rockymountaineers.us)”.

We wish to thank all who contributed to this newsletter by submitting letters and photos and memories. A special thanks to Judy Dersch for making this Special Edition possible with her design, layout, and artistic talent.

The Rocky Mountaineers have not absolutely verified all the dates and facts expressed in the letters and information shared in this newsletter and it is possible that some views expressed don't necessarily reflect those of the Rocky Mountaineers overall. Dates and memories aren't always exact but overall the one fact that is undisputable is that Dave Steinke will be missed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Tom L. Thompson, Special Edition Editor

## Chronology of the Transitions, Changes, and Major Issues Faced by the Office of Information During Dave Steinke's years in the Region from 1977-2014

**In 1977** Dave is hired as a temporary employee on the Pike-San Isabel NF and worked on the South Platte Ranger District. Other employees on the District at that time, included Bill Nelson, Denny Bschor, Jim Sullivan. An informal District newspaper known as the South Platte Scat was very popular, especially with the field crew on the District.

**In 1978** Dave gets a permanent assignment with the Forest Service in August.

**In 1979** Dave marries Sue Robinson. President Carter proposes a new Dept. of Natural Resources

**In 1980** Ronald Reagan is elected President and Max Peterson became Chief

**In 1981** Regional Forester Rupp moves forward with a major Regional Office reduction in personnel by 20%, known as the "Blue Box" times, including moving from three Deputies to one.

-Dave officially became a regional resource as he and his talents were transferred to the Regional Office. Dave joined others in the Office of Information under Director Art Merriman. The staff then included Assistant Director Ray Benton, Lee Carr, Larry Simmons, Elsie Cunningham, and Gary Severson. Much of the focus was on Regional Planning Guidance. Dave provided unique and special skills in producing videos.

**Sometime in 1982**, the Office of Information was combined with Planning and became Planning and Public Information under Director David Anderson. Hank Deutsch was the Assistant Director and Dave had responsibility for the audiovisual aspects of the units work.

**By 1984** Craig Rupp retired and Jim Torrence was the new Regional Forester. The news media aspects of the information unit which had been handled by Lee Carr were added to Dave's responsibilities of audiovisuals. The unit included Asst. Director Hank Deutsch, Dave, Elsie Cunningham (Public Group Contacts), Larry Simmons (Illustrator), and Harva Lou Buchanan... (Environmental Education and Publications).

**In 1985**, Denny Bschor became the Asst. Director, Lynnda Brownlow was responsible for Issues Management and Public Involvement, Hank Deutsch for External Relations, and Dave then had overall responsibility for Current Information and had Larry Simmons, Elsie Cunningham, and Harva Lou Buchanan reporting to him.

**By 1986**, Gary Cargill was the Regional Forester and the Office of Information was again a separate unit with Director Denny Bschor with basically the same people. Dave was now responsible for Audio-visual, Publications, and Electronic Media and Larry Simmons still worked directly for Dave.

**By 1988**, the unit name was changed to the Public Affairs Office and there had been considerable turnover in the unit. There were a number of key vacancies, but Lynn Young, who had been Ranger at Boulder, moved in to take responsibility for Internal/External Relations, Public Involvement and Media. "Creative Arts" was added to Dave's official responsibilities. The Yellowstone fires in the summer dominated the national news and drew attention to the issues of fire and forests perhaps more than any other event up to that time.

**By 1989** most of the vacancies were filled and the new faces in the unit were Dennis Neill (Legislative Affairs and Issues) and Ed Nesselroad (Interpretive Services, Environmental Education, and the Smokey/Woodsey Programs) World Alpine Ski Championships

**By 1990**, Denise Tomlin had moved into the unit to handle Office Services, Jan Giddens came for Visitor Services, and a new person just out of school, Lisa Notch, was given responsibility for Controlled Correspondence. Otherwise, the staff remained fairly stable.

**By 1991**, Harva Lou had retired and the Regional Office was beginning to look at combining some staffs. Much of the focus throughout this year centered on the Centennial of the Forest Reserve activities and events, including events in Cody, WY and the Shoshone as well as events on the White River, including the first ever, Forest Service Reunion. President Bush also visited the Black Hills. Dave was heavily involved in all these activities as were everyone in the public affairs unit and many others across the Region.

**In the spring of 1992**, Gary Cargill retired and that fall Elizabeth Estill came in as the new Regional Forester. A new office was being built and move being planned to the 740 Simms address a block to the southwest of the old office. In the Public Affairs Office, Denise Stuhr followed in behind Harva Lou, and Jane Leche now was responsible for Customer Service and worked for Ed Nesselroad. The Rainbow family spent a month or so on the Grand Mesa N.F. Dave was now responsible for all Creative Arts, AV, Publications, and Electronic Media.

**In 1993**, the move to the new office at 740 Simms took place and the Recreation program and the Public Affairs programs were combined at the Region to form the Recreation and Public Service unit. Denny assumed the overall directorship of this new unit and in addition to all the public affairs folks he also now had responsibility for another nine or ten people from the recreation side. In the new office, Public Affairs had more space and Dave had a new video editing and film library to lose himself in.

**In 1994**, Denny left to become a Forest Supervisor in R-6 and Steve Deitemeyer came in as the new Director of the Recreation and Public Service unit. By this time the core of the unit in public affairs had become perhaps the strongest such unit in the Forest Service with Lynn Young, Dennis Neal, Ed Nesselroad, and Dave Steinke. With the fourteen South Canyon fire fatalities in July of that year, the strength of the unit was severely tested. In the fall of 1994, the Regional adopted a new initiative called "Bold We Go" which challenged all to think and work differently in a more boundary-less manner. Fiddlin' Forester became an official sanctioned group representing the Region.

**1995**, Major effort to streamline work, centralize processes, and decentralize services. Forest combinations and consolidations on San Juan and Rio Grande and Routt and Medicine Bow

**In 1996**, On May 18 the Buffalo Creek fire awakened people in the front range to their vulnerability while living in the "Red Zone".

**In 1997**, Elizabeth Estill moved on to R-8 and Lyle Laverty came in to fill the Regional Forester chair in November of that year. A major issue for the staff in 1997 was that the members of the staff were not fully funded, so the Public Affairs unit advertised and sought projects

from outside the Region to cover part of the part of the salary costs to keep the unit intact. This initiative brought about the Strategic Communications Center of Excellence, which offered training in Meeting the Media, Media Training for the 90's, Crisis Communication, and training in Keys to Successful Event Planning. Dave did a ton of videos/pubs for other Regions and the WO during that time. A major blowdown occurred on the Routt NF in October of this year.

**In 1998**, The Region undertakes a major effort to salvage much of the blowdown on the Routt N.F. and attempt to keep bark beetle from becoming an epidemic.

**In 1999**, Larry Simmons, who had worked for and with Dave for over 16 years retired. Judy Dersch came from the Park Service to assume the duties in creative arts.

**In October 2000**, Lyle left to become the National Fire Plan leader and Rick Cables returned to the Region from Alaska to become the Regional Forester in October, 2000. The fires across the west, especially in Idaho and Montana dominated the summer and many folks including Dave were dispatched to fires.

**In 2001**, the Forest Service was readjusting to a new Administration and again coping with some very significant fires.

Outgoing Chief Dombeck announced his new Roadless Rule. Looking ahead to the Forest Service Centennial Celebration, a core group of folks decided to meet at Gray Towers in Pennsylvania on the week of September 10 to consider how to create a movie to capture the first hundred years of history of the agency. Dave, along with the Dunskeys, Eddie Brannon, Curt Meine and others gathered there for that purpose. The morning of September 11, the world changed.

**In 2002**, work began in earnest on planning the Centennial film, themes, initial scripts, and the search for photos, records, and film to use in telling the story. The Region experiences the largest fire in Colorado history in June with the destructive 138 thousand acre Hayman Fire. Dealing with the fire information and the overall investigation was a significant public relations challenge. Nationally there was a significant amount of focus on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

**In 2003**, the public affairs unit was split out of the Recreation Public Service combined unit and became the Communications and Legislative Affairs unit. Terri Gates came in as the Director of this Unit. In addition to his normal activities and duties, Dave and the Dunksy's were busy framing, interviewing, filming, and developing their upcoming movie, *The Greatest Good*. Bill Rice, supporting the National Fire Plan, and Deb Parker, for legislative coordination, came to the unit.

**In 2004**, in anticipation of the upcoming Centennial, Dave had primary responsibility for planning a Regional forum in Fort Collins, CO to engage partners in identifying challenges and opportunities for the New Century of Service. Final editing and work was done on the movie including the final work on the sound track which was produced by Lance Bendikson. Cold Missouri Waters was also produced featuring Jane Leche. Dave was responsible for the videography and editing.

**In 2005** With the Centennial Congress being held the first week of January in Washington, D.C., it provided the perfect opportunity for the premiere showing of "*The Greatest Good*". It was a wonderful event and the Centennial Celebration began. Other events and happenings, included the Folklife Festival on the Mall in D.C. and the 4th Forest Service Reunion in Portland, OR.

**In 2006** The mountain pine beetle epidemic reaches an all-time high and dominates the work of the Region. The Region kicks off a Sustainable Operations initiative.

**In 2007** Insect epidemics continued to be the big issue and fire funding and tight budgets. The Region released a Bark Beetle Mitigation Plan.

**In 2008** An election year and lots of politics came to play its way out. Government spending and recession issues that influenced everything that was done.

A series of campground closures were announced in response to hazard trees from bark beetle mortality

**In 2009** The Region received \$40 million identified for dealing with the impacts of the mountain pine beetle. Forests to Faucets campaign. Terri Gates moves up to the RF's office as Chief of Staff.

**In 2010** A Forests to Faucets partnership with Denver Water was announced. *Green Fire* work is started... with the Leopold Foundation

**In 2011** Rick Cables retires and Dan Jiron came to become the new Regional Forester

**In 2012** The R-2 history was completed with the release of "From Prairies to Peaks". The 6th National Forest Service Reunion was held in September at Vail, Rendezvous in the Rockies with over 650 attendees.

**In 2013** *Green Fire* is released and is another award winning historical documentary. Valerie Baca came to the unit and the name was changed to External Affairs.

Retirees worked to turn around a USDA initiative that would have removed the Forest Service shield as the symbol of the U.S. Forest Service

**In 2014** Dave makes the decision to retire and ends his 36 year career in the Rocky Mountain Region.



## Letters, Notes, and Memories by Category:

### National Leadership:

<b>Dale Bosworth</b> , 15th Chief, Emeritus	10
<b>Sally Collins</b> , Associate Chief, retired	16
<b>Abigail Kimbell</b> , 16th Chief, Emeritus	28
<b>F. Dale Robertson</b> , 12th Chief, Emeritus	36
<b>Tom Thompson</b> , Deputy Chief and Deputy RF retired	42
<b>Chief Tom Tidwell</b> , 17th Chief	43

### R-2 Regional Leadership:

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<b>Bjorn Dahl</b> , Regional Director, retired	16
<b>Steve Deitemeyer</b> , Regional Director, retired	17
<b>Tony Dixon</b> , Deputy RF/W.O. Director	19
<b>Elizabeth Estill</b> , Regional Forester, Deputy Chief, retired	22
<b>Scott Fitzwilliams</b> Forest Supervisor, White River	23
<b>Greg Griffith</b> , Deputy RF, retired	24
<b>Sid Hanks</b> , Deputy RF, retired	25
<b>Dave Heerwagen</b> , Deputy RF, retired	26
<b>Dan Jirón</b> , Regional Forester	27
<b>Lyle Laverty</b> , Regional Forester, retired; former Asst. Sec. Dept. of Interior	28
<b>Jerry Schmidt</b> , Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow/Routt, retired	37
<b>Rich Stem</b> , Deputy RF, retired	40
<b>Ellie Towns</b> , Regional Director, R-3 Regional Forester, retired	45
<b>Skip Underwood</b> , Regional Director, W.O. Director, retired	46
<b>Bernie Weingardt</b> , Regional Forester R-5, retired	47

### Co-workers /immediate staff/associates:

<b>Judy Dersch</b> , Co-worker, retired	18
<b>Hank Deutsch</b> , Co-worker, retired	18
<b>Jacqueline Emanuel</b> , Co-worker, W.O. Legislative Affairs	22
<b>Larry Gadt</b> , Co-worker/W.O. Director, retired	24
<b>Linda Hecker</b> , Co-worker	26

<b>Ellen Hodges</b> , Co-worker, retired	27
<b>Johnny Hodges</b> , Co-worker, retired	27
<b>Jane Leche</b> , Co-worker, Fiddlin' Foresters	30
<b>Jim Maxwell</b> , Co-worker, retired, Fiddlin' Foresters	32
<b>Ed Nesselroad</b> , Co-worker, retired	34
<b>Lloyd Newland</b> , Denver area retiree group rep.	35
<b>Dan Nolan</b> , Co-worker, retired	35
<b>Ben Scott</b> , Co-worker	38
<b>Larry Simmons</b> , Co-worker, retired	38
<b>Lisa Street</b> , Co-worker, Boise Interagency Fire Center	40
<b>Jim Sullivan</b> , Co-worker, retired, Sullivision	41
<b>Denise Tomlin</b> , Co-worker, retired	44
<b>Lynn Young</b> , Co-worker, Fiddlin' Forester, retired	50

### Co-producers, Historians, Partners, and Production Specialists:

<b>Ed Brannon</b> , Gray Towers Director retired	11
<b>Gene Colling</b> , R-1 Regional A/V Production Specialist retired	15
<b>Ann Dunsky</b> , Co-producer, R-5	20
<b>Steve Dunsky</b> , Co-producer, R-5	21
<b>Buddy Huffaker</b> , Aldo Leopold Foundation	27
<b>Jamie Lewis</b> , Forest History Society	31
<b>Pat and Mike Lynch</b> , Western Heritage Company	31
<b>Char Miller</b> , Historian and Professor	33
<b>Curt Meine</b> , Historian	33
<b>Rod Replogle</b> , R-3 Regional A/V Production Specialist retired	36
<b>Jerry Williams</b> , Forest Service Historian retired	47

### SEAL Training:

<b>Dave Cawrse</b> , Co-worker and SEAL Training Staff	14
<b>Karla Hawley</b> , Friend and Co-worker, W.O. Chiefs Office, R-5, Seal Training cadre	25
<b>Blake Leath</b> , Instructor for SEAL Training	29
<b>Lou Romero</b> , Friend and Facilitator for SEAL Training, Forest Service retired	37
<b>Kim Vogel</b> , Co-coordinator for SEAL Training, retired	46

## Alphabetical Listing of Letters, Notes, and Memories:

<b>Dale Bosworth</b> , 15th Chief, Emeritus	10	<b>Jane Leche</b> , Co-worker, Fiddlin' Forester	30
<b>Ed Brannon</b> , Gray Towers Director, retired	11	<b>Jamie Lewis</b> , Forest History Society	31
<b>Denny Bschor</b> , Regional Director, W.O. Director, R-10 Regional Forester, retired	12	<b>Pat and Mike Lynch</b> , Western Heritage Company	31
<b>Rick Cables</b> , Regional Forester, retired	14	<b>Jim Maxwell</b> , Co-worker retired, Fiddlin' Forester	32
<b>Dave Cawrse</b> , Co-worker and SEAL Training Staff	14	<b>Curt Meine</b> , Historian	33
<b>Gene Colling</b> , R-1 Regional A/V Production Specialist, retired	15	<b>Char Miller</b> , Historian and Professor	33
<b>Sally Collins</b> , Associate Chief, retired	16	<b>Ed Nesselroad</b> , Co-worker, R-1 Director, retired	34
<b>Bjorn Dahl</b> , Regional Director, retired	16	<b>Lloyd Newland</b> , Denver area retiree group representative	35
<b>Steve Deitemeyer</b> , Regional Director, retired	17	<b>Dan Nolan</b> , Co-worker, retired	35
<b>Judy Dersch</b> , Co-worker, retired	18	<b>Rod Replogle</b> , R-3 Regional A/V Production Specialist, retired	36
<b>Hank Deutsch</b> , Co-worker, retired	18	<b>F. Dale Robertson</b> , 12th Chief, Emeritus	36
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<b>Johnny Hodges</b> , Co-worker, retired	27	<b>Bernie Weingardt</b> , Regional Forester R-5, retired	47
<b>Buddy Huffaker</b> , Aldo Leopold Foundation	27	<b>Jerry Williams</b> , Forest Service Historian, retired	47
<b>Dan Jirón</b> , Regional Forester	27	<b>Lynn Young</b> , Co-worker, Fiddlin' Forester, retiree	50
<b>Abigail Kimbell</b> , 16th Chief, Emeritus	28		
<b>Lyle Laverty</b> , Regional Forester retired, Former Asst. Sec. Dept. of Interior	28		
<b>Blake Leath</b> , Instructor for SEAL Training	29		

## Dale Bosworth

I didn't know Dave until after I became Chief in 2001. One of my advisors, Bob Swinford told me I should have a video made introducing me to the folks in the agency whom I didn't know. He said he knew some people that would do a great job and their names were Dave Steinke and Steve and Ann Dunskey. I said I didn't want a video. A few weeks later Bob said I really need to do this. I said I didn't want a video. Bob said I would like these people. I said I didn't want a video.

Eventually Bob wore me down and I agreed to try it. I met up with Dave and his cronies a few weeks later in the field. After the first day, they realized this was going to be more challenging than they had anticipated. They were supposed to make me look good. That was no easy task. They decided the best thing was to follow me around from time to time and try to catch me in the act of saying something intelligent.

Dave took on the challenge with a smile and with his usual positive attitude. I noticed after a few weeks he was starting to growl and snarl, mumbling something about mission impossible. I even thought I saw tears in his eyes a few times. As for me, the more time I spent with Dave the more I enjoyed it. I was having a great time and when the filming was over I found that I missed not seeing Dave and the Dunskeys. The video they produced was actually very good. They called it "Seven Days with Dale" although I was told that Dave privately referred to it as "Seven Days with the Devil."

Of course Dave and the Dunskeys' crowning achievement was "*The Greatest Good*." The film was a spectacular success. Everyone who saw it loved it and it made Forest Service people everywhere proud to be with the agency.

Dave has contributed to the Forest Service and to the land we manage more than most people through his personality, talent and hard work. I am proud to know him and to have worked with him. I wish him the best in his retirement.

Dale Bosworth



### Centennial Celebration, 2005

During the Centennial there were a number of very special events, including the Centennial Congress in January and the Folklife Festival in July, both in Washington, D.C. Dave was involved in all of these events and also played a major role in completion of the New Century of Service initiatives. Dave, Steve, and Ann kicked off the premiere showing of *The Greatest Good* at the Centennial Congress with red carpet, popcorn, and even a couple Oscars standing guard at the door. Teddy Roosevelt was in attendance and even Lassie stopped by for photos with Timmy.



## Edgar B. Brannon Jr.

December 3, 2014

On the retirement of David Steinke - artist extraordinaire.

I got to know David on September 11, 2001. Yes, 9-11. A group of historians and Forest Service leaders gathered around a large conference table at Grey Towers National Historic Site to discuss a proposal by Steve and Ann Dunsky - and Dave Steinke - to produce a PBS documentary on the first Century of the US Forest Service. Not a humdrum boring puff piece, but a work of serious scholarship and also highest production standard - all on a shoestring - the Forest Service way. Needless to say, the events of the day put a damper on the meeting, but not on the participants. After a week of waiting for airports to clear (and they didn't), the group decided to rent a van and strike out on a trip across America. Along the way, they sent post cards from the sites and historic places we all know and love - like the Worlds Largest Ball of Tin Foil. Those great American monuments. I learned that week that Dave Steinke was not normal. He is an artist.

I have known many great men and women in my career in the U.S. Forest Service - brilliant thinkers, great philosophers, passionate conservationist and public servants, and many tireless and selfless workers. These have been the backbone of most of the agency's greatest achievements over its long history. But what David, along with a few others, brought to the table was something different - he brought creativity. David's career is marked by accomplishments, his passion for the mission of the Forest Service, and his love of public service. But in my opinion, his greatest contribution was his creative talent coupled with an ability to stand the B.S. of contemporary bureaucratic government (something

that tends to suffocate creative talent), meager support and constant threat of elimination. At times, I am certain he had the feeling of being overwhelmed and fed-up. But David had the strength to hang in there and continue to produce product after product that may have helped advance the agency mission more than all the white papers in the world.

In today's Forest Service, I believe creativity is essential to survival and growth. The eye of the artist is not a luxury, it is our survival - at least in a world we would want to live in. David made his mark, and we are all richer for it. I wish we could clone David, and the rare few others like him. True artists with a passion for public service, and a love of conservation are an endangered species. We need David, but we have his legacy to celebrate over and over.

It is fitting on the year the 9-11 Memorial opens (finally); David closes a chapter in his life and begins a new one. After my retirement, I have tried to get the Forest Service out of my blood, but I have not been successful. I expect the same of David. It is a chronic disease I cannot escape, I can only medicate it (will not give up my secret on how). David will soon join the most fabulous group in America - the RETIRED Forest Service employees. We can relive all great adventures, and not face the deadening gas of bureaucracy. That is for others. But we can be fully human, and celebrate our God given gift of creativity. Welcome Dave.

With warmest respect.



## Denny Bschor

The first time I got acquainted with Dave was when I arrived on the South Platte district. My first impression was how happy, enthused, energetic, hard-working, smart fun, and dedicated he was at such a young age. The South Platte was no walk in the park. Being a front-range district we had resource and public uses and challenges that were often overwhelming.

During my short two year assignment, we dealt with heavy recreation use, a very active fire ecosystem, two huge Denver Water Board dam proposals, coordination with the Colorado Trail Foundation in the location and construction of the first 75 miles of the Colorado Trail system, numerous mining and lands issues, organization and operation of a residential YCC camp and a non-residential YACC camp, the Rampart Range Motorcycle trail system, the Chutes dispersed recreation area, the Utah Sons of Silence motorcycle gang week-long camp out by Buffalo Creek, the annual Christmas Tree Cutting area, to name a few. Dave was a self starter and was always ready and willing to help provide drastically needed public affairs and communication support which easily took more than his share of extra effort.

In his 'spare time' he and Jim Sullivan, one of our super seasonal employees, wrote, edited and produced an unsanctioned internal news letter which was called, "The South Platte Scat." Employees could hardly wait for the next edition. We treated it as sort of an underground newsletter that most of management condoned, including the ranger, Jack Cameron. (We weren't so sure about the forest supervisor, RM Bob Ridings.) The Scat was to the point, extremely well done, and covered current topics and concerns. It contained an abundance of humor and was a great way to relieve stress and improve team building and morale. It was through the South Platte Scat that I saw the boldness, the tendency to push the envelope, the tendency to take reasonable risks and the almost fearless side of Dave Steinke. At the same time he revealed his creativity, his fun loving sense of humor and comedic nature most everyone grew to love about him. Needless to say, I was already a fan. When I left the South Platte, I was certain this would not be the last I would see Dave Steinke.

Time flew by and in December 1985 my wife, Cheryl, and I were headed back to Denver for my new assignment in the regional office. Since I felt I was painfully under qualified for such a position and was internally questioning leadership's wisdom to select me, I arrived

with great apprehension and to be blunt, somewhat fearful of entering this new career direction. To my delight and amazement I was pleased to receive a warm and inviting welcome by the staff, and was very happy to see Dave Steinke's friendly, familiar, and smiling face .

Once again we faced challenging times. During the next 8 years we went through and organizational transition from the Office of Communication under Planning to a separate stand alone Public Affairs organization, to a combined Public Service and Recreation organization. Organizational changes are generally stressful and not very popular. Throughout the 8 years and all of this organizational change, Dave was always present with his great attitude and calming personality. He continued producing his regular Audio Visual internal and external communication tools and productions as well as providing leadership and expertise with unit communications and morale.

Most know him for his creative abilities to create high quality audio visual productions. What they may not know is his ability to provide leadership with strategy development and his key role as part of a finely tuned, often outrageous group of public affairs professionals who conducted regional communications training, facilitated meetings, and designed commutation strategies for internal and external public affairs issues and projects. The list was large and some examples are: the Yellowstone Vision process; the IGBC grizzly bear recover efforts; fire communications support including the 1988 Yellowstone fires; the 1991 100 year celebration of the first National Forest Reserves; the New Perspectives initiative; the Zephyrs' Baseball games; the Black Hills presidential visit by President George H. Bush and his wife, Barbara Bush; the Beaver Creek World Cup ski races; and, support for (only Dave knows how many) going away and retirement parties.

Obviously, the story continued after I left. Dave stayed and continued to shine and make a difference. I can't end without recognizing the outstanding work he, Steve and Ann Dunsky did on the 2005 U.S. Forest Service 100 year anniversary "Greatest Good" and Greenfire. I'm so grateful he remained with the Forest Service to the end. He could easily have left for more money and fame. He is that good and that talented. Instead he 'road for the brand' and maintained his dedication. Did I mention dedication before?

**In closing, this is to Dave:**

Dave, you stand out in so many ways. Your attitude and leadership have truly shaped and made a long lasting difference in Region 2, the entire forest service and the people you and your work influenced and touched, many of whom you may never know. Your legacy will be remembered.

I am sincerely honored and proud to have been able to work with you and know you all of these years. Now it's time for you to play and join the "fortunate ones" - the ranks of the Forest Service retirees.

Cheryl and I open our door for you and your family and hope you will make it down our way in the future. (We are only 12 miles from the Rockies' spring training field!)

Best wishes and warmest regards. Thank you for your tremendous contributions and your outstanding dedication.

Denny Bschor  
Retired Regional Forester



**Colorado Environmental Film Festival**

Dave is a co-founder of this film festival which was established in 2006. The Colorado Environmental Film Festival inspires, educates and motivates viewers to examine their role in creating a sustainable future. Environmental documentaries-shorts, features, animations- from Colorado and around the world are screened at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, CO. The 9th annual CFFE event will happen February 19, 20 and 21, 2015.

## Rick Cables

Dave,

I heard this quote years ago and have found it to be absolutely true -- "*Spirited employees are fun to lead, but hard to manage.*" I really can't think of another Forest Service colleague that fits this axiom more perfectly than Mr. Dave Steinke. You are so spirited and so much fun to work with – and you also had that irreverent side that caused you to push the boundaries just far enough to produce great work.

You and I discussed over the years that irreverence, or "civil disobedience," was actually one of the core beliefs of the agency's founding fathers. Would we even have a Forest Service without the willingness of Pinchot and our other great leaders to challenge the status quo? Maybe, but it wouldn't be the Forest Service that you and I love.

Yet, your professionalism also allowed you to excel when the circumstances were serious. I will never forget leaning on you for wise counsel during the height of the Hayman fire in 2002. The largest fire in the history of Colorado, at that time, was burning out of control when I learned that one of our own employees may have played a role in starting the fire. We needed to prepare a press release and media strategy to share this very difficult news to the public. I needed someone I could trust to work with me, very discreetly, and that someone was you. Only the Chief, the Secretary of Agriculture, a few investigators, you and I were aware of this situation.

I remember asking you to develop two different press statements to announce that one of our own employees was involved in starting the fire. One announcement would be used if the employee confessed and the other if she did not. You expertly crafted the messages and talking points that both the agency and the USDA used when our employee confessed. Dave, your work during that time was priceless to the agency and me.

There are countless other stories I could tell about how wonderful it was to work with such a talented man. You know how much I cherish knowing you and having the opportunity to serve with you for the ten years that I was Regional Forester in the Rocky Mountain Region. I don't know many folks that I would consider irreplaceable – but you are one.

Good luck and enjoy retirement.

Rick D. Cables

Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region 2001-2011



## David Cawrse

Our normal society column seen here will be pushed aside for several days in order to cover the retirement of Dave Steinke, the public affairs specialist for Region 2 in the US Forest Service (*How droll!*)

All he cares about is the serving the public and caring for the land. He works diligently and tirelessly to make sure the National Forests are there for us, our children and future generations. He even did a film on the centennial of the Forest Service and a documentary on one of its employees, Aldo Leopold. *How boring!* We wonder what is really important to him.

Imagine life with no old money, no maid, and no Bentley. We wish him well with just a civil service retirement.

*Toodles!*

Mumsie and Biff, Cherry Creek Society Writers.

*Note: This is borrowed from something Dave wrote for the SEAL newsletter, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000.*

## SEAL Training

For a decade, from 2001 until 2011, the Region conducted a very successful leadership training, called SEAL training. SEAL stands for Supervisory Excellence and Leadership. The whole idea started at an Regional Leadership Team meeting at Manitou Experiment Station in 1998. To respond to the Regions need to strengthen leadership development, a design team consisting - Dave Cawrse, Karla Hawley, Dave Myers, Peter Gilmour, Debby Barnhart, Dave Steinke and Kim Vogel were asked to design a R-2 training. The training was to be for all levels and not just the higher levels, recognizing that in the Forest Service it is expected that everyone has leadership responsibilities and opportunities at different grades, series, ethnicity, gender, etc.

DelaPorte and Associates helped with the training and each weeklong session had about 125 participants. The training cadre varied a bit each year but once involved it was hard to let go of this chance to really change folks perspective of themselves as leaders. Because of budget, there were a few years when the training was not offered, but over ten years over 1000 total participants had the opportunity to experience this very special training. The above logo for most of the sessions constantly reminded all the importance of understand leadership in the past (pine cones), present (pine trees), and future (sapling).

Dave was involved in the training from start to finish. His biggest role was his creativity, audio visual

skills, knowledge of the FS and certainly his wonderful personality. He was the best connection to folks in the RO. He stayed up late every night, bugging people to get in their articles for the “Out of the Bag” newsletter, which always featured quotes of the day like:



“Bully!”  
 “Hasten forward quickly there!”  
 “Caring for the Land, and dropping quarters!”  
 “Great Groups think they are on a mission from God”  
 “You get what you want by helping others get what they want”  
 “some folks are still leading even though they have been dead for 50-100 years...talk about sustainability”  
 Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn’t get you anywhere.”  
 “Be quick, but don’t hurry”  
 “Lead from where you’re at”  
 “Make them regard you, even in your absence”  
 “If not you then who, if not now then when?”

## Gene Colling

Dave,

Congratulations on being the old wildebeest and standing still until retirement. Now, here comes THE NEXT BIG THING and it’s a **good** thing.

Mostly I remember the A/V meetings in places like Denver, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Atlanta, D.C., Albuquerque, Missoula, and most memorably, Grey Towers. Being in an idyllic setting so close to the chaos in New York City made all of us think how near we were but also how lucky. The strongest memory for me was how we came together and developed a plan to get everyone

home. I have only good memories of those times together.

I don’t have any retirement advice because I know you will figure it out and do well. OK, just one thing—Be the ball Dave, be the ball.

Gene Colling  
 Northern Region Video Producer Retired

## Sally Collins

Remembering Dave Steinke--

On the eve of his retirement from the USFS, I feel compelled to say a few things about Dave. On a personal level, Dave is one of the kindness, most generous, thoughtful, people I worked with in my Forest Service career. He is always good-natured, positive, and makes others around him feel like they are the only one in the room--he is so present with people. And maybe this is what has made him such a spectacular filmmaker and collaborator with Dunksys and others. He knows and cares about people and wants to tell their stories in a way that works, for them and for others. He truly has tapped into the heart of what makes USFS a unique organization, one full of rich history but more important, full of amazing, complex, intelligent people. His work has influenced many beyond Region 2, the USFS and the US, particularly with his contributions to *The Greatest Good* and *Green Fire*.

I am so proud to have worked with him, supported him, brainstormed with him, and even leaned on him in his fine career with the Forest Service. It seems so insufficient—really--to say “thank you for your service”, passing that statement around like pretzels at a party. But truly, Dave has elevated what “service” can and should mean, to the land and to people. So when I say thank you, Dave, for all you have given to me and to so many others, you must know that I mean so much more.

Sally

## Bjorn Dahl

Date: December 12, 2014

Subject: Retirement Celebration for David Steinke

Dear Dave,

Congratulations to you and your family on your retirement after a long and distinguished career with the US Forest Service. I reflect on the many years you have served your country in the United States Forest Service.

We first met at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office back in the early 1980s. Dave you were behind the camera taking pictures as we the visiting Washington Office officials were on a fact-finding trip to solve the below cost timber sale issues on the White River National Forest. Throughout your career you have been a national treasure and a center of excellence in displaying information through video and image creation to celebrate our good work in the US Forest Service. You served at almost every major event I can remember throughout my career. The grand finale for me was you documenting my career at my retirement celebration in 2003.

It certainly has been a pleasure working with you and I look forward to the time when our paths will cross in the future.

The very best to you as you enter into a new chapter of freedom and joy. Always remember, when you get to a fork in the road take it!

Sincerely,

Bjorn Dahl, Retired U.S. Forest Service



# Steve Deitemeyer

Dave Steinke  
December 9, 2014

It was in 1978 when I first met Dave Steinke who was then a young news and special feature writer-producer for KRDO-TV in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I was the District Ranger on the Pikes Peak District of the Pike / San Isabel National Forests and the Cimarron and Comanche National Grassland. The PSINFCNG Management Team was finishing up its early training on implementing the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Bob Butler, Planning Staff Officer, and I represented the Forest for the Eisenhower Consortium NFMA training, Rangers visited the large metropolitan Ranger Districts in R4 and R5 on the Humboldt/Toiyabe and Angles National Forests, and we decided to apply the “Socially Responsive Management” program to the planning process. The idea was to be able to better articulate and respond to community issues that would help drive the planning process. Forest Supervisor Robert N. Ridings and Deputy R. M. “Jim” Nelson thought we needed a more updated way to communicate at public meetings and in the press and wanted to invest in video production equipment for the Forest Public Information Officer. After some early struggles over in-house production quality it was decided that the idea was still good but we needed professional production abilities and skills. I was called to make contact with KRDO-TV to see if they could recommend anyone who might be interested. That recommendation was Dave Steinke! Dave came in, we talked it over, and with his portfolio he went to the SO in Pueblo for an interview...the rest was history. We quickly found out that Dave had the complete skill set that not only produced quality video, but included abilities to conduct public meetings, staff conferences, and to facilitate training sessions and management team meetings.

I moved into the Regional Office in 1980 and served as the dispersed recreation, wilderness, trails and recreation planning staff until 1983. Dave would show up from time to time and seemed to be spending more time in the RO. His skills and reputation was taking on regional significance. Regional Forester Craig Rupp, Deputy Sid Hanks and Dave Anderson led the region’s Standard and Guidelines approach to get uniformity across all Forest Plans in those days, and I know they used Dave’s expertise in many ways. I left the Region in 1983 and went to the Bridger-Teton NF (R4), the Rogue River NF(R6) and the Washington Office to return to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1994. My position at that time was Director of Recreation and Information. By then Dave Steinke was an outstanding member of the Forest Service’s best Public Information Team that included Ed Nesselroad, Lynn Young, Dennis Neill and Larry Simmons. They could handle any complex designs, written or video production, issue, event, confrontation, or celebration. They were the eyes and ears of the public’s concerns and always shared it honestly with those in leadership positions...whether it was easy to hear or not.

Dave’s calm, professional demeanor, always being at ease “under fire” with tight deadlines, and knowing the right people to assemble to get a project done was his hallmark. He was responsible for countless map reviews, brochure productions, and history projects, video productions for the Chief’s Office, special event productions and quick fire news interviews. I will especially remember Dave for his responses to the Storm King Mountain Fire of 1994, High Meadows Fire of 2000, Hayman Fire in 2002, , and his continued support of the National Grasslands and Memorial Grove.

Steve Deitemeyer (Retired 2003)



## Judy Dersch

Dear Dave,

What a privilege it has been to know and work with you as part of the Creative Services group on our staff in the Regional Office for over 13 years. You have been a mentor extraordinaire not only to me but to so many over the years. You have a way of drawing the best out of others by giving so much of yourself to everyone and everything you do. No one works harder or longer or with more enthusiasm than you do. You never stopped inspiring me which made my job easy and pure pleasure! Your sense of humor and fun infected everything we did. We not only had a great time but worked hard on some amazing projects over the years . . . ones I never dreamed I would have a chance to work on! *The Greatest Good*, *Green Fire* and *From Prairies to Peaks* were all legacy projects that I was so honored to have a part of.

You gave your all not only to the big projects, but to the many day-to-day ones too. We made it a priority to serve the forests as well as the Regional and the Washington Offices. You thrived on creativity and thinking out-of-the-box . . . nothing was impossible, too big or too crazy of an idea. We would find a way to make it happen. We laughed about “orbiting the giant hair-ball” and managed to succeed most of the time! You accomplished so much while genuinely caring for each person with which you came into contact. I never saw you be anything less than genuine, friendly, gracious and welcoming when interruptions came along (which happened often!). Each person was treated as though

they were the only one in the world and as important as the Chief himself.

Because you made my job no job at all, but a joy, I had an extremely hard time retiring. While so many were excited about retirement, I was genuinely thrilled to be doing what I love with someone who not only supported me, but encouraged and inspired me just by being himself.

Many thanks, dear friend, for all you did for me. I wish you much joy in all that lies ahead for you.

Judy

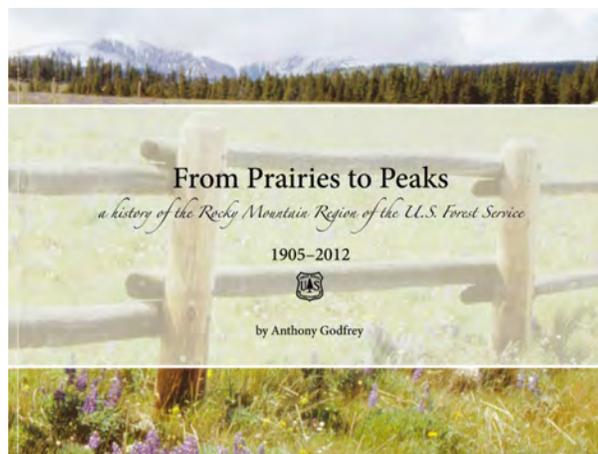
## Hank Deutsch

CONGRATULATIONS DAVE! My memories of our times together in the Forest Service are some of my happiest moments. I may have been the shortest tenure boss you had in 1983 when I arrived in the R2-RO. Your contribution to creating an environment of understanding, acceptance and support of USDA Forest Service programs and policies was exceptional and very professional. Judy and I wish you all the best in retirement.

Henry “Hank” Deutsch

### *From Prairies to Peaks, A History of the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service*

Anthony Godfrey authored this book, but Dave was the Contracting Officers Representative and oversaw the entire project from concept to publishing in 2012. Finally, after many years without, the Region had its own history recorded.



## Tony Dixon

Dave, it's my understanding that you have made the decision to wrap up your Forest Service career. This choice is bittersweet. It's a wonderful thing, in that it will afford you greater opportunity to spend time with your family and to expand your volunteer efforts in the AV community. But this is a tremendous loss to the agency; the full impact may never be known.

I just want to wish you the best in your new endeavor and thank you for being a part of my life and career for over 23 years. (Unfortunately, you've captured many of these moments on tape. Please handle those materials with as much discretion in retirement as you have thus far. You have footage of my bloopers and blunders from the very start of my career until now! Remember, I'm still on the job.)

I'm so grateful I started my career in the Rocky Mountain Region, where I had the honor and privilege to work with a number of people who had a positive impact on my success, including you. As I reflect on our work together over the last 23 years, I realize how much of an impact you personally had on me. We've had some great laughs and survived some tough times.

You've been a huge supporter of mine since I first joined the Forest Service. We've worked together in a number of capacities. And irrespective of which role you were in--mentor, supervisor, colleague, supervisee--I've learned so much from you. You've led by example; you've led by your living.

You know, some people are talkers & some people are doers. You are a doer. I have been inspired by your integrity, your work ethic, your insight, your willingness to roll up your sleeves and get the job done and get it done right, but at the same time have fun and not take yourself too seriously. I can't tell you how much I've appreciated your willingness to reach back, reach out, reach down; to mentor, to listen, to counsel. I have benefited immeasurably and can't thank you enough.

I learned to enjoy what I do, to strive for work-life balance. You helped me to be comfortable in challenging environments, feel comfortable asking questions. I was able to be frank, candid, even vulnerable in our conversations.

You helped me better understand and appreciate the art of communication, particularly the visual aspects. Work-

ing with you helped me be an effective leader.

We never had a formal mentoring relationship nor were you ever my direct supervisor. Nevertheless, you took an interest and helped me understand more about public affairs.

Whether you were leading or I was leading, it never mattered. It was always for the greater good. We worked together as a team.

I am humbled by the generosity you have shown. I've often shared the impact that this has had on me with many colleagues in the agency.

I remember being on the tarmac with you, doing take after take, until you helped me get it right and get comfortable being on camera. You have demonstrated that kind of patience and commitment to excellence throughout our working relationship. That has stuck with me throughout my career.

You helped me understand how to work through critical issues, like the South Canyon fire fatalities, Forest to Faucets partnership, white nose bat syndrome, and the bark beetle epidemic. And you helped me understand the importance of connecting with people and being an accessible leader (like hula hooping with the urban youth during the Get Outdoors annual event).

I think several other people would tell much the same story. Although I'd like to think that you took a personal interest in me and were intentional about your actions, I suspect this is more a product of the person that you are. I suspect this is how you operate with those of us who have had the privilege and honor to work with you.

Please know you have left your imprint on all of us, our lives and our career trajectories. And we are all better for it. We have been inspired by your passion and your commitment to excellence.

Again, enjoy your retirement and never stop being you. I hope to see you as I hit the slopes in Colorado, or maybe on a double decker bus, or watching some Christmas lights, or at the next coup of the Region!

All the best,  
Tony Dixon,  
National Director  
Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability

## Ann Dunsky

Dear Dave,

I'm about to lose my best friend in the Forest Service! No doubt a lot of others feel exactly the same way. You manage to make everyone feel like a best buddy. I've had some truly amazing experiences in my career, and most of the highs and lows have been by your side.

I can't begin to count the number of airports around the country where we met, exchanged hugs and began new



### *The Greatest Good*

Dave, Steve and Ann Dunsky were co-producers of this outstanding documentary film of "a history of the Forest Service".

- Premiered at Forest Service Centennial Congress, Washington, DC January 2005
- Official selection for more than a dozen film festivals in the U.S. and Internationally.
- Screened in hundreds of locations across the U.S.
- More than 8,000 broadcasts on PBS in all of the major markets and 49 states.
- Translated into multiple languages.
- Winner of the Chief's New Century of Service and SAF Journalism Awards
- Continues to be used in college classrooms and for new employee orientation

adventures and video productions including *Green Fire*, *Communities Connecting with the Land*, *Pack Test Training*, *Seven Days with Dale*, *Tapping Our Roots*, *The You Do! Campaign*, *Customer Service Training* and, of course *The Greatest Good*.

The last holds particularly poignant memories. How could it not as it began on 9/11/01, consumed 2 ½ years of 80-hour work weeks, and culminated at a premiere where it received three standing ovations – a reception that shall never be forgotten nor duplicated. It was your experience, knowledge, wisdom, work ethic, sensibility and talent that lead that production to its successful completion.

Of all the things you've left me with, one of the most important was the message that one could do a good job while having fun. What joy it has been to giggle with you in the back seat of a DC cab driven by a blind driver, find exotic swag among the miles of NAB halls, share work stories over fried Twinkies and Pabst Blue Ribbon Beers, watch you being tussled by Chicken Lips performers hired to make customer service training enjoyable, and see large swaths of the country from Times Square to a small village in Tres Piedras, while making time for stops at interesting and crazy road side attractions along the way.

Thank you Dave for helping to make my journey such a joy.

With much love,

Ann



## Steve Dunsky

Dave,

We've done some big projects together. You are the best filmmaking partner that Ann and I will ever know. Our films have made an impact on many people; but for me it is the process, not the product, that I will always cherish. It is the dozens, maybe hundreds, of little things that will stay with me forever: Eating Swedish meatballs in Beltsville, Portuguese custard in Newark, Vietnamese phở in Roslyn, cheese curds in Wisconsin, and sipping port pipes in Juneau; Freezing our tails off from Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska to Morton's Pond in Connecticut and perhaps coldest of all, Washington DC. And sweating like crazy on the Mall while shooting the National Folklife Festival.

We've been together in big cities from New York to Los Angeles; and in small towns from Asheville to Walla Walla. And so many places in-between: McKenzie Bridge, Tres Piedras, Jackson Hole, Rapid City, Burlington (Iowa), Baraboo and Leadville.

We visited Wall Drug, Bonneville Dam and the Jelly Belly factory.

We've been on stage at Argyl High School, the Pabst Theater, Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua, Skywalker Ranch, the Jefferson Auditorium and various PBS studios and film festivals.

We've watched baseball at Coors Field, Pac Bell Park, Camden Yards, and Durham (Bulls) Athletic Park.

We filmed from helicopters and a canopy crane. We drove a van across the country. We had a crazy ride with an ancient half-blind DC taxi driver and slid down an icy road with no brakes in Nevada City. Somehow we survived it all, even before we began our safety journey.

We traveled to meccas of conservation history: Grey Towers, the Biltmore Estate, The Shack, the Brown Palace, and the National Agricultural Library. And I believe we have contributed to that magnificent legacy.

We've eaten at Ray and Dot's Tap, the Milford Diner, The Button Factory, Rancho de Chimayo and the South Building cafeteria. We've lodged at the Pfister Hotel, the Hat Tree B&B, the Mary Stuart House, the Hyatt Arlington and the Super 8 in Vegas.

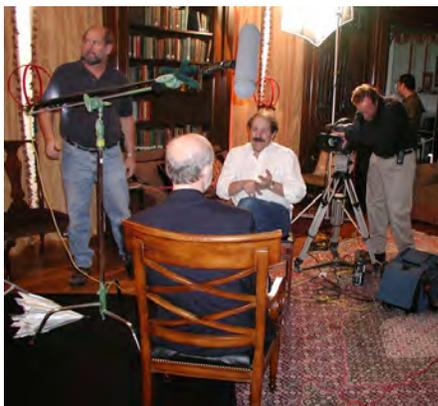
We've shared the experience of losing parents, friends and colleagues. We've watched your wonderful daughter grow and thrive. We've treasured our time with you and Sue away from work. We've known great colleagues, supporters and mentors; and others who shall remain nameless.

We've been through New Perspectives, Laserdisc, Data General, Umatic, Reinventing Government, Annual Audiovisual Reports, Betacam, Competitive Sourcing, Roadless Rules, Applix, Fire Borrowing, 9/11, Undersecretaries, BetacamSP, World Series, CD-I, the Four Threats, Relocation Planning, New Century of Service, AgLearn, Retiree Reunions, MiniDV, 1640, GovTrip, Chicken Lips, Regional Histories, Makeup Artists, DRFs, ASC, NAB, VTA, VITC, NTSC, RTAs, VTRs, D1, D2, and P2. (I suspect that we are the only people in the world who know what all this means)

Whether things were going well or not so well, you have always made it more fun, more interesting, and more of an adventure. The Forest Service was extremely lucky to have hired you, and we all benefited from your countless and tireless contributions. Please promise we'll continue the adventure in retirement.

Your friend and co-conspirator,

Steve (Hanks)



## Jacqueline Emanuel

December 2, 2014

Dear Dave,

Two words: Choppin' Broccoli! Who else, but an NBC alumni who was once confused about which SNL skits were real, or commercials when the show first aired, would understand those two words? I have such fond memories of working closely with you and the original R2 PAO crew. I learned so many important things from you. Who knew that PAO trail mix was Budweiser and Cheetos? I will also never forget when you, Nesselroad and Lynn Young pied me in the face on my birthday in Glenwood Springs.

I was told to keep this short, so here are some random words of association: Lanes Tavern (only dead artists on the jukebox), New Perspectives, Bold We Go (brash we dash), Estill the One! Rainbow Family, Dumb blonde jokes, Party Bus, Bugs Bunny Motel, Coors Brewery, Herman Dingess and the Herman Dingess band (do you remember the drummer?) And so many more laughs ....

You are such a creative and talented videographer and I feel fortunate to have crossed paths with you. Your legacy will live on in your great works and I am sure you will have great success in your retirement future. I wish the very best to you, Sue and Erin as you finally make every day, Saturday! You will be missed.

Warmly,  
Choppin

Jacqueline Emanuel

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
Forest Service

## Elizabeth Estill

December 12, 2014

Dear Dave,

Congratulations on your retirement and welcome to life's next chapter. Your Top 10 Lists were always so much fun. Here is one for you.

Here are the TOP 10 REASONS DAVE STEINKE SHOULD RETIRE:

10. Congress prefers "mold we grow" to "BOLD WE GO";
9. Teleconferences should replace face to face meetings;
8. "Selfies" should replace professional photographs;
7. Facebook status updates should replace fire information;
6. "Special Events" should not be special;
5. Animated cartoons should replace historically accurate documentaries.
4. Everyone is tired of reunions;
3. Hospitality is out of style;
2. No one needs a master of ceremonies for retirement parties;
1. Thirty six years is enough!

Oh, Dave. You will be missed. Your professionalism, attitude, and style have benefited the Forest Service throughout your career. Thank you so much for all your good ideas and outstanding work on behalf of the agency. Enjoy your next chapter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Estill



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## Scott Fitzwilliams

### The Man behind the Scenes

In the most literal sense, Dave Steinke has always been the guy behind the scenes. While the rest of us were enjoying the grandeur of the moment, Dave was quietly capturing memories for all of us. Often times capturing things we wished he would not have! I've often thought of how different Dave's view of the Forest Service was because he experienced much of it through the lens of a camera. Through that small opening he captured so many events; some making national news, others were utterly boring meetings that some colleague insisted he "video". Never one to judge, Dave always showed up with camera in hand and a smile on his face.

I was blessed with meeting and working with Dave starting in 1990 when I was a Graduate student intern in the Public Affairs shop in R2. Our passion for the intricacies of baseball formed an instant bond; a friendship that has lasted 23 years for which I am most grateful. He had a way of teaching without you knowing it and always led by example. I was always impressed by his innovation, humor and creativity. I can't count the number of times I said to myself, "I can't believe this guy works for the government."

I recall the time we spent together in 1991, in Cody, Wyoming working on the Centennial Celebration of the National Forest System. While I was running around from event to event trying to "get noticed" by the big wigs in the agency, Dave was doing his thing in the background. To my chagrin, Dave's camera caught me making a smart-aleck comment about Chief Dale Robertson. I had not yet secured a permanent appointment and I thought my career was over! I am sure Dave has roles of tape that would embarrass many of us. Fortunately Dave is far too gracious to ever unlock those vaults.

The Forest Service will never, EVER have another Dave Steinke. His number will be retired and hung on the ring of honor. For 36 years he has created memories, made us laugh and told a story of conservation for this agency that has included many of us as the main characters. He has portrayed a narrative of an agency filled with people who strive to make the world a better place (often times leaving himself out of that narrative completely). Although, we all knew it was coming, the news of his retirement stopped me in my tracks. Maybe it was the realization that I was getting old as he was the last of my original mentors to hang it up; or maybe it was the thought of having to complete some future project or event without Dave there. More likely, my pause came with the realization that the Forest Service is losing one its greatest assets.

In many ways he has been a caretaker for this agency, a caretaker of moments and memories; a caretaker of the young aspiring leaders, and a caretaker of the preservation of the ethics that form the foundation of this agency. Fortunately, I have a library of his incredible work to forever reflect on in the form of memories, photos, and film.

"The Greatest Good" - Pinchot's visionary statement that has guided the agency for over a century came alive on screen because of Dave. The "man behind the scenes" has provided a profound gift to the Forest Service that has forever burned in our personal "memory" hard drives. This gift is more than just the videos he produced. It's the way he goes about conducting his work and life every day. This is reflected in the relationships he has and the mark he has left on people like me. Thank You Dave!

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor  
White River National Forest

## Larry Gadt

Memories of Dave,

I was the District Ranger on the South Platte Ranger District from 1977-1981. About midway during my tenure, the Forest Supervisor in Pueblo, Colorado, hired a video person to work with the public relations person whose office was in my RD office located between Sheridan and Wadsworth Streets in Lakewood, Colorado, just north of Pierce St. That video person was Dave Steinke, and he brought quite a personality to our office! A couple things I remember quite well were Dave's sense of humor and his unlimited creative ability. Sometimes both of these caused me some concern, particularly since my office was located in the same city as the Regional Foresters office!

I specifically remember that one year we had a few summer employees who shared Dave's skills and when the employees' term was coming to a close, Dave, with the help of those employees, put together a video that was extremely funny, but to this day I do not have a clue exactly what was intended except it was extremely funny and creative. I remember thinking if the Regional Forester ever got a hold of it that I would probably be traveling across town to visit with the RF Rupp or to Pueblo to have a talk with the Forest Supervisor Ridings about a new opportunity on the grasslands someplace.

Another aspect I remember about Dave was his artistic wife, Sue, who in those days, if I remember right did some beautiful Christmas cards. Between Dave, his wife, and those summer employees, I do not think I have ever worked and been associated with as creative group of people.

Dave, Jacqueline and I wish you and your family the best in retirement. Before long you will begin to wonder how you ever had time to work at a full time job!

Regardless of what you decide to do, I am sure it will be a success. I hope to see you at the Rally on the Rio next fall.

Larry Gadt, retired Forest Service

## Greg Griffith

December 11, 2014

Dear Dave;

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement and thank you for your long service to our US Forest Service. Your career has been a great example of public service in the pursuit of our mission.

It was always a pleasure working with you on the many projects and events that we had during my time in the Rocky Mountain Region. And we had a lot of fun. You brought a level of professionalism, enthusiasm and creativity that was outstanding. In fact, because of your talent you became a national asset. You were always in high demand through out the service. We had to share you!

Your accomplishments like the "Greatest Good" and "Green Fire" are widely known as they certainly should be. But I remember many more, less widely advertised and even some that may be described as "covert". Remember those "ask Mr. Wizard" type questions we had during regional office family meetings? Folks could ask the regional forester team any question and someone (recruited by you) would ask a highly technical or scientific question about something like microwaves or hydrogen fuel cells. Only I would have the answer. Cables and Stem never had a clue about what we were up to. And of course the whole leadership team lived in anxiety of the photographs you always had on file. I still have one of me wearing a kilt, riding a motorcycle and speaking Welsh. Where did that come from?

Again, congratulations and I hope you have a long and happy retirement. I know you will stay productive and creative.

Sincerely yours,

Greg Griffith  
Deputy Regional Forester, retired  
Rocky Mountain Region  
US Forest Service

## Sid Hanks

Re. Dave's Retirement?

Dave, It is for real this time?

First let me welcome you to "the every day is Saturday" group! I know that you will be a productive member.

You arrived in Region 2 with a skillset unlike any other person in the Region. Initially you moved about with a bemused look, unsure of how you would fit into the rigid culture structured around professions historically employed by the agency. You never allowed this to become a distraction.

The unique professional skills that you offered to all, along with your ready smile, and quick wit, have earned you well deserved national recognition!

Now a word of free advice, hang out your CONSULTANT sign and make the big money.

Best Wishes

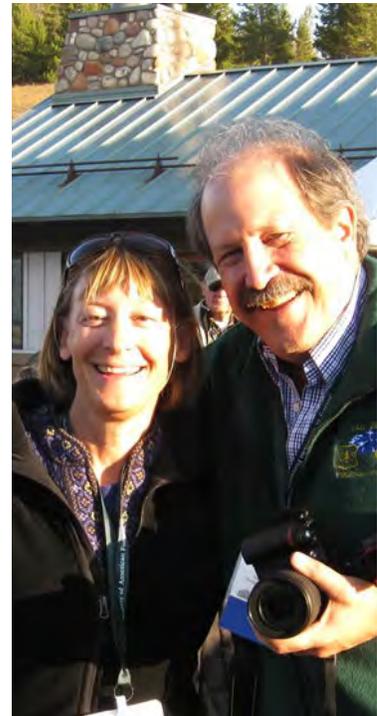
Sid Hanks

R-2 DRF 1977-89

## Karla Hawley

Dave and I have a bond. We just do. He's someone I can talk with about ANYTHING. We first worked together when he and I served on Region 2's original "SEAL" leadership training design team. That was a "WOW" team of epic proportions. We had so much fun it was criminal and we laughed so hard it was painful. We nicknamed Dave "Guido" and I call him that to this day. When I worked for the Chief, Dave and I collaborated on various video products and spent many after work hours plotting and scheming. One of the greatest privileges of my career was supporting Dave, Steve and Annie with the Chief's participation of the making of "The Greatest Good". I'll never forget that experience. The Centennial Congress, the Smithsonian Folk Festival and anytime the Fiddlin Foresters were featured we had a chance to connect and work together and celebrate our Forest Service heritage. He's creative. He's happy. He's super brilliant. He has given beyond measure. He embodies *Caring for the Land and Serving People*.

Love and best wishes for the retirement you certainly deserve, Guido! Karla





## Linda Hecker

Dave...I'm going to miss you so much! The RO just isn't going to be the same without your "little light" in Public Affairs (or whatever the flavor-of-the-month name is now – OI, PAO, RPST, EA...).

When I first met you it was 1986 in the old building. Long before cubicles, individual computers and way before any of knew what Feng Shui was. However, your desk had the best Feng Shui position in the "bull pit" in the Office of Information (OI). Like most I was totally impressed with your collection of stuff, fondly referred to as the Museum of Oddity. Everything about said fun, creative and bigger-than-life...I totally loved it! Only you could brand Jacqueline Lenard for life with the nickname of "Chopping Broccoli" or "Chopping" for short!

I've always thought of you more like a brother than a co-worker. Especially when I found out we were both from large Catholic families, grew up in Denver and attended what's now referred to as "inner-city" schools. Major bonus you still remember the Quonset huts at DU. I didn't realize till much later you actually attended class in those.

I'll always remember your kindness towards my daughter. She loves love you too! You're like catnip for kids... you're so good with them. I remember when we participated in planting the wind break near DIA. I think Alexis was 3 years old. That was the one time she was more interested in the double decker bus than you filming her. Then you got her all blushing when you interviewed her at the Folklife Festival in DC. At 14 not only did you film her you gave her a mic! You're a brave man!

Speaking of double decker buses I'll never forgot when you had the "Christmas" bus pull into the Bugs Bunny Motel on Col-fax and ask for a room rate (by the hour no less)... so funny, besides the bus almost taking out the archway. But the best was stumbling upon Herman Dinges and getting invited in for shots of schnapps. Who knew it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship and a Forest Service RO Christmas tradition? I think we can all attribute that relationship

to you! Thanks! I've had too much fun drinking (out of a communal bottle of Mad Dog 20/20 from a paper bag) and doing the polka with someone in a wheelchair, in a garage... Awesome!

It was great fun working with you on the McKenzie project too. Adding that bonus feature of the byway in 90 seconds was brilliant and branded your work with the element of fun we've all come to know and love, besides leaving visitors with the urge-to-regurg from motion sickness....lol!!!!

Who is going to do the David (Letterman) Steinke Top 10 list from now on? Who is going to be my go-to-guy for all things video? And where I'm I going to get my sharp, witty, pithy, cynical spin on life from? Forest Service just isn't going to be the same without you. Thanks so much for being a major part of my FS experience. It's been a blast! All the best to you and your family!

Fond Regards, Linda Hecker

## Dave Heerwagen

When I came to R2 I found Dave Steinke to be many things: A softball whiz; a Fire Information Officer; and most important to me, a person that could give me "the rest of the story". As a newbie to R2 I quickie found that Dave could fill in the back story of why an editor, a station manager, or a reporter had a particular take on an event or story. That helped me to understand what the Region, the Forests and the Districts were facing and made my transition to the Region easier and faster. Dave, if you are indeed retiring, you will be missed. Thank you for your help!

Dave Heerwagen

## Ellen Hodges

I got to interact with Dave in various settings from Forest team-building sessions, fire briefings, resource meetings with the RO staff and more recently organizational meetings with the 2012 Rocky Mountain Reunion committee and the newly assembled Rocky Mountaineers. I always look forward to any gathering that includes Dave. But let me focus on something near and dear to me as a woman trying to have a voice in various settings with mostly internal groups comprised of members representing little diversity of gender, age or life experiences. I mean the following comments in the most positive way.... REALLY. I don't think I am alone when I describe this scenario: I speak up and make a point for consideration. Others dialog for a while and then someone with more voice, tenure and male-ness repeats my point. The group is very receptive and the point it recorded on the holy flip chart of meeting notes or recognized as a flash of brilliance. At the time of my complete frustration I could always look to Dave with rolling eyes and know that he recognized that the idea/comment/solution was voiced initially by me. It was so refreshing to know that Dave heard me and understood why I just had to laugh it off. That's the thing I appreciate so much about my friend Dave...he gets it! Thanks to Dave for preserving my sanity and humor in so many situations! — Ellen

## Johnny Hodges

I worked in the Regional Office for the last 13 years of my career. I attended plenty of retirement parties over the years. For someone about to retire, it was the ultimate compliment to have Dave associated with your retirement party. If Dave was involved, you would be guaranteed that whatever he contributed to the ceremonies, it would be deadly accurate and always hilarious.

Dave knew most of his co-workers very well and when it came time to “toast” them, no one did it better than Dave. His sense of humor was unmatched in the Regional Office. He could easily have been a famous writer for “Saturday Night Live.”

For those of you that will follow Dave in retirement - sorry! You will probably never have the chance to be on the receiving end of Dave's wit at your party. For those of us that witnessed it over the years, it is something we'll never forget. — Johnny

## Buddy Huffaker

Dave, It is certainly hard to imagine the U.S. Forest Service without Dave Steinke! Whenever and wherever I have had the honor to interact with the agency I can always count on dropping your name. My credibility then rises and at the same time the individual breaks out into a big smile. You have become an institution within an institution!

From some brief encounters on *The Greatest Good* to so many more interactions on *Green Fire* our time together has always been both fun and productive. In fact, I believe your crowning achievement is doing such important work, so well, while having fun. It is an attitude and approach that you model and ensure is infectious! These qualities will be profoundly missed.

I know you will continue to contribute to conservation and your community, in many ways, into the future. Of course, I hope that it will include continued engagement and involvement with the Leopold Foundation.

Thank you for all you've done to advance a conservation ethic in the hearts and minds of so many!

Fondly, Buddy Huffaker  
President and Executive Director

## Dan Jirón

Dear Dave, Congratulations on your retirement and the culmination of a very long and distinguished career of civil service to our great nation. You have served the entire US Forest Service and the Rocky Mountain Region with great dedication and distinction. The success you've achieved in a variety of key positions attests to your sense of mission and commitment to excellence. A generation of employees will now go forward with your leadership in their minds and your caring example in their hearts.

Your retirement is well deserved, but your selfless contributions and profound commitment will be sorely missed. Please know that your friendship, integrity and award-winning skills will forever epitomize our mission of caring for the land and serving people.

The Deputy Regional Foresters join me in wishing you and Sue a very long retirement together that is filled with good health and much happiness.

Sincerely,  
Daniel J. Jirón, Region Forester

## Gail Kimbell

Dave Steinke, Almost a Retiree  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Dave,

Congratulations to you on a very fine career. Your role in so many important events will likely be chronicled by thousands of people. And should be.

In my five years in the Rocky Mountain Region, I made many sojourns to the Regional Office. The highlight of those trips was to wander back into the den of creativity where you were matching music from one era to events of another and it all made sense. You brought mirth when there was none. You saw the silly when others did not. And all the time, you were the consummate professional. The Region will miss you terribly.

But you served the whole Forest Service and all of conservation. Your understanding and respect for the past gives you great power in helping us focus on the challenges of the future in a more meaningful way. Oh sure, there are others involved and still, it is your unique understanding of people, history, social structures and time that make it all so critically interesting and leaves us thirsting for more. I cannot yet imagine a Forest Service without you but I guess we will all have to adjust.

Thank you for seeing around the corners, for speaking truth, for making me laugh and making me cry and for making the agency so human.

You can retire knowing that you gave us a great gift and the forests of this nation are all the better for your work. I wish you the best of everything to you and your family in the years ahead.

Sincerely, Gail  
Abigail R. Kimbell, Chief Emeritus

## Jim Lawrence

Dave,

I offer you my congratulations on your retirement. You contributed so much during your Forest Service career and I appreciate your many projects and your help over the years.

Your performance as a Fire Information Officer was always top-notch. Never more so than during the initial

days following the South Canyon fire and the tragic loss of fourteen men and women.

Always thought highly of your advice and remember the time when you helped facilitate the Colorado Governor's conference on Forest Health. The meeting went well, agreements were made, but the long-term results left something to be desired.

Another first class job was your involvement in planning and conducting "Rendezvous in the Rockies." Wow, what a successful week for 650 attendees and the long-term positive payoff in helping establish the Rocky Mountaineers.

Thanks for all your efforts in helping the Forest Service deal with diverse publics and to inform and educate thousands. You can be proud of using your talents and your common sense across the Public Affairs spectrum.

I wish the best to you and your wife. Have a long and a fun retirement.

Sincerely,  
Jim Lawrence

## Lyle Laverty

Dear Dave,

Congratulations on your retirement and the beginning of the next chapter of your journey. I know personally you will be greatly missed by the lives you have touched across the country, both in and out of the Forest Service. Your service to the agency and to our country through your incredible creative talent and your professionalism is unmatched. It was both an honor and a privilege to have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you as a colleague. Your unique and fresh contributions to advancing conservation messages to America are truly legacy productions. The manner in which you capture and communicated Gifford Pinchot's vision in *The Greatest Good*, was a Grammy winner!

Allowing folks to experience and understand Aldo Leopold's passion in *Green Fire*, helped capture the soul of Wilderness. Thank you!

Perhaps more important than your legacy contributions, I believe you will be missed for who you are. Through your talents, your creativity and superb communication skills, you were able to inspire an entire agency. I truly appreciated your amazing ability to communicate a

shared vision with folks in the agency, inspiring folks to accomplish more than they may ever have dreamed possible. You are truly one of a kind.

Dave, I valued your leadership style, your thoughtful advice, insight, counsel and just pleasant conversation. No matter the intensity of the moment, your thoughtful, calming nature was like a soothing balm. You are the consummate epitome of warmth and concern for others. Thank you!

You have touched the lives of many of us through your magnificent productions but you will be remembered for who you are.

My hope for you and your family as you make this transition is these next chapters in your journey together will be just as rewarding for you as the time you have shared with us.

Richest Blessings, Lyle Laverty  
Regional Forester (Retired)  
Former Assistant Secretary of the Interior

## Blake Leath

As delicious rumors often do, the news of Mr. Steinke's imminent liberation retirement has made its way through the ironclad firewall and proverbial grapevine, eventually dripped downward, dried to a fine dust, and been carried by the winds to my itching ears three states away. I, along with what appear to be 400 of his closest friends, received the "official" news at 9:53AM on November 30th.

And what was my reaction?

I wept a little. (Not a lot, mind you, 'cause I'm a real man, but enough to count and make it true.) I wept partly because I was sad (for the loss it will be to the Agency and AgLearn registrars), but mostly because I was happy for the ol' feller. He's got a lot of life left in him, and he needs to get to steppin'.

Who am I to care?

I'm the young Luke Skywalker to Louis D. Romero's Yoda. I'm the scrappy little tike who, like the pugnacious Greeks in their Trojan horse, has seized upon this opportunity to bid farewell to an old friend, and to say hello to his new chapter.

I met Dave in the late nineties (the nineties, not his nineties), when Lou and I responded to an RFP and

authored/delivered what came to be known as "SEAL" (Supervisory Essence & Leadership) and, ultimately (to Dave's chagrin and roaring delight), "BLAZE."

For perhaps eight years, a rotating combination of Lou, Dave, Kim Vogel, Marla Wertz, Dave Cawrse, Cande Read, and countless others collaborated through a neat cadre to provide some of the coolest workshops we'd ever had the privilege to experience. For five days and six nights each year, a dozen of us, alongside the RLT and Chief and Char Miller and Steve Stark and Chicken Lips and 122 participants, would assemble—like impromptu actors with a few pre-conceived lines—and "come alive" through the ideas and interactions. It was always magical and, in many ways, inexplicable. Several of us have tried to put our finger—for years—on why it was so special. We don't have any answers, only hypotheses.

Dave—part emcee, part film historian, part entertainer, part A/V wonk, part moralist, part servant, part cheerleader, part storyteller, part prankster, part waiter, part confidant, part consigliere, all friend and all heart and all encourager and all leader—would rally us each morning, mic us every hour, guide us every step of the way, make connections we'd never seen before, and encourage us as we concluded every exhausting evening. He was then, and is now (even more so, in light of his retirement), a National Treasure.

I have never known a human being with a more effortless combination of humility, authenticity, wisdom, wit and flat-out joy. In a world of disappointment and n'er do wells, Dave Steinke is the person who serves as North Star, reminding us that we are, indeed, here for a reason; we are, indeed, going someplace; how we live our lives does, indeed, matter. And perhaps equally important, there is a story to be told in there somewhere, and told well. A story that reads well, too, in the Denver Post, on the deck, alongside Sue and amid memories of a job well done, each and every time, for hour upon week, month upon year, decade upon score.

As a thoughtful, brilliant, charming, organized, fun, creative, ethical, exemplary, high-performing and high-functioning maestro, Dave's Third Act will undoubtedly be his best. Here's hoping we have a front-row seat and that Ken Burns—that little twit—has hidden his silver.

Blake Leath

## Jane Leche

Dave,

I wish you well in your retirement although I'll have to say I've been dreading this day for a long time. As one of the last of the "originals" since I came here 23 years ago, your departure feels like the curtain call at the end of a very memorable performance for the Forest Service, Region 2 and especially me. My first years here in the RO are unforgettable because you added so much fun to the daily routine of work. I also have fond memories of numerous Bus parties, music and schnapps at Herman's and working on great projects with you like A Working Capital Carol, Signs of Good Skiing, Have You Visited Lately, my introductory piece for old Westerns actor and featured speaker Denny "Scott" Miller at the OCTA National Convention, and numerous fun videos for others.

It amazes me how much I have learned about production from you. Also, the Fiddlin' Foresters CD would not be the "classic" it is today without your help, expertise and creativity. I've always admired your patience with anyone who needed information or wanted you

to create something for them and, of course, your skill with the media. When my 11-year old nephew came to visit a few years ago, you took the time to talk to him about your editing suite, cameras, and the cool stuff you can do with it all. He has never forgotten that and has since cranked out a few creative videos of his own – even some with animation – all on his iPhone no less.

There is so much more I could write but for now, thanks for the great memories and program support. A library full of master tapes, videos, photos, film and "B-roll in the can" and such epic works as the Forest Service Timeline, *The Greatest Good* and *Green Fire* are all elements of an admirable legacy and enduring tributes to a job well done.

Warmest regards, "Hane"



## Jamie Lewis

All Hail Dave!

We all know what an outstanding coworker and collaborator Dave Steinke has been over the years, and those of us at the Forest History Society will more than miss him once he rides off into that Golden sunset. And I certainly could go on and on about the many times we've sent him an e-mail request for help (sometimes an outright scream-mail, as in "AHHH! Help me!") when trying to find some photo or document at the last minute. About that, I will share just this. Tasked with writing the companion book for the film *The Greatest Good* meant I also had to find and select dozens of photographs for the book. Having scavenged archives and libraries across the country with Steve Dunsy, his partner in crime, Dave had a never-ending trove of images. Ever since, I have admired how Dave's passion for history transcended "wearing the green underwear" and was about preserving the work of those who preceded him, and he did so because what each of them had done mattered to him. And not only did he cheerfully fill every request for an image but he also made sure I communicated with Judy Dersch, who provided the beautiful maps she'd created for the film to include in the book. We've used those maps in many different publications ever since. They've been the gift that keeps on giving. Much like being friends with Dave has.

Which is the thing I really wish to talk about. Since meeting him in 2004, under what had to have been uncomfortable circumstances—it was at a "rough cut" review of *The Greatest Good*, when a room full of people who knew little about filmmaking tried telling him and Ann and Steve Dunsy how they could make the film better—Dave's been nothing but kind and generous and warm toward me. Once when I was passing through Golden and dropped in on him at the office with little notice, he made me feel like it was no imposition despite being swamped. To extend the short visit, Dave invited me to join him on a conference call with the Dunsys about their latest film project because, ostensibly, I had something to contribute as a historian. Or maybe it was just that he knew we were all friends and he didn't want to lose an opportunity for us to visit, even if by phone.

And at the Forest Service Retirees Reunion in Vail a few years ago, while working his butt off as the event's photographer—Dave was seemingly everywhere at once—he always had a minute to chat about work or family. (It should be noted that he always knew which

retiree had the best beer selection in their room—another great thing about being Dave's friend.) Invariably we'd part with his laugh booming down the hall as I walked away, a most welcome companion in lieu of being with the man himself. I look forward to hearing his laugh again at next year's reunion and for many more to come, and, of course, to visit at a leisurely pace now that he has more time.

Jamie Lewis, Forest History Society

## Mike and Pat Lynch

December 10, 2014

Dave,

Congratulations on completing such a distinguished career in the Forest Service! What satisfaction you must have in looking back at all you have accomplished for the outfit.

It has been such a pleasure working with you these many years on Forest Service Reunions, Forest Service history projects, retiree organization activities and other special events. The contributions you have made to the Forest Service, both regionally and nationally, are tremendous and the recognition you have received for your work only partially acknowledges your achievements that have benefited the organization in major, long-lasting ways. You and your video collaborators have so thoroughly documented Forest Service milestones and history which assures that generations to come can easily know the story of the Forest Service and its role in conserving public lands and natural resources.

We truly thank you, Dave, for all the good work you have done for the Forest Service.

And, thank you, too, for the willing, positive help you have given us along the way.

Although we expect you to thoroughly enjoy retirement, we know that you will lend the Forest Service a hand when they inevitably call for your help.

Sincerely,

Mike & Pat Lynch

## Jim Maxwell

Dave, much will be (and should be) written about your creative and productive talents, and the absolute excellence you bring into every project you do. I count myself most blessed to have worked next to you for three years. What I hold most dear is the quality of your character, the man you are at heart.

You never let the crazy stuff get to you, Dave. I have seen you work under extreme pressure that would drive most people nuts. You just sail right through to success every time, steady and calm and content. You bring out the best in the rest of us. People often show up at your desk at the worst times, and they always get your total attention as if only they matter. In the classic old-school tradition, you always claim a standard 80 hours on your time sheets, but no one matches your work ethic.

Of all the people I have known, no one embodies the best of the U.S. Forest Service more than you do, in all your words and works. You are a real champion for active land management that improves our natural resources. This is the noble legacy of the stewards of the land whose story you tell with such eloquence. Now you are a part of that legacy. In this political era when “an ounce of image is worth a pound of performance,” you stand tall as an example of the way things were and should be. Thank you for the privilege of knowing you!

Jim Maxwell



### **The Memorial Grove at Monument Work Center**

In 1920 a Memorial Grove site was established at the Monument Tree Nursery to honor fallen WWI soldiers who had left their positions with the Forest Service in the Region to enter the Army and serve their country in Europe. Five young rangers did not return and the names are among the first listed at the Memorial site. The memorial ceremony has continued to be held the first Saturday in May each year. Families and friends of each year's honorees gather to remember the contributions and dedication of their loved ones.

Dave has been instrumental in making certain the Region is fully represented and engaged in each year's event. Dave never missed a coordination or planning meeting and is always willing to help make each year's event very special for the all, especially the families. To date over 1100 Region 2 people have been honored at this “one of a kind” memorial. The programs, brochures, and letters announcing the event have all been willingly produced by Dave and Judy Taylor and others in the R.O. This is the only such memorial in the Forest Service.

## Curt Meine, Ph.D.

December 1, 2014

Dear Dave,

It's an honor to add my voice to the great chorus of those offering congratulations, wishing you a long and fulfilling retirement, and thanking you for your many years of public service. Although our paths only intersected toward the end of those years... better late than never! What a pleasure it was to connect, first, during the making of *The Greatest Good*, and then to share the adventure of filming *Green Fire*. I cannot imagine a more dedicated, talented, patient, encouraging, and *fun* team of colleagues to work with—and it simply could not have come to pass without you. I often recall a particular moment when I hear your voice again and again. After many long months of intramural discussion and debate, we had finally gotten ourselves organized, coordinated our schedules, hit the road, and prepared to go to work. You said, after the morning coffee and another round of conversation: “C’mon, let’s go make a movie!” And so we did.

I know that one of Aldo Leopold’s quotations has been especially important to you: ***“The decision, in my opinion, will indicate whether the U.S. Forest Service is tending to become a federal bureau which executes the laws, or a national enterprise which makes history.”*** Leopold was referring to the issue of USFS support for policies to protect wilderness on the national forests. But Leopold understood that “decision” as (in his words) “a test case.” I am guessing that the passage was and is important to you because you have understood the same thing. I know that your work has involved more than just following annual work plans and meeting deadlines. And I know that it has all added up to something more than a career. You have dedicated yourself, day in and day out, to serving a cause and a mission. Along the way, you helped to make history. It was a delight to make a little of that history with you.

Of course, you are far from done. I look forward to being in touch, to crossing trails again, and to sharing more adventures along the way. Keep the green fire burning, my friend!

Warm wishes,  
Curt

## Char Miller

Generous. Warmhearted. Enthusiastic. Clever. Of keen eye and lively mind. Those are some of the qualities that have made Dave such a stellar soul, a fabulous colleague, a superb photographer. Also: he knows how to laugh. At himself. At the world’s foibles. As a certain confirmed chocoholic who could not utter a coherent sentence as the cameras rolled for *The Greatest Good* at Grey Towers without an infusion of some delicious dark-chocolate concoction, courtesy of the ever-thoughtful Dave Steinke. Did I mention that he is also sensitive, alert? As the news rolled in at Grey Towers on September 11th that the Twin Towers had been attacked and that the federal facility was going into lockdown, Dave and Ann and Steve Dunsky rallied those who had convened at Gifford Pinchot’s former manse—they set up hikes and informal gatherings that were not intended to distract us from the tragic events unfolding a mere fifty miles away, but to remind us of the values and commitments that had drawn us to Milford PA in the first place; so we talked about conservation, the protection of nature and its integrity and resources, about the Pinchot family’s four-generation embrace of these visionary ideals. Those conversations helped immensely across the subsequent days and weeks, not least because as we all drove our rental cars to our far-distant homes (cars that we had picked up the night before at Newark Airport, now named Newark Liberty after the next morning’s trauma) postcards from Dave and the Dunskeys trickled in, charting their path across the grieving country. Solicitous. Engaged. Beloved. That’s Dave.

Char Miller, Director  
Environmental Analysis Program  
W. M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis  
Pomona College  
char.miller@pomona.edu  
909-607-8343

## Ed Nesselroad

### Dave Steinke Memories

My Forest Service career was memorable. Mount St. Helens erupted on my first official day on the job! Shortly thereafter, I met Dave Steinke. Both events would shape my 28 years with the Forest Service! What follows is one of the many tales from Dave's past.

Dave and I shared a common broadcasting background. He was the regional videographer and I was a forest public affairs officer. It was only natural that we would collaborate on many projects.

When the Forest Service rolled-out a new way of thinking about land management, called New Perspectives, Dave and I saw an opportunity. We co-opted (sounds so much more sophisticated than "stole") a popular video magazine format to share the New Perspectives people and projects. NPTV was on the air!

Dave captured interviews across the region. Med Bow resource assistant Paula Guenther and I hosted the program. Four or five times a year we gathered in some interesting spot to weave the stories together on location. And that's how Paula, Dave, and I found ourselves headed for the beautiful K Bar Z Ranch on the Shoshone National Forest. Near the end of the journey, road work slowed our progress. Flagged ahead by a guy with a radio, we confidently proceeded along, Dave at the wheel, maintaining a safe distance several hundred feet behind a large road grader. Then the grader started backing-up, apparently to make a new pass over the road.

We were going maybe 15 miles an hour and the grader probably the same, only in reverse. Math isn't my strong suit, but it isn't hard to figure that the closing speed

was maybe 30 miles an hour. With the two vehicles approaching one another at about 44 feet per second, it doesn't take long for things to go from scary to hairy.

About as long as it takes for someone to say, "Does he see us?"

Then, "What the..."

Then, "Holy..."

Dave was breaking...Dave was trying to get the rig into reverse...And, impact! The grader's rear-mounted rippers tore into our vehicle. Unaware that we were sliding under the rippers, the giant machine continued pushing us back. It was maybe another hundred feet before the guy driving the grader figured out we weren't just a bump in the road and everything came to a halt.

A quick check revealed everyone was okay, except for the vehicle. Shaken, we arranged for the Shoshone to come retrieve us, cleared all our gear out of the rig, and maybe cleared a little underwear.

All's well that ends well. The shoot at K Bar Z went well. New Perspectives TV won several national awards. And we all had a great story to tell.

There are many more great Dave tales to relate, like the one about vodka in the film freezer, but that will have to wait for another time.

Happy Retirement, Dave. It's better than people tell you. It's the best!

Ed Nesselroad



## Lloyd Newland

(On behalf of the Denver retiree group)

Dave,

Congratulations on your decision to join us in retirement. You have been the key in keeping our Denver retirees informed on what goes on in the puzzle palace. Without your help the Memorial Grove brochures, letters to FS folks about the Grove, lists of folks on the plaques and some site improvements would not have been possible. Also your pictures and encouragement to all who helped at the grove was appreciated by all, especially Conner, who looked forward to your friendly smile.

Your efforts to get key personnel (R.F. Directors, etc.) to attend monthly get togethers was certainly appreciated.

You always made sure the retirees got the Smokey calendar, copies of the "Greatest Good", R-2 history and other items we would not have gotten if not for your looking out for us. Thanks again for all you've done for us retirees and Welcome to the clan.

Lloyd



## Dan Nolan

Dave...I first met Dave Steinke in the summer of 1986. I was the Timber Management Assistant on the Dillon Ranger District leading a mountain pine beetle control effort with the Summit – Upper Eagle Project. Dave came out one day to collect some video footage of our activities to be used in preparing a story of the project. Included in his filming were several scenes of me doing typical forester things – measuring DBH and estimating tree heights. That fall I moved to Puerto Rico to be the District Ranger on the Caribbean NF and never saw the final product. A year or so later I bought our family's first VCR player. We had no tapes to watch at the time, so to try out our new device I brought home one of the VHS tapes that had recently been sent to the District from the WO. Gathering my wife and two young daughters around, I inserted the tape into the VCR and pushed "Play." This particular tape was about the recently released RPA report – a sure winner for the kids. First up on the screen was Chief Dale Robertson to introduce the subject. Then the narrator went on to explain the details of the report while stock Forest Service video footage played in the background. To my surprise I suddenly appeared on the screen – there I was performing my forester measurements. Dave had obviously had a hand in developing this video and used the clips of me in it. Thanks to Dave I was able to salvage what to my kids would have been a boring TV session and impress them with my new celebrity.

I became reacquainted with Dave when I moved to the R2 Regional Office in 2002. Dave was a delight. He was wonderful to work with and brought a great sense of humor and creativity to his work. His film credits are awesome and leave a truly lasting legacy for the Forest Service.

In recent years, in retirement, I have been working on a Forest Service history project for the Grand County Historical Association. Dave has been a huge help and resource for me in gathering material for this work. On one occasion Dave came up from Denver to introduce an evening presentation of *Green Fire* that I had organized for the community.

Dave, it has been a great pleasure to know and work with you. Thank you for all you have done for the Forest Service and in support of my projects. I wish you all the best in retirement.

Dan Nolan

## Rod Replogle

I just ran across the photo of the Regional A/V Production Specialists when we met in San Francisco many years ago. We are all grinning in front of the firetrucks at Skywalker Ranch north of San Francisco after our tour of the incredible library, sound stages and editing suites. I think that's when I met you for the first time, but it was quite a while ago. I don't know if we knew that Darth Vader was Luke's father yet! Our group had a lot of productive annual meetings, but I especially enjoyed our first group meeting in Las Vegas for the National Association of Broadcasters annual show, and the unveiling of the first huge hi-def cameras. When we all met again in San Francisco and Steve and Ann took us to lots of hi-tec shops like the Dolby sound studio, you suggested we have supper at a very good Italian restaurant. After the meal you ordered some grappa (I'd never heard of it), and you passed it around for us to try. I think JP4 (jet fuel) would have been a better choice. I enjoyed hosting our roving meeting in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos. We accomplished a lot, and saw a lot that was very different from the places where some of us live. I also remember our meeting and eating in Tucson, and several years later the dinner at Scalos in Albuquerque when you were in town with Steve, Ann and your high-def photographer to interview Bill Hurst for the piece on the Forest Service's 100 years. Lots of very good memories Dave. I'm sure you'll be called on to advise your regional office on Public Affairs and fire matters, but then you'll have lots more time for ball games, too. If you're down this way, let me know. I'm sure we can find a good place or two to eat and talk. Enjoy your retirement. Time will really start to fly now, and you won't understand how you ever had time for regular work.

My best, Rod Replogle

## F. Dale Robertson

Dave, congratulations on your well-earned retirement!

Your retirement years should be the "sweet spot" of your life – mostly fun and few worries. Enjoy every moment! My advice, as an experienced retiree, is don't get caught up doing things that you don't enjoy very much and start doing those things that are fun, exciting, and adventuresome.

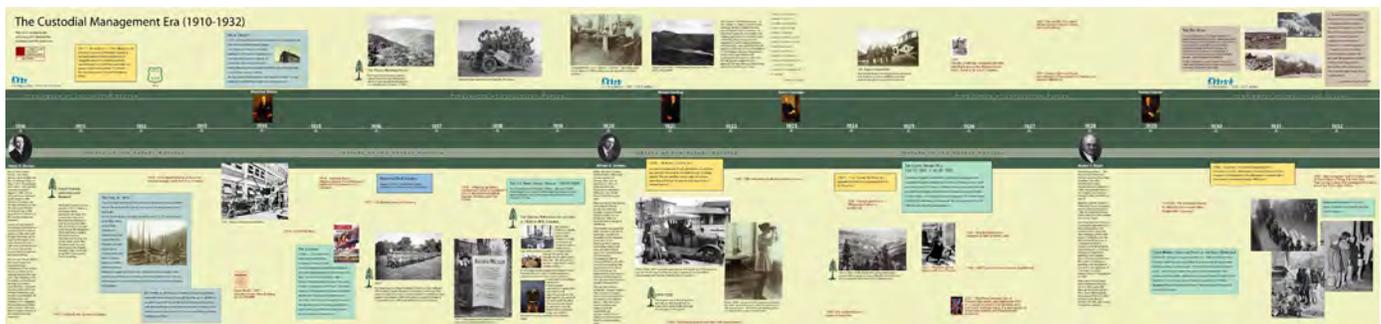
Thanks for the great job you did for the Forest Service. As Chief, I remember that you were the key person putting together big events/celebrations capturing the history and greatness of the FS, like the 1991 Centennial on the White River and Shoshone NF's and making "*The Greatest Good*" movie. You were so good at your job that you made me and other FS leaders look better than we really were!

Thank you and enjoy a great retirement!

F Dale Robertson  
12th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

### Timeline of the Forest Service history...

Creation of the Forest Service History Timeline was a special project that Dave took on for the Centennial. The panels capturing the history of the Forest Service on this timeline are long enough to encircle a ballroom or stretch from one end of a hallway to the other. It was and is used for display of the history of the agency in public meetings and forums, as well as for internal Forest Service orientation and education. It was a popular part of the national new employee orientation sessions.



## Lou Romero

Dear Dave,

Congratulations and thank you for sharing the “worst kept secret” about reaching this important milestone we call “retirement”. Somehow, I don’t think that term will fit your style. Ever since I have known you (1994), you have always had some important project in the works.

We first met at Keystone, Colorado. You helped me design and facilitate a conference called, “The Boom in Mountain Living”, co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Region and Snow Country Magazine. I quickly discovered your outstanding talents and service ethic. That shaped my respect for you and a continuing friendship that exists today. Together we have helped deliver several SEAL Leadership seminars, worked on Chief’s Reviews, FS Centennial events, Retiree Reunions and many other meetings and conferences. I have been privileged to see you become a national Forest Service, one of a kind, treasure.

I finished my Forest Service career 20 years ago. When folks ask me what I value most about my FS career, I always answer: “the variety of work; the beautiful places; the training & mentors; and lasting relationships I still enjoy”. Since 1994, you have enhanced the value of those four qualities for me.

When my daughter Raquel and I recall memories of working with you, she always smiles and we remember your easy-going, highly professional, friendly, approachable, dependable, “high-impact/low profile” style of working with others. Even though the Forest Service as an organization will miss you, be assured that your style has left a positive imprint in others coming behind you.

I look forward to more memories together, my friend.

Respectfully yours,  
Lou Romero, December 1, 2014

## Jerry Schmidt

December 4, 2014

Dear Dave,

Congratulations Dave and thank you for your service to our Nation!

More than anyone else I know, you have helped Forest Service people -

- always tell the truth,
- think more positively,
- have fun and enjoy their work,
- remember their great traditions and past accomplishments,
- be more creative,
- not only listen but hear what others want us to know,
- personalize their service over bureaucratic treatment,
- and strengthen public respect.

Dave, I will always appreciate your presence in our Regional Leadership Team meetings offering fresh “out of the box” thoughts and observations when it counted.

Thank you for helping me have a most enjoyable and pride-full tour of duty in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Thank you for your leadership, research and all that you contributed toward our several Forest Service milestone celebrations, particularly the 100th anniversary with the outstanding “Greatest Good” video.

I love how you always exemplify how important our work is over our personal celebrity.

Thank you for helping us with our success toward “Caring for the Land and Serving the People”

You will be a hard act to follow.

Sincerely,

Jerry

Jerry Schmidt, Forest Supervisor (retired)  
Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest and  
Thunder Basin National Grasslands

## Ben Scott

Dave

I'm grateful to Dave for all I learned - most of the lessons from those years only became apparent to me later on, but I'm now supporting a family on a career track based largely on the foundations I learned from him.

He's also an amazing example of a guy who obviously, simply thrived on his job, and you don't see that often enough. I'm actually glad to hear he's retiring, from the same job he loved so much, and early enough to still have some more fun.

Thanks for everything, Dave!

Ben Scott

## Larry Simmons

I worked with Dave from his first day in the Regional Office in 1981 until I retired in 1999. That is over eighteen years of working for the best person anyone would ever want to work for. Dave was a great guy in everything that he did. I never have known anybody who could be in such a good mood no matter what was happening. He seemed to always have a smile and a positive attitude, even in the toughest and most difficult and stressful times.

Over the years we worked on projects and products for virtually every Regional Forester, every function in the Regional Office, every Forest, and for most every District throughout the Region. Quality was always important and we always gave it our best to meet, but usually exceeded, the expectations with something that was really special. We saw lots of RFs and Directors come and go, but we just kept on working and doing the best we could no matter what.

When we were working on a project, Dave didn't just leave you on your own if you needed help, he helped and if you needed materials or supplies or equipment, he did all he could to get what was needed to do the job right. We always used to say "You can't do a good job with half-assed material!" and Dave did all he could to make sure we had what we needed.

I taught him what I knew that would help him, but he taught me more and helped me to be more successful

than anyone else I have ever known. He was a true professional and a truly great supervisor from my perspective.

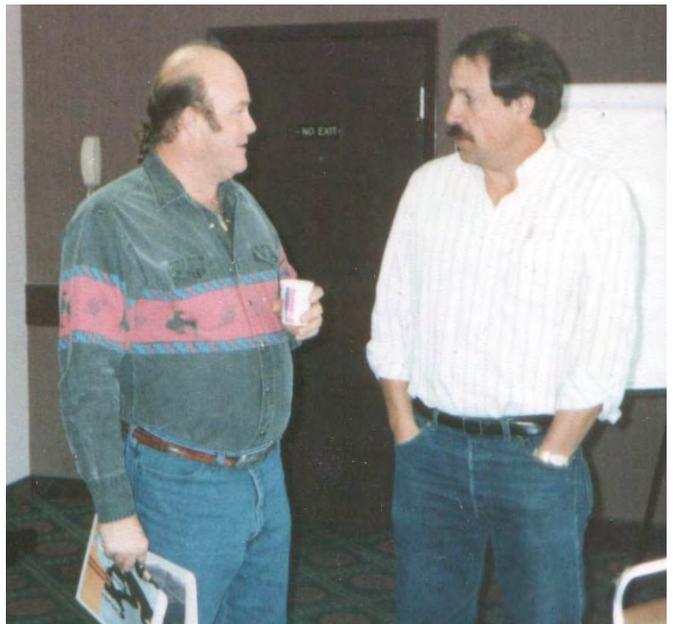
His film library is a national treasure. It has more history in it about what happened in the Forest Service, what was important, who the people were, and what happened when, than probably anyplace else in the country. He was able to record meetings, events, and people doing the work on the ground. He was able to tell a story creatively and artfully. He has a special talent that probably will never be replaced, but even so what he did needs to be kept and used forever.

We were extremely proud of what we did and Dave always made all of us in our unit feel appreciated for what we had done. We had an exceptional bunch of folks almost all the time.

Dave...you have accomplished so much in Region 2 in your thirty-six years and given much also on a National basis. What you do is always first-class and without question as good as it could ever be. Your creativity and vision and professional skills are unsurpassed.

I enjoyed working for you Dave and I wish you and Sue the best in your retirement. You have given all of us, who had the pleasure of working with you, a great gift of your friendship and your talent. What more could a person hope for in your life's work. Thanks for everything... you are the best!

Larry



## Forest Service Reunions:

There have been six Forest Service reunions held in the last twenty –five years. The first and the last of these were held in the Rocky Mountain Region. The first was held in Glenwood Springs in 1991 and the last in Vail in 2012. Dave was very involved and instrumental in the success of both of these reunions in the Region.

### Glenwood Springs, 1991

As part of the National Forest Centennial of 1991 there were a number of memorable events that took place in the Region, including a major gathering in Cody, WY where Chief Dale Robertson and the Undersecretary of USDA buried a time capsule, a visit to the Black Hills by President George Bush, and a reunion in Glenwood Springs that started a tradition of subsequent reunions across the country. Dave was involved in all of these events and was standing by at every corner to record this historic celebration that was in large part held at the Colorado Hotel shown here in as it was in 1900.



### Vail, CO---Rendezvous in the Rockies, 2012

The sixth reunion was held back in Colorado in September of 2012. Over 650 people attended this gathering with perfect weather, great program and field trips, and unbelievable fellowship and fun. Dave was instrumental in making this event a success and provided support to the planning team that worked on the plans and logistics for over three years.



## Rich Stem

To: Those that have known Dave Steinke

Subject: Stepping up to the Plate

In writing about Dave, I felt that it was better to put in a form that only he would understand. Point by point and with key components that paints a picture of man that has accomplished much and did so with minimal fuss. Working with Dave for over 6 years in my position as Deputy Regional Forester; I grew to understand what a reliable and professional person that Dave is; but I also knew that wherever he was or whatever he was doing, I had a certain fear that you would never know what was coming next. Dave mixed that skill artfully; the perfect mix of professional and timely work, coupled with a sense of humor that was immeasurable. I applaud Dave now with the “stepping up to the plate” recollections.

Stepping up to the plate for always keeping contact with the retirees in and around Denver. Stepping up to the plate helping myself, others, and the Fiddlin Foresters complete the fire safety CD, Cold Missouri Waters. Stepping up to the plate to always have respectful and professional retirement and other key ceremonies. Stepping up to the plate to greatly assist in every manner with our once excellent SEAL training. Stepping up to the plate to bring people closer together in times of stress. Stepping up to the plate to help National efforts in publishing and documentary journalism. Stepping up to the plate to send me an email about an effort we worked on 4 yrs. after my retirement. Stepping up to the plate to keep myself and Greg Griffith guessing where he would strike next to show the humorous side of the back office.

It is readily apparent that I could continue this letter for many pages, but I will end it now with one point. Dave always returned calls and contacts, he always followed through, he got results, and most importantly for me, he strived to bring professional and respectful humor to everything he did. This was important to me and for the employees of the Region. Dave is one of a kind in all those regards and I for one will always be in deep gratitude for having the opportunity to work with him. He will do well at anything he does in this next phase of his life and work.

Richard Stem

## Lisa (Notch) Street

What can I say? I had the fortune to work with Dave in the Public Affairs Office for four fun filled years from 1989-1993. I was fresh off the farm aka the South Platte Ranger District and a 22-year old youngster when I started working as an Information Assistant. Dave was nothing like I had ever seen in the sometimes stoic atmosphere of the Forest Service, and to find out he was a fellow graduate of the University of Denver was icing on top. Every day, working with Dave was an adventure and he even taught this Italian girl that the “e” at the end of Weminuche (Wilderness) was silent. I wasn’t the first in my family to work with Dave. My mom, Jody Morrison (NPS), worked with Dave in the early 1980’s and easily echos my sentiments about him.

I can’t think of Dave without smiling and laughing, who can? Life is a wonderful journey and having the opportunity to know such a caring, creative person as Dave has surely been a blessing in my life.

Lisa (Notch) Street



## Jim Sullivan

There's an Asian proverb that I love: "As you enjoy the fruit, remember who planted the tree."

Every time that I apply my skills today writing and producing videos for top food service and retail brands, I think of the guy who inspired me and taught me how to create awesome and compelling video. And then I also think of Dave. Kidding!

I think of Dave Steinke first and foremost, for he not only taught me but inspired me with his style, creativity, personality and patience. I'm proud to say that I'm both a Disciple of Dave's and a Student of Stinky.

I first met him on the South Platte Ranger District in the late 1970s where he was HQ'd after being hired by the Forest Service from a local Denver TV station. I was a Rec (yes I spelled that right) ranger and he was an "Information Specialist" with a slew of cameras and video editing gear. I was intrigued and interested, being a young 20-something whose office time was spent writing Environmental Impact Statements for higher-ups who loathed the process. Dave introduced me to a better and more effective way to communicate via video, and I took to the process like Smokey to a Wildfire.

Dave and I worked together on several projects beyond my Forest Service days (1974-1979) and I never forgot what he taught me. While I admired his artistry with a camera and storytelling, I admired another trait even more: He was friends with all and all were friends. That in itself is a life lesson that extends well beyond his gift for visual story-telling and his patience in teaching it to others. He may well indeed be a modern personification of The Greatest Good.

Congratulations Dave on your pending/alleged/rumored retirement! For God's sake, take some time off. For Sue's sake, I hope you keep working.

Your pal, Jim

Jim Sullivan

CEO & Founder, Sullivision.com



## Tom L. Thompson

Dear Dave....As I sit thinking about your retirement I have so many different emotions. First, I am happy that you have this chance to enjoy retirement, but I also am certainly sad for the Forest Service that they are losing such a great contributor to their mission and purpose. Your accomplishments and contributions to the organization are so significant and yet many of them are not even recognized. You do so much behind the scenes to make sure things get done right, make others successful, help and support others, take on things that no one else does and fill in the blanks, and keep retirees connected to the outfit. You have not only produced two beautiful movies of unbelievable importance in understanding and appreciating conservation in the United States, but you have also created countless other videos and media to inspire, entertain, and educate, including being the force behind R-2's history "From Prairies to Peaks".

Most of all, I am "thankful" that I have had the honor of working with you over many years, as a Deputy Regional Forester and Deputy Chief and as a retiree for the last ten years. You work harder than anyone I have ever known to make things happen that many folks are totally unaware of. I have watched you enthusiastically work with a smile and a passion that is unbelievable. It is as if it has been your favorite thing to do in all the world and I believe it has been.

Having worked with you, relied upon you, thought with you, plotted with you, and depended upon you now for twenty five years of your career, I believe I may know how much you have given to the Forest Service better than anyone other than your own

family. From my first days in the Region in 1989, I learned that you were one of those "go to" people... you were a person I could go to with a question, go to for help, go to for an idea, go to for almost anything, including just a good measure of sound advice and counsel on occasion.

Whether it was for the Memorial Grove, *The Greatest Good, Green Fire*, a National Forest Supervisor meeting in Nebraska, the Centennial Congress and Forums, the SEAL training, the reunions (Vail in 2012 and Glenwood in 1991), national training and meetings, filming, fire information assignments, or helping retirees (especially the Rocky Mountaineers), you have given and given and given. It has been greatly appreciated.

We thank you and your family for all the sacrifices you have made in our behalf. We thank you for the countless hours of extra time and effort you have put in behind the scenes, the weekends that will never come back that you have given to us, the hours of creating your magic to educate, entertain, and build esprit de corps of folks in the agency. Thank you for your love of history evident in the two special creations of *The Greatest Good* and *Green Fire*. What you've given to the outfit can never be adequately measured or described, but what you are as a human being can be felt by all of us who have had the honor and pleasure of serving the country with you. You are a marvelous person who has given your all and you deserve our congratulations and thanks!



## Tom Tidwell

Date: December 16, 2014

Dear Dave,

First, congratulations on your incredible career. Thank you for more than 36 years of service to the Agency and to the public. You exemplify our commitment to “caring for the land and serving people” I will not try to list all of your significant accomplishments, but I want you to know you have made a difference. You have made a difference not only with all of the Forest Service employees you have worked with and touched through your talent of using film and photography, but you have also made a difference with our partners, communities, the public, and our international partners.

Your signature work, *The Greatest Good* speaks for itself and continues to be one of our best communication tools. *Green Fire* is another example of your major contributions to the national discussion on conservation. The Forest Service has played an enormous role in conservation history, and I appreciate you helping us to tell that story.

I also appreciate your work in helping to share how today the Forest Service is continuing to respond to the public needs, while still ensuring our management is for the “long run.” Your work with our focus on having a fully inclusive organization will help ensure the Agency is not only relevant in the future but is positioned to stay connected with our communities and is competitive in the future workforce.

You have worn many hats: filmmaker, publications manager, press officer, fire information officer, course instructor, mentor, facilitator, retiree liaison, archivist and historian. Various people will step up to fill these roles, but you will not be replaced. Your work, your contribution, and the difference you have made—will live on.

Thank you,

THOMAS L. TIDWELL  
Chief

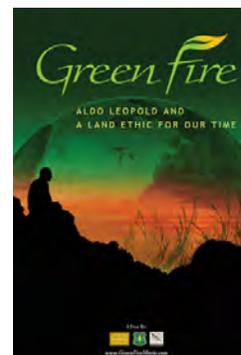
### Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time

Dave, Steve and Ann Dunsky produced yet a second award winning major historical documentary!

- ▶ Premiered in Albuquerque, NM, February, 2011 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (over 900 attendees)
- ▶ To date, there have been more than 5,000 screenings in communities across the country and overseas.
- ▶ Official selection at more than two dozen film festivals
- ▶ PBS broadcasts in most major markets and across the country
- ▶ Used by Aldo Leopold Foundation for Land Ethic Leader training

### Green Fire Awards:

- Emmy Award for Best Historical Documentary, Chicago/Midwest Chapter, 2012
- Telly Award, 2011
- CINE Golden Eagle Award
- Best Film: Story and Production Waimea Ocean Festival, Waimea, HI
- Best Cinematography Duke City DocFest, Albuquerque, NM
- Archie Carr Award Cinema Verde Environmental Film Festival, Gainesville, FL
- Finalist Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, Banff, AB, Canada
- Special Jury Award Vision/Voices Environmental Film Festival, St. Petersburg, FL
- USDA Secretary’s Honor Award for Personal and Professional Excellence 2013



## Denise Tomlin

December 11, 2014

Wavey Dude,

There are so many fun things to reminisce about from our days together in Public Affairs. The old bullpen set-up in the other building...Bschor's troops...you, Lynn Young, Ed Nesselroad, Dennis Neill, Harva Lou Buchanan, Larry Simmons, Lisa Notch and me. Your tiny windowless studio in the old building and the huge improvement to a larger windowless studio in the current building. Your desk as the office kid magnet, because you had all the best toys! Team building at third base beach during a Zephyrs game...you taught me how to do a score sheet. Staff retreat at Twin Lakes (or was it Turquoise Lake) cooking meals and playing horseshoes. Riding the train to Glenwood, complete with re-enactment of the Rail Rangers script. Watching hockey after staff meeting at the "haunted" Stanley Hotel. Driving down Phantom Canyon, to the top of Pike's Peak, Spearfish, Cody, along Peak to Peak Highway, appreciating interpretive signs everywhere. Seeing you teach Meeting the Media for Managers...newbie Rangers and crusty old Forest Sups facing the camera and the microphone! Editing the old Rendezvous, glimpsing the magic happen as you produced NPTV. Observing you at work as info officer at Snaking Fire...and so many other fires... then watching you pass along your knowledge and skills in fire info officer courses. Pouring over the details of

the Forest Service timeline. Witnessing the building of Cold Missouri Waters.

There is an accomplishment of which you may not be aware, however. Two of your masterworks (not Greatest Good or *Green Fire*) had an amazing influence on me. Only your production of "Do You Love Me Now That I Can Dance" with the sage chickens and your creative implementation of Goose Cam with the nesting Canadian honker nest outside the office window could have fascinated a confirmed ornithophobe. Whodathunk! Me watching birds!

So, with all the folks you brought up through the Public Affairs ranks over the years – both by training and by your example – I say,

"How do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume? It isn't easy, but I'll try...to Sir with Love"

Denise Tomlin



## Eleanor S. Towns

December 9, 2014

Dear Dave,

When I first signed on with the Forest Service, I was annoyed with the frequent references to “family,” because at first I didn’t feel I was part of it. I thought it had to do with Civil Rights, the “resource” I represented, but over time I figured out it had more to do with my being “new,” and pushing to overlay my experience on an organization generally unfamiliar with my different talents, different world view, and generally skeptical of the different route I had had to take to get to the Service. I also discerned that my “outsider” perception extended to the new “ologists,” and others, who, like you, had to stretch for common ground.

When you came, there was Larry (Simmons) who, until he retired, had the fun job of doing pretty much what he pleased, but was paid to do graphic arts projects. Photographers, much less videographers, were considered “unnecessary,” because, after all, every District Ranger and every person going to the field had a camera, bought at their own expense. And they used them to enhance reports and preserve examples for our records - never mind framing a shot or learning to use the things to string out a story, though some did remember to take off the lens cover and to tell a visual story with little or no training.

You brought a new skill set and taught us the value of your talent, and you did it the old-fashioned way: you were good at what you did, and you sold it with your personality. You know you’re good when you define a discipline and change the perception and marketability and reinforce the lore of an entire organization. Just in case some think you go out, take a few pictures, and voila, we magically end up with an Emmy quality documentary like “*The Greatest Good*” (and all the others), let me say: we would not be the Forest Service we are and need to be today without your talent and wonderful, engaging, teaching, patient, teaming, affirming personality. Those attributes are ever as important as the things you do so well: like quick mental storyboards, having the eagle eye to see the important details of a potential shot, framing a shot, ordering a group of shots, endless hours of editing, picking just the right music and filters and enhancements, combining stills and moving video to tell the story, hours of travel, being a trouper and going to the story over all kinds of

terrain in all kinds of weather and conditions, stressful deadlines ‘cause we all need “it” yesterday, and putting up with the technologically ignorant and hostile. You are one of those few folks who can step into a group, determine how it “really” works, and find a helpful, nonthreatening, team-building, diffusing niche that lets everybody (else) take credit for having built a better product. And the greeting hugs don’t hurt.

You run with the “big dogs” as easily as with the rest of us – and not just “us,” but legislator folks and public television folks, and folks in the commercial end of your arena, and others with whom you must interact in order to preserve and tell our story. You must be something when such folks know your name and respect your talent and let you call in favors for the good of your (our) stuff. The organization may not even know your first name; new Chiefs, old Chiefs, folks in and out of the Service just all ask for “Steinke.” You belong to the Region, of course, but there are few about whom we can proudly say, belong to the entire Service.

We watched Erin grow, and you must be so proud that she loved what her daddy did so much, she went “into the biz.” The Service is blessed to have had one so very talented. You stayed with us when you could have chosen to earn tons more money working for commercial entities. We appreciate, respect, and love you for that choice.

We in the Service make much of the “culture” of the organization and the importance of instilling it in the new and the young, lest we lose touch with our core values. Because of you, generations of the young, so in tune with all things electronic, now learn the culture of the organization via the stories, and the ability to interact with the ever available old-timers like George Leonard, Tom Thompson, and Dale Bosworth, and also in the visual ways the young have learned about the world.

We will miss you, guy. We love you, and wish you well. Thank you for your service. Be well.

Much Love,

Ellie

## Skip Underwood

December 16, 2014

Dear Dave,

Hearty congratulations on finally joining us in the ranks of Forest Service retirees. You are no longer a “working stiff” as you fondly referred to yourself and others still actively employed by the outfit. You are a person of high energy and creativity so we don’t expect you to be idle into this transition of lifestyle.

As many pay tribute to the contributions you have made through the years of your career, superlatives will be abundant. Perhaps the most significant or what can be said about you is the kind and caring way that you interact with everyone. Your smile and sense of fun draws us into easy relationship with you. Of course, your sometimes irreverent sense of humor is also a memorable trait! Your talent in print and audio visual media is legend and will surely be a lasting legacy for you with the Forest Service.

Representing the Rocky Mountaineers, I especially want to thank you for the invaluable assistance you have been in organizing and launching our Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association. Your commitment of extra time and bringing your talent to bear on this effort shows how you value us as friends and colleagues. You share our valuing of tradition as a bedrock on which to build and continue excellence for the future. You are a modern guy who loves where we have been as well as where we are going and we like you for that!

The Rendezvous which has been such an important component of beginning this Association and communicating with Rocky Mountain Region retirees and others across the nation is largely a product of your skills and talents. It is very appropriate that we publish a special edition of The Rendezvous as a tribute to you and offer a platform for people to express their appreciation for all that you have meant to us through the years.

We welcome you among us and look forward to your continued friendship and involvement with us.

On behalf of the Rocky Mountaineers,

Skip Underwood  
2014 Chair

## Kim Vogel

Letter for Dave Steinke, aka Guido

To my best long term partner in one of the best projects R2 ever let happen...

We had a great 12 year run Dave Steinke! I’m so glad I could count you as my partner all the way through it. We remained the constants from R&D, implementation, to the end and I couldn’t have asked for a better cohort!

“Work it Baby, Work it!!”

“Loosen up, drop those quarters”

“Guido, how come there are Hot Tamales all over the floor”

“Wednesdays – our favorite day of the week. You can see that it clicks with all the participants.”

We got to work with the best people around – inside the Forest Service and out, creating lifetime friendships and got to influence a lot of careers. How great is that! Just Sayin’!

Through all of those years (about 12), from beginning to end - your creativity, diligence, sense of humor, hard work, connections, resources, laughter, sensitivity, experience, joking, integrity, professionalism, intelligence, goofiness, easy-going nature, caring, and wittiness were the parts of your being that made the experience for everyone involved, not just a good one, but a great one.

You got to work on some wonderful projects that influence and inspired a lot of people Dave Steinke! Continue to wear your green underwear into this new gig and do it in a different way!

Love ya Baby! Kim

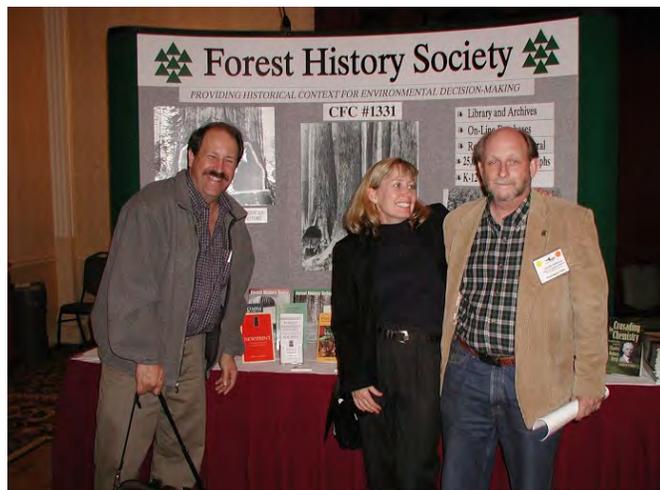
## Bernie Weingardt

Wow! Dave Steinke, what an R2 legend and someone who leaves the Forest Service an outstanding legacy. You'll never run across a better person, always a smile on his face willing to help no matter what, someone who you could always count on to follow through and even leave you laughing so hard – tears streaming down your face – during the most stressful times.

I'll never forget the training videos he produced and the fun we all had making them. He always chuckles as he reminds me of the one he made on the Mancos Ranger District on how to safely build a barbed-wire fence. There weren't enough seasonal employees hired so he went into the office and started grabbing anyone willing to participate. He had the district clerk, soil scientist, and special uses staff but no range managers or fence builders. I'll leave the rest up to your imagination; it was successful but what a hoot!!

He also managed to get me involved with one where two district Rangers were set up to interview Craig Rupp on travel management and why it was needed. Hmmm, that was in 1981 and it's still the same ole issue, go figure! In any case, the thing I remember most about it was that in a two hour interview Craig never stopped smoking. He had the ashtray full, us choking out our words and Dave having to take coughing breaks. Don't know how he managed it all these years but the agency is much better because of him and Dave truly will be missed. I wish Dave and his family all the best in his new adventure!

Bernie Weingardt  
Regional Forester, retired  
Pacific Southwest Region



## Jerry Williams

Dave Steinke - what a treat knowing you! And I have actually seen you work many times. Probably most memorable was the several times I visited the RO and you were kind enough to share your home. Your wife and daughter were very great, but your dog was something else. Never stopped wanting the ball tossed. What fun. Of course the work relationship dealing with history and the FS centennial was beyond words to describe.

I vividly remember outlining the centennial film project at Grey Towers when the two planes struck the Twin Towers in NYC. The group had been talking about the many ways that the centennial video should be organized. After the attack, we all finally agreed to do the story in a roughly chronological way. Then, you folks had to get back to the West. I heard later that you received authorization to rent a car to drive back home (no planes were flying). I remember staying an extra day at the B&B in Milford (Henry Graves place) something like the HatTree Inn, as I remember.

When I got back to the WO, I passed the Pentagon aboard the commuter bus. Fires had been put out, but huge black hole in the side facing I-95. Chief Bosworth, who was wearing cowboy boots when the attack happened, had to walk back to Alexandria over Key Bridge (Metro was closed down), as I recall - a very long walk, miles out of the way. He said he would not wear cowboy boots to the office again!

I want to thank you for all the great work that you and Judy Dersch, as well as Steve and Annie Dunsky, put into the centennial video. It was a wonderful project and perfectly put together.

Then again, thanks for producing *Green Fire*. Another wonderful video. Not sure why I was given several credits, but I enjoyed it a great deal!

Have a great retirement - you deserve it and the agency will really miss your skill and expertise.

By the way, I'm still doing history - now scanning R-6 RO photos and writing (two books and many articles and presentations). Can't keep an old historian down for long! Hoping to see you again sometime. Who knows, I might even stop by sometime!

Jerry Williams  
history\_guy@comcast.com.

## Lynn Young

### What will we do without Dave?

December 2014

If there was a Forest Service “Hall of Fame” Dave Steinke would go in on the first vote, and he would have been a perennial “Most Valuable Player.” During my more than twenty years of close association with Dave, he played a major role in nearly every significant Forest Service event, both in Region 2 and nationally.

Dave usually wasn't the manager of these huge projects. He was the guy in the background who came up with ideas and “turned the cranks” that made the project and the manager a success. Countless times I would think, “What would we do without Dave?”

Dave is simply the most creative and innovative person I have ever known. And he is an implementation genius! He not only made a career of coming up with one-of-a-kind, think-out-of-the-box ideas, but he found a way to implement those ideas within a Federal government bureaucracy.

And Dave did all his accomplishments with a cheerful and positive spirit that influenced everyone around him. I had the pleasure of being his “office-mate” and colleague for over 15 years. I've said this before; He was a main reason that I loved my job.

Anytime I got to work with Dave was a good day. I learned so much from him, not only about his highly skilled and technical field, but how to treat people, be a good employee, a good boss, a team player, how to have fun and more. Dave put in more hours and worked harder than anyone I know, and with never (almost never) a complaint or negative attitude. He found a way to make fun out of a crisis.

In addition to all his significant audio visual accomplishments, he was a major player in almost every successful national meeting and reunion. He played a major part in the 1991 and 2005 Centennial celebrations, National Forest Supervisors meeting in Nebraska, response to the Glenwood Canyon fire tragedy, National Retiree's Reunion, Fiddlin' Foresters, spokesperson for most of Region 2's major fires and controversies, facilitating important meetings or personnel transitions, and countless other accomplishments. What will we do without Dave?

If it was important and the Forest Service needed its best minds, Dave was involved. In addition to his other skills, Dave was a superb trainer. He provided national and regional training in media relations, meeting facilitation, fire information and more.

It would take a whole book to recount almost two decades of great experiences I shared with Dave. In addition to working together in Lakewood, we traveled together often for fires, training and meetings. It was always an adventure! Some of his travels are legendary, such as getting stranded at Grey Towers on 9/11, getting run over by a road grader in Wyoming, and being held hostage by an armed gunman in South Dakota.

In 1998 Dave and I attending a two-day fossil conference at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Rapid City, hosted in part by the Nebraska National Forest. The conference was expected to be controversial because of conflicts between, collectors, museums, educators and public land managers. After the first day we retired to our room... Dave and I often roomed together to save travel dollars.

At about 3 AM the fire alarm in the room began screaming, “Fire! Fire! Proceed to the nearest exit! Fire! Fire!” While Dave and I were stirring around trying to wake up, he peaked out the door to see people filing along the balconies in their pajamas, proceeding to the nearest exit. The Holidome has a huge, open eight-story lobby and you can see virtually every room on all eight floors from any room or anywhere in the lobby.

Suddenly there was a loud, “Boom, boom, boom!” Dave said, “What was that!” I said, “Dave, I believe that was gunshots. Please close the door.” Dave called the front desk to see what was going on and a policeman who answered the phone said, “A gunman is loose in the hotel. Stay in your room, lock the door and don't come out!”

Of course the first thing Dave did was turn on the TV. The local station had very little information, and what they were reporting was wrong and alarming. Dave knew the KOTA station manager...Dave knows everybody! He phoned and went immediately on the air to give a blow by blow, live description of what was going on.

We found out later a distraught teen had gotten into trouble with the police and had gathered all his weapons and, for some unknown reason, gone to the Holidome, shot through the glass front door, taken the front desk

clerk hostage, gone to the eighth floor, pulled the fire alarm and took several more folks hostage. Then began the long wait.

Meanwhile Dave established an information network in our room. He established phone contact with the Nebraska National Forest supervisor, and we eventually determined all employees were safe and accounted for. That was a great relief to employee's families watching the news. And all of that was done in his underwear! Dave once again played a major role. The incident ended with no one getting hurt except the gunman who shot himself.

Dave will love retirement. He deserves it. He'll undoubtedly stay busy and make major contributions wherever he goes. All of us who worked with him have lots of stories and fond memories, and we are better for knowing Dave. His legacy will live on. A history of the Forest Service should include a chapter on Dave Steinke. He is leaving a region and agency that is asking, "What will we do without Dave?"

### Fiddlin' Foresters

The roots of the Fiddlin' Foresters go back many years to the Bighorn NF in the 70's, but the official agency endorsement of the group came in 1994. For eighteen years this talented group of Forest Service musicians from Region 2 carried the conservation message in a way no other could. They were the official "old-time string band of the US Forest Service" and were proud to bring conservation and stewardship messages alive through story and song to all who value natural and cultural resource conservation on America's public lands.

Their message was a fun, educational, entertaining, and respectful approach to communicating what the Forest Service was all about. The core through most of those years was Lynn Young, Jane Leche, Jim Maxwell, Tom MacFarland (volunteer), and Doug Wagner, but for many of their events and all of their recordings or videos, Dave was close at hand.

The group performed across the country at celebrations, dedications, meetings, conventions, and events, like the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. They performed numerous times on tour during the Centennial in 2005. Below they perform at the last National Forest Supervisor's meeting that was held in Nebraska City, NE in January, 2004.

In a video in 2011 President Obama used termination of the Fiddlin' Foresters website as an example to highlight his efforts to cut government waste. This saved the government probably \$25-50 a year alone.

They performed their own "retirement gig" at the FS Service Reunion, the "Rendezvous in the Rockies" in 2012 at Vail, CO.





The  
Steinke  
Family





### **Steinke Family Baseball and Colorado Rockies**

On April 26, 1995 Dave and his Dad were at the first game played at Coors Field in their new seats just above the visitor's dugout. The Rockies won the extra inning game over the Mets 10-9. Walt Weiss scored the first run in the first inning. A family tradition was started and continues in the Steinke family. The Rockies played their first two seasons in the old Mile High Stadium in 1993 and 1994.



Thank you, Dave ...



We will miss you!

Please join in the celebration of Dave's retirement on:  
**January 24, 2015 at Lakewood Cultural Center**

Questions or Advance RSVP contact either:  
Susan Alden Weingardt, 303-275-5401 or [salden@fs.fed.us](mailto:salden@fs.fed.us)  
Chuck Quinn, 303-275-5017 or [charlestquinn@fs.fed.us](mailto:charlestquinn@fs.fed.us)