



# The Rendezvous

*The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association*

*Volume 6 - Number 2*

## Memorial Grove 2019 In the Long Run

*by Tom Thompson*

### In this Issue

Greetings	4
Summer Gathering	5
Get Away!	10
Scholarships!	11
Urban Nature	17
Forest Museum	21
Storm King at 25	24
Western Heritage	26
Meet Jeff Hovermale	28
Remembrances	34
The Last Word	39

*"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers." Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.*



This year's Memorial Grove ceremony was held on May 4. It was a beautiful day and nearly 200 people gathered to honor 27 from the Rocky Mountain Region Forest Service family. Certainly as we approach the centennial of this Memorial next year it is a time to reflect on how special it truly is. There is none other in the Forest Service and we are proud that it is still an important part of this Region.

Gifford Pinchot's overriding principle in management of the Forest Service was simply "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." In 1919 Colonel Allen Peck, the District Forester for this Region, understood the "long run" when he envisioned this Memorial Grove and now, a hundred years later in 2019,

this place and its meaning and purpose without doubt fully meet the standard of the "long run."

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It is truly through the sustained efforts of many people over the years that this tradition and memorial continues. There are many people who have given much time, talent, support, leadership and commitment to Memorial Grove. Thanks to all of them today and over the years past. We especially thank the folks on the Pikes Peak District who do a marvelous job of hosting us each year and helping with all the details that make the day so meaningful.

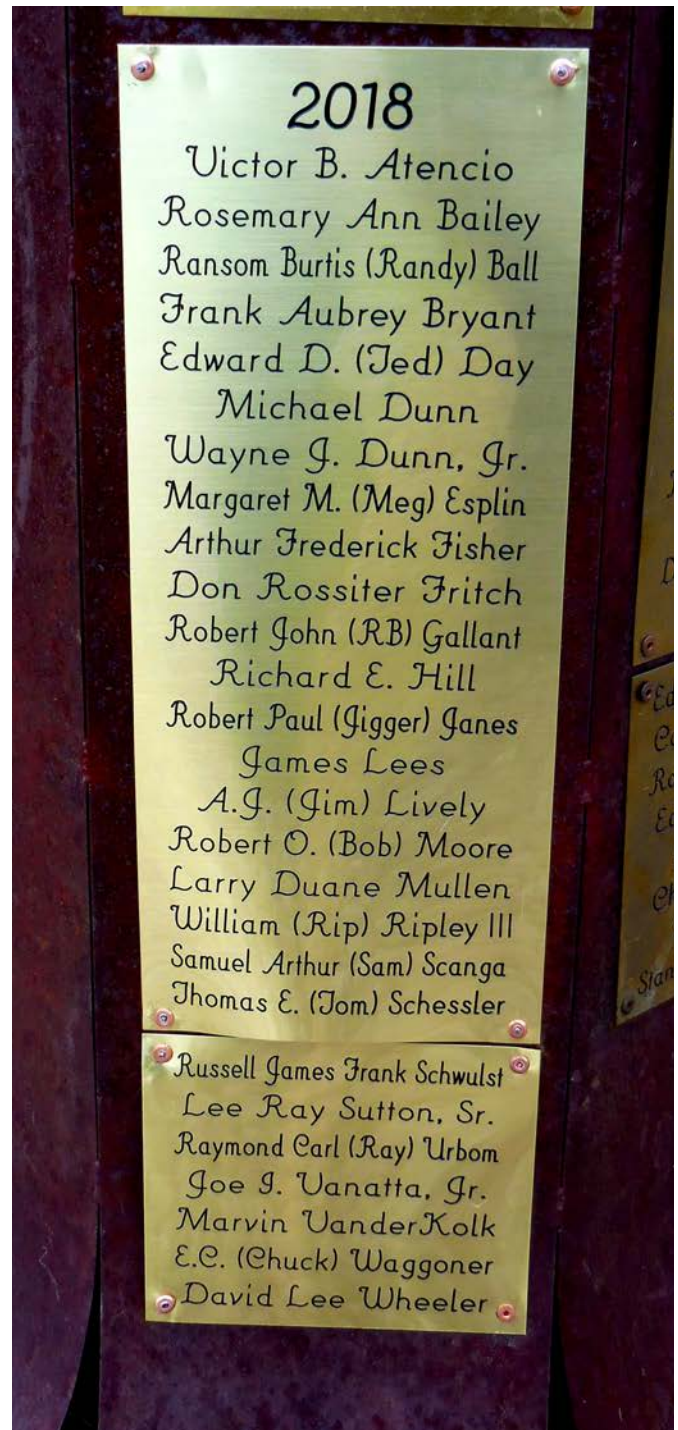
So over the “long run” this Memorial Grove site has been the place that we have gathered each year and honored folks who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Region. There are now over twelve hundred names engraved on this Memorial and there are unique and individual stories of dedication, commitment, and service for each person honored there.



Over a hundred of the folks at the ceremony were from the honoree families. Having family members of all ages

there is the most touching part of the day as stories and remembrances are shared. Without doubt, this truly is a very special tradition and one that reinforces the true significance of the Forest Service family.

It is difficult to describe the atmosphere with the bagpipes, the flag waving in the breeze, the blue sky and fluffy clouds, the songs, the beautiful horse making its way around the Grove, the tears and laughs, and of course the comfort of being together and remembering. If you haven't ever been able to attend one of the Memorial Grove ceremonies you should think about coming next year. Go ahead and mark your calendar for the first Saturday of May next year. That's May 2, 2020.



A complete listing of all twelve hundred honorees can be found on our website under “In Memory.” Recent years “remembrances” are also kept there.

*(continued on Page 3)*



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*District Ranger Oscar Martinez and Forester Jeff Hovermale from the Pikes Peaks Ranger District plant the 2019 memorial tree.*

Deputy Regional Forester Tammy Whittington delivered opening remarks and a welcome from the Region. She also brought a special poem for everyone to enjoy.

“There's a very special grove  
Where the trees of memory grow  
Nurtured by the kindness  
And concern that good friends show.  
The roots are cherished memories  
Of good times in the past  
The branches tender promises  
That souls endure and last.  
It's a place of peace and beauty  
Where memories live for eternity.”

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# Greetings from the Chair

## A Ceremony and Grove Like No Other



*Craig Bobzein - chair of the Rocky Mountaineers*

Trees that grow for one hundred years are common. A grove of trees honoring the service of dedicated people, then enduring for over one hundred are precious, timeless. This is a very special year of our Memorial Grove, located near Monument, Colorado.

This year marks the 100 year anniversary of a great idea set into motion on April 3, 1919.

It was originally established to honor five U.S. Forest Service employees from the Rocky Mountain District who served as soldiers and gave their lives in World War I. The Grove has grown, faced its own natural and human challenges, its ups and downs, and persisted. Persisted through the ongoing resolve of special and talented people to carry on its intended purpose. Now there are some 1,200 honorees.

So what makes our Memorial Grove so special? First, there are no other groves like this established as a tribute for employees across a large geographic area, such as the scale of the Rocky Mountain Region. Second, there are no other annual ceremonies to honor U.S. Forest Service public service veterans who have recently passed; and a ceremony done so notably that it will be easily remembered and cherished by attending family, friends and employees for years to come.

I had the great fortune to attend this year's ceremony which honored twenty seven former employees. I had attended in 2013. Both created a moving and lasting experience. So why you may ask? The beauty and configuration of the site is impressive. The attention to detail and preparation is obvious. The operative words and recurring words from the master of ceremonies and welcoming dignitaries was clearly "Thank you," as if all are alive. Thank you for your

service, your skill, your creativity, your dedication, your stewardship, your passion. We heard a unique poem from an anonymous current employee who couldn't attend but was so moved to share his/her words on this special day. We were all blessed with incredible, melodious music from talented musicians. Music and words so fitting for the setting and crowd, so inspirational. The riderless horse, a timeless way to honor those who have passed, first developed by the ancient Romans. The displays, maneuvers, and pledges to our flag, country and military veterans was profound. I witnessed current and retired military saluting so resolute, so crisp that I was convinced it was a life skill. It sent chills up my spine.

And then the stories from family members or friends of the honorees. Short, funny, and heartfelt stories about their loved ones. Sagebrush flavored ice cream. Moving to and from communities. Growing up in the forest. Exploring as a family. Lasting friendships. Big fires. Close calls. "Love of the outdoors" was such a common theme. Twice my daughter, who works for the U.S. Forest Service in Utah, whispered to me "I think they are talking about my life".

Then a moment of silence, the planting of this year's commemorative tree, then taps. The District Ranger asked us all to share in a tradition, sharing a meal together. While enjoying great food, the story telling continued; some funny of course, but many about what the ceremony meant to the attendees, even with people they had never met before.

The Forest and Grasslands Supervisor summed it up well, "it brings us all back to our roots." And after the event, I paused in awe, thinking about the legacy and experience, both those being honored and grateful for those that carry out such a moving ceremony, and feeling so proud to be a Rocky Mountaineer. So, if you have never been to the ceremony at Memorial Grove, I encourage you to attend, and support such a worthy cause. It's a Ceremony and Grove like no other.

# Rocky Mountaineers Summer Gathering

## September 24 & 25, 2019 in Buffalo, Wyoming

by Bill Bass



*Beautiful downtown Buffalo, Wyoming.*

Mark your calendars for the Summer Gathering in beautiful Buffalo, Wyoming. Come garner some history around the Bozeman Trail or the Johnson County Cattle War and enjoy the company of fellow retirees.

It's all set up for September 24th and 25th - a Tuesday and Wednesday and there will be lots to do for everyone. All the social events and luncheons and programs will be in or near the Buffalo area.

### **Tuesday September 24th:**

(Optional) Afternoon Buffalo Golf Course option or tour local sites (see Local Sites)

5pm - Social at the Historic Occidental Hotel and Saloon, 10 N. Main St., Buffalo, Wyoming

Dinner and lodging on your own. The Occidental (at [www.occidentalwyoming.com](http://www.occidentalwyoming.com)) can offer both! (see below for additional lodging options)

### **Wednesday September 25th:**

Noon Luncheon at Lakeview Lodge 307 overlooking Lake DeSmet (see Lodge Info)

RSVP to [bassomac@q.com](mailto:bassomac@q.com) by September 17 so we can give the caterer a plate count estimate.

Program (to follow luncheon):

"Life of the Tie Hack": Historic logging camps in Wyoming, by Dave McKee, Bighorn National Forest Recreation Staff.

Association announcements.

Adjourn & safe travels!

### **LODGE INFO:**

Lakeview Lodge 307 sits on the southeast shore of Lake DeSmet. Located roughly 9 miles north of



*Lakeview Lodge.*

Buffalo, access is via Interstate 90 exit 51, turn towards the east from exit on to Monument Rd, then right in .5 miles on to Lake DeSmet Rd, and follow along the lake edge (more than a mile), after leaving lake edge continue until you see a "RM" sign and arrow pointing the way to the lodge access road. Parking is below the Lodge on the lake side of the road - but for those needing more accommodating access the road continues to loop around the lodge to a lot with limited parking. Any folks "wary" of steps/slopes should acquire immediate access to the lodge structure via the delivery driveway on the southeast corner of the lodge itself. Vehicle space is limited and likely best to shuttle: drop off/ pick up.

*(continued on Page 6)*



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### GOLF OUTING:

Buffalo Golf Course, 500 West Hart St, Buffalo, WY 82834

**RSVP** to [billtbass@gmail.com](mailto:billtbass@gmail.com) or call 307-673-7384 and leave message if planning to golf.



*Fort Phil Kearney Historic Site in Banner, Wyoming.*

### LOCAL SITES:

**Jim Gatchell Museum** 100 Fort St, Buffalo, WY  
Hours 9am-4pm, \$5/senior/ A great place for an overview of the Indian Wars and history of the Powder River Country.



*The Jim Gatchell Museum in Buffalo, Wyoming.*

**Fort Phil Kearney Historic site**, 528 Wagon Box Rd, Banner WY 82832 About 17 miles (190 north to exit 44) from the Occidental Hotel Social site. Learn about the Wagon Box and Fetterman battles. The Fetterman Fight was the scene of the army's biggest defeat of the Indian Wars until the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Hours 8am-6pm, \$5/person

**Additional site(s) info** available at:

[www.occidentalwyoming.com](http://www.occidentalwyoming.com) go to (click) the area attractions menu.

### LODGING:

- Historic Occidental Hotel, 10 N Main St, Buffalo, WY 82834 (307) 684-9451 – Social Locale



*The Occidental Hotel in downtown Buffalo, Wyoming.*

- Lakeview Lodge 307, limited cabins available, call Lesa Belus 307-620-9623 – Luncheon Locale
- Z Bar Cabins, 626 Fort St, Buffalo, WY (307)-684-5535
- Hampton Inn, 85 US Hwy 16 East, Buffalo, WY (307)-684-2626

# Membership and Finance Report

May 2019

by Johnny and Ellen Hodges

Our membership is holding steady at 440 members. We still have a few members that have not paid their 2019 dues. We will suspend the memberships of those people at the end of May. If you need to pay your dues, you can go to our website to pay with a credit card or just drop a check in the mail. We don't want to lose you!

Thanks to all of you that have donated to our Memorial Grove and Scholarship funds. You can make donations at any time during the year.

A special thanks to Sharon Kyhl for her generous donation to the Scholarship Fund. Because of her support, we were able to award 3 scholarships this year.

## Our Newest Members –

Pamela and Casey Bristow - Pagosa Springs, CO

Jan Burke and Lori Carpenter – Glenwood Springs, CO

Blaine Cook and Tonya Wright-Cook – Custer, SD

Beau and Callie Kidd – Powell, WY

Jace Ratzlaff and Clarice Navarro – Highlands Ranch, CO

Lois Witte and Scot Dersgaard – Lakewood, CO

## Our Newest Lifetime Members –

Debbie and Dan Arnold – Colorado Springs, CO

Kerry and Laura Burns – Pringle, SD

Polly Hays – Denver, CO

Diane Hitchings – Lakewood, CO

Craig and Wendy Magwire – Granby, CO

Florence Navarro – Denver, CO

Tom and Georgena Rennick – Cortez, CO

Kari and Tracy Wardell – Brighton, CO

Marla and Thomas Wertz – Cheyenne, WY

We now have 110 lifetime memberships. You can become a “Lifer” for \$250 per household.

We continue to have problems making contact with new retirees. If you know of someone recently retired, let them know about the Rocky Mountaineers. Their membership is complimentary for the first year.

# Forest Service Job Corps Ending

Secretary Sonny Perdue sent a letter to the Secretary of Labor on May 20 asking that the Civilian Conservation Job Corps Center currently being managed by the Forest Service be either closed or transferred back to the Department of Labor. This action was completely unexpected and even the Chief was not aware that this action was being contemplated. The Forest Service has successfully managed many of these Centers since the beginning of the program in 1964 and there have been many, many years of very productive education and jobs training done throughout the years. The National Office for the Forest Service Job Corps Program is located in Denver and there are three Centers located in Colorado, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Reports indicate as many as eleven hundred jobs may be cut by this unilateral action. A RIF (Reduction in Force) will likely be implemented. This is viewed by many as a very sad and unfortunate and misguided action and would end many decades of support to rural communities across the country.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-administration-job-corps-conservation-centers\\_n\\_5ce7fbc4e4b0a2f9f28de13b](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-administration-job-corps-conservation-centers_n_5ce7fbc4e4b0a2f9f28de13b)

# Hmmm...I must have missed that story

## Looking at the wood chips after the big logs are processed

### Remember those three pigs

#### *Dateline Washington D.C.*

USDA Forest Service researchers have developed a tornado shelter made of wood that provides powerful protection at an affordable cost. Most importantly, the wood shelters can be built into an existing home using readily available materials and tools.

With safety and security in mind, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) engineers designed the residential tornado shelter to resist the high wind pressure and debris impacts generated by high-wind events.

The agency's scientists achieved this by using easy-to-obtain materials and minimizing the need for specialty materials and hardware..

The 8-by-8-foot room can be built by a local contractor or handy homeowner, which can result in substantial cost savings. The estimated cost of materials for the shelter is between \$3,000 and \$4,000, but costs can vary in different local markets.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/forest-service-wood-tornado-shelter-provides-safe-affordable-storm-protection>

### Ferebee Honors Employees

#### *Dateline R-2 Regional Office*

Regional Forester Brian Ferebee honored employees, partners, and volunteers for their 2018 contributions and successes during the annual Regional Forester's Awards ceremony on April 4.

Regional Forester Brian Ferebee recognized 45 award winners and employees from one Ranger District for innovative, impactful work that supports achievement of the USDA Forest Service's mission, strategic plan and priorities, which align with the United States Department of Agriculture's seven strategic goals.

"It's an honor to recognize and celebrate employees, volunteers, and partners for their 2018 accomplishments and the difference they make for present and future generations," said Regional Forester Brian Ferebee.

The award categories included Volunteer and Service, Sustaining our Nation's Forests and Grasslands, Delivering Benefits to the Public, Innovation, Excel as a High-Performing Agency, Emerging Leader, and Ranger District of the Year.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r2/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD622021>

### Has it been Fifty Years?

How long has it been since you looked at a Forest Service Manual? Well, here's a flashback to 1969 and FSM 1900 - Planning, Chapter 1950 - Environmental Policy and Procedures. If you've forgotten, this sets forth Forest Service management objectives, policy, and responsibilities for meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA declares a national policy that encourages a "productive and enjoyable harmony" between humans and their environment. Here's the link just in case you can't sleep at night.

[https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/nepa\\_procedures/includes/1950.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/nepa_procedures/includes/1950.pdf)



## On the Road Again

*by Johnny and Ellen Hodges*

Recently, Ellen and I spent 21 days cruising 5,127 nautical miles from Ushuaia, Argentina (the southern-most town in South America) to Cape Town, South Africa. We made stops in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Tristan da Cunha archipelago (a place we had never heard of). There was nowhere to dock in any of these places, so when we made a stop, we dropped anchor and loaded up in the zodiacs and headed to shore. The southern Atlantic Ocean is known for its treacherous seas and nasty weather and we saw our share - one day we had winds over 75 mph. We saw lots of wildlife - 7 species of penguins, Antarctic fur seals, Southern elephant seals, and a wide variety of birds. If you've never heard of Antarctic explorer, Ernest Shackleton, read the book "Endurance" by Alfred Lansing. It is one of the great adventure/survival books (and it has a happy ending). South Georgia played a major role in the story. We flew 21,183 miles and this was our longest trip ever.



*King penguins, St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia.*



*At Ernest Shackleton's grave, Grytviken, South Georgia.*



*Hey could we get a ride? Gold Bay, South Georgia - penguins and a boat.*



*It is a long way to everywhere from here. Photo taken in Tristan da Cunha.*

# International Destinations

by Jim Thinnies



The Rocky Mountaineers are traveling to Greece and the Dalmatian Coast in October 2020! Our adventure begins in Athens, Greece and ends in Zagreb, Croatia (see map below). We'll spend 10 nights aboard the 50-passenger M/V *Athena* plus four nights in hotels. All the breakfasts and most of the lunches and dinners are included. House beer, wine, and soft drinks are included while aboard the *Athena*. Additional trip details are available at [www.oattravel.com/DAS20](http://www.oattravel.com/DAS20)

The main trip departs the US on October 11 and returns October 26, 2020. An optional pre-trip spends 5 days in Olympia, Nafplion, and Athens exploring Greece's ancient glories. And an optional post-trip spends 3 days in the spectacular mountains and medieval towns of Slovenia.

The trip is \$6,695 per person and up depending on the cabin type. Airfare from Denver, including hotel transfers can be purchased for an additional \$1,400. A 7.5% discount is available by paying early and our group gets a 10% rebate at the time of travel assuming we have 10 or more travelers, which we currently have.

The Rocky Mountaineers have had great experiences with Overseas Adventure Travel over the past decade. The itineraries capture the natural and cultural highlights and the accommodations and food are very good. Their guides are knowledgeable and they coordinate all the details. All you need to do is call the reservation line at 800-955-1925 and tell them you want to reserve the Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece trip with the Rocky Mountaineers (group code GO-22528) and make a \$500 per person deposit. Cabins are limited so call soon if you're interested in this Aegean to the Adriatic small ship voyage.

Contact Jim Thinnies at [jimthinnies2@gmail.com](mailto:jimthinnies2@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Also, let Jim know if you register for the trip.



## 2019 Memorial Scholarships

by Ellen Hodges

The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to announce the winners of the 2019 Memorial Scholarship! We received 23 outstanding applications from talented, accomplished, and energetic high school seniors from across the country. The Scholarship Committee carefully reviewed all the applications and made the recommendation to award three \$1,500 scholarships to Truman Anarella, Brooke Beasley and Taylor Lind.

We want to thank all the applicants and their sponsors for their interest and participation. And, again, many thanks to all of you who have generously donated to the Scholarship Fund. All of you make the growth of this program possible.



**Truman Anarella** – Truman is a high school senior at Soroco High School in Yampa, Colorado. He will be attending University of Colorado this fall majoring in environmental science. He comes from a Forest Service family and has always been involved in natural resource activities. He volunteers in the Park Service “Weed Warrior” program as well as the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Truman is a leader in sports, Honor Society and school government. A distinguished accomplishment: Truman and a fellow student have produced an award-winning documentary entitled, “The Wilderness Act of 1964: The Right to Experience, the Responsibility to Protect.”

Truman sends this message to the Rocky Mountaineers, “Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship. I am greatly appreciative of this opportunity to further my education. I know I can prosper and thrive at CU. I will continue to value environmental stewardship throughout my endeavors.”

Truman is sponsored by Dave Steinke. Way to go, Truman!



**Brooke Beasley** – Brooke will be graduating from Salida High School in Salida, Colorado. She plans to attend Colorado Mesa University studying environmental science, a pursuit she credits to her father, the late Brett Beasley. Brooke also has a passion for music which she expresses through volunteer time and events with the Boys and Girls club, church and band. She’s participated in many diverse clubs and classes as well as sports such as cross country running, soccer and mountain biking.

To quote Brooke: “It is with great enthusiasm that I accept the... scholarship! .... I am excited to use it towards my education at Colorado Mesa University...I believe strongly in the mission of this organization (Rocky Mountaineers) and I promise to uphold the values that this scholarship proudly represents.”

Brent Botts is Brooke’s Rocky Mountain sponsor. Congratulations Brooke!

*(continued on Page 12)*



*(continued from Page 11)*

**Taylor Lind** – Taylor comes from Worland, Wyoming and will soon graduate from Worland High School. She will be attending Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming followed later by University of Wyoming to major in nursing, specializing in pediatric oncology. Taylor has taken the initiative to earn her Certified Nursing Assistance credentials and works at the local nursing home. She is accomplished in community service and church activities, focusing on projects such as food bank, assisting flood victims and local fund raisers. She was the recipient of the Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists which sent her to Boston to observe medical procedures of noted physicians.

Taylor's response to this award: "Thank you so much for the scholarship! I appreciate it very much and I was glad I was given this opportunity."

Frank Roth is Taylor's sponsor. Best wishes, Taylor!

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## Not Lost in Space



*Mitchell Woolever enjoying the great outdoors.*

Speaking of scholarships, Rocky Mountaineer Melanie Woolever, has a scholarship winner in her family. Her twenty-four year old son just received the prestigious NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship at the University Colorado. Mitchell will complete his PH.D in Boulder while contributing to NASA's goal of creating innovative new space technologies for our nation's science, exploration and economic future.

All of this study will hopefully lead to the ultimate goal and long time dream of becoming an astronaut. Mitchell was born and raised in the Denver/Arvada area - where Melanie says he

was a LEGO and KNEX kind of kid - as well as being very outdoorsy and an Eagle Scout. He attended Ralston Valley High School and then Purdue University where he got his BS in Engineering. Mitchell's summer jobs were filled working for aerospace companies and internships with rocket scientists.

After a Masters at CU in Boulder, his PH.D thesis will revolve around the critical importance of establishing an outpost on the Moon to provide the foundation for human missions to Mars and beyond. However, launching every spare part and system required for long-duration deep space missions is cost prohibitive. The key to any sustainable presence in space is the ability to utilize on-site resources for the manufacture and replacement of consumables on demand. Thus, a development essential to sustained Lunar or Martian occupancy is the capability to extract metals, oxygen, and water from the soil on these planets.

When he makes it to Mars, we will honor him with a free lifetime membership in the Rocky Mountaineers.

## Memorial Grove Work Day



*Rocky Mountaineers (l-r) Bill Nelson, Steve Deitemeyer, Vic Baer, Jim Lawrence, Mike Clinton and Tom Thompson demonstrate how many foresters and one engineer it takes to identify a hole in the ground. No trees were injured in the making of this picture.*

Nearly twenty Rocky Mountaineers, Pikes Peak Ranger District employees, volunteers and the Pike Hot Shots worked on trail maintenance, oak brush thinning, plaque placement and general cleanup duties five days before the Memorial Grove ceremony. It was a cold and damp day, but lots of work was accomplished followed by lunch in Monument, Colorado.



*Pike Hot Shot Rick Wooley, discusses the chainsaw work with District Ranger Oscar Martinez at the Memorial Grove work day.*

## Letters to the Editor

*About our story on President George Bush in the last edition of the Rendezvous “Remembering President Bush, (<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2019/2019-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf> - Page 33) Denny Bschor sent us a note about the “rest of the story.”*

“The President’s chief of staff pointed to a White House staffer who was fishing right next to President Bush. The chief asked me to go to the staffer and pretend to bust him for fishing without a license. He was within 15 feet of the president when I approached him. I asked if he had caught anything. He said no. I asked him for his fishing license. He hesitated and said he left it up in the campground. I said, “In that case since the license has to be on your person, I’ll have to write you a ticket.” His eyes got as big as saucers when several of his colleagues including the chief of staff jumped out from behind the trees above us and started laughing hysterically. He said, “You sons of bitches!” (The president was laughing right along with them.) And, yes, I issued him a license. And now folks, you have the rest of the story.” —Denny

## Letters to the Editor

by Sig Palm

*I was inspired by Tom Thompson's "The Boots of Life" story in the last edition of the Rendezvous. (<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2019/2019-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf> - page 39) Here is one of my "Boot" stories which I put together for the Wyoming Hotshot's 50th Anniversary a couple years ago. Keep Smilin'. —Sig*

In about 1965, there was a (Region 2) Forest Service Manual supplement that required all employees doing project work (including fire work) to wear steel-toed boots. These boots were to be provided by the employee as a condition of employment along with cotton khaki or green work shirts, cotton blue jeans and leather gloves.



*Sig's Steel toed boots.*

So, in 1967 when I assumed leadership of the Bighorn (Wyoming I.R. (*Inter-Regional*) Hotshot Crew I had to buy a pair of these boots myself as did all personnel in Region 2.

The month of July went reasonably well with these boots as most project work was either in town or up on the Forest and most of the terrain encountered was reasonably gentle with very few issues with blisters or sore feet. On August 4<sup>th</sup> (1967) we were dispatched to this crew's first fire assignment on the Salmon N.F. on the Montana-Idaho state line. This fire was on top of the mountain, and unlike the usual terrain on the Salmon, terrain was forgiving (less than 2% slopes) ... so again no issues with sore feet.

Two additional fire assignments were on the Clearwater N.F. in Idaho immediately west of Lolo Pass. Again, gentle terrain and all went well. After about 9 days, we were bussed back to Fort Missoula for very welcome showers (*showers in fire camp didn't exist in 1967*), do laundry and plan on about thirty hours of R&R. Well, the showers and laundry were welcome followed by a great dinner. As for the R&R, that lasted about five hours when at around 2200 hours we were loaded on a bus for Riggins, Idaho. From there, we were jet-boated a few miles up the Salmon River to a landing where we off-

loaded and took the "shoe-leather express" to the next fire (perhaps three miles distant). Going in wasn't too bad but walking and working down slope became sheer misery. No matter how well-laced our boots were, the constant pressure against the steel caps was beginning to cripple all of us on the crew. On this tour, every two or three days we went to another fire. The final episode was a major burn-out that we accomplished on the north side of the Cotter Bar Fire down slope to the Lochsa River. By dawn the morning the mission was complete, the fire line held, and the fire was called "controlled." But all of us were well on the way to becoming "cripples", so the fire team gave us that day in camp.



*White Boots.*

The next morning (Sunday), we loaded onto a school bus bound for Missoula to rehab and await reassignment as there was no shortage of fires to go around. Our bus driver was a local "Missoulia" and well known around town. He knew about our sore feet, and I had heard of

Dragstedt's Men's store (*authorized dealer for White boots, FS uniform components, etc.*) in downtown Missoula from the fire team on the previous fire. When we got to Lolo to gas up the bus "Louie" called the store owner giving him our ETA in Missoula of less than an hour. Upon our arrival, the owner plus about two other employees were ready to serve us as 32 firefighters got off the bus.

(continued on Page 15)



(continued from Page 14)

I walked into this store in stocking feet and carrying my steel-toed boots. I was sized, tried on a pair of White's (the Smoke Jumper model) and instantly felt like I was in heaven. I conveniently left my steel-toed boots under the chair in the store, but advised the crew members to keep their steel-toed boots in case they got another R-2 job non-fire job, or just in case my decision backfired.

I'll bet Dragstedt's sold at least two dozen pairs of White Boots that morning along with many pairs of the Frisko "Can't Bust 'Em" Jeans, cruiser vests, striped logger shirts, etc. All-in-all, these men felt it was worth their time to open the store for us. I thanked the owner very much, and he said "...we like firefighters and always glad to help. And, for this kind of business, I'd gladly open up any time day or night if that was needed." From the store, we were back on the bus



Two Ford Tri-motors at Dixie Guard Station Airstrip in 1942.

bound for Fort Missoula followed by another trip over to Grangeville (ID) (Nez Perce NF). We arrived before dawn,

enjoyed a nice breakfast at a local restaurant before boarding the Ford Tri-Motor (took three trips) into Sherer Field within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This was followed by helicopter shuttle to the Brushy Fork fire on the west side of the "Divide". When the crew was all there, we received our assignment to the upper end of the fire almost on top of the "Divide." In spite of the new boots, nobody complained of blisters or sore feet. At the end of this assignment, we once again took the "shoe-leather express" back to Sherer Field (about 19-miles) on a well-maintained but steady downhill graded trail. By 0700 the next morning, in came the Ford Tri-Motor to begin ferrying us out. A Forest Service DC-3 was ready to fly us back to Greybull as fire season was near ending and college registration was beginning.

Back at Greybull, I put together the end of the season report for the first year of the Bighorn I.R. Crew: training, summary of work projects/ accomplishments, organizational structure, the "good / not so good", etc. Before closing, I clearly described the steel-toed boot issues on the fire line in steep terrain and my decision to go against the R-2 Manual supplement requirement. I strongly recommended that fire personnel be exempted from this direction. Both the Forest Fire Staff Officer and the Forest Supervisor agreed and sent a letter to the Regional Office stating that steel-toed boots would no longer be required for personnel engaged in fire suppression work on the Bighorn NF and that a green-page supplement to the FSM was already posted.

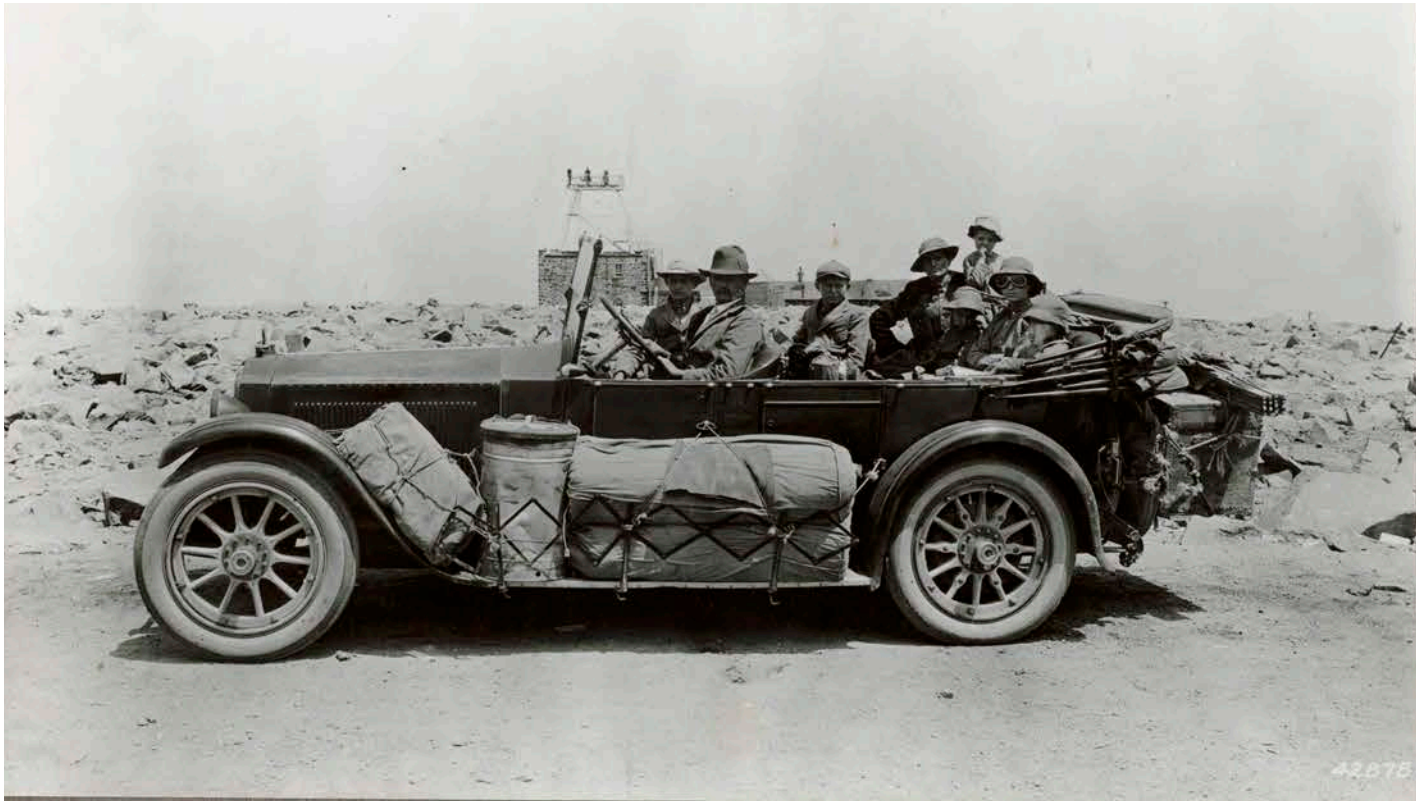
Needless to say, the R-2 Safety Engineer was not pleased, fired a memo back to the Forest saying that a waiver would not be granted and expected the leadership to carryout the R-2 direction. Needless to say, that memo somehow got lost and this issue never surfaced again. In the history of the crew, I was never aware of any major foot injuries from not wearing steel toed boots.



White Boots with Aluminum Bullard Hard Hat.

I might add, when I bought my first pair of White's, the cost was \$48.00 compared to about \$15.00 for a pair of Red Wings. I had my first re-build about 7-years later for around \$35.00. A second rebuild became necessary in about 1981 for about \$56 compared to a new pair selling in the range of a little over \$100.00. Although I haven't worn these boots much since retirement, they are still serviceable.

## One Hundred Years Ago



O.N. England from Lodi, California, at the summit of Pikes Peak. They have traveled 4500 miles from California through Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado bound for Miami, Florida via Raleigh, N.C. and back to California.  
*Taken by F.E. Colburn - July 23, 1919*



Bridger National Forest. Upper end of Hoback Canyon, looking west down river near Von Vleck Ranch. Hall River Basin.

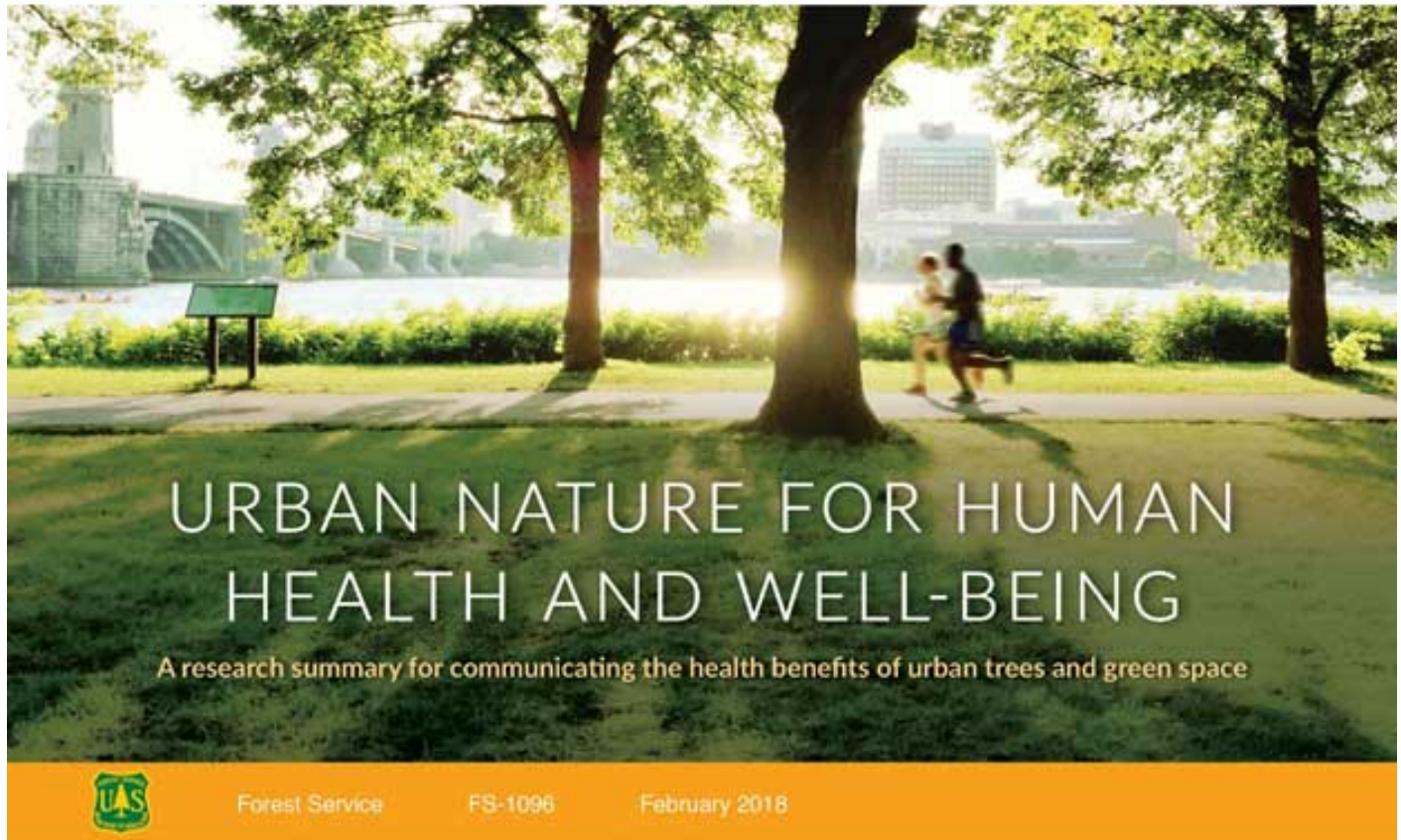
*Taken by  
L.E. Cooper  
June, 1919*





United States Department of Agriculture

## Urban Nature - Get Out There!



The livability of a town or city is often defined by the availability of parks, forests, gardens, and other natural settings that support an active lifestyle. Indeed, there is a growing conviction that this “green infrastructure” is as important to prosperous and sustainable communities as roads, trash removal, and other essential services.

Although research on the relationship between human health and nature is fairly recent, the wide range of scientific studies published on the health benefits of nature over the past 35 years confirms the importance of natural settings to human physical, mental, and social health. Taken as a whole, these studies provide a compelling case for nature in our communities, but until recently there have been few comprehensive resources for interested audiences to draw from.

A new 2018 report by the [USFS National Urban Forest Technology and Science Delivery Team](#) summarizes the most current research related to nature and public health, providing a resource to help natural resource professionals, health professionals, urban planners, architects, educators, and community groups effectively communicate the health benefits of nature to their constituents. The report provides an overview of the current research in five key areas: pollution and physical health, active living, mental health, stress reduction, and social health, community cohesion, and resilience, and discusses issues of social equity and access to nature in urban environments.

*(continued on Page 18)*



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View our report on [urban nature for human health and well-being](#) (PDF - 11MB) to learn more about our work communicating the health benefits of urban trees and green space.

The well written report is worth checking out. You'll learn that people living near parks and green space have less mental distress, are more physically active, and have extended life spans. Exposure to nature may impact human mortality from chronic disease. When people exercise outdoors in natural environments, they do so for longer periods of time and at greater intensities. And positive health effects are enhanced when green space includes the presence of water, or blue space. There is also strong evidence that time spent in nature can improve the attention capacity of children with attention deficit disorders. Similarly, some research shows that inner-city children who grow up in public housing buildings with a view of nature have greater impulse control and are able to concentrate better and delay gratification longer.

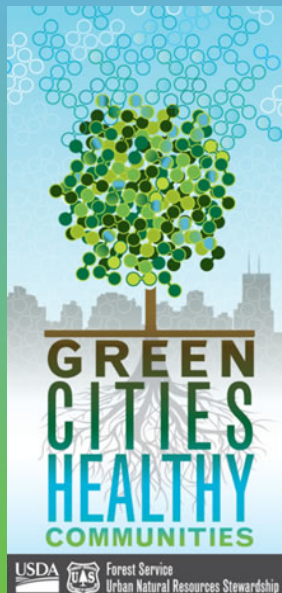
This report summarizes some of the most prominent research related to nature and public health to help urban natural resource professionals, urban planners, architects, educators, health professionals, and community groups effectively communicate the health benefits of urban nature to their constituents.

The report can be accessed also on the [Vibrant Cities Lab](#), an innovative multi-faceted web platform that can help professionals, policymakers, planners and the public access the best available science, understand the value of investing in our urban and community forests, and take concrete steps to and build better, more effective and efficient urban and community forestry programs.

Checkout our related webinars on:

[Urban Forests for Human Health and Wellness](#)

[Studying the impact of trees and green space on cardiovascular health](#)



The Forest Service's National Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team is comprised of urban program staff from across our regions, working collaboratively to deliver quality urban natural resources science, technology, and information to improve the long-term sustainability of urban ecosystems. The team's mission is to help inform environmental stewardship and sustainably sound decisions about urban and community lands and the broader watershed, for wildlife and people.

**New!** [Read a Leaves of Change article about the team »](#)

[Check out our webinar series »](#)

[Contact the national team »](#)

[Sign up for our mailing list »](#)

## Where the eaves meet the leaves

About half of all Coloradans live in areas at risk of wildfires,  
State Forester says

Half of all Coloradans now live in an area that's considered to be at risk for wildfires, according to a new [assessment](#) from state researchers. About 2.9 million people lived in what the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) calls the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in 2017, the news release said. CSFS defines that as "the area where human improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation." Their newest figure is 50 percent higher than when the state forest service last updated its maps five years ago.

Changes in infrastructure, vegetation, weather, and population are all reasons, CSFS said, and the new population numbers are based on a few factors: more people living in the area, more specific data and changes in land use. "The largest increases in population growth within the interface are in areas where agricultural lands are being converted to grasslands and subdivisions. Although these areas are considered in a low-risk category by the assessment, they are still at a higher risk for wildfire than more urban areas," the report said.

CSFS said their updated information shouldn't be used to determine the risk for an individual house, but it can be used in fire protection plans and identifying priority areas and determining which resources could be harmed in a given area, like drinking water supplies, homes or forests. However, people interested in the information can check out [CSFS' new map](#) that shows the areas most at risk.

KUSA-TV in Denver devoted 30 minutes in prime time on May 6 to show how big the issue is. Here's the link to their report.

<https://www.9news.com/video/features/29-million-coloradans-now-live-in-wildfire-danger-zones/73-635d5d82-171d-47fe-8d1c-0060935518c9>

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## Are You a Member?

If yes - yea! ~ If not - sign up!

We hope you are enjoying this edition of "The Rendezvous". Are you a member of the Rocky Mountaineers?

We provide a lot of information on our website, including all issues of "The Rendezvous." This info is available to both members and non-members.

We are a volunteer organization, but some of our activities cost money. We can't provide scholarships or support Memorial Grove without the dues and donations of our members.

If you like what we are doing, join us. Dues are complimentary for 2019 and then just \$20 annually per household after that. Or you can get a Lifetime Membership for \$250 per household and never pay dues again.

Step up and become a member of the Rocky Mountaineers. We would love to have you. Go to our website to join.



# NAFSR Report

*by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative*

## Spring 2019 Update

Following our annual in person meeting in Arizona in early February, Jim Caswell, NAFSR board chair wrote the following summary of our work in 2018.

“Your NAFSR Board is a great group of dedicated retirees. They have experience in all areas of the agency and are working hard to represent the interests of our members, support the Forest Service whenever possible, and advocate for conservation and active management of the National Forests and Grasslands. Calendar year 2018 was a busy and very productive year for our Association. The Board developed and prioritized a robust “Program of Work” during our Board meeting a year ago.

At the time we could not have imagined how the year would unfold nor the opportunities that would present themselves. I am pleased to report that your Board with the assistance of a number of our members completed all our priorities both operational and strategic. We have assessed current new and ongoing issues that we believe merit our attention in the coming year and have agreed on new priorities for CY 2019-2020. Again, we believe NAFSR had a very successful 2018.

We are relevant, working on the right things and in the right way. We have unprecedented access within the Department and the Forest Service. Folks are listening. We can and are making a difference, but it is only through the support of our “membership” that we have the capacity to represent and accomplish our mission and purpose. Thanks for your support.”

For a full listing of all the 2018 accomplishments just visit the NAFSR website. You can access all of our reports, letters, summaries, and positions. If you

want further information or have questions or concerns, please let me know as I continue to try and represent the Rocky Mountain Region retirees in this capacity.

Already in 2019 we have developed a position paper and written a letter to the Secretary in regard to the President’s Executive Order (EO), entitled “EO on Promoting Management of America’s Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.” We are working to bring attention to the need to increase the capacity of the Forest Service to get work on the ground and are committed to do whatever we can to help the Administration and the Congress better appreciate the impact that reduced budgets and fire borrowing has had on the capability of the agency to “Care for the Land and Serve the People.”

Melanie Woolever recently represented NAFSR at the American Wildlife Conservation Partners meeting during the North American Wildlife Conference held in Denver in early April.

If you are not a member of NAFSR, go to our website – [www.nafsr.org](http://www.nafsr.org) to join. Annual dues are complimentary for 2019, then \$25 annually or \$250 for a Lifetime Membership.



# National Museum of Forest Service History

by Tom L. Thompson

## Spring 2019 Update



The Board held our annual in person meeting in early February in Arizona and as a part of that meeting we held a joint session with the National Association of Forest Service Retirees along with the Chief of the Forest Service, Vickie Christiansen. The fourteen on Chief Christiansen's right side are on NMFSH Board and the fifteen on her left side are on the NAFSR Board. Three in the middle (Dale Bosworth, Rich Stem and Tom Thompson) are on both Boards.



Back Row: (L-R) Fred Cooper, John Steffenson, John Drake, Lynn Sprague, Dale Bosworth, Johnny Hodges, Rich Guldin, Dale Robertson, Mike Rodgers, Don Howlett, Hank Kashdan

Middle Row: (L-R) Nancy Gibson, Jim Hagamier, Pat Lynch, Rich Stem, Greg Griffith, Bill Timko, Ranotta McNair, Al West

Front Row: (L-Right) Andy Mason, Liz Agpaoa, Lisa Tate, Larry Gadt, Tom Thompson, Chief Christiansen, Jim Caswell, Pete Griffin, Jack Troyer, Jim Golden, Larry Payne

As a part of this meeting, the Museum also conducted a workshop for Forest Service folks who were interested in how to care for their historic items and collections.

(continued on Page 22)

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The Museum held our second “An Evening with Teddy” event on April 12 in Arizona. This fund raising event was done in partnership with the Desert Foothills Land Trust in Carefree, AZ and was a great opportunity to reach out to folks with whom we share many common values and especially our commitment to conservation. A highlight of the evening was having Teddy Roosevelt illustrator and historian, Steve Stark, give a presentation on the life of

Theodore Roosevelt. Rocky Mountaineer member Andy Mason was instrumental in making this event a huge success. Nancy Gibson, retired Forest Supervisor of Tahoe Basin and NMFSH Board member, did a wonderful job in representing Helen Dowe in the fire tower display shown to the left. Helen served as lookout at Devils Head from 1919 until 1923.



*Nancy Gibson as Helen Dowe.*



*Left to Right - Pat Lynch, Dale Robertson, Tom Thompson and Micah Grondin.*

Micah Grondin, the current ranger on Cave Creek District of the Tonto N. F. and our own Pat Lynch enjoyed wearing William R. Kreutzer era uniforms. Former Chief, F. Dale Robertson and Tom



*The James B. Yule Pavilion.*

Thompson were just two old foresters who dropped in. Smokey and Woodsy were also mingling in the crowd.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Museum will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on our center campus in Missoula to dedicate our newly finished James B. Yule Pavilion. The structure has just been completed and will be the center of many summer activities on the Museum site, including a program about the Higgins Ridge Fire Survivors, 75<sup>th</sup> Smokey Bear Birthday celebration, book signing with John Clayton, the Norman Maclean Festival, and release of the second printing of Elers Koch “40 Years A Forester” book.

The Museum is making a special effort to increase membership in the next year. If you are not a member we ask that you consider supporting the work of the Museum. This is your Museum. Our outreach, education, and historic preservation work is possible only through the support of our members who care greatly about the history of the agency. It is easy to join. Visit our website at [www.forestservicemuseum.org](http://www.forestservicemuseum.org) for more information and updates.

# Just Three Questions

## with Regional Forester Brian Ferebee

### 1. What are the Regional Priorities for the upcoming field season?

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region employees are focused on three priorities. These align with our Chief's national priorities and the Secretary of Agriculture's seven strategic goals as part of OneUSDA. Collectively, these priorities guide essential work that the Forest Service must perform to meet the needs of our public and overcome challenges faced by the nation's forests and grasslands. These are:

- Improving our work environment
- Creating and maintaining resilient landscapes
- Connecting with communities

This season, we will continue to work with all of our partners across the region to focus our attention on the identified priority areas for reducing fire risk to communities, improving watershed health, improving our recreation opportunities and delivering on our high priority targets for fuels and timber. We expect to accomplish the assigned fuels target on 179,200 acres and a timber target of 607,200 CCF (100 cubic feet).

### 2. How's the fire season shaping up for our five states this year?

The seasonal combination of the cool/wet spring, which is forecasted through the summer, leads us to predict an average to below average fire year across the Rocky Mountain Area from May to August. Well above average snowpack amounts and a cooler wetter spring are projected to delay the onset of the fire season, when we normally would see an increase in fire activity by late May. Despite the anticipated weather trends, we can still expect fires to occur within the Rocky Mountain Area. Historically, average to below average fire years have seen an

average of 100,000 to 225,000 acres burned.

We will prioritize preparations for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and be ready to execute them when weather conditions allow. This allows us to be better prepared before the 2019 fire year intensifies.



*Regional Forester  
Brian Ferebee.*

### 3. Do you have any big leadership changes occurring either regionally or nationally?

In August, we dedicated a senior executive, Leslie Weldon, to focus exclusively on improving our work environment. Leslie is leading the Work Environment and Performance Office, a relatively new office which focuses on improving and sustaining a culture in which all employees feel safe, secure, valued, respected, and supported. The staff seeks to diagnose and address the root causes and cultural barriers to emotional and physical safety, security, diversity, and inclusion in the work environment. Long-term benefits will include greater safety and security and a more productive work environment with increased capacity to deliver mission critical work.

We have a new Forest and Grassland Supervisor on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. Diana Trujillo accepted the position in the fall. Prior to her current appointment, Trujillo served as assistant director for the Job Corps National Office in Lakewood, Colorado.

We have Acting Forest Supervisors serving on the Rio Grande National Forest and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

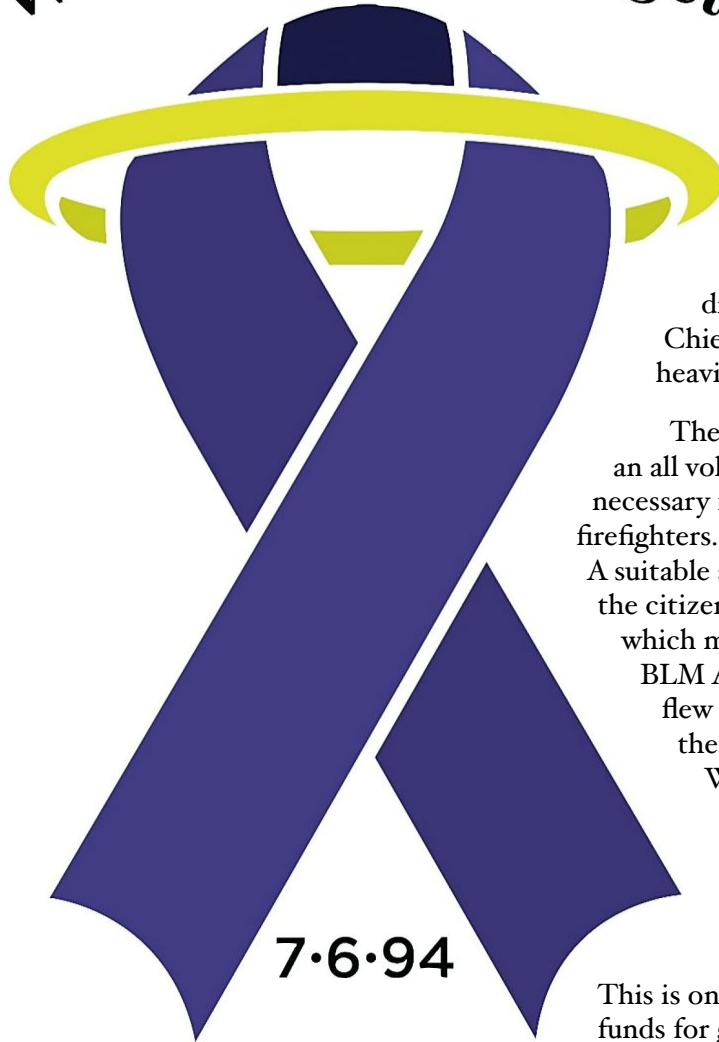


# South Canyon Fire

## Twenty Five Years after Storm King

*By Sonny LaSalle*

**We Will Never Forget**



It is hard to believe it has been twenty five years this coming July 6. In 1994 I was lucky to draw a Main Salmon River float permit and we were on the way to the put in at Corn Creek when the fire on Storm King Mountain blew up. We stopped in McCall on the way home to Rifle and I learned of the tragedy and that two McCall Smoke Jumpers were part of the 14 that lost their lives. One of them was a personal friend. Kevin Riordan was acting Forest Supervisor in my absence and did a fantastic job under very trying circumstances. Chief Thomas and Congressman Scott McGinnis were heavily involved in the days following the incident.

The Glenwood Springs Mayor and City Council formed an all volunteer committee of 14 people to raise the necessary funds to build a fitting memorial to the 14 firefighters. There was much more involved than raising funds. A suitable site had to be found and a design was completed by the citizens committee. I was a member of the committee which met almost every week for a year. I was asked by the BLM Area Manager to guide the families of the 14 as we flew by helicopter to the ridge line helipad and walked to the pins that designated where their loved ones died.

We then walked out one of the canyons to I-70.

Most of the families came the fall of 1994 but a few waited until the memorial dedication in 1995.

Accompanying those families had a major emotional impact on me for which I was untrained and unprepared.

This is one of the lessons learned! The Mackey family raised funds for granite markers and with help from the BLM and a Missoula smoke jumper the markers were installed in April of 1995. The BLM also constructed a trail with interpretive signs to the site.

*(continued on Page 25)*

*(continued from Page 24)*

*In storm and cloud and wind and sky,  
In heart and mind and hand and eye,  
A bond still binds too strong to tell,  
All those who fly with those who fell.*

—Author unknown

**Helitack: Grand Junction, CO**

Rob Browning Marion, NC

Rich Tyler Palisade, CO

**Smokejumpers: Missoula, MT**

Don Mackey Hamilton, MT

**Smokejumpers: McCall, ID**

Roger Roth L'Anse, MI

Jim Thrash New Meadows, ID

**Hotshots: Prineville, OR**

Kathi Beck Boring, OR

Tami Bickett Lebanon, OR

Scott Blecha Clatskanie, OR

Levi Brinkley Burns, OR

Doug Dunbar McKenzie Bridge, OR

Terri Hagen Prineville, OR

Bonnie Holtby Redmond, OR

Rob Johnson Roseburg, OR

Jon Kelso Prineville, OR

The citizens raised about \$240,000 of cash and in-kind donations and a beautiful memorial was completed at Two River's Park in West Glenwood Springs. It was dedicated July 6, 1995, attended by a large crowd, which included all the victim's families.

There was a quickly formed team of BLM and USFS people to do an investigation. Using the information they could quickly gather they produced a report that created quite a stir among the families. In my opinion the best investigation was done by the author John MacClean and documented in his book "Fire on the Mountain." I highly recommend this book as the most accurate account of what actually happened.

There are many "take-aways" from my experience. We line officers were not trained to deal with the death of our people and the families of those that died. I should have asked for help from a critical incident stress counselor. Fighting fires is a risk laden activity but we cannot take risks with peoples lives, regardless of pressure from the public or retired USFS employees that think "one foot in the black" is still the way to fight today's fires. I made a comment in 1995 that every firefighter should visit the Memorial at Two Rivers Park, read the biographies of the excellent young people that died, and hike the trail to Storm King Mountain. The message being that no one is invincible, no matter how tough you are or how much experience you have. Trees, brush, homes nor private possessions are worth the ultimate risk!!

We cannot and will not forget!

# Western Heritage Update

## After the Shutdown



From fancy restaurants in Washington D.C. and a belt-buckle maker in Colorado to a brewery in California, businesses

that count heavily on federal employees as customers really felt the punishing effects of the government shutdown earlier this year. The thirty-five day shutdown occurred just before Christmas in 2018 and stretched until January 25, 2019.

Mike Lynch, owner of Western Heritage, known to just about every Forest Service employee retired or active, saw online orders collapse almost immediately after the government shut down. On Jan. 7, Lynch laid off nearly everyone, leaving one person to answer the phone "in case someone wants to buy something." They were the first job cuts in the company's 43-year history.

NBC News covered the story:

[https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/after-longest-government-shutdown-in-history-impacted-workers-frustration-lingers-1432529987563?fbclid=IwAR39JNpEIsgKULayJrH3vb-6Mo9h8fIV-x4ZPB5IW-DGMzIMCukP\\_t2AMwE](https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/after-longest-government-shutdown-in-history-impacted-workers-frustration-lingers-1432529987563?fbclid=IwAR39JNpEIsgKULayJrH3vb-6Mo9h8fIV-x4ZPB5IW-DGMzIMCukP_t2AMwE)

As well as The Denver Post and a host of other media outlets.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2019/01/24/federal-shutdown-affect-on-business/>

We thought we would check in on Mike and see how everything is going.

**The Rendezvous: Hey Mike...let's start from the very beginning. The Lynch family is pretty famous in Forest Service circles...why is that?**

**Mike Lynch:** We have been serving the Forest Service for 43 years. I have never known life without

the Forest Service in some way or another. My dad, Pat, was in the Forest Service before starting Western Heritage Company. All of the gatherings gave my dad an excuse to attend and remain connected with all the folks. I guess the Forest Service was always family to us and we have been able to stay connected.

### TR: And how did the business get started?

**Mike :** I love to tell this story, because it makes business look easy and accidental, even though we have learned otherwise. Dad found a fella in Denver to make keychains from the center of the old Yale locks that featured the Pine Tree Shield. He made them as Christmas presents for all his buddies one year. Well, they became very popular and dad started to get requests for more of these keychains. After realizing he couldn't keep giving these things away, he said, "I might have to charge you for these." People had no problem with paying for them and suddenly he had a little business. That evolved into buckles and then anything else we could get for the agency and customize it with the Forest Service logo.

### TR: How's the family?

**Mike:** Pat and Patty are splitting time between Arizona and Wyoming, they are both turning 80 this year! The are both healthy and enjoying retirement. We will have the



third generation start working in the business this summer as my son will be spending time helping out at the shop.

*(continued on Page 27)*



(continued from Page 26)



*Mike Lynch checks some artwork for new products at the Western Heritage Company shop in Loveland, Colorado.*

**TR: That must have been scary during the shutdown. Tell us about it.**

**Mike:** Well, we have survived a bunch of shutdowns over the past 43 years, but this one was special. Typically, shutdowns have occurred close to the end of the fiscal year, which is when we are very busy working on end of the year projects. The timing of this one being during the holidays and end of the year, paired with the length, and some internal changes that we had just implemented caused the perfect storm. I kept on thinking, 'this will end soon' but when it didn't, I had to make a very tough call and lay everyone off, except Kellie (customer service). Once the government opened up I slowly brought folks back and am pleased to say we are back to full staff today.

**TR: What's new with Western Heritage?**

**Mike:** We are always trying to find new products that will appeal to the ever changing demographic of the Forest Service employees. We now are offering more name brand products than ever before, especially in the apparel area and you can now get Eddie Bauer, North Face, Nike, and many more personalized for your specific group. On the manufacturing side we have just improved our 3-D printing capabilities allowing us to do some really great stuff in metal that we couldn't before. On the

awards side we just acquired a little engraving company locally that gave us expanded engraving and award abilities. So I am always trying to vary what we are offering.

**TR: Tell us the weirdest order you've ever gotten or strangest thing you've made?**

**Mike:** WOW, that is a good one. I always joke that there is this invisible sign that says "Bring Your Crazy Ideas in Here." Because of the making of buckles we have one of the very best lost wax casting shops this side of the Mississippi so we also offer custom casting services to anyone that can find us (we don't really advertise this service). So currently we have these goofy projects that we are turning into metal: a copper device that you stick up your nose to prevent illness, keys that go onto bagpipes, a once live beetle, restoration parts for a one of a kind car, tractor parts, decoration parts for an elevator, and miniature bonsai trees. That is literally stuff in the shop right now, however the all-time winner is a casting of a very large footprint that was in solid 24K gold (\$128,000 of metal being cast at one time).

**TR: What's in the future for Western Heritage?**

**Mike:** I am happy to announce there is a future, because the first few weeks of January I wasn't sure we were going to make it. We are really trying to improve our web presence and be better at telling the story of the company and of the individual products we sell.

I want video to be a big part of that, where folks can see a review and demonstration of some of the products. Also, as time goes on, we are working to



expand a bit outside of the government market and deliver some neat stuff to the general public. I am hoping to have a really nice storefront/showroom up and running here in Loveland before the end of the year so people can come in and see some of our great craftsmanship.

# "That's the Way I Remember it"

*Each newsletter will be featuring a story about retirees from R-2*



**Jeff Hovermale**  
Retiring in 2020 (hopefully)  
30+ years of service

*Editor's Note: We usually reserve this space for retired Rocky Mountaineers. In this edition we feature a current employee who chooses to be a member of the Rocky Mountaineers.*

**The Rendezvous: Where did you go to school and what was your favorite subject?**

**Jeff Hovermale:** My graduation from Allegheny College of Forestry in western Maryland as part of the University of Maryland system is the core of my natural resources education. My continuing education including graduate work is a hybrid from Colorado State University, George Mason University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Northwest Community College. As for a favorite subject, with liberty, I would share that my first teacher in kindergarten, Mrs. Jane Arnold of Estes Park had a life imprint with me. It's a true statement that everything you need to know in life is taught in kindergarten. Over my life and career, I corresponded with Mrs. Arnold and most years I would visit her and family for a hike in Rocky Mountain National Park and chat of our long relationship. I attended her memorial service of life three years ago in Estes Park. A big shout out to all kindergarten teachers! Yes, I hold kindergarten teaching lessons as my favorite subject in school to this day.

**TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service and what were some of your first duties?**

**JH:** As early as five to seven years of age I knew my destiny was in the forest. To this day I still believe how fortunate that from an early age I knew my path of service - really this is true. In forestry school and as a member of the college fire crew, 1982 was my first experience on the line of a wildland fire. After two summers working in Yellowstone National Park

and winters at Colorado Ski areas, in 1986 I began working on the timber crew for the Hahn's Peak Ranger District, Routt National Forest. From the timber crew I transferred to the Yampa R.D. to begin what I refer to as the discovery years that influenced my land ethic. At that time the Routt N.F. and perhaps throughout the NFS as a technician, I/we performed duties in all aspects. From jelly rolling and tree seedling planting, habitat enhancement, prescribed fire, timber stand improvement, campgrounds operations, range monitoring, blasting, fisheries/stream habitat enhancement and Wilderness and backcountry trail projects. I think, as many employees can, share many a campfire stories of these glory discovery days. The days working from Pyramid Guard Station, and horseback and packing supplies and tools into project areas of the Flat Tops Wilderness - now the Severy Creek Wilderness, and completing winter timber sale

layout in the Gore Range in deep snow via snowmobile and snowshoes; they were days filled with wonderment and accomplishment.

**TR: We hear you are a returned Peace Corps volunteer. What was that like?**



*Jeff in Steamboat Springs circa 1995.*

**JH:** I took an official leave of absence from the USFS to volunteer in the Peace Corps in 1993 originally to go to Butan, Africa, however, with civil war unrest I was re-assigned to Ecuador, South America. This chapter of my walk is as officially stated and known; the 'toughest job you will ever love'. College and my early

*(continued on Page 29)*

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While perhaps I contributed in the protection of fragmented forest areas to preserve habitat while promoting agro-forestry and land stewardship, my lens was exposed to human and land interrelationships. I can share numerous lessons and ever-teaching monuments from these exposures.

In the end, I as we all are, trying to be a better person. Regardless of place in time and life, everyone must rise above self with exposure to how we and the earth connects.

**TR: How did you end up in the Colorado Springs area?**

**JH:** In 1996 while working with the Tonto N.F. and Glenwood R.D., Gila N.F. a colleague on the Pike N.F. called to inquire if I would be interested in a position with the Pikes Peak R.D. I reported in May 1996 to Colorado Springs. Rather than try to replicate a rural living environment, I jumped in and moved into a 1904 home in a downtown urban historic neighborhood. This position began to provide exposure into an urban forest interface environment. The question **TR** can expand to why have I stayed for 20 years? Passion and experiences in my early land management positions perhaps aided in building me to interact in management for one of the most complex landscape pieces in the NF system (opinion). Moreover, I became engaged in community activism and government in off time hours. While, I/we may prefer a rural forest and community environment to live and work, the urban landscape and its' people and infrastructure requires a voice of the land.

**TR: Tell us about your current job and a little about your career and the different jobs you've held.**

**JH:** I must share that I always endeavor to hold a noble ego perspective and it is difficult to think of myself or service. While my trade is trees, I view my position with a focus of maintenance. Working as primary staff in Lands, Minerals and Special Uses the long body of experiences, skills and knowledge of the landscape complements my ability to navigate and share recommendations in daily to future management. I have come to appreciate that issues and opportunities do not really change. I work to

appreciate history of where we have come from to aid in assemblage of an action focus perspective. This feedback does not address the question of course, hence again, let us chat around the camp fire.

**TR: Who were some of your early bosses that gave you good advice in your career?**



*Jeff on horseback patrol during hunting season on Yampa R.D.*

**JH:** Everyone! I have Raymond Brown opened the door. Jim Fickie, Lee Carr, Ralph Swain, Greg Hansen, Connie Clementson, Jerry Schmidt, Frank Beum, Bill Bass, Dave Steinke, Anna Crabtree Jones, Tom Thompson, Sue Struthers, Randy

Karstadt, Michelle O'Connell, Ellie Towns and Gail Kimbell, and most recently Oscar Martinez to name only few individuals of influence into my development. I must share a note of appreciate to human resources staff (now ASC) back in the day to Debbie Barnhart and Eugenia Djuric. While changes in the structure for human capital service have since been centralized, both Debbie and Eugenia provided professional and personal council that greatly aided in my USFS reinstatement after return from the Peace Corps, which took just under three years to afford me to continue in a permanent role. I have been blessed to have had access to so many quality supervisors. We help build each other don't we? Also note, while change is always blowing in the wind, I was exposed to at the time the old school is the best school philosophy. I fully owe my career development and advancement to Tim Grantham.

**TR: What are the best and worst parts of your job?**

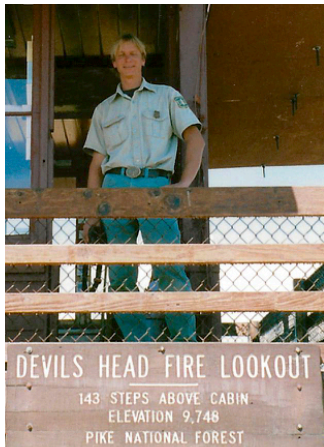
**JH:** After 30 plus years of land management focus, I have had three bad days (two fatalities and when Rick Cables announced the responsible party of the 2002 Hayman Fire) and have never been bored. Having to consider what makes the list only time will tell and of course the official project records I have kept.

*(continued on Page 30)*



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Contributing to enduring projects with Native American Tribes, and of course Pikes Peak management to complete environmental analysis and implementation over a 20-year period for the Pikes Peak Highway Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the Pikes Peak Summit Complex currently under construction.



*Staffing Devil's Head Lookout in the mid 90's.*

My involvement with the Routt and Pike NF's planning and operational teams for Capital Christmas Tree projects was a highlight that created enduring partnerships to this day.

Even the lawsuit settlement agreement with the Sierra Club has blossomed into bonds toward collaborative relationships that will endure well after my active contributions. Worst part

in the field is the reality we hold in working in an urban environment, I do not like being shot at in what is now unfortunately called recreational target shooting. In today's environment not every activity can occur on any given acre of National Forest.

**TR: What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

**JH:** Witnessing people at their best! I am so privileged to engage with the finest leaders and natural resource specialists. Another key element I am proud to contribute to is investing with vision and guidance is in collaborative stakeholder relations at a local, state and national level.

**TR: Do you have a funny story from your career you can share with us?**

**JH:** At Yampa R.D. our primary horse was "Frosty." Every fall Frosty would somehow conspire a jail break from our work in the Flat Top Wilderness and return to his homeland by the Colorado River. We would even tie a log to his hobble for extra precaution. Invariably, each October, I/we would

return to the office and tell the District Ranger, Frosty had gone south. Ask around and dozens of Jeffrey stupid human tricks will come to light.

**TR: You are a member of the Rocky Mountaineers. Why did you join and do you think it's important for working folks to join as well?**

**JH:** Strengthen in numbers... With organizing individuals, I have had the honor as an employee to know and hold annual touch points with Rocky Mountaineers board members! Over the past few years since joining I am even closer to an appreciation of the Mountaineers collective energy and contributions to the greater good. Rocky Mountaineers contribute in mission to support scholarships, current employees and family members, share meaningful stories of past, present and future and as a voice toward national dialogue in land management and hold a seat at the table. The price is right too at about an annual membership of \$20! Good investment with great outcomes. Let me not forget, while I am not directly connected with the hundreds of grand folks I have had fortune to cross paths with over the years, the newsletter aids to keep us informed.

**TR: You have always supported the Memorial Grove. Why is that important?**

**JH:** Since 1996 I have contributed in a very small way as a district representative toward planning and in an operational capacity of the annual honoree ceremony. With attendance to the Grove and ceremony, the initial impression and soon to be indelible, a person is imprinted in mind and heart. One realizes this is a unique Forest Service family story that has evolved as an element to heal, learn and remember our colleagues and each interconnection we hold with one another. My time contributing to the Grove Honorees and our family and friends is yet another opportunity for me to gain strength in giving toward a moment of meaning to our family. All should credit Tom Thompson in his steadfast effort beginning in the early 1990's in restoration of the historic Memorial Grove into an enduring tribute. I will be forever humbled to have contributed.

*(continued on Page 31)*

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**TR: We understand that you really walk the talk when it comes to sustainability. Tell us a little about that.**

**JH:** Locally my primary transportation is the shoe leather express or a bicycle to work and for errands. I championed drafting the first agreement for a residential property to have a solar photovoltaic residential system with Colorado Springs Utilities. Since 2004 the backyard solar array produces more supply than my home demands. Aside from designing and developing community gardens, and support of multiple community wide earth care initiatives, living simplify continues to evolve and bring great joy to me.

**TR: What advice would you have for a young person looking to start a career with the U.S. Forest Service?**

**JH:** Aside from the basics of being flexible and yes, read the forest plan and forest service manuals and handbooks. Go to the forest and read/expose yourself to the story of the landscape. Stretch your boundaries. Apply "All Appropriate Inquiry." Beyond this, have patience, advance your understanding, develop as many relationships as you can and invest in them. We are all here for a reason, so live and participate in the moments and you will create reality. Also 'on the keep it light side,' pick up at least 3 pieces (or pounds, bags, truck loads) of trash daily and smile at all people you encounter.



*Jeff and his mom visiting friends in Olympia, Washington.*

**TR: What do you fill your free time with?**

**JH:** A moment to scribe gratitude of my parents. I was exposed to their volunteerism and community

engagement to the arts, world affairs with travel and life adventures at an early age in the 1960's by my parents. As most folks, I contribute to local, regional and international programs and initiatives. My father died in 2018 and I have since moved my

mother of 89 years age into my home. I continue to live and contribute in the wonderful and sad moments of life we all experience. Next year the topic actions will change but I will be focused to be responsive as best I can in the moment. I so enjoy with friends, routinely attending music festivals like Rocky Grass and Telluride bluegrass festivals, I hold a passion for native plants, and gardening. In a deeply personal story, I continue as best I can to walk the red road with Native American families and friends in participating and contributing to give-aways, sun dance ceremonies and pow-wows. I am looking into the near future to strengthen my travel and earth care efforts away from first world problems into Central and South America.

**TR: We hear you are a baseball fan. Why, and who is your favorite team?**

**JH:** In the early 1990's, Denver was awarded an MLB expansion team, the Colorado Rockies. While sports are not a significant platform in my life, in 1969 if I recall correctly, while on vacation to St. Louis, we went to Bush Stadium for a St. Louis Cardinals game, a game that included the great players of day and I remember we were all dressed up (yep – suit and tie, and dress in the days). The initial awe factor of a professional baseball game as a child I guess baseball was imprinted for life. So, skip to 1993 when I was present when the Rockies had their inaugural game at Mile High Stadium. I have returned ever since. Entering from the home plate gate while walking to the concourse view of the green field and watching first pitch will forever project a feeling of all is well in the world.

**TR: Any final words of wisdom?**

**JH:** Our pathways are connected. Listen and actively participate. Get on the agenda. I recall, post Peace Corp lesson of do not pass judgement and that some practices and behaviors one just needs to accept and not have to fully understand and not pass judgement. Perhaps it dates me, but I scribe to the 1960/70 to this day of the scripture of Carlos Santana of; Peace, Love Light and Joy. Continue to practice toward this achievement in our collective good. Strength in numbers. Respect.

# Stuff to do When You Retire

## Visit Projects Important to You

By Mary Ann Chambers

For those who have worked in natural resources, appreciation of the land and what it gives us never goes away. Field trips can happen, even after you retire. We took one to Bobcat Ridge, site of the 2000 Bobcat Fire.



*The Bob Cat Fire started June 12, 2000.*

On a cloudy September morning, my husband Carl said, "I wonder how the Bobcat Fire looks." I replied, "Well, don't wonder, let's go and look. We can do that, you know, we are retired." So off we went. We drove up to Drake, Colorado and

turned on the road up to Bobcat Ridge. The landscape still looks empty, void of the stands of ponderosa, replaced by patches of grass and shrubs.

In June 2000, Hydrologist Carl was a member of the Burned Area Emergency Resource Team (BAER) on



*10,600 acres were burned.*

the 10,600-acre Bobcat Fire that burned near Drake. We could see the smoke from our home in Fort Collins. When the fire was contained, off went Carl

for long days of surveying the damage and lots of number crunching. The rehab work continued after the fire was controlled.

On our most recent field trip, as retirees, we got out and walked, we found signs of renewal. Seedlings stood here and there. Some of the logs placed to



*1600 acres burned on the first day.*

prevent erosion were still there, though many were quickly deteriorating. Carl cursed the erosion control devices called waddles that were supposed to biodegrade, but were still in place. He hoped the Forest Service had stopped using them. The monster ponderosas that stood there before the fire are now burnt out stumps, still standing guard. Shrubs were slowly overtaking them. It was good to get out, look and feel part of the land again.

For the "stuff to do when you retire category," here is a challenge. Go look at what you did and enjoy being part of it again. You won't regret it, I promise.

*Mary Ann and Carl Chambers retired a year ago after 31 years with the Forest Service. Mary Ann was a forester, planner and public affairs officer. Carl was a Forest Hydrologist. Both spent most of their careers on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland.*



# Remembering Jerry Williams 1945- 2019

## Forest Service National Historian



*Gerald W. Williams (center) received a Certificate of Appreciation from Ann Veneman, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth.*

Gerald W. Williams worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1979 until his retirement in 2005. From 1979 to 1993, he was a sociologist with the Umpqua and Willamette National Forests in Oregon; from 1993–1998, he served as the regional sociologist for the Pacific Northwest Regional Office in Portland; and from 1998 until his retirement in 2005 he was the national historian for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Williams designed and implemented a regional and national history program for the Forest Service which culminated in his appointment as national historian and his authorship of the centennial history of the Forest Service, *The USDA Forest Service: The First Century*, in 2000 [he updated it in 2005]. He has published more than 75 books, chapters, book reviews, and articles and conference papers exploring a variety of historical topics such as the Native American use of fire to manage environments, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the U.S. Army's Spruce Production Division during World War I.

Char Miller, a noted Forest Service historian at Pomona College said that, "Jerry had a keen appreciation for the past. To wit: He intentionally set the date of his retirement for July 1, 2005, he told me over a companionable lunch several months earlier, because that marked the agency's 100th birthday. It's also true that much of what he unearthed, he kept; Jerry was a legendary packrat. Whatever that penchant may have done to his home, we will be the lucky recipients of his collector's instinct. He deposited 93 cubic feet of documents, oral histories, maps, photographs (25,000 of them!), cartoons, videos and sound recordings, among other cultural materials, in the Special Collections and Archives Research Center at Oregon State University Library."

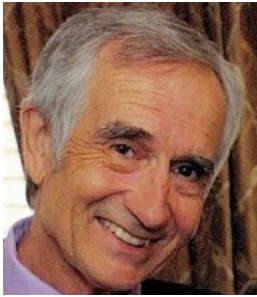
James Lewis, historian for the Forest History Society (FHS) noted, "His passion for preserving Forest Service history while working in Region 6 and then at the Washington Office as the national historian was legendary, if not mythical. He'd periodically make the four-hour drive from DC to FHS with a carload of boxes filled with documents, binders, and folders to add to the U.S. Forest Service History Reference Collection housed here at the Forest History Society. When I was told by our librarian that Jerry had been "dumpster diving" again, I thought she was speaking euphemistically—that he'd simply gone around to various offices and picked up boxes. Jerry gently set me straight. With a self-effacing chuckle, he told me about literally going to the dumpster and stopping (or retrieving) the boxes on numerous occasions. What was considered unimportant to the agency he believed held value for historians—if not immediately, then at some later point. I couldn't tell you how many times he did this before moving back to Oregon after retiring."

Lewis added, "After his retirement, Jerry happily carried on in the role of "backup" for the agency and others, always quick to respond with the answer, or an idea of where to find the answer. But he was, of course, more than just the man with the answers, more than a prolific chronicler of Forest Service history. In addition to being a scholar, he was true gentleman. And a gentle man. And it is those latter two attributes that I'll miss most about him."



*By Gerald W. Williams, PH.D., Forest Historian - July 2000 - FS-650.*

## Remembrances



### Clair Brown

Clair William Brown of Fort Collins, passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Clair, or "Brownie" as most knew him, was born January 28, 1947 to I.N. and Violet Brown in Brewster, Kansas where he grew up and went to school. In 1965, Brownie moved to Fort Collins, Colorado to attend Colorado State University where he studied Forestry and Education and earned bachelor's degrees in both fields.

Clair worked for the US Forest Service (USFS) for 30 plus years. He also worked with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) from 2006 to 2011 and Department Fire and Prevention Control (DFPC) from 2011 to 2013. In 2013 Brownie retired. He also worked part-time

for Cabela's in Thornton; Jax Farm & Ranch in Fort Collins, and McDonald's at I-25 and Mulberry in Fort Collins.

On May 24, 1984 Clair married Karen "Kari" Hagmann in Lakewood, Colorado. Together they lived in Fort Collins, Colorado from 1984 to 1991 and moved to Meeker, Colorado for 11 years, then to Edmond, Oklahoma where they lived from 2002-2006, and finally back to Fort Collins.

He is survived by his wife, Kari, his daughters: Holly Kuntz and Kendra Schmidt of Fort Collins, sister, Sammy Smith of Pauls Valley, OK.

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### Andy Cadenhead

**Andrew Joseph (Andy) Cadenhead** of Hayden, CO passed away January 23, 2019 in Laramie, Wyoming. He was born on July 26, 1960. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree

in forest management and worked for BIA before coming to the Forest Service. He is survived by his wife Nancy Cadenhead. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date in the summer.



### Frances Collins

**Frances Kathy Collins** passed away on March 28, 2019. She was born on February 10, 1972 to Bill and Barb Tieyah in Junction City, Kansas. She moved to McPherson, Kansas in 1972 where she was raised and graduated from McPherson High School in 1990. She loved swimming, running and being with her friends.

She married the love of her life Trace Collins on March 25, 1995. They lived in McPherson and Lawrence before moving to Flagstaff, Arizona where Frances graduated from Northern Arizona University and worked for the Coconino National Forest.

They loved their time in Flagstaff and constantly were going on many adventures and enjoying the outdoors of Arizona with daughter Tahse and son Billy Martin.. They moved to Rifle, CO where Frances took a job with the White River National Forest. She loved her Forest Service family.

Frances loved nothing more than making memories and connecting with people. She leaves behind her beloved husband Trace, daughter Tahse and son Billy of Rifle, CO, her parents Barb and Bill Tieyah of McPherson, KS, her sister and brother-in-law Bettina and Ken Stutzman of Windsor, CO.

*(continued on Page 35)*

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## Remembrances



### Harold Davis

**Harold Davis**, 91, born November 10, 1927 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, passed away January 6, 2019 at Iverson Memorial Hospital. Harold went to school in Cheyenne while living on the Davis homestead ranch near Buford, Wyoming. After graduation in 1948 he worked as a steam fitter for the UPRR and helped repairing the steam engine Big Boy. During WWII he delivered stock to Cheyenne stores and Ft. Warren.

Harold married Mildred June Scott May 28, 1950. They had three sons and one daughter (who died at birth). After working on ranches, they moved to Laramie in 1956. In 1962 they bought the Pine Bar in Albany and shortly after sold it and moved to Fox Creek Road. Harold started as a seasonal for the Forest Service on the Medicine Bow N. F. in 1959 and worked as a recreation technician and fire fighter. In 1971 he got on permanently and worked until his

retirement in 1988. Harold also held part time jobs at WYDOT and Snowy Range Ski Area.

Over the years Harold was active in Moose, Snowy Range Lions Club, 4-H and FFA. In 1972 Harold joined Centennial Valley VFD. He was chief of CVVFD from 1976 to 1996. In 2012 he retired from CVVFD after 40 years of service to the Centennial Valley community and Albany County.

Harold is survived by sons; Tom (Phyllis) and Scott (Kathy), Daughter Abby Davis, Grand Children Heather (Jason) Curry, Mathew Davis, Lauriel (Casey) Stephens, Sean (Kodi) Davis, Heidi (Benny) March, and Logan (Hope) Davis. He is also survived by brother in law Bob (Joan) Marr, Ray (Patsie) Bartley, nieces and nephews.

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### Mike Dunn

**Michael (Mike) Dunn** died on May 31, 2018 in Denver, CO. He was born in Bay City, Michigan on April 19, 1954 to David and Alice Dunn. He grew up in Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University and Eastern Washington University. He was married to Sandra on May 5, 1985 and had two children, Douglas and Christine.

His Forest Service career as a geologist began on the Colville N. F. in Washington and he then moved to the Eldorado N. F. in California. In 2006 he came to the Rocky Mountain Regional

Office in Physical Resources and worked in locatable minerals. He worked there until his retirement in about 2010. He enjoyed sports, movies, family game night, and traveling.

Michael is survived by his wife Sandra and children Douglas Dunn and Christine Bailey.

*He was honored at Memorial Grove on May 4, 2019.*

*(continued on Page 36)*



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## Remembrances

### John Hill



**John Henry Hill** of Denver passed away on January 24, 2019. He was born on June 1, 1941 to Ralph Ripley and Frances (Deal) Hill. John had many interests and hobbies including coaching youth football and baseball teams, as well as being a small aircraft pilot, scuba instructor, amateur bike racer, very avid train photographer and steam locomotive builder. He retired from Parsons Transportation Group as a Signal Engineer for the RTD Fastrack Team. John graduated from Wheat Ridge High School in 1959, achieving the rank of

Eagle Scout in 1957. John attended Colorado University studying art.

He is survived by his wife Georgia Buechler, daughter Leigh Ann Hill, grandsons Liam Aidan Rhysling and Aidan Bryn Rhysling.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 1, 2019 from 2 - 4 pm at his home in Denver.

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### Eric Jensen



**Eric Jensen**, 65, passed away in Ft. Collins, Colorado on May 7, 2019. Eric was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on August 14, 1953. He moved to Kremmling, Colorado in 1976 after earning a Masters of Forestry at the University of Illinois. He worked for the Forest Service for more than 30 years in the Middle Fork, Paonia, and Ft. Collins offices, retiring in 2009. He was an avid lover of nature, world travel, and flying his airplane.

Eric was a General Aviation pilot, a member of the Colorado Pilots Association, and enjoyed many fly-ins with his wife, Deb. Eric and Deb had been

actively involved in the Ft. Collins community for over 30 years, with a special interest in the Ft. Collins Cat Rescue and Spay/Neuter clinic.

Eric and Deb are Lifetime Members of the Rocky Mountaineers.

Eric is survived by his wife of 36 years, Deb Jensen, his mother Joyce Lenz of Santa Fe, NM, sister Kris Orr (Steve) of Victoria, TX, sister Kari Jensen (Tom Hitch) of Santa Fe, NM, and numerous nephews and nieces.

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## Remembrances



### Donald Kistler

**Donald Eugene Kistler** of Custer, SD passed away on January 18, 2019 in Custer.

Donald was born on June 3, 1938 in Mitchell, SD to Milo and Grace

(McManus) Kistler. He graduated from Reliance High School, Reliance, SD, in 1956. On November 21, 1959, in Kennebec, SD, Donald married Nancy Mason. They moved to Custer in 1960. Donald worked for the Black Hills N.F. for 36 years, retiring in 1996. After this retirement, he was a realtor for Bradeen Real Estate until 2016. He was a member of the Custer Volunteer Fire Department for most of

his adult life, served for many years on the Custer School Board, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed spending time with family and telling stories. He will be most remembered for his sense of humor and selfless devotion to his family.

He is survived by his children, Frank (Michelle) Kistler of Edgemont, SD; Mary Anne (Jim) Krogh of Sioux Falls, SD; Shirley (Ken) Climenti of Junction City, KS; Margi (Joe) Conlon of Cody, WY; Donale (Larry) Walker of Custer; brothers, Richard (Barbara) of Sarasota, FL; Patrick of Loveland, CO; Jerry (Lorna) of Chamberlain, SD; Eugene (Rita) of Brick, NJ; sister Mary Lou Neville of Northglenn, CO; 29 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, and 7 great great grandchildren.



### James Lees

**James Lees** of Whitney, NE died on December 30, 2018. He was born to Katherine Eliza (Billman) and Frank James Lees of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in 1936. He started early as an avid outdoorsman spending much of his

young life learning in nature. He was a life guard and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in forestry. He married Judy Holland who also was at CSU.

Jim began his career with the Forest Service on the Gunnison National Forest and also worked in Wyoming and finally in Nebraska. Along the way they raised two children ever sharing the love of nature. Jim added to his skills by serving as Ski Patrol and learning to ride and pack horses in the wilderness areas where he worked.

Upon early retirement, Jim purchased the Ox Yoke Ranch on East Ash Creek south of Whitney, where

he began raising cattle and horses. After Judy's death, he married Dixie Hageman. Dixie shared his love of horses and the rural life. They continued ranching and became involved in many organizations and activities including Nebraska High Country, NRD board, PRIDE, and Ride the Ridge. They also served as foster parents to many young people. Jim's passion for history led him to research, write, and orally interpret many regional, historic people, places, and events. He loved cowboy poetry and touched many people's lives with his civic involvement and oral presentations of history and poetry.

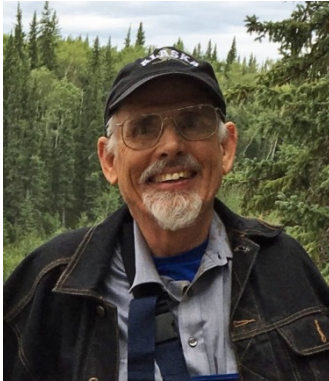
Jim is survived by his wife, Dixie; children Jenny (Dave) Nixon of Crawford, and Jay (Gretchen) of Chadron; step-children Thad (Gloria) DeHaven of Woodbridge, Va., and Renee (Justin) Willard of Windsor, Colo.; grandchildren Rachel and Nathaniel Nixon; and sister Pat Buzulence of Twinsburg, Ohio.

*He was honored at Memorial Grove on May 4, 2019.*

*(continued on Page 38)*

*(continued from Page 37)*

## Remembrances



### **Bob McAtee**

Robert L. McAtee, age 72, passed away March 12, 2019. Robert was born August 25, 1946. Throughout life Robert was an avid writer, he was a member of High Country Haiku, part of the Haiku Society of America. He worked as a cartographic technician in the Regional Office Geometronics Section. He organized a national group for the U.S. Forest Service for people with disabilities, and was a

leader of an epilepsy support group. Robert's hobbies included hiking and traveling.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, son, Sean McAtee, daughter, Sheila McAtee, and siblings, Kelly (Mary) McAtee, Patty (Dan) Mohrman, and Karen (Anthony) Picanzo.

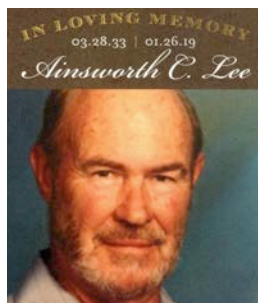
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### **Alex-Cine Napolitano**

**Alex-Cine Napolitano** died on January 6, 2019 in Sheridan, WY. She was born on July 2, 1948. She had worked on the Bighorn N. F. and retired from the Dolores R. D. on the San Juan. She was a great person who

always had a smile and good things to say.

She is survived by her husband John and three children, Rhome, Angie, and Rob.



### **Ainsie Lee**

Ainsie Lee was born in March 28, 1933 and died January 26, 2019 in Denver, Colorado.

Ainsie was a member of the Rocky Mountaineers.



# The Last Word

## First Things First

by Tom L. Thompson

A distant cousin of mine on my mom's side of the family named Alan B. Shepard, Jr. was the first American in space on a flight in May 1961. Shepard did not orbit Earth, but flew 116 miles high and then came back down in his spacecraft, Freedom 7. The flight lasted about 15 ½ minutes. Eight years later on July 20, 1969, fifty years ago this summer, Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon. Buzz Aldrin was right behind him, but there will never be another first man on the moon.

Alan Shepard was able to get back in space with Apollo 14 and he also walked on the moon in February 1971, along with fellow astronaut Ed Mitchell. They collected more than 100 pounds of moon rocks and did science experiments on the lunar surface. Shepard was an avid golfer and while on his second walk he took out a collapsible club and



*Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr., dressed in his Mercury pressure suit, poses for a photo prior to his launch in a Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3) spacecraft from Cape Canaveral on a suborbital mission. This mission was the first U.S. human spaceflight.*

became the first person to hit a golf ball on the moon. There will never be another first person to hit a golf ball on the moon.

There will never be another first transcontinental telegraph, another transcontinental railroad, another first woman governor, another first successful airplane, another first non-stop transatlantic flight, another first automobile, first Chief of Forest Service, first woman Chief of Forest Service, first computer, first four minute mile, or first ascent of Mt. Everest. Firsts are usually something very special. Firsts set the bar and blaze the trail. Firsts don't always receive the "oohs and ahhs" one might think they should because sometimes they are not even known to be the firsts.

Within the Forest Service and specifically the Rocky Mountain Region, we have a fairly long list of impressive firsts that reflect the important accomplishments, place, and significance of this region. We are Region 2 and will never be Region 1, but we will always be first in many ways and for many reasons and things including the:

- ◆ First forest reserve with Yellowstone Park Timber and Land Reserve being established on March 30, 1891. It was later renamed the Shoshone National Forest.
- ◆ First Forest Service's recreation engineer Arthur Carhart, who was hired in March of 1919 in the District Headquarters in Denver.
- ◆ First idea of wilderness envisioned by Arthur Carhart, in recommendations for no development at Trappers Lake on the White River National Forest.
- ◆ First woman ranger with Wendy Milner Herritt on the Blanco Ranger District on the White River National Forest in 1979.

(continued on Page 40)

(continued from Page 39)

- ◆ First woman regional forester with Elizabeth Estill, in 1992.
- ◆ First ranger station built with Federal funding at Wapiti near Cody, WY in 1903.
- ◆ First Forest Service recreation development at Squirrel Creek, in 1919 on San Isabel N. F.
- ◆ First tree nursery in Nebraska in 1902.
- ◆ First commercial timber sale with Case 1 in 1899 on Black Hills National Forest.
- ◆ First test case of Forest Service authority to manage grazing in 1908, with the Fred Light case.
- ◆ First and largest human planted forest in Nebraska in 1902.
- ◆ The first Forest Service paleontologist with Barbara Beasley on Nebraska N. F. in 1995.

- ◆ The first Forest Service Reunion in 1991.
- ◆ The first ski area opened at Howelsen Hill at Steamboat Springs in 1915.

By no means is this a complete list. If you know of other firsts that are noteworthy please send them to us so we can expand our listing. For example, we know that engineers in Region 2 developed the first 3-point anchored lap/ shoulder belt that became the industry standard at the time back in mid-sixties.

For the record, the Rocky Mountaineers is **not** the first Forest Service or retiree association, but **we are the first** to sponsor international trips, a scholarship program, and a memorial grove that we know of.



*Wapiti Ranger Station. First Forest Supervisor's Headquarters in the U.S. (1902) Used as Ranger Station since 1907 Shoshone N.F. Wyo.*