

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

December 6, 2013

If you don't think it's safe, it probably isn't

R2: Region 2 hosts Christmas open house

The Parks Ranger District of the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, in conjunction with the North Park Chamber of Commerce, are hosting their annual Christmas open house on Friday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon in Walden, Colo. The public is invited to kick off the holiday season with Smokey Bear and local U.S. Forest Service staff.

R4: Utah Avalanche Center launches mobile app

The Utah Avalanche Center, in partnership with the nonprofit organization Friends of Utah Avalanche Center and Backcountry.com, has launched a mobile app that displays avalanche advisory information and can transmit a recreationist's location to a list of emergency contacts.

R5: Region 5 employees attend pilot course on federal court system

Thirty-five Region 5 employees recently attended a Law for Resource Managers course which provided overviews of relevant laws and regulations. The course exposed attendees to the federal court system and many legal strategies that apply to Forest Service litigation.

R6: Law enforcement officer talks ice caves

Eduardo Cartaya, law enforcement officer on the Deschutes National Forest, recently appeared at the national TED Youth conference where he described the recently discovered ice caves on Mount Hood. You can see his TEDTalk at <http://new.livestream.com/tedyouth/2013en>.

R8: Rightmyer named fellow of the Society of American Foresters

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Soil Scientist Dick Rightmyer was recently named a fellow by the Georgia Division of the Society of American Foresters. The fellows, approximately five percent of the society's members, are honored for outstanding contributions to the organization and to the forestry profession.

R9: White Mountain National Forest hosts historic exhibit

The [White Mountain National Forest's](#) Androscoggin Ranger District began hosting a special exhibition on Nov. 26 that delves into the history of the northern forests of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New York in a fun, engaging way. The exhibit helps visitors understand how closely the local communities are tied to the forest.

Recreating minds on the Chippewa National Forest

The [Chippewa National Forest](#) recently hosted a meeting to discuss a motorized travel map for the forest, incorporating local, state and federal trail systems. More than 20 trail partners, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Cass and Itasca counties, attended the meeting and helped establish a task force to work on the map over the next year.

R10: Tongass National Forest examines cabins program

The Tongass National Forest completed an [environmental assessment](#) to examine sustainable management of its recreation cabins program. The proposed action would decommission or convert fewer than 10 inaccessible or unsafe structures in order to concentrate available funds on the majority of the 155 cabins on the forest, which are in better condition and receive higher visitor use.

FPL: Forest Products Lab, students constructing Yates Building reception desk

The Forest Products Laboratory is working with students in Madison Area Technical College's Cabinet and Millwork program to create a new reception desk for the Forest Service's Washington Office.

PNWRS: Amphibian chytrid fungus focus of Science Findings publication

Pacific Northwest Research Station's [latest issue](#) of Science Findings, its monthly science series, highlights research on the amphibian chytrid fungus. The fungus is at the root of massive amphibian die-offs and extinctions around the world and is the focus of a global surveillance project initiated by station Research Ecologist Dede Olson.

PSW: Scientist teaches students about research and maintaining cultural identity

Research ecologist Frank Lake recently delivered a keynote speech at the 39th Humboldt State University Indian College Motivation Day before hundreds of American Indian high school students. Lake provided case studies illustrating his research on valued tribal resources and discussed the importance of maintaining cultural identity and values while pursuing higher education in science and natural resources.

Research station donates holiday food to local families

Pacific Southwest Research Station staff delivered 763 pounds of holiday food to Centro de Niños, a child care center which serves disadvantaged families of preschool-aged children in the Riverside area. The station has been providing Thanksgiving baskets to Centro de Niños for the past 25 years.

RMRS: Research station leads way in tracking rust disease

Molecular Ecology recently [published](#) study results from a collaboration between the Rocky Mountain Research Station and scientists in Brazil, South Korea, Washington State University, and Forest Service Region 5 Forest Health Protection. Researcher Ned Klopfenstein and team strongly refuted the belief that rust disease originated on guava in Brazil, raising critical questions about the source and spread of this disease currently threatening native and cultivated trees in tropical and subtropical climates.

Hydrologist named convening author for drought assessment

Rocky Mountain Research Station Hydrologist Charlie Luce, Southern Research Station Project Leader Jim Vose, Duke University Professor Jim Clark and Acting Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination Toral Patel-Weynand are the convening lead authors for the Forest Service National Drought Assessment to be published in 2015.

SRS: Something bugging your forests?

A new online resource offers help to landowners in diagnosing insect and/or disease-related problems in their backyards, groves or forests. [The Forest Health Diagnostics Forum](#), run by forest health specialists at the University of Florida and the Florida Forest Service offers a free, fast and accurate way to diagnose forest pests and diseases in Florida and the Southeast.

Press Announcements

None to report

Press Interviews

None to report

Executive News

On Dec. 9, **Business Operation's Deputy Chief Lenise Lago** and **Associate Deputy Chief Angela Coleman** will attend the Human Resource Management and Civil Rights Leadership meeting in Albuquerque.

On Dec. 10, **Research and Development Deputy Chief Jim Reaves** will speak at the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

On Dec. 11-13, **National Forest System Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon** will attend the Interagency Sage Grouse Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

On Dec. 11-12, **State & Private Forestry Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard** will attend the Western Governors' Association 2013 Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

Personnel News

Deidra McGee has accepted the position of WO-NFS, Minerals & Geology, Management Program Analyst (Liaison) in Washington, D.C. She is currently a Public Affairs Specialist in the Office of the Chief-Communication Staff in Arlington, Va.

Carmel Walters has accepted the position of WO-NFS, Minerals & Geology, Management Program Analyst in Washington, D.C. She is currently the Writer-Editor for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C.



Footprint Area of the Month: Fleet and Transportation

Action Item of the Week: Optimize your vehicle

Get the most from your gas tank – [drive sensibly](#). According to the Department of Energy, speeding and rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds. Although each vehicle reaches its optimal [fuel economy](#) at a different range of speeds, gas mileage generally decreases at speeds above 50 mph. Consider that each 5 mph you drive over 50 mph is like paying an additional \$0.24 per gallon for gas. For more information on fleet and transportation tips and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).



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