

THE CHIEF'S DESK
PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS
March 14, 2014

Eyes are priceless, eye protection is cheap

WO: Environmental Justice Conference registration open

The [National Environmental Justice Conference](#) will be March 26-28 at Howard University School of Law and the Washington Marriott at Metro Center. Two Forest Service panels will highlight Conservation Education and Job Corps efforts to customize education and employment opportunities for the next generation of leaders. Register today for this free conference.

R1: Biologist recognized as natural resource professional of the year

Shane Hendrickson, zone fisheries biologist for the Lolo National Forest, received the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's annual Natural Resource Professional award. Hendrickson was nominated by the U.S. Geological Survey and The Wilderness Society for his partnership efforts and dedication to landscape restoration for the [Southwest Crown of the Continent](#) Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

Northern Region forests recognized with Rise to the Future awards

The Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited was awarded the 2013 Rise to the Future partnership award for restoration efforts in partnership with the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest and the Lincoln Ranger District of the Helena National Forest. The Nez Perce Tribe received the Tribal Accomplishment award for their commitment to aquatic habitat restoration and outstanding partnership with the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and forests in the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest regions.

R2: Forest Service uses logging to protect historic mining town site

The Routt National Forest's Parks Ranger District used logging to protect remnants of a historic, unique, and significant early 1800's silver mining boom town site in Teller City, Colo. Falling trees killed by a widespread pine beetle epidemic between the late 1990s and mid 2000s threatened the site. The Colorado State Historic Preservation Office agreed the project successfully retained the site's integrity – a key requirement for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

R4: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National forest engineer recognized for accomplishments

Ryan Stone, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest civil engineer, recently received the Intermountain Region Managerial Engineer of the Year award for outstanding contributions in support of the Forest Service mission.

R5: Forest Supervisor attends WWII Tuskegee Airmen Western Regional Conference

Plumas National Forest Supervisor Earl Ford and Smokey Bear recently attended the WWII Tuskegee Airmen Western Regional Conference in Sparks, Nev. Smokey's fire prevention

message was well received by those in attendance and budding young pilots were introduced to Forest Service aviation and fire apprentice programs.

R9: Forest focuses on safety

The Huron-Manistee National Forest law enforcement personnel recently presented two active shooter training sessions to forest staff, with three others scheduled soon. Attendees learned facts associated with active shooters and explored potential situations to be prepared if an active shooter ever entered the office.

R10: Traveling wilderness art exhibit opens

Voices of the Wilderness, an art exhibit that features photography, painting, music, poetry, and other media, recently opened in Sitka, Alaska. The traveling collection draws from artworks created in designated wilderness areas over the past four years by participants in an artist-in-residence program launched on the Tongass National Forest in 2010 and currently administered by several federal agencies in Alaska.

FPL: National engineering leadership team meeting

Forest Products Laboratory recently hosted a training session highlighting the value of wood and its many applications. Engineers from industry and government offered their perspectives on topics including biomass, climate change, green infrastructure, wood as a green building material and other trends in use of wood in the construction industry.

PNWRS: Biologist receives lifetime achievement award

Gordon Reeves, a research fisheries biologist, recently received the Rise to the Future Lifetime Achievement Award for his research on the impacts of climate change on aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska and his holistic, field-based research perspective. Reeves was also honored for his long-standing commitment to communicating research with decision makers and mentoring the next generation of fisheries scientists.

PSWRS: Researchers find new approach to quantify and map urban carbon

Dr. Greg McPherson, a research forester, recently led a team of scientists who found a new approach to quantify and map urban forest carbon storage, sequestration, and avoided emissions from energy savings. The scientists found that analyzing individual variables, cross-comparing and analyzing again, improves carbon estimates and establishes an analytical framework for monetizing the value of ecological services that urban forests provide, such as rain-fall interception and air pollutant reduction.

Scientist participates in international wildfire risk analysis project

Pacific Southwest Research Economist Dr. Armando González-Cabán participated in the European-funded [FUME project](#), which brought together 33 groups of scientists from 17 countries and five continents to anticipate future wildfire risks.

RMRS: Employee participates in STEM Celebration

Brenda Strohmeier, Rocky Mountain Research supervisory biological technician and conservation education coordinator will participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics celebration on April 2, in Flagstaff, Ariz. At the event featuring nearly 60 local,

state and federal agencies, Strohmeier will demonstrate research in forest and wildlife ecosystems and inform students about career opportunities.

SRS: Heat treatment eliminate insect disease and fungus

In a recently published [article](#), Bruce Mayfield, Southern Research Station entomologist and fellow researchers provided managers and the public a tool to help slow the spread of a disease in eastern black walnut, one of the most economically important tree species in the eastern United States. Mayfield helped confirm the efficacy of a heat treatment schedule that eliminates insect and fungus that cause thousand cankers disease from black walnut logs.

NRS: Scientists serve on climate change panel at Harvard Leadership Conference

Northern Research Station scientists Dave Hollinger and Lindsey Rustad served as panelists for the Harvard Leadership Conference's Responding to Climate Change program. The conference gives over 350 graduate and post-doctoral students and attendees an opportunity to engage with academic and industry leaders to learn leadership skills and concepts.

Lawn care practices study first to address "urban homogenization hypotheses"

Morgan Grove, a research forester with the Northern Research Station's Baltimore Urban Field Station, co-authored a study that is the first to explore the urban homogenization hypothesis, an assumption that urbanization is creating landscapes that are indistinguishable. The study published this week in the [Proceedings](#) of the National Academy of Sciences, found that fertilizer and lawn irrigation practices vary not only across the nation, but within the same city.

Press Announcements

USDA calls for nominations to the Forest Service Planning Rule Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON, March 13, 2014 – [Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#) today announced a call for nominations to serve on the Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committee that guides better management of our national forests. This first-of-its-kind independent advisory committee, formed in January 2012, advises the Secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service by providing advice and recommendations on the new rule and its directives.

Press Interviews

None

Executive News

None

Personnel News

Tyrone Kelley has accepted the position of Region 5 Director Engineering in Vallejo, Calif. He is currently the Region 5 Forest Supervisor on the Six Rivers National Forest in Eureka, Calif.

Shawna Legarza has accepted the position of Region 5 Regional Fire & Aviation Director in Vallejo, Calif.

Al Olson has accepted the position of Region 5 Director Ecosystem Planning in Vallejo, Calif. He is currently the Region 5 Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Shasta Trinity National Forest in Redding, Calif.

Judith Palmer has accepted the position of Region 3 Deputy Regional Fire & Aviation Director in Albuquerque, N.M. She is currently the WO-S&PF/FAM Emergency Management Specialist in Springerville, Ariz.

Mary Snieckus has accepted the position of Natural Resources Specialist with Cooperative Forestry in the WO-S&PF in Washington, D.C. She is currently the Forest Policy Consultant for the Pinchot Institute for Conservation in Silver Spring, Md.

Tracy Tophooven has accepted the position of Staff Assistant to the Regional Forester in Region 6 in Portland, Ore. She is currently the Region 6 Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Medford, Ore.



Footprint Area of the Month: Sustainability Leadership

Action Item of the Week: Learn about Wings Across the Americas

[Wings Across the Americas](#) is a program that engages the entire Forest Service and its partners to conserve [birds, bats, butterflies and dragonflies](#) across landscapes and boundaries. The program provides awards that recognize outstanding conservation work in the following categories: research and management partnerships; habitat conservation partnerships; international cooperation; bat, butterfly or dragonfly conservation; and urban communities in conservation. For more information on sustainability leadership and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).



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Read much more about what Forest Service employees are doing on the [USDA Blog](#).

Congratulations to James Baichtal of the Tongass National Forest for his blog [“The Buried Forest of Alaska’s Kruzof Island: a Window into the Past.”](#)

Baichtal’s blog quickly shot up as the No. 1 most-read USDA blog for the week that it was released. The accompanying photos added to a well-rounded blog.

People, Places and Things is compiled by the **Office of Communication** from input by field units and Washington Office staffs. Field units need to submit items through their R/S/A PAO offices, which approve and prioritize submissions that are due by 8 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesdays. Please send submissions, each 100 words or less, to the [WO Weekly Report inbox](#). An archive of back issues [is available online](#).