

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

April 25, 2014

Let's follow Woodsy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

WO: Research and Development employee recognized

Marilyn A. Buford recently received the Lifetime Achievement in Natural Resources Sciences award from the Washington Academy of Sciences. Buford, national program leader for silviculture research, has worked in Research & Development since 1985. The academy annually recognizes scientists, engineers and teachers in the greater Washington, D.C., area for works of merit and distinction.

R1: Northern Region University training completed

The Forest Service, in partnership with the University of Montana, recently completed their annual Northern Region University (NRU) training session, providing refresher, recertification, qualification and professional development courses to approximately 1000 western regional federal and state natural resources professionals. This training helps the region reduce travel, training and related costs by consolidating many courses into a one-week period.

R2: Region cohosts bark beetle film series

The Rocky Mountain Region and the University of Wyoming's Ruckelshaus Institute will host a public premiere of their collaborative video series, *Our Future Forests: Beyond Bark Beetles*, at 5:30 p.m., April 29 in the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center. The series includes 10 short videos exploring effects of, and responses to the mountain pine beetle outbreak. The filming took place in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests.

R3: Forest hosts high school volunteers during spring break

Eighteen Hot Springs High School students from Truth or Consequences, N.M., could have gone to the beach or the lake for their spring break, but had different plans. The Black Range Volunteers spent three days helping the Black Range Ranger District on the Gila National Forest restore part of a trail wiped out by last year's Silver Fire.

Senators visit national forests

U.S. Senators Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) visited the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila National Forests on April 22 and met with Forest Service employees, Arizona and New Mexico state, local, and county officials, and representatives from the timber industry and conservation groups. The Senators toured wood-products plants and viewed examples on the forests of fuel treatments, wildfire effects and Firewise communities.

R4: Forest employee receives national award

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest employee Brandon Everett recently received the Forest Service Job Corps National Director Honor Award for his outstanding work in training, mentoring and developing Weber Basin Job Corps students.

R5: Forest hosts students from San Diego State University

The Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest recently hosted students from San Diego State University - Imperial Valley, many of whom had never visited a national forest. Forest Service employees shared their career paths and talked to students about current employment, recreation and volunteer opportunities.

Pacific Southwest Region wins Environmental Protection Agency award

The Pacific Southwest Region was named the 2014 winner of the Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Green Challenge Sustainability Award for its work with the Summit Mt. Whitney Green Challenge, a web-based system designed to encourage employees to reduce their environmental footprint by keeping track of their sustainable actions. The green actions saved 7,032 kWh of electricity, conserved 5,106 gallons of water and cut 855 pounds of solid waste and 461 pounds of paper use. These actions are estimated to have reduced 30,000 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent.

R6: Fish habitat restoration project wins state award

The Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project, a collaborative project involving the Pacific Northwest Region, The Freshwater Trust, other government agencies, private interests and other non-profits dedicated to restoring salmon and steelhead habitat, was recognized at a reception with Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber. The multi-year project to restore habitat for threatened Chinook, coho and steelhead included restoration efforts in the Salmon River and Still Creek on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

R8: Employees host a 50th Wilderness Act Anniversary celebration

The DeSoto Ranger District recently held a 50th Wilderness Act Anniversary celebration with a float down the Black Creek Wild and Scenic River and hosted a hike and a clean-up effort for the Black Creek Wilderness and surrounding areas. Families and friends of the forest were rewarded with tokens, refreshments and a Blues Rangers outdoor concert.

Forest hosts annual *To Bridge a Gap* conference

The Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests hosted the 13th annual To Bridge a Gap conference April 7-11 for more than 150 members of Indian tribes in Arkansas. Representatives of participating tribes, federal and state agencies, and private companies discussed cultural and natural resource management issues and how to strengthen government-to-government relations.

R9: Recreation Resource Fair connects urban families with the outdoors

On April 18, more than 700 attendees at Milwaukee's Betty Brinn Children's Museum learned about recreation opportunities in their home state, including the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Resource Fair was presented in conjunction with the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Home Sweet Home exhibit, on display at the museum through May 4. Families got a close-up look at live raptors, snakes and turtles, made nature crafts, posed with Smokey and Woodsy, and learned about careers through Meet a Forest Ranger presentations.

Forest recognized for diversity hiring practices

On April 22, representatives of the [Green Mountain National Forest](#) attended the [Creative Workforce Solution's](#) annual Employer Appreciation & Awards Ceremony. The Forest was recognized for exceptional support of the employment of Vermonters with disabilities. The Forest was able to share information about Schedule A hiring authority with representatives from more than 75 local businesses.

R10: Alaska visitors training

Admiralty Island National Monument recently worked with the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Commerce, and the University of Alaska Southeast to train 22 outfitters and guides. The attendees discussed Alaska's visitors and their expectations, the art of interpretation; cultural connections, natural resources, glaciology, wildlife, marine mammals, archaeology, and wilderness.

NA: Entomologist earns partnership award

Employee Steve Katovich, a member of the Southeast Minnesota Emerald Ash Borer Response Team, was recently presented with the Partnership Award from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. Katovich and his team were recognized for their survey protocols, utilization of infested trees and coordination to ensure efficient and effective outcomes.

Employee leads discussion on water quality benefits of urban tree canopy

Forest Service Chesapeake Liaison Sally Claggett recently led a panel on water quality benefits of urban tree canopy in Annapolis, Md. The panel of the Chesapeake Bay Science and Technical Advisory Committee was part of a workshop looking at water quality flowing from a multitude of urban land uses. Other panelists included Forest Service Northern Research Station Researchers Ken Belt and Dave Nowak, as well as Dr. Susan Day of Virginia Tech.

NRS: Station hosts climate roundtable with U.S. senator

The Northern Research Station's Durham, N.H., office recently hosted a climate change roundtable with U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen. Participants included Dave Hollinger, director of the Northeast Climate Hub, hub co-director Lindsey Rustad, Liz LaPoint and John Campbell of the Northern Research Station and Terry Miller of the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. Mary Ratnaswamy, director of the Department of Interior Climate Science Center, a key partner for the Northeastern Climate Hub, also participated, as well as people invited by Sen. Shaheen from the University of New Hampshire and conservation groups.

SRS: Station scientists participate in entomological society's annual meeting

Southern Research Station Research Entomologists James Hanula, Albert "Bud" Mayfield, and Michael D. Ulyshen, joined incoming Forests Entomology President Scott Horn as featured speakers the Georgia Entomological Society's 78th annual meeting recently held in Valdosta, Ga. More than 60 industry and extension representatives attended the two-day conference.

RMRS: Research Stations team to produce FORECO special issue

A team of scientists and associates, many of whom are from five Forest Service research stations, share credit for the Forest Ecology and Management (FORECO) Journal's recently published special issue: [Wildland Fire Emissions, Carbon, and Climate: Science Overview and Knowledge](#)

Needs. The Research Deputy Director/Assistant Director Group chartered the project to produce a synthesized report of published information on greenhouse gas and aerosol emissions from wildland fires. Rocky Mountain Research Station Program Manager Colin Hardy served as journal guest editor, coordinated logistics and negotiated the entire special issue's publication.

Deputy Under Secretary Visits Missoula

Arthur "Butch" Blazer, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, recently visited the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Mont. The meeting with Blazer provided research staffs from the Leopold institute and the Arthur Carhart National Training Center the chance to share current research and goals relating to wildland fire as a fuel treatment, mapping current and future fire regimes in the western United States, wilderness restoration and its connection to climate change, preservation of wilderness character, including the role of young people as wilderness fellows.

PNWRS: Pacific Northwest Research Station forest vegetation maps released

Pacific Northwest Research Station and Oregon State University researchers released the next generation of [Gradient Nearest Neighbor maps](#) of forest vegetation, providing unprecedented geographic coverage as well as multi-temporal data for assessing forest change in Washington, Oregon, and northwestern California.

PSWRS: Project selected as Science Magazine Editor's Choice

Science Magazine featured a project from the Pacific Southwest Research Station's Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry as an Editor's Choice for data-driven decision making in ecology. The project's focus was to map habitat suitability for at-risk species in Hawaii, use airborne light detection and ranging to model the optimization of water and nutrient availability, and to determine the most promising sites for habitat restoration.

Research station participates in career day

Christie Hansen, assistant station director for business operations, recently participated in the 2014 Career Day at John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, Calif., where she shared information with high school students about careers within the Forest Service. The students asked questions about nature and possible internships with federal management agencies.

Press Announcements

On Earth Day, U.S. Forest Service Seeks Applications for Wood to Energy Projects

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2014-- As part of the national observance of Earth Day, the U.S. Forest Service today announced that it is seeking proposals that expand wood energy use and support responsible forest management. Also today, the Forest Service released a Wood Energy Financial App for use by community and business leaders seeking to replace fossil fuel with wood energy.

Press Interviews

None

Executive News

None

Personnel News

Reggie Blackwell has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor on the Ozarks-St. Francis National Forests in Russellville, Ark. (Region 8). -He is currently the Rangeland Management Specialist with USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Trista Etzig has accepted the position of WO-AQM Branch Chief, Grants & Agreements in Washington D.C. -She is currently the Supervisory Project Management Specialist with USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington D.C.

William “Bill” Helin, Director of Enterprise, has been selected to serve as a Fellow in the Office of Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia effective May 12, 2014.



Footprint Area of the Month: Green Purchasing

Action Item of the Week: Celebrate National Arbor Day

Today, April 25, is [National Arbor Day](#) – a special day dedicated to the planting of trees. It is traditionally celebrated the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates according to their best tree-planting times. Find out [when Arbor Day is celebrated in your state](#) and consider [participating](#) in an [event](#) near you.

Remember to [think green](#) if purchasing materials for these events – [reduce, reuse, recycle!](#) For more information on green purchasing and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).

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



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