

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

June 27, 2014

Keep safety as the first step

WO: Associate Chief Meets with Bangladesh's Minister of Environment and Forests

Associate Chief Mary Wagner, accompanied by International Programs staff, met with Minister Anwar Hossain Manju from the Bangladesh Ministry of Environment and Forests in Washington, DC, on June 18. Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries yet also home to the largest contiguous mangrove forest on the planet, is collaborating with the Forest Service in a United States Agency for International Development funded program focused on building capacity to monitor and inventory forests.

Advisory Council Meets to Discuss Role of Forestry Research

The Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC), a 20-person advisory committee to the Secretary of Agriculture on McIntire-Stennis programs and Forest Service research programs, met June 19 & 20 in Washington, DC. Discussions focused on climate change and the importance of systems-level sciences, agroforestry research needs, priorities for the U.S. Forest Service, and the role of forestry research.

R1: Lolo Pass Visitor Center Hosts Run Celebrating the Wilderness Act 50th, Opens New Accessible Trail

This year's 7th Annual Mountain to Meadow Half Marathon and 5K Fun Run honors the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The June 28 event also marks the official grand opening of the new Glade Creek Connection Trail at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center on the Idaho-Montana border. The fully accessible loop trail was made possible by partnerships between the U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, The Nez Perce Tribe, and Discover Your Northwest.

R2: Former President and Mrs. Carter Tour Camp Hale Treasured Landscapes Project

Former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter toured the Treasured Landscapes and National Register of Historic Places site at Camp Hale, on June 24. The National Forest Foundation selected Camp Hale as a Treasured Landscapes site to focus resources on restoring the area's natural resources and protecting its legacy. Former President Carter's next stop was on the White River National Forest to enjoy trout fishing.

Forest Service Employees Attend Annual Denver Powwow and Recruit Youth Trail Crew Members

This summer, three young American Indians will start work in the Flat Tops Wilderness with the Blanco Ranger District Trail Crew. This year begins the fourth year of the partnership between the White River National Forest and the Denver Indian Center. To date, 28 Denver area American Indian youth have participated in the program.

R3: Santa Fe National Forest Hosts Education Day for Youth Conservation Corps Participants

Santa Fe National Forest's Espanola Ranger District recently hosted an Education Day for Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) participants. District personnel taught the corps to assemble and sharpen tools, how to build hose lays for a fire, and how to identify different types of pottery. The YCC program will employ 40 youth this summer to work on forest trails and several new trails within Los Alamos County.

New Mexico State Forestry Develops Guide to Assist Communities

Region 3 partnered with New Mexico State Forestry's Forest and Watershed Health Office to create a guide titled, "[After Wildfire: A Guide for New Mexico Communities](#)." This guide was developed to help those impacted by wildfire in New Mexico start on the path to recovery. It highlights topics surrounding immediate safety, how to mobilize the community, who can help, fundraising and financial tips, and post-fire treatments for the land.

R4: Boise National Forest All Employees Civil Rights Day

The Boise National Forest Civil Rights Action Team sponsored an all-employees day that focused on leadership in the face of adversity. Presentations by refugees, who fled countries after persecution, amazed FS employees with stories of survival. The Forest is working closely with local refugee organizations to help with life changes and job opportunities.

Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests' Women in Wildland Fire Program

This spring, the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests' Women in Wildland Fire Program recruited 24 women from across the country as part of the National Fire and Aviation Management Workforce Diversity program. Through the program, 14 candidates completed the arduous pack test and successfully finished fire school. The graduates will work as emergency firefighters in a variety of roles including engines, crews, prevention, dispatch, and fire cache support.

R5: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Now Home to Interagency Hotshot Crew

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is proud to announce the Lake Tahoe Basin is now home to a select force of wildland firefighters, the Tallac Hotshots. On June 19, a group of 20 determined firefighters from the LTBMU completed a grueling and extensive certification process to become the first Interagency Hotshot Crew from Lake Tahoe.

Leaders Visit Rim Fire Burn Area

On June 16, Horst Greczmiel, CEQ Associate Director for NEPA Oversight, and Tony Tooke, Associate Deputy Chief of NFS, made a site visit to the Rim Fire and were briefed on challenges facing implementation of the Rim Fire Recovery Project.

R6: State & Private Forestry Supports Pooling Carbon Credits for Small Family Forest Owners

Region 6 State & Private Forestry, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, Woodlands Carbon, L&C Carbon, and Ecotrust are pilot partners in the Forest Health-Human Health Initiative (FHHI), which will assist nearly 20 family forest owners in Northwest Oregon to access carbon markets.

Health care expenses are a key driver of forest divestment for aging forest owners, often leading to conversion of land to non-forest uses. Through FHFI, landowners will receive preliminary carbon credit assessments and assistance in developing carbon management plans to leverage their carbon sequestration capacity into carbon credits specifically devoted to health care costs.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest brings Together Community Leaders in Southwest Washington

On June 19, more than 80 southwest Washington-based practitioners in active outdoor recreation, community development, and environmental work gathered at a summit organized by the [Intertwine Alliance](#), Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and other partners.

R8: New Three-Mile Fishing Trail in Virginia

A three-year collaborative effort yielded a new three-mile fishing trail along the South Fork of the Holston River on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Volunteers helped clear access to the pristine river known for its trout. Several partners attended a dedication on National Trails Day, including the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Mountain Empire chapter of Trout Unlimited, and American Electric Power.

R9: Game Changing Partnership Hits its Stride in Third Year

A partnership sponsoring and exposing young minorities to the Forest Service continues to grow between the Forest Service, Eastern Region (R9), Northern Research Station (NRS), Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, the National Hispanic Environmental Council, and 9th Annual Minority Youth Residential Environmental STEM Institute (New York). In addition to serving as a major sponsor for the STEM Institute this year, the Forest Service will hire 11 youth to work at various Region 9 and NRS units using the Youth Conservation Corps authority.

Cherokee Indian Cyclists Ride Historic Trail of Tears through Mark Twain National Forest

The 2014 Remember the Removal annual bike ride traces the Trail of Tears, a National Historic Trail. It is designed to help Cherokee Nation descendants reconnect with their ancestors who walked the trail in the 1800s. This year, 19 cyclists and 12 support team members rode the 950-mile path through Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. They passed through the Mark Twain National Forest, which had a profound effect on Forest employees.

FPL: Researcher Receives Achievement Award

Dr. Sam Zelinka, Research Materials Engineer at the Forest Products Laboratory, has been selected as the Forest Products Society's 2014 Wood Engineering Achievement Award Winner in the category of Young Engineer. As a young engineer, Sam's work has made significant impacts on wood engineering design and building construction in the United States and worldwide.

NA: Massachusetts and Northeastern Area Host Conservation Easement Monitoring Training

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Northeastern Area (NA) Forest Legacy Program (FLP) led a conservation easement monitoring training, on June 17, at

Harvard Forest. Participants learned about monitoring requirements and discussed best practices for monitoring visits. The training culminated in a mock visit to demonstrate monitoring tools and techniques to engage landowners in the program. The FLP seeks to protect important forest lands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

NRS: Farmers Integrating Prairie Plants with Row Crops

A growing number of Iowa farmers are implementing “Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie project”, which received funding from Walton Family Foundation to hire staff to assist farmers with implementation. Research demonstrates that prairie strips reduce sediment and nutrient transport to streams and, ultimately, the Gulf of Mexico. NRS Research Soil Scientist Randy Kolka is testing strategically placed prairie strips in agricultural watersheds in Iowa as part of a partnership with the University of Iowa, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, and others.

PNWRS: Students Learn About Forests, Streams at H.J. Andrews

Hundreds of students visited [H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest](#) in Oregon this spring to learn about forests and streams as part of the site’s [environmental education program](#). The program provides an opportunity for K-12 and college classes from local, regional, and international schools to visit the forest for hands-on field courses, study tours, and research experiences.

PSWRS: Scientist Organizes Session for Summit on Sierra Water

PSW Research Ecologist Dr. Carolyn Hunsaker recently organized the session, “Fire Effects on Water: The Continuum of Controlled to Catastrophic” at the Sierra Water Work Group Summit in King’s Beach, CA. Dr. Hunsaker also presented an overview of fire knowledge regarding water quantity and quality in the Sierra Nevada.

Research Station Hosts International Students for Career Exploration Day

PSW, along with the USDA Western Regional Research Center in Albany, CA, hosted two students from the Oakland International High School on a facility tour for Career Exploration Day. During the tour, students learned about careers in the Forest Service and the Agricultural Research Service and participated in activities related to invasive plants and insects and patents and research application outside the lab.

RMRS: R&D Sage-Grouse Science Strategy Update

RMRS scientists have teamed with PNW to lead the conservation science strategy for the greater sage-grouse, a sage-steppe obligate species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to warrant threatened status but precluded by other priorities, with an expected date of September 2015 for a final listing decision. The team’s work will include summaries of Forest Service science leadership on the sage-grouse topic in four key areas: grouse habitat, habitat threats, landscape connectivity, and sagebrush habitat restoration. Additional sections will cover areas of future research helpful to national forests, and the fit between Forest Service R&D and science plans of other organizations.

RMRS Future Forest Webinar Series Proceedings Available

The RMRS Science Application & Integration Program announces the release of [RMRS-P-70](#), “Future Forest Webinar Series, Webinar Proceedings and Summary: Ongoing research and

management responses to the mountain pine beetle outbreak.” The six webinars facilitated dialogue between scientists and managers about the challenges and opportunities created by the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic and was hosted by RMRS, Forest Service Regions 2 and 4, and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute. The purpose of these proceedings is to relate scientific findings of material presented during the webinar series, with an emphasis on implications for management decisions and treatments in post-MPB forests.

SRS: Athens Unit Hosts Premier International Symposium

This week, more than 100 delegates from 24 different countries attended the 10th International Symposium on Earthworm Ecology in Athens, GA, hosted by the Southern Research Station. The symposium included sessions on the evolutionary and applied biology of earthworms, earthworm feeding ecology, biogeography, earthworm taxonomy and systematics, and invasive earthworms. This is only the second time the symposium, which is held every four years, has met in the United States.

Press Announcement

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announces the 2014 National Urban and Community Forestry challenge cost share grants to support climate resilience and green infrastructure

WASHINGTON, JUNE 26, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the 2014 USDA Forest Service’s National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant recipients.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/06/0133.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&deployment_action=retrievecontent

Press Interviews

None

Executive News

None

Personnel News

Deedra Fogle has accepted the position of Business Operations Staff Assistant to the Deputy Chief at the WO in Washington DC. She is currently a Chief of Staff for the Human Resources Management Director at Albuquerque Service Center in Albuquerque, NM.

Theresa Gallagher has accepted the virtual position of Branch Chief, Solution Design & Engineering in the Chief Information Office. She is currently a Security Operations Section Chief for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal, Plant Health and Inspection Service in Fort Collins, CO.

Linda Geiser has accepted the position of National Air Program Leader in the National Forest System at the WO in Washington DC. She is currently an Ecologist and Air Specialist on the Siuslaw National Forest, Region 8, in Corvallis, OR.

Simerjeet Mudahur has accepted the position of Accountant with the Policy staff of the Chief Financial Office at the WO in Washington DC. She is currently an Accountant, Office of the Chief Financial Officer for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC

John Waconda has accepted the position of Special Assistant to the Regional Forester, R3, in Albuquerque, NM. He is currently an Agency Superintendent with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Ute Agency in Ignacio, CO.



Footprint Area of the Month: Water

Action Item of the Week: Conduct a water evaluation on your Unit

Water evaluations help your Unit identify water conservation measures that will give you the best payback, both in terms of water savings and cost savings. By evaluating specific facilities that consume the majority of your Unit's energy usage, you can capture the highest amount of savings. Not sure where to begin? The [Net Zero Water Guide](#) has useful information on conducting water audits. For more information on water and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit [the SusOps Demonstration website](#).



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