

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

July 11, 2014

Always be responsible for the safety of yourself and others

WO: Forest Service partners with Disney on fire and rescue animated movie

Disney will release a new animated movie July 18, "Planes: Fire and Rescue". U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers who served as wildland firefighting creative consultants will be featured in a [Disney Channel special](#) on the making of the movie and will also be included as behind-the-scenes extras when the film is released on DVD. The U.S. Forest Service partnered with Disney, the Ad Council, and the National Association of State Foresters to launch a series of wildfire prevention [public service advertisements](#) featuring scenes and characters from the movie and an [Educational Activity Book](#).

ASC: Employees host Adopt-A-School program

U.S. Forest Service employees, including Angela Shanks, Albuquerque Service Center Sustainable Operations Program Manager for the Rio Grande Adopt-A-School program, recently hosted 75 students from Rio Grande High School. Students learned facts about water and the importance of proper management to ensure sustainability. Cibola National Forest Hydrologist Livia Crowley talked with the students about examining water quality. University of New Mexico student and Forest Service Pathways Intern Antonio Griego led students on a field trip where students received hands-on training in operating water testing equipment and discussed water's importance to agriculture and ecosystem functions.

R1: Girl Scout helps forest as she earns Gold Badge

Girl Scout Claire Inman will be working toward her Gold Badge (equivalent to the Boy Scouts Eagle Badge) at Branham Lakes Campground on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, July 16-23. Inman and other Girl Scouts will rebuild a trail bridge and conduct maintenance throughout the campground before it is re-opened July 24.

R2: Smokey Bear balloon to participate in hot air balloon rodeo

Summer visitors to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, will get an impressive visual reminder of human-caused wildfire prevention this weekend when the Smokey Bear hot air balloon takes part in the "33rd Annual Hot Air Balloon Rodeo". Smokey, at nearly 100-feet tall and 75-feet wide, will join over 30 other balloons as they fly over Steamboat Springs on July 12-13. The Smokey Bear hot air balloon's first public voyage was in October of 1993, at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in New Mexico.

Wyoming Celebrates Wilderness

The Shoshone National Forest's Wind River Ranger District and the Wyoming Wilderness Association celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in Dubois, Wyoming, on July 6th. The event also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the town of Dubois and the 30th anniversary of the Wyoming Wilderness Act. The event included booths on wilderness as well as crosscut saw and stock packing demonstrations.

R4: Congressman visits the Dixie National Forest

Congressman Chris Stewart recently visited the Pine Valley Recreation Area of the Dixie National Forest to celebrate the completion of the Eagle Bridge project. This project involved three scouts who earned their Eagle Scout award through leading and coordinating the construction and placement of a bridge across the spillway of the Pine Valley Reservoir. Congressman Stewart personally congratulated James Eardley, Enrique McArthur and Bracken Thiriot on their completion of a project that Stewart cited as above and beyond what he would expect a Boy Scout to undertake in pursuit of his Eagle award.

Region hosts international range management seminar

The Intermountain Region hosted 17 visitors from around the globe on the first annual International Seminar on Rangeland Management. Seminar participants spent two weeks visiting rangelands in southern Idaho and northern Nevada, examining how land users and land managers are conserving and managing rangeland ecosystems. Field visits included private ranching businesses, the Shoshone-Bannock Fort Hall reservation and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, where participants were hosted by Acting Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, Branch Chief Rob Mickelsen, and Forest Range Program lead Heidi Heyrend, as well as the region's Rangeland Program Lead Terry Padilla.

R5: Los Padres National Forest supports children's exhibit

The "Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl – Home Sweet Home" interactive children's exhibit is being hosted by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History through September 21. The Los Padres National Forest is working with the museum to maximize the, "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire" message and to highlight recreation opportunities. On Saturdays throughout the summer, Los Padres employees will staff a booth outside the exhibit to provide information on sustainability practices and ecological restoration.

Employees participate in community outreach events

Pacific Southwest Region employees recently participated in two outreach events in Vallejo, California. The Civil Rights staff participated in the "26th Annual Juneteenth" celebration held in Vallejo's City Park on June 21. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 22, Fire and Aviation Management and Law Enforcement staff participated in the 1st Annual Latino Festival held on the Marina Waterfront. Forest Service employees talked to thousands of community members about career opportunities and wildland fire prevention and promoted an upcoming festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

R6: Portland Students learn fencing on the Mt. Hood National Forest

Last month, 130 students from the Catlin Gabel School of Portland, Oregon, joined Barlow Ranger District staff to replace one-half-mile of buck & pole fence at Gate Creek. The fence will protect the creek from motorized vehicles and livestock near a popular staging area. The students also installed one-half-mile of barbed wire drift fence to keep livestock away from Highway 26. This was the 24th year that the school has participated in restoration and construction projects on the Barlow Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

R9: Allegheny National Forest hosts educational tour

Twenty journalists from across the United States recently visited Pennsylvania's [Allegheny National Forest](#) as part of an educational tour of "shale country" sponsored by [The Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources](#). Organized to provide reporters in-depth experiential knowledge of notable issues to be used in future stories, the tour included presentations from the forest oil and gas staff, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, oil and gas well inspectors, and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness. Other stops on the tour included southern New York and eastern Ohio.

Connecting Tribal Youth with Ancestral Lands in Southern Illinois

Thanks to [More Kids in the Woods](#) funding, the [Shawnee National Forest](#) is embarking on an initiative to get local tribal youth living and working on the same forested landscape where their ancestors once lived and walked. Tribal partners will have the opportunity to send 60-70 high school students to the Shawnee to participate in a program combining outdoor immersion with public service and career training in staff areas such as: recreation, heritage, natural resources, geographic information systems and law enforcement.

R10: Scientists document rust fungus in Alaska

Forest Health Protection staff members from State & Private Forestry have documented a fungal disease called [rust fungus](#) on the stems and leaves of highbush cranberry, which grows in much of Alaska. Forest Service researchers are using molecular genetic techniques to confirm the identification of the pathogen that causes the disease and are recruiting the public to report and document additional instances of rust fungus on highbush cranberry.

PNWRS: Amphibian chytrid fungus maps updated

Research Ecologist Dede Olson and Research Information Assistant Kathryn Ronnenberg compiled an [update](#) of global taxonomic and geographic patterns of the amphibian chytrid fungus, an invasive and emerging infectious disease contributing to worldwide amphibian decline. As of June 2014, the disease has been detected in 50 percent of amphibian species sampled and in 68 percent of sampled countries. The updated amphibian chytrid fungus [occurrence maps](#) are downloadable for scientist and manager use and already are being applied in the United States to make on-the-ground decisions, such as where to draw water for firefighting to avoid inadvertent invasive-disease transmission.

SRS: Landowners receive information on road construction and maintenance

The Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory recently partnered with the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee and Duke Energy to co-host their second "Low-Volume Private Access Road Construction and Maintenance Workshop" for landowners. In addition to construction and maintenance issues, participants were introduced to road planning and layout, rules and regulations of U.S. Department of Transportation, working with contractors, and techniques and tips for reducing erosion. Participants were also provided with information on available resources from the North Carolina State Forest Service, USDA NRCS, and Macon County Soil and Water District representatives.

Press Announcement

None

Press Interviews

None

Executive News

[July 16-18] Chief Tidwell will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico to take a District tour and conduct employee meetings.

[29 July – 1 Aug] Chief Tidwell will be visiting the Eastern Region to meet with employees and other stakeholders and tour mining areas. The Superintendent, Architect of the Capitol, will join Tidwell in helping select the 2014 National Capitol Christmas Tree on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota.

Personnel News

Jeanne Higgins has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor on the Stanislaus National Forest, Region 5, in Sonora, CA. She is currently Region 3's Deputy Regional Forester, in Albuquerque, NM.

Craig Trulock has accepted the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Region 6, in Medford, OR. He is currently a District Ranger, Lochsa Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest, Region 1, in Kooskia, ID.

Henry So has accepted the position of Human Resource Officer for Region 5 in Vallejo, CA. He is currently an Employee and Labor Relations Branch Chief with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, CA.



Footprint Area of the Month: Water

Action Item of the Week: Repair leaky appliances

Has your unit implemented water conservation measures on each water-consuming facility? This [9-slide presentation](#) covers a range of water-saving tips for home and work. Identifying and repairing leaks saves significant amounts of water and money and aligns with our Forest Service conservation ethic. For more information on water and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit [the SusOps Demonstration website](#).

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