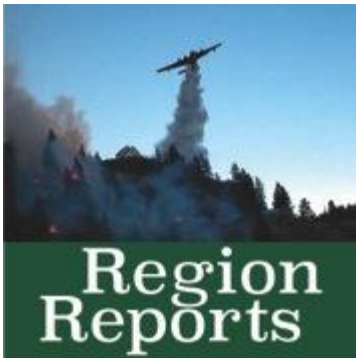


The Chief's Desk

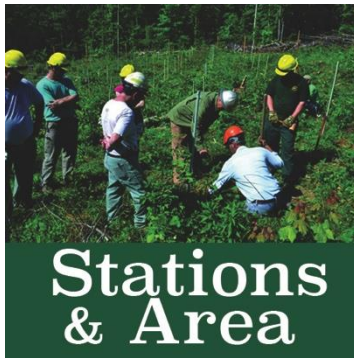


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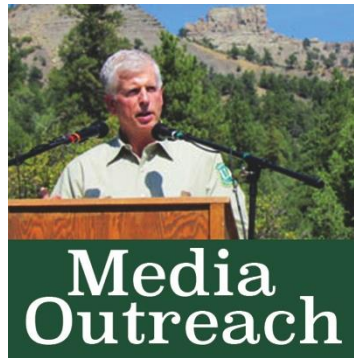
Friday, August 1, 2014



Region Reports



Stations & Area



Media Outreach



Personnel News

Safety Tip of the Week

An eye injury can happen quickly—in the blink of an eye. That’s why it’s so important to protect your eyes from harm. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, an estimated 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear. Even a minor injury to the cornea—like that from a small particle of dust or debris—can be painful and become a life-long issue, so take the extra precaution and always protect your eyes. If an eye should become injured, seek emergency medical help immediately.



Region Reports



Northern Region



Disney’s “Planes” engages next generation wildland firefighters

Moviegoers who attended the premiere of the Disney production, “Planes: Fire & Rescue”, met Smokey Bear and his Forest Service co-workers at special events in Idaho and Montana. At the events, the Custer Gallatin and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests focused on firefighter jobs, how the public can help with fire prevention and fire’s role in maintaining the health of the Northern Region’s ecosystems.

Dakota Prairie Grasslands project supports heritage management

The Northern Region Heritage Stewardship Enhancement Program is funding the second phase of the “Paleoindian – Paleoenvironment” project. The project, spearheaded by a doctoral candidate from Southern Methodist University’s Department of Anthropology, aims to synthesize the Paleoindian archaeological records of the grasslands with the local Paleoindian environmental settings. Through the development of a first-order predictive model for site location and preservation, the project will fuel future heritage management and research endeavors.



Rocky Mountain Region



Event recognizes Trappers Lake as The Cradle of Wilderness

On August 22 and 23, Forest Service officials, partners, and community members will gather before the sweeping vistas of the Flat Tops Wilderness on the White River National Forest to honor the historical significance of the Trappers Lake area, known as the Cradle of Wilderness, near Meeker, Colorado. Thanks to the visionary foresight of Arthur Carhart and Aldo Leopold, who sought protection for special areas, this wilderness was one of the first areas in the nation to be conserved. A video link will be available on the Region 2 internet site in advance of the ceremony.



Intermountain Region



Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest hosts Wildflower Festival

Volunteers and staff from the Forest Service, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, and local ski and summer resorts recently hosted 973 participants in the annual “Wasatch Wildflower Festival”. Guided hikes provided the participants spectacular views and educational information about local flora and fauna. The annual event was held in canyons east of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Agency, Tribes meet on sage grouse habitat, pine nut harvest

The Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Rangers of the Bridgeport and Carson Districts met this week with representatives from the Yerrington-Paiute Tribe, the Walker-Paiute Tribe, the Bridgeport Indian Colony, and the Washoe Tribe to discuss collaboration on restoration of sage grouse habitat. To ensure the protection of areas important to the Tribes, including those for pine nut harvest gathering, the group identified the need for coordination in treating habitats being encroached upon by conifer forests.



Pacific Southwest Region



Redding Smokejumpers lend expertise to Disney film

Disney reached out to the Forest Service with a lot of questions about wildland firefighting before zeroing in on one in particular: aerial firefighting. Eventually, the creative team from Disney revealed they were working on an animated, feature-length film about firefighting planes. After meeting with Forest Service firefighters from the California Smokejumper base in Redding, California, Disney decided their animated sequel would not only be about firefighting planes, but also about the men and women who jump out of them. “Planes: Fire & Rescue” was released on July 18. Read more about agency participation in [Forest Service blogs](#).

Modoc National Forest names 2013 Fire Person of the Year

Charlea Johnston was selected as the Modoc National Forest’s 2013 Fire Person of the Year. Charlea was recognized for constantly looking for new ways to provide a safe working environment, participating in numerous committees to help the Forest run more effectively, and representing the Forest and agency at the highest level. She serves as a unit leader on a cadre that provides local, regional and international incident management training. Charlea’s name will reside next to those of the 21 other recipients of the award.

Cleveland National Forest wins sustainability contest

The Cleveland National Forest was recently named the winner of the “Summit Mount Whitney Challenge”, a six-week contest promoting sustainable activities in Region 5. Forest employees demonstrated their commitment to creating a greener workplace. In addition to winning the overall competition, the Cleveland boasted the top individual performer, Wayne Smith. Each of the top 10 overall individual winners will receive a sustainable gift, and the Forest will receive a \$500 micro-grant to fund a project on the unit.

Long-awaited license issued

The Upper American River Project, a 688-megawatt hydroelectric project on the Eldorado National Forest, received a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Implementation of the new license will result in substantially improved aquatic and geomorphic flows on more than 50 miles of stream; more than \$150 million of improvements to recreational areas; improved and more reliable recreation reservoir

levels on three popular, extensively used reservoirs; new whitewater boating flows for three reaches; and coordination to provide reliable whitewater flows for the downstream Chili Bar Hydroelectric Project on the South Fork American River.

Inyo National Forest partners for recreation, resource protection

Volunteers from the Eastern Sierra Four Wheel Drive Club have been lending elbow grease to maintaining and repairing roads on the Inyo National Forest. The club, working on their weekends, provides maintenance for off-highway vehicle (OHV) roads and trails, under the direction of the Inyo National Forest. Their efforts augment the work done by Forest staff in ensuring that a high-quality experience can be found on the Forest's OHV system roads and trails. The Forest offers over 2,200 miles of designated OHV roads and trails with incomparable scenery; unique and sensitive landscapes, plants, and wildlife; and challenging recreational opportunities.

Sierra National Forest hosts Youth Fishing Derby

The 21st annual "Youth Fishing Derby", at Shaver Lake on June 14, attracted 98 young anglers. The young people caught 23 fish, the largest being 23 inches long! At noon, the horn went off to signal the end of the fishing. Then it was time for everyone to get in line for a free barbeque lunch. After lunch, prizes were awarded for various fishing categories and every child received a raffle prize.



Pacific Northwest Region



Historic Holden Mine cleanup

The [Holden Mine](#), on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, has been one of the largest copper mines in the country. The mine produced copper, zinc, silver, and gold worth more than \$1 billion in today's market. Waste rock (300,000 cubic yards) and rock left over from mine processing (8.5 million tons) cover 90 acres at the site. The cleanup will eliminate damage to water quality and protect aquatic habitat around Railroad Creek. Contaminated water will be captured and treated. Mine waste and contaminated soil will be consolidated and mitigated.



Southern Region



Surprised moviegoers meet Smokey Bear, fire crews

During opening weekend of the Disney film, "Planes: Fire & Rescue", thousands of moviegoers across the South had the opportunity to meet Smokey Bear and some everyday heroes who fight wildland fires. Fire crews spent the day talking with excited kids and parents at theaters in several states to raise awareness about fire prevention, controlled burns and healthy forests. Crews from the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, the Kisatchie National Forest, the National Forests in Mississippi, and the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, along with state firefighting crews, volunteered their time to be at local theaters.

South Carolina employee named Technology Applications Person of the Year

Andy Maceyka, Region 8 Remote Sensing Technician, is the Southern Region Engineering Technology Applications Person of the Year. The award highlights his 2013 work promoting LiDAR—a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser. Maceyka works on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest as a GIS Specialist.

R10

Alaska Region



Chugach forges cost-share agreement with state partner

Wildlife biologist Milo Burcham led an effort to establish a five-year Challenge Cost-Share Agreement between the Chugach National Forest and partner, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. In late July, the Forest Supervisor signed the agreement which addresses the subsistence program and management of species of mutual interest: deer, mountain goat, moose, caribou, and black bear.

WO

Washington Office



Smokey Bear Turns 70 Years Old

On August 9, 2014, Smokey Bear will turn 70 years old. During early August, birthday celebrations are scheduled nationwide at national forests and grasslands and at state forest sites. A Washington Office celebration is planned for August 8, where the Golden Smokey Bear Award winner will be named. This award is the highest honor given to organizations or individuals for outstanding wildfire prevention service, national in scope, and over at least a two-year period. This year the Golden Award winners are associated with the Smokey Bear fire prevention campaign social media effort. The Ad Council also will showcase the current Smokey Bear campaign.

Forest Management hosts stewardship contracting webinar

Recently, the National Forest Foundation and the Forest Management staff hosted a webinar, “Stewardship Contracting: Overview, Updates, and Examples”. The webinar, which featured internal and external speakers, provided 85 participants with an overview of the mechanisms for implementing stewardship contracting and included several illustrative examples. Watch a video of the stewardship contracting webinar.

Growing urban agriculture with trees

Gary Bentrup, Landscape Planner with the Forest Service’s National Agroforestry Center, presented an informational seminar on July 28, “Growing Urban Agriculture with Trees”, sponsored by the National Coalition for Agricultural Research Outreach Committee. Bentrup discussed advances in research which will result in diverse sustainable systems and increased food source security through the incorporation of trees into urban landscapes.

Harpers Ferry Job Corps featured on PBS News Hour

Harpers Ferry Job Corps/Civilian Conservation Center carpenters, working through Hands on Preservation Experience (HOPE), were recently featured on PBS for their efforts in the preservation of the historic Skyland Stables on Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park. The Harpers Ferry students were also honored by three Forest Service partners: the National Park Service, the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia, and The Corps Network, for their substantial contributions to HOPE.

Chief hosts town hall meeting in Albuquerque

Chief Tidwell hosted a town hall meeting in Albuquerque on July 16, speaking to 560 Forest Service employees from the Southwestern Regional Office, the Cibola National Forest, the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the Albuquerque Service Center. The Chief shared information on funding for wildland fire suppression, the employee viewpoint survey, and the creation of a more inclusive work environment. Chief Tidwell also addressed employees' concerns and stressed the importance of safety, telework and improving employee morale. He commended employees for continuing to receive clean financial management audits and for their significant efforts which have resulted in improvement of the Agency's hiring process.



Research Stations & Area

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FPL

Forest Products Laboratory



International visitors present at FPL

With the aim to find joint topics of interest for future collaborations with the Forest Products Laboratory, Dr. Andreja Kutnar gave a presentation about selected wood science research projects currently underway at the University of Primorska in Slovenia. Dr. Manja Kitek Kuzman, an architect from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, presented "Contemporary Slovenian Timber Construction: An Architectural Design Approach", covering a wide range of modern wood construction trends, the impact of green purchasing regulations, and life cycle analysis.



IITF

International Institute of Tropical Forestry



Project Learning Tree in Puerto Rico

On July 23 and 24, 2014, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry partnered with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DNER) to offer Project Learning Tree (PLT) facilitator training for the first time ever in the Caribbean. Senior Vice President of the PLT organization, Kathy McGlaufflin, was joined by other bilingual PLT educators to

offer this workshop in Puerto Rico. Educators from the DNER, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other local organizations attended this event. The Institute is proud to show its commitment to increasing environmental literacy through science-based education by sponsoring PLT.



NA

Northeastern Area



USDA Deputy Under Secretary visits Philadelphia, New Jersey

The Northern Research Station, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and the Alliance for Community Trees hosted an urban forestry field tour for USDA Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer on July 17-18. Innovative USDA-supported partnerships with community organizations championing youth engagement, tree planting and stewardship, urban farming, citizen monitoring, and greening of contaminated sites were highlighted at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Camden, New Jersey tour sites.

Final phase completed in Forest Legacy-funded project

The State of New Hampshire, in partnership with Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Plum Creek, and The Trust for Public Land, acquired a conservation easement on 12,603 acres in Coos County, New Hampshire. This final phase in the Androscoggin Headwaters project promotes a diverse economic base for recreation, tourism, and forest products for the community, and creates a resilient ecological base for fisheries and wildlife. The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between States and the Forest Service to identify and protect important forest lands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.



NRS

Northern Research Station



Tree, air pollution study draws news and web attention

Project Leader/Research Forester Dave Nowak, of the Northern Research Station, recently published the first broad-scale estimate of nationwide removal of air pollution by trees. Nowak, along with co-authors Eric Greenfield of the Northern Research Station and colleagues from the Davey Institute, calculated that trees prevent 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms a year and save more than 850 human lives. A news release on the study generated the most traffic the research station's website has ever experienced in a single day: it was viewed 31,164 times by 26,610 individuals, with traffic peaking on Sunday at 28,814 page views.



PNW

Pacific Northwest Research Station



Research hydrologist presents on dam removal in the U.K.

Research hydrologist Gordon Grant was invited to give a presentation on the state-of-science in dam removal at the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom, as part of

the Aberdeen Watershed Initiative. Dam removal is an emerging issue in other parts of the world where river managers are looking to the United States for guidance.



PSW

Pacific Southwest Research Station



Scientist receives funding for ongoing bio-control research

Research Entomologist Dr. Tracy Johnson recently received funding for his State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife Ginger and Rubus Biocontrol proposal. The award by the Hawai`i Invasive Species Council will fund Dr. Johnson's bio-control research, which pursues the reduction of invasive species populations by introducing natural enemies to the environment.



RMRS

Rocky Mountain Research Station



New bulletin on climate change and crowd-sourcing available

Climate change is rapidly affecting stream habitats throughout the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest, as warmer air temperatures and changes in precipitation increase stream temperatures, alter stream hydrology, and increase disturbances related to droughts and wildfires. Trout, salmon, and other fish are affected. Three Research Station scientists are conducting research and developing applied management tools that harness the power of crowd sourcing, which generates information and creates opportunities for collaboration. Their research, highlighted in this issue of the [Science You Can Use Bulletin](#), enables adaptation to move forward at a scale and pace more appropriate to the challenges.

Tom Brown receives Editor's Choice Award

Economist Tom Brown recently received the Editor's Choice Award for his article, "[Projected Freshwater Withdrawals in the United States under a Changing Climate](#)", in the March 2013 issue of the Water Resources Research Journal. Journal editors made their selections based on technical significance, originality, presentation, and broader implications of the publication. Editor-in-Chief, Alberto Montanari, notified Brown and invited him and co-authors, Romano Foti and Jorge Ramirez, to the formal award presentation at the Hydrologic Sciences Luncheon during the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, California, which will take place in December 2014.



SRS

Southern Research Station



Station, Eastern Band of Cherokee celebrate youth center

The Southern Research Station participated with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the grand opening of the Snowbird Youth Center in western North Carolina. The Research Station and the Tribe initiated a cost-share project on the Nantahala National Forest, near Robbinsville, North Carolina, designed to integrate new science with

traditional knowledge in order to help the students develop a rich understanding of the world around them and the challenges they will face in the future.

Research hydrologist recognized for outstanding leadership

Devendra Amatya, a Research Hydrologist with the Center for Forested Wetlands Research, was recently recognized for “Outstanding Leadership as Co-Chair” at the International Symposium and joint annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and the Canadian Society of Bioengineering, which was held in Montreal, Canada. Amatya, whose research focus is on the “Effects of Harvesting, Regeneration and Thinning on Hydrology and Water Quality of Managed Pine Forests”, was one of two co-chairs recognized at this year’s Symposium, themed “Evapotranspiration: Challenges in Measurements and Modeling from Leaf to the Landscape Scale and Beyond”.



Media Outreach

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Press Announcements



The Forest Service made two significant announcements on July 31.

The agency announced it is seeking comments on a proposed rule to provide forest products to our Tribal partners. American Indians and Alaska Natives have been connected to these lands for thousands of years, and the Forest Service is committed to facilitating continued access to these resources.

The Forest Service also announced a 30-day extension in the amount of time the public has to comment on a proposal to clarify the agency’s direction for groundwater. The proposal is intended to help the Forest Service conserve water resources on national forests and grasslands for the benefit of permittees and visitors who use the land, as well as for the health of our forests and watersheds.



Press Interviews



[July 26, 27] Chief Tidwell interviewed with regional media on wildfires in Washington and Oregon during a visit to Region 6.

[July 28] Under Secretary Bonnie interviewed with AP and Reuters on Rim Fire recovery efforts.



Personnel News

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Barbara Drake has accepted the position of Special Assistant to the Regional Forester with the Pacific Southwest Region in Sonora, California. She is currently a National Resource Staff Officer on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region, in Lakeview, Oregon.

Merv George has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor with the Six Rivers National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region, in Eureka, California. He is currently a Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Six Rivers National Forest.

Terri Simon-Jackson has accepted the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region, in Redding, California. She is currently a Forest Planning Staff Officer on the Plumas National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region, in Quincy, California.

Lynne Howard has accepted the position of Regional Aviation Officer with the Southern Region in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently the Fire, Aviation and Lands Staff Officer on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Southern Region, in Gainesville, Georgia.

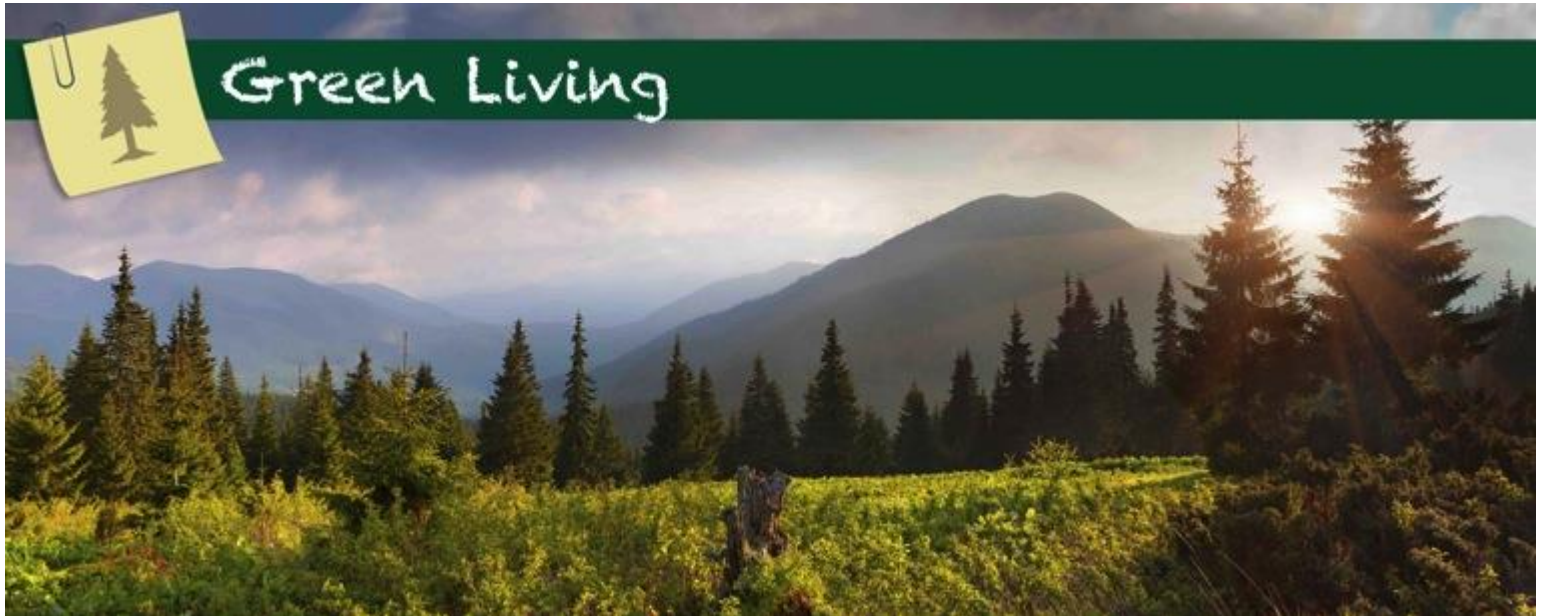
Jenna Sloan has accepted the position of Applied Fire Ecologist with WO-State and Private Forestry in Washington DC. She is currently is a Strategic Planner for the Office of Wildland Fire, Department of Interior, in Washington, DC.

Katherine Smith has accepted the position of Assistant Station Director for Program Development with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, Oregon. She is currently the National Program Leader in Watershed, Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Research for WO-Research & Development in Washington, DC.

Gary Sterling has accepted an Aviation Risk Management Specialist position with WO-State & Private Forestry in Boise, Idaho. He is currently the Regional Aviation Safety Manager for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Regions.

Borys Tkacz has accepted the position of Assistant Station Director for Research with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, Oregon. He is currently the Forest Health Monitoring National Program Manager for WO-State & Private Forestry in Washington, DC.

Deborah Whitman has accepted the Director of Ecosystems Management position with the Pacific Southwest Region in Vallejo, California. She is currently the Special Assistant to the Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region.



Footprint Area of the Month: Waste Prevention & Recycling

Action Item of the Week: Reduce and Reuse. The most effective way to [reduce waste](#) is to not create it in the first place. Making a new product requires a lot of materials and energy. Reduction and reuse are the most effective ways you can save natural resources and money. You can buy used items; look for products with less packaging; buy reusable rather than disposable items; maintain and repair products so they last longer; and borrow, rent, or share items that are used infrequently. For more information go to: [SusOps Demonstration site](#).

About People, Places and Things

The Forest Service Office of Communication compiles input by field units and Washington Office staffs. Field units should submit items through their region, station or area Public Affairs Office, which approve and prioritize submissions. Deadline is **8 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesdays**. Each submission must be 100 words or less in order to be considered. Send items to [WO Weekly Report inbox](#).



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