



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 11 — Number 2

It's Time to Pay Attention

by Elizabeth Stewart-Severy
Aspen Journalism - April 13, 2025

Since his early retirement just over three weeks ago, former White River National Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams has been soaking up his favorite activities on public lands.

"The public lands are my life," Fitzwilliams said. "Not just because I worked there. That's where I get my sense of wellbeing and quality of life."

Fitzwilliams, who led the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest for 15 years, left his position in late March as part of the Trump administration's deferred resignation program. He said when he left, the White River was down 27 or 28 positions since Jan. 1, 2025, and just over 50 fewer positions in the past 12 months. The cuts account for nearly a third of the forest's workforce, which by his count stood at 155 positions about a year ago.

"It's pretty bleak right now," Fitzwilliams said.



Scott Fitzwilliams at White River National Forest supervisor's office in Glenwood Springs. Fitzwilliams left his job on March 21 after accepting the Trump administration's deferred resignation offer.



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"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers."
Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.

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The Forest Service announced last fall that it would not be hiring any non-fire, seasonal workers for summer 2025 and it saw an additional round of cuts involving thousands of positions nationwide on Feb. 14, led by the Department of Government Efficiency. Even more drastic cuts are expected as the Trump administration moves to consolidate operations.

"Pretty much across the country, there will not be any of our normal seasonal workforce that cleans the bathrooms, that clears the trails, that maintains our recreational facilities, that enforces regulations. Across the country, we won't have those people this year," Fitzwilliams said.

While the current administration's cuts have made exceptions for federal firefighters, Fitzwilliams is concerned that firefighting efforts will be hampered by the reduced workforce.

Those Forest Service employees who work out in the field "are also the people that often are the first to spot or respond to a fire," Fitzwilliams said.

The organizational structure and support for fighting fires on the White River National Forest has been cut, too; drivers and those who buy supplies and food for firefighters are among the lost positions, Fitzwilliams said.

Local White River National Forest officials declined to comment and requested any questions be sent in writing. Aspen Journalism received a response from an unnamed spokesperson at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Wildland firefighting positions continue to be exempt from the hiring freeze a (sic) operational readiness is not impacted," the statement read. "The U.S. Forest Service, along with our other federal, state, tribal and local partners continue to prepare for and respond to wildfire incidents as needed."

Fighting and preventing major wildfires is often top of mind for those living in the drought-prone, arid West, but it's far from the only job with which the Forest Service has been tasked. The agency is responsible for managing forests for multiple uses, including wilderness, wildlife, recreation, logging, grazing and clean water.

"Our public lands, when we live amongst them, we do tend to take them for granted," Fitzwilliams said. "But they cannot be anymore."

The U.S. Forest Service oversees 193 million acres of land, including the 2.3 million acres of the White River National Forest, with its 11 ski resorts, eight wilderness areas and five ranger districts. And Fitzwilliams thinks the value of public lands far exceeds what can be tracked on paper.

"I believe public lands in America are part of the strength of America," he said. "It's a uniquely American ideal."

Fitzwilliams noted that this ideal is not one enshrined in the Constitution; it relies on public engagement.

"Public lands provide so much to so many and it's not easy to manage them for all the different uses. National forest management is hard," Fitzwilliams said. "You have to manage for wilderness and logging and grazing and mining and recreation and all these things, and clean water and wildlife — it's hard, and so people get frustrated. It may not align perfectly with everyone's values."

"But it's a system of public lands in the public trust that, thank god, we have the ability to argue over them. I'm worried that if they're dismantled, what appears to be organizationally dismantled, we could lose this incredible part of America."



Public lands are where "I get my sense of wellbeing and quality of life," says Scott Fitzwilliams. But he fears that actions undertaken by the new administration may lead to neglect of treasured public lands.

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While there are indications that the Trump administration may sell off public lands, Fitzwilliams said he's more concerned at this point that neglect and a lack of maintenance and staffing will effectively dissolve federal land management organizations.

"I just think it's a devastating thing to think of a future that we don't have this system," he said.

The Forest Service was facing budget shortfalls prior to the current cuts. The budget for the White River National Forest for this fiscal year is "abysmal," Fitzwilliams said.

[\[MORE\]](#)

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Northern Front Range and Southeastern
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Tom Thompson, thom46pson@gmail.com, 303-552-1711

Membership & Others - P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527

A Message From The Chair



Dan Nolan, Chairman of the Board

Hi Everybody,

Yesterday, Marilyn and I returned from a trip out of state and drove through a snowstorm when we came over Berthoud Pass. Welcome to springtime in the Rockies. Other signs of seasonal change: our bluebirds returned on March 18, and our Wyoming ground squirrels emerged from their winter nap on April 4 - just in time for the arrival of the red tail hawks and the fox kits needing dinner. The first broad-tailed hummingbird appeared on April 17 and our Bullock's orioles and western tanagers showed up at our feeder yesterday. We're more than ready

for some nice weather that doesn't involve skiing.

The Rocky Mountaineers are busy with springtime activities too. In May the annual Memorial Grove ceremony honored 35 people who recently passed away and had spent much of their careers in Region 2. The scholarship committee reviewed 19 applications and awarded four \$1,500 scholarships. We received one application for our grants program and awarded \$3,000 to the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council for a wetland enhancement project. And, I have enjoyed seeing the photos posted by Jim Thinnies and others of the recent Rocky Mountaineers' trip to Sicily, Tunisia and Malta. You now have our springtime copy of the Rendezvous. Many thanks to Dave Steinke, Judy Dersch and all those who have contributed to this outstanding publication.

The Rocky Mountaineers board of directors meet quarterly by Zoom. If you ever have subjects you would like us to consider please forward your thoughts to me (dnolan829@gmail.com) or Johnny Hodges (rmountaineers@gmail.com). We will be recruiting someone to be chair-elect for next year. If you have an interest in this or other involvement on the board, please let us know.

Finally, another "hat" I wear is as the Rocky Mountain Regional Director for the National Museum of Forest Service History. We have a cadre of 16 across the Region who help promote the museum. If you would like to be part of this team, please let me know. An update on the museum's construction of the National Conservation Legacy Center is included in this issue. Although construction is well underway, additional funding is needed to cover some significant cost overruns and to develop the interpretive exhibits. Please consider a donation to help with this effort.

Happy Spring

Dan



Bullock's Oriole

Finance And Membership Report

May, 2025

By Ellen and Johnny Hodges

Membership Report

We have picked up 19 new members since late January, giving us a total of 478. A year ago, in May we had 480 members.

In July of 2024 we purged 36 members for non-payment of dues. So, although our membership has held steady, we have had quite a bit of turnover in the last year.

We recruit new members year-round so help us break the 500-member barrier!

Here is a list of our newest members

Robert Aiken, Lakewood, CO

Shane Baca, Walden, CO

Glenn Bartter, Keenesburg, CO

Danny Bryant, Lakewood, CO

Shelley Gardner, Frisco, CO

John Hinz, Phoenix, AZ

Cam Hooley, Bayfield, CO

Rhonda Horn, Arvada, CO

Jim-Jim Kirschvink, Carbondale, CO

Harold Kehr, Idaho Falls, ID

Al Martinez, Loveland, CO

Liane Mattson, Paonia, CO

Karely O'Conner, Paonia, CO

Jeff Outhier, Westcliffe, CO

Telca Paprocki, Hot Springs, SD

Jennifer Peterson, Colorado Springs, CO

Matthew Riederer, Ranchester, WY

Cindy Thrush, Monument, CO

Lochen Well, Ft. Collins, CO

Finance Report

We want to thank all of you that have made donations to the Rocky Mountaineers so far this year in either our Scholarship, Memorial Grove, or General Funds.

Our donations so far in 2025 total \$9,765.

As a reminder, you are welcome to make donations at any time throughout the year.

We are recognizing donors in the categories of **Friend**, **Patron**, and **Sponsor**. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

Some donations were made in the memory of someone. We have included the name of the honoree.

Thank You Donors!

Friend (\$1 -\$49)

Terry and Joy Armbruster, Lakewood, CO

John and Mary Ellen Barber, Loveland, CO

Frank and Jan Beum, Littleton, CO

Dan and Maggie Bishop, Dolores, CO

Marilee Bobzien, Salt Lake City, UT

Elizabeth Boyst and Philip Bowden,
Winters, CA

Pamela and Casey Bristow, Pagosa Springs,
CO

Lee and Dottie Carr, Cedaredge, CO

Carl and Maryann Chambers, Ft. Collins, CO

Janice Chapman and Edward Mauch,
Gunnison, CO

Teresa and Tom Ciapusci, Lakewood, CO

Pete and Leah Clark, Monte Vista, CO

Dick and Judy Coose, Ketchikan, AK

Jack and Judy Cover, Delta, CO

Martha Delporte, Lakewood, CO

Linda and Rick Deuell, Laramie, WY

Ed and Jeannie Fischer, Custer, SD

Cindy French

Marv Froistad and Shelley Amicone,
Loveland, CO

Wallace Gallaher, Arvada, CO

Bill and Liz Hahnenberg, Grand Junction,
CO

Janice Harbach, Custer, SD

Dave and Sally Hessel, Loveland, CO

Jo and Wayne Ives, Carbondale, CO

Mark Lambert and Mika Inouye, Durango,
CO

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Gayle and Rick Laurent, Sheridan, WY

Susan Luthye, Flagstaff, AZ

Mark and Mindy Martin, Loveland, CO

Gary McCoy, Spencer, IN
– In Memory of Gary Metcalf

John and Margie Quenoy, Dolores, CO

John Rawinski, Monte Vista, CO

Dale and Margie Robertson, Broomfield, CO

Arlene and Fred Rollo, Poncha Springs, CO

Gary and Janie Roper, Pueblo West, CO

Bob and Gail Sprentall, Hot Springs, SD

Dave Steinke and Sue Robinson, Littleton,
CO

Barb Timock, Pueblo, CO

Bob and Catherine Van Aken, Fairfax, VA

Jack and Kathy Walton, Missoula, MT

Neal and Anne Weierbach, Denver, CO

Craig and Lynn Whittekiend, Lakewood, CO

Non-Member Donations

General Stauffer

(Continued from page 6)

Patron (\$50 - \$199)

John and Patricia Ayer, Yachats, OR

Bill and Lois Bass, Sheridan, WY

Dave Clement, Arvada, CO

- *In Memory of all those great folks that served the USFS*

Mike and Majorie Clinton, Evergreen, CO

Cindy Correll, Sedona, AZ

Steve and Susy Coupal, Kalispell, MT

Phil and LeAnn Cruz, Washougal, WA

Mary Lu Eilers, Golden, CO

Mike and Marla Foley, Ft. Collins, CO

Tim Garvey and Liz Mauch, Montrose, CO

Kathy Hardy-Ungari and Bruce Ungari, El Dorado Hills, CA

Joe and Lindy Hartman, Nevada, MO

- *In memory of Karen Bergethon*

Tom Healy and Sue Miller, Colorado Springs, CO

Carol and Mike Hindman, Gypsum, CO

Tommy John, Lakewood, CO

Bob and Lorna Joslin, Lander, WY

- *In Memory of Bob Jacob and Gray Reynolds*

Tom and Donna King, Thornton, CO

Monica and Jevon Klingler, Collbran, CO

John and Sally Korb, Lakewood, CO

Jim Lawrence, Arvada, CO

Cristie Lee, Ft. Collins, CO

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Colleen and Rob Oquist, La Junta, CO

Jennifer Peterson, Colorado Springs, CO

Tom and Georgenna Rennick, Cortez, CO

Dave Stark and Penny Conyers, Evergreen, CO

Richard and Karen Stem, Alder, MT

Art and Sharon Tiedemann, Greeley, CO

Mark Tucker, Dolores, CO

Dave and Margaret Wolf, Lakewood, CO

Sponsor (\$200+)

Nona Dale and Marv Gerlick, Durango, CO

Bob Dettmann and Chris Buckman, Durango, CO

Norma Fischer, Meridian, ID

- *In Memory of Jim Fischer*

David Griffin, Castle Rock, CO

Ellen and Johnny Hodges, Ft. Collins, CO

- *In Memory of Karen Bergethon, Jean Thomas, and Jim Fischer*

Bruce Holmlund, Delta, CO

Deb Jensen, East Wenatchee, WA

- *In Memory of Jean Thomas*

Sharon Kyhl, Wenatchee, WA

- *In Memory of Clint Kyhl*

Dan Nolan and Merilyn Hunter, Hot Sulphur Springs, CO

Frank and Susan Roth, Powell, WY

Ed and Mae Schultz, Colfax, WA

Greg Thompson and Shirley McCabe, Monte Vista, CO

Denise Tomlin, Lakewood, CO

Non-member Donations

Wanna Elsbernd, Ft. Collins, CO

- *In honor of Van Elsbernd*

Cindy Woods, Phoenix, AZ

- *In Memory of Bill Conklin*

Memorial Grove Ceremony Donations

Handy Links to Resources and Information

We've Got Your Back

Caring for the people who serve the land.

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees.

(NAFSR) We represent Forest Service retirees who are dedicated to: sustaining the heritage of caring for the National Forests and Grasslands, partnering with the Forest Service, and helping understand and adapt to today's and tomorrow's challenges.

<https://www.nafsr.org/>

Government Executive

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<https://www.govexec.com>

The Forest Service Museum is helping USFS employees who have lost their jobs

We are all aware and probably know people in the agency who have been impacted by the 2025 workforce reductions. At the Museum, they've had some discussion about this.

They are taking these two actions:

- 1) Provide a complimentary 3-year Museum membership (electronic newsletter) to all USFS employees who have lost their jobs due to the Presidential directed workforce reductions. They will promote this offer through Museum social media and e-news channels with an invitation letter by President Tom Thompson.
- 2) They are modifying portions of the 2025 USFS Reunion agenda so it is more relevant to these turbulent times and to help attendees reflect on what it means to be part of the USFS family.

<https://forestservicemuseum.org/contact-us/>

Going to be in Denver in June?

Come on by Clancy's Pub in Wheatridge on June 4th at 11:30 AM and break bread with the Denver Chapter of the Rocky Mountaineers. You are guaranteed to know somebody there and enjoy some good Irish pub fare and catch up with your colleagues...and you don't need to be retired to come on down.

<https://clancysirish.pub/>

Random Links

<https://www.reddit.com/r/fednews/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/USForestService/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/USDA/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16579457499/>

The Smokey Wire

<https://forestpolicypub.com/>

The Regional Gathering in October

Rocky Mountaineers ANNUAL meeting & picnic

Where: Delta, Colorado

When: Thursday August 7, 2025 - from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cleland Park is Delta's oldest and most centrally located park.

Amenities include Clarence Riley pavilion, sand volleyball courts, and a playground.

<https://cityofdelta.net/parksites>



CLELAND PARK PAVILION

BBQ catered by Mama Cakes

2025 Rocky Mountaineers Grant Recipient

This year the Rocky Mountaineers awarded a grant of **\$3,000** to the **Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC)** to support the California Park Wet Meadows Restoration Project. This project, located on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District of the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest, is designed to enhance wetland function by constructing a series of small rock dams to capture sediment and reconnect the ephemeral streams to their historic floodplains.

The project has been ongoing since 2022 and this year's plans are to restore three miles of ephemeral streams totaling eleven acres. The YVSC will contract with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and community volunteers to carry out the work. Volunteer partners include Yampa Valley Climate Crew and the Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition. Additional funding is provided by a Secure Rural Schools Grant, and a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Rangelands grant. An educational component is included as the participants will learn about the multiple values of healthy wetland systems.

2023 Zuni Bowl Structure



Pre-restoration



Post-restoration



One year post-restoration



National Museum's History Corner

Sharing the rich history and stories of
America's conservation legacy

May 2025

By Andy Mason



My Oh My! – Walls Are Flying!....Tree-rific Columns Going Up!

The cross-laminated timber wall panels are “flying” as our beautiful National Conservation Legacy Center (NCLC) starts to look like the artist's rendering. Another milestone was reached in late April as Museum Board member Brian Leisz and his company (Fall Creek Timber Frames, Inc., Troy, MT), milled two of sixteen donated timbers (hickory and sugar maple) and brought the rough-cut lumber to Hamilton, MT. There, another Museum partner, Mark Gantt and his company (Timber Builders), precisely milled the lumber, preparing it for assembly and installation at the building site. View more photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/hpoUc4ioRd4hJL5x5>



We still are short ~ \$1 million to cover the exhibition, Center furnishings, and building design changes and inflation adjustments. Many efforts are underway to close the gap (e.g., volunteers making furniture, portions of exhibits), and of course our fundraising efforts. Our Capital Campaign efforts have now been consolidated:

- Capital Campaign Committee of 15 members (CCC), is co- led by **Rich Stem** and **Andy Mason**.
- Bi-weekly CCC meetings are led by Board member **Nancy Gibson**. The focus of these meetings is to review and identify actions regarding donor prospects identified previously by our 14 sector teams and any new prospects.
- **Lynn Sprague** continues to lead our fundraising efforts for Minerals & Energy and Fire & Aviation.

Mass Timber design of the National Conservation Legacy Center is beginning to take shape! Wood continues to gain recognition world-wide as the preferred, sustainable building material.

As always, if you have questions, thoughts or ideas about prospective corporate or individual donors – and connections you have or people you know that do – please contact Lisa or Tom.

Lisa Tate: lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org, or 208/484-6667

Tom Petersen: tom.petersen@forestservicemuseum.org; or call the Museum at (406) 541-6374.

National Museum's History Corner



The fabrication, assembly, and installation of the 16 tree-like columns is made possible by our partners: Brian Leisz, Fall Creek Timber Frames, Inc. (Troy, MT), and Mark Gantt, Timber Builders (Hamilton, MT).

2025 Saving History Online Auction Was a Success -- \$30,000 Raised

A BIG THANKS to the Rocky Mountaineers and friends for donating a beautiful hand-pieced quilt "Spring Spin" and a Kansas State gift basket.

AND, thank you for your generous donations to the general and lawnmower funds.

If you participated in the auction, please also consider completing our post-auction survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NM7NXX7>

For questions, please contact Mandy at the Museum:
amanda.wickel@forestservicemuseum.org; or call 406-541-6374.



Rendering of the National Conservation Legacy Center highlighting the 16 tree-like columns. Each column is made from a different species from across America's incredibly diverse forests. Sponsorship of "Available" tree-like columns is welcome and encouraged!

Your regional museum key contacts:

Dan Nolan, Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Region (R-2) and Rocky Mtn. Research Station.

Larry Gadt, Board Liaison.

Help Safeguard Forest Service History

Do you know of items in Forest Service offices – Regional, Forest, District, and Station – that have been tucked away for "safe-keeping", that might be vulnerable, as the Forest Service implements reorganization and offices are realigned?

With all the best intention, they have stayed local, but this might be the right time to secure these artifacts and historic documents by transferring them to the Forest Service's repository at the Museum in Missoula, to be housed in 2026 at the National Conservation Legacy Center. If you know of any items of historical interest, please contact the Museum's curator, Dave Stack at dave.stack@forestservicemuseum.org or call 406-541-6374.

2025 USFS Retiree Reunion

September 22 – 26, 2025
Missoula, Montana



It's getting close! The 10th USFS Retiree Reunion is in the final stages of preparation. Early bird registration is open now and it is a bargain at \$300 (\$60/day), until June 30. Registration will be \$350 (\$70/day) starting July 1.

The Missoula Hilton Garden Inn will be Reunion Headquarters, and we have reserved the entire hotel for our event. There are only a handful of rooms left so reserve yours now. Alternate hotels will be made available when all rooms are filled.

The program is an exciting collection of agency news, educational presentations, discussions and excursions. Great food, music and fantastic camaraderie will flow throughout the week. Make plans to meet your friends and colleagues for this momentous event.



The Reunion website is at <https://2025usfsreunion.org/> and contains details of what to expect during the Reunion. The program is nearing completion and is updated, online, as finalized. The silent auction has a plethora of quality offerings available to be bid on during the week with more items added regularly to the online display. Detailed descriptions for 2 days of excursions

help you make your decision to enhance your week. Check out the website...there is much more.

Wonder what you are paying for? A fantastic collection of program presentations on a variety of subjects, plus an early private tour of the new, soon-to-open, National Museum of Forest Service History's National Conservation Legacy Center. Also included are 2 appetizer events, Buffet Lunch, Chuckwagon Dinner, Plated Breakfast, Plated Dinner Banquet and closing Plated Breakfast. This truly makes for an amazing value.



Congratulations To Our Scholarships Winners!

By Frank Roth

The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to announce the winners of the 2024 Memorial Scholarships! We had 19 applications this year and as usual, it was difficult to decide on the winners. This was the sixth year we had two scholarships just for those studying in natural resources and the sixth year we offered four scholarships. Each scholarship is the same as last year which is \$1,500. We had four applicants who were natural resource majors. They were Jack Clemens and Liam Hill.



Liam Hill is graduating from Sheridan High School in Sheridan Wyoming. His parents took him on his first hike when he was just six weeks old and that was the beginning of his love for the mountains and forests. He has been active in school swimming, the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He volunteers with youth

swimming. He also builds small furniture and home goods using reclaimed and urban lumber. Liam has worked as an intern for the Big Horn National Forest. He plans to attend the University of Idaho with a major in Forestry and Fire Ecology.

"As a 2025 recipient of the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for this award. I have always been an avid outdoor enthusiast, so being able to attend college and pursue a degree in Forestry and Fire Ecology that supports the sustainable use of our public lands is a great opportunity. When selecting to attend the University of Idaho, I knew that their highly rated degree programs would be expensive. With the receipt of this scholarship, you have helped make my educational and career plans more of a reality. I am humbly grateful for your support and belief in my future. Thank you."

He is sponsored by Susan Weingardt.



Copland LaBerge is graduating from Temple Grandin School in Boulder, CO. He has been saving money for college since he was 8 years old. He has been active in his school and community. He has volunteered over 600 hours for a local animal hospital. He also founded a nonprofit hamster

rescue foundation, where he has volunteered over 2,000 hours and raised more than \$45,000. His work has made regional and national news. He received the 2024 National Colorado Outstanding Youth Award because of his volunteer efforts. His concern for animals is leading him toward a career as a veterinarian.

"I am so appreciative that I was selected for a scholarship. I got into the Purdue University Veterinary Scholars program, which guarantees a spot in their vet school after undergrad. I plan to use the funds to aid in my tuition expenses. I am so grateful to the Rocky Mountaineers for the scholarship."

He is sponsored by Christine LaBerge.

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Jack Clemens is graduating from Ballard High School in Seattle, WA. His interests include nature, architecture and exercise. He spends his weekends camping, hiking and backpacking across Washington state. He has been active in track and field, volunteered in the community, and co-founded the Architecture and Design Club at his High School. His volunteer work includes a local community theater, the JDRF Gingerbread Village and Green Lake Litter Patrol. He plans to attend the University of Utah with a major in business and a minor in Environmental Science.

"Thank you so much for selecting me as one of your Memorial Scholarship Fund recipients. I am eternally grateful for your support and the opportunity that this scholarship provides me with. Beginning my journey into higher education is a scary, yet exciting step into the future, and I'm so glad to have good people like the Rocky Mountaineers supporting me along the way. This scholarship helps to lift the financial burden off my shoulders, so that I can focus more on what's important in college: learning, experiencing new things, and growing as a person. Receiving this scholarship means so much to me, making me wonder what I can do in return. I hope that the greatest way I can honor the Rocky Mountaineers is to continue respecting nature and doing right by the natural resources that mean so much to not only me, or the Mountaineers, but also to every person who sets foot in a national park or forest. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity!"

He is sponsored by Michael Fole

We want to thank all the applicants and their sponsors for their interest and participation. And, again, many thanks to all of you who have generously donated to the Scholarship Fund. All of you make the growth of this program possible.



Brianna Huff is graduating from Delta High School in Delta, CO. She is active in her school and community as a participant and leader in sports, student council, National Honor Society, church and Interact (service-based club funded by Rotary). She has worked in landscaping and for her family restaurant. She is considered a "pioneer leader" by her school and inspires fellow students and teachers and also has a "make it happen" mindset.

"I would like to personally thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I will be attending Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado to study engineering and hopefully become a civil engineer. My main goal is to improve Colorado's infrastructure with minimal invasiveness to preserve our beautiful lands. A significant factor in my decision to attend Durango was the forestry and the energetic life it sustains, which is why I am deeply honored to be recognized as a Mountaineer scholar. As a girl, I have always had a passion for the outdoors, whether it be camping, hiking, or paddle boarding, I have always found myself spending more time outside than indoors. Some of my favorite memories include campfire gatherings, waterfall hikes, and clear blue lakes. Colorado holds a special place in my heart, and I am dedicated to keeping our lands fresh, cultivated, and protected. Your support has brought me one step closer to achieving my future career and ambitions, and I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity. Thank you for allowing me to represent you and our forests!"

She is sponsored by Robert Huthman.



Where in the World is Jim Thinnes?

Mediterranean Delight

by Jim Thinnes,
Rocky Mountaineers Travel Coordinator

The Rocky Mountaineer's latest travel adventure took us to the Mediterranean. Fifteen of us traveled with Grand Circle Travel to Sicily & Malta: Cultural Crossroads of the Mediterranean.

Five Rocky Mountaineers started with a pre-trip in Tunisia. The northern African country is a mix of cultures. Early Phoenician settlements grew to become Carthage (near present day Tunis). The area was later ruled by Romans, Arabs, Ottoman Turks, and European powers. Tunisia gained independence from France in 1956. Vestiges of the past have resulted in old medinas with winding, narrow alleys to the modern Tunis metropolis along with some of the best-preserved Roman amphitheaters and aqueducts. Type to enter text

repelled the Turks in the epic Siege of Malta in 1565. The Knights of St. John heavily influenced Malta for 400 years before becoming a British colony in 1814. Malta gained its independence in 1964.

Malta is a tiny island country with most of the population in and around the capital Valletta. Local life and tourism revolve around its proximity to the sea and beautiful harbors. Our hotel on the Grand Harbor served as a hub to visit much of the island over the course of a week. We enjoyed Valletta with its mid-16th century Baroque to Modernism architecture. We also visited Hagar Qim, the megalithic temple complex constructed more than 5,200 years ago; the turquoise waters of the Blue

Grotto; and the opulent Palazzo Parisio. We even caught a lovely Easter procession, complete with a military band.

Next was Sicily, which is part of Italy and 100 times the size of independent Malta. Sicily shares much history with its Mediterranean neighbors. It was unified with Italy in 1861, but the Rome-based government was disconnected from Sicilian life. Poverty drove thousands of Sicilians to America and sowed the seeds for the Mafia.

Sicily is mostly rural with fertile valleys along with mountainous regions that produce an abundance of fruits and vegetables. We even visited the famous Mt. Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes. Our week in Sicily included the ruins of Villa Romana del Casale containing some of the finest examples of Roman mosaics in Europe as well as the

Valley of the Temples, which are among the greatest Greek ruins from the fifth and sixth centuries BC. In Corleone and Palermo, we learned about the complicated history of the Sicilian Mafia.



Rocky Mountaineers in Malta

Our main trip began in Malta with 15 Rocky Mountaineers and 25 fellow travelers. Forty travelers is a big group, but our guide Alice did a great job keeping us together and on time. Malta has a rich history and is very European. It became part of the Kingdom of Sicily in late 1200s and



Rocky Mountaineers at the Valley of the Temples in Sicily

Nine Rocky Mountaineers continued their adventure with a five-day post-trip in Rome. Our post-trip included a guided walking tour of the city and a gallery tour as well as lots of time for independent exploration. Several of us took advantage of our free time to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum, the Colosseum, and the Roman Forum.

We had good weather, excellent guides, and a wonderful time.

The Rocky Mountaineers next travel adventure in Nepal is already full. Space is still available for our Danube River cruise from Budapest to Prague July 10 - 24, 2026 – details at

<https://rockymountaineers.us/Travel/2026-Blue-Danube/DanubeRockyMountaineersBrochure.pdf>

Our 2027 travel adventure is now confirmed. We will be taking Overseas Adventure Travel's Ultimate Africa: Botswana, Zambia & Zimbabwe Safari departing from the US on May 23 and returning on June 9, 2027. The 17-day base trip is \$8,395 per person, not including air and insurance. This trip is limited to 16 travelers. Booking details are currently only shared with highly interested travelers to ensure they can register before the trip fills up. Feel free to contact me at JimThinnes2@gmail.com if you want more information about our 2027 safari. Also, let me know if you have any questions regarding Rocky Mountaineers' travel or suggestions for future trips.



May 1996

Issue No. 2

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DOWNSIZING INFO AVAILABLE

There are several ways to find out the most current information on downsizing in Region Two. On the DG, questions can be sent to DOWNSIZING:R02A. Questions will be answered directly, and those of general interest will be included in the downsizing info center. The name of the info center is R2DWSNZG. If you are unfamiliar with accessing an info center, ask your computer specialist for help. The info center includes such items as the Downsizing Plan and current questions and answers.

Questions on downsizing can also be answered during business hours on the hotline. The number is 303-275-5322. Hard copy or anonymous questions can be mailed in a blue envelope to DOWNSIZING TEAM in care of the regional HR staff.

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1993

FROM RED TAPE TO RESULTS

CREATING A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS BETTER & COSTS LESS

Executive Summary

The Report of the
NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW
Vice President Al Gore

September 7, 1993

See President Clinton and Vice President Gore speak in September, **1993** on the South Lawn introducing **The National Performance Review**, a program for government review.

[C-Span Recording](#)


According to Forbes

The U.S. government is also no stranger to massive cuts, but not at the scale proposed by President Trump - the U.S. Army eliminated 50,000 jobs in 2011, the Air Force cut 40,000 in 2005 and the U.S. Postal Service cut 30,000 jobs each year in 2002, 2009 and 2010.

By comparison, if even just 10% of employees accept the offer from Trump, more than 200,000 people could be out of work in one swift motion. Historically, mass layoff attempts by the federal government haven't worked out.

President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s promised to shrink the size of the government largely by eliminating two large agencies—the energy and education departments—but the plan never came to fruition due to Congressional opposition.

Page 12 of the **May, 1996** R-2 Rendezvous featured a small story about downsizing and how to get information. Lots of nostalgia in this little article - The DG, a downsizing information center, blue envelopes and having a member of the HR staff contact you.

USDA NEWS YOU CAN USE



*Appreciating the official uniform of the Forest Service. **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins** hosts a roundtable discussion at USDA headquarters on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) wildland firefighters who were deployed to the Southern California fires. The participants include members from the Mark Twain National Forest Veteran Crew, based in Cassville, Missouri and the Angeles National Forest Engine Crew, based out of Arcadia, California. (USDA photo by Tom Witham)*

The Associated Press reported on May 13th that the USDA facing a lawsuit brought on behalf of the Northwest Organic Farming Association of New York, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Working Group, saying **it will restore climate change-related webpages.**

A USDA spokesperson referred The AP to the Department of Justice, which did not immediately reply to a request for comment Tuesday.

Earth Justice attorney Jeffrey Stein said USDA had committed to restoring most of the material within about two weeks. He said he hoped the agency's reversal would be a "positive sign" in other cases brought against the administration over agencies purging information from websites.



Secretary Brooke Rollins
@SecRollins on X.

"Happy 163rd birthday to the USDA!

Lincoln founded the 'People's Department'— today, our **National Mall banners** celebrate his legacy & President Trump's commitment to our farmers.

I'm honored to serve as we grow America's future."



Excerpts From The Chief's Note To Employees

Planning for priorities and interim operations during workforce reshaping



Chief Tom Schultz
May 6, 2025

As I begin my third month as your Chief, I **have come to fully understand the dedication, talent, and professionalism our employees bring to their work and our mission...**

...we are **implementing interim governance structures** and operating plans to ensure **proper and intentional coverage** resulting from attrition and voluntary separation program departures, such as DRP 1.0, 2.0 and VERA. Plainly, **the Forest Service workforce is evolving and will look different by the fiscal year's end...**

...we'll be exercising **tools like lateral reassignments, additional training in priority areas, and introducing temporary oversight and approval structures** for greater flexibility and decision speed. Below outlines our must-dos for minimum mission viability...

If there is an immediate need for mitigation, **line officers should elevate through regular channels for awareness and proceed as indicated.** Ultimately, adaptability doesn't mean uncertainty - it means readiness. I'm certain these temporary measures will allow us to **adjust confidently and deliberately until we officially transition** into our future organizational structure...

This includes implementing the executive orders received to date that **focus on active forest management, energy, minerals and geology.** Lateral reassignment opportunities in these critical areas of our field operations are underway, and we will lean on our partners to assist in areas of greatest need...

The outdoor recreation economy continues to boom with nearly 160 million visitors to national forests just last year, and we anticipate that statistic to remain steady despite our current workforce sizing. **Be prepared to lean in and adapt responsibly.** Lastly, we must ensure the "business" of our workforce remains steady and smooth by meeting supervisory responsibilities including **timely paychecks and approving necessary travel**, as well as coordinating training logistics for critical areas...

Want to read the whole letter?

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/leadership/our-next-steps>

Why We Don't See Forest Service People on TV



Director Chad Douglas

Hello everyone, I'm Chad Douglas, communication director for the **USDA Forest Service**. I often receive questions about social and traditional media and employees' rights and responsibilities. The basic principle for both: **Only speak for the agency if you are authorized** to do so; otherwise, be clear you are speaking as an individual..

We all enjoy sharing stories and opinions about our work. As Forest Service employees, we care about issues that affect our families, communities and careers, just like everyone does. **I've noticed that because you care so much, sometimes on social media and in traditional media lines are crossed that should not be.**

We want interaction with the Forest Service to be a positive experience for everyone, and for that reason, there are parameters around how we engage in both social media and news media.

So, what do you need to know before you post to social media or give an interview?

Social Media

Let's start with rule one. **Be clear you are speaking for yourself.** That means you do not identify yourself with your job title. And, if you are posting to social media from your personal accounts, we recommend including a disclaimer within your profile clarifying that the views and opinions expressed on the account are your own. Also, make sure to only share publicly available information. Don't post, share or speak about information you are privy to only due to your position.

Be polite. Social media can be both a very useful tool and a space that can quickly become overwhelming and contentious. We all know we aren't going to win any arguments on social media. Even if you're tempted, always keep in mind that if someone takes offense to what you post, they may report you to the agency. If they do, **that could trigger a conduct investigation.**

Rule two is simple: **Don't post or share personal social media content during work hours.** The Standards of Conduct that apply to all federal employees say that, while on government time, we must make an honest effort to perform official duties. There are exceptions—like during lunch or on your day off—but as the saying goes, discretion is the better part of valor. We should avoid unnecessary risks, sticking to times when we are clearly off duty.

Traditional Media

We all have rights—and responsibilities - **in this nation with a free press**, as well as guaranteed rights to free speech under the first amendment to the Constitution. If you decide to engage with a media representative in a personal capacity, you should make clear to the reporter that you are doing so and not speaking on behalf of the Forest Service. Nor should you be discussing matters related to your professional capacity in such a conversation. It's important that there is a clear line between personal experiences or opinions and those tied to your job with this agency.

So, what should you do if you are contacted by the media? If a media outlet asks you to provide information or an interview in your professional capacity, **it is important that before responding, your first step is talking to your unit's public affairs specialist.** They have a responsibility to help determine the best way to proceed when coordinating media requests. If you work in the Washington Office, coordinate with the national press officer in the Office of Communication. Everyone else, including line officers, should consult with the appropriate public affairs officer for the unit, region, station, area, or institute. You'll find this policy in Forest Service Manual Chapter 1650, Media Relations.

If the opportunity to speak publicly presents itself, be careful to avoid partisan political events. If you are a speaker at an event, ensure it is non-partisan. That doesn't just apply to political candidate events or events on behalf of a political party. It also means any events hosted by a partisan political group.

In summary, no matter the forum, always remember to speak for yourself and not the agency, unless you are authorized to do so.

Former Regional Office Looks Different Today



The west entrance. 3.26.25



The east side entrance/employee entrance with the old smoking area to the right. 3.26.25



The east side entrance or the back door. 3.26.25



The old four story MSHA Building west of the RO was built in 1977 and then renovated in 2008.



Looking east from Simms Street, the Notable Apartments on the left, a playground in the center and the old RO in the distance.

The Notable Apartments - brand new affordable Income restricted apartments.

The onsite retail area at Notable hosts the Lakewood School of Music, complete with a performance hall, practice room and fine art studio, plus, residents that attend the music school can use the onsite recording studio.

<https://notableapts.com/>

Seventy Six Beavers Were Forced To Skydive Into The Idaho Wilderness In 1948

A male beaver named Geronimo, Idaho's parachuting rodents and how the drop saved them.

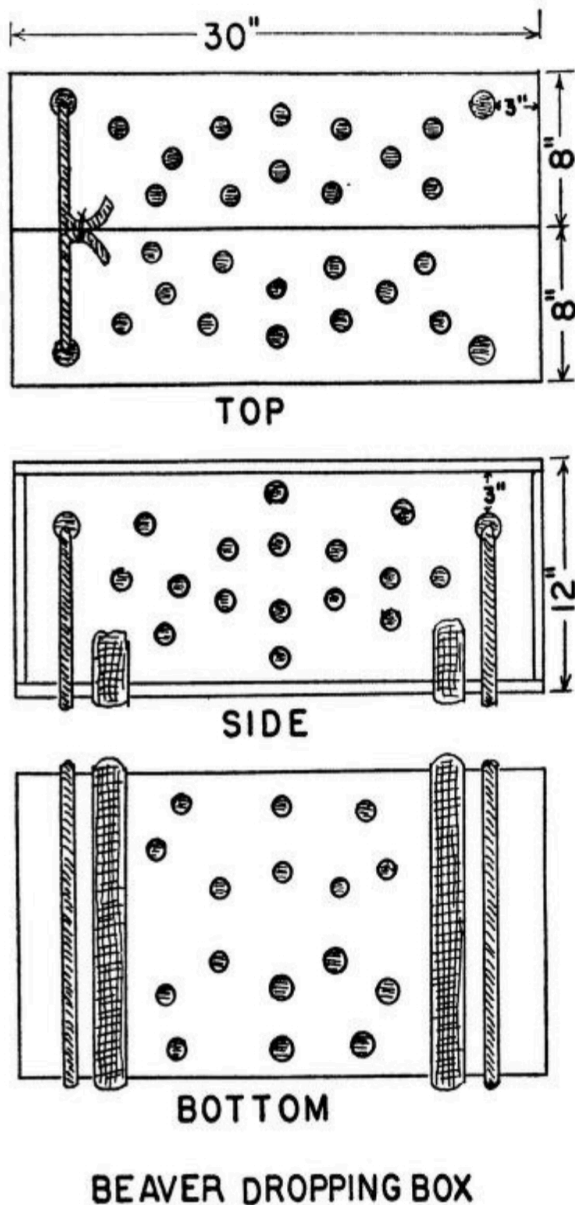


FIG. 1. Diagram of box in which beaver are dropped by parachute.



A beaver dropbox sprung open on landing in Idaho Wilderness.

The beaver drop was a 1948 Idaho Department of Fish and Game program to relocate beavers from Northwestern Idaho to the Chamberlain Basin in Central Idaho. The program involved moving 76 beavers by airplane and parachuting them down to the ground. The program was started to address complaints about property damage from residents.

The beaver drop is remembered as both ingenious and bizarre.[1] In 1949, the operation was deemed successful after officials observed the beavers had made homes in the new areas.[8] Also in 1949, Popular Mechanics magazine published an article about the parachuting beavers, calling the beavers "**Parabeavers.**" Parachuting proved to be more cost-effective, and it had a lower mortality rate than other methods of relocation.

[\[More\]](#)

[\[Wikipedia\]](#)

[Boise NPR](#)

Rocky Mountaineer Publishes First Book



Al Martinez

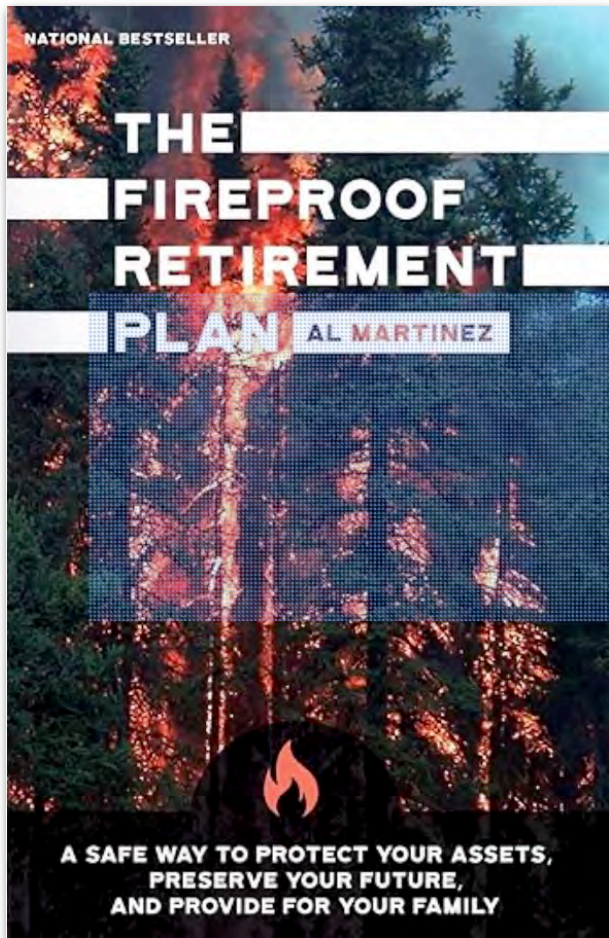
Al Martinez served in the Forest Service for 30 years and retired from the Regional Office in 2005. Born and raised in Colorado, he attended Adams City High School then went on to CSU and graduated with a degree in Forestry. His first job was in Madison, Wisconsin at the Forest Products Laboratory working in the fire lab. From there he was transferred to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest and then on to the Black Hills. From there Al was transferred to the San Juan National Forest, after spending 6 years he transferred to the Regional office.

His time in the Forest Service was definitely a great career. He worked with some of the best folks and had great mentors. Jim Mathers is one of them he can give credit to. He took him under his wing on the Black Hills National Forest and helped him with career decisions. Another key mentor he had was Don Heiser on the "Gee Mug," who also helped him with personal and career decisions.

While he was still active with the Forest Service, his father passed away leaving his mother trying to figure out her retirement. He helped her with her finances and got her set up with a sound financial retirement plan. He continued helping others part time while still being active in forestry and fire. Once he retired in 2005 he expanded his retirement planning services into a full time business.

He loves to spend time traveling all over the world. He has gone to Africa, hiked Mount Kilimanjaro, Costa Rico, Brazil and Alaska to do lots of fishing. He tries to stay active and since the weather is warming up he has done some gravel bike races. Al's an avid classic car enthusiast. He has a '66 Chevy SS, 42 Dodge carry-all, and his dad's original '59 Ford pickup (currently being restored). He is the proud father of three daughters and enjoys rafting, hiking, biking, and fishing in the great state of Colorado. He lives in Loveland just a few blocks from his ninety seven year old mother.

His expertise as a Fire Safety Officer was protecting firefighters through developing and implementing fire safety training and oversight. This same concept of protection has extended into Al's career as an expert in helping people retire with safety and security, providing financial solutions to protect their hard-earned and precious retirement assets.



To order your own copy of this best seller, "The Fireproof Retirement Plan" go to <https://a.co/d/fLqV96R> - Amazon,

Or better yet, drop Al a note and meet him in person to personally shake your hand and give you a copy of his book for free.

Al Martinez - 303.478.3358

email - al@americasfsg.com

Or visit my website at - www.americasfsg.com

Author Al Martinez's book is an essential guide and valuable resource to retire with ease. Drawing on his experience, he offers insightful approaches and strategies that will lead to a productive retirement.

- Michael D.

More Fire News



Canadair CL-415 water bomber - Italian Civil Protection Department. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

According to online publication **Science Alert** in their January edition, a lack of fresh water to drop on California fires led the Canadian Super scoopers to skim hundreds of gallons of seawater and dump it on the flames.

“Using seawater to fight fires can sound like a simple solution – the Pacific Ocean has a seemingly endless supply of water. In emergencies like Southern California is facing, it's often the only quick solution, though the operation can be risky amid ocean swells.

But seawater also has downsides.

Saltwater corrodes firefighting equipment and may harm ecosystems, especially those like the chaparral shrub lands around Los Angeles that aren't normally exposed to seawater. Gardeners know that small amounts of salt – added, say, as fertilizer – does not harm plants, but excessive salts can stress and kill plants.

While the consequences of adding seawater to ecosystems are not yet well understood, we can gain insights on what to expect by considering the effects of sea-level rise.”

[\[More\]](#)



In partnership with the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network and others, the University of Montana Wilderness Institute was proud to co-host an in-person screening of the new documentary directed by Sean O'Brien and Antonio Torres, **The Fire Problem**. This thought-provoking film delves into the origins of the increasing wildfire challenges and highlights what many experts believe to be a clear and achievable solution.

The mission of the The Wilderness Institute is to further the understanding of wilderness and wild lands stewardship through education, research and service.

Housed within the University of Montana's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the Wilderness Institute provides students, agencies, and the general public with information, educational programs and resources, and technical tools to understand public lands conservation, land stewardship, protected areas management, and the social and ecological values of wilderness. <https://www.umt.edu/wilderness-institute/>

To see the film click on the link below.

<https://www.umt.edu/wilderness-institute/outreach/fire-problem-event.php>

Rocky Mountain Region Historical Photos

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usforestservice/albums/>



1921 0420-FS-Pike-XX-152253

Helen Dowe, lookout at Devil's Head, painting a relief map of the San Isabel National Forest, size 9x15 feet, for use in the lounge room of the leading hotels in Pueblo, Colorado.



1907 0724-FS-San Isabel-HAB-71225.

Candidate for ranger examination. William Galpin packing a horse. Fair grounds, Leadville. San Isabel National Forest, Colorado. (Forest Service photo by H. A. Bliler)



1912 XXXX-FS-San Juan-EWS-12306

Spreading the diamond, the final pull. San Juan National Forest, Colorado. (Forest Service photo by E. W. Shaw)



1904 0509-FS-Nebraska-CAS-53742

Showing manner of taking trees to the field on a pack horse. One horse carries 4,000 trees at one time. - Nebraska Forest Reserve. (Forest Service photo by (C. A. Scott)

Retiree Sightings



PSICC Retirees met for lunch in Pueblo on Tuesday, April 29th.

Pictured are (front) Lori Haug, (left to right) Bill Nelson, Larry Klock, Cheryl Klock, Darlene Mattson, Rick Ellsworth, Jan Myers, Ron Myers, Al Pearson, Gail Tamerler, Karl Tamerler,

(not pictured) Brent Botts



A small group of Forest Service retirees attended the **Rally for Public Lands** on the steps of the Capitol in Denver on May 17th to hear speakers and stand up for public lands. Not pictured... Dave Steinke, Andrew Kratz, Lynn Larsen, Ed Ryberg, Diane Hitchings, Ken Tu, Tom McClure, and maybe a few others who we didn't see.

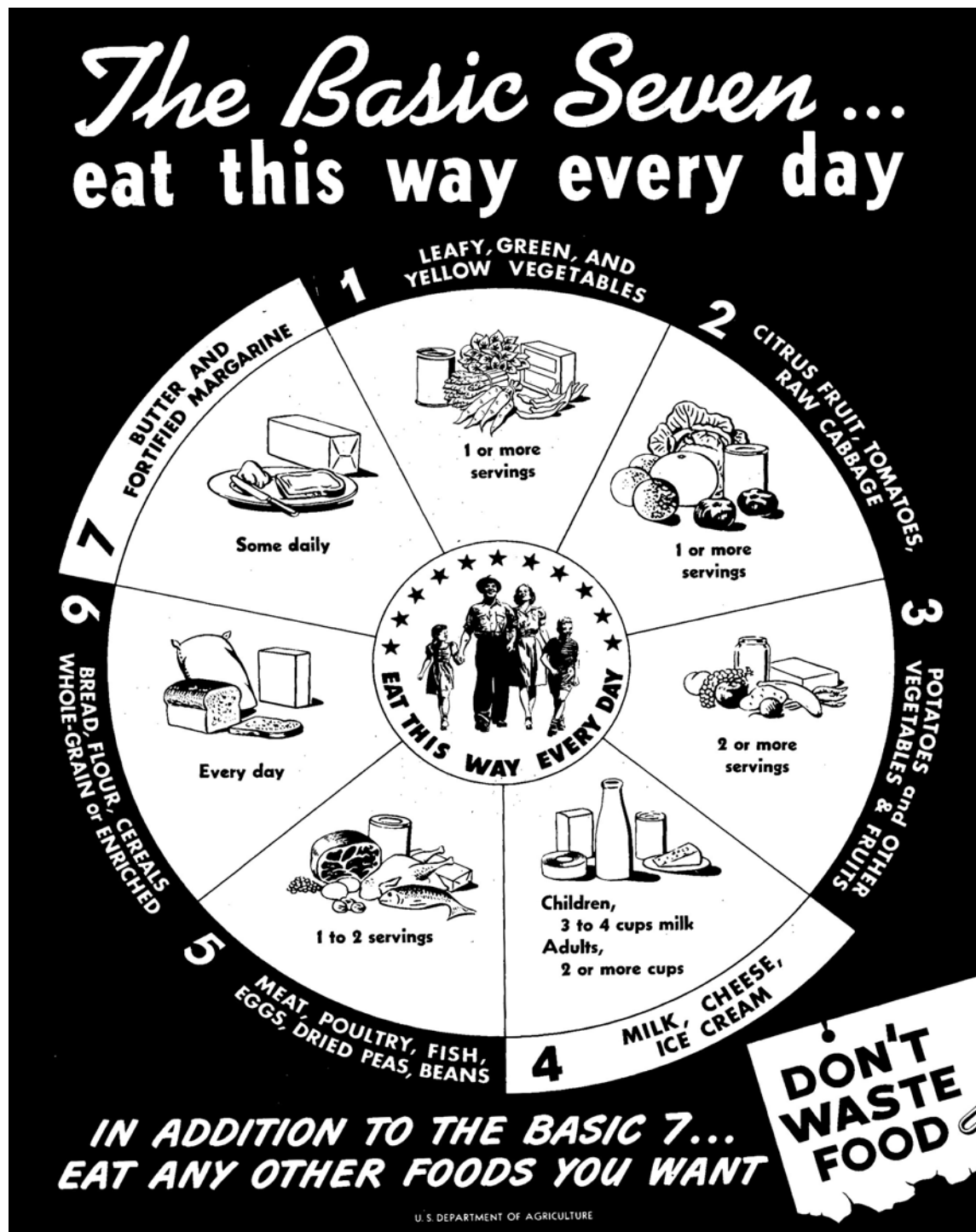


Photo by James Petterson, Mountain West Region at Trust for Public Land.



Lynne Larsen rode to the rally with a great sign to share.

Eat Like It's 1947



During World War II, the USDA helped Americans adjust to food shortages. To make sure nobody became nutrient deficient from rationing, the agency implemented "The Basic Seven," a food chart intended to help maintain good nutrition on a national level. Oddly, the chart separated vegetables into multiple categories: green and yellow, a category consisting just of oranges, tomatoes and grapefruit, and "other."

Memorial Grove Workday

April 24, 2025



The Memorial Grove sign, interpretive panel and entrance is always a pretty sight.

If it's been awhile since you last got the opportunity to swing a Pulaski, we recommend you make it a point to come to Monument, Colorado for the next Memorial Grove Work Day. It's about 15-20 retirees and the same number of Pikes Peak Range District employees who come together to get the site ready for the annual ceremony that happens the first Saturday in May.



Pilot holes are drilled so the rivets fit during the placement of the plaques.



There are a lot of weeds than need to be pulled.



The old district tree spade makes quick work of getting the ceremonial tree.



All the previous trees get fresh mulch and extra for the new tree to be planted.

Lots of work needed to be done per usual. Weeding in the gravel areas, mulch applied to the trees, some repairs to the drip irrigation system, and railing replacement along the trail around and through the grove trail.

General cleanup and inspection and great conversation with district employees finishing up at a local Monument Diner for lunch and camaraderie. Join us next year!



Tom Thompson and Frank Beum helped out.

(Continued from page 28)

Memorial Grove 2025



If you arrive early you can study a big poster board of all the honorees for the year along with a short biography.



You can get a closeup view of the bell honoring Larry Simmons, Lloyd Newland, Sid Hanks and Jeff Hovermale.



You'll be greeted by the Pikes Peak Ranger District employees who work long hours on a weekend to make this happen.



Pike and San Isabel and Comanche and Cimarron NG Forest Supervisor Ryan Nehl welcomed the nearly 200 people to the ceremony on a perfect day in May.



Jane Leche, retired Forest Service minstrel, lead us in **America the Beautiful** and a host of others songs throughout the ceremony.



Scott Beach played bagpipes during the ceremony and closed with Taps.



The Air Academy High School ROTC honor guard presented the colors beautifully to get the program started right on time.

(Continued from page 29)



The law enforcement community showed up to honor one of their members who recently passed away.



Any great Forest Service event wouldn't be complete with food and homemade goodies followed by reminiscing and great conversation.



The indefatigable Tom Thompson read the names of the honorees.



Jake Ellsworth from the District and Rick Ellsworth, retiree helped family members plant and water the new tree.



*Put it in your calendars right now! **Saturday May 2nd, 2026.** See you there.*



Remembrances



Karen Bergethon

Karen Bergethon, formerly of Pueblo, CO, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 7, 2025. Karen was born on April 10, 1946, in Wheaton, Kansas. After 32 years with the U.S. Forest service, Karen retired.

Karen was wrangling retirees on the PSICC before the Rocky Mountaineers were even created. She organized luncheons for years with some of the most hilarious invitations you will ever see. Karen joined the Rocky Mountaineers in 2019. She was elected to become chair of RM in 2025. There is no one that knew more about

Smokey Bear than Karen. Go back and read her story about Smokey's 75th birthday in the 2019 Winter edition of The Rendezvous. The Denver Broncos will never have another fan like Karen. Even after moving to Grand Junction, she and Rik would make the trip to Denver for their home games. And who can forget seeing them at the 50th Super Bowl when a tv camera caught them in the crowd.

She is survived by her husband, Erik "Rik;" son, Kriss (Susan) Bergethon; grandchildren, Soren and Rowan Bergethon; her brother, James Stapleton of Cody, WY; cousins, Maryann (Robert) Humphries of Topeka, KS and Jane (Douglas) Rodgers of Annapolis, MD; plus, numerous nieces and cousins.



Don I. Campbell

Don Campbell, 88, of Grand Junction, CO passed peacefully on January 18, 2025. Don attended and graduated from Colorado State University with a Forestry degree in 1959. Upon graduation he accepted a job with the U.S.

Forest Service. He worked for the Forest Service for 33 years at various locations throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Don was District Ranger when the Boulder and Estes Park Districts of the Roosevelt National Forest were combined in the early 1970's. Don's final assignment for the USFS was out of the Lakewood, CO office. He retired from the Forest

Service in 1992 and shortly thereafter, he and his wife, Carol, moved to Grand Junction, CO. Don and Carol extensively traveled the Southwest in retirement. Don developed a love for cactus and succulents and became a sought after expert on this subject matter. He founded the Chinle Cacti & Succulent Society in Grand Junction, and he designed the widely acclaimed outdoor cactus and succulent garden at the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Tri-River Area at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction. Don became known as Don "Cactus Man" Campbell and he left a lasting legacy for all who knew him. There will be no memorial services. Survivors include Mike Seuell (nephew) of Grand Junction and Cheri Ady (niece) of Bradenton, FL.



Philip Norman (Phil) Geenen

Phil Geenen, 79, of Custer, SD passed away March 21, 2025 at his residence in Custer, SD with his family by his side. Phil was born in October 1945, in Chicago, IL, to George and Frances (Wnukowski) Geenen.

He graduated from Fenger High School in 1963 and attended Chicago State University on the southeast side of Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree in college for Biology and Education.

Phil met the love of his life at an A&W Root Beer stand in Blue Island, IL. He pulled up in his 1964 GTO and a 57-year romance began.

Phil was drafted into the United States Army, July 1967. Before leaving, to go to Vietnam, Mary Ann and Phil were married on July 26th, 1967. When Phil started Basic Training, a pregnant Mary Ann, loaded up the GTO and drove to San Antonio, TX to be by his side until he left for Vietnam. He was an Army Medical Corpsman. Phil never mentioned much about his experiences while there, but his family is so grateful he returned safely. He was Honorably Discharged April 1969.

Phil went to college on the GI bill and started helping his dad, George, with his floor sanding business, Monarch Floor Sanding. Once he got his degree he started teaching Biology, Driver's Ed and coached at Brother Rice High School.

A vacation to the Black Hills of South Dakota changed their city life forever. Phil and Mary Ann decided to pack up their two daughters, Ellie and Carrie, a dog and two cats and moved to Custer, August 1978.

Phil's first job in SD was working for Job Service of South Dakota, helping other people find jobs. He then moved onto working for Burlington Railroad fixing tracks between Hot Springs and Edgemont.

He then applied for and was hired by Custer County Sheriff's Office in 1981. He found his new passion, was darn good at it and was considered a Gentle Giant. He enjoyed busting parties, interacting with the tourists and loved protecting the people of Custer County. In 1986 he decided to run for Sheriff. After losing the election by six votes he decided to move on. He then worked for Outlaw Ranch, Box Elder Police Department and then got his foot in the door with the Federal Government when he was hired to work at Nemo Job Corps where he worked for about a year before being hired into the Forest Service Law Enforcement. Phil made drug busts on the forest, solved major crime cases and took a class on Wildland Fire and found his calling. He solved the Jasper fire the day it started and other fires in the Black Hills and surrounding areas. Phil retired in March 2009.

Upon his retirement Phil and Mary Ann planned on traveling but her health was in decline by then. They did make weekly trips up to Deadwood where he would watch Mary Ann add to their retirement fund while he would be losing it.

Phil was very active with the Jaycees, was on the Custer Volunteer Ambulance Service, sold Shaklee products, had a satellite business with Joe Steichen and sanded the floors in the visitor's center of Crazy Horse. In his later years he was instrumental when Operation Black Hills Cabin was getting started, still investigated fires when needed and took care of his wife until the day she died in February 2022.

After Mary Ann passed, he bought a 1974 Bricklin, which was in very bad condition. He then found and purchased a 1966 GTO, that needed some work and a new paint job. Once he and his son-in-law, Jeff McGraw, got it running and had a Black Cherry paint job done on it, Phil could be seen driving up and down Main St and back and forth to Deadwood. He did enter the GTO in the Gold Discovery Days 2024 Car Show, where he was placed "In the Circle."

(Continued from page 32)



(More) Philip Norman (Phil) Geenen

In October of 2023, Phil and his grandson, Quintin Gilg, were on the Mission 17 flight of Midwest Honor Flight to Washington DC. Phil was so excited to be a part of this great organization and talked about the trip till he passed.

Phil loved fishing in the beautiful lakes the Black Hills has to offer. He mainly caught trout up at Sylvan Lake where he loved having a young passerby reel in his catch.

Phil is survived by his daughters, Ellie (Jeff) McGraw of Custer, Carrie (Wes) Wood of Belle Fourche, grandsons Corbin Bowker of Rapid City, SD, Zach Douglas of Brookings, SD, Quintin Gilg of Chadron, NE, and granddaughter, Elise Wood of Belle Fourche, SD, brother Jerry Geenen (Sharon) of IN and their family, brother-in-law Roger Weber of Custer, sister-in-laws Joellen Toth and Mindy Weber of Custer and his little dog, Mork.



Greg Alan Glasgow

Greg Glasgow passed away on Jan 3, 2025. Greg was born on March 19, 1950, to Glen I. Glasgow and Mary M. Glasgow in Hayden, Colorado. Greg graduated from Meeker High School in 1968. He furthered his education at Mesa State College in Grand Junction for two

years. He then transferred to Utah State University in Logan, Utah. He graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Natural Resources with a major in game management and a minor in biology.

Greg returned to Meeker and spent his early adulthood working for his father in the construction business. He played a large part in building many homes in the area. During this time, he was also able to fulfill lifelong dreams of successful hunts in Alaska with dear friends.

Greg then went to work for the Forest Service, where he enjoyed many years being the fisheries biologist. Greg was instrumental in starting the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation chapter in Meeker, along with other avid hunters. Greg enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling, and watching wildlife.

Greg passed away in Grand Junction at the wonderful HopeWest facility. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. As per Greg's wishes, there will be no services.

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Jennifer Leah (Stadler-Hoffman) Lee

On January 22, 2025, **Jennifer Lee**, 72, died at home, peacefully in her sleep, when her heart stopped. Quite simply, her heart was broken after the loss of her husband, Jim Lee, and then her mother, followed by a wretched virus that

pushed her heart to the very limit.

Jennifer was born November 19, 1952, in Mitchell, SD to a Kimball farm/ranch couple, Donald Stadler and Irma (Hawn) Stadler, the 4th of 12 children.

She loved her childhood years living on the farm with her siblings, going to country school and then high school in Kimball. After high school, Jennifer moved to Vermillion where she met and married Jeff Hoffman, with whom she had 2 children. They moved to Spearfish in 1979.

Jennifer raised her daughters as a single parent, first working at Pope and Talbot Sawmill. Then, she worked as a daycare provider so she could be home with her girls. She went on to get her associate's degree from BHSU, and then put that degree to work at the Forest Service, all while teaching her teenage daughters how to be strong and independent. She worked as a payroll clerk and a front desk receptionist on the Spearfish Ranger District on the Black Hills N. F.

She met the love of her life, Jim Lee, in 1997. After they retired, they spent 7 years adventuring on a Catamaran sailboat and in a RV, including one year in Ireland on the boat. They returned to Spearfish in 2008 to be with their children and grandchildren.

Jennifer spent many of her retired years as a caregiver for friends and family. In 2017, she took on a new adventure and purchased the Secret Garden Bed and Breakfast with her daughters and their younger stepsister.

Jennifer's hobbies were gardening, raising hens, reading, camping and spending time with her grandchildren. Jennifer had a gift for making something out of nothing, such as building her girls' bunkbeds out of scrap wood from the sawmill, or a window seat to keep an eye on her chickens; making ice cream out of snow or sculpting a snowman so creative it made front page news. Her special talents included enthralling her grandchildren with spontaneous stories and fantasies, creating treasure hunts for young and old, and writing songs and poems for loved ones. Jennifer was often called a "punny girl" - she was very entertaining with her quick wit, and her puns never disappointed as they drew both laughter and groans.

Jennifer (Granny) is remembered with love by her daughters, Lynette (Stacey) Thorstenson, Sioux Falls, Samantha (Randy) Finkbeiner, Spearfish, Sonya (Chris) Donovan, Spearfish, step-daughters, Shannon Rochel, Gallatin, MT, Tristin Lee, Laramie, WY, Stephanie (Rik) Bartels, Belle Fourche, and her grandchildren, Jenna Thorstenson, Kyra Thorstenson, Lydia Donovan, John Finkbeiner, and Vivian Donovan, her brothers and sisters Vicki Silvis, Donna (Steve) McCullough, David (Kris) Stadler, John (Jo Ellen) Stadler, Judith (David) Munger, Patricia (Dennis) Arnold, Pamela Sharping (Arch), Roberta (Kurt) Thomas, Robert (Theresa) Stadler, Donald (Eryn) Stadler, and Teresa (Chad) Olson as well as many, many, many, many, many nieces and nephews.

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Dennis Paul House

Denny House graduated from Cadillac High School and went on to graduate from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. On November 12, 1964 in Traverse City, Michigan he married Lynn A.

Rennie, the love of his life. Together they raised two daughters. After college Denny went to work as an engineer for the United States Forest Service, retiring after 25+ years. During his time with the Forest Service the family had the opportunity to move to several beautiful places, including Colorado, California and South Dakota. While in Belle Fourche SD, Denny and Lynn started Fast Break Sports, which is still in operation today. After retirement Denny started a successful third career in insurance, opening his own agency in Prescott, AZ,

with his business partner Bill Chilson. When retiring from insurance, Denny and Lynn eventually made their way back to Northern Michigan.

Denny was a hard working, excellent provider for his family. He was a stand up, honest friend and businessman. Denny loved all sports, especially baseball, softball and golf. He played, coached, was a referee, and umpired for many years. He never passed up the moment to tell a good, or bad joke to anyone whether appropriate or not.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lynn House. Daughters; Amanda (Bill) Ough of Prescott, Arizona and Carrie House (Blaine Meyer) of Belle Fourche, South Dakota; grandchildren, Taryn Rae of Prescott, AZ, Parker (Leah) Coughlin, Elizabeth Meyer of Spearfish, SD and James Meyer Rapid City, SD.



Jason Austin McGaughey (Grizz)

Jason McGaughey (fondly known as Grizz) lost his four year battle with cancer. His parents, Clarence "Mac" and Wanda McGaughey, as well as his siblings Clarissa, Valerie and Damon are proud of his accomplishments as a Forester, volunteer with Boys

& Girls Clubs, 4-H Conservation, and numerous articles written on the environment.

He bravely battled this disease and maintained working until the last year. His love for family, friends, and his work in God's creation has always been first in his heart. All those who know him will truly miss him and have been blessed by him. God has given us many years with him. He now rests in God's loving arms. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

The Last Word

The Spirit of Pinchot

By Tom L. Thompson

Gifford Pinchot was only Chief Forester of the U. S. Forest Service for five years, but those were the formative years of the agency. Most chiefs over the 120-year history of the outfit served longer than that. Yet Pinchot's singular influence and guiding spirit have continued to be the foundation that has kept the organization focused on the idea of conservation so successfully for so many years. The principles, challenges, complexities, science, and the public have changed dramatically, but the ideas of serving the public, ensuring land and resources are available for future generations, using science-based management, and having a strong field force close to the ground have survived for all these years.

The enduring spirit that so many of us embraced throughout our lives and careers is indeed as simple as a commitment to the use of the public's lands for the greater good of society in the long run. Key throughout the years has been listening to and understanding the public, their wants, their concerns, and their needs. Though difficult at times, being connected to and understanding what "the greatest good" is over the years is central to fulfilling the Forest Service's most central role as an organization.



Every year in early May we honor folks who have passed away in the previous year here in the Rocky Mountain Region. This year we had over a hundred and twenty-five members of honoree families come to remember the person that connected them to the Forest Service. The stories that are shared and the respect that was shown to those who devoted their lives to the Forest Service during this special day are amazing. The common threads that weave these stories together are words like pride, dedication, commitment, professionalism, purpose, and being a part of an organization that "Cared for Land and Served the People."

Indeed, to me, I feel that the thing that most people share is that belonging to the Forest Service became part of each person's proud accomplishments in life. Though not spoken to directly, as each family member spoke of their loved one's time with the Forest Service, they were in a way confirming how important and fulfilling it was for the honoree to be a part of this

special agency and feel the spirit of Pinchot.



With all that is happening within government and the Forest Service today, we can only hope that the spirit endures through these tough times on to the next generation.