

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Cascade Lookout

FREE!

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Cascade Lookout

A Publication of the U.S. Forest Service — 2005

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

A Note from the Forest Supervisor



JAMES L. BOYNTON

With this edition of the Cascade Lookout, I'd like to touch on two topics that are currently affecting the Forest Service, and especially the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

In 1905, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Forestry became known as the Forest Service, and this year the Forest Service celebrates its 100-year anniversary! (See pages 12 and 13 for more information).

This anniversary gives us the opportunity to focus both on our rich history in land stewardship and on our next century of public service. In conjunction with this, the Forest Service is introducing a 5-year effort called New Century of Service. The objective of the New Century of Service will be to reflect on the future of the Forest Service while honoring the past.

Through New Century of Service activities we will share excellence in our work, programs, and ideas, and celebrate 100 years of caring for the land and serving people.

This program will give us the opportunity to take pride in what we do, to look at ways of doing things differently, and to take stock of how well we are serving the public.

The second topic I'd like to address is the Administrative Services reorganization and transition process that is currently going on throughout the Forest Service. As part of the Forest Service's Financial Improvement Project, the agency will be

moving many of its Budget and Finance positions to a centralized facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Much of the human resources personnel activity will also shift to Albuquerque within the next two years. This process will have an impact on all Forest Service employees and even the communities in which they live. More than 300 positions will be relocated between now and October 2005. Employees who are directly affected by these reorganization plans will have to relocate to Albuquerque, obtain other positions, or leave the Forest Service.

Information Resources, which includes computer technology and two-way radio communications, has also gone through a reorganization process. These services are now provided by a smaller centralized organization with employees located across the nation.

One of the goals of this reorganization process is to free up budget dollars currently being spent on administration for use in land management. We don't anticipate any growth in our budgets in the foreseeable future, so the only way to get more money for work on the ground is to redirect it from other areas.

These changes have not been easy, but it is necessary if we are going to have the funding in place to provide solid services for a new century of caring for the land and serving people. Thank you for your patience and support while we make this transition. ■

James L. Boynton
Forest Supervisor

Public Invited to Collaborate in Forest Plan Revision

RICK ACOSTA
FOREST PLAN REVISION
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

New rules which govern revision of Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for each national forest are being implemented on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, and on the Colville National Forest. One of the main features of the new planning rules is a requirement that the Forest Service work more closely with people interested in national forest management. "The new planning rules allow people to help us design and develop Forest Plans rather than react to a set of alternatives developed only by the Forest Service as was previously the case," said Jim Boynton, Forest Supervisor of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

Forest Plans define how the Forest Service manages the national forests. Each national forest has its own Forest Plan which establishes the desired condition for the land and resources, and sets broad, general, management direction. According to law, each national forest must update and revise its Forest Plan every 10 to 15 years. The Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Colville National Forests' Plans were last completed in 1989, 1990, and 1988 respectively.

The new planning rules increase public involvement in all phases of Forest Plan development from beginning to end, and during development of the new required Environmental Management System. The public will also be able to work with the Forest Service as it monitors effectiveness of Forest Plans as forest conditions change, and be able to help develop evaluation reports now required every 5 years.

Besides a collaborative public involvement process, the new planning rules emphasize consideration and integration of social, economic, and ecological sustainability. Current science must also be considered as Forest Plans are revised. The Forest Service also gains increased capability to respond more rapidly to changing conditions such as wildfires, new available science, and emerging threats such as invasive species.

"As we collaborate with interested people, we're going to focus on bringing people with divergent viewpoints together. We're looking to develop a Forest Plan that sustains economic, social, and ecological conditions that are beneficial to both people and the land," Boynton added.

For more information or to find out how to collaborate with the Forest Service as it revises its Forest Plans, please call or write us at the addresses below or visit our website at:

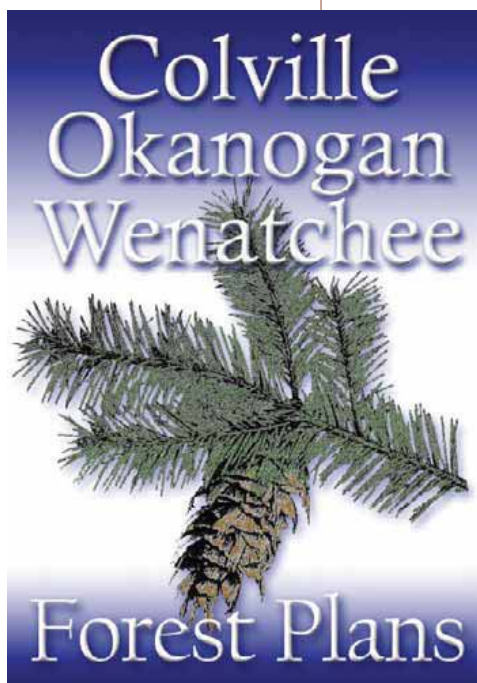
www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/cow

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Forest News & Information

When the Wenatchee and Okanogan Forests were formed in 1908, the W.W. Burgess family had already been logging near Plain and Lake Wenatchee for 14 years.

Today, that tradition continues with Burgess Logging of Plain, a small family owned company that occasionally purchases national timber sales and also sub-contracts to do logging for larger forest products companies.

For many years the logging took place on private land, including railroad-owned lands in upper Chelan County. Then, some timber cutting began on the national forest in the 1930's, and expanded in later decades. At first, much of the wood was milled into boards to make apple boxes in support of a rapidly expanding orchard industry. After World War II, the national forests helped supply lumber for a booming housing market.

Since 1995, the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests have implemented a 'Dry Forest Strategy' which utilizes logging to thin dense fire-prone forests in mid and lower elevation areas near rural homes and communities.

The strategy leaves widely-spaced larger ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and larch, while removing smaller trees and grand fir which are vulnerable to fire.

"It takes a lot of skill to cut and remove trees while protecting the big trees that are left behind," said Susan Rinke, Forest Service timber sale officer, who ensures that loggers follow the provisions of the contract that guides a logging operation.

"The Burgess family takes a lot of pride in what they do," she added. "You can even see it on the private forest land they own."

The family is into its sixth generation since W.W. moved to Plain after his injury in a sawmill accident in western Washington. Every generation has had a "William," right down to 3-week old W.S. (Will).

So what keeps a Burgess coming back to tough, dangerous work in steep terrain with unpredict-

able weather and voracious biting insects? "I guess I haven't gotten smart enough to get away from it," chuckles 81-year-old W.T., who is grandson of W.W. "You've got to make a living."

Beyond the chainsaw felling and limbing of trees, woods work also requires the attachment of heavy steel cables to logs, the operation of heavy equipment like "yarders" that pull the logs to the forest road and "loaders" that put them on trucks headed to a mill.

Logging Family is Older than the Forest



W.O. (Bill) Burgess driving horses, and George Shugart atop a load of logs, near Plain, Washington, in 1921.

"It's in the blood, I guess," says W.P. (Billy), taking a short break from work on the Ridgetop Timber Sale on Pole Ridge near Lake Wenatchee. At 24, he represents the youngest generation working in the woods.

He started woods work in summer months between football and basketball camps and started working full time at age 20.

Dry Forest Strategy thinning and prescribed burning is meant to head off devastating wildfires like those that have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres in central Washington forests since 1970. "Without loggers, it couldn't be done" Rinke said.

"With the six of us working up here, it's like a family," Billy added. "It's not like working in a city. Snow or not, in the morning we're out here at 6 a.m. working." ■



Four generations—Lyndy Burgess, W.T. (Bill) Burgess, W.P. (Billy) Burgess, baby W.S. (Will) Burgess, Emelia Burgess, Brandon Burgess, and Jeff Burgess, all members of a Plain area logging family with a long history.

During the months of July and August, the Wenatchee River Ranger District, Washington State Parks, and Northwest Interpretive Association present a series of popular interpretive programs at Lake Wenatchee State Park.

On Saturday mornings at 11 a.m., Smokey brings his friends and their fire engines to teach about fire prevention and campfire safety. Everyone gets a chance to be a firefighter, gets hugs from Smokey Bear, and takes home a special Smokey Bear souvenir.

Campfire programs are presented each Saturday evening at the Lake Wenatchee State Park outdoor amphitheater. Programs include cultural dance, music, storytelling, natural and cultural history programs, and even a celebration of Smokey Bear's birthday. Since the entertainers change each year, call us at (509) 763-3103 for this year's line up.

All programs last about an hour and admission is a \$1.00 per person suggested donation. Washington State Parks waives the \$5.00 day-use parking fee for visitors parked while attending these programs.

Directions: From Highway 2, drive 3½ miles north on Highway 207. Turn left on Cedar Brae Road and follow to the South Lake Wenatchee State Park. The amphitheater is on the right. ■

Lake Wenatchee Interpretive Programs



Forest Service Lookouts, Fact versus Myth

By MIKE HILER
SPECIAL USES AND RESOURCES



The last surviving lookout on the Naches, "Jumpoff," located at the west end of Jumpoff Ridge at 5,745 feet in elevation. 2004 photo of Jumpoff Lookout by James Black, FS Volunteer.

Few Forest Service symbols evoke more mystique than the lonely fire lookout station and the men and women who worked there. Though most of the old fire watch stations have vanished from the Northwest landscape, they remain a universal symbol of Forest Service history when pack strings, crank telephones, and crosscut saws were as common as computers and shiny SUV's are today.

Much of the mythology of the old lookouts is simply the way we choose to remember those times and not necessarily the way it really was. I worked on a lookout from 1969 to 1973 and what I remember is very different from the stories of lookouts spending long, leisurely days reading books in remote and often lonely stations.

In fact, my days at Jumpoff Lookout on the Naches Ranger District seemed quite the opposite. My log book showed regular visits from hunters and hikers and the occasional cowboy who I plied with endless cups of coffee while listening

to concerns and ideas, which I dutifully passed on to my supervisor.

A typical day on the lookout included monitoring the radio 12 hours a day and logging calls. Sometimes this was a challenge. In the solitude of a lookout station, the outhouse should have been no problem but likely as not, if I tried to dash the 25 yards to the half moon, I would be interrupted by an urgent radio call, an unexpected visitor, or my boss calling on the crank phone.

Each day I recorded and called in several weather readings, practiced fire finder skills, reported unusual cloud formation or changes in wind, and prepared three meals a day. Any spare moments were spent in learning the names and locations of local peaks and valleys, ridges and lakes. It was also necessary to keep the cramped living quarters neat and to keep all those windows clean so I could keep an eye on a half million acres where smoke could pop up at any time, day or night. Other duties included garbage patrol, packing out bags of litter, maintaining my single wire phone line, and keeping track of the brands on the local cattle in case of trespass. Since I was supplied with only one milk can of water a week for washing, I carried water every day from a spring. Of course springs are always downhill from lookout stations, making water hauling a chore.

Many August days turned into 24-hour marathons where an afternoon thunderclap would extend into a midnight lightning storm. I learned to balance a quick nap with other duties during those times. Sometimes my work actually included firefighting duties when lightning struck within hiking distance of the lookout. In those days (1969), the fire guard was assigned a fire pack, including a crosscut saw, and was expected to keep his axe sharp.

To be truthful, even though life on the lookout was certainly full, there was still time to simply enjoy the view. After all, I was there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I do fondly remember the clear crisp air, unequaled sunrises and sunsets, the anticipation of an approaching storm, the wind picking up in the afternoon, and huge cumulus clouds that seemed to boil in from outer space. In between storms there were long, slow afternoons when life seemed to stand still.

However, in 1974, when a wilderness ranger job opened up on the Teton District in the Cougar Lakes backcountry, I jumped at the job. I figured hiking with a 55 pound pack over steep mountainous country for days at a time just sounded a whole lot easier...and it was. ■

Campground Trees Take a Beating

JIM HADFIELD
PATHOLOGIST



During my career as a pathologist with the Forest Service I have evaluated tens of thousands of trees in campgrounds throughout Washington and Oregon for hazard potential. I have found that most trees that had to be removed because they were unsafe were infected by decay, fungi, or wood boring insects that gained entrance into the trees through camper-inflicted wounds. I've also observed that trees closest to fire pits are the ones most likely to be wounded by campers, and are in the poorest condition. Many campsites are made unattractive, unsafe, and even no longer useable because the trees were so severely wounded.

The bark of a tree is the most important defense against attack by many disease-causing organisms and insects. Most tree disease-causing organisms and insects cannot penetrate the layer of bark that envelops and protects the underlying vulnerable wood. Tree bark is equivalent to human skin in protecting against infection. Wounds that expose wood are likely to reduce the life spans of trees. Severe wounds that remove bark all the way around the stem cause trees to die very quickly. Tree wounds attract

insects that tunnel in wood. Many tree wounds become infected by fungi that decay and kill the

tree. Once a tree is attacked, its structural integrity is weakened.

Campground trees are subject to many more abuses and injuries than trees in the undeveloped forest. Campground visitors inflict an amazing assortment of injury and damage to trees, either intentionally or accidentally. Parking or driving vehicles too close to trees causes the soil to become compacted, preventing water and nutrients from reaching the roots. Tree trunks and limbs are injured by vehicles driving too near a tree. Other accidental damage occurs when fuel burning lanterns are hung against the tree, or wires, ropes, and cords are wrapped around the trunks and not removed. Unfortunately, more damage is caused intentionally as people chop the trees with axes and hatchets, carve them with knives, pound nails and spikes in their bark, shoot at them, or build campfires around their bases. Deliberately wounding trees is a criminal act that can result in fines.

Wounded and unhealthy trees pose risks to campers, campground workers, and property because they are more likely to break than trees without decay. Each year the Forest Service checks the condition of trees in campgrounds and removes the hazard trees. Occasionally campgrounds are temporary closed when numerous trees need to be removed.

Trees in campgrounds provide shade, beauty, screening, a buffer for loud noises, and habitat for many species of animals, especially small birds. It can take 50 to 100 or more years for a tree to mature. It only takes a few seconds of careless or thoughtless abuse to shorten, and possibly end their lives. ■

Towns and counties throughout north central Washington State are developing community fire plans to lessen the danger of wildland fires like last summer's Fischer Fire.

That human-caused fire burned for most of the month of August across forest and rangeland in Chelan County, threatened hundreds of rural residences, and charred 16,440 acres before it was finally controlled.

With tinder-dry conditions, and a fourth summer of drought, the blaze was ignited by a motorcyclist without a proper spark arrestor in the hills near Dryden. Despite aggressive initial attack by fire fighters and water-dropping helicopters, the flames raced through grass and brush into the Wenatchee National Forest.

At its peak, 1,800 fire fighting personnel and 11 helicopters were assigned to the Fischer Fire. The State Mobilization Act was invoked on August 10, allowing for the deployment of structural fire fighters and engines from throughout the state to provide protection to hundreds of homes in rural canyons within the fire area.

One home eventually was lost in Ollala Canyon west of Cashmere, two power lines in the area were damaged, leading to power outages, and traffic was halted for a time on State Highway 2.

Community fire planning is being done under provisions of the National Fire Plan. It is a collaborative effort involving local government, local fire departments, and State agencies responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies in the vicinity of the at-risk community. A completed plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities. It assesses risks and identifies needs for project funding and public education.

The key ingredients of fire risk in rural forest and range areas are the dense growth of trees and brush, the presence of homes in fire-prone areas, and unusually dry conditions.

Fire plans consider past fires, terrain, and the amount of burnable fuel on the landscape. They use such information to estimate present and future risk of destructive fires around communities at-risk.

The analysis is the basis for an action plan that identifies steps to be taken to lessen the risks to rural residences. The plan may identify the need for thinning dense groves of trees, pruning of lower branches on remaining trees to keep fire from climbing into the tree tops, fire breaks along roads, and prescribed burning to reduce brush and burnable debris on the ground.

Plans may call for numbering of rural roads and driveways to help emergency response vehicles find their way in emergencies. They may also plot the location of rural residences on fire department maps. Homeowners are encouraged to adopt "Firewise" practices such as roofing homes with fireproof materials and planting fire resistant vegetation in the yard.

Such plans help rural fire districts apply for funds to purchase needed equipment and provide the justification for residents of private forest home tracts to apply for money to thin dense groves of trees on private land.

The planning also gives community residents a process to assess fire danger on surrounding state and federal forestland. If these lands pose a fire risk to nearby residences, the community can identify the need for thinning or prescribed burning.

The fire plan for the community of Havillah, northeast of Tonasket, led directly to a project called Siwash Thin. This is a combination commercial timber sale and non-commercial thinning on a 140-acre national forest area near Burge Mountain southwest of Havillah.

Information on community fire planning is available from each of the seven ranger districts and from the forest headquarters of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. ■

Community Fire Plans Seek to Avoid Fires Like Fischer

PAUL HART
FOREST PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

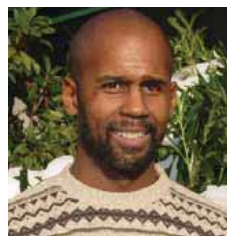


Smoke column from Fischer Fire rises above Leavenworth Ranger Station on August 15, 2004. Photo by Dan O'Connor

Vaughan D. Marable, acting District Ranger on the Hood Canal Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, reported for duty as Wenatchee River District Ranger on March 7, 2005. Marable replaced Glenn Hoffman, who retired last December after 40 years with the Forest Service.

Marable, 43, is an 18-year career employee of the Forest Service with degrees in wildlife management and biology. After earning his degrees from Humboldt State University in California, Marable held a variety of wildlife biologist positions on the Gifford Pinchot and Olympic National Forests in Washington.

Marable describes himself as an outdoors person who enjoys being in the forest, and loves running, cycling, and cross-country skiing. One of his emphasis areas as a ranger will be to work collaboratively with divergent citizen interests. Marable's wife, Ermalinda, is a pre-school teacher. The couple has three children, son Sean, 23, and daughters Savanna, 19, and Nyasha, 15. ■



New Wenatchee River District Ranger

Join us for the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival in Leavenworth, Washington, September 17-18, 2005. This year's theme, "River's Alive," reflects the return of thousands of migrating salmon to their spawning grounds at the confluence of the Icicle and Wenatchee Rivers - a journey of over 500 miles! Families enjoy the authentic Native American Intertribal Village, a variety of entertainment, games, tours of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, fish viewing, storytelling, a giant maze, food, and arts and crafts. The Salmon Festival is hosted by the U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is held at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. Check us out at www.salmonfest.org See you there! ■



The River's Alive! Don't Miss the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival

Your Recreation Fees at Work

JIM ARCHAMBEAULT
RECREATION PLANNER



Photos: Bridge installation on Heather Lake trail

Nearly \$800,000 in fees was collected in Recreation Fees for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests in 2004. The Recreation Fee Demonstration program has provided needed help to recreation facilities, and has helped provide other recreation opportunities by leveraging additional funding. Revenue from fees helps augment regular annual Forest Service appropriations for operation and maintenance, provides a source of cash to match grant applications the Forest makes to other agencies, and helps defray the costs associated with the large number of volunteers that assist the Forest in maintaining facilities.

Last year, over \$250,000 in Northwest Forest Pass receipts were used to leverage almost \$500,000 in grant money to maintain about 1300 miles of trail on the Forests. Numerous volunteers helped in this effort including Washington Trails Association, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Student Conservation Association, Northwest Youth Corps, Wilderness Volunteer Corps, the Washington Outfitters and Guides Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, and the Washington Conservation Corps. About 400 youth were employed or volunteered through these groups.

Fees helped maintain the Nordic ski trails at Echo Ridge, paid for maintenance of the docks at recreation sites on Lake Chelan, provided staffing to run the limited entry permit and reservation system in the Enchantment Basin in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and funded wilderness rangers. Fees also helped to fund campground maintenance and replacement of campground facilities such as fire rings and tables.

As part of the recreation fee program, the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests host five



recreation rental cabins (reserved through the National Recreation Reservation System at: reservecusa.com). Christmas tree permits are also part of the fee program. Permit and rental fees help make these programs available. Ranger Districts are able to offer expanded office hours

and provide staffing in the field during Christmas tree hunting season.

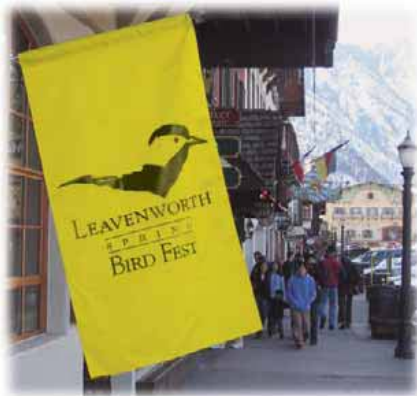
In 2005, visitors will begin to see changes in the Northwest Forest Pass program as a result of the recently enacted Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act. At the time of this printing it was still unclear what the exact changes would be, since Forest Service policy and direction to implement the new law were still being developed. Visitors should ask for a copy of the 2005 Site Guide when purchasing their annual Northwest Forest Pass this year. More information on specific accomplishments can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee ■



Bird Fest Celebrates Songbirds

KAREN HAIRE
BIRD FEST DIRECTOR

GAIL ROBERTS
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TECHNICIAN



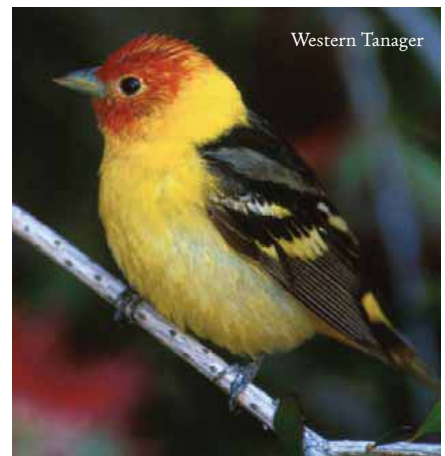
Bird watching is the number one leisure activity in the United States, and both fledgling birders and experts will enjoy the range of events at the annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest. The May event is centered in the stunningly beautiful town of Leavenworth, Washington. It features workshops, field trips, art shows, and other bird-related activities. Most events are free.

In association with International Migratory Bird Day, the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest seeks to teach us all about the conservation and preservation of the birds that nest here every spring. Participants will gain greater understanding of why Neotropical migratory songbirds come to the Wenatchee River watershed for a very important, and brief, part of their year – to breed and fledge their young.

The weekend is filled to the brim with activities from Birding by Boat, to an Owl Prowl, to a Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. Search for warblers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and raptors. Take a tour of the Barn Beach Reserve, saunter through the forests and along shorelines, shop for works by local wildlife artists, and meet birds live and up close that are being rehabilitated from injury. The festival concludes with a Songbird Concert at Canyon Wren Recital Hall.

While visiting Leavenworth, take the opportunity to stroll through the unique shops and boutiques, sample traditional Bavarian cuisine, and enjoy a wonderful wildlife weekend in the heart of the Cascade Mountains. This Mother's Day weekend will become a tradition for every birdwatcher.

Bird Fest is a unique partnership between the North Central Washington Audubon Society, Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forests, the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, North



Western Tanager

Cascades National Park Service Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Icicle Arts, and Barn Beach Reserve, with generous help from the Icicle Fund. For more information, call the Leavenworth Chamber at (509) 548-5807 or fly to our website at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com ■



Birding by boat on Fish Lake



Up in the Sky... it's a Bird... No, it's a Plane!

ROBIN DEMARIO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

During fire season it's not uncommon to see a variety of aircraft flying over national forests, especially after a lightning storm. Air tankers, fixed wing aircraft, and helicopters are critical to fire detection and suppression.

This summer, depending upon budgets, three firefighting helicopters will be working out of the rappel base located at Pangborn Airport in East Wenatchee. One of these helicopters is a national resource and is used throughout the country for large fire support. The second helicopter is a regional resource and will be used predominately in Oregon and Washington. The third helicopter is a forest resource and will be used extensively on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. A total of 27 firefighters and rappellers work from these three aircraft.

A smokejumper jump plane, a Casa 212 fixed-wing aircraft, is stationed at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base in Winthrop, Washington, and delivers smokejumpers to remote locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Twenty-two smokejumpers will be operating out of the base this summer. While it may be easy to spot the smokejumper plane, not many people get the opportunity to see the smokejumpers parachute out of the aircraft. Most of the fires they fight are in the backcountry where they usually jump over very remote terrain with no roads nearby.

During fire season it is not unusual to see large retardant ships at the Moses Lake Air Tanker Base. These aircraft hold up to 3,000 gallons of retardant (a mixture of water, fertilizer, and dye) and travel

throughout the country to fight fires. Depending upon air tanker contract awards, there may be up to eight or more air tankers available on a nationwide basis this summer.

Probably the most frequently seen aircraft is the Air Attack fixed-wing plane. This plane is most commonly used as a spotter plane looking for lightning-caused fires after a lightning storm.

Don't be surprised to see or hear aircraft flying overhead this summer as you recreate on national forest lands. These aircraft are here to help spot fires, deliver firefighters and equipment, and perhaps hundreds of gallons of retardant and water on fires to help extinguish them.

All of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests aviation resources are dependent upon the final budget. ■



Large helicopter drops water on the Fischer Fire

Before the Wenatchee National Forest was established, settlers were living in the Entiat Valley and were earning a living by trapping, growing crops, milling lumber, and raising livestock. Prior to that time, American Indians had made their camps at the mouth of the Entiat River where they fished, and traveled to the nearby Entiat Mountains to hunt.

On February 1, 1905, over 148 million acres of public land became National Forest when President Theodore Roosevelt created the U.S. Forest Service. By 1908, the Wenatchee National Forest had added two new districts - the upper Entiat Ranger District, managed out of Brennigan Creek, and the Lower Entiat Ranger District, managed at Steliko Canyon.

In 1921, the two districts were combined to create the Entiat Ranger District with the office located at the Steliko Ranger Station at the mouth of Steliko Canyon. In 1960, the management of the Entiat Ranger District was moved to the city of Entiat, and the old ranger station site became the Steliko Work Center.

From 1933 through 1941, the Entiat Ranger District was a host to the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) program for eight of its nine years of existence. Four camps were built on the Entiat Ranger District and were located at Brennigan Creek, Muddy Creek, Indian Creek, and Mills Canyon. During their stay on the Entiat Ranger District the Conservation Corps constructed the Mad River Road, Indian Creek Road, and the Mills Canyon Road, along with several trails, buildings and fire lookouts.

The Entiat Ranger District staffed 13 fire lookouts between the early 1930s and 1960s. Lookouts played an important role in the days before radar and aviation were used to detect forest fires. During WWII, many lookouts were also used to watch the sky for enemy aircraft.

The job of fire lookout wasn't easy. Many of the lookouts were located in roadless locations, so supplies, food, and drinking water had to be hiked in or packed in by animals. Lookout buildings were primitive and didn't offer much when it came to comfort. At Cougar Mountain Lookout, the employee had to climb a ladder to the top of the living quarters. There, at the top of the building was a small, exposed observation deck. The people staffing lookouts were on watch 20-hours a day. Once a fire was detected, the lookout would report the fire to the ranger station, and then hike out to suppress it.

Currently, only three lookouts remain in place, Tyee, Sugarloaf, and Steliko. During fire season, Sugarloaf Lookout is still staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Tyee and Steliko Lookouts are staffed only when needed, such as during lightning storms.

Many changes have occurred in the Entiat area since the establishment of the National Forest System. Since the creation of the Wenatchee National Forest and the Entiat Ranger District there have been 22 District Rangers. Karin Whitehall, the current District Ranger has been in place since 1988. ■

Entiat Valley – A Travel Through Time

BY KIMIKO NALLE
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER



Steliko Ranger Station

Methow Valley Ranger District

Hungry Hunter Stewardship Project

DEBORAH KELLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Longview Fiber Company has been awarded the first of several contracts that will come out of the Methow Valley District's Hungry Hunter Stewardship Project. The contract includes commercial and non-commercial thinning to reduce fire hazard, road decommissioning, fencing projects to protect riparian areas, noxious weed control, and other activities to help restore ecosystem health.

Project managers were anxious to move from the planning stage to implementation since this is the first project on the Forests to put the new stewardship contracting authorities to work.

The project area lies within both the Squaw and McFarland Creek drainage. The "HH" contract includes activities within the McFarland Creek drainage. The District plans to advertise the second stewardship contract, "HH2," in the fall of 2005 with activities focused in the Squaw Creek drainage.

Under stewardship contracts the value of timber removed can go directly back to the ground to accomplish other important restoration work under the same contract. Instead of 6 to 10 contracts to accomplish the work, the Hungry Hunter project may be implemented with only 2 or 3 contracts. With this holistic approach, contractors become "stewards" caring for a large area of national forest under Forest Service supervision.

During several trial years, the Forest Service used "stewardship pilots" to explore different ways to implement special contracting authorities.

In 2003, Congress approved the use of these new authorities for a 10-year period.

The HH Contract is a large and fairly complex contract that includes timber harvest activities as well as other work focused on restoring the ecological condition of the project area, improving wildlife habitat, and reducing fire hazards. Over 7 million board feet of timber will be removed by thinning overcrowded stands. Additional work includes thinning and machine fire line construction. Thirty-eight acres of thinning will be accomplished this spring.

The Forest Service will retain the responsibility to do prescribed burning within the project area. Thirty-one acres are planned for prescribed burning this spring. Additional burning will be done in other portions of the project area, however they will require some thinning before fire can be applied.

Due to the size, complexity, and financial requirements of the contract, many smaller local companies may not qualify as prime contractors, but the larger companies are encouraged to utilize those local small businesses to do much of the work as subcontractors.

With this new approach, the Forest Service is hoping to develop local contractors that will partner with the Forest Service and the local community to help improve the conditions of the forest and help us continue to be good stewards of the land. ■

The Bright Side of Needle Creek Fire Star Gazing at Meadows Campground

JENNIFER ZBYSEWSKI
RECREATION MANAGER



Meadows Campground after 2003 fire

Far away from city lights and high in the mountains, the stars appear close enough to touch at Meadows Campground.

The 11-acre campground, located at Harts Pass near Winthrop, Washington, has been a favorite for the more adventurous camper. Originally constructed in the late 1950s or early 1960s around an alpine meadow, this high elevation campground can only be reached by a 17-mile narrow, winding, and sometimes precipitous dirt road. The campground's 360-degree mountain view, and wide-open sky at nearly 6,000 feet is unrivalled.

In the fall of 2003, the Meadows Campground was completely destroyed by the Needle Creek Fire. The blaze burned approximately 17,000 acres in the upper Methow River watershed, spreading into the Harts Pass area.

Aside from a small patch of six or seven trees, all trees in and around the campground were completely burned. The outhouse was burned to the ground and some of the picnic tables were completely consumed or damaged beyond repair. Very little ground vegetation remained, and nearly all of the 11 acres were covered by the "moon-dust" ash, typical of a high intensity burn. The campground was closed immediately after the fire, its future uncertain; rebuilding was expected to be costly.

Today, thanks to the efforts of then Congressman George Nethercutt to secure funding, the campground is being restored. In August 2004, the Methow Valley Ranger District received the funding it needed to repair trails and campgrounds damaged by the fire, including Meadows Campground.

Reconstruction of Meadows Campground began in the fall of 2004. Forest Service personnel cut and removed the standing dead trees, removed and replaced the burned tables, and smoothed the road.

Meadows Campground has been a favorite star gazing spot for Mazama resident and amateur astronomer, Dick Roberts. He suggested that a concrete pad be poured so star-gazers could have a level, hard surface to set up telescopes right in the campground. Roberts designed a 10-foot wide by 20-foot long pad large enough for four telescopes. The pad is oriented towards north to make setting up the telescopes easier. "The campground's



Needle Creek Fire

a better place than ever to watch the stars now that all those pesky trees are out of the way!" said Roberts. More work will be done on the pad during the summer of 2005, including scoring all the cardinal directions into the concrete.

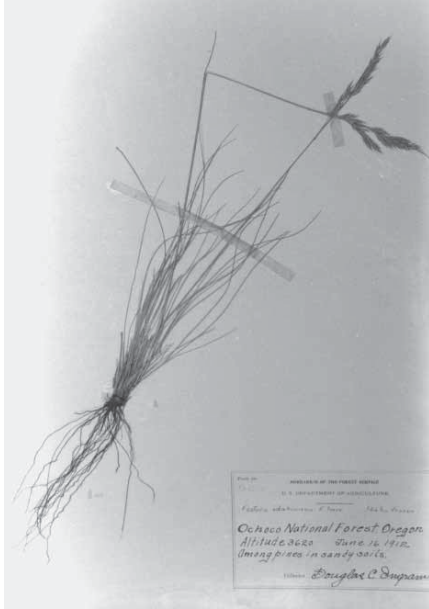
"This telescope pad is a unique feature in Forest Service campgrounds," said Vladimir Steblina, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests Recreation Program Manager. "The dark sky, level telescope pad, and unobstructed view of the stars makes the Meadows Campground one of the premiere star gazing sites in the entire Pacific Northwest." ■



Harts Pass area after the fire

Methow Valley Ranger District

During the Farewell Fire of 2003, Wayne Reggitorie was looking for a quiet fire camp for night crews to sleep and found the old Early Winters C.C.C. compound. He also found a cabinet with plant specimens dating back to 1912. A botanist's dream, the dried and pressed plants were some of the first plant specimens collected in the Pacific Northwest. The collector was Douglas Ingram, who worked as a range examiner for the Forest Service in the early 1900s.



Douglas Ingram immigrated to the United States in 1901 from Elgin Scotland to Roseburg, Oregon. In 1909, he attended the University of Washington, receiving a forestry degree. He began a career with the Forest Service at the age of 27 as a forest guard on the Ochoco National Forest. Between 1909 and 1918, he worked on various forests in Oregon as an assistant forest ranger, a forest ranger, grazing assistant, and by 1918, he was promoted to Regional Range Examiner. In 1921, he was lead researcher of grazing studies for the Pacific Northwest Region, and in January 1929 was promoted to Regional Assistant Chief of Range Management.

Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 42.

PLATE VIII



Silene ingrami, sp. nov.

Ingram traveled throughout Oregon and Washington collecting plants, and documenting habitats and livestock forage values. Over the years he proved to be one of the best photographers in the Forest Service, and his pictures of plants in their native habitat were unequalled according to historic records. It is a tragedy that these photographs have been lost. A eulogy written by the Journal of Forestry in 1930 declared, "Douglas Ingram not only is a highly efficient forest officer and an authority on range management, but is also recognized as one of the best field naturalists of the northwest."

In August of 1929, Ingram was credited with leading a crew of fire fighters to safety when they became entrapped by advancing flames in the Camas Fire north of Lake Chelan. Tragically, Ingram and 19 year-old Erna-nine St. Luise perished later in the same fire while heading up a ridge to scout the blaze and look for a campsite. The location of their death is now known as Douglas Ingram Ridge.

Today, a legacy of Douglas Ingram's untiring interest, energy, and enthusiasm for nature remains. A hybrid lily was named in his honor by Dr. Griffiths from the USDA Bulb Station at Bellingham Washington. An unusual flowering plant collected by Ingram on Mt. Nebo, near Roseburg, Oregon was named *Silene ingrami* (also known as *Silene hookeri*). Author and botanist Art Kruckeberg will feature Ingram in his latest book commemorating the early botanists of the Pacific Northwest.

During the 1920s, while Ingram was working on the Rogue River National Forest (then called the Crater N.F.), he called attention to a particular ponderosa pine of exceptional form and vigor in a timber sale. He recommended this tree be spared from logging. Soon after Ingram perished in the Camas fire, the tree was designated as the Douglas C. Ingram Memorial Tree. Eventually overcrowding stress resulting from fire exclusion, a familiar site in our dry forest today, led to the death of the pine. The Forest Service continues to maintain the site as an opportunity to educate the public about dry forest ecology while preserving the memory of Ingram's legacy.

The collection found at the Early Winters compound was donated to the University of Washington herbarium where the specimens will be maintained and available to researchers and the public. ■



Ingram and crew collecting plants

The Legend of PNW Region's First Botanist: Douglas Ingram 1882-1929

THERESE OHLSON
DISTRICT BOTANIST



Douglas Ingram (top left) and crew in 1909

SEARCHERS FIND BODY OF PORTLANDER



Douglas C. Ingram as he appeared in the costume of the government forest officer, prior to leaving August 4 to join the Camas creek fire force in the Chelan national forest.

Tonasket Ranger District

A Peek Back at Forest Service History in Conconully

ALLEN GIBBS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Life began for Conconully, Washington in spring, 1886. It started as a “rag town” of miners’ shacks in an area called “Salmon City,” so named for the abundant fishery in an adjacent stream. Rich silver ore had been discovered on nearby Mineral Hill.

In 1897, most of the public domain lands west and north of Conconully became part of the Washington National Forest Reserve. The Okanogan National Forest (at first called the Chelan National Forest) was established from this reserve in 1906. The first ranger station built for the new forest administration was at Conconully in 1906.

Then came the New Deal’s Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) in 1933. P. T. Harris, Forest Supervisor from 1917 to 1943, liked the idea of

joining good conservation practices with good jobs for people in need. He envisioned two C.C.C. projects in the Conconully area that would bring a variety of recreation and business opportunities.

In early 1934, C.C.C. workers began construction of a new ranger station, residence, warehouse, barn, and corrals in downtown Conconully. Those structures remain today as part of the Forest Service’s Conconully Work Center.

Conconully had long been the summer retreat of choice among Omak and Okanogan residents for fishing and

swimming in area lakes. By 1937, C.C.C. workers completed the Salmon Creek Campground north of town with a barn and corrals, and extended a road system from Conconully into the high country of the Tiffany Mountains and Thirtymile Meadows. They built six other campgrounds and many miles of new trail to access the backcountry for wildfire fighting purposes. They also built additional fire lookout stations such as Funk Mt. Lookout near Conconully.

The crowning achievement of Harris’ vision was the Salmon Meadows Lodge. Built of native stone and logs, the two-story lodge opened to public acclaim in the winter of 1937. A wooden ski jump and a warming hut at the top of a nearby slope cleared for downhill skiing completed the ski lodge development.

Okanogan Valley soldiers returned from Post-World War II Europe where they had seen major ski resorts. They were eager to ski on steeper ground than that provided at Salmon Meadows. This led local citizens and the Forest Service to look elsewhere for a downhill ski location, eventually building the Loup Loup Ski Hill.

Although the Salmon Meadows Lodge ceased to be a ski facility, it and the campgrounds became very popular with generations of Okanogan Valley residents and visitors for holiday camping, weddings, family reunions, conferences, youth group campouts, church meetings, and deer hunting camps. Unfortunately, the lodge was lost to fire on Mother’s Day, 1994.

Conconully will soon celebrate nearly 100 years in partnership with the Forest Service, as a gateway to four-season recreation opportunities. Come and enjoy the fruits of P. T. Harris’ vision. ■



CCC workers building the Salmon Meadows Lodge

Volunteers and Partners are Key to Accomplishing Work

SHANNON O’BRIEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

From trail work to invasive plant inventories, and education/interpretation to fire planning, a significant portion of the workload accomplished each year on the Tonasket Ranger District occurs through partnerships and volunteerism. Partnership contributions take many forms, the most common being money, equipment, and physical labor. “We appreciate the many contributions of our partners,” said Mark Morris, District Ranger at Tonasket. “Without their hard work and donations, our annual accomplishments would be greatly reduced.”

Here are some examples of the many outstanding contributions provided by partners of the Tonasket Ranger District.

RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE:

Members of Back Country Horsemen, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, SKY youth program, Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs, and North Central ORV contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time to cut downed trees from trails that had been closed by wind storms. They also helped with much needed annual maintenance on several other forest trails, and helped construct a new bridge on the Clark Ridge Trail that replaced the Peak Creek Bridge destroyed in the 2003 Isabel Fire. Extensive maintenance was also completed on Thirtymile

Shelter (an old Civilian Conservation Corps structure) including installation of a fire pit and bench construction.

WEED INVENTORY: The Okanogan County Fly Fishing Club provided an aquatic weed inventory for the District. More than 60 volunteer hours were contributed to survey ten lakes. Other projects included inventorying and treating noxious weeds on range allotments, done with the assistance of permittees of the Tonasket Ranger District; and seeding to reduce the spread of noxious

weeds after road construction, done in partnership with the Loomis Irrigation District.

TIFFANY SPRINGS INTERPRETIVE PROJECT: An interpretive site was developed at Tiffany Springs Botanical Area in partnership with the Washington Native Plant Society. The group helped with funding, sign and brochure design, and updating the plant list.

FREE FISHING DAY: Each year, local businesses and organizations contribute time and funding as they team up with the Forest Service to host a kid-oriented free fishing day. The event focuses on fun and learning about fish biology and angling ethics.

JIMMY’S MEADOWS WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT: This project was accomplished through matching dollars from local and national partners including funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Many hours of labor were provided by students from Tonasket High School, Tonasket Alternative School, and the youth corps organization, SKY (Service, Knowledge, Youth).

COMMUNITY FIRE PLANNING: Collaboration and partnership with the Havillah Community Fire planning group resulted in an increased awareness of hazardous fuel conditions, development of a community fire plan, and ultimately, the accomplishment of a number of on-the-ground projects. The District also continues its active, collaborative participation with the Highlands Fire Defense Team, a group of local community members, rural fire departments, and local, state, and federal land management agencies. This team works to provide education and action on defensible space issues for homeowners.

SOIL STABILIZATION PROJECT: Loomis Irrigation District helped provided assistance to stabilize a bank on Forest Service Road 39 that improved access and road safety above a diversion dam for the local irrigation system.

For more information about volunteer opportunities with the Forest Service, contact the nearest Forest Service office, or visit www.fs.fed.us ■



The Peak Creek bridge was reconstructed thanks to the combined efforts of the SKY volunteers, Backcountry Horsemen and Forest Service Employees. The bridge had been burned during the 2003 Isabel fire.

Tonasket Ranger District

A project located in the Siwash Creek Drainage near Burge Mountain will thin overcrowded forest on approximately 180 acres of public lands that adjoin private property. “Siwash Thin” will be the second project on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests to be accomplished using stewardship authority.

“Stewardship” is an approach to forest management where the government employs private contractors to do a variety of tasks needed to care for an area of National Forest.

Stewardship Authority encourages agency and community collaboration throughout both the project planning and implementation phases.

Many projects involve collaboration during the planning phase. Some, under NEPA, require scooping of issues, and others under the Healthy Forest Initiative and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act create opportunities for collaboration during the project development and planning phases.

The Stewardship Authority is unique in that it encourages collaboration during the implementation phase as well. It provides an opportunity to monitor projects as the work is being done. It also provides an opportunity to give input into future work.

During the development of the Siwash Thin Project, extensive collaboration was accomplished in accordance with the Healthy Forest Initiative. Significant collaboration was also used during the development of the Havillah Community Fire Plan. The goal of the Havillah Community Fire Plan and Siwash Thin Project is to accomplish fuel reduction to protect local communities.

The Stewardship Authority allows a variety of project tasks to be awarded under the same contract. For example, the Siwash Thin project could be awarded to a single contractor who would be

responsible for thinning of commercial timber, as well as slash removal and other restoration work to improve the area’s ecological condition.

The Stewardship Authority adds flexibility and shortens timelines. Traditionally, when the Forest implements projects that include commercial thinning, the work occurs in sequence, with one phase ending before another contract is awarded for the following phase. Under the Stewardship Authority, follow-up restoration work doesn’t need to wait on return of timber receipts or appropriated funds, a process that usually takes years and requires several contracts or separate phases to complete the work.

Awarding several stages of the work to one contractor is an advantage for the contractor as well. Employees can work more continuously for longer periods of time because there is a broader spectrum of work being accomplished. When one phase or aspect of the work is shut down, the same company can switch to another phase.

Stewardship Authority also allows for additional criteria to be considered in selecting the contractor. In addition to the price offered for the merchantable timber and the cost requested for services, criteria such as experience, quality record, and business location also weigh in when awarding contracts.

“We’re enthusiastic about this project for a number of reasons,” commented Mark Morris, District Ranger at Tonasket. “First, it’s an area identified in Havillah Community Fire Plan as needing work to prevent the spread of wildland fire to or from National Forest Lands. In addition, the use of these special authorities offers us opportunities to complete some much needed work more efficiently while affording extensive collaboration opportunities amongst our neighbors.” ■

Siwash Thin Stewardship Project

SHANNON O’BRIEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



A typical overstocked forest



Lost and Bonaparte Lakes are two highly scenic and very popular recreation destinations on the Tonasket Ranger District. Summer homes, year-round residences, a resort, developed campgrounds, and three organizational camps surround these two lakes.

The Two Lakes Fuels Reduction project encompasses that entire area. The fuels reduction project will reduce fuel loading in urban interface on about 4,000 acres using the Healthy Forest Restoration Act Authority. Development of the project is a work in progress being accomplished by community members in cooperation with the Tonasket Ranger District.

“Analysis of a project of this magnitude would normally take the District about three years to accomplish. Two Lakes will accomplish the same analysis, using the Healthy Forest Restoration Act Authority (HFRA), on a much shorter timeframe,” said Mark Morris, Tonasket District Ranger.

HFRA allows the District to devote the field time needed to carefully prepare the project. Because the acres to be treated are all within 1 ½ miles of ‘a community at risk’ as defined in the restoration act, the District intends to develop and analyze only one alternative, thereby shortening environmental analysis timeframes. “With the serious condition of fuels in the project area, it is important that fuel reduction is accomplished as quickly as possible,” said Morris.

The area being considered as part of this project was identified as needing treatment in the Havillah Community Fire Plan. That plan was developed by local residents in cooperation with state, federal, and tribal agencies. The plan recommends that the Forest Service proceed with fuels reduction within 10 miles of the Havillah Community. The project area lies entirely within that 10 mile boundary.

For this area, like many others on the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests, low intensity fires were historically the norm. That historical pattern has been altered over the last century by past management activities that included fire exclusion, livestock grazing, and harvesting large trees while leaving behind too many small trees. Forests are now overcrowded with trees and heavy accumulations of fuel. Where once there were mostly low severity fires, there are now more often high intensity stand replacing fires.

Other than the Bonaparte Fire of 1973, the Two Lakes area has escaped recent fires. Although past timber sales have thinned some of the stands of small trees within the project area and removed some of the ground fuels, more work is needed.

It is clear that this project is widely accepted,” said Morris. “It is our expectation that this acceptance will continue through project development and implementation.” When complete, Two Lakes Project will reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fire to private, state and federal lands. ■

Reducing Fire Risk

SHANNON O’BRIEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Structures in the area are at risk not only from aerial firebrands carried from long distances, but also from potential for oncoming fire from adjacent stands. Carefully treating both around structures like the cabin shown above, and in adjacent stands, will increase the chance that fire crews can keep wildfire from reaching structures. Defensible space must be provided for these structures while maintaining their unique forested setting recreational experience.

Forest Service Celebrates

Forest Service Celebrates 100th Anniversary



The USDA Forest Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 1, 2005. On this date 100 years ago, the Forest Service was created as an agency with a unique mission: to sustain healthy, diverse, and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations.

The U.S. Forest Service was created in 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt and his Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot. They sought not only to conserve disappearing natural resources but also to maximize the social benefits from those resources.

Pinchot's mission statement for his new agency stated "...where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."

The creation of the Forest Service initiated a century of change in managing public forests and grasslands, with introduction of a new conservation ethic and professional workforce to carry it forth.

Planned activities during the centennial year will recognize Forest Service past accomplishments and will validate the importance of the agency's current relationship with partners and collaborators. There will be many challenges for the Forest Service and its local communities to overcome in the next century. Rapid natural and social changes, changing public desires, and new technologies are among these.

A new documentary of the Forest Service, "The Greatest Good," brings the history of the agency to a broad audience. The 2-hour film uses rarely seen footage and photos, sweeping landscape aerial shots, and dozens of interviews to tell a complex and compelling story of the American land. Each Ranger District on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests will sponsor the film in their local communities.

As the agency approaches its centennial, we ask that you join us in reflecting on the organization's proud history and traditions and exploring ways to move into a new century of "caring for the land and serving people." ■

Forest Service Participates at Folklife Festival

BARBARA KENADY-FISH
INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST



Above: Heather Murphy, wildlife biologist
Right: Jim Hammer, packer

The National Mall in Washington, D.C. is famous for the Smithsonian Museum, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument – and the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Extending along a huge open space area from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial are the Smithsonian museums of art, natural history, and culture. Once a year, in late June and early July, the Smithsonian goes "open-air" with cultural exhibitions from around the world. This usually quiet park, managed by the National Park Service, is filled with thousands of visitors who come to enjoy musical performances and craft demonstrations, and see illustrations of work lore, community heritage, and celebrations.

This year, in honor of the centennial of the U.S. Forest Service, the Smithsonian Institute has invited the agency to partner with them "to produce a program on the occupational culture of forest management in the United States."

This unparalleled opportunity allows the Forest Service to showcase the skills and work traditions of its past and current culture to a million visitors during the two weeks of the festival. The Forest Service is only the third federal agency to be invited to participate in the Folklife Festival (the White House and Smithsonian being the first two) in the 39 years of its existence.

Approximately 100 participants - including foresters, trail makers, archaeologists, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, environmental engineers, firefighters and smokejumpers, woodcarvers, camp cooks, musicians, storytellers, backcountry rangers, recreation specialists, and more! - will be brought to the Mall to share their skills, experiences, and traditions with the public.

Festival curators spent hundreds of hours reviewing digital video interviews and reports of about 500 people with ties to the national forest. They finally chose about 100 of the candidates to take part in the festival. Two of these participants, wildlife biologist, Heather Murphy, and trail foreman, Jim Hammer, are employees of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

The Forest Service exhibit includes several demonstration areas that focus on different aspects of the agency. The 'Science and Innovation' section will feature forest and rangeland conservation, and law enforcement. 'Forest Communities' will showcase Forest Service history, and feature a community stage for storytelling, poetry and in-depth discussions on various agency topics. Artisans who use forest products or nature for inspiration will participate in arts and crafts demonstrations, and a small woodlands yard will

feature forest management. 'Water, Woods, and Mountains' will focus on recreation and include stories, folk practices, tales of adventure, and secret best spots. In the 'Call of the Wild' exhibit, presenters will demonstrate skills and techniques for wilderness survival, and an outdoor skills camp will teach fishing ethics, boating safety, skiing, camping, and ways to love the out-of-doors. A fully equipped kitchen will showcase Dutch Oven cooking. At the center of the exhibit will be a replica of the North Cascades Smokejumper Base, a fire lookout tower, and exhibits of forest products and equipment.

The dates of the Folklife Festival are June 23-27 and June 30 - July 4, 2005. ■

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest employees, Heather Murphy and Jim Hammer have been invited to represent the Forest Service at the 2005 Folklife Festival. Both were interviewed by Barbara Kenady-Fish, a public affairs specialist for the Forests. Agency representatives from National Forests across the nation conducted over 500 video interviews, of which only 100 were selected to be presenters at the Festival.

Both are thrilled to be among those invited. Murphy, Wildlife Biologist for the Wenatchee River Ranger District, was chosen for her skills in combining field observations and artwork in creating journals. As a biologist, the notes and sketches she recorded of wildlife and their habitat evolved into a creative form of journaling, and eventually to the creation of her own greeting card business. "It is one of the biggest honors of my career to represent the Forest Service, and the wildlife program in particular," said Murphy.

Jim Hammer is a seasoned packer and trail foreman for the Methow Valley Ranger District. His skills in packing with mules, combined with a winning and laid back

personality drew the attention of the Smithsonian. Hammer will demonstrate packing techniques at the Festival. "There are a lot of packers as good as me or better, so I feel really honored to go," said Hammer.



100th Anniversary in 2005!

The Forest Service has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments that are not well known outside the agency. From silk parachutes to “scratch and sniff” perfume samples, from “no-lick” postage stamps to crime forensics that helped crack the 1934 Lindbergh kidnapping case, the Forest Service has made many lasting contributions.

FIRE FIGHTING - In 1929, the Forest Service used a burlap parachute to deliver supplies to firefighters on the line. Within a few years, dropping cargo by parachutes, which were now made of silk, became a common practice. By July 12, 1940, the world’s first smokejumpers successfully parachuted over the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho.

MILITARY PARATROOPERS - During WWII, the military instituted the first paratrooper training facility at Fort Benning, Georgia after noting the success of the Forest Service smokejumping program. The paratroopers used techniques the Forest Service had developed, and adopted equipment the Forest Service had designed, including the Derry slotted parachute, the static line, and the reserve chute.

NATIONAL SECURITY - In 1944 the Japanese sent balloon bombs to the West Coast of North America with the express purpose of starting forest fires. U.S. officials were worried not only about fire, but whether the balloons could be used to deliver biological warfare agents. In response to the threats, the Forest Service organized Operation Fire Fly, a group of 2,700 civilian and military personnel trained to combat wildfires.

CRIME INVESTIGATION - In 1934, Forest Service experts helped to bring a criminal to justice in the “trial of the century” when the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh, the world famous aviator, was kidnapped from his home. Police arrested a carpenter on circumstantial evidence because no fingerprints or murder weapon were found at the crime scene. However, the prosecutors had an expert witness from the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, who was an authority on wood anatomy research. Arthur Koehler testified at the trial that a section of attic floorboard taken from the carpenter’s apartment precisely matched the grain of wood in a homemade ladder used by the kidnapper to enter the Lindbergh home. Koehler was able to trace some of the ladder lumber from a mill in South Carolina to a lumber dealer in the Bronx where the carpenter had once worked.

SCRATCH ‘N’ SNIFF - Looking for alternatives to spraying beetle-infested trees with toxic pesticides brought focus on “scratch ‘n’ sniff” perfume ads. Forest Service researchers developed the technology behind the perfume samples found in magazines called “microencapsulation” - tiny fragile beads, or microcapsules imbedded in a paper tear strip.

SELF ADHESIVE STAMPS - When the Postal Service initiated a program for environmentally benign pressure sensitive adhesives, the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI developed the testing protocols. ■

Interesting Forest Service Facts



Old Forest Service guard station

History of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

The Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests owe their origins to the Washington Forest Reserve (1897). Although the two forests were combined administratively in 2000, each retains its own unique history and identity.

The Wenatchee National Forest was established in 1908. The Forest Headquarters was in a tiny building located in the community of Leavenworth. The Okanogan was formally established three years later from a portion of the Chelan National Forest. Its headquarters were in Okanogan.

According to the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests’ Heritage Program manager, Powys Gadd, both forests share a history of land acquisition - primarily consuming each other’s, or adjacent national forest’s lands. For example, portions of the Wenatchee Forest came from the Rainier, Snoqualmie, Chelan, and Okanogan Forests, while portions of the Okanogan Forest came from the Chelan and Colville National Forests.

In 1921, the Okanogan National Forest ceased to exist as a forest when it combined with the Chelan National Forest and became known as

the Chelan National Forest, with headquarters in Okanogan. That lasted until 1955 when the Okanogan reappeared as its own entity and the Chelan National Forest disappeared from the system forever.

On both forests, the number of ranger districts, ranger district names, and headquarters has changed repeatedly and continue to do so today. Although both forests were administratively combined in 2000, they are not considered a single forest. Only an Act of Congress can combine them under one name.

When asked about unique historical contributions of each forest, Gadd said the Wenatchee’s history of sheep grazing dates back to when the forest was established in 1908. In 1909, over 60 percent of the sheep in Washington State were grazed on the Wenatchee. A small remnant of this use still occurs each summer. Most unique to the Okanogan may be its role in establishing the Forest Service smoke jumping program at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base near Winthrop, with initial jumps in 1939. A vigorous jump program continues today. ■

1908
WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST ESTABLISHED

1908
CHELAN NATIONAL FOREST ESTABLISHED

1911
OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST ESTABLISHED

2000
MANAGEMENT CONSOLIDATION OF THE OKANOGAN NF AND THE WENATCHEE NF WAS APPROVED. The two forests are now under the management of one leadership team at the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Headquarters Office in Wenatchee.

Chelan Ranger District

Summer 2004: Hot, Dry and Blazing

MARGI PETERSON
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER



The sun sets behind the Pot Peak Fire in July 2004 as the smoke column rises above Lake Chelan.
Photo by Janeen Tervo

Residents and visitors of the Lake Chelan Valley won't soon forget the fires of 2004. The first lightning fire ignited on May 19, and signaled the kick-off of a long, hot summer of forest fires.

Of twelve fires ignited on the Chelan Ranger District last summer, nine were caught and controlled while they were still small. Three blazes grew larger and more complex, threatening communities, and demanding vast firefighting efforts.

The first of the three, Pot Peak Fire, resulted from a lightning storm and was detected on June 26. Starting in an area of thick old growth forest, this fire had potential to grow large quickly. Heavy fuels encircled this fire, including thousands of downed, dead trees remaining from the fires of 1970, and combined with hot, dry weather led to intense fire behavior and rapid spread.

Many trails, campgrounds and roads were closed based on the expectation that the fire would grow dramatically before it could be contained within fire lines. The Pot Peak Fire eventually grew to 17,190 acres in size, and caused the evacuation of residents in the Twenty-five Mile Creek drainage for many days.

The large and unpredictable Deep Harbor Fire was first detected on July 19, following a lightning storm from the previous day. Helicopter rappellers were dispatched to scout it out and fight it, but were unable to rappel down to it due to its location in extremely steep terrain of rock bluffs, with no escape routes for firefighters if the fire blew up. Thousands of gallons of water were dropped by helicopters in an attempt to douse the blaze in its early stages. However, highly unusual weather

conditions and dry fuels allowed the fire to make surprising runs even at nighttime. The Deep Harbor fire soon grew to 30,000 acres.

Due to Deep Harbor Fire's fast growth and extreme fire behavior, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office evacuated guests and residents of the remote but populated areas of Domke Lake, Lucerne, and Holden Village. It also caused the evacuation of some areas down lake from the fire including the Twenty-five Mile Creek drainage and much of the south lakeshore. Fire crews cut brush and small trees, set up extensive fire hose and sprinkler systems, and burned out selected areas to create defensible space. The Pot Peak and Deep Harbor Fires eventually merged into one.

The other large fire located on the Chelan Ranger District was lightning-caused and was located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Detected on July 22, the Sisi Ridge Fire was caught at 280 acres but not before it posed a potential threat to the remote community of Stehekin, located 8 miles to its east. The remote nature of this high elevation wilderness fire burning in heavy fuels was a challenge to firefighters, but they were able to keep the fire out of the Company Creek drainage which empties into the Stehekin Valley. The Sisi Ridge Fire was finally declared controlled on October 19.

Some Forest Service outbuildings, shelters, and a boat dock were destroyed or damaged by the fires of 2004. The cost and effort of fighting these fires, with their toll on human emotions, and disruption of lives and livelihoods, was great and will not be soon forgotten. The Forest Service is grateful for all the people that supported these intense firefighting efforts. ■

Holden Village Hikes

KELLY UNDERWOOD
INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Holden Lake

Holden's "back yard" is the 570,000-acre Glacier Peak Wilderness containing several hundred miles of trails in some of the most spectacular backcountry in Washington State. Here are a few day hikes that offer a taste of that experience.

BARRIER FREE TRAIL TO TEN MILE FALLS

This popular, barrier free trail begins at the far end of Holden Village near the Hike Haus. Reusable booklets are located at each end of the trail describing notable features along the way. Follow the wide, brick-surfaced trail corridor through the village that merges into a hardened gravel path through the forest. The one-mile hike winds through large rock outcrops, aspen groves, and a forest of ponderosa, lodgepole, and western white pine, and Douglas-fir. A view point with sitting benches is located 0.7 miles up the trail and showcases spectacular Copper Peak and the Rail Road Creek Valley. It also has an impressive view of the former copper mine's tailings. The trail ends at a viewing deck overhanging noisy and breathtaking Ten Mile Falls. This is an excellent trail for anyone with physical limitations and for families with small children.

MONKEY BEAR FALLS TRAIL

Start from Chalet Hill at Holden Village and travel through forests of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, western white pine, noble fir, and thick shrubs. The 2.2-mile trail crosses over Ten Mile Creek at the 0.8 mile point on a long foot-log bridge with hand rails on both sides. Most of the trail is fairly flat until just near the falls, where the trail leaves the forest to switchback up rock steps to a rocky ridge with impressive views of Monkey Bear Falls. In addition to the surprising beauty of the falls, there are also great views of mountainous Railroad Creek Valley.



Above Hart Lake

HART AND LYMAN LAKE TRAIL

Hart Lake, a destination for anglers of all ages, is a moderate 4.5 miles from Holden. Some hikers continue past Hart Lake and adjacent Bonanza Peak, the tallest non-volcanic peak in the North Cascades at 9511 feet, to Lyman Lake or Cloudy Pass for incredible views to the west. This is an additional 4.5 miles from Hart Lake, and is mostly uphill for a 1,600 foot elevation gain to Lyman Lake, and another 900 feet over the last 1.25 miles to Cloudy Pass. There are several places to camp along the way. From this point the trails lead to Stehekin, Darrington, or down to Phelps Creek towards Lake Wenatchee. Check hiking guidebooks for safety details on these more arduous trips.

HOLDEN LAKE TRAIL

This 4-mile day hike is popular for Holden Village guests, and is an access to Bonanza Peak for climbers. The trail takes off from the Hart Lake Trail along Rail Road Creek, and climbs approximately 1,700 feet in elevation through thick brush on a hot south-facing slope with beautiful views along the way. It traverses through occasional avalanche chutes, up switchbacks, and through heavy timber just below the lake. The trail offers wonderful views of the Mary Green Glacier.

The Holden Village Hike Haus provides current trail information, hiking gear for paying guests who have forgotten theirs at home, and an accessible public restroom. ■

Chelan Ranger District

Nestled in Railroad Creek Valley on the Chelan Ranger District, just a mile from the Glacier Peak Wilderness border, sits a unique community that draws people to the North Cascades from all over the world.

Holden Village, maintained to preserve its historic look, is an example of an intact historic mining company town. Today, it is an ecumenical retreat center and the jump-off point for hikers entering the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Many guests stay in the village and spend time exploring the natural beauty of the area on some of the many miles of Forest Service trails that surround the village.

Anyone visiting the village must travel by ferry boat about 44 miles up 55-mile-long Lake Chelan and then board a bus for an 11-mile ride up a narrow, winding road. During the summer months, up to 450 people populate this remote village, shrinking to between 40 and 150 hardy inhabitants in the winter (the village receives an average of 250 inches of snow per year!).

Due to its remote location, Holden must be self sufficient. In the winter the road is plowed to the lake – the only access to the outside world. Communications are limited since there is no phone or internet service. The village operates its own utilities, including a small hydroelectric generator which provides all the electricity for the village. Energy and water conservation are stressed for staff and guests alike. Recycling, composting, and a “pack-it-in, pack-it-out” philosophy are all important parts of “garbology,” as the village calls its waste management system.

Before it was a retreat center, the village was the site of Washington State’s largest copper mine. Initially discovered in 1896 by a prospector named

Now, the lodges and chalets which formerly housed miners contain rooms for guests and staff as well as spaces for crafts and discussions. The schoolhouse still serves its original function – a K-12 school with two teachers allows families to live in the village year-round. The Holden kitchen serves up meals in the same dining hall the miners used, and the old recreation hall has become the Village Center, a place for worship and entertainment – not to mention the pool hall and bowling alley which are still in use in its basement. Only the homes in the miners’ village no longer exist.

Holden Village Mining Town: Then and Now

BARBARA BUDD
LAKE CHELAN BOAT INTERPRETER



Recent photos of Holden Village

Today, guests can choose to take part in the many activities at Holden, or simply rest and relax. The village is open year-round, and while some of the programming options are limited in the winter, there’s still plenty to do. Sessions are offered each day in a broad range of topics by prominent authors, theologians, scientists, artists, and musicians who come from around the country. Visitors may enjoy an impromptu jam session on the lawn to a choir that sings for worship services, or attend craft classes. Each afternoon and evening in the summer, the Snack Bar opens and villagers line up for a perennial favorite – the Holden Scoop, an extra large serving of “the best ice cream in the valley.”

In the spring and fall, don’t be surprised to find the village full of children when local elementary schools participate in outdoor education classes. School teachers, Holden staff members, and Forest Service personnel combine

their expertise to offer a variety of classes in natural resource conservation.

Holden Village, tucked into a verdant Cascade Mountain Valley, caters to visitors with its warm community, varied history, and tremendous natural beauty.

More information about Holden Village can be found on their website: www.holdenvillage.org ■



James Henry Holden, the claim was sold to Howe Sound Mining Company in 1930. The company built housing and facilities for their employees, including fourteen chalets, six lodges, a “miners’ village” of about 100 small homes, a large dining hall, a school, a small hospital, and even a recreation hall complete with gym, bowling alley, and pool hall. The mine operated from 1937 until 1957 when copper was no longer profitable. Then Howe Sound closed the mine and put the buildings up for sale.

Upon seeing the notice, a persistent young man named Wes Prieb wrote to the company asking them to donate the buildings to the Lutheran Church for a camp. He was rejected twice, but after his third letter, Howe Sound decided to donate the mining claim and buildings. By 1962, Holden Village had become a reality and was offering programming to summer guests.



Cle Elum Ranger District

Snoqualmie Pass — Corridor Through Time

REBECCA WASSELL
AND KIM LARNED



Historic photos of Snoqualmie Pass Road

In 1913, a 12-hour trip from Seattle to Ellensburg was a record time. It took 40 years of hard work to turn a wagon road into a state highway that crossed Snoqualmie Pass. Although it still requires lots of hard work to provide safe, efficient transportation, today it only takes 2 hours to make the trip by car.

The path through Snoqualmie Pass was first established by Native Americans who traveled on foot across the Cascades. In the 1800s, European settlers and miners established horse trails and wagon roads that allowed for transportation and trade. Each trail, stock driveway, and wagon road followed the path of least resistance.

Local residents, county governments, and small private companies invested capital and personal tenacity into the construction of a reliable road over Snoqualmie Pass. In 1865, Seattle residents raised \$2500 to hire a 20-man crew to construct a road from what is now North Bend to Snoqualmie Pass. An 1866 King County election was held to extend the road to Seattle. The project passed 115 votes to four.

The wagon road to Ellensburg was completed on October 7, 1867, after a total investment of \$15,000 in public revenue and \$5,000 in private funds. Livestock sellers immediately made use of



the road, transporting thousands of cattle across the pass each year.

The formal Washington State Highway program began in 1905. In June of 1905, Bert Harrison, Jr, probably quite exhausted from his journey from Indianapolis, drove the first vehicle over Snoqualmie Pass. It took two days for the 1898 Fryer-Miller automobile to travel from the Kittitas Valley to the pass. In 1909, 105 cars drove over Snoqualmie Pass, including a Model T Ford that traveled from New York to Seattle in 23 days.

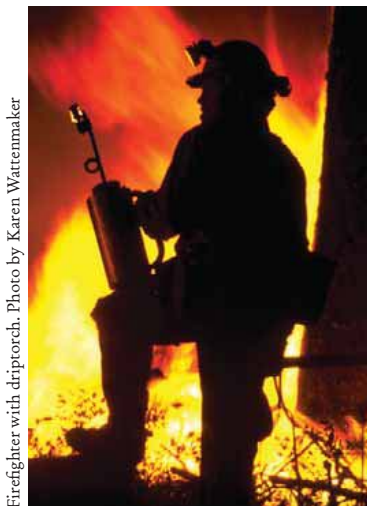
Continued interest in improving the road allowed the route to be graveled in its entirety by the mid-1920s. By the mid-1930s large portions of the highway were paved. Winter of 1931-32 was the first that allowed the pass to open year-round. By 1950, concrete snow sheds were built to allow snow to slide over the roadway.

Today, the old Sunset Highway is now Interstate 90. While the goal continues to be to allow quick and safe access over Snoqualmie Pass and across Washington State, there are new issues and concerns for state and federal managers in managing this corridor. When the road was originally built, the architects weren't concerned about recreation and environmental issues. As the highway developed into Interstate 90 it became a significant barrier for wildlife, plants and water. Recently, federal and state agencies have been working together to provide a safer interstate for drivers while developing innovative approaches to connect ecosystems north and south of the highway. ■



Protecting Liberty

MARK GONZALES, FUELS SPECIALIST
AND KIM LARNED, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Firefighter with drip torch. Photo by Karen Wattenmaker

The historic town of Liberty and its nearby communities are considered at-risk for wildland fires. Located in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains northeast of Cle Elum, the communities are surrounded by forested lands, a majority of which are managed by the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

When the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) was passed by Congress in 2003, it gave the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management the authority and direction to reduce hazardous fuels and restore healthy forest and rangeland conditions on public lands.

A key component of the act is to provide financial assistance to any community that has adopted Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) like the one developed for the community of Liberty. These plans require collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies and communities to identify and prioritize hazardous fuel reduction projects that will protect communities at risk from wildfire.

Fire is one of the many natural processes that created and maintained the ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forests typical of the eastern Washington Cascades, including the Swauk watershed. Historically, fires in these forests burned at low to moderate intensities encouraging the growth of ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir,

and thinning shade tolerant trees such as grand fir. Over the past several decades, fire exclusion, mining, grazing, and logging activities have resulted in dense, fire-prone forests.

Through the development of the Swauk Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2005), Liberty and its surrounding communities were identified as at-risk, and the management of the nearby forest as a priority by the U.S. Forest Service. On the Cle Elum District, various fuel treatments including thinning, pruning, machine and hand-piling, and prescribed fire will soon be applied to approximately 1,526 acres of public lands adjacent to these communities.

The project, called the Liberty Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Reduction Project, is the result of collaboration between the Forest Service, the Kittitas County Sheriff, Bureau of Land Management, Kittitas County Emergency Management, Kittitas County Fire District #7, and the Kittitas County Fire Marshall.

Besides the important work of reducing hazardous fuels, there are other benefits of the project. Included in this project is weed monitoring and control. Researchers will study the effectiveness of herbicide, hot foam, and native seeding management options for controlling weeds prior to and after fuel reduction activities. ■

Cle Elum Ranger District

Imagine that you are an optimistic miner stopping for lunch along a well-traveled trail near Swauk Creek, when you look down and see the flash of something in the water. Gold!

Ben Goodman was the lucky miner whose discovery at Swauk Creek triggered a flood of exploration that began in the mid-1800s and continues today.

Swauk Creek is located northwest of Ellensburg, along Hwy 97 in the Wenatchee Mountains on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The Swauk Mining District is unique in that it boasts three methods of mining for the gold buried beneath the land; the fairly common placer and lode mining, and the not so common pocket mining. Of the 200 current mining claims on the Cle Elum Ranger District, most are placer and lode operations.

Mining communities were some of the first towns established in Kittitas County. In the Swauk basin two notable camps, Liberty and Meagherville, were much like other pioneer towns with a post office, school, store, and community center.

These early mining settlements predated the national mining laws of 1866 and 1872.

In the absence of federal regulations, mining camps developed their own system of control. Miners and their claims were governed by mining districts that established codes which usually reflected local conditions and attitudes. For instance, in the Swauk Mining District, rules were amended to allow claims to lie idle during the winter with-

out fear of claim jumping, a concession to the hard winters.

As was the fate of many mining communities, the Swauk Mining District fell to the boom – bust cycles all too familiar in the west. The Alaskan Gold Rush, World War I, the nearby coal boom in the towns of Cle Elum and Roslyn, and eventually the Depression of the 1930s took their toll, leaving only a few determined miners to work the claims. A significant pay strike in 1932 temporarily renewed interest in the area. The last large discovery was found in 1954.

Today, operations in the historic Swauk Mining District are similar in many ways to the first ventures in the area, although miners and Forest Service personnel now work together to permit mining while considering the environmental consequences. Mining operations must be approved by the agency to ensure environmental regulations are understood and enforced. Individuals currently exploring the area are mainly reworking the sites previously high-graded by the early miners. The most recent patent of 1992 demonstrates that a persistent individual can still find an occasional valuable deposit.

One hundred years of mining on the Cle Elum Ranger District, especially in Swauk Creek, helped shape the landscape by establishing settlements, influencing forest policy, and contributing to the rich cultural history of the area. ■

Gold! 100 Years of Mining in Swauk Creek

KIM LARNED
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Panning for gold in Swauk Creek



East side of Lake Cle Elum

A Special Interest Botanical Area is being proposed for approximately 280 acres of National Forest System Lands on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The dry, rocky site is located on the east side of Lake Cle Elum in the foothills of the central Cascade mountains.

The area is one of the richest known fern sites in eastern Washington in terms of both diversity and population size. Dr. Arthur Kruckeberg, a professor emeritus of botany at the University of Washington, first brought the site to the attention of the Cle Elum Ranger District in July 2000, when he said in a letter that, “there is no other locality in eastern Washington as rich in fern diversity, as is this massive, nearly treeless outcrop.”

When Dr. Kruckeberg originally suggested that the Forest Service protect the rock outcrop as an important fern site, he proposed naming the area “Indian’s-Dream,” the common name of the small rock fern (*Aspidotis densa*) that grows there. However, in appreciation for his efforts in bringing

attention to the area, the Forest Service decided to name it “Art’s Dream,” after Dr. Kruckeberg.

The exposed rock outcrop of Teanaway basalt begins on the lower slopes of the foothills at an elevation of 2,400 feet, and climbs more than 2,700 feet to the summit of Sasse Ridge at 5,120 feet. Dry Creek, the only perennial water source within the fern site, flows down a narrow draw on the northern boundary into Lake Cle Elum.

The six species of ferns found in this unique location are *Aspidotis densa* (Indian’s dream, or pod fern), *Cheilanthes gracillima* (lip-fern), *Cryptogramma acrostichoides* (rock-brake), *Cystopteris fragilis* (rock or bladder-fern), *Polypodium hesperium* (licorice fern), *Polystichum munitum* (sword fern), and *Woodsia scopulina* (woodsia).

Ferns growing in extreme environments, like these rock ferns, have modifications that help them conserve water. They have abundant hairs and scales, and wax-like deposits on the underside of the fronds. Lip-fern grows roots up to 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) in length and produces spores that are resistant to drying and can remain viable for up to 18 months.

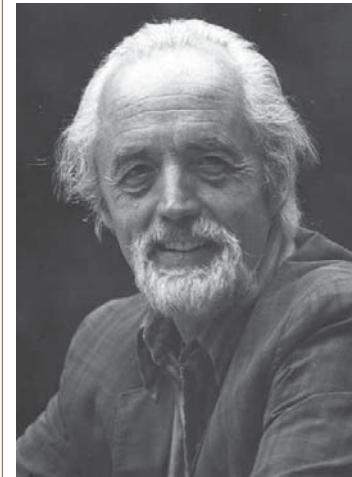
Pod fern, lip-fern, rock-brake, and woodsia grow in open rocky depressions or in cracks where there is often little soil. They can be found tucked into protected spaces between broken rocks and clinging to ledges under overhangs. Pod fern has specific habitat requirements in that it can tolerate, although it is not restricted to, the unusual soils associated with serpentine rock. The ability to grow in serpentine soils is specialized and affords pod ferns less competition from other plants.

The licorice fern thrives in the damp cliff faces and small seeps along parts of Dry Creek where the stream channel is deeply incised. The rock fern, or bladder-fern can tolerate dry, rocky conditions, but often grows on damp rock. The more common sword fern is associated with a more moist forest and deeper soils and is found in the forest near Dry Creek.

With the increased recreation nearby and pending sale of adjacent private property, designating the site as a Special Interest Botanical Area would offer protection of this unique fern habitat. ■

Art’s Dream

KIM LARNED
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Art Kruckeberg. Photo by Joseph Freeman



Rock-brake fern. Photo by Gary A. Monroe

Entiat Ranger District

Escape to Silver Falls Recreation Area

TOM GRAHAM
RECREATION MANAGER



Silver Falls

The Silver Falls Recreation Complex is located just 31 miles up the Entiat Valley Road.

Located in a perfect setting are the Silver Falls Campground, Silver Falls National Recreation Trail, and the Riverside Interpretive Trail. It is also the site of the Silver Falls Guard Station, a historic structure that was built in 1918 and now serves as a base of operations for fire crews, trail crews, and campground hosts.

Silver Falls National Recreation Trail, located across the road from the Silver Falls Guard Station, offers hikers views of Silver Falls, mature forests, large ponderosa pine trees, the Entiat valley, and surrounding peaks. Silver Falls Creek is a glaciated hanging valley with unique geological features. Interpretive signing will be installed in the summer of 2006 that will explain local geologic and hydrologic processes, riparian habitats, and general forest ecology. Hikers may reach the top of the falls on a fully developed trail. Masonry walls, benches, steps, two bridges, and viewpoints make this walk a delight.

Riverside Interpretive Trail, 1.4 miles in length, is located adjacent to the down-valley loop of the Silver Falls Campground. The trailhead facility provides parking for 6-8 vehicles and a fully accessible toilet. The interpretive trail provides three different difficulty levels, from an easiest to more difficult barrier-free standard. Winding through areas of old growth forests and riparian habitats, the trail also provides views of young fire-generated forests across the river. Twenty-two interpretive signs, resting benches, wooden boardwalk sections, and two observation platforms at river's edge further enhance the recreation experience.

The Silver Falls Campground is located on both sides of Silver Creek adjacent to the Entiat River and the Guard Station. Facilities include 31 developed camping sites, a picnic area, and reservation group site (containing a log stove shelter). The campground was one of the first developed on the Wenatchee National Forest. According to a 1931 report, 5000 campers a year used the campground,



and it remains just as popular today! Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) workers installed many of the facilities in the 1930s. Several structures remain including a log stove shelter, log registration booth, two free standing camp stoves and two reflector-type fireplaces. The campground log stove shelter and the registration booth is the best known surviving examples of C.C.C. structures on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests.

Note: At times during the summer, there is a significant mosquito population in this area, so bring repellent. ■

EXCUSE OUR MESS!

The Silver Falls trailhead is undergoing a complete renovation this summer. Improvements will include realignment of the valley road to improve sight distance; expansion of the visitor information kiosk; pedestrian cross walk leading to the trail; improvements to the parking lot surfacing; and installation of a guard rail structure to separate road traffic from the busy parking area. A new information kiosk was installed in the fall of 2004. The remainder of the parking improvements will be completed the summer of 2005 and reconstruction of the access trail route will be completed in the fall. Funds collected through the Recreation Fee program from National Forest recreation users are providing a portion of the financing for this project.

“Whiskey’s for drinking, water’s for fighting over”

JONI VANDERBILT
HYDROLOGIST



Entiat River

Mark Twain’s famous quote was printed on ribbons tied around celebratory one-shot whiskey bottles and handed out during the finalization of the Entiat Watershed Plan. The quote was in jest however, because the Entiat Planning Group has proved that this statement does not always hold true in the west.

The daunting inch-thick plan, the result of 13 years of labor, synthesizes the numerous scientific studies sponsored by the group. Included are the history of land use in the basin, results from years of monitoring, and numerous restoration plans for the Entiat Watershed. It is an amazing compendium of knowledge put together by a diverse group of individuals ranging from local landowners, environmental organization representatives, and federal, tribal, and state employees.

But the group is not resting on its laurels as members continue to plug away at implementing the plan. The instream flows agreed upon in the plan will become a part of the State of Washington Code through a formal ‘rule-making’ process during the spring of 2005. Grants for the restoration of the full reach of the Entiat River are being pursued, and stream surveys are being completed in anticipation of this exciting project.

The planning group makes it look easy, although it wasn’t always like this. Many factors have come together to make the Entiat Watershed Planning Group the much heralded model of success that it is today. One of the pivotal events occurred in 1992 when a valley orchardist cleared vegetation from within the ordinary high water line without a permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The ensuing hub-bub resulted in a rift between Entiat Valley Landowners and the WDFW that quickly

spread to encompass all ‘bureaucrats’. The listing of several species of fish as endangered was on the horizon and there was heightened concern amongst the landowners about increased regulation of water rights and erosion of private property rights in the name of fisheries protection.

One of the local landowners, concerned about the adversarial atmosphere, advocated a more cooperative and organized approach to ensure that locals had a say in how the Entiat Watershed would be managed in the future. Within a year, a watershed group was formed. Today the orchardists speak confidently about juvenile chinook rearing habitat and look forward to planting riparian vegetation along the river bank. Likewise, the biologists have a better understanding of the challenges facing orchardists and what it takes to retain agricultural lands within the watershed.

From the beginning, the Forest Service has had a strong voice in the Planning Group. The recovery of anadromous salmon and bull trout is something the agency has a vested interest in. With the implementation of the Plan, the chances of recovery within the Entiat Watershed will be vastly increased, largely by addressing issues on private land. Additionally, the river was not included on the State’s list for temperature exceedances because of the Plan’s strategy for recovery, and this issue will not complicate future forest projects. A less quantifiable but perhaps the most valuable benefit of the Entiat Watershed Planning effort has been the change from an adversarial atmosphere in the Entiat Valley, to one where local landowners, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies work together cooperatively to address all aspects of watershed health. ■

Entiat Ranger District

Forest visitors driving over Stormy Creek may have never noticed it flowing beneath the Entiat River Road. Stormy is a small tributary that flows into the Entiat River near river mile 18.

During October and November 2004, Chelan County Public Works replaced the Stormy Creek culvert with a bridge. The large construction effort caused many people to wonder, "Why such a big effort for such a little creek?" A casual observer standing on the banks of this small stream may get the impression that there's not much habitat value in Stormy Creek. The creek's annual peak flow in the spring is only 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), and by October the average monthly flow declines to about 1 cfs.

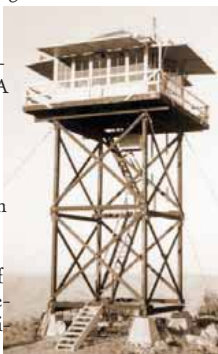


However, there's much more to Stormy Creek than meets the eye! The creek is one of only three perennial (year-round), fish-accessible tributaries to the Entiat River that provides salmon and steelhead habitat. Lack of rearing habitat is the primary limiting factor for salmon and steelhead productivity in the Entiat watershed. "Hanging valleys" that resulted from alpine glaciation in the upper half of the Entiat watershed naturally make many side streams and this type of habitat inaccessible to fish, so the few streams that fish can enter are very important.

At the edge of the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains, basalt cliffs and ridges known as "breaks" mark the course of the mighty Columbia River.

The Columbia Breaks form a natural boundary between the semi-arid desert plateau of Eastern Washington and the dense forests of the Cascades. The Cascades' eastside has deep-cut canyons, knife-edged ridges, and steep slopes. Middle and lower elevations support a forest of pine trees, scattered shrubs and lush grasses. Summers are hot and dry, with frequent dry lightning storms...and wildfires.

Located near the Columbia River and the town of Entiat, Washington on U.S. Highway 97A is the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center (CBFIC). The Center is home to two restored historic lookouts (Chelan Butte in photo and Badger Mountain), a half-mile self-guided "Trail of Fire and Forest" interpretive trail, a natural amphitheater, and information kiosks.



An educational curriculum and video for classrooms that focuses on fire was developed by the Forest Service and local educators, and is being utilized by area schools.

The concept and inspiration for this unique interpretive center began in 1990 when Nancy Belt, then an assistant fire dispatcher for the Wenatchee National Forest, received a feasibility grant from the Forest Service to study the possibility of building a fire interpretive center.

Before the project, the drop of the culvert and incorrect sizing prevented salmon and steelhead from swimming through it and reaching the spawning and rearing habitat upstream. Forest Service biologists counted 225 fish, mostly steelhead, and a few Chinook and bull trout below the culvert.

The Stormy culvert replacement project was identified as the highest priority fish passage project in the Entiat Watershed. Replacing the culvert with a bridge will give Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout access to high quality rearing habitat. Of these listed endangered species, steelhead will receive the greatest benefit because much of the newly-accessible habitat is favorable for steelhead rearing. A bridge was chosen to balance cost with the engineering and load requirements associated with the county road. The project will also allow more natural transport of water, sediment and woody debris through the reach.

With completion of the project, approximately one-half mile of habitat has been reconnected and is now available for use. A future project will correct two other culvert barriers further upstream on Stormy Creek, opening up an additional 1.5 miles of habitat. A half a mile may not seem like a lot but, considering the importance of this type of fish habitat in the Entiat system and how little of it exists, it is!

The Stormy project was funded primarily by a grant from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and supported by a cooperative partnership. The Chelan County Public Works Department sponsored and designed the project, and is administering the grant contract. Project partners included the US Forest Service (via a Wyden Amendment Watershed Restoration Agreement), Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit. ■

Eventually a foundation was formed with a mission to examine and explain the ecological role of fire in nature with particular emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. Interpretation will showcase past, present, and future interactions of people with fire.

Additional plans for the Center include installing an information center, finishing the amphitheater, and increasing signage. Plans and initial construction have begun for an extended hiking trail to connect with other proposed trails in the Entiat area.

This non-profit organization continues to grow and develop with the support, partnering and help of many people and organizations. The foundation has appreciated the support of the following organizations and agencies: USDA Forest Service and Pacific NW Research Station, Chelan County Commissioners, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, Port of Chelan County

Community Foundation for North Central Washington, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Chelan and Douglas County Fire Districts, Colville Confederated Tribes, Washington Heritage Society, Entiat Valley Chamber of Commerce, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Washington State Parks, The Wenatchee World, USDI National Park Service, and Audubon Society

The CBFIC foundation continues to dream and work toward a "world-class" interpretive center that will offer interpretive exhibits and facilities to serve the local community, schools, tourists, fire-involved agencies and researchers. For more information on this ambitious project visit Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center website at: www.wildfirecenter.org ■

What's the Big Deal About Stormy Creek?

PHIL ARCHIBALD
FISHERIES BIOLOGIST



The photo above is the new bridge over Stormy Creek.

Photo at left shows the squashed shape, drop height, and length of the old culvert at the Stormy Creek crossing on Entiat River Road acted as barrier to fish trying to move upstream.

Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center —

A Dream Becoming Reality

PEGGY WHITMORE
CBFIC

Wenatchee River Ranger District

History of Wenatchee River Ranger District

SUSAN PETERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Dirty Face Ranger Station in 1922

This year we celebrate the Forest Service's first 100 years, a history rich in culture and change. As we look forward to the future, let's take a quick look back at our local history in Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth.

In 1908, the Wenatchee National Forest was established and built its first Forest Supervisor's Office in Leavenworth. At that time, the Lake Wenatchee, Icicle, Peshastin, Entiat, Liberty, Chiwaukum, Whittier, and Liberty Ranger Districts were created. Lake Wenatchee's first ranger station was named "Dirty Face Ranger Station" in honor of the mountain peak that towered above, and for a local pioneer. By 1920, Leavenworth Ranger District was created by absorbing the Chumstick and Icicle districts. The Cashmere Ranger District was created, and the Supervisor's office was relocated to Wenatchee as a more central location.

Additional alignments occurred through the decades, the most recent being the merger of the Lake Wenatchee & Leavenworth Districts. In 2004, these two districts became officially known as the Wenatchee River Ranger District. The District is headquartered in Leavenworth and is one of the largest districts on the Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forest, covering 729,000 acres.

The District has a long history of mining, grazing and timber production. The Blewett Mining District still has active claims and legends of gold. Stop and read the interpretive sign about the old arrastra and the town of Blewett when traveling Highway 97.

One of the most active grazing areas in the early 1900s began at the corral near Beehive (Mis-

sion Ridge area) where nearly 30,000 sheep entered the forest annually. Early Forest Service rangers instituted grazing allotments to control use and eliminate overgrazing. Ecological concerns and changing markets have left only a few bands of sheep on the district during the summer grazing seasons today.

Groves of huge cedar old growth continues to grow in the Lake Wenatchee area, as well as abundant forests of pine in the lower valleys. Many sawmills once existed throughout the area, the largest being in Leavenworth. It produced over 250 train cars of logs a day at its peak. Timber harvest peaked in the period from 1950 to 1980. In recent years, timber harvest has been tied to ecosystem management and primarily involves thinning to reduce fire hazard and improve forest health.

Since World War I, there has been a steadily increasing demand for recreation and facilities like trails, campgrounds, and restrooms. Many of the earliest such facilities were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and some of these fine structures remain in service today. The construction of the Pacific Crest Trail in the 1960s was a major recreation improvement on the district.

Today, Wenatchee River District employees work on a wide range of management tasks, including recreation, ecosystem management, prescribed burning and fire suppression, wildlife, fisheries, water quality, soils, and noxious weed eradication. Through it all, the district remains true to its mission of "caring for the land and serving people." ■

White River - Finding its Course

SUSAN PETERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Photo above shows completed logjam project. Photo at right shows same view before project—the road completely washed away. Photo below of logs being placed and anchored in old roadbed.



The White River, a major tributary to Lake Wenatchee and critical habitat for many fish and bird species, is considered a priority watershed for protection and restoration among Washington State salmon recovery planners. Of special emphasis are the floodplains and wetland complexes in the White River valley.

By definition, restoration means "a return of something to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition; or a putting back into a former position." In this case, the reference is for work that was accomplished in the White River drainage.

Over the last three years, the Wenatchee River Ranger District, aided by cooperative efforts of eight organizations and individuals, completed a variety of projects in the watershed that contributed to "returning the White River to its former condition."

Three of the five completed projects focused on roads that were constructed many years ago. These roads were disrupting the natural processes of the White River, and its floodplain and wetlands. Projects included culvert and road fill removal, road decompaction, and native plant restoration.

The Oxbow Restoration Project restored the connection between the White River and its floodplain, including old oxbow channels. Fish and other aquatic species have regained access to these places of refuge where they can rear their young, or escape the stronger currents. The Canyon Creek Spur Roads Project restored other wetland connections by removing culverts and "treating" the roads that were constructed through them. These two projects removed a total of five miles of road and over 50 culverts, and restored hydrologic connectivity between hillslopes, wetlands, and floodplains in the White River.

Projects that did not focus on roads included thinning 73 acres of a thirty-year-old Douglas-fir plantation, and the opening of the Ware Walk Interpretive Trail. The thinning project benefits ter-



restrial species by accelerating the growth of trees into old growth forest conditions and developing an understory growth of diverse tree species. The interpretive trail helps visitors learn about the importance of managing the White River ecosystem, and about the plants and animals that live there.

An excellent example of a unique restoration project was the engineering of a logjam made of native materials that will help prevent the White River from further eroding its stream bank and threatening private land.

The logjam was anchored underneath the White River roadbed and extended out into the river. Approximately 100 large logs of varying sizes and old root wads were strategically placed in trenches and woven together by an excavator. Road fill was placed on top of the logs and riparian plants were used for revegetation. The entire work was done in one week and looks completely natural.

Each of these projects improved watershed health in the White River by maintaining natural river and floodplain functions without negatively impacting habitat conditions for fish and wildlife or damaging the aesthetic nature of the White River Valley.

We'd like to thank and acknowledge our partners for their commitment to restoring the White River. They are Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 3M Company, Tall Timber Ranch, Watershed Art, Upper Basin Birders, and Mary Ware. (photo 4) Logjam covered with fill and replanted. ■

Wenatchee River Ranger District

Nestled in the east slopes of Washington's Cascade Mountains, the Bavarian style village of Leavenworth is surrounded by a mosaic of private property and federal lands. In the last 10 years, there has been a dramatic increase of new homes constructed in forested areas close to town. Major forest fires in 1994, 2001 and 2004 were a threat to life and property. Over the past 50 years, six fires have started within the "neighborhood" area surrounding the town of Leavenworth.

Alarmed by the recent history of catastrophic wildfires, dangerous amounts of forest fuel build-up, and drought conditions, local residents sought help for reducing risks from wildfire. In 2003 a group of neighbors, assisted by employees of Chelan Country Conservation District, Fire District #3, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), requested a \$72,000 grant from the National Fire Plan Community Assistance-Wildland Urban Interface Program to assess and treat the hazardous fuel loading in a local neighborhood. Representing an area from Mountain Home Ridge to Icicle Creek, members of the "Leavenworth Neighborhoods Fuel Project," have a vision of providing stepping-stones for other neighborhoods to apply for grants to treat their own dangerous fuel concentrations.

ASSESSING THE RISK OF FUEL LOADS

In May of 2003, the steering committee hired Amy Starkovich, an expert in fuel loads, to be project coordinator and assess the risks in the project area. At a well-attended public meeting with the Wildland Urban Interface Field Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Region, the principles of fuel reduction were explained and project implementation was described. Another group of neighbors located in the Chumstick Valley formed their own group, and joined in the grant process.

Last summer, the Fischer Fire threatened homes and communities as it burned across 16,500 acres of federal, state and private land over a period of three weeks. Burning just north of Highway 2, between the communities of Leavenworth and Wenatchee, the Fischer Fire became the top priority fire in the nation. The fire was human caused, although accidental, and heavily impacted property owners and natural resources.

Fischer Fire took advantage of decades of fuel accumulation and burned hot enough to replace entire forest stands on almost half of the forested area. At the height of the firefighting effort (August 18-21, 2004), over 1,800 firefighters, 11 helicopters, 119 fire engines, 22 bulldozers, and 47 water tenders were assigned to the fire. Smoke and flames were highly visible and people were allowed an intimate look at the unbridled power of a wildland wildfire. When it was over, 11,000 acres of National Forest Lands on the Wenatchee River Ranger District had burned.

Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) work began before the fire was even contained. Emergency rehabilitation includes only treatments that are immediately needed to prevent or reduce potential damages due to the effects of wildfire on the watershed. Such potential damages include flooding and erosion. The sooner rehabilitation work begins after a wildfire, the quicker recovery is on the land.

Fire severity and assessment of damage to roads within the Fischer Fire area began immediately and concentrated on improving water drainage and stabilizing roads to reduce runoff and sedimentation. Fire containment lines and firefighter safety zones were rehabilitated, water bars were installed to prevent erosion, areas were seeded, and native shrub seedlings were planted.

By August, USFWS funded the original \$72,000 request with an additional \$100,000 to begin implementation.

Amy's team began visiting the private landowners to assess the fire risk around their homes. By October, the team had evaluated all properties in the original grant area and by November, homeowners received assessment and recommendation packets tailored to their individual properties. The work was completed under budget, allowing the team to begin assessing home sites in the next neighborhood, the Chumstick Valley.

REDUCING FUEL LOAD

The next step was to hire a contractor to supervise the actual work of reducing the combustible materials around homes in the target area. By 2004, a local forester, Arnie Arneson, was selected to supervise the completion phase. Arnie helps private landowners choose suitable levels of fuel reduction and improve forest health on their lands. Demonstration plots were developed at Red-Tail Canyon Farm near Leavenworth that showed different levels of treatments. Teams worked on neighborhood lands, thinning and pruning trees; cutting brush; piling, chipping or burning slash. The grant was made possible because many of the neighbors matched funds using their own "sweet equity" and added privately funded fuels reduction projects. Work continues in advance of the 2005 wildfire season.

SUCCESS

The success of the Leavenworth Neighborhoods Fuels Project is apparent in the reduction of fuels near homes, which decreases the potential for loss from catastrophic wildfire. Best of all, other neighborhood groups in the Wenatchee River basin are now applying for National Fire Plan funds in hopes of repeating the success. ■

An Interdisciplinary Team was chartered to evaluate the environmental effects of recovering the economic value of the dead and dying trees in the fire area. Removing fire-killed and damaged trees through salvage logging could provide saw-timber and other wood products to local and regional economies (estimated over 2 million dollars after logging costs).

The team identified a need to improve road-side safety within the fire area. A large number of dead and dying trees located next to roads pose a future hazard to the public and would be removed. Tree planting in the more severely burned areas is a high priority. In many areas seed sources for Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine are not available for natural revegetation.

An environmental analysis has been completed incorporating advice and comments from the public. The decision was made to allow salvage logging in the fire area. This work began in May in order to recover the economic value of the dead and dying timber. For more information on this project, please contact the Wenatchee River Ranger District.

Note: There are no road restrictions in effect for the Fischer Fire area, however off-road travel will be restricted throughout 2005 to allow newly planted vegetation to establish on firelines and other disturbed areas. ■

Neighbors Unite to Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires

PAMELA AMOSS
AND LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOODS
FUEL PROJECT MEMBERS



Fire and Renewal

SUSAN PETERSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

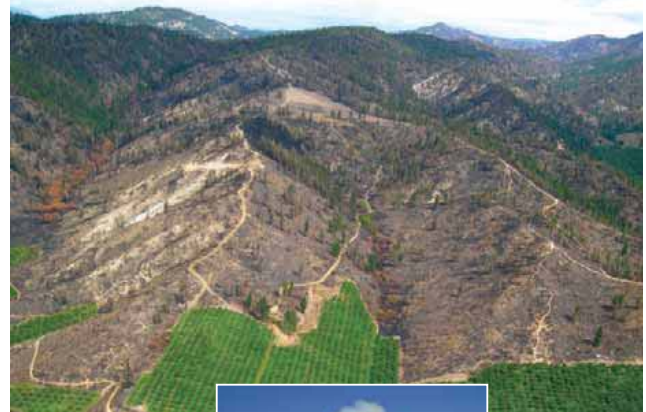


Photo above shows how Fischer Fire burned next to fruit orchards.

Photo at left is Fischer Fire burning in Ollala Canyon area.

Naches Ranger District

Reunion with an Old Friend

JACQUELINE BEIDL
ARCHAEOLOGY AND RECREATION



The morning is cool and clear. Snow crunches beneath my feet as I walk the unshoveled flagstone pathway beneath tall pine and fir trees to the cabin. I stop to unlock the door, and the gurgle of the American River fills the void left by my footsteps. I pause to listen, then kick the snow from my feet and step inside the American River Guard Station.

The 1941 Civilian Conservation Corps structure was built for summer Forest Guards on fire and recreation patrol. It is not well insulated, though the freshly painted walls and furnishings left by volunteers Bunny and Gordon over the summer lend the cabin warmth despite the chill. Thrift store light fixtures, table, chairs, and sleeper sofa all evoke a distant era. Two hand-crafted woodcarvings, a couple of

The historic American River Guard Station, located off Highway 410 at its junction with Bumping River Road, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Forest employees and volunteers are working to ready it for public rental in 2006. For more information, contact Jacqueline Beidl at (509) 653-1432.

framed prints, and the flagstone hearth of a small cast iron stove break the wide space of green walls.

I gather some wood and crumple paper to light a fire in the stove, then fill the kettle with fresh water from a five-gallon jug. The fire catches on my first attempt -- a rare event. I move into the small bedroom, turning on lights as I go, and climb narrow stairs to the second story loft. I switch on a small electric heater then spin a slow circle, hands on hips, admiring our work. We might have finished the job in a day had we not run out of sheet rock. Already it feels cozier up here, the bright white of the slanting walls broken only by seams and screw holes still in need of tape and paint. I look forward to installing a fresh linoleum floor, and replacing the naked bulb with a frosted glass dome light.

I head back downstairs, careful not to slip on broken boards, and make a mental note to install the new steps soon. I barely glance at a closed door off the bedroom that hides a dilapidated and unsightly shower. In the summer we will restore running water and make repairs to the bathroom, but right now this seems a long way off. I stop by the stove to add another piece of wood, warming my hands for a minute, then move into the kitchen. I begin to measure and mark the new sub floor for cutting. The air inside begins to warm as the cabin settles itself around me, and I grow lost in the job at hand. ■

A Family Tradition

CARLA JAEGER
RANGE TECHNICIAN
AND JODI LEINGANG
ECOLOGIST

Livestock grazing is a long-standing traditional use of National Forest lands. It is perhaps the most deep-rooted and historic of the multiple uses mandated by law for federal lands. Ranch families and Forest Service families have lived together in the same communities for almost five generations. Many of these ranch families were there when the administration of grazing was transferred to the Forest Service in 1905.

The history of grazing on the Naches District can be found in many forms across the landscape.

Many roads and trails that exist today were originally trails created by cattle and sheep. Mountains, streams, and meadows were often named after the pioneers who frequented them, many of whom ran livestock operations. The people who continue this way of life are living examples of those who developed the west.

Although all livestock permittees on the Naches District today have a long history of raising livestock on Forest Service administered grazing allotments, the Tieton Cattle allotment

operated by the Decoto family has the longest. In 2004, the family proudly observed the 100th year celebration of their first registered brand.

The Decoto Family came to the Yakima Valley in the 1890s where they first began raising cattle in west Yakima. When Ray Decoto first started grazing the Tieton Basin there were close to 20 individuals who ran small herds of livestock in the area.

In the early 1900s, the family began driving cattle to the high country to graze for the summer months. During the grazing season of June through October, the family endured all types of weather and made regular trips to town for supplies which they kept cold in a spring close to the camp. On most days the riders would spend (and still do) a minimum of 6 hours a day in the saddle.

By 1912, Ray Decoto and his family established a camp with corrals and tents at the base of Goose



Bob Decoto



Egg Mountain. The Decoto's were issued a special use permit in 1918. They were authorized to make necessary improvements to better manage the everyday tasks, including riding to move and gather the cattle. The first cabin was constructed in 1926, which greatly improved living conditions. The cabin is now known as the Riders Cabin. Finally, in 1959, Willis Decoto constructed what is now the main cabin. Both cabins are located at Cow Camp just south of Rimrock Lake.



Today, the Decoto cattle are moved onto the allotment in the same manner as they were in the early 1900s. The cattle are pushed many miles from their home range and back again by cowboys on horseback. The trip hasn't become any easier over the decades. Long days and rugged terrain often leaves the horse and rider exhausted or even injured. Bob Decoto is the last permittee on the Naches District to "drive" livestock in this manner. ■

Naches Ranger District

Dark, menacing clouds build over the mountains of central Washington and organize into a thunderstorm on July 18, 2004. Lightning peppers the landscape and a strike finds a receptive target—a moss-draped tree or dead snag. Smoldering unnoticed for days, an open flame emerges and grows, eventually emitting enough smoke to prompt a July 26, 2004, report of smoke near Rattlesnake Peaks in the remote southeastern portion of the William O. Douglas

District staff use the reconnaissance information to perform Stage I (“Go/No Go”) of the analysis by answering three questions:

Is the fire of natural origin? Answer: Yes.
Is there an approved fire management plan and is the fire in an area suitable for managing a fire? Answer: Yes.

Are there any other factors that would limit the agency’s ability to manage the fire (threat to life, property, resources; complexity/unacceptable risks; proximity of other fires or other issues)? Answer: No.

The Forest Supervisor and Regional Office concur with the findings and Rattlesnake Peaks advances to the next stage. Two advisors are assigned to the incident—one a qualified fire use manager and the other skilled in long-term fire behavior prediction. Specific objectives (desired effects) and concerns are identified and weighed. Once again, the decision is to continue and commit to managing the fire for the long term.

Stage III of the WFU process entails assigning a specialized ten-to-twenty person Wildland Fire

Use Team to manage daily operations and prepare a detailed management plan for the fire. The team is assisted in these efforts by Fire Use Modules—ten-person crews outfitted for extended stays in remote locations skilled in fire suppression and field data collection. Utilizing both current and historic data to feed sophisticated computer models, the plan identifies specific locations and actions necessary to keep the fire within established geographic boundaries. The objective is to minimize the effort required to safely keep the fire within those limits.

The primary strategy is slow the rate of spread or guide the fire into areas that will allow it to continue burning without posing an undue risk. On the ground, Wildland Fire Use managers employ many standard fire suppression methods, but typically in a more subtle manner. This often involves construction of strategically located segments of fire line or use of natural barriers, burning out and helicopter water drops to slow or direct the fire. Should these efforts not succeed, there are contingency plans to convert to full suppression as needed.

Rattlesnake Peaks was the first WFU in the Pacific Northwest Region to reach Stage III. Two Fire Use Management Teams, four Fire Use Modules and three helicopters were assigned to Rattlesnake Peaks. Fire was allowed to play its natural role on nearly 800 acres within the Rattlesnake and Hindoo Creek drainages before a series of late August and September wet thunderstorms brought the event to a successful conclusion. In addition, this experience will help refine and improve future management of Wildland Fire Use. ■

Rattlesnake Peaks Wildland Fire Use

RANDALL SHEPARD
DISTRICT RANGER



Wilderness on the Naches Ranger District. Aerial reconnaissance identifies a fire burning in a patchwork of trees and alpine meadows high on the steep south face of the peak. Fire managers must now decide how to safely and effectively respond.

Following nearly a century of well-intentioned aggressive suppression, fire remains a significant force in forested ecosystems, especially in the American west. Ironically, past suppression successes are emerging as major contributors to a growing number of large, destructive wildland fires. Unnaturally dense forests grown in the absence of fire coupled with extended drought are key ingredients in the millions of acres of forest and thousands of homes that have burned over the past two decades.

Drought is beyond human control; however, managers are recognizing the benefits of reducing the density of potential forest fuels. Consistent with other management requirements, thinning dense forests and re-introducing low-intensity “controlled” burning are the most commonly used tools. The Forest Service and other federal agencies have been dramatically accelerating their efforts to reduce fuels, especially adjacent to vulnerable communities.

Another lesser-known approach to controlled burning is Wildland Fire Use (WFU).

WFU refers to both a management process and a fire event. Similar to an intentionally- ignited controlled burn, this process requires meeting stringent criteria and the development of a plan for safe and effective implementation. This is accomplished through three progressively more detailed stages of evaluation. The Rattlesnake Peaks fire serves as a good example of this process.



Photos, top to bottom, show progression of Rattlesnake Peaks Fire





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Cover photo: Larch trees and unnamed lake in Alpine Lakes Wilderness by Dan O'Connor
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