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NATIONAL NEWS

***Answer the Call* Partnership Awards Announced**

Answer the Call is a partnership program emphasizing quail management throughout the United States.

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Quail Unlimited, along with state wildlife agencies and other conservation groups, have teamed up to increase supplies of food, cover and water resulting in healthy quail and associated wildlife populations, increased recreational opportunities and increased cooperation.

This year's award winners were honored at Quail Unlimited's National Convention in Springfield, Mo. Read more>>> <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/answer.html>

Southern Region Prepared for Storms

Active weather systems will continue to have an impact on the Southern Region.

The Forest Service and Acting Regional Forester Ken Arney were recognized as being integral emergency response partners during morning briefings at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta.

The Southern Region was heavily impacted and greatly involved in Federal emergency response efforts during the 2005 hurricane season. Experience gained and lessons learned during that record-breaking season are guiding current preparations. The region is continuing to work with partners throughout the Southern Area to ensure readiness and coordinated emergency response to the storms and any impacts they leave behind.

The National Forests proactively closed recreation areas in potentially impacted areas and waived recreation fees in other agency-operated campgrounds for evacuees, their families, and rescue and recovery workers.

This Hurricane Response and Preparedness Effort is a multi-agency partnership effort between the Southern Group of State Foresters, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA Forest Service.

Click here for more information <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/>

Esperanza Fire Defendant Files for Change of Venue

The attorney of Raymond Lee Oyler, who is being charged with the deaths of five firefighters during the 2006 Esperanza Fire on the San Bernardino National Forest, is asking that his case be tried in another county because he believes Oyler will not get a fair trial in Riverside County. A hearing for the change of venue motion is scheduled for September 26. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges and remains in custody without bail.

ABOUT US

Job Corps Students on the Firelines

Job Corps students who complete career technical training in firefighting, safety and camp support functions have helped preserve our national forests over the past 40 years. As part of the National Incident Management Organization, 15 U.S. Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers have been called upon during this fire season to assist professional firefighting crews with 60 fires in 13 states. Read more >>>

Helicopter Short-Haul Program Training

By Gene Smithson, Law Enforcement and Investigations

By definition Short-Haul means "To transport one or more persons externally suspended below a helicopter for a short distance."

In short (no pun intended), Short-Haul (SH) utilizes a 100' to 150' x 5/8th inch diameter rope (depending on the terrain and canopy cover) to insert and/or extract officers attached to the line by means of a full-body harness into or out of remote areas. The line is connected to the helicopter's cargo hook located on the belly of the aircraft.

Once the 2008 SH Training cycle was completed in late June 2008, Region 5 Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) had over 80 Agents and Officers, as well as five other agents/officers from other regions that were SH certified for the program.

The 16-hour training program consists primarily of aviation safety and aircraft awareness. In addition to learning about the history and progression of SH development and techniques, students get a good dose of helicopter operations, safety, policy, equipment inspection and maintenance, and of course, their SH flight certification.

While Short-Haul may seem like a dangerous way of conducting business, it has actually proven to be a safe method of getting officers in and out of remote sites; it has actually increased efficiency and production.

Women's Equality Day Remarks Given

By Ruth Piotrowski, National Federal Women's Program Manger

Associate Chief Sally Collins provided the opening remarks as the Washington Office celebrated Women's Equality Day on August 28, 2008.

Approximately seventy-five employees took part in a program where they were given the opportunity to hear from a panel of experts that addressed the subject of, "Applying for a Job – Application through the Interview."

- Sonja Tomlinson, HCM Specialist addressed the most common mistakes make on applications;
- Karren Alexander, Director, Financial Management, addressed the use of traditional vs. behavioral interviews. She provided examples of questions and what information the selecting official can gain from the applicant's answers; and
- Greg Smith, Director, Lands, provided a selecting official's insight during the application and interview process. He shared what he looks for and why.

Associate Chief Collins' remarks:

Good Morning, it is nice to be here. When Ruth Piotrowski asked me to speak to you today, I asked her to provide some history. As usual, she gave me extensive background in spades.

When you look back in history you see that there were many strong determined women who saw injustices and sought to remedy them. Oftentimes, we don't even know their names. How many of you remember Elizabeth Cady Stanton or Lucretia Mott? These two women had a sense of what was right and a willingness to fight, over a lifetime, for the rights of women.

They were fighting for the right to a better education. They were fighting for the right of women to have better jobs; with better pay. They were fighting for to keep their wages; back then, their wages were paid to their husbands. They were also fighting for the right for married women to own property because in those days the property was in their husband's name even it the woman owned it prior to her marriage.

These women got stronger with each defeat, and with each protest, they built momentum.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote a declaration demanding these rights and others for women. But, as Ruth pointed out, that declaration didn't initially contain the right to vote. It was thought that a statement like that would make the movement less effective, that it would incite ridicule that would diminish their goals. But, that declaration was passed at the Woman's Rights Convention in 1848. It was August 18, 1920, eighty-two years later, before the 19th Amendment was passed giving women the right to vote.

The women's rights and the civil rights movements have been intrinsically aligned and reinforced over centuries. Frederick Douglass, a former slave, understood the value of freedom. He was impressed with the women's movement and what it stood for. He was a staunch supporter; and as the editor of a newspaper, he publicly endorsed the fight for women's rights.

How many of you have been staying up late to watch the Democratic Convention? It doesn't matter whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, we are witnessing history. We are watching as Barack Obama becomes the first African American to run as a candidate of a major party in America.

We have also witnessed Hillary Clinton get closer to the nomination than any other woman in history. As Obama's fierce opponent she stood on the floor of the convention hall and gracefully gave her endorsement and the convention's accession vote to Barack Obama. This may have been the most dignified gesture I have ever witnessed in my lifetime.

There have been a lot of firsts in the last decade in America. Women are leading Federal agencies for the first time, and serving in key line and staff positions, including the Forest Service. Whether it is Gail

Kimbell, Elle Towns, or these two historic figures, Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton, we all stand on the shoulders of the thousands of the many men and women who fought for the rights they believed to be inherent to all people. And we are able to enjoy these rights and freedoms today.

As women continue the movement to a better life, we must remember the women who came before us. Many of these women are unknown to us, but their legacy must not be forgotten. We must continue to make sound decisions that will continue to improve our lives. Today, you are going to hear from a panel of experts who will share their insights regarding the application and interview process.

Thank you and thanks for helping to celebrate this important day.

Women's Equality Day Quiz

Women Who Fought For Women's Rights

By Ruth Piotrowski, National Federal Women's Program Manager

Susan B. Anthony (February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906)

In her early years, she taught school and became a headmistress at a women's division of a school. She realized that women teachers were not paid the same as men doing the same work so in 1837, she asked for equal pay for women teachers. In 1849, she began her work as an abolitionist speaking out against slavery. It was in 1851, that Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton was a key player in the women's rights movement. Following a meeting on the street, Stanton described Anthony. She wrote, "How well I remember the day! George Thompson and William Lloyd Garrison having announced an anti-slavery meeting in Seneca Falls, Miss Anthony came to attend it. These gentlemen were my guests. Walking home after the adjournment, we met Mrs. Bloomer and Miss Anthony, on the corner of the street, waiting to greet us. There she stood, with her good earnest face and genial smile, dressed in gray delaine, hat and all the same color, relieved with pale blue ribbons, the perfection of neatness and sobriety. I liked her thoroughly, and why I did not at once invite her home with me to dinner I do not know..." This chance meeting was the beginning of what was to be a lifelong friendship. They worked together to attain women's rights and women's suffrage throughout their lives. Since she never married, she often served as the organizer and was the one who traveled to speak at meetings and conventions.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (November 12, 1815 – October 26, 1902)

... married abolitionist Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840. But she changed the ceremony. After observing legal relationships between men and women, she insisted that the word "obey" not be used during the ceremony. She accompanied her husband he attended the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London as the delegate from New York. As an abolitionist herself, she and other women were outraged when women were denied the right to be seated and heard. It was at that convention that she met Lucretia Mott who was attending as an official delegate. They spoke about this injustice and decided to do something about it when they returned to America. The two didn't meet again until they encountered each other in the home of a mutual friend in 1848. There were five women in that home at the home on the June day who called for a woman's rights convention. Stanton spoke of the injustices against women so eloquently, that the women decided that she should write the "Declaration of Sentiments" which spoke to the rights they needed. Following their meeting in 1851, she and Susan B. Anthony worked as a team. Anthony often referred to Stanton as the brains of their relationship while she saw her role as the "worker". Anthony, not being married, was free to travel widely, where Stanton, a wife and mother was not. It has been written that Stanton's ability to write with such passion and Anthony's ability to deliver those words were a brilliant combination. They were not always revered, but in the end, they are considered the "foremothers" of the fight for women's equality. She also was an integral figure in the fight for property rights for married women, the right for equal guardianship of children, and liberal divorce laws to enable women to leave marriages where they or their children were abused.

Lucy Stone (August 13, 1818 – October 18, 1893)

From a very young aged, Lucy Stone questioned why her father had the right to "rule the household", why her brother had the right to be educated, but she did not. Since her father would not pay for her education, she supported herself by teaching and put herself through Oberlin College in Ohio, becoming

the first Massachusetts woman to earn a college degree. She became an abolitionist and later helped to organize the Seneca Falls women's rights convention in 1848. She is credited with recruiting Susan B. Anthony to the fight for women's rights at a convention in 1850. She was married in 1853, and she insisted in keeping her own name after marriage. Following the Civil War, Stone ideas were considered radical and she split with Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton when they became angered that women were denied the vote when it was granted to black men. From then on Anthony and Stone led opposing views of the women's suffrage movement. Times had changed and in her later years she is remembered as a leader of the conservative wing of the suffrage movement. She opposed the labor movement and took little interest in the social inequalities caused by industrialization, immigration, and urbanization.

Julia Ward Howe (May 27, 1819 – October 17, 1910)

... was the fourth of seven children. Her father was a well-to-do banker and she lost her mother when she was just five years old. She had a great ear for learning languages and learned many as a child. She married in 1843 and had six children. She is best remembered as the one who wrote words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The song was originally written in 1855 as a spiritual that was often heard around the campfire. But, early in the Civil War, Howe heard the song during a public review of the troops in Washington, D.C. Her companion at the review suggested that she write new words for the fighting men's song. On November 18, 1861, while staying at the Willard Hotel, she woke up with the words of the song running through her mind and in a dimly lit room, the new verses became "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was first published on the front page of the February 1862 edition of the Atlantic Monthly Magazine. The sixth verse written by Howe, which is less commonly sung, was not published at that time. The song was also published as a broadside in 1863 by the Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments in Philadelphia. In Howe's lyrics, the words of the verse are packed into a longer line, contrasted with the chorus's short refrain.

Belva A. Lockwood (1830 – 1917)

... began teaching school at the age of fourteen, earning half the salary of her male counterparts. She used her salary to pay for her attendance at a local academy and soon married a local farmer. Soon after giving birth to a daughter, her husband died and she returned to teaching to support her family. She was determined to continue her education and graduated with honors from Syracuse University 1857. Upon graduation, she accepted an offer to become a school principal where she spent the next four years. She later founded the McNall Seminary at Oswego, N.Y named for her husband. She relocated to Washington, D.C. and opened another school. She met Rev. Ezekiel Lockwood, her future husband, around this time that she began studying law. She was refused admission to the Law School of Columbia College, because of her gender. The faculty thought that she would be a distraction to their male students. However, her persistence in furthering her education paid off when she was admitted to the National University Law School, from which she graduated. However, she was not allowed to receive her diploma until she appealed to the school's president, U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant. After receiving her degree of B.L., she opened a law practice in Washington, D.C. Her clients consisted mainly of women, Native Americans, and the poor. One day, one of her cases came before the Supreme Court and she refused the right to practice before the Supreme Court. She spent the next five years lobbying for a bill to pass through congress that would allow a woman to practice law before the Supreme Court. In 1879, Belva Lockwood had the honor of becoming the first woman admitted to the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to being a staunch support of women's rights, she worked to obtain the right for women to vote.

Jeannette Rankin (June 11, 1880 – May 18, 1973)

... attended public schools and graduated from the University of Montana at Missoula in 1902 and attended the School of Philanthropy in New York City. She got involved in the women's rights movement in Washington State in 1910, in California in 1911, and in Montana from 1912 to 1914. She was the first woman to be elected to the United States House of Representatives (March 4, 1917-March 3, 1919); and the first female member of Congress and the only woman to be elected to Congress from Montana. During her terms, she voted against United States involvement in World Wars I and was the only dissenting vote regarding engagement in World War II. Rankin later ran as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, but was unsuccessful. She was elected to the Seventy-seventh Congress (January 3, 1941 –

January 3, 1943). After her term, she returned to the lecture circuit and her farm and remained a leader and lobbyist for peace and women's rights until her death.

Carrie Chapman Catt (January 9, 1859 – March 9, 1947)

... was born into a family that for generations had farmed the family homestead in West Potsdam, New York. Although her parents decided to break that tradition soon after their marriage and move west, they continued to be well known to the local community in New York. Carrie was born in Wisconsin where she attended Iowa State College and graduated in 1880. The usual path for well educated young women at that time was to go into education, and that Catt did. She served as the Superintendent of Schools in Mason City, Iowa from 1883 to 84. She married in 1885, but her husband died a year later. With her experience in the law, education and journalism, she joined the Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association. Within a few years she was organizing local suffrage movements all over the state and served as a delegate to the national convention in 1890. She married George Catt, an engineer, in 1890 and continued her organizing events in different states. After fifteen years of marriage she was widowed again. She worked as a national organizer for the National American Woman Suffrage Association from 1890 to 1900, when she became its national president. She led the campaign to win women's suffrage with a federal amendment to the constitution until 1920 when the 19th amendment was ratified.

Charlotte Woodward (1848 -)

... was teaching school at the age of fifteen, but in 1848, at the age of eighteen or nineteen, she was sewing gloves from pieces sent out by merchants. She was very unhappy with the limited opportunities that she had as a woman. She spoke of rebellion within herself as she sewed gloves for hours for extremely little pay that was not even hers to spend. She didn't complain about working, but she wanted to have a say in what she would do and she wanted her wages to be paid in her hand. When she read the announcement for the Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, she was ecstatic. Her reaction was recorded in an interview. The account found her running from one house to another showing the article to other women. Some found it as amusing, while others were absorbed with interest. In fact, a few of her closest friends were so interested that they wanted to attend the convention with her. They were shocked to find about fifty men at a session that was billed for women only, but it was their presence that gave Woodward the courage to return for the second day's session. Following marriage, she joined the American Woman Suffrage Association. Although she did not support the National Woman Suffrage Association, which Stanton and Anthony had organized, she wrote to Mott in 1871, "our aim is the same, what matter if we do not all choose the same means to accomplish it?" She also became active in the Association for the Advancement of Women. She knew Susan B. Anthony and called her "a great and noble woman." Seventy-two years after the convention, the United States finally passed the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote in 1920. She was the only one of the sixty-eight women who signed the Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls in 1848 that lived to see that day. In 1921, at the age of 92, she sent a trowel to the National Woman's Party (NWP), to be used in laying a cornerstone for the NWP's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The inscription read, "In memory of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848: presented by its sole survivor, Mrs. Charlotte L. Pierce, in thanksgiving for progress made by women and in honor of the National Woman's Party, which will carry on the struggle so bravely begun." When observers took this as an endorsement of a party for women only, Woodward Pierce quickly clarified her views. The National Woman's Party, she said, "seems to be a woman's party. I do not believe in that. I think women should go into the existing parties." "My heart is with all women who vote. They have gained it now, and they should not quarrel about the method of using it." There are conflicting reports about whether she actually got to vote. Some say she was unable to vote in 1920 due to illness.

Alice Paul (January 11, 1885 – July 9, 1977)

... dedicated her life to securing equal rights for all women. She felt that women and men should be equal partners in society. She credited her faith as a Quaker for that belief because in their community men and women were equal. Many suffragists were Quakers, i.e. Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott were also Quakers. She entered Swarthmore College in 1901, but her grandfather was one of the founders of the co-educational school in 1864. He believed that men and women should have the opportunity to an equal education which Paul pursued: graduated from Swarthmore in 1905, attended the University of Pennsylvania where she received her Masters in Sociology in 1907 and her PhD in Economics in 1912; graduated from the Washington College of Law in 1922, a Masters of Law (1927) and

a Doctor of Civil Law (1928) from American University. While a student at the University of Pennsylvania, she joined the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and was quickly appointed as head of the Congressional Committee in charge of working for a federal suffrage amendment, a secondary goal to the NAWSA leadership. In 1912, she headed to Washington, D.C. to organize suffrage events. She and two friends organized an elaborate and massive women's march up Pennsylvania Avenue to coincide with Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration. The reaction to the march made headlines across the nation and suffrage became a popular topic of discussion among the politicians and the general public. In 1914, Paul formed the Congressional Union and severed her ties with the NAWSA. Paul and others faced many challenges throughout the years, but the suffragists continued to demonstrate for freedom. When the 19th Amendment was enacted, she still felt there was work to do to reach equality. She began working on a constitutional amendment that would call for absolute equality stating, "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was introduced in every session of Congress from 1923 until it passed in 1972. During the 1940s, both the Republicans and Democrats added the ERA to their party platforms. In 1943, the ERA was rewritten and dubbed the "Alice Paul Amendment." The new amendment read, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." She led a coalition that was successful in adding a sexual discrimination clause to Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The re-emergence of the women's movement in the late sixties led to renewed interest in the ERA; on March 22, 1972, the Senate and the House of Representatives passed the amendment. It went to the states for ratification in 1982 and was three states short of becoming law.

Collaboration Key in the Invasive Plants Fight

by Reghan Cloudman, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

During the 40th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it seems appropriate to minimize invasive species along the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River.

Leafy spurge is incredibly invasive and once established is hard to treat. In the lower portions of the Poudre Canyon, leafy spurge is fairly prevalent. The plant is slowly creeping its way up the canyon and moving closer to the Cache la Poudre Wilderness boundary. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland utilized an integrated weed management approach to treat areas on the north and south side of the river this year.

On August 12, District staff joined forces for the first time with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Larimer County, Pawnee National Grassland and Medicine Bow National Forest employees, and a local volunteer to treat leafy spurge infestations along Highway 14. Workers sprayed more than 100 gallons of herbicide from backpacks and trucks, with approximately eight acres of leafy spurge receiving treatment.

Earlier this summer the District used biological treatment on leafy spurge on the north side of the Cache la Poudre River. Workers, targeting five acres of infestation, released approximately 1,000 *Apthona spp.* flea beetles to feast on the invasive plant.

Members of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers also fought invasive plants in the Wild and Scenic River area, pulling musk thistle, houndstongue, dames rocket, and common teasel along Highway 14 this summer.

With invasive plants continuing to increase in the Poudre Canyon and elsewhere, cooperation with partners and varying treatment methods are crucial in the fight against the weeds. The partnerships also allow each organization to maximize treatment dollars.

The canyon's popularity makes it difficult to minimize weed seed spread as people and pets hike and drive along this popular route. The District hopes to continue to battle invasive plants as a collaborative group and appreciates all the support already received.

"It was great to see how excited all of our partners were about this project," Canyon Lakes District Ranger Ellen Hodges said. "Everyone came together with such enthusiasm. Now that we have forged this successful partnership, we will strive to continue this great work in the future."

For more information about the Canyon Lakes Ranger District Invasive Species Program contact Weed Coordinator Kim Obele at kobe@fs.fed.us or (970) 295-6755.

Partnerships Build, Rebuild Historic Camp Sites

By Gwen Ernst-Ulrich, Rocky Mountain Region

Partnerships were the cornerstone of the first U.S. Forest Service campground in the United States, and the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands San Carlos Ranger District is using partnerships to rebuild several historically important sites four miles from Beulah, Colorado.

In 1919 the Squirrel Creek Campground, the first campground in the Forest Service System, became the birthplace of the family auto camping trip, where the now common combination of a picnic table, fire grate, trash service, and parking spur were first provided to improve the camping experience while protecting the environment.

The Forest is collaborating with partners to stabilize and interpret some of the historic Squirrel Creek campsites, the community lodge, and picnic shelter as well as portions of the Cascade Trail in Squirrel Creek canyon. These original sites were preserved intact when a flood washed out old Highway 78 in 1947. Squirrel Creek became accessible only to foot or horse traffic, so the original facilities were never replaced or upgraded.

The Squirrel Creek Historic District is being assessed for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Stabilization of the original facilities began in 2004 in partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Frontier Pathways Byway.

This year the Forest is rebuilding the 1960s-vintage Davenport Campground at the western end of Squirrel Creek canyon to reflect its 1920s look. It will remain a functioning auto-accessible campground, but its layout and facilities will evoke the 1920s and will include interpretive signs.

"We're attempting to recapture the recreational value that Arthur Carhart first envisioned. This 'new' campground will provide a special type of camping experience with a history lesson," said San Carlos District Ranger Paul Crespin.

The Squirrel Creek campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails were the inspirational design of Carhart's San Isabel Recreation Plan, developed in 1919-20 for the San Isabel National Forest and the first comprehensive recreation plan in the National Forest System.

Carhart, then a young landscape architect for the U.S. Forest Service who later co-founded the Wilderness Society, has been called the father of the wilderness concept. His plans anticipated the idea of multi-use resources in the national forests.

In 1919 the John D. Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation (CF&I), the major employer in the Pueblo area, began working through the non-profit San Isabel Public Recreation Association that CF&I helped to establish with Carhart and Forest Supervisor Albin Hamel and local business owners. Concern about the need to provide healthy outlets for a large, potentially restive, and newly mobile working class motivated the Forest Service, CF&I and other Pueblo business leaders, and politicians in Pueblo and Denver to work together to create the Squirrel Creek sites.

About 80 percent of the work in Davenport will be completed by the end of 2008, matching the historic design while ensuring that current safety and accessibility standards are met. For example, modern vault

toilets will feature log-sided walls, and the stone veneer on the picnic shelter will conceal steel beams. Notable features include camping spots, picnic tables, fireplaces, and a footbridge over the creek.

New interpretive kiosks located at improved trailhead facilities on entrances to Squirrel Creek canyon will invite the public to hike two to three miles down the trail to view the authentic stabilized sites, said District Recreation, Lands, and Minerals Program Manager Carl Bauer.

The site is bound to draw history buffs while restoring the early artifacts of a great American family tradition.

For more information on the Squirrel Creek canyon recreation restoration project, contact Bauer at crbauer@fs.fed.us or (719) 269-8702.

Is the Kaibab Communicating With Extraterrestrials?

By Jackie Banks, Kaibab National Forest

Are Kaibab National Forest managers communicating with intelligent life from out of this world? Or perhaps, they discovered evidence of a long-lost culture native to northern Arizona? Rumors have been running rampant regarding geoglyphs on the Kaibab's Williams Ranger District. Read more >>> http://fsweb.r3.fs.fed.us/swrn/2008/aug/kaibab_aliens.shtml

Resorts Contribute To San Bernardino National Forest Association

By Sarah Miggins, Executive Director, National Forest Association

In May 2007, the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa and the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) <http://www.sbnfa.com/> joined in partnership to support projects that improve and enhance the surrounding National Forest.

The General Manager at that time, Peter Henry, always said, "The Resort is surrounded by beautiful San Bernardino National Forest, which attracts our visitors to the Resort, and it is our intent to give back."

Through the resort's offering guests a voluntary \$3 per day, per room charge to their bill, the SBNFA has received over \$100K since the program was started just over a year ago. In return for these fees, SBNFA naturalists have provided guests educational tours throughout the forest and have been able to sell maps, books and forest-related merchandise in the resort's café and store.

Last spring the SBNFA and Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa approached Big Bear Lake's Northwoods Resort, another full-service, all-season mountain resort in the area. Northwoods Resort's owner and local management committed to allocating one percent of their resort fee to the SBNFA.

"We strongly believe in giving back to the environment here at Northwoods," says Michael Goldstein, President of Packard Hospitality Group, LLC, owner of the Northwoods facility. "The resort takes advantage of nearly every aspect of the beautiful surroundings; it only makes sense to take steps to ensure it remains beautiful for our guests for generations to come."

This partnership is particularly vital to the success of the educational programs that are offered by the nonprofit. These contributions will expand SBNFA's capacity to connect with millions of people in Southern California and redeem the land conservation mission.

"We are very excited about these generous offerings from the local mountain resorts," declared SBNFA Executive Director, Sarah Miggins. "This monthly income helps to strengthen the foundation of our organization and provide opportunities for meaningful and memorable visitor experiences in Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead and within our National Forest."

"These pristine mountain locations lay claim to over 300 days of sunshine each year and endless options for outdoor activities. Visitors to Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead can experience traditional mountain activities such as hiking, biking, boating, skiing and fishing or venture into more unexpected recreational options like parasailing, golf and horseback riding," she said.

"Northwoods Resort has long been a favorite destination for visitors seeking unspoiled beauty and an incredible array of options for outdoor activities," says Lynne Baker, the resort's General Manager. "And now guests of the resort will each be a part of not only enjoying, but also enhancing this magnificent destination."

Visit Northwoods Resort on line at www.northwoodsresort.com and Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa on line at www.laresort.com

Confluence Project Dedication

The Confluence Project is an initiative to reclaim, transform and re-imagine seven places in the Columbia River Basin along the Lewis and Clark Expedition trail through permanent art installations by Maya Lin. Each of these seven places is located where waterways merge or traditional peoples have gathered.

An array of partnerships and cooperation ranging from volunteers working on an accessible trail to major interagency coordination has made possible the third in a series of seven art installations designed by Maya Lin, the artist who designed the Vietnam War memorial in Washington DC.

The installations, part of the "Confluence Project" follow the path of Lewis and Clark through the Northwest.

The unique design for the blind at this site includes vertical wood slats inscribed with the 134 species of plants and animals Lewis and Clark documented on their historic journey. The artwork will serve as a lasting reminder of the interaction between humans and nature and a model for connecting people with the natural world.

This site, called, "the bird blind," acknowledges the many species associated with the Sandy River Delta at the west end of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA).

Recently Maya Lin joined an interagency celebration dedicating the installation. Deputy Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa also spoke at the celebration.

Key partners in the project include Confluence Project, Oregon National Guard, Oregon Department of Transportation, National Forest Foundation, with many others making big contributions to the effort.

For more about the Confluence Project go to <http://www.confluenceproject.org>.

Northwest Youth Corps Crews Build Trails

By Ashley DuBrey, Fremont-Winema National Forest

A total of 20 energetic Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) crews are spending their summer out in the woods working on rehabilitating trails on the Fremont-Winema National Forests.

This year the NYC crews focused on reconstructing the old Cottonwood Creek Trail 127 and the Fremont National Recreation Trail 160.

Northwest Youth Corps, a non-profit organization based in Eugene, Ore., was established in 1984 to provide outdoor educational opportunities for older students from throughout the region.

In the summer of 1994, Larry Hills, Recreation and Wilderness Manager for the Bly and Lakeview Ranger Districts needed two weeks of assistance on a trail rehabilitation project. Hills decided to give a NYC crew an opportunity to help on the project after he came across one of their promotional flyers.

At the end of the two weeks, the project was done so well that what started out as an experimental soon became an annual tradition. "In the past 18 years, over 100 crews have made a stamp on reforming over 100 miles of recreational trails on the Fremont-Winema National Forests" said Hills. "Meeting new crews from NYC is my favorite part of the summer, the kids' energy and love of the outdoors is inspiring"

Camp starts in late June and ends in mid October for youth between the ages of 16 and 19. The summer session is a great way to gain experience and knowledge about the environment while working in the outdoors. NYC students come from all over the world and work primarily in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Arizona. Youth who participate in this program also receive school credit, as well as hourly wages.

"Our main goal is to get teens involved in learning about the environment. We teach them 'Something Educational Every Day' (SEED)," said Cole Southword, NYC Program Coordinator. "SEED is an everyday lesson plan that educates about weather, environmental regulations, safety and land restoration."

"I enjoy being outdoors, making money and being able to make new friends," said Kevin Young, a 16-year-old crew member from Grants Pass, Ore. Young plans on making a career out of his outdoor NYC experience. "I would like to be a ranger or a trail leader," Kevin adds.

Each NYC crew is composed of 10 youth members and two crew bosses, with each session lasting five to six weeks. Crews stay one week at a location and typically rehabilitate about a mile of trail. The ability to change location on the Fremont-Winema National Forests every week broadens the youths' perspective about nature and keeps the job exciting.

Keegan McDonald, a 16-year-old student from Eugene, Ore., is already looking forward to returning in 2009. "I really like the different locations and environments that we are able to visit."

Each weekend the NYC youth gather for different recreational trips. Rafting, swimming and sight seeing are all on the menu. McDonald says, "I have never seen Crater Lake but I hear it is beautiful. I am hoping to go hiking there for a weekend trip."

Responsibility and commitment are two other qualities that are taught to the students. "We have to wake up at 4:30 a.m. every day to make sure that we get 10 hours of work in before it gets too hot outside," said Robert Bruynee II, a 17-year-old student from Eugene, Ore.

Students are also responsible for tasks such as making breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner. "Our crew's favorite lunch is peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with mustard," said Bruynee. A very unusual combination, but the protein from the peanut butter and sodium from the mustard is said to be a "perfect combination" while in the heat.

The crew sleeps in two tents, divided by gender. Most camping materials are provided by NYC, however, students are required to bring jeans, a blue long sleeve shirt and boots. On arrival to camp, working tools, helmet and gloves are also provided.

To learn more about Northwest Youth Corps, visit their Web site at <http://www.nwyouthcorps.org> or call (541) 349-5055.

Forest Service Partners to Save Fish

Most South Carolina residents probably associate the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) with standard images of concrete abutments, orange highway cones, road patches or freeway lane construction. But...fish? The SCDOT teams with the Forest Service to restore a different kind of byway. Read more >>> <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=4030>

Project Made Big Impression on Boy Scout

Becky Dees of Bryant, Arkansas said her youngest son Matt is still talking about the "awesome" experience he had June 7-14, 2008 in Taney County near Ava, Mo. Matt was one of the more than 500 Boy Scouts from across the country who participated in the Boy Scouts' largest national conservation project since World War II and the largest single volunteer project on Mark Twain National Forest. The Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts help restore a native Missouri dolomite glade ecosystem. Read more >>> <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=4024>

An Interview with the National Director of Law Enforcement and Investigations

The late days of summer and early days of fall are the harvest times on the marijuana plots that have been planted in many of our national forests.

These are the days when Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers and Agents, often accompanied by local, state and federal authorities, confiscate the largest number of plants. The figures increase each year.

Forest Service Director of Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI), John Twiss has characterized this situation as, "... the illegal occupancy of your Federal public lands by armed foreign nationals."

An Oregon native, John Twiss earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management in 1973 from Oregon State University following military service. He assumed the position as Director of Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations in Washington, DC in July of 2005. Prior to that, Twiss served as the Forest Service Liaison to Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey and as Special Assistant to Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth. From 1995 to 2005, he was the Forest Supervisor of the 1.2 million acre Black Hills National Forest, located in South Dakota and Wyoming.

Twiss started his career in federal service in 1965 as a seasonal employee with the National Park Service at Yellowstone National Park. He next served as a Forest Service smokejumper for 9 years at Redmond, Oregon. After assignments in Nevada, Utah, and Idaho, Twiss served as a District Ranger in Idaho and Oregon, Deputy Forest Supervisor in Minnesota and as the Agency's National Wilderness Leader in Washington, DC.

John's wife Jackie is a graphic illustrator with the Forest Service. Their daughter Jill is a comedian in New York City.

FS Today: What is LEI's role in the Forest Service?

Twiss: It's really to protect the natural resources, the public, and our employees. You do that through enforcement and investigation efforts. Protection of our visitors and employees is our highest priority.

Our uniformed Law Enforcement Officers handle most of the field violations and our Special Agents take on the more complex investigations.

FS Today: Do they conduct crime scene investigations such as those you would see on television?

Twiss: Yes, they are very similar. Our folks go through all the analysis that you'd see in a lot of the crime shows, for resource crimes and crimes against people. We have exceptional expertise in natural resource crimes and complex fire investigations.

We are often asked to share our resource and fire investigative techniques and experience with others. We work with countries like Jordan, Bulgaria, Greece, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and some of the South American countries to help them with their issues. Part of it is forensics, but a lot of it is experience, technique and prevention.

FS Today: Are resource crimes a problem in the United States?

Twiss: Resource theft is an ongoing problem, particularly on the national forests, because you can make a lot of money stealing the public's trees, forest products and natural resources. Resource damage is also a large problem.

FS Today: There's another area where people are making a lot of money. Probably the most dynamic activity I think LEI gets involved in is marijuana eradication. Speak a little bit about the change in the grow patterns that you've seen in the last 10 or 15 years.

Twiss: Let's go back 20 years. Marijuana being grown on the national forests, primarily by local residents, was primarily in Western Oregon, California and the South. About 15 years ago we started to notice Mexican nationals growing marijuana on about ten national forests in the country, mostly in Southern and Central California.

We then started to see that a lot of these Mexican nationals were displacing local growers and the plantations were getting far bigger. Ten years ago if we found a marijuana plantation of 5,000 plants that was a very big plantation.

Mexican drug cartels today are on 57 national forests, in 15 states, that we know of, and they operate in every region with the exception of Regions 1, 2, and 10. A large grow operation today would be 125,000 plants plus, on 2 to 10 acres of land. The growers today are armed, often with automatic weapons, and violent. Given the right situation they will protect that plantation and they'll shoot at you. It's a very rapidly expanding, dangerous situation.

The issue at hand is the illegal occupancy of your National Forests by armed foreign nationals who will hurt you if you threaten their income stream - and it doesn't matter who you are. I think you should be able to go out on your favorite Forest safely without worrying about being harmed by somebody simply because you're hiking near their dope patch.

The second issue besides the safety of our visitors and employees is the resource damage that is caused by the drug organizations' activities.

Toxic chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides, animal poisons, and fertilizers that they often bring in from Mexico and are often banned in this country, leach into the soil. They cut trees, start fires and kill wildlife on a regular basis. The amount of garbage that they leave behind is huge. The diversion and pollution that they cause to our streams and the compaction and erosion on the soils is significant. It's a large problem from several different aspects, not to mention the miles and miles of plastic water pipe that are out there. These folks know how to move water a long way.

Another fact that I think is appalling is that 75% of the marijuana being grown on Federal public lands is being grown on the national forests. We estimate there are 4,500+ Mexican growers today on our national forests. The forests have become a major supplier of the marijuana consumed in this country.

FS Today: It's a pretty profitable venture isn't it? It has a pretty good profit margin.

Twiss: All the research done by DEA and other law enforcement agencies show marijuana as the most profitable drug. It's often the drug that supports other drugs. We've learned that the Mexican cartels are poly-drug organizations; they deal with any kind of drug where they can make money. They are dealing with cocaine, with methamphetamines, and with heroin.

Mexico is the Colombia of today. Ninety-five percent of the drugs that come into this country are coming through Mexico.

The cartel wars have gotten so violent on the Mexican side of the border and down around the border areas of the United States that it's almost rampant. The government of Mexico has a huge battle going with the drug cartels, and these are the same cartels we suspect are growing marijuana up in our national forests. It's not a good situation.

The Forest Service has recognized this danger and, in Forest Service law enforcement, it's our number-one priority to solve. We've partnered with just about everybody that we know that has an interest or responsibility here and developed a strategy that we think is going to be effective. It's going to require some money, resources, and dedication. And it's going to have to be flexible - to shift - because as we're successful in certain areas we know they're going to adjust their methods and strategies.

We're dealing with many different federal, state and local agencies and our strategy is twofold; it's to investigate and eradicate. If you're able to follow the money, seize it, and make arrests, you're eventually going to dismantle the organization. If you're able to locate and remove their crop, obviously their profits are gone and they will move elsewhere. That's our strategy.

FS Today: What about methamphetamine labs? That was a hot topic five years ago. Is it as much of a problem or...

Twiss: It's not as large of a problem as it used to be, but it's still a problem. You still find them out in the national forests, but it's far less of a problem than it was five to ten years ago.

One of the reasons I hear most often cited was the law that eliminated the large amounts of pseudoephedrine that you used to be able to get in the United States. Now we're finding that the methamphetamines are being imported from Mexico.

FS Today: If you weren't tying up all of these resources on eradication and investigation, how would you be able to use your funding?

Twiss: We'd be investigating a lot more resource crimes out on the national forests; crimes such as forest products theft. We're not doing anywhere near the work that we should be doing there. OHV (off highway vehicle) violations, resource damage, property theft, trespass, fire investigations, vandalism, illegal dumping, and crime prevention need a lot more attention.

I also think we would be quicker to respond to crimes against people. We are seeing more violent crimes out in the forest than we've seen in the past. One of the theories behind this increase is simply the growth of the urban interface; a lot more people are living closer to the forest.

With the number of violent people in our forests and the number of assaults that we have had on officers, we need to invest more in safety training and better defensive tools. We never envisioned ten years ago that it would be necessary for us to invest in riot control training, pepperball guns, and Tasers to survive.

FS Today: Since we're talking about technology, speak a little bit about the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - UAVs, drones.

Twiss: We're looking for any kind of technology that gives our officers an advantage when they're out there working around dangerous people. The small UAVs were a tool we examined to enable us to get a look at people in marijuana gardens before we went in to raid them. The UAVs, we think, will be able to tell us how many people we have in a marijuana plantation and if they're armed. Our hope is that we can take a little bit closer look before we go in and avoid getting into a shoot-out.

FS Today: Are you learning anything in the eradication effort that's helping the general workload of LEOs and special agents? Is there a positive aspect?

Twiss: That's a good question. Yes. The biggest thing that I think is going to benefit us in the long run is the building of new partnerships.

In order to run these Mexican drug trafficking organizations off our National Forests, it's going to take the help of everyone. I'm happy to say that we have cooperation today at unprecedented levels and we are learning how to be better partners. It's to our advantage to blur the lines of responsibility on occasion.

We are beyond our capability as an agency in dealing with international drug organizations. We are really good in forested settings and we have some top-notch investigators and officers. As you start to leave the national forests, which are where the drugs and the money go, we have to ask for help from others. And as you leave this country to pursue the Mexican cartels, obviously we need help from investigators that work internationally.

Learning the culture of some of these agencies so that we can work with them is really an ongoing effort. Learning the priorities and values of the FBI, DEA, and ATF, for example, is very important. You have to understand them before you can work with them successfully. It's interesting, frustrating, and rewarding at times.

In the long term, I think that as we build coalitions with Federal and State and local agencies that also deal with these kinds of issues, we're all going to be really well prepared for any kind of forest problems we have in the future and we'll have trust and bonds built.

FS Today: That brings up the subject of new technology and the way you have to adapt to it. Now you have satellite and GPS and GIS, UAVs - all of those tools. That has to increase the learning curve of all your personnel.

Twiss: It definitely has and we've had to work with agencies and companies that have expertise in these areas to help us become proficient. The growers are also improving their technology.

Here's a good example. We were out in a marijuana garden recently and we found cameras that the growers had mounted in the trees. The cameras are tripped simply by motion detection and then the cameras start to transmit and record our activities. We needed to learn the cameras' capabilities. We know the growers have lookouts and listening devices. We know that they have radios that are often better than ours, so we have to learn and adapt. They are very smart.

FS Today: The DEA estimates the profit margin for an investment of \$10,000 is \$2 million or something like that. It's a very lucrative business. The DEA values are about \$2,000 a plant.

Twiss: According to the Gettman report marijuana is the largest cash crop in the U.S., more valuable than corn and wheat combined. \$2,000 a plant, which is one pound of processed marijuana, is a pretty conservative wholesale value. The value can range up to \$3,500 a pound wholesale.

In 2007, we cut 2.1 million marijuana plants off 57 national forests that were worth almost \$5 billion - wholesale. That's greater than the Forest Service budget. And we estimated that we got a small percentage of what's actually out there. The total value of marijuana being grown on the National Forests today is estimated at \$20 - \$25 billion.

Ten years ago, we eradicated 318,000 plants off 14 National Forests for a value of \$636 million. You can see the rapid growth and money involved.

FS Today: You've spoken primarily about the West. There's a cannabis problem in Kentucky. Can you talk a little bit about that?

Twiss: There's been an area that for years has been heavy in illegal drugs and alcohol. You find a lot of methamphetamine in the Daniel Boone National Forest and a lot of marijuana. The Forest Service has joined a drug task force in Kentucky to focus on drugs on the Daniel Boone and it's been very successful. But what we found is the people that are growing marijuana or making meth are almost all locals. They haven't been penetrated by the Mexican nationals and I guess you can speculate on the reasons why.

FS Today: It harkens back to moonshining?

Twiss: That's what the local agents think. It's kind of a substitute for money they used to make for moonshine.

FS Today: Thank you for your time John

EAST TO WEST

Treesearch Web site Now Has More than 25,000 Publications

The Treesearch Web site - an online database of publications written, produced, and sponsored by Research and Development - has grown exponentially from 7,000 publications in 2003, to over 25,000 publicly available, full-text publications from all Research Stations, Labs, and Institutes. Publications in the collection include: research monographs published by the agency as well as papers written by our scientists, but published by other organizations in their journals, conference proceedings, or books. Research results behind these publications have been peer reviewed to ensure the best quality science. Visitors can search for publications in numerous ways - including author, keyword, title, or year. For more information, click here>>>. <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us>

Western Native Trout Initiative Announces New Committee and Approvals

In two separate actions at the July meeting of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Native Trout Initiative received endorsement for a new Steering Committee to guide the organizations' implementation of efforts to improve the status of 15 species of western native trout; and approved six grants totaling \$200,000 to a variety of states and organizations. Read more >>> <http://fishwildlife1.blogspot.com/2008/08/western-native-trout-initiative.html>

Woody Biomass Strategy Touted

Use of woody biomass can be an important tool for forest managers. The Woody Biomass Utilization Strategy describes how Forest Service programs can better coordinate to improve the use of woody biomass in tandem with forest management activities on both Federal and private land. Although the focus of this strategy is on the use of woody biomass, the primary objective is sustaining healthy and resilient forests that will be able to survive in an environment of natural disturbances and threats,

including climate change, so that they will continue contributing to America's ecological, social, and economic well-being into the future. <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodybiomass>

REGION 2 - Rocky Mountain Region

Forest Employees Learn About Ute Culture

In late August, week of August 25, approximately 30 employees from the White River and Medicine Bow-Routt national forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (Colo. and Wyo.) met with Ute Indian Tribe members to learn more about the Ute culture and how it pertains to forest management. Clifford Duncan, tribal elder, and Betsy Chapoose, tribal member and Native American Grave and Repatriation Act representative, along with Dr. Jim Goss, a retired professor specializing in the Ute language and culture, discussed the sensitivity of many Ute sites found on White River National Forest lands during a four-day camping-training session at White Owl Lake in the Flattops Wilderness.

REGION 5 - Pacific Southwest Region

Information Meeting on Effects of Gap Fire

A public meeting will be held in Goleta, California on September 11 to provide information and preparation on possible flood and mudslides that could flow down the Santa Ynez Mountains into the city of Goleta and surrounding areas this winter. The Forest Service estimates that approximately 300,000 yards of debris, caused by the nearly 10,000 acre Gap Fire on parts of the Los Padres National Forest, could pose a significant hazard. The meeting, hosted by the County, will also include participation from the American Red Cross, FEMA, the Forest Service, the National Weather Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Southern Sierra Science Symposium

On September 4-5, four land management agencies will hold the first Southern Sierra Science Symposium in Visalia, California. Topics for the symposium will focus on climate change, fire, forest management, pollutants and invasive species presented by premier scientists specializing in these areas. This event is the result of a partnership agreement signed in January 2008 with the Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the U.S. Geological Survey who all agreed to work together to better understand climate change and its effects on the Southern Sierra Nevada ecosystem. The long-term goal of this partnership is to establish a Research Learning Center that focuses on helping to mitigate the impacts from and adapt to climate change effects on the ecosystem.

Tribal Members Trek 100 Miles to Honor Ancestors

From September 7 to September 13, members of the Round Valley and Mechoopda tribes will commemorate the 145th Anniversary of the Nome Cult Trail. The theme of this year's 100-mile walk is "Honor Their Memory...A Path Not Forgotten." In 1863, Native American tribes were forcibly relocated from Chico, across the Sacramento Valley and North Coast Ranges to the Nome Cult Reservation. Although the path itself has disappeared, this route is now called the Nome Cult Trail. The most grueling part of the trail passed through what is now the Mendocino National Forest. The Forest Service has marked places where the Indians and their military escorts camped by placing interpretive signs along the route. The Forest Service has also prepared a free brochure and trail map which is available for persons who may want to travel the route. Of the 461 Indians who were forced from their home, only 227 survived the journey. Some were killed, a few escaped, and others were left behind, too sick to go on. Many of those who plan to walk the trail are descendants of those who originally made the trek.

REGION 6 - Pacific Northwest Region

Oregon Trail Day Slated

September 27 at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center east of Baker City, Oregon, the BLM, the Forest Service, and National Public Lands Day volunteers will join in a day of trail maintenance, living history presentations, lunch, and getting to know the community. The site has 4.2 miles of trail and participants will be working on restoring/maintaining a small portion of that 4.2 miles. The day's events

start at 9 am and will include refreshments throughout the day, a Dutch oven lunch, music, and a living history presentation or other interpretive project. <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/>

Partners Spread Fire Safe Word

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Fire and Resources departments teamed up with the Gifford Pinchot, Washington Department of Natural Resources fire folks and Washington State University on two very hot summer days in July to staff three Skamania County Fair booths side by side on fire prevention messages and education about local wildlife. Kids could spin the "Smokey Wheel of Fortune" to win great prizes after they answered fire prevention questions. Adults could play a "FireWise Wheel of Fortune" at the WSU booth after answering questions about home defensible space.

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival Coming Up

September 20-21, 2008 on the grounds of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, located at the mouth of the scenic Icicle Canyon near Leavenworth, Washington. An exciting menu of hands-on activities and "edu-tainment" gives visitors a unique opportunity to discover and appreciate the complexities of the natural world and the significance of salmon to people of the Northwest since 1991. The event has become nationally recognized for its educational excellence. Students from north central Washington schools visit the Festival during the week, and on Saturday and Sunday the focus is on families, seniors and community. <http://www.salmonfest.org>

REGION 8 - Southern Region

Theft of Slippery Elm Bark Increasing

Two men recently pleaded guilty in U.S. Magistrate Court (Ky.) for illegally removing the bark of slippery elm trees (*Ulmus rubra*) on the Daniel Boone National Forest. The judge hearing the case imposed an \$800 fine, \$25 processing fee and \$10 special court assessment for each of the defendants. In addition to a two-year probation, the men are banned from National Forest System lands for the next two years except for passage through. Slippery elm bark is marketed as an herbal remedy to improve digestion and remove toxins from the body. In some cases, the bark is used as a soothing agent for the throat, stomach and skin. Hundreds of slippery elm trees are being illegally stripped of their bark each year, and the problem appears to be increasing.

REGION 9 - Eastern Region

Solar Power is on the Rise at the Wayne National Forest

With the addition of 30 new solar panels, the Wayne National Forest Supervisor's Office (Ohio) is currently producing 7,100 watts of electricity. The total wattage is six percent of the building's electrical needs. Last year the Forest installed 20 solar panels to the roof of the building. The week of August 18, the additional panels were installed. Visitors to the lobby can now view a monitor in the Welcome Center to see the amount of electricity gathered from the sun. In the past 18 months, the display showed it would have taken 1.5 tons of coal to produce the amount of energy produced by the panels. This fall, the Forest will host an open house for the Ohio Solar Tour in southeastern Ohio.

REGION 10 - Alaska Region

Tlingit Employee Rewarded for Bringing Agency and SE Alaska Natives Together

Juneau-based Forest Service employee Lillian Petershoare received a regional award for beginning a healing process between the agency and Southeast Alaska Natives. Petershoare's work led directly to the agency acknowledging its removal of Native fish camps, smokehouses and cabins from the 1930s to the 1960s. She received the Hector Gandra Memorial Award for her efforts on the Tongass National Forest. Regional Forester Denny Bschor and Tongass National Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole acknowledged the actions during an April 2008 gathering of over 300 Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian elders. Petershoare mediated a one-and-a-half-year process that led to an appropriate acknowledgement ceremony and set the stage for future collaboration throughout Southeast Alaska. The Hector Gandra Memorial Award is an Alaska Region Forest Service award established in 1989. It recognizes employees that lead in civil rights; foster a multicultural organization; are involved in internal work-related projects that are not a part

of their normal job; or participate in community outreach. Read the Acknowledgement letter here>>>
http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/ro/briefing_papers/documents/regional/bp_fish_camps.doc

Northeastern Area

Grey Towers Marks Anniversary with Ice Cream Social, Free Open House

A re-creation of Gov. Gifford Pinchot's community ice cream socials at his Milford, Pa., home, Grey Towers, is one of several events on National Public Lands Day planned to mark the 45-year anniversary of public ownership of the National Historic Site, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008. A Free Open House of the 19th century French chateausque mansion also is planned and a special video presentation of President John F. Kennedy's Sept. 24, 1963, dedication of Grey Towers will be shown throughout the day. "The Ice Cream Social is just one of the many ways we are trying to re-create how the Pinchots welcomed the community to their private home at Grey Towers," said Barbara Buchanan, president of the Grey Towers Heritage Association. "Strengthening the community connection is key to our mission at Grey Towers, and it's so appropriate to offer this on National Public Lands Day." The Forest Service will open all three floors of the mansion to visitors from 10 am to 4 pm at no charge. In addition to his two terms as a popular Pennsylvania Governor, Pinchot was an eminent conservationist, founding and serving as first chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

NA Plans Regional Urban Forestry Management Workshops

To help communities begin developing urban forest management plans, the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and Arbor Day Foundation will host a series of three regional training courses. The sessions will be conducted in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and Northeast areas. Training will consist of a one-day workshop and three supplementary webcasts. The three required webcasts are an integral new component of these regional training efforts, providing baseline information to participants before the day-long training, while expanding the training in a convenient, easily accessible manner that allows archived viewings for those who cannot participate at the scheduled times. Click here>>> for registration information. <http://www.arborday.org/ufmwebinars>

Mile-A-Minute Weed Biological Control Workshop Successful

The Forest Service's Northeastern Area and Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team partnered with the University of Delaware and Longwood Gardens to present a workshop on the biological control of mile-a-minute weed Aug. 25 at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. The workshop focused on the release of a small Chinese weevil, *Rhinoncomimus latipes*, as a biological control agent in the fight against the invasive weed. Mile-a-minute weed, *Persicaria perfoliata*, was introduced to the U.S. in the 1930s from Asia. Since then, it has spread to much of the mid-Atlantic seaboard. A prolific seed producer, the annual vine can grow as much as 20 feet in a year, choking out native plants.

Rocky Mountain Research Station

RMRS Scientists Help Draft SoilNET Charter

A new National Soil Information Network (SoilNET) charter has been completed and approved that creates a virtual science needs assessment, science delivery, and management solution team to address NFS soil management issues. The charter defines the vision, virtual organization, program, and operations framework for NFS and R&D experts to address pertinent soil resource management issues, improve consistency, and promote science-based land management. The charter was drafted by Research Soil Scientists Deborah Page-Dumroese, Moscow, and Dan Neary, Flagstaff, along with Carl Trettin of the Southern Research Station. The document can be viewed by clicking here>>>
http://forest.moscowfs.wsu.edu/smp/solo/documents/MISC/SOILNET_2008-08-11.pdf

LOOKING BACK: Forest Service Cookbooks

The Introduction to the 1938 edition of "The Lookout Cookbook" begins:

"The idea back of this book is to furnish tried and approved recipes in amounts suitable for one or two men which can be prepared from the food furnished the lookouts. The persons who furnished recipes were requested to refrain from calling for any food supplies not furnished. The

book was tried out by nearly a hundred lookouts, smokechasers, small crews, etc., during the 1937 season and their comments and suggestions are included.”

With such subjects as, “How to Use Left-Overs,” “Why Custards Whey or Curdle,” “Directions for Mixing Custards,” and “How to Use One Recipe in Different Ways” the book covers every foodstuff that might interest a fire watcher.

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear...click here>>>

http://foresthistor.org/Research/usfscoll/publications/Cookbook/Lookout_Cookbook.html