

# Intermountain Reporter

Spring 2007 \* USDA \* Forest Service \* Intermountain Region \* Ogden, Utah

## Special Issue...

## Centennial of Service Challenge



Through the 2006 Centennial of Service Challenge (CSC) cost share initiative, the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service, in collaboration with partners throughout Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming, successfully accomplished over \$2 million dollars worth of work on National Forest System lands. Diverse partners completed over 20 projects on 13 National Forests in four states. These projects ranged from trail improvements to riparian rehabilitation projects to non-motorized recreation design and layout.

In 2005, the Centennial of Service Challenge cost share initiative was introduced to honor the Forest Service Centennial and encourage collaboration between the Forest Service and various publics who utilize the land. The implementation of this initiative directly benefited the Forest Service by increasing cost efficiency and leveraging funds. It established and strengthened relationships between the Agency and the communities it serves – providing long-term benefits such as enhanced

conditions of the forests, watersheds, habitats, and recreational services.

In Fiscal Year 2006, \$4 million dollars of appropriated funds were tripled through partner contributions. Nationwide, over 137 individual partner projects were completed, which provided more than \$12 million in partner contributions.

The Intermountain Region received \$400,000 from Congress to accomplish important Regional projects which would engage youth, college students, tribal members, outdoor enthusiasts, user groups, and community volunteers, as well as other agencies and private businesses and organizations. In some cases, the partnership funds provided the Region 4 units the opportunity to complete and/or continue implementation of large-scale projects that they would not have been able to accomplish alone. Forest Service units in Region 4 contributed \$1.4 million in funding to match Centennial of Service Challenge dollars and partner contributions.

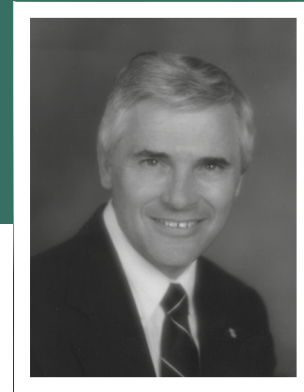
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# *Regional Forester's Message*



The Forest Service has entered a new era that actively seeks to engage others in cooperative conservation. As budget shortfalls impact the work that gets done on the ground, the agency must seek new ways to be more efficient in prioritizing workloads and emphasizing partnerships with others. At the national level, the agency is working on efforts to improve the effectiveness at developing partnerships. Partnerships help the agency work with different entities to reach common understanding and find mutual benefits to leverage resources. In doing so, the agency is better suited to meet capacity while providing partners a sense of ownership and appreciation for the nation's natural resources.

In the Intermountain Region, our efforts to collaborate with various partners as well as local governments and communities enable us to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, forests, and grasslands. Partnership efforts increase our capability to participate in conservation and will be the future for the management of forests and grasslands in the Region. The Region's success with partnerships ultimately depends on the relationships developed at the

field level. It is imperative that we provide a cultural shift in the organization to be one that embraces partnerships with communities.

The Region is working to strengthen and establish new relations and partnerships that help us be better stewards of our public lands. As indicated in the Regional Business Plan, partnerships are one of the Region's top priorities for the ensuing years. For example, we are currently working with more volunteers to support various natural resource projects. Their contribution to the Region is vital— they are a worthwhile investment of the Region's time and resources. We are also working with the National Forest Foundation to partner with corporations and companies that operate on or adjacent to National Forest System land. These types of concerted partnership efforts provide new opportunities for the Region, reflecting leadership's commitment to take an innovative approach in the way we do business.

The Region's 2006 Centennial of Service Challenge projects illustrate the many accomplishments that were achieved through partnerships. In this edition of the Intermountain Reporter, the National Forests have showcased some of these inspiring projects that directly benefited the critical work we do on the ground. These projects were conducted with the work of our partners who share the collective vision of stewardship for our land. We hope you will share this edition with others who want to work with us to enhance healthy forests and strengthen our communities.

A handwritten signature in dark green ink, reading "Jack G. Hays". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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## ◆ *Changes to the Intermountain Reporter*

As you read this issue of the Intermountain Reporter, you may notice a few changes in the look and feel of the Region's quarterly newsletter. For more than 20 years, long time Regional Office employee, Susan McDaniel, put her special touch on the layout and design of the Intermountain Reporter. Since publication of the last issue, Susan retired. We wish Susan well in her new endeavors.

The purpose of the Intermountain Reporter is to advance the mission of the Forest Service by highlighting the accomplishments and success stories of the Intermountain Region's employees and partners.

Lorrie Wiggins, regional printing specialist, is taking on the responsibility for layout and design of the Reporter starting with this issue. Lorrie and Martin Jensen, deputy director of strategic communications and editor of the Intermountain Reporter, are seeking story submissions and ideas for future editions. They also are looking for suggestions on ways to make the Region's newsletter more enjoyable. Please e-mail your suggestions and comments to [mjjensen@fs.fed.us](mailto:mjjensen@fs.fed.us).

Thank you. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Intermountain Reporter.

*Erin O'Connor*  
*Strategic Communications Director*

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## ◆ *Editorial Policy—Intermountain Reporter*

The R4 Office of Strategic Communication publishes the Intermountain Reporter to enhance the Region's work environment by sharing ideas and providing recognition to employees and retirees. Features describing innovation, exemplary public service, and on-the-ground examples that can serve as management models are high on the list of topics.

### Guidelines:

- \* Photos without full and appropriate personal protective equipment cannot be used, and will not be considered.
  - \* Articles should be submitted electronically as a word document (.doc) Mail submissions to Martin Jensen ([mjjensen@fs.fed.us](mailto:mjjensen@fs.fed.us)).
  - \* Text should be clear and concise, and not contain highly technical language of jargon.
  - \* Articles will feature Forest Service employees, partners, and/or retirees contributing to the agency mission or "Caring for the Land and Serving People".
  - \* Story ideas may be discussed with Martin by calling (801) 625-5331.
  - \* Color or black-and-white photos relating to the story may be sent as digital images in .jpg or .tif files at 1 mb or less. Send photos with the article and include captions. Do not embed photos in the article.
  - \* All articles are subject to editing.
  - \* Not all articles that are submitted will be printed.
  - \* Editor has final say over content.
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◆ *Citizen Stewardship Trail Campaign*

Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho

*Contact: Cavan Fitzimmons*

In 2006, a successful Citizen Stewardship Trail Campaign was implemented in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. The goal of this campaign was to build a constituency of informed individuals who would care for the wilderness by actively engaging in stewardship projects. This campaign demonstrated the strength of public partnerships by harnessing the resources of Forest Service employees, citizen stewards, and private organizations and businesses.

Volunteers participated in front-country and summer-long backcountry experiences, working on trail maintenance projects. The participants learned about wilderness values, benefits, and natural and cultural history. They also experienced and became proficient at traditional conservation work skills. Through this grassroots, citizen-based effort, the connection between stewardship and education was highlighted as a valuable way to conserve and protect wilderness areas.

The Trail Campaign included presentations, facilitated discussions and educational opportunities. Particular importance was placed on relating the wilderness work being done to the Citizen Stewards and their communities and environments.

The front-country crews, focused on large groups, education, and interpretation; while the backcountry crews focused on conservation work and more in-depth wilderness experiences.

The front-country experience was a huge success; not only because of the number of citizens who served, but because of the amount of trail work accomplished.

Under the guidance of Forest Service employees, the projects provided a safe, fun, and educational experience for the volunteers. Each crew learned about the importance of wilderness, practiced traditional skills, and engaged in wilderness stewardship while they worked at the much-needed trail renovation and maintenance projects.

Equally successful was the summer-long, backcountry experience, which allowed the Forest Service to pair a well-qualified Forest Service employee with two Student Conservation Association Interns. This small crew helped the Forest Service supervisor provide the interns with an in-depth wilderness experience while educating them on all aspects of Forest Service activities. It also allowed the Agency to complete the reconditioning of many miles of backcountry trails.

The Citizen Stewardship Trail Campaign faced certain challenges but resulted in an overwhelming success. Seven front-country trips with five groups each, completed a total of 52.5 miles of trail maintenance in the Frank Church Wilderness. Backcountry crews covered 357.8 miles with seven interns.

In total, 34 people participated in the trail campaign activities and learned wilderness values and benefits; Leave No Trace skills, natural and cultural history, and traditional conservation work principles. These projects will serve as a new model for Wilderness managers in the future.



Our project mission was “to implement a successful Citizen Stewardship Trail Campaign in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in 2006 that demonstrates the strength of public-partnerships by harnessing the resources of Forest Service staff, citizen stewards, organizations and businesses”.

2006 FC-RONRW Citizen Stewardship Trail Campaign Project Front Country Statistics	
Total Groups	5
Total Project Participants	34
Total Backcountry Horsemen Volunteers	21
Total Volunteers	55
Total Participant Hours	4,442
Total In-kind Labor Value	\$80,133.68
Total Participant Trail Miles Cleared	52.5
Average Cost Contribution Per Mile	\$1,526.36
<i>*Three groups were cancelled due to wildfire</i>	



*Alliance Project Coordinator giving a lesson on Wilderness Values and Benefits*



## ◆ *Copper Creek Riparian Rehabilitation*

Contact: *Dan Kenney*

Ketchum Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho

The riparian zone along the Little Wood River tributary of Copper Creek, which supports “sensitive” Wood River sculpin, native red-band trout, and non-native brook trout, was in serious need of repair.

In previous years, Forest Road 134, which parallels this area, had been repeatedly washed out restricting full-size vehicle access to the Upper Copper Creek. The project goals were to restore the disturbed area, provide access to full-size vehicles, and accelerate the rate of hydrologic and vegetative recovery of the Copper Creek riparian zone.

Because of the wash outs, only ATVs, trail bikes, mountain bikes, and equestrians were able to cross the creek. This crossing was only made by descending a steep, eroding bank on the downstream end of the project area and traveling into and along a wet channel of the creek for about 50 feet. At some time, an alternate trail had been made available for recreational use vehicles (but not full-sized vehicles) to access the road upstream from the project area to reach and enter private land.

The project obliterated three-quarters of a mile of the road on National Forest System land within

the area by “kneading” the road with the bucket of a backhoe. Specifically, the project removed fill from short sections of the road prism that interfered with flood-plain connectivity; “laid back” several short sections of vertical and eroding streambank within or directly adjacent to the road prism to create a more stable trail ford at the upper end of the project; and planted willow bundles and other appropriate vegetation in disturbed areas.

### Partnership and Funding:

Total Leveraged Funding:  
\$2,000 (donation)

### Partners:

Magic Valley Flyfishers  
(Trout Unlimited Chapter)

Magic Valley Flyfishers  
(Volunteer Labor)

## ◆ *Deer Valley Non-motorized Recreation Design and Layout*

Contact: *Nicholas Glidden*

Cedar City Ranger District,  
Dixie National Forest, Utah

The Deer Valley Non-motorized Recreation Project created new winter recreational opportunities on the Cedar City Ranger District. The District’s 404,259 acres was open to motorized winter recreation opportunities with about 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. However, cross-country skiers and snowshoers had to resort to the use of the groomed motorized trails. Over time, conflicts escalated as motorized and non-motorized use of the trails increased.

This project proposed a layout and design for a winter non-motorized recreation trail system in the Deer Valley area. The Deer Valley project area sits at approximately 10,000 feet elevation, includes Nordic recreation terrain, and is accessible from Cedar City via Highway 14. The area was logged to remove timber killed by pine beetles, making it an ideal location for the development of logging roads or the roads or the widening of existing roads.

Deer Valley offers amazing natural beauty and recreational assets that include a favorable climate with reliable 6- to 12-inch snowfalls allowing for a winter season as long as three-months, moderate temperatures and winds, and plenty of sunshine. It has first-rate and diverse skiing and snowshoeing



Deer Valley Non-motorized  
Recreation Design and Layout  
— continued

terrain, with roughly 9 miles of area available for groomed track and/or skate technique; plus space for marked, but ungroomed, ski and snowshoe technique; plus space for marked, but ungroomed, ski and snowshoe trails. There is no avalanche potential within the trail system project area and no nearby groomed trail competition. Also, immediately off Highway 14 there is a spot that would make an excellent staging area with potential for ample parking, outhouses, and warming shelters.

The project promoted partnerships between the Forest Service, the community of Cedar City, and Southern Utah University. Specifically, it promoted the use of National Forest System lands for healthy lifestyles by providing new trails and reduced user conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreational users. This innovative trail design combined the use of existing routes by taking into account future management needs.

◆ *The Ditch Trail*

Pine Valley Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Utah

Contact: Kirk Flannigan

Currently, the Pine Valley Ranger District offers no trails specifically designed for mountain biking. The purpose of this Centennial Service Challenge partnership project to develop a 9-mile interpretive mountain bike trail to be called the “Ditch Trail”. The Ditch Trail will be located within a historic canal which starts directly outside the Pine Valley Recreation Area, a heavily used, developed campground on the Pine Valley Ranger District.

The Ditch Trail will appeal to mountain biking enthusiasts due to its easy access, gentle slopes (easy to moderate difficulty), beautiful scenic vistas, interpretive information, and interesting history. The trail will also provide four benches, four bike racks, and two trailheads. The Ditch Trail will complement a newly designed Pine Valley Recreation Area, with construction planned to begin in 2008.

Other highlights of the newly designed Pine Valley Recreation Area and the Ditch Trail:

- ◆ Only 45 minutes from St. George and 2.5 hours from Las Vegas
- ◆ Excellent climate
- ◆ 6 to 7 month use season
- ◆ Abundant natural beauty
- ◆ Excellent views of the Pine Valley Mountains and the community of Pine Valley
- ◆ Newly planned parking area
- ◆ Benches, bike racks, and interpretive areas along the trail
- ◆ Loop possibilities to return to the trailhead
- ◆ Additional diversity to an already diverse array of recreational opportunities

The creation of the Ditch Trail will enhance partnerships between the Backcountry Horsemen of SW Utah, local bike clubs, and the Forest Service. The development of the trail will encourage the use of the National Forest to promote a healthy lifestyle.



## ◆ *Gance Creek Fish Passage*

Mountain City Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada

Contact: *Maija Meneks*

The Centennial Service Challenge provided partial funding for the replacement of two old, deteriorated, and undersized culverts with new culverts appropriately sized to the existing stream system, and allowing for adequate fish passage in the Gance Creek. The project was a cooperative effort between the Forest Service, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Queenstake Resources, Inc.

With this project, more than a mile of Gance Creek (perennial and seasonal flow) was restored for the federally designated threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. In addition, access to 1.8 miles of Canyon Creek Road was renovated, preventing potential fragmentation of this trout subpopulation from Gance Creek. Specifically, the

project restored a year-round fish passage to more than 2.8 miles of stream, enhanced stream habitat degraded by the old culverts, and provided a safe crossing for vehicles.

The original Gance Creek Road culverts were installed in the early 1970's. Since then, the upper Gance Creek culvert became a fish barrier and the Canyon Creek Road culvert was considered a partial fish barrier. While the trout continued to exist in Canyon Creek, the last recorded observation of the Lahontan cutthroat trout above the upper Gance Creek culvert was in 1986. Habitat in the form of perennial and seasonal-flowing waters exist upstream of the upper Gance Creek culvert. However, without connection to the rest of the

system, the flow was not sufficient to maintain a viable population.

The federally designated threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout is an endemic trout to the Great Basin. Habitat loss, population fragmentation, and competition and/or hybridization with newly introduced trout species, led to range and population decreases. The Gance Creek headwaters, including two tributaries, are considered an important population within the National Forest, Humboldt River subbasin. This project restored Lahontan cutthroat trout access to their original range within Gance Creek; the restoration of access to the 1.8 miles of Canyon Creek Road; and the addition of another mile of access. These improvements will positively impact the Lahontan cutthroat trout.



*Nevada Department of Wildlife relocating Lahontan cutthroat trout from the project area prior to implementation.*



*Lots of rock to move at the upper Gance Creek site. Fire crew helps the fish biologist (yellow hard-hat, center) fill the culvert.*





Gance Creek Fish Passage — continued

Additionally, Gance Creek Road is a major access site into the southern end of the Independence Range. The extremely undersized upper Gance Creek culvert was beginning to impact the road and it is possible that a partially clogged inlet led to some water overtopping the road in the spring of 2006. The new, larger culverts will provide protection to Gance Creek Road, allowing continued access for all Forest users.



*Upper Gance Creek crossing. Preimplementation. Looking upstream at culvert (24" diameter). Brush obscures a perched condition 18+".*

*Upper Gance Creek crossing. Post-implementation. Looking upstream at culvert (squash: 83" by 57").*



◆ *Goose Creek Trail Reroute*  
Payette National Forest, Idaho

Contact: Al Becker

The purpose of this project was to reroute the Goose Creek Trail along one side of Goose Creek to avoid dangerous ford crossings. The trail provides access to a high quality scenic amenity, Goose Creek Falls, located just 2-1/2 miles above the trailhead in Last Chance Campground. The recently renovated campground and trail is accessible early each spring and gets considerable use. Primary users are hikers and mountain bikers. However, spring runoff flows make river fords totally impossible and upstream reservoir releases during the entire summer season makes the fords difficult and unsafe for adults and children.

This project had been identified as a need for many years and is supported by the current Goose Creek Watershed Analysis and Forest Plans. The project also has had considerable public support and is a recognized need. Many trail users have unsuccessfully tried to bushwhack up to the Falls and avoid the unsafe river fords. However, NEPA funding was never available for this trail construction project with allocated funding levels and forest priorities.

The Centennial Service Grant presented the opportunity to accomplish the needed NEPA review and documentation. This was completed with the \$2,500 grant awarded.

The approved project, post NEPA, did turn out to be a much larger trail reconstruction project than originally envisioned. As typical of most quality trails built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and/or other early Forest Service Trail Crews on National Forest land, they were built where they are for a good reason—the best location. However, the river fords were not an issue in those days. Considerable steep slopes, boggy riparian locations, rock outcrops, etc., needed to be negotiated and dealt with to build a high quality trail to Forest Service standards. ‘Goat trail’ sections were not allowed and no shortcuts taken.

Committed volunteers came forward, grew in numbers and have accomplished the majority of the reroute work. Volunteer work is still ongoing as the fall weather continues to hold. The amount of volunteer work originally estimated has more than tripled in need. See the following table for a list of volunteer help quantified thus far. An unexpected, significant, and beneficial Forest Trail System spin off from this project is the grass-roots formation of a “Friends of Payette Trails” Volunteer group! Also, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Boise provided amazing support and included this project in their “Tending the Garden” environmental stewardship support action program!



Gregg Lawley & Hilary Heist



Vineyard Lunch Break



Goose Creek Trail Reroute—continued

GOOSE CREEK TRAIL REROUTE — 2006 VOLUNTEER HELP		
<b>May</b> -	AmeriCorp route lineout help	2 people 20 hrs
<b>Jun</b> -	Chainsaw Certification	8 people 36 hrs (+48 tv)
<b>Jul</b> -	Vineyard Christian Fellowship	8 people 80 hrs (+48 tv)
	Valley County Court Services	10 people 60 hrs
<b>Aug</b> -	Vineyard Christian Fellowship	16 people 120 hrs (+96 tv)
	McCall Hiking Club	2 people 16 hrs
	Misc. Local volunteers	2 people 16 hrs
<b>Sep</b> -	Vineyard Christian Fellowship	10 people 70 hrs (+30 tv)
	Central Idaho Mountain Bike Assoc.	4 people 40 hrs
<b>Oct</b> -	Friends of Payette Trails Group	_____
<b>TOTAL (thus far)</b>		<b>62 people 458 hrs worked</b>
Volunteer Work Value: \$7540.72		
Volunteer Travel Hours: 222 hours		

<i>Regional and Forest Partnership Coordinators/Liaisons</i>		
Region 4 Unit	Name	Phone
Regional Office	Marla Trollan	801-625-5736
Ashley National Forest	Don Jaques	435-481-5119
Boise National Forest	Lisa Nutt	208-373-4154
Bridger-Teton National Forest	Mary Cernicek	307-739-5564
Caribou-Targhee National Forest	Wanda Adams	208-557-5810
Dixie National Forest	Kenton Call	435-865-3730
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	Franklin Pemberton	775-884-8150
Manti-LaSal National Forest	Rosanne Fillmore	435-636-3525
Payette National Forest	Al Becker	208-634-0714
Salmon-Challis National Forest	Toni Sullivan	208-756-5123
Sawtooth National Forest	Carol Cole	208-727-5007
Uinta National Forest	Loyal Clark	801-342-5117
Wasatch-Cache National Forest	Lorraine Januzelli	801-236-3413



◆ *Highland Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Noxious Weed Control Within Sage-Grouse Nesting Area*

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho

Contact: Heidi Heyrend

The purpose of this Centennial Service Challenge Project was to eradicate and control the spreading of noxious weeds within sage grouse nesting areas of the Highland Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), which is adjacent to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (Blackfoot, Preuss Creek, and Bloomington Canyon).

Invasive noxious weeds can dominate and often cause permanent damage to natural plant communities. If not eradicated or controlled, noxious weeds will jeopardize the health of public lands and the activities that occur on them. Invasive weed monocultures/single plant species overrun all other species in an area. This destroys wildlife habitat and reduces opportunities for hunting, camping, and other recreational activities by reducing native plant and animal diversity.

There are several noxious weed species already established within the potential nesting areas of the Highland CWMA. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest and Highland CWMA have worked together toward the eradication and control of these noxious weeds by utilizing cooperative Integrated Pest Management applications such as herbicide treatment, biological control agents, cultural practices, and education and awareness programs.

Within the project area, noxious weeds treated were: Whitetop (*Cardaria draba*); Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*); Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* -- a perennial spread vegetative or by seed); musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* -- a biennial spread by seed); yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris* -- a short-lived perennial spread by seed); Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*); Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*); and dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*).

Highland CWMA Project Official Partners include: four Forest Service Ranger Districts; two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges; three Bureau of Land Management Districts (Pocatello ID, Salt Lake City UT, and Kemmerer WY); Caribou, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Lincoln Counties in Wyoming; Idaho Department of Agriculture; Idaho Fish and Game; Idaho Department of Lands; Idaho Department of Transportation; Union Pacific Railroad; Natural Resource Conservation Service Farm; Services Administration; and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Soda Springs Chapter).

Field activities took place from May 1 to October 30, 2006, and included youth education activities such as the "Bag of Woad" (over 24 tons of dyers woad was collected in Bear Lake and Caribou Counties, Idaho); the Bear Lake/Garden City's dyer's woad workday (787 acres were treated); and the Blackfoot River toad flax workday (13,367 acres were treated).

The following biological controls were released over 550 acres:

<i>Insects</i>	<i>Number Releases</i>	<i>Acres Treated</i>
Aphthona mix (flava, nigricutis, lacertosa)	10	50
Ceutorhynchus litura	30	150
Trichosirocalus horridus	65	325
Mecinus janthinus	5	25

Significant populations of noxious weeds were treated in this area with chemical, manual, and biological treatments. Results include the control and/or the eradication of noxious weeds within the targeted 2,500 acres of sage grouse nesting sites (Blackfoot, Bloomington, and Preuss Creek).



◆ *Huntington Boat Ramp*  
Contact: Rosanne Fillmore

Manti-LaSal National Forest, Utah

Centennial Service Challenge funding was provided to the Manti-LaSal National Forest and was targeted for the construction of an interpretive kiosk and boat ramp at Huntington Reservoir. Partners and co-funders of these projects were the Carbon and Emery Counties Travel Councils and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

An interpretive kiosk was constructed at the site where a unique mammoth skeleton was found at Huntington Reservoir. The kiosk explains the history of this incredible discovery and its importance to our understanding of ice-age fauna. It caters to the traveling public's ever-increasing interest in history and pre-history and allows local residents the opportunity to learn more about the unique discovery which occurred in their own backyard.

Due to higher than usual water levels late in 2006, the boat ramp could not be completed; however, funds were obligated in order to complete the ramp in the fall of 2007. The boat ramp will be convenient for the fishers at Huntington Reservoir and will allow for boat launching while protecting the shoreline, thus eliminating a source of additional sedimentation to the reservoir.

The boat ramp has been designed and materials purchased for its construction in 2007. This project gained the attention of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources who has offered to assist with additional costs caused by the delay in construction.

◆ *Winter Recreation Access Strawberry Valley*  
Contact: Julie King

Heber Ranger District, Uinta National Forest, Utah

Utah's Wasatch County and Strawberry Valley, the area surrounding Strawberry Reservoir, is one of the most popular winter recreation areas in the state. From 1999 to 2005, the plowing of eight parking lots in the Strawberry Valley for snowmobile, ice fishing, and cross country skiing was provided, for a fee to the public, through the campground concessionaire for the Uinta National Forest. In the winter of 2005-2006 the concessionaire permit which facilitated the maintenance expired.

The Heber Ranger District recognized the need to provide the maintenance of the parking lots and continue to allow access to popular winter recreation areas and, more importantly, maintain a safe environment for the public.

The Uinta National Forest acted by organizing a partnership with local agencies involved in winter recreation and safety throughout the Strawberry Valley. The partnering agencies worked jointly to acquire funding for contract plowing of the parking lots and in-kind services to maintain restrooms and garbage disposal at the parking areas.

The partnership provides the public with the same quality service received in past years without the additional fee. The partnership also ensures the parking areas remain a safe area for the public to stage winter recreation activities.



## ◆ *Roaring River Fish Passage Project*

Mountain Home Ranger District, Boise National Forest, Idaho

*Contact: Michael Kellett*

The Centennial Service Challenge provided partial funding for the replacement of a long-standing, aquatic organism barrier culvert (FR-255) on the Roaring River with an appropriately-sized structure that provides natural stream simulation and passage for all aquatic-dependent organisms, including the federally threatened bull trout. The project was a cooperative effort between the Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee.

Other work accomplished with this funding was the restoration of year-round fish passage to 4.5 miles of the Roaring River; enhancement of stream habitat degraded by the old culvert; and providing for safe vehicle crossing of Roaring River.

The federally threatened bull trout is an endemic char species to the Interior Columbia Basin. Habitat loss, population fragmentation, and competition and/or hybridization with introduced char species (brook trout) has led to decreases in range and population. The Roaring River headwaters are considered by the Draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan (Chapter 18) to be an important local population within the Arrowrock Core Area (North Fork-Middle Fork Boise River subbasin).

The Roaring River (FR-255) culvert was installed in the 1950's. Since that time, the Roaring River bull trout population has been isolated from other local populations in the core area. While bull trout have persisted upstream from the culvert in the Roaring

River, the population is vulnerable to natural disturbances and genetic impacts from isolation.

Approximately 4.5 miles of spawning and early rearing habitat exist upstream of the Roaring River culvert, but the literature indicates that long-term existence of the local population is unlikely without connectivity to the rest of the metapopulation (core area).

This project will restore bull trout access to their historic range within the Roaring River. Restored connectivity at the Roaring River culvert will facilitate migratory life-history expression and genetic exchange with other local populations in the core area.



## ◆ Trout Creek Guard Station Restoration Project

Vernal Ranger District, Ashley National Forest, Utah

Contact: Don Jaques

Trout Creek Guard Station on the Vernal Ranger District was built in the early 1930's and is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Once used for housing Forest Rangers during field season, over time it was used occasionally for administrative purposes and was eventually turned into a rental recreation cabin.

The purpose of this Centennial Service Project was to restore this aging icon's unique character, to enhance a visitor's rustic experience, to prolong the feasibility of this site's continued use, and to protect a National Forest Heritage Resource.

Project work began in August 2006 with the Ashley National Forest recreation staff removing all the

furniture from the cabin.

Environmental Abatement, Inc., a contractor from Ogden, Utah, then removed all the asbestos tiles that made up the floor, leaving the facility clean and safe. After that work was completed, a Passport-in-Time Project followed.

Ashley National Forest recreation and heritage crews worked with volunteers to restore furniture, replace an exterior porch/deck, refinish hardware throughout the cabin, and repaint the cabin interior. Restoration also included replacing aluminum sliding windows with replicated, original-style, six-pane wood windows that were custom made by Vintage Windows, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Trout Creek Guard Station is now available to the public for rent under the National Recreation Reservation Service and can be reserved at [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com).



Ashley National Forest Recreation and Heritage Crews worked together with Volunteers to replace the Cabin's porch/deck and renovate the kitchen.



Trout Creek Guard Station built in the early 1930's



Recreation and Heritage Crews restoring part of the original character of the cabin.



## ◆ *Mores Creek Floodplain Restoration Project*

Idaho City Ranger District, Boise National Forest, Idaho

Contact: *Hana West*

This Centennial Service Project utilized funding from many partners to complete Phase I of a large-scale restoration of Mores Creek, a watershed seriously impacted from legacy mining. Mores Creek is 303(d) listed for temperature and supports the Threatened and Endangered Species Bull trout. The Centennial Grant was an important component of this large project.

During the work on the project, almost one-half mile of Mores Creek was reclaimed by removing nearly 12,000 cubic meters of mine tailings from the riparian area. This effort recreated a floodplain

that has been virtually nonexistent for many years causing downstream flooding that impacted National Forest System Lands and private properties.

Vegetation was planted along the newly formed floodplain to trap sediment, shade the creek, and provide habitat for wildlife. In past years, stream temperatures reached levels lethal to fish; but are now expected to decrease as a healthy hyporheic exchange can again occur between ground water and surface water, especially during the critical hot summer months.

The completion of this project demonstrated that efficient treatment methods can be used on a large scale:

- ◆ 4 large woody debris fish structures
- ◆ 5 in-stream boulder fish structures
- ◆ 1 encapsulated soil lift
- ◆ 12,000 cubic meters of mine tailings removed from the riparian area of the creek
- ◆ 1/2 mile of floodplain recreated
- ◆ 4 volunteer planting opportunities fall 2006
- ◆ Over 600 students toured the project
- ◆ Collaboration between Trout Unlimited and Idaho City to improve water quality

Resident fish populations will increase due to better habitat and water conditions. Recreational opportunities will be improved creating healthier fishery and terrestrial wildlife improvements associated with riparian recovery.

From this demonstration project an outdoor classroom is emerging and is being utilized by Boise State University and Idaho City High School. Other school tours are also being scheduled.



*Large, woody debris fish structure with bank rehabilitation.*

Five in-stream fish structures were installed to provide cover, resting areas, and much needed habitat for resident fish. Pools and shelter were created with large woody debris and boulders.



*Mores Creek with boulders that have been placed in the creek to provide pools and shelter.*





## ◆ *Phoebe Meadows Trail Maintenance Project*

Krassel Ranger District, Payette National Forest, Idaho

Contact: *Patti Stieger*

The purpose of this Centennial Service Project was to complete much needed trail maintenance on the Phoebe Meadows Trail, which has been on the District's heavy-maintenance backlog for a long time. Specific work given priority included installing five turnpike structures at boggy locations around Phoebe Meadows; installing drain dips along the trail to protect it from further erosion; and to clear and remove brush from trail.

An eight-person Student Conservation Corps Crew spent 16 days working the project. They installed five turnpike structures; multiple drain dips; and cleared downfall and brush from two miles of the trail.

The completed project improved public access to National Forest lands and provided an opportunity for youth to gain an understanding of Forest Service trail management, resource protection, and "light-on-the-land" camping techniques.

The trail is very popular with two-wheel motorized vehicle, mountain bike, stock, and hiking user groups. The project was completed in July 2006 and since then the District has received several positive comments from area users.



*Students from the Student Conservation Corps worked hard to complete a turnpike structure and install a curb along the Phoebe Meadows Trail.*



*Students from the Student Conservation Corps at completed project site.*



## ◆ *Cave Lake Trail System*

Ely Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada

Contact: *Daniel Morris*

This centennial project funded the construction of 6.2 additional miles non-motorized trails on National Forest System lands, linking a previously existing trail system based out of Cave Lake State Park. Surrounded by National Forest System lands, this park is a hugely popular recreation area of White Pine County. By extending the trail system, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians are now provided many opportunities to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Park and surrounding National Forest System lands.

The addition of the two loops provides the opportunity for long hikes and rides. Visitors to Cave Lake State Park and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, as well as the Ely community, now have a world-class, non-motorized trail system to use. Local mountain bikers are raving about the excellent quality of the new trail portion. This trail system provides a significant visitor draw to the Ely area just as the community is transitioning from a boom/bust mining community to a tourism-based economy.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest works closely with the Great Basin Trails Alliance, the Great Basin Institute, and other local agencies to maintain the trails and provide other recreation opportunities in eastern Nevada and the Ely area. Partners include the Great Basin Trails Alliance, Nevada State Parks, Cave Lake State Park, Great Basin Institute, Nevada Conservation Corps, and the Bureau of Land Management.

With judicious use of the combined funds for this project, volunteers were able to complete two new trail loops totaling 6.2 miles. In addition, much needed maintenance and reconstruction of existing trail sections to reduce erosion problems were completed.



Photo of partners working together on the Cave Lake Trail.

### Cave Lake Trail System — 2006

- \* 6.2 miles of new construction, multi-use.
- \* Two loops interconnecting with existing state park trail system.
- \* Partners and Stakeholders
- \* A collaborative project in all aspects, design, funding, implementation, and construction.
- \* USFS, Humboldt-Toiyabe N.F., Ely Ranger District
- \* Nevada State Parks, Cave Lake State Park
- \* Great Basin Trails Alliance
- \* Great Basin Institute
- \* Nevada Conservation Corps



Photo of a portion of the Cave Lake Trail.

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## *Salmon-Challis National Forest Receives Partnership Award*

The Salmon-Challis National Forest was recognized by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) with the first ever, IOGA Partnership Award. IOGA President Ken Smith presented the award to the forest at a meeting in Boise in December. Smith spoke about the shared mission of the two organizations, namely “the protection of the clean free flowing streams and the quality wildlife habitat and populations upon which our livelihood is based and that allow us to provide quality outdoor experiences on Idaho's lands and waters.”

Smith described the years of hard work that led to the final Frank Church River of No Return Management Plan and recognized, and thanked by name, many individuals who had a part in the creation of the plan: Ken Wotring, George Matejko, Ken Stauffer, Patty Bates, Rogers Thomas, Norm Ando, Kent Fuellenbach, Bill Wood, Tom Montoya and others. As an example of the Salmon-Challis excellence in partnerships, Smith cited the Middle Fork logjam and recognized John Haugh, Randy Welsh, Bill Wood and Tom Montoya and many others who, "worked with determination and skill to remove this natural disaster."

Salmon-Challis Forest Supervisor Bill Wood said “the award was presented in recognition of our partnership with the IOGA, but I think it truly points to the strong partnership that exists amongst us as co-workers on the Salmon-Challis National Forest.” Wood added, “I certainly want to acknowledge that nearly everyone on the Salmon-Challis National Forest has contributed in some way contribute to the relationship we enjoy with the IOGA.”

The plaque reads:



In appreciation of Forest employees actions and decisions supportive of the outfitter industry way of life. Notable actions and decisions include but are not limited to:

- ↳ Decision to remove Pistol Creek logjam
- ↳ Communications regarding fire behavior and fire restrictions
  - ↳ Significant effort with trail maintenance
  - ↳ Communication regarding special use management
  - ↳ Middle Fork deadhead accommodation during fire period
- ↳ General good will toward maintaining and enhancing a partnership attitude regarding caring for the land and serving the people especially during challenging budget year



# PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

## *Volunteers Contribute Valuable Service*

If you have ever visited the Swett Ranch Homestead Historic Site on the Flaming Gorge District, Ashley National Forest, you probably saw what is called “Cabin Number-1” which was Oscar Swett’s first home on the Swett Ranch. This home provided a comfortable place to live for Oscar and Emma Swett, along with their first three children.

The cabin was actually purchased in McKee Draw, near Vernal, Utah, in 1912. Oscar dismantled it and, with a horse-drawn wagon, moved it over 40 miles of rough trail to its present location. The cabin had a sod roof and was quite old when Oscar moved it, so he rebuilt the one-room cabin and put a new shingle roof on it. With two windows and a wooden floor, the cabin measured 14’ 8” wide by 18’ 10” long and had a wall height of 8’ 3”.

What made this cabin unique was that the couple and their first three children slept in a hand-made, board-bed covered with a straw mattress— 8’ long by 5’ wide. The oldest child slept across the foot of the bed.

In the summer of 2006, several volunteer tour guides at Swett Ranch decided to create a denim quilt for this bed that would reflect the era when the ranch was working. They cut approximately 121, 8-inch squares from donated blue denim overalls. The quilt was stitched together first in strips 8” by 5” for the width, then into strips of three. The squares were sewn together and a lovely coverlet was created, suitable to the early 1890’s era.

The volunteers chose to decorate the coverlet with stencils of a bird and flower, which are two of the many Victorian patterns used during the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At that time, ladies were tired of drab, woven spreads and plain walls and floors, so they started painting on cloth and canvas. Farm and ranch wives used what was on hand. Heavy material of well-worn, farm workpants usually had pieces good enough to put into these quilts; thus, a “blue jean” spread was common.

All sewing was done by volunteer Jane Darrow. Volunteer Ellen Allen cut the stencils, then stenciled the strips of three rows. Jane had the task of sewing these large pieces of stenciled material, 5’ by 2’, together until the size reached 5’ wide and 8’ long. A donated flannel sheet was sewn onto the quilt for a soft backing. Tie-yarn was also donated, so the cost of the coverlet was zero except for the many day and evening hours donated by the volunteers.

In 2007, you will find the coverlet on the board-bed of “Cabin Number-1” at the Swett Ranch Historic Site. Thank you, volunteers, for your many hours of service to the U. S. Forest Service.

*Written by Kay Potter  
Visitor Information Assistant  
Ashley National Forest*

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## Volunteers Contribute Valuable Service



*Swett Ranch Historical Site: L to R: Cabin #1—first one-room, original home; second home; log, two-room cabin; and five-room, white frame, third home.*



*The final touches of yarn at the corners of each square was completed by the volunteers at the Red Canyon area: (L-R) Ellen Allen (Traverse City MI); Carol Aldinger (Green River WY); Diane Beckley (San Antonio TX); Jane Darrow (full-time RV'er); Bobbie Hine (Albuquerque NM); and Joyce Russell (Vernal UT—not in photo).*



# PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES



## *Winter Programs Heat Up on the Boise Front*

On the Boise National Forest, partnerships and persistence have created a highly successful winter recreation and education program along the Boise Front, the backyard of the Idaho's capital city and surrounding communities.

In cooperation with the non-profit Winter Wildlands Alliance and Bogus Basin mountain resort, the Boise National Forest has helped establish a "SnowSchool" at the mountain's Frontier Point Nordic Recreation and Education Center. Forest staff have trained nearly 100 volunteers to become SnowSchool leaders and assistants, and have led winter ecology and survival programs for numerous school groups.

After last year's pilot program, this winter's SnowSchool attracted a broad spectrum of school groups, including low-income and African-American students and a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Mexico who experienced snow for the first time. Although some students spoke very little English, they thoroughly enjoyed building snow shelters, examining snowflakes, and interacting with the great outdoors via nature's "universal language". More than 40 school groups will participate in SnowSchool this season.

The Forest has also offered its first-ever snowshoe events for women this year, including an evening program at REI, and a half-day program at Bogus Basin, which included yoga and healthy lifestyles presentations as well as door prizes from local businesses. Over 150 women, ranging from teenagers to 70-year olds, attended these two programs.

"It was a wonderful learning experience to know more about snow caves, the animals out this time of year, and the different trees at Bogus. The trail we went on was just right – just enough to make you sweat! I felt the clinic was dedicated to women...health, fitness, snowshoeing, and being outdoors on a beautiful day", said participant Toni Smith. "I hope you will do many more clinics like this one"!

Due to overwhelming response, an additional Women's Snowshoe Day will help accommodate everyone who wanted to participate.

This year's successes result from slow but steady growth in the Forest's winter recreation and education program along the Boise Front. The program started in 2003, when the Forest began offering "Ski and Snowshoe with a Ranger" programs at Bogus Basin. Topics included forest health, avalanche awareness, winter safety, snow shelter demonstrations, plant and animal adaptations, winter ecology, and track identification.

The ski and snowshoe programs have been highlighted in brochures mailed to over 20,000 season pass holders annually, featured on the resort's website, and noted on the daily snow report. Bogus Basin Lifetime Sports Education Foundation contributed two large signs to post at the main lodge and the Frontier Point center, providing even greater exposure for the programs. From modest attendance during the first few seasons, the ski and snowshoe walks now attract busloads of seniors and youth from area community centers.

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Winter Programs Heat Up on the Boise Front — continued

“In cooperation with our many partners and volunteers, we are educating literally hundreds of people about forest resources and stewardship”, said program coordinator and Forest botanist Edna Rey-Vizgirdas. “Because of partners such as Bogus Basin Lifetime Sports Education Foundation, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Nordic Voice, REI, the Boise Co-op, Idaho Mountain Touring, Great Harvest Bakery, and Serenity Day Spa and Retreat, we have been able to leverage our limited funds and actually expand our program.”

“In addition, we are helping create healthier children and adults. Studies show that outdoor recreation keeps people fit and binds family and friends, and that outdoor experiential learning can help children succeed academically. This program is a real win-win, in so many different ways”, added Rey-Vizgirdas.”

*Cydney Weiland  
Bosie National Forest*



*Shoveling to make snow shelters.*



*River Stone Class*



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