



Black Butte towers

The Thursday R6 Update

Feb. 23, 2006

Volunteer Al Chase prepares Black Butte Tower catalog for historic preservation

Key contributors were Al Chase, the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, Bob Boyd at High Desert Museum, Pete Cecil, Kirk Metzger, Glen Corbett, Ben Benhower, and many others who helped salvage the tower.

In 2001 historic 1934 Black Butte Tower collapsed under a load of ice and snow during heavy winds. Using a grant from Samuel S. Johnson Foundation and manpower from the Deschutes Work Program (Oregon State Department of Corrections) the wood-framed L-6 style cab on an 84-foot tower was dismantled and evaluated the ruins for salvageable parts.



Correction work crew dismantling wreckage from a 2003 R6 Update that featured [a story](#) by Maret Pajutee about salvaging the tower.

Volunteer Al Chase prepared the [29-page catalog](#) of historic materials salvaged from the wreckage, just published this month. At 1.6 M it loads slowly but is worth the wait. Above right is a cable top anchor. Note the tape measure for scale.



Chase spent over 200 hours sorting, describing, and photographing 700 pounds of salvaged metal bolts, clamps, and screws from the tower, creating a catalog for lookout history or restoration projects. At right, see a detail photo of ground wire clamps. (Courtesy Maret Pajutee; Roland Giller, Deschutes NF)



Acting

Director of Engineering Richard Sowa will return to Umpqua NF to again serve as Acting Forest Supervisor April 3.

Fremont-Winema RAC...

Putting local people to work at ecosystem restoration



Fremont-Winema RAC concentrates on proposals and projects that fit objectives and desired conditions for critical watersheds, contributing to the overall health of the watershed and consistent with goals and objectives of watershed analysis and forest land management plans.

Chewaucan River begins in Paisley RD, and flows through National Forest, BLM, and private ground on its way to Abert Lake. This is a Great Basin watershed, with no connection to the ocean, however the river supports a population of native redband trout throughout their life cycle. [Link here for a watershed map.](#)

Large adult fish spend the winter towards the bottom of the watershed, in Chewaucan Marsh, migrating upstream each year to spawn near the river's headwaters. Over time, road culverts, irrigation ditches and weirs have created barriers to this seasonal movement, fragmenting and isolating the wintering, spawning, and rearing habits. Also, a century of fire suppression, grazing, and timber management has allowed pine and juniper stands to develop to the point that the watershed is vulnerable to large, destructive fires, while aspen stands, willows, and springs have faded away.

Upper Chewaucan Watershed Council, including private land owners and Paisley RD, are working to restore this watershed through many allied restoration and monitoring projects. For example, in Fall of 2004, five different contractors were at work treating 3,400 acres within the watershed, cutting juniper and small pines

from springs, aspen stands, meadows, and uplands.

Nearly \$1.5 million in Title II dollars plus funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, private land owners, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and National Forest appropriations, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are being used to complete projects to improve Chewaucan watershed conditions on public and private lands.

Work is also proceeding to remove barriers to fish passage by replacing culverts with fish-friendly designs. Weirs on private land are also being redesigned, replaced or retrofitted at a cost to the partners of \$2.25 million. When the work is complete, all barriers to fish movement in the entire Chewaucan watershed will be removed. *(Courtesy Cindi Nolan and Amy Gowan)*



On a related note....

Engaging local students in ecosystem restoration and learning

Paisley School District, Oregon's first charter school district, offers many certificates of advanced mastery (CAMs) that reflect the unique community and rural area. The school's natural resources/ science CAM, focusing on forest and range management, is one. In FY05 the school district received \$29,979 Title II dollars from the Fremont-Winema RAC to allow five local Paisley [students](#) to work, learn, and receive credit towards their natural resources/science CAM. At right are crew leader Jon Jones and students Brittany Cramer, Hannah O'Leary, Blake Cowart and Trenton Jeffrey.



To that end, students worked with Chris Forrestal on a woodpecker study; with Janette Wilson and Judy Weber digging noxious weeds such as musk thistle and Mediterranean sage; maintaining trail for Larry Hills; piling slash for Silver Lake and Paisley RDs, and establishing fuels plots for Silver Lake RD. *(Cindi Nolan and Amy Gowan)*



Honor service in gov't...

Encourage youth service

Mar. 1 is the closing date for nominations for 2006 Service to America medals for federal employees. Awards go up to \$10,000. See <http://www.servicetoamericamedals.org/>.

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations by April 30 for 2006 awards honoring young people (8-18) showing leadership and courage in public service. Every year, 10 national winners each receive \$2,000 for service work or higher education. See <http://www.barronprize.org/>. *(Susan Thomas)*



Partners on the trails...

Nonprofit **EarthCorps** lets students and young adults work and learn best resource management conservation and leadership skills in projects in WA and around the world.



Nonprofit **YouthCorps** provides is a job-training/education program for teens modeled after the 1930s CCCs.

The Ira Spring Trail Trust has awarded \$16,585 for two projects using EarthCorps and Northwest Youth Corps to work on three trails in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF this summer. The MBS's Bill Sobieralski, Tom Davis, and Paul Freidel were key players in getting the proposals approved.

At Snoqualmie RD, the *Upper Dutch Miller Gap and Williams Lake Trail Repairs Project* received \$10,000 for a proposal submitted by trail specialist Bill Sobieralski to continue ongoing repair work, including brushing, clearing, tread, and drainage repairs along both trails. Short relocations, new drainage structures, surfacing with local material and switchback reconstruction will be included where needed. A seven-person international EarthCorps youth crew will be funded for 10 days work.

[Check out the MBS partnership website for the latest.](#) Link [here](#) for more trail work in action, courtesy Aleta Eng and Gary Paull

Skykomish RD's Deception Lakes Trail Repair Project was awarded \$6,585 toward trail specialist Paul Freidel's proposal to continue ongoing repair work on the Deception Lake Trail. It will assist in replacing a fifty foot section of puncheon with a stepped turnpike, and installing two culverts to eliminate two large mud holes. Switchbacks in this area will also be restored to original grade. Improvements to trail would continue to provide hiker access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail for the long term. Funds will support a 12-person Northwest Youth Corps crew for 5 days.

(Courtesy Aleta Eng and Cindy White, MBS)

Follow Up

Leave a note or check Steve's condition at www.thestatus.com

click on VISIT A PATIENT PAGE

enter Last Name: **BURNS**

enter password: **oregon*texas06**

Steve Burns, Deschutes NF, injured Feb. 9 while helping to suppress a wildland fire near Granbury, Texas underwent pelvic surgery in Feb. 17 and is now back in the ICU in Texas in serious but stable condition.



Tax deductible donations to assist family members with expenses are being accepted by [Wildland Firefighter Foundation](#) c/o Steve Burns, 2049 Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705. *(Roland Giller; Karen Curtiss, Central OR)* Photo of Steve Burns above is courtesy of *Bend Living*.

BottomLine

For more stories, link to the [2/21 BottomLine](#) which includes PNW's interagency wolverine radio-tagging for study; an item about a native plant nursery that supports Fremont-Winema RAC restoration projects in Klamath Basin; and two MBS grants that provide a safer pedestrian crossing at Steven's Pass and better facilities at busy Verlot Public Service Center.

WellNews Tip!

Do something you care about every day. Don't count the cost.