



What's Happening in the Forest Service

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NATIONAL NEWS

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<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/05/0148.xml>

Secretary Vilsack Announces Plan to Promote Civil Rights, Equal Access at USDA

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National Police Week

From Chief Gail Kimbell

National Police Week is May 10-16, 2009, and Friday, May 15, is National Peace Officer's Memorial Day.

The President of the United States has set aside these dates to remember and honor all peace officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and all those who continue to serve us on a daily basis. One hundred eighty two peace officers were killed in the line of duty in 2008 in the United States.

On September 20, 2008, Law Enforcement Officer Kristine Fairbanks was slain while performing her law enforcement duties on the Olympic National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region. Kris' ultimate sacrifice will be honored this year during National Police Week, along with the other U.S. Forest Service officers killed in the line of duty in prior years: Michael Staples, Stephen Bowman, Brent Jacobson, Harmon Schwoob and Rudolph E. Mellenthin. Our six officers are recognized at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington, D.C. [Click here>>>](#) to read more about each officer.

(eds. note: According to the Peninsula Daily News, Fairbanks was posthumously given the State of Washington's highest law enforcement award in a ceremony attended by Governor Chris Gregoire at the Law Enforcement Memorial Site in Olympia on May 8.)

The United States Congress has passed legislation that allows the U.S. flag to be flown at half staff on May 15, 2009, National Peace Officer's Memorial Day. It is also traditional and appropriate during Police Week to honor slain officers by wearing a one inch black shroud across your badge and by displaying or wearing blue ribbons.

Please take this time to remember our fallen officers who gave their lives serving the public and protecting America's natural resources. Also, please take the time this week to thank our officers and every peace officer that continues to serve and protect you.

KRISTINE FAIRBANKS – Law Enforcement Officer, Olympic National Forest, WA Officer Fairbanks was killed in the line of duty on September 20, 2008, near Sequim, WA. Officer Fairbanks was killed while investigating a suspicious vehicle on the forest. The suspect subsequently murdered another individual and stole his vehicle before being killed by Sheriff Deputies in a confrontation at a local gas station and grocery store.

Kris was a K-9 Officer with three dogs in her 20 year career. She trained numerous K-9 Officers from other agencies on the Olympic Peninsula. She was passionate about resource law enforcement and was instrumental in detecting and investigating hundreds of timber theft and special forest product cases. She loved working for the U.S. Forest Service and gave her life protecting our natural resources, employees, and the public.

MICHAEL STAPLES - Law Enforcement Officer, Chippewa National Forest, MN

Officer Staples was killed in the line of duty on September 4, 2002, northeast of Bemidji, MN. While Officer Staples was on patrol, an on-coming car struck a deer and threw it into the

windshield of Officer Staples's Forest Service pickup truck. The deer went through the windshield of the patrol vehicle, killing Officer Staples instantly.

STEPHEN BOWMAN - Law Enforcement Officer, Cherokee National Forest, TN

Officer Bowman was killed in the line of duty on June 27, 1998, in Sullivan County, Tennessee. On June 24, he was participating in interagency task force operations to locate and eradicate marijuana cultivation sites on National Forest System lands. He was flying in a National Guard helicopter to detect and lead ground officers into the marijuana sites. Due to approaching severe weather, they left the area to return and land but did not make it. The downed helicopter was located on June 27. Both Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Bowman and National Guard pilot Charles Harvey were killed in the crash.

BRENT JACOBSON - Law Enforcement Officer, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, ID

Brent "Jake" Jacobson was killed in the line of duty on January 12, 1989, near Sandpoint, Idaho. Officer Jacobson had been requested by the County Sheriff to assist them in tracking two armed fugitives on National Forest System land. He and a deputy had successfully tracked and located the suspects through deep snow, when they were ambushed and LEO Jacobson was shot and killed during the gunfight. The two suspects were later arrested and convicted of his murder.

HARMON SCHWOOB - Assistant Protection Ranger (Fire Control Officer), Angeles National Forest, CA

Ranger Schwoob was killed in the line of duty on September 20, 1941, near Los Angeles, CA. Officer Schwoob was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit and attempt to arrest a wildlife poacher. The suspect was later arrested and convicted of his murder.

RUDOLPH E. MELLENTHIN - Forest Ranger, Manti-LaSal National Forest, UT

Ranger Mellenthin was killed in the line of duty on August 23, 1918. After a military deserter was tracked to the LaSal Mountains within Ranger Mellenthin's district, Mellenthin was sought out and deputized by the Sheriff to arrest the deserter. Mellenthin immediately located the man and his father at a sheep camp on the National Forest, a gun battle ensued, and Mellenthin suffered fatal wounds. The wounded suspects were later tracked down and convicted of his murder.

Say "Good-bye" to the Green Fleet

In early 2008 Chief Kimbell decided that the entire fleet management program should be reviewed using Business Process Reengineering (BPR) to look for ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness. In addition to the BPR itself, the Chief directed that the BPR team evaluate the current vehicle painting and marking policy and make recommendations for improvement.

The team reviewed various color alternatives including a combination green-and-white fleet, an all green fleet, and an all white fleet. In addition, the team evaluated several policy alternatives regarding exterior markings applied to fleet vehicles, including the Forest Service shield, vehicle striping, bumper stickers and other decals.

Based upon a complete cost, benefit, and savings analysis of each option and in consideration of other factors, the BPR team recommended:

- The agency transition to an all-white vehicle fleet by ordering only white non-emergency new vehicles, effective immediately upon leadership approval.
- The standard color and markings for law enforcement vehicles will be in accordance with FSM 5380 – Law Enforcement Equipment and for fire equipment will be in accordance with National Fire Equipment Standards.
- The Forest Service implement and enforce a standard vehicle marking package consisting of a larger Forest Service shield with standard placement, no striping on non-emergency vehicles, and no unapproved exterior decals such as bumper stickers. (The team did not recommend retrofitting the current fleet, primarily due to cost considerations.) A standard 10-inch white, reflective Forest Service shield with brown outline and markings will be applied to all new vehicles.

- Non-conforming vehicles in the current fleet, such as Forest Service green vehicles, striped non-emergency vehicles, and vehicles displaying smaller shields, will be phased out over time through the vehicle replacement cycle.
- Bumper stickers and other unapproved decals will be removed at the next annual safety inspection or within 180 days of implementation of the new direction.

The Chief decided that the Forest Service will order all new vehicles in the manufacturer's standard white beginning with FY 2010 new vehicle orders. The change to an all-white fleet will result in a standard image recognizable to the public as well as to law enforcement personnel from other agencies.

After nearly 50 years of visual public recognition through the unique vehicle color, the Chief understands this policy change is a major cultural shift for the Agency. But the increasing costs and decreasing availability of Forest Service green paint combined with an estimated 5-year savings of \$9 million drove the Chief's decision to implement this change and outweighed the cost of retaining this tradition. Plus, elimination of vehicle repainting will contribute to reduction of the agency's environmental footprint by eliminating the hazardous emissions associated with repainting.

Secretary and Governor Sign Revised Agreement

By Keith Tackett, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack joined Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and others at a private Arbor Day ceremony April 24 at a farm in Westminster, MD. They met to sign Maryland's revised Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The revision substantially increases incentives for installing riparian forest buffers on farmland, which is a goal of the Forest Service's Chesapeake Bay Program.

Maryland was the first state to join CREP when it was established in 1997. It is a voluntary federal program that allows agricultural landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, water quality and wildlife practices on eligible farmland. More than a decade later, most states have adopted CREP.

A 100-foot-wide forest buffer has the capacity to trap 95% of sediment and remove 78-80 % of the nutrients from surface run-off.

About 100 people were in attendance including Maryland's Secretaries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, State Forester Steve Koehn, and Sally Claggett, U.S. Forest Service Liaison to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Top 10 Things to Do During an Influenza Outbreak

10. If you have flu symptoms, see your doctor immediately. For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/cleanhands> .
9. Routinely clean and disinfect. Disinfecting doesn't just clean surfaces, it actually destroys germs. Follow instructions of all disinfectants. Germs may live on countertops and surfaces for hours or even days.
8. Remind children to practice healthy habits. And of course that means lots of hand washing, covering their mouth when they cough or sneeze and using hand sanitizers when water isn't available.
7. Eating a balanced diet and getting adequate sleep is a good first step in keeping your immune system from getting overly stressed.. When you're rested, you will be better prepared to fight off illness.

6. For individuals who are excessively stressed, some studies favor the use of daily vitamin C during the cold and flu season.
5. Stay home if you, or someone in your household, is experiencing any flu symptoms. Do not report to work!
4. Limit your exposure (even brief contact) to those "sufferers," especially during the first several days of their flu symptoms.
3. If you sneeze or cough, cover your nose or mouth. Avoid rubbing or touching your eyes and nose. Don't touch your face. Cold and flu are often spread by hand-to-hand contact, so avoid directly facing an individual who is coughing and sneezing. If you do sneeze into your hands, make sure you clean them, and do this EVERY time you sneeze or cough.
2. When water isn't available, use alcohol-based liquid hand sanitizers frequently, especially when hand washing is not possible. If using a gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. It does not require water to work; the alcohol in it will kill germs. But remember that not all germicidal lotions will adequately kill cold viruses.
1. **Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands!** Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after touching objects, surfaces or another person's hands can physically remove cold viruses.

Celebrating Wildflowers and Wildflowers Week

From Chief Gail Kimbell

May 17 - 23, 2009, has been designated "Celebrating Wildflowers - Wildflower Week." It's a week that will kick off a season-long festival of events highlighting wildflower appreciation, education, interpretation, and restoration activities.

The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and other partners in the Federal Interagency Plant Conservation Alliance will join together to celebrate the diversity of plants and plant habitats found on the Nation's public lands.

"Celebrating Wildflowers" is a program created by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in response to the public's keen interest in the conservation and management of native plants. Implementation of the program helps bring public awareness to the important role our public lands play as a reservoir for much of America's native plant diversity. "Celebrating Wildflowers" events create an excellent opportunity for the Forest Service to emphasize its "Kids in the Woods" program.

The annual events build on the expertise, creativity, and passion already exhibited by our personnel. I encourage each of you to support your staffs in "Celebrating Wildflowers." Please join in the education efforts emphasizing the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, and economic value of native plants.

Chief's Video: The Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/video/nff/>

ABOUT US

Agency Builds Partnerships in Middle East

The Forest Service has a long history of promoting innovative and effective approaches to conserving migratory bird habitat, by fostering partnerships among stakeholders across the Americas. These partners utilize a flyway conservation strategy that links government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and local communities along migratory pathways. The Middle East Program at the Forest Service recently began working with partners in the Middle East to apply similar conservation strategies.

The Forest Service is focusing current efforts on building the capacity of partners in bird monitoring and implementing conservation programs. During the past two years, the agency has worked with U.S. partners to host Middle Eastern biologists in the United States and to develop their capacity in mist netting, banding, surveying, data collection, and interpretive outreach.

The next phase is to invite partners to build regional networks that share data and jointly address conservation issues across their region.

In an effort to further develop partnerships in the region and establish the Forest Service as a regional technical and coordinating resource on bird conservation, the Forest Service's Middle East and Migratory Bird programs will host a 2-week study tour for 10 individuals from Egypt, Ethiopia, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Kenya, and Lebanon in June 2009.

The U.S.-based study tour will bring together a number of Forest Service partners from across the Middle East and further south along the Great Rift Valley Flyway to explore and discuss agency models for migratory bird conservation in the United States. Participants will examine various models for partnership development, capacity building of young biologists, conservation in urban areas and degraded landscapes, and ecotourism opportunities. The study tour will visit three field locations in the United States and conclude in Washington, DC, with a two-day partnership building workshop.

Celebrating Wildflowers/Botany Awards

2008

Excellence in Native Plant Development

John P. Moore, FS Coordinator of the Uncompahgre Plateau Native Plant Program

Excellence in Rare Plant Management

Gary Kauffman, Forest Botanist, National Forests of North Carolina

Excellence in Botany Partnership Development

Susan Masi, Research Botanist, Chicago Botanic Garden and Eric Ulaszek Prairie Horticulturist, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Celebrating Wildflowers Excellence in Pollinator Management

Janet Edstrum, Wildlife Biologist, Rapid River Ranger District, Hiawatha National Forest

Asa Gray Career Achievement Award

Barbara Philips, Zone Botanist, Coconino, Kaibab and Prescott National Forests

Karl Urban celebrating Wildflowers Award

Patricia J. Ruta, Forest Botanist, Huron-Manistee National Forest

2009

Excellence in Native Plant Development

David Steinfeld, Scott Riley, and Lee Riley of Region 6 Restoration Services Team

Excellence in Rare Plant Management

Wayne Rolle, Forest Botanist, Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest

Excellence in Botany Partnership Development

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Vicky Erickson, Regional Geneticist and Native Plant Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Region

Celebrating Wildflowers Excellence in Pollinator Management

Jan Schultz, Botany, NNIS and Special Forest Products Program Manager, Eastern Region

Asa Gray Career Achievement Award

Sherel Goodrich, Forests Ecologist, Ashley National Forest

Karl Urban celebrating Wildflowers Award

Alice Smith, district Botanist, Sweet Home Ranger District, Willamette National Forest

Green Tips:

1. Remember Your Green Bag. Store a small reusable bag in your purse or briefcase in case you decide to visit the farmers' market on your lunch hour and can avoid using plastic bags.
2. Make smart grocery decisions. Buy hormone-free meat, milk, and eggs.
3. Making a quick trip to the store? Ride your bike or walk there.
4. Energy bar wrappers, juice pouches, and plastic yogurt containers can be recycled. TerraCycle is a company that recycles these items and makes a donation to the school, charity, or nonprofit organization of your choice.
5. The U.S. Postal Service's "Mail Back" program allows customers to recycle small electronics and inkjet cartridges by mailing them free of charge.
6. Reduce the carbon footprint caused by the book-publishing industry. Buy used books or swap books with your friends and colleagues.
7. Compost food scraps and yard clippings to fertilize your garden naturally.
8. Avoid pesticides. Use cayenne pepper and garlic to deter pesky aphids.
9. Repel ants by sprinkling coffee grounds and eggshells around the base of plants.
10. Do not get rid of beneficial insects. Research the effect of organic treatments before you apply them.

Latest Issue of USDA News Online

The most recent issue of the "USDA NEWS" is now posted on the USDA Web site at:

http://www.usda.gov/agnews_pubs.xml

A printer-friendly, color PDF version of this issue is also available there.

Stories in this most recent issue include:

--"Here's How We're Working With IRS To Validate Eligibility Of Producers Who Seek USDA Benefits"

--"This Little Pin Conveys A Pretty Important Message"

- "Secretary Tom Vilsack's Column"
- "Notes From USDA Headquarters"
- "Employees Make These Things Happen"
- "Editor's Roundup: USDA's People In The News"
- "Profile Plus--More About: Jim Vogelsang"
- "(Stand-Alone) Photo Of A Fund-Raising Activity For The 2008 Combined Federal Campaign"

My Adventures in the Forest Service

By Jean Greene

Introduction: Jean Greene is a new Recreation Engineer on the Green Mesa National Forest. She has agreed to share her experiences with us as she settles into her job and discovers her role in helping shape the future of the Forest Service in the face of climate change and shrinking operations budgets.

Part One

I was visiting the Tall Tree Ranger District to meet with the Rec. Staff (*ed. note:* Recreation Staff) when something interesting happened. Phil Fontaine, the District Ranger, called a family meeting to show the DVD, "Extreme Makeover – Ranger District Edition." <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/extreme-makeover/index.shtml>

This thing was a riot!

The employees of the Deer River Ranger District acted out an episode based on the television show, *Extreme Makeover*, except they were finding ways to make the district "greener."

The narrator in the movie talked about how much money and resources the Forest Service could save by doing the same things everywhere, and I was amazed by the numbers. The Deer River RD (*ed. note:* Ranger District) expects to save \$32,000 a year! We really need to figure out how to make these changes on our districts. And some of them were just a matter of changing habits.

When I got back to the SO (*ed. note:* Supervisor's Office), I logged onto the national sustainable operations page <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/> and found a trailer for the DVD. I sent an e-mail to my staff group with a link to the site, hoping they'd find it as entertaining and exciting as I did. Since I've only been on the forest a week, I'm not sure how my co-workers feel about group e-mails. No doubt I'll find out. Then I went back to the webpage and scoped out the information on Green Teams.

Mary Mason stopped by my cubicle while I was munching. "Late lunch?" she asked.

"Just a snack." I moved my apple slices aside, assuming she wanted to talk to me about something. I don't know much about Mary yet, but she seems like a good supervisor.

She plopped into my guest chair and smiled. "I like the DVD trailer."

"I'm glad," I said. "Phil showed "Extreme Makeover" at the district today, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Even though it's really funny, it has lots of great information. You think maybe we can show it here?"

"I don't see why not."

While I had her ear, I decided to take a chance. "Do we have a Green Team in the SO?" <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/green-teams.shtml>

"No, not yet. We haven't had anyone who was interested in starting one."

"I'm interested."

“Are you?” She appeared a little hesitant. “We’re pretty busy right now.”

“You and I could set up an agreement about how much time I’d spend on it,” I said. “I think we could make some big changes in the office without a lot of effort. And if we get a team together, we can each do our share of the work.”

Mary nodded slowly, then smiled again. “Okay. I’ll discuss it with the Forest Sup (*ed. Note: Forest Supervisor*) and let you know.”

“Great. Thanks.”

Easing herself out of the chair, Mary groaned, “Long day.”

I watched her leave, then popped another slice of apple in my mouth as I considered some of the issues a Green Team could tackle first.

I’d noticed paper recycling boxes scattered around the work areas, but nothing else.

We could recycle cans, plastics, cardboard, and even batteries, if we had a little budget.

And we could easily reduce our energy use. <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/focus-area-waste-prevention-recycling.shtml>

I’ve often found lights on in empty offices, and printers still humming first thing in the morning. Those savings could easily surpass the recycling costs. <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/focus-area-energy.shtml>

I found information about an open mic call <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/communications.shtml> scheduled for every third Wednesday. Maybe I could get more information there.

I jotted a few notes in my daily notebook, then turned my attention to my quickly-filling inbox.

An hour later, Mary leaned into my cubicle. “Sandy wants to see you first thing in the morning.” Without another word, or even a raised eyebrow, she disappeared.

The Forest Supervisor wanted to talk to me? I took a deep breath and blew it out. This could be good or bad. I decided I better work on fleshing out some ideas before meeting with him.

Students Answer the Youth Service Call

By Lee Naiman, Lyndon B. Johnson Civilian Conservation Center

Students from Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps <http://lyndonbjohnson.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx> joined an estimated 2 million young Americans participating in Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) activities nationwide during the week of April 24-26. <http://gysd.org/>

Students demonstrated their commitment to addressing the needs of their community and its citizens by taking on projects for Franklin High School, in Franklin, North Carolina, including the re-striping of the parking lots at the school, picking up litter for the State’s Spring Litter Roadside Cleanup, building of a sign for the new Forest Service Ranger Station in Tallulah Falls, Ga., and pouring of concrete on the playground at Cartoogechaye School, in Franklin.

National Youth Service Day (now Global Youth Service Day) was founded in 1988 to recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young Americans, recruit a new generation of

FS Today for May 8, 2009

participants and supporters of youth service, and promote young people as resources to their communities. GYSD provides Job Corps students with a unique opportunity to 'give something back' to the community by using their Job Corps training to benefit others.

Each year, Job Corps provides training and support to more than 100,000 young people. Job Corps also teaches social skills and encourages leadership development, and GYSD is a great way for students to build their leadership skills through community service.” This year LBJ had over 120 students and 10 staff participating in the event. But for our students, it's not just on Global Youth Services Day, but it's a year-round event. It is amazing to see that our students really want to volunteer to help with community projects.

For more than four decades, Job Corps has made a difference in the lives of more than 2.6 million economically disadvantaged young Americans. Through willingness to embrace and welcome change, this voluntary education and job training program, for young people ages 16 through 24, continues to offer innovative career technical, academic and social skills training to students at 122 centers nationwide.

For more information on Job Corps, visit <http://www.jobcorps.gov>

Success Stories

05/01/2009. Written by employees, these Success Stories give a first-hand account of activities taking place on our public lands throughout the nation over the past three weeks. We welcome your feedback, and encourage you to forward these stories to other folks who may share your interest.

[Sixth Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Event was Better than Ever](#)

Fishing event for individuals with physical and mental challenges proves to be a solid success on the Wayne National Forest.

[Chippewa NF Creates Native Plant Garden](#)

The Blackduck Ranger District on the Chippewa NF created a native plant pollinator garden. The garden will be used as an educational tool.

[Oregon National Forest Project Competes for Internet Votes Thanks To National Forest Foundation](#)

National Forest Foundation has entered Whychus Creek Trails Project in a competition for a \$50,000 grant from Redwood Creek Wines and Planet Green, Greater Outdoors Project

[American Chestnut Trees Planted on National Forest Reclaimed Mine Lands](#)

Special American chestnut seedlings developed by US Forest Service Research are planted on the Wayne with hopes for better survival, growth and development of seedlings.

[Learning a new career, one circuit at a time](#)

Blackwell Job Corps students gain hands-on experience with renovations at what will be the new CNNF Supervisor's office

[Eleven Complete Basic Wildland Firefighter Training](#)

The Shawnee National Forest sponsored training at the Golconda Job Corps Center.

[Fuels Reduction in Pictures: Conditions, Action, Results!](#)

Central Oregon Round Butte ARRA project -- in Pictures!

[Contractor's Workshop a Success](#)

Approximately 20 attended workshop on the Shawnee National Forest.

[Already Putting More People to Work in Central Oregon's Crooked River National Grassland](#)

ARRA creates jobs; protects homes in Central Oregon

[Spotlight on Chippewa NF PIT Volunteers](#)

Chippewa National Forest PIT volunteers Dick and June Axelson are listed on the PIT honor roll for volunteering over 3000 hours.

[Habitat for Timberdoodles on the Chippewa NF](#)

The Blackduck Ranger District on the Chippewa has completed four shearing projects to clean brush for woodcock habitat.

Hoosier Hosts Timber Industry Tour

As a joint venture with Lincoln Hills RC&D the Hoosier hosted the annual timber industry meeting to provide information to the public about HNF policies and practices.

ARRA and the Forest Service in Central Oregon: Contract Crews Are Reducing Hazardous Fuels

People are back at work thinning and hand piling small trees, mowing and removing some biomass.

Eastern Region Implementation - North American Butterfly Association MOU

NABA provides R9 butterfly checklists & American Butterflies Magazine requests inventory info from members.

Steel Saws and Muscle on the Hoosier

Seven new crosscut sawyers certified on the Hoosier National Forest.

An Extreme Makeover on the Chippewa NF Wins Awards

The Chippewa's Deer River Ranger District receives Deputy Chief's Business Operations Award.

From Soils Surveys to Perch Fishing on the Chippewa NF

Chippewa employee helps out with the Cass Lake Kids Perch Fishing contest.

Mike Baltz Honored

On March 27, 2009, during an informal reception held in the Supervisor's Office of the Shawnee National Forest Mike Baltz was recognized for his years of work.

Partnership Protects Bicknell's Thrush Habitat and Welcomes Skiers Back to Mittersill

A unique partnership between the White Mountain National Forest, the State of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Audubon will protect Bicknell's thrush habitat and welcome skiers back to dormant trails.

Winter Logging Effects on Soil

Research promotes understanding of methods used to protect soil during management operations.

Traveling Exhibit to Find Permanent Home at Grey Towers

By Linda Feldman, Office of the Deputy Chief for Business Operations

"Inspirations from the Forest" exhibit is an extension of the Forest Service's program at the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on The National Mall. It illustrates how artists, writers, and musicians draw inspiration from the world of nature.

The "Forest Service, Culture, and Community" program during the Folklife Festival commemorated the Forest Service's 100th anniversary.

Over the past three years the exhibition has traveled throughout the United States, with over 60 stops in 35 states from Alaska to Florida. It was seen at Forest Service visitor centers, museums, and festivals. Most sites offered live demonstrations, workshops, and musical performances by nationally recognized

craftsmen and artists, including National Heritage Fellowship recipients, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

In May when the traveling exhibition officially ends, the three sets of the exhibit, with 16 panels each, will find permanent homes at Grey Towers, at the Cradle of Forestry, and at the Chippewa National Forest.

Click here>>> to learn more http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/forestry/introduction.aspx

White House Award for Makeover DVD

By Jessica M Medina

The Deer River Ranger District on the Chippewa National Forest (Minnesota) and the Extreme Makeover Team won the 2009 White House Closing the Circle Award in the "Sowing the Seeds for Change" category.

This year's 15 winners were selected from nearly 200 nominations. This award, announced by the Office of the Environmental Executive, recognizes outstanding achievements of Federal employees and their facilities for efforts in promoting environmental stewardship.

By the creation of the "Extreme Makeover- Ranger Edition" DVD, District Ranger Joe Alexander and his team decided to reduce the environmental footprints in Region 9. The success of this project was possible through the implementation of sustainable practices in their facilities and the installation of more environmental friendly equipment. (see related story)

The award ceremony will be held on June 17, in the Natcher Auditorium of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in Bethesda, Md.

Click here>>> to access the 2009 White House Closing the Circle Award announcement.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/documents/20090430-CTCWinnersPressRelease.pdf>

Willamette National Forest Receives National Partnership Award

By Cathy Neuman

In January, the Willamette National Forest Partnership Council (WPC) was presented with the National Forest Service Partnership Award for FY 2008. This prestigious award is given each year by the National Forest Service Partnership Council to honor and recognize effective labor-management relations and partnerships. The recipient is chosen by top level management and National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) union representatives. As the winning recipient, the WPC was also given a \$20,000 grant to further develop and continue collaborative working relationships.

Over the past several years, the WPC has made succession planning and early career development a major focus area for labor and management. This collaborative effort was designed to assist in the forest's effort to recruit, develop, and sustain a skilled and diverse workforce to meet the technical, professional, and leadership needs of the future. It also aimed to foster a work environment in support of this purpose and the desire for the Forest Service to be an employer of choice.

The WPC has worked in true partnership to develop and implement training, developmental programs, and action plans to address these important issues. Their efforts have resulted in improved recruitment and development of new employees and have improved the morale and sense of empowerment on the forest. They have also provided long-term employees the opportunity to participate in the development and mentoring of early career employees and have provided a strong foundation for new employees on the forest.

In addition, the programs have provided management with some innovative new perspectives by bringing early career employees into the decision-making framework and providing avenues for these employees to communicate their needs and ideas.

The WPC plans to use part of their \$20,000 award funds to host a "Wellness Day" later this year for the entire Willamette National Forest. The rest of the award money will be used to provide communication training to forest employees at each unit. This training will further enhance the forest's ability to foster a supportive and engaged organization.

WPC members include: Scott Fitzwilliams, Tony Farque, Bev McCulley, Mary Allison, Nikki Swanson, Jon Belcher, Jearldine Ledgerwood, Jerry VanDyne, and Sonja Weber. Regional Forester, Mary Wagner, commented that she is extremely proud of their accomplishments and the recognition is well deserved. An inscribed plaque outlining their successes was presented to the members and Chief Gail Kimbell issued a congratulatory announcement. Each member of the WPC also received an engraved silver tray memorializing their significant contributions.

Region 1 – Northern Region

CCC Work Highlighted for Idaho Archaeological Month

By Rose Davis, Northern Region

Each May, the Idaho State Historical Society sponsors Idaho Archaeological and Historic Preservation (IAHP) month to highlight the intriguing stories of Idaho's history.

This year's theme of "The New Deal – A Legacy of Public Works in Idaho" is a great fit for the past, present and future of the U.S. Forest Service.

In honor of the IAHP month, the Nez Perce National Forest is featuring the history and efforts of some of the 39 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in northern Idaho.

A display illustrating the 10 CCC camps located on the Forest in the 1930's illustrates the camps, the kind of work performed and the people involved in the implementation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 "New Deal" program.

The "CCC boys" provided the much needed labor to build ranger stations, lookouts, roads, trails and bridges. The display will be available for viewing during regular office hours from 7:30 to 4:30 pm May 4 – May 15 in the Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office located in Grangeville Idaho.

One of the most significant work projects the CCC enrollees undertook on the Nez Perce National Forest is the Goddard Bar Ranger Station, later renamed the Fenn Ranger Station. The workers constructing the buildings were stationed at O'Hara Camp, just a short jaunt from Fenn and came to northern Idaho mostly from Illinois, until after the end of fall of 1936 when most came from Arkansas.

Prior to the late-1920s Forest Service facilities were commonly log structures built by rangers on donated time. In the early 1930s every District Ranger in Region One received an "Improvement Handbook" identifying building methods and the materials to use, basically standardizing Forest Service structures.

But once the CCC began building Forest Service facilities, the character of the buildings changed distinctly.

Regional architect William Fox designed the Goddard Bar/Fenn Ranger Station and the CCC built it using materials, stone, and cedar purchased locally. The Fenn Ranger Station was distinctive and more substantial and extensive than any Ranger Station built in the Northern Region. The exceptional design and construction of Fenn Ranger Station is accentuated by its unique physical setting on a Selway River bar.

The station has changed little since its construction from 1936-1940 -- built by a generation of young American men who served their country in an exceptional way.

Today the station continues as a working Forest Service facility occupied by the Moose Creek Ranger District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Region 2 – Rocky Mountain Region

Gifted and Talented Students Help the Environment in Year-long Project

By Gwen Ernst-Ulrich, Rocky Mountain Region

Take a special group of fifth-grade students committed to helping the environment by planting trees, and what do you get? Trees, of course, but the world benefits even more because these young people have experienced real-life issues in the process.

Indian Ridge Elementary School <http://www.indian.ccsd.k12.co.us/> gifted and talented fifth-graders in Cherry Creek, Colorado, are engaged in a U.S. Forest Service pilot program and partnering with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte* to plant trees in the Hayman Fire area. The Hayman Fire burned 138,000 acres in five Colorado counties in the summer of 2002.

http://www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/Hayman_Fire_Impacts_FMT_Vol65_1.pdf

Their collaboration with Laredo Middle School sixth-graders to create an environmental education service learning project called, TREEcycle benefits the local community.

TREEcycle is a student-run organization that is raising funds to buy and grow 2,000 trees from seed that will enhance the environment and restore forests damaged by wildfires, water, and beetle kill. The organization is committed to leaving a legacy of improvement, restoration, and hope so that others can enjoy the benefits of a beautiful, new, healthy forest for generations to come.

The group's vision statement emphasizes that they are raising money not to just save the world, but to improve it one tree at a time.

They also strive to make a difference in the world by inspiring others to join them in their quest to improve the community ecosystem for the benefit of animals and people, helping them "pay it forward" to improve the overall quality of life.

Throughout the school year, students' fundraising efforts have included running a school contest they call "Money Mania," creating a school TREEstore, and finding community sponsors and partners.

The fifth-grade also raised the most money during the year and had a tree planted in their honor on the school grounds on April 24, Arbor Day. TREEcycle is also partnering with Denver's "Tree By Tree" project to help plant a million trees in the metro area.

"Through hands-on-learning and the development of their own small business, my students get to experience taking on real-life issues and making a difference," said Donna Shepherd, their teacher.

The students used curriculum created by Project Learning Tree, a program of the American Forest Foundation, to study fire and its complexities from a scientific, literary, and public policy point of view. <http://www.plt.org/>

The class' vision has been rewarded with a Project Learning Tree National GreenWorks! Grant, with congratulations to the students on making a difference in their community and their relationship to the environment.

"My students see themselves as heroes of the environment and change-agents for its improvement as emphasized in their motto, 'From the seed of our imagination a forest will grow,'" said Shepherd.

For information on how you can help their effort, please contact Shepherd at Indian Ridge Elementary School in the Cherry Creek School District (720) 886-8461 or visit their Web site at <http://www.protopage.com/TREEcycle>

Octogenarian Volunteer Fills Important Need

By Gwen Ernst-Ulrich, Rocky Mountain Region

If there were a contest to recognize the oldest U.S. Forest Service volunteer, 87-year-old Rocky Mountain Region volunteer Joe Jurceka would probably win hands down.

But he would also be a strong contender for longest federal volunteer, having spent the last 20 years donating approximately 30 hours a week to help the federal government do its work.

Joe has donated over 8,000 hours to the Rocky Mountain Region's geometronics unit of the engineering staff since October 2000. Before that, he volunteered for 12 years with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), his former 28-year employer.

Three days a week, Joe walks the four blocks from his home to the office and spends about nine hours engaged on cartographic products. His most challenging project has involved working on wilderness boundary descriptions for the entire region, a task requiring strong initiative and the need to learn difficult technical language dealing with geographic features.

According to his supervisor, Cartographer Bob Malcolm, Joe's willingness to explore, research and proceed with this project on his own accord has made a huge difference to the workloads of other staff members. "Joe inspires everyone through his positive attitude and cheerful personality," Malcolm added.

Joe has also been an asset to the geometronics team on field trips to such places as Brainard Lake and Dillon Reservoir when the group has gone out to set control targets for photogrammetric projects.

Others in the building can attest to Joe's constant smile and pleasant words for everyone he meets.

Born in Chicago of immigrant parents from what is now the Czech Republic, Joe's early career included working with Nobel Prize winners Enrico Fermi, Willard Libby, and others at the University of Chicago.

Joe came to Denver in 1960 to take a job as a mechanical engineer technician with USGS. He and his wife of 55 years, Vera, raised a family of three boys and a girl.

Joe smiles when he says, "Before I started working in geometronics, I had never used a computer!" His mastery of that technology is evident as he maps, edits, and writes material using a computer that boasts two monitors.

Joe admits he loves maps, and his only regret about his Forest Service volunteer work is that he didn't join the agency sooner.

For more information on working with senior volunteers, contact Rocky Mountain Regional Office Administrative Officer Marlette Lacey at mlacey@fs.fed.us or 303-275-5325.

Region 3 – Southwestern Region

"Friends" Group Leaving Their Impact

By the Sandia Ranger District staff

Patrolling a trail... Guiding a wildflower walk... Planting a demonstration garden... Visiting a classroom... Removing a hazard tree... Cleaning up graffiti... Posting a fire prevention sign... Providing wilderness information... Making a map... Hosting a picnic area... Working at a visitor center... Escorting Smokey... Restoring a watershed... All of these activities and more are performed through the efforts of the Sandia Ranger District's volunteers and partner organizations.

Being part of a wildland urban interface presents many challenges for the Sandia. Wildfire threat, gangs, conflicting user groups, a wilderness that shares a city boundary, and two million visitors annually are just a few of the challenges that the district faces.

On the other hand, being surrounded by a large urban, suburban and rural population presents a tremendous opportunity for the greater Albuquerque community to team up with the Forest Service in caring for forest lands.

Working closely with two nonprofit friends groups that were formed by experienced volunteers in the 1990s, the district has built its capacity to support a large volunteer program.

Ranger Cid Morgan is inspired by the work of the friends groups, other partner organizations, school groups, boy scouts and many individuals who donate their time and energy. "We couldn't get the work done without our volunteers. We also value them as the best ambassadors and advocates for national forests that we could ever hope for," she said.

It includes a strong core group of individuals who help manage a broad range of projects. Dozens more partner organizations work hand-in-hand with the district to accomplish the Forest Service mission. In fiscal year 2008 these groups and individuals donated over 37,000 hours of work, valued at more than \$730,000.

The Friends of Tijeras Pueblo (FOTP) began with the goal of supporting heritage education at Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site. The group provides interpretation and conservation education to school groups and site visitors, including a monthly lecture series and summer workshops. <http://www.friendsoftijeraspueblo.org/>

This organization has grown in size and vision, just completing construction of a 2,000 square foot adobe building, to be used as a heritage interpretive center. During construction, the group went from promoting silent auctions to receiving several hundred thousand dollars in grants and corporate donations. State of the art exhibits will be completed next year.

The Friends of Sandia Mountains (FOSM) formed to help protect and maintain Sandia and Manzanita Mountain resources. <http://www.friendsofthesandias.org/>

Starting as a hands-on, get-out and-get-to-work bunch of outdoor enthusiasts, they began by managing trail maintenance projects, The group soon recognized that conservation education was essential to their mission, and created the "Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains."

Involving over thirty contributors, the Friends were able to engage the UNM Press to publish the guide, thanks to donor corporations including Intel, REI, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Southwest Airlines, and many private donors. Their "Junior Ranger" badge program reaches 1000+ kids each summer. FOSM also manages the District's Adopt-A-Trail program, consisting of over twenty five organizations, including the Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans, the NM Mountain Club, and San Antonio Middle School students.

Like any successful endeavor, the Sandia Ranger District volunteer program has its own share of challenges, frustrations, and limitations. Volunteer management requires a significant investment of time from paid staff, as well as funding for uniforms, supplies, awards, and often, mileage or subsistence reimbursements.

At Sandia, all paid employees and many volunteers are involved in supervising and training the volunteer work force. Fluctuations in budget and staffing affect the program; however, a key to its success has been continuity of leadership and support from district rangers through the years. It was Ranger Floyd Thompson who encouraged and guided the birth of the friends groups in the 1990s.

Toxic Mine Dumps Removed

By Steven McDonald

The High Rolls Mining District was the scene of concentrated clean-up activity last fall.

Located within the Sacramento Ranger District, the old Mining District is just four miles east of Alamogordo, New Mexico. From 1900 through 1962 an estimated 13,300 total tons of ore were mined from the High Rolls Mining District, consisting of copper, gold, silver, and lead. The miners left behind waste rock and tailings that contained elevated concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, copper, and lead.

Six mine dumps were identified as containing elevated levels of heavy metals that posed a potential threat to humans, the environment, and wildlife. Most of the dumps were located in drainage channels and were eroding downstream after heavy rains.

After community involvement, a decision was made to remove the contaminated waste rock and tailings to a single on-site repository at the Warnock Mine.

Work began on April 17, 2008, with the contractor mobilizing heavy equipment to the worksite. The contractor excavated the Warnock Repository to serve as the repository for all contaminated waste rock in the High Rolls Mining District. Topsoil from the repository area was stripped and stockpiled for use in restoration.

The contractor removed the contaminated waste rock from the South Sacramento Gulch Mine and the Courtney Mine and placed it in the Warnock Repository. High fire danger closed the Lincoln National Forest to all work and cleanup operations were suspended on April 30, 2008.

Work resumed at High Rolls on September 30, 2008, and the contractor removed the contaminated material from Warnock and Alamo adits (horizontal mine openings). Very fine, white tailings were encountered at the Warnock Mine with elevated lead readings more than 75 times the level considered safe. This material was located next to the historic ditch and remains of the old ball mill.

Special care was taken to protect the historic features and the deep holes adjacent to the structures were backfilled with clean material to maintain structural integrity of the foundations of the mill.

The contractor next worked on removing contaminated waste from the East Warnock Workings and North Arcente Mine to the Warnock Repository.

The Warnock Repository is located on a dry ridge about half a mile north of the Warnock Mine. Approximately four feet of soil was excavated to form a shallow pit, waste rock and tailings were placed in the pit and formed into a compacted mound, and cover soil was placed over the waste rock and tailings to a minimum depth of three feet. Slopes were graded to drain and rounded to present a pleasing appearance.

The repository was then seeded, mulched with weed free straw, and fenced with barbed wire. The old roadbeds were graded to natural appearing contours with drainage paths restored. Obliterated roads were mulched and seeded to complete the project on November 26, 2008.

OHV Closure Area Rejuvenated by Volunteers

By Christie Kalkowski, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Over 60 volunteers gathered on April 18, to revamp the Wilson Canyon closure area, located 40 miles north of Bridgeport, California, on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

"We had a terrific work day with an enthusiastic and energetic group out in Wilson Canyon on a beautiful spring day," said Cheryl Probert, Bridgeport District Ranger. "We were able to tackle a number of important 'to-dos' that my staff would otherwise not have the time to accomplish," Probert continued.

Among the many tasks completed by the volunteers that Saturday included, rehabilitating tracks and evidence of illegal motorized use in the closure area, installing new signs identifying areas that are closed to motorized use, moving rocks to create physical barriers to the closed area, and collecting a pickup truck-load of garbage.

"I'm grateful to the Coalition for Public Access for arranging all of the organizing and planning for this event," acknowledged Probert. "They ensured that every detail was handled."

Smith Valley Rotary Club prepared a barbecue lunch while Forest Service staff had a chance to meet new volunteers and discuss a wide variety of topics.

Region 5 – Pacific Southwest Region

Students Plant Trees on Site of Angora Fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin

On April 21, students from Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School planted hundreds of native trees on land burned in the 2007 Angora Fire, beginning the Lake Tahoe Basin's reforestation efforts in the area.

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District worked with the Forest Service to obtain funding and develop the Angora Fire Urban Forest Stewardship Project.

The National Forest Foundation, Project Learning Tree, and GreenWorks provided grants for the program, which will result in the planting of 9,000 seedlings. The planting sites are on National Forest lands located within the community as well as on adjacent forest lands.

Much of the planting will occur with the help of more than 700 local school children. Before heading to their outdoor classroom to plant trees, the children, as well as other volunteers, learned basic tree planting techniques, plant ecology and plant identification.

The Forest Service nursery near Placerville, California, supplied the Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, and red fir seedlings, which will grow about a foot each year.

Motivation for the project to promote defensible space and healthy forests for erosion control came from the community.

The Angora Fire was ignited by an illegal campfire on June 25, 2007. More than 250 structures and 3,100 acres were burned.

Region 6 – Pacific Northwest Region

Better Living Show: A Sustainable Venue

By Rick Acosta, Mt. Hood National Forest

For three days in March, Mt. Hood National Forest and Timber Lake Job Corps partnered with private/public companies and organizations to promote ecologically sustainable living.

Now in its second year, the Better Living Show, <http://www.betterlivingshow.org/index.asp> held in Portland, Oregon, is the Pacific Northwest's largest sustainable lifestyle show and is attended by over 20,000 people.

At the show, employees of Mt. Hood National Forest, interns from the Northwest Service Academy, and students from Timber Lake Job Corps reached out to children and their parents with a message of conservation aimed at sustaining the natural environment and shrinking carbon footprints. The Mt. Hood National Forest's Green Team has been mentoring the Timber Lake Job Corps Students' Green Team for over a year

Conservation is one of six core areas on which the Better Living Show focuses. Other partners at the show illustrate sustainable choices in other core areas of: lifestyle, home/garden, clean technology, transportation, and food/beverage.

Among the features of the Better Living Show are:

- An 1100 square foot home "tricked out" with energy saving features, solar power and "green" products,
- Authors and speakers on various topics of sustainable living including renowned climatologist and 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Stephen Schneider,
- Short films and conversations related to sustainable living,
- Performances by the Portland Organic Theatre,
- Eco-fashion shows with earth-friendly makeup and hair care products,
- Conversation café which captures people's thoughts and feelings on questions related to sustainability,
- Exhibits and demonstrations from nearly 300 companies and organizations.

At the show, an information booth and "Salmon Tent" were the vehicles used by the Forest Service and Job Corps to convey their messages of conservation and carbon footprint reduction -- to help the public understand how the agency is reducing its environmental footprint.

The Salmon Tent is extremely popular and can accommodate about 50 children. Prior to entering the tent to listen to a storyteller talk about natural resources and how to care for the natural environment, children dress as crows, eagles, lady bugs, fish, and other animals, and march in the "parade of species".

Region 9 – Eastern Region

Caves and Mines Closed to Slow the Spread of White-nose Syndrome

Eastern Region Deputy Regional Forester Logan Lee signed an emergency closure order on April 24 for all caves and mines on National Forest System lands in the Eastern Region in response to white nose syndrome affecting endangered bat species.

Forest Service officials are very concerned about the spread of White-nose Syndrome, a malady of unknown origin that has led to the death of nearly 500,000 bats in the New England and Mid-Atlantic States.

There is evidence to suggest that human visitors to infected caves can inadvertently transfer White-nose Syndrome to clean caves and mines.

To help slow the spread of White-nose Syndrome to other areas of the United States, the Forest Service has joined with other agencies and caving organizations to temporarily close caves and mines on National Forests in the Eastern and Southern Regions.

For more information>>> http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/docs/apr_2009_caves_closed/white_nose_info.pdf

FAQs>>> http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/docs/apr_2009_caves_closed/faq.pdf

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Forest Health Directors View Asian Long Horned Beetle Efforts in Massachusetts

State and Private Forestry Forest Health Protection leadership (WO and Regional Directors) met with the National Association of State Foresters Forest Health Committee the week of April 20 in Sturbridge, Mass.

As part of this meeting, the group toured the cooperative Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) eradication program in Worcester, Mass.

This exotic pest introduction is one of four ALB introduction sites within the United States. First detected in August, 2008, more than 20,000 street, residential, and other public trees have already been removed in an effort to end the infestation in this New England community.

Presentations from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service's Northeastern Area included the national perspective of ALB, the ongoing cooperative restoration efforts including both federal and nonprofit tree planting programs, and research projects and implications of ALB in a wild land setting.

These presentations highlighted the successes and challenges of a multi-agency response to an invasive regulated forest pest in an urban environment. Another highlight was witnessing the process necessary to remove whole trees in close proximity to homes and other structures.

The directors and state foresters indicated that they were very impressed with the magnitude of these issues, the impacts such invasive introductions have on communities, and the substantial inter-agency coordination necessary to address the problem.

NA Contributes to USDA People's Garden

By Keith Tackett, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Northeastern Area Landscape Architect Matt Arnn played a key role in the development of the People's Garden on the grounds of the Whitten Building, the USDA's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack "broke pavement" for the project on Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12. Lincoln created the department in 1862, calling it the "People's Department." Since the pavement breaking, Arnn and others have worked to build the garden on the National Mall side of the building. It was unveiled on Earth Day, April 22.

Arnn explained that this is the first phase of a garden that will eventually cover six acres.

This phase focuses on five features:

- a Potager Pollinator Garden, a kitchen garden incorporating vegetables and flowers that will attract bees and butterflies,
- Transition Field Plots, which use crop rotation and are a key element in the project's earning the official USDA organic label,

- Bioswale and Rain Gardens, designed to reduce and filter storm runoff,
- Bat Houses, to attract bats for their insect-eating capacity, role as pollinators, and their guano, a good natural fertilizer; and
- a Three Sisters Garden, showcasing a traditional Native American technique combining corn, pole beans and squash in one plot.

Arnn said that one of the goals for the project is to show that everyone has room for a garden. "Even if you have a small apartment, you can do organic container gardening. If you have a school or an institution, (you) can build larger raised beds. If you're in an ex-urban or suburban landscape, there's some room to do field planting right in your front lawn. Why not get rid of that turf grass and rotate in some buckwheat or field peas?"

Vilsack is encouraging other USDA facilities across the nation to follow suit to whatever extent they can.

"It may seem like the six-acre site is a very small footprint when we talk about regulating climate and cleaning water," Arnn said. "But if we think about it in the context of USDA properties nationwide...we really have a chance to make a significant impact in getting our own house in order before we ask other people to do the same."

EAST TO WEST – News Bits from Offices Across the Country

Chief Meets with JNF Board

On April 27, Chief Kimbell addressed the Jewish National Fund's Board of Trustees to heighten awareness of the strong partnership between the two organizations. The Jewish National Fund (JNF) is a global organization, mandated with establishing and managing Israel's forests and parks. The American division of the Jewish National Fund works with Jewish communities in the United States to raise awareness and funds for these programs. While in New York, Chief Kimbell highlighted the significant collaboration between the Forest Service and JNF over the last 22 years. The partnership began when Israel sought help from the United States following devastating wildfires in the forests between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Since then, the partnership has blossomed into a comprehensive program of technical exchange on a variety of issues, including forest health, recreation, conservation education and research on sustainable dryland forestry. The Forest Service also plays a unique role in helping Israel sustain partnerships with its Arab neighbors on critical watershed management issues. Chief Kimbell told the gathering that the Forest Service will continue to build programs with Israel and its neighbors, and, in the coming year, will assist with Jordan River restoration efforts and on conservation of habitat for migratory species along the Great Rift Valley.

Teaming With Wildlife has Gone 2.0

Join the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-DC/Teaming-with-Wildlife/34784507665. You can find this link on the Teaming With Wildlife Homepage at <http://www.teaming.com/>. TWW is also blogging away to help spread the word in gaining support funding dedicated to fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and conservation education in every state. You can find the blog at <http://teaming-with-wildlife.blogspot.com/> and under the Newsroom Section on the TWW Web site.

The Western Hummingbird Project

Hummingbirds are the feathered jewels of the migratory bird world, but receive relatively little attention from a conservation standpoint. Yet, there are indications that populations of at least some of the species are declining. Current widespread monitoring efforts Breeding Bird Survey and Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship stations are not designed to capture and collect the level of data necessary to understand hummingbirds. The Forest Service and the Hummingbird Monitoring Network are working together to develop and implement the Western Hummingbird Project (WHP), designed to address hummingbird conservation issues in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. An initial workshop that included participants from more than 24 different organizations in North America and Mexico was held from April

16-20, to create a common understanding about the state of knowledge and conservation of hummingbirds, identify gaps in knowledge and develop recommendations for key actions and projects to advance hummingbird conservation. <http://www.hummonnet.org/WHPintroductionApril2009.htm>

LA Times Reporters Receive Pulitzer for Wildfire Series

Los Angeles Times Reporters Bettina Boxall and Julie Cart received the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in the category of "Explanatory Reporting" for their five-part series of articles on the expense and duration of wildfires, particularly in the western United States. The reporters traveled to Australia to compare their wildfire reporting work. The Pulitzer Board called the series a "fresh and painstaking exploration into the cost and effectiveness of attempts to combat the growing menace of wildfires." The series ran from July through August of 2008.

Urban Forestry Speaker Series, "Trees for People"

Watch the Urban and Community Forestry Web site for video interviews with the speakers. On May 14th, Dr. Kathy Wolf will be sharing her social science research with, "Trees, Mind, and Heart: Enriching our Cities." Find out how trees lower the cost of health care and make city-dwelling employees more productive. On May 21st there will be a special Trees for People talk. The Forest Service Living Memorials Project provides funding assistance to and maps living memorials created in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Join Matt Arnn and special guest Jim Hubbard will have a quick discussion of the Living Memorials Project, followed by a bus trip to the Pentagon Memorial. <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>

WO Green Team Celebrates "Earth Day 2009"

The Washington Office Green Team has been very active this year and the energy showed on April 22 when it came to celebrating Earth Day which included public displays and the unveiling of the "People's Garden" outside of the Whitten Building next to the National Mall. The Team hosted a special viewing of "Extreme Makeover Ranger District Edition." The Forest Service produced this DVD on how the Deer River Ranger District on the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, made structural changes to reduce their environmental footprint. (see related story). Jim Bedwell, Washington Office Green Team Sponsor and Director, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, began the day's activities with a discussion on the People's Garden and how the WO Green Team was instrumental in proposing the idea for this project. The WO program concluded with a drawing for "green technology" door prizes (Kill a Watt Meters and Solar Powered Cell Phone Re-Charger.) <http://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden>

A Difficult Decision Made on Guide Books

Suzie Dow, publisher of the "US National Forest Campground Guide" says that after a lot of discussing and analysis they have decided the Pacific Northwest Region's "US National Forest Campground Guide" will be published as one book and only in an E-Book on CD format. Realizing this decision will disappoint some, they have found one way to enhance the E-Book. They are working on inserting Google's Mapping function into the Pacific Northwest Guide. This means if you click on the "route" link, a screen will ask you to enter your starting point, and then will generate your route to the selected campground. If this trial is successful, then this mapping feature will gradually be added to the other E-Book Guides in their series. Click here>>> to learn more. <http://www.forestcamping.com/dow/books/books.htm>

Agency Honored at IMBD Event

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is an annual celebration of one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird - its journey between summer and winter homes. IMBD was created to focus public attention on the need for action to conserve birds and their habitats. Celebrating bird migrations is an opportunity to introduce others to the wonder of birds. The Forest Service is a long-time supporter of International Migratory Bird Day activities, and participates in many festivals, bird education activities and presentations on National Forests and in local communities as well as internationally. IMBD prepared a special evening on April 30 at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, in Washington, DC to thank program sponsors, partners and participants. Representatives from the Forest Service Directorate and members of the Wings Across The Americas program attended the presentation. <http://www.birdday.org/>

Leadership Changes

The Forest Service has officially established a Homeland Security Program. Arthur Bryant, a long time Senior Executive of the agency, has accepted the position of Homeland Security Manager. He will start to work immediately on bringing the various components of the agency's homeland security efforts together under a single umbrella. One of Bryant's initial projects will involve leading the development of a comprehensive homeland security policy around a solid set of core values and guiding principles for the Forest Service. He will also be the primary liaison to coordinate activities with the Department and other external Homeland Security offices and functions for the Forest Service.

President Theodore Roosevelt Visits Grey Towers in Unique Living History Program

President Theodore Roosevelt comes to life and salutes his friend and colleague Gifford Pinchot in a special program on Saturday, May 23, at 7 pm, at Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, Pa. "TR Pays Special Tribute to Gifford Pinchot," brings the nation's premiere Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, Joe Wiegand, to Pinchot's ancestral home where he demonstrates an unparalleled grasp of history and an uncanny way of quickly convincing you that you are in the company of the great Rough Rider President. TR and Pinchot were friends and colleagues and shared a conservation philosophy that helped shape how the nation manages its natural resources. The two founded the U.S. Forest Service and TR named Pinchot its first chief. Hosted by the Grey Towers Heritage Association, the unique program kicks off Grey Towers' 2009 public program season. <http://www.greytowers.org>

International Migratory Bird Day Partnership and National Fishing Week Reports

Donald J. Virgovic, Forest Service National Naturewatch Program Leader says, " the Forest Service NatureWatch Program has been committed to host cooperative partnership festivals, field trips, and school presentations to celebrate migratory birds. Please allow this electronic report to serve as documentation of our 2008 efforts. The Forest Service NatureWatch and Fisheries Programs have been committed to host cooperative partnership National Fishing Week Events for over 20 years, as well. This electronic report serves as documentation of our 2008 efforts."

<https://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/report?openpage&id=195>

<https://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/report?openpage&id=192>

Congress Identifies State Natural Resource Agencies in the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009

The legislation will authorize \$100 million over each of the next five years for developing school curricula for outdoor learning activities, teacher professional development and the creation of state environmental literacy plans. Read more>>>. <http://fishwildlife1.blogspot.com/2009/05/association-applauds-congress-for.html>

Climate Change Publications Available

International Programs announced that several publications are now online: Adaptation of Forests And People to Climate Change – A Global Assessment Report, What is Forest Landscape Restoration? and Making Forests Fit For Climate Change.

REGION 4 - Intermountain Region

Fire Safe Councils Receive over \$250,000 in Grants

The 2010 Clearinghouse grants have been awarded to Fire Safe Councils. The Twin Lakes and Swauger Creek Fire Safe Councils of the Eastern Sierra were awarded \$251,218 to remove hazardous fuels and reduce wildfire risk. Work will occur on private property this summer and fall to provide defensible space for 175 homes adjacent to the Bridgeport Ranger District on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (Nev.). The Bridgeport Ranger District has worked actively alongside the Fire Safe Councils for the past six years to help create the councils, provide advice and educate members/homeowners about the benefits of fuels reduction and the risk of wildfires, and help the Councils create their grant proposals.

REGION 5 - Pacific Southwest Region

Big Sur and Los Padres NF Featured in Smithsonian

FS Today for May 8, 2009

The latest issue of Smithsonian magazine features an 11 page story and a cover photograph on the Big Sur area and the Los Padres National Forest - with a special mention of the region's Recreation, Engineering and Lands specialist, Bruce Emmens.

REGION 8 - Southern Region

Forest Service and NRCS Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day Together

The Daniel Boone National Forest and the Lexington Service Center of NRCS joined in the celebration of two special events: "Reforest the Bluegrass" on April 11 and "Arbor Day at the Arboretum" on April 25 in Lexington, Ky. Both events featured children's activities, tree planting, entertainment and exhibits. More than 1,000 people attended each event. A special exhibit was developed to represent the shared commitment between the two USDA agencies. The exhibit headline was "Cooperating to Promote Conservation on America's Public and Private Lands."

Daniel Boone National Forest hosts "More Kids in the Woods"

Thanks to "More Kids in the Woods" grant funding, the Daniel Boone National Forest recently hosted more than 200 urban fourth graders in the woods. In partnership with Louisville Metro Parks, the students were reconnected with nature during four separate field trips to the Red River Gorge. Students were provided an opportunity to explore and learn about the natural environment. Special topics included ecosystems, invasive species and Leave No Trace. Over the school year, this project has provided several day-long nature outings for these inner-city youths.

Fire Season Starts Early

On April 24, a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) on the Cumberland Ranger District responded to a report of an escaped campfire in the Red River Gorge Geological Area. The LEO made contact with the reporting party who was also responsible for the fire. The Forest closed numerous hiking trails in the area due to the fire. On the same day, an LEO on the Redbird Ranger District responded to a wildfire that was on private property and threatening National Forest System lands. A Kentucky Division of Forestry official stated the wildfire appeared to have escaped from a residence. The residents admitted they had allowed the fire to escape their control. The LEO determined the wildfire burned over other private property as well. The fire burned 525 acres of government land.

Forest Products Laboratory

Spring 2009 issue of NewsLine,

The Forest Products Laboratory's quarterly newsletter is out. In this issue you'll read about a new approach to combating termites and a recent workshop about preventing the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer, along with several other articles. You'll also find a calendar of upcoming events. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and encourage you to forward it on to others who may be interested. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to receiving them. <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/resources-products/newsline/newsline-2009-2.pdf>

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

April 2009 News Notes

Fasten Your Seatbelt for a Safe Spring, Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month - Tips for Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention, Newtown Square Headquarters Office - Climate Change Continuing Education Webinar Series Has Successful First Semester - National Museum of Forest Service History in Development, Durham Field Office - NAS&PF Employees Attend Source Water Protection Workshop, Morgantown Field Office - Maryland Offers Tree Planting Coupons, Registry, and Tree Benefits Calculator - Morgantown Field Office Encourages Tree Planting, St. Paul Field Office - NAS&PF Employee Participates in International Tree Risk Seminar and Summit. [Click here>>>](#) to read more.

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

A Grand Experiment: 100 years of Experimental Forests and Ranges and Counting

This year marks the Centennial Anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges (EFRs)

For 100 years, research on these experimental sites have provided the foundation of scientific knowledge currently applied in forest and range management in the United States and other places in the world. These sites provide decades of information on different topics about natural resources, the environment and individual elements of forest and range ecosystems.

The EFR network is a resource used by Forest Service researchers in collaboration with their public and private partners at universities, environmental organizations and in industry. The knowledge gained from studies on Experimental Forests and Ranges provides a foundation for meeting current and future challenges to forest and range management and emerging issues such as climate change and increasing water demands.

Centennial Celebrations have been held at EFRs across the country from the summer of 2008 to 2009. There will be a Washington Celebration on Wednesday, May 27th at two events. A public event will be held at the Jefferson Auditorium from 9 am –noon ET to showcase a new EFR video, “A Grand Experiment: Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges, 100 years and Counting,” and the booklet, *Experimental Forests and Ranges, 100 years of Research Success Stories*. There will be an invitation only Congressional reception that evening.

Fire Lab Donates Copies of Book to Ignite Interest in Wildfire Science

By Yasmeen Sands

Earlier this month, the Pacific Southwest Research Station’s Riverside Forest Fire Laboratory <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/rfl> donated more than 60 copies of a new book on wildfire to area elementary and middle schools and public libraries.

The recently published book, titled *Out of Control: The Science of Wildfires*, explores the science behind wildfires.

“Both the topic of wildfire and the Fire Lab’s work are extremely relevant to Riverside students, who often contact us when they are working on school projects about wildland fire,” said David Weise, a supervisory research forester at the lab who served as a content advisor for the book and led the donation effort.

“It seemed appropriate to donate a copy of the book, which the station helped to produce, to all of the public elementary and middle school libraries serving the city as well as to the public library system.”

Most recently, copies of the book were delivered to the Alvord Unified School District, Riverside Unified School District, and Riverside Public Library. In total, 58 copies have been distributed to all of the city’s elementary and middle schools and seven to public library branches.

Weise hopes the book will not only provide students with information they can use for reports and science fair projects, but also stimulate their interest in science and, more broadly, the country’s natural resources.

Out of Control: The Science of Wildfires was written by Lyn Sirota and published as part of Compass Point Book’s “Headline: Science” series.

