



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Winter 2014

Rocky Mountaineers Annual Meeting

In this Issue

Squaw Mountain Lookout	2
Ski Day	3
Wapiti Ranger Station	4
Membership Sign-up Form	9
Wilderness 50th	10
Poetry	14
Memorial Grove	16
Retiree Profile	21
Remembrances	24
The Last Word	29

"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers." Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.

Our first annual meeting is set for Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at the Drake Center, 802 W. Drake Road, in central Fort Collins. We are planning a fun, informative time to mingle with friends, talk about our new retiree organization, hear from some current Rocky Mountain Region leaders and just enjoy being together.

We will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude at 3 PM. Briefly the agenda will include a look back at Rendezvous in the Rockies at Vail in September 2012, highlights and input on formation of the Rocky Mountaineers, and a luncheon with CSU speakers giving us a perspective on how the careers of Forest Service employees are perceived by others. The concluding presentation will be a panel discussion with Regional District Rangers, Forest Supervisors and Directors. On Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 PM there will be an opportunity to visit the Western Heritage manufacturing facility in Loveland for a short tour and happy hour.

Also, on Monday evening, February 3rd there will be an informal social gathering at a local brew pub for those who may be coming to Fort Collins early and spending the night.

To make your reservations for the annual meeting and lunch (approx. \$20), please RSVP to Ellen Hodges at rmountaineers@gmail.com or by phone at 970-226-6890 and provide the following information:

- Name (as you like it to appear on your nametag)
- City or Town
- Number of guests
- Any dietary considerations
- Are you attending the pre-meeting gathering

*** Reservations MUST be received no later than Monday, January 20th ***

Mark your calendars!

Historic Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout Available to Rent

The Squaw Mountain Lookout is located directly off of Colorado Highway 103 west of Bergen Park and sits at the summit of Squaw Mountain, which is also an active communication tower site in Clear Creek County. In addition to being an active communication site, the Squaw Mountain area is a popular dispersed recreation use area with hiking, recreational target shooting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and camping.

Squaw Mountain Lookout Tower was built in 1925 by the City and County of Denver, is among one of the highest lookout towers in the United States at 11,486 feet elevation. This remarkable structure, "built of hand-hewn native stone by the Civilian Conservation Corps which was carefully mortised," represents a time before modern fire detection methods. The cab measures 14 feet by 14 feet and is completely lined by windows and surrounded by a catwalk, all of which sit on top of a one story stone base. The lookout building and surrounding area were added to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties in 1998 and to the National Historic Lookout Register in 2003. Although the tower stands proudly, it has suffered considerable wind damage over the years, and the windows are in need of replacement.

Access to the site during the summer months is from Colorado Highway 103 via Forest Road 192.1 to a small parking area at



the end of the road. The parking area of the lookout is accessible by car, although the access road is rocky, a high clearance vehicle is recommended for the drive. Please park in the designated "Lookout Parking" area and do not block access to the gate. From the parking area a mile hike up a steep dirt road is necessary to reach the lookout. During the winter months access

is from a small parking area along Highway 103 at the junction Forest Road 192.1 and travel 2 miles to the lookout. There is no water available at the lookout, nor garbage service, therefore guests are asked to pack-it-in and pack-it-out.

(continued on Page 3)

For more information or questions please call Clear Creek Ranger District Visitor Center at 303-567-3000

Squaw Mountain Lookout (cont.)

The lookout is available for rent year round. Visitors should be prepared for high altitude conditions. Summertime temperatures average 70 degrees but can drop as low as 30 degrees at night or during the frequent summer afternoon thunderstorms. High winds frequently occur. Winter storms can limit access to the site and visitors should be prepared to snowshoe or cross-country ski 2-3 miles to the lookout. There will be no refunds for weather conditions.

The lookout includes an electric stove, refrigerator, and heat; beds; table and chairs; dishes; and toilet, and can accommodate four people per night. Besides offering the unique experience of living in a fire lookout, Squaw Mountain will give renters panoramic views of Denver, Mount Evans and other snow-capped peaks.

The fee is \$80 per night plus a \$9 reservation fee.

For more information, questions or to comment on this recreation rental opportunity, please write Recreation Fee Program, Clear Creek Ranger District, P.O. Box 3307, Idaho Springs, CO 80452 or contact Nicole Malandri at (303) 567-3016, nmalandri@fs.fed.us.

Rocky Mountaineers Ski Day at Winter Park



Berthoud Pass winter sports area. Snow approximately five feet deep. Arapaho National Forest, 2/25/46.

Photo by Jay Higgins

The Rocky Mountaineers first annual ski day will be held at Winter Park Ski Area on Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

Plan to ski in the morning for a couple hours and then have lunch together in a special area on top at the Sunspot Lodge.

We have arranged to have \$59 discounted lift tickets for everyone who doesn't have a season pass of some kind.

It will be a fun and great day for all who still enjoy getting out and enjoying the beautiful slopes and fresh powder.

Contact Bjorn Dahl at bdahl@dahlservices.com for more information about the skiing or about carpooling options as well.

Bring a friend!

News from Around the Region



Starting at left - closest to camera and going clockwise:

Al Wasser
 Ron Myers
 Jan Myers
 Jean Vanderkolk
 Marv Vanderkolk
 Herb Holthoff
 Linda Davis
 Kay Holthoff
 Dick Roth
 Emmett Foster
 Darlene Mattson
 Cheryl Klock
 Larry Klock
 Rod Lewis
 Neola Lewis
 Gail Tamer
 Karl Tamer
 Harry Nickless
 Brent Botts

What's been around for over 30 years, is aging gracefully, and likes to eat? That would be the Forest Service retirees group in Pueblo, Colorado. This group is made up mostly of retirees of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC). But several members retired elsewhere and then moved to southeast Colorado, or worked at one time on the PSICC, or are family members of deceased retirees. This lively group meets every other month for lunch at various places around Pueblo.

We are reaching out to all Forest Service retirees and their family members in eastern Colorado and in Kansas to come and join us. Please contact Karen Bergethon at smokeyo813@hotmail.com to get on our email list for Forest Service retiree news, announcements, and invitations to the retiree luncheons.

Arizona Chapter of the Mountaineers Planning Picnic

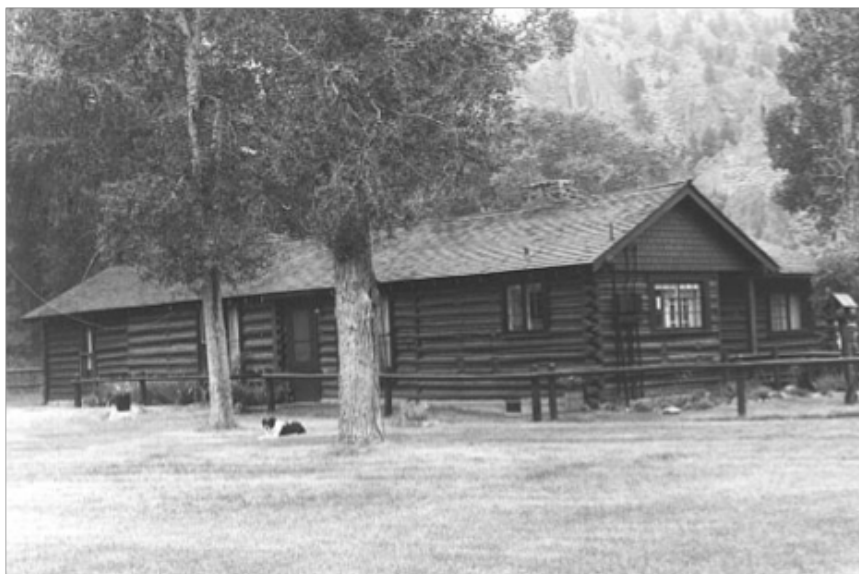
There will be a Southern Arizona Picnic, in March, at Madera Canyon, on the Coronado NF. Details are pending. Check later in the March "Calendar of Events."

For more information:
 Lee Carr 970-261-8609

Historic Ranger Stations in the Rocky Mountain Region

The Wapiti Ranger Station: Reflecting the heart and soul of the Shoshone National Forest

by Tom Thompson



Wapiti Ranger Station being guarded by the Ranger's dog

The Wapiti Ranger Station, which is located on the Shoshone National Forest about 30 miles west of Cody, Wyoming, was built in 1903. It was the first ranger station constructed in the United States at federal expense and was located on the first forest reserve established by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891. The station was built by General Land Office rangers as a supervisory ranger station for the Shoshone division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve.

Arthur A. Anderson, an early Superintendent of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve, described how the Wapiti Ranger Station came to be in an interview in 1927 with the following paragraph:

"There was a headquarters in each division for its officials, located in a central and strategic position. For instance, in the Shoshone division I selected a point on the North Fork of the Shoshone River, from which trails opened up to all the various positions on the Reserve; a log house was built there for the supervisor and his rangers, and the place was christened "Wapiti," the proper name for elk."

To be eligible for inclusion on the list of National Historic

Places or National Historic Landmarks a structure normally has to be at least 50 years old. Over 50 years ago, on May 21, 1963, the Wapiti Ranger Station on the North Fork of the Shoshone River had surpassed that milestone by ten years. It was deemed eligible and thus designated as a National Historic Landmark. It was subsequently placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.

Walking into this fairly simple little dwelling that sits in a meadow flat on the south side of the river under a grove of cottonwood trees one can feel the history oozing out. It is not hard to imagine the conversations and stories that have been told inside the log walls around the stove or at the little table in the kitchen. For over a hundred years rangers, assistant rangers, forest guards, packers, forest supervisors, wranglers, fire folks, recreation technicians, biologists, engineers, and many visitors alike have been a part of this landmark.

A long list of Shoshone Forest (Yellowstone Forest Reserve) rangers and forest supervisors like A.A. Anderson, W.H. Pearce, Harry Thurston and Clifford Spencer spent much of their Forest Service careers at the Wapiti Ranger Station.

(continued on Page 6)

(continued from Page 5)



Buffalo Bill Dam and Powerhouse

President Theodore Roosevelt (TR) called the stretch of highway up the Wapiti Valley between Cody, WY and the East Gate of Yellowstone National Park "the fifty most beautiful miles in America".

Anderson was appointed as Superintendent of the Reserve in 1902.

The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad connected their rail line to Cody on November 11, 1901 and the town of Cody was incorporated that year. During the summer of 1902 a road was pioneered up the valley all the way to the East Entrance to the Park following a route that was blazed by the rangers in 1899. Buffalo Bill opened the famous "Hotel of the Rockies", the Irma, in Cody in 1902. So there was much happening in the area. To facilitate better access and management of the Shoshone division of the Reserve, funding was sought and this new ranger station was built the next year in 1903.

Harry Thurston and Milton Benedict actually built the Wapiti Ranger station in 1903 using logs from Fishhawk Creek. Both of them subsequently served as the supervisor of the Shoshone following A.A. Anderson. According to E.J. Murray when "Harry Thurston died, on May 9, 1952, it was his wish to be buried near the Wapiti Ranger Station. A pine tree in a small enclosure, south of the highway at the foot of the ridge and west of the Station, marks his grave. Besides his ashes, the ashes of his wife Josephine and daughter Elizabeth are also buried there, by special dispensation." The Civilian Conservation Corps put in the fireplace and the bathroom in 1934. Helen Spencer, the wife of Ranger Clifford Spencer recalled that "it was such treat to have a bathroom and bath tub. The Forest Service did not get any money in those days to hire a trail crew so I went along to help. I didn't get paid for it."

In 1902 the Newlands Reclamation Act was passed and the U. S. Reclamation Service was created. Buffalo Bill had pushed for development of a dam on Shoshone River and construction began a few years later. The Shoshone Dam and Reservoir (Renamed the Buffalo Bill Dam in 1946) was finished in 1910 and at the time was the highest dam in the world.

With all the development the town of Cody was well established and visitors traveling to the Park increased greatly. With the coming of the automobile access was improved greatly and more and more travelers came by the Wapiti Ranger Station on their way up the valley.

Nellie Tayloe Ross, who was the governor of Wyoming from 1925 to 1927, was the first woman to be elected governor of a U.S. state. She is shown in the photo on the following page visiting the Wapiti Ranger Station.

In over a hundred years there have been many gatherings, visits, and memorable occasions at the Wapiti Ranger Station, but none perhaps as special as the one held there in 1991. A major part of the Forest Reserve Centennial Celebration was held at the Wapiti Ranger Station that summer. The Ranger Station was alive with events, dignitaries, and mules. Regional Forester Gary E. Cargill and Forest Supervisor Barry Davis were proud to show off the Rocky Mountain Region and the Shoshone National Forest. Chief Dale Robertson

(continued on Page 7)

(continued from Page 6)*Wapiti Ranger Station, Forest History Society*

and Assistant Secretary James R. Moseley sealed a five foot cylindrical time capsule containing documents, tools, and remembrances that was buried at the Wapiti Ranger Station. Many partners, including the Boone and Crockett club, were instrumental in making that celebration a great success.

Another memorable event took place at the Ranger Station in 2005 during the Forest Service's Centennial as part of the annual Fourth of July celebration in Cody. In order to prepare for that event, the District Ranger, Dave Myers, planned and implemented major renovations including replacing rotting wood,

upgrading plumbing, and refinishing wood floors. He did much of the work himself as a labor of love. A visitor kiosk has been built along the highway at the turnoff to the Ranger Station. The story of this unique and very special place is now told to thousands of folks traveling up and down the valley.

*Wapiti Ranger Station, Forest History Society*

References:

Anderson, A. A. "[The Yellowstone Forest Reserve](#)," (from Annals of Wyoming), April 1927 (Forest History Society)

Godfrey, Anthony "[From Prairies to Peaks: A History of the Rocky Mountain Region of the U. S. Forest Service, 1905-2012](#)", U.S.D.A., Forest Service, R2-FH-001, October 2012

Hayden, Margaret. "[Introduction to the History of the Shoshone National Forest](#)," (from Annals of Wyoming), April 1927. (Forest History Society)

Houze, Lynn Johnson, "[Cody, Wyoming: A Project of the Wyoming State Historical Society](#)", WyoHistory.org

USDA Forest Service. "[Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming](#)", 1940 (Forest History Society)

Murray, Ester Johansson, "[A History of the North Fork of the Shoshone River](#)" Lone Eagle MultiMedia, 1996

Cutest You Tube Ever

During the Chips forest fire on the Plumas National Forest, a baby bobcat was orphaned. While the Forest Service restored the forest, the bobcat then known as Chips, recovered at a wild animal rehabilitation facility. Recently, Chips was returned to the wild.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5PIINu4Jy8&list=TLklV121BiHMmOybEkvJ4TVzWGBfluUHyl>

Conservation Leaders

Conservation of natural resources is essential to the existence of life on earth. The USDA Forest Service has a rich tradition of leadership in conservation, and is committed to working with others for a healthy, productive world. This seven-minute video produced in 1995 uses images and music to express the idea that we are all responsible for the future of our public lands.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MreEUGUs8BQ&list=PLEC5929FF9ACD7931>

50th Anniversary of Wilderness



In 2014, America will celebrate “50 Years of Wilderness” as we honor the golden anniversary of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Forest Service has a rich history of wilderness stewardship. As an agency, we were protecting land for wilderness values well before the signing of the Wilderness Act, beginning with the 1924 designation of what would become the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Our rich wilderness legacy is testimony to the foresight of visionary leaders such as Aldo Leopold, Arthur Carhart, and Bob Marshall. Today, the Forest Service manages 439 designated wilderness areas covering over 36 million acres. This anniversary year provides a wonderful opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to wilderness stewardship. It also gives us an opportunity to help all Americans, particularly youth, gain a better understanding of and appreciation for all the benefits they get from wilderness—clean air and water, natural settings, critical plant and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, solitude and spiritual renewal, and more—not least, economic benefits for rural communities. In my travels across the national forests and grasslands, I am constantly struck by the diversity of the landscapes we manage and the wonder of wilderness. Our legacy is woven into the beautiful tapestry of the untrammelled landscapes that it is our honor and privilege to manage on behalf of the American people. Let’s continue to live up to our wilderness legacy in the years to come.

Thank you.
Chief Tidwell

Mountaineers Membership

We hope that all Rocky Mountain Region retirees will want to be members of the Rocky Mountaineers. This newsletter is your invitation to join. To confirm your membership in the Rocky Mountaineers please complete the membership application form below. No membership fee is required for 2013/14. Starting in 2015, to remain a member and be entitled to its benefits, an annual membership fee of \$ 20.00 will be required. Membership funds will be the main source of revenue to support the Rocky Mountaineer programs, including the newsletter, the website, out-reach and communications, annual support of the Memorial Grove, association sponsored volunteer projects, education initiatives, and emergency help for members of the Forest Service family in need. This \$20.00 annual fee is for each individual member or couple who desire to join. Payment of annual dues by February ensures membership through that calendar year and a Rocky Mountaineer Identification Card.

Lifetime memberships are available for individuals or couples for \$250.00. A lifetime Rocky Mountain Identification Card will be issued and a complimentary copy of the newly released book, "Prairies to Peaks: A History of the Rocky Mountain Region" by Anthony Godfrey will be provided to each life member.

Membership Application Form

We invite you to become a member of the Rocky Mountaineers retiree organization and look forward to your participation.

Please complete the one that best applies:

- ☐ Current FS Employee
- ☐ Retired FS Employee (number of Federal service years____)
- ☐ Spouse of one of the above
- ☐ Retiree of another Federal Agency (number of Federal service years____)
- ☐ Other, please specify _____

Date: _____

Applicant's Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

☐ RMFSA Membership is free for 2013/2014 (feel free to make a donation) of \$____.

☐ Annual Membership Renewal beginning 2015 (per household) - \$20.00

☐ Lifetime Membership (per household) - \$250.00

A check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to: **Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association**

P.O. Box 270462

Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Newsletters will be sent to your e-mail address.

If you need a hard copy mailed to you, please check here ____.

Happy New Year!



Kim Vogel, Chair elect, Rocky Mountaineers

A new year for the Rocky Mountaineers as this organization continues to grow, connecting and reconnecting our R2 Forest Service colleagues!

For myself, I have just seen my first year anniversary of retiring from the Forest Service. I know for about 6 months of that year I felt a bit lost without my everyday connections to those I had worked, played, and laughed with for so many years. While I was very busy with family, managing our lodging properties, and some consulting work – it just didn't seem right to not be talking about the ongoing progress of project work, legislative happenings, or even sitting in those endless meetings or conference calls to keep work moving. As for all of us, I really missed the field trips to see, smell, and feel the forests to which our work lives had been dedicated.

I found that I was drawn to spend more time around the campfire. All summer long I was by the fire as much as I could find time. We all know that being mesmerized by the flames of a fire stimulates wonderful conversation and soulful connections. It was during much of my “fire time” that I was reminded that those lifetime connections of our work life can either linger in the shadows of the past, or be brought into the circle to create new conversations and memories, carrying on our long held traditions.

conversations and memories, carrying on our long held traditions.

I was happy to hear from Skip when he called about the Rocky Mountaineers and the mission to keep our R2 FS family connected. I so enjoy finding out what my friends and colleagues have moved on to and are filling their time with – what endeavors or business connections we might find meaningful and positive. Skip mentioned to me that not only did he get reconnected with folks he had worked with quite a lot, but with some he did not know well, and is now having fun getting to know them. Hah – I love that!

While I was saddened to hear of the passing of some of our colleagues this year, it did provide us the opportunity to recall great memories of our time with them and acknowledge their contributions. I still remember Mike da Luz and the daily calls of help and support he gave me during the big fires we had here in Northwest Colorado at the turn of the century. I knew he had my back in those events – so comforting!

I am looking forward to our Annual Meeting in February. I hope to see many of you there for some reconnect and connect time.

And I hope to see you around the campfire – my circle is always open and I know the Mountaineer's circle is too, come on in and share some circle time with us!

Lifelong Learning

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Denver is an adult learning membership program designed for men and women age 50 and "better" who wish to pursue lifelong learning. Members come from diverse backgrounds and professions, share the desire to stay intellectually active and engaged. There are no tests, no grades, no prerequisites, limited out-of-class assignments, and all class participation is voluntary.

Classes cover academic subjects in history, music, political science, writing, literature, philosophy, science, religion, global issues, and more. Lifelong learning through OLLI meets for three eight-week terms during the year, from mid-September to mid-May. OLLI

members who have the professional knowledge or the scholarly interest of a subject facilitate most classes.

Retirees Pam and Jon Skeels have been active in OLLI. They will be facilitating their first class during the spring session at the south metro location of OLLI on Natural Resource Management; It's History and Challenges. To find out more about OLLI, go to <http://universitycollege.edu/olli/>.

Welcome New Retirees

Jim Thinnies

Regional Office

Paul Langowski

Regional Office

Julie Grode

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison

Garfield Braddock

Rio Grande

Liz Moncrief

Arapaho & Roosevelt

Mark Stiles

San Juan

Ken Anderson

Regional Office

Jim Hall

Regional Office

John Peterson

Pike and San Isabel

The Rocky Mountaineers Logo

by Designer Judy Dersch



The Rocky Mountaineers logo was designed with the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service in mind. Although the forests and grasslands of the five-state region are diverse in terrain and attributes, the logo design is focused on elements that reflect some of the commonalities found across the region: trees, mountains, prairie grasses and a great openness. Because the logo represents the Forest Service retirees in particular, it seemed

appropriate to also include the Forest Service shield – a symbol revered by the agency's employees past and present. The logo for the Rocky Mountaineers was designed to be as inclusive as possible in representing all of the region's forests and grasslands and the dedicated group of employees who have given so much of themselves to the Forest Service and its mission over the years.

Retiree Connections – Meetings and Gatherings



Alan and Mary Jean Flesh, Heidi and Glenn Snyder

Every now and then groups of retirees from areas around the region meet to share stories, get updates on what's happening, and to just socialize. What's happening in your area? We would like to post pictures and stories of your gatherings.



Marilyn Whalon, Glenn Snyder, and Karen Bergethon



Tom Thompson

On November 12, forty-eight Denver area retirees/spouses/friends enjoyed a luncheon at the Homestead Golf Course in Lakewood, CO. Folks enjoyed mingling and catching up with each other. There was a good mix of "long-time" retirees and some new to the ranks. This being the day after Veterans Day, we asked our military veterans to stand, tell of their branch of service and where they served.



Bernie Weingardt and Lindon Wiebe



Carmen Frevert, Dan Nolan, Kathy Kurtz, and Pam Skeels



Johnny Hodges, Kathy Kurtz and Jim Pringle

Flood Damage Assessment

In October, employees of the Arapaho Roosevelt and Pawnee National Grasslands completed an initial assessment of damage to infrastructure and facilities. Approximately 463,000 acres were surveyed by air due to damaged or destroyed roads. This assessment did not include damage to other resources (e.g. fisheries, range, etc.). We have gradually gained more access to National Forest System lands and found that the damage is far greater to roads, trails and resources than we originally thought and will likely be more costly to repair. For example, over 250 debris slides exist in the North Saint Vrain area alone. Piles of debris are deposited in streams, culverts and lands throughout the National Forest. These debris flows and piles may contain hazardous materials. Many roads, trail, and recreation areas are unrecognizable because the original ground cover has washed away to bedrock. As we

continue to evaluate damage, we will determine what infrastructure and what facilities we will repair, rehabilitate or decommission. It is unlikely that all areas, roads and opportunities will be returned to pre-flood conditions.

Because road access is still limited in some areas, fire suppression assets need to be reconfigured in order to respond to wildfires that could threaten values at risk located in inaccessible areas. The Forest is exploring the potential options for adding a helicopter to the make-up of our local assets which are now solely ground based.

Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) is limited to some roads and the only post-flood funding mechanism available to address damage. There is no emergency funding similar to post-fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

funding to assist in addressing damage to resources, facilities or roads not covered by ERFO. Costs for repair, rehabilitation, decommission work and reconfiguring fire response assets, not including ERFO funded work, are estimated to exceed \$40 million over the next three to five years.

Annual run-off and snow melt is expected to result in additional damage over the next few years.

As major roads re-open we are getting more requests to fix roads and assist with private land access issues. Our ability to repair roads this winter is limited because of their location soil conditions. Already this fall some road repair work has had to shift to lower elevations because the ground is frozen.

(continued on Page 14)



Access to Forest Road 128 from Larimer County Road 43 on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District

(Floods continued from Page 13)

Many damaged roads have been altered by private landowners and counties to provide emergency access to private land. This work may not have been done to the standard needed and in many cases has created more damage.



The gate to Leftband Off-Highway Vehicle area on the Boulder Ranger District

- The flood damaged a total of:
232 roads (382 miles)
70 trails (236 miles)
4 bridges
42 facilities
- The most heavily affected area is concentrated on 230,000 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands which are interwoven with 144,000 acres of private lands.
- Many private landowners use NFS roads to access their land.
- Damage will take years to address.

Current updates will be at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/arp/alerts-notice>



The following is a portion of a January 1922 letter written by District 2 Forester, Colonel A. S. Peck:

"Has it ever occurred to you that much of the early history of our Forest areas is in danger of being lost? Mining camps are being abandoned, new roads are being built which change our routes of travel and cause old roads to be abandoned, large stock ranches are being broken up into farms, unique and picturesque characters who have played leading roles in this early development are passing away. Is it not probable that information of this kind would prove of interest in the future and increase in value as time goes on? It seems to me that it is a part of our duty to preserve such data for future generations of foresters."



Colonel Peck - pictured left - asked some good questions over 90 years ago in that letter to the Forest Service folks. His questions are still very relevant today. The National Museum of Forest Service History is working hard to respond to Colonel

Peck's concerns. The Museum is making progress toward protecting our rich and unique history, but needs more people who care deeply about that history to step forward and contribute to the cause and become members. You are part of that history. We are committed to building the National Museum of Forest History! Be a part of this effort!"

Thanks! To join call (406) 541-6374 or send a message to nationalforest@montana.com or go to: http://www.nmfs-history.net/pdf/Membership_Gift_Form_2012.pdf



Karl Brauneis

Sometimes, “the best of intentions” fall way short of the mark. Other times, those “best intentions” aren’t even needed. But it is a given, that most of the time, “the best of intentions” will never be appreciated.

In 1976 I was stationed at Shell Ranger Station high in the Bighorn Mountains. Nestled amongst aspen and pine, Shell Station is a little piece of paradise on earth. There was no telephone. A Forest Service radio linked us to the outside world some 30 miles away at Greybull. Depending on my work each day I either saddled up one of the horses or took my green and grey Forest Service truck.

Terry Wood (Woody) and his wife Denise also stayed at the station and for a short time we had a recreation guard to help take care of the campgrounds. The following story is true. The missing girls name is changed – “to protect the innocent”. I call this lesson in fortitude;

Night Ride

*The sun was setting on the land when “Woody” (1) called on high
 “Go catch Dusty and your favorite saddle horse; the night were gonna ride
 And I’ll get more scoop on the missing girl and radio from inside”
 And so we rode on through the night we called for “Little Lou”
 Our pardoners checking each ravine for spooks and goblins too
 At dawns first light we circled back the station lights in view
 With Search and Rescue forming up; we’d swap out horses new
 Grab breakfast hot that’s all you’ll get till “Little Lou” is found
 That’s when the pilgrim’s car returned; new messages to sound
 “Not to worry ranger boys – Little Lou’s around!
 She spent the night with Grandma at her cabin close to town”
 “You’re kidding me” I said to Socks and loosened up his cinch
 As Search and Rescue all stood down; I pondered; took a pinch (2)
 We both rode hard to find a girl we thought was in a fix
 At least we made it home intact our horses each were fit
 Still, not a single thank you for that night in search of “Lou”
 Lost beneath her Grandmas blankets; Out of sight and out of view*

(1) Terry Wood - The year of 1976 at Shell Ranger Station

(2) Chewing Tobacco

copyright @ Karl Brauneis 2006

Karl is a member of the Cowboy Poets of Wind River and can be reached at
brauneis@bresnan.net in Lander, Wyoming

The Memorial Grove at Monument

A special tradition at a special place in the history of the Rocky Mountain Region

Tom L. Thompson

The story of the Rocky Mountain Region's Memorial Grove is a testament of honor, respect, persistence, and perspective. It is rooted in a history that began over a hundred years ago and the dedication and commitment to it today is as strong it has ever been.

Under President Benjamin



Photo of Horace B. Quivey, forest ranger from Encampment, WY, who died during WWI

Harrison, the Pikes Peak, Plum Creek, and South Platte Timberland Reserves were established in 1892. In 1903, a Bureau of Forestry reconnaissance party surveyed what is now known as the Pikes Peak Ranger District. Fires from 1848-1853 and again in 1880 had left many thousands of acres where trees were not

restocking adequately. The Bureau searched and tried establishing several small nurseries to provide a supply of young trees but all were poor sites and a better site was sought. Ranger Frank Sherwin at Palmer proposed a site near Monument, CO. In the fall of 1906 the Mount Herman Ranger Nursery was established on the eastern boundary of the Forest Reserve near Monument. A few months later the name was changed to the Mount Herman Planting Station and it was formally established on May 1, 1907. That same year, 1907, the Pike National Forest was created from the three aforementioned timberland reserves. The name of the nursery was then changed to the Monument Tree Nursery in January, 1909.

When the nursery was started in 1907, two foresters, Julius F. Kummel, a Harvard graduate, and Samuel Bertolet Detwiler were in charge. Walter Schrader was an assistant just two years out of college. When Kummel was transferred to the Pacific Northwest in Portland, OR and Detwiler to Minnesota, twenty-six year old Walter Schrader found himself the Chief Nurseryman at Monument.

Walter Herman Schrader, who was born in 1883 in the San Luis valley at his family's ranch at Valley View, attended school at Pinos Creek. His father had come to America from Germany and settled in the San Luis Valley. Walter developed a

strong interest in agriculture and at 19 tried to get admitted to the State Agricultural College in Fort Collins in 1902. Even though he lacked the requisite education background and did not take the required examination, the President of the College, B.F. Aylesworth allowed his admission after an impressive interview with Walter. Given this chance, young Schrader studied horticulture and nursery management at the school. He finished his course work at the College in 1905 and went to work at the Bear Creek Nursery to the west and south of Denver for two years before he transferred to Monument. He would become the single most influential figure in the development and operation of the nursery.

Sometime around 1911 Walter married Elizabeth Poley, whose brother was Ranger Frank Poley, and she would spend most of her life with Walter at the Monument Nursery.

In 1919, after World War I ended, there was an initiative suggesting that trees be planted as a memorial to Forest Service men who were lost in the War.

Among those who were to be honored from District 2 were:

Thomas V. Keefe (2 Oct. 1894-1918) Lt. in 20th Engineers (Forestry), 7th Battalion, U. S. Army, Graduate of School of Forestry at Penn State College

(continued on Page 17)

(continued from Page 16)

Cosmer M. Leveaux (—10 Aug. 1918) Corporal 119 Field Artillery, 32 Infantry Division, U.S. Army

Ralph I. McTavish (25 July 1894-1918) who was a “blue printer” in the District Headquarters in Denver, Tank Company in U. S. Army

Marcy M. Meaden (10 Nov. 1892-22 Sept. 1918) who was a Ranger from the Routt N.F. Pvt. Co A 109 HDGS Troop, U. S. Army

Horace B. Quivey (20 June 1892-15 April 1918) who was a Ranger from Encampment, Wyoming served as a Private in Company A, 7th Battalion, 20th Engineers (Forestry), U. S. Army

The next year on June 10, 1920, in response to that direction, a few trees were planted at the nursery and ranger stations throughout the Rocky Mountain District. A more permanent memorial planting site for the District (i.e., Region) was thought to be a better idea and it was decided it should be at Monument. So the following year, on May 29, 1921, the District Forester (Regional Forester) Colonel Allen S. Peck and Chief Nurseryman Schrader oversaw the first planting of thirty trees at the present Memorial Grove site in the northwest corner of planting area #1 near the original nursery office. The trees, mostly blue spruce, had been dug and transported from the Fremont Experiment Station near Manitou Springs.

The first planting was only attended by employees of the Forest Service who did the

planting along with their families, but the tradition had begun and the Grove grew. Every year a tree was planted in remembrance of fellow deceased employees. By 1942 the Grove had 68 trees. Today there are 1065 names on brass plaques at the site and many of the trees planted by Schrader at the Memorial still stand even though the Berry fire in 1989 destroyed much of the surrounding forest and some of the original trees in the Grove. Only one tree is now planted each year in memory of each year's honorees. It is indeed a very special tradition at a special place in the history of the Rocky Mountain Region.

The nursery development over the years saw great improvements as Mr. Schrader kept working to upgrade and expand the nursery operations and buildings. During the thirties a Civilian Conservation Camp with over 60 men accomplished much of the work on buildings, ditches, water lines, walls, roads, reservoirs, and other structures, including a new nurseryman's residence designed especially for Walter's wife, Elizabeth. He worked tirelessly for 38 years managing the nursery. The Schrader's raised their three children at the nursery and on December 31, 1943, just 70 years ago, Walter and Elizabeth retired to a new home in Colorado Springs near Garden of the Gods.

Walter Schrader died in January 1963 and is buried, along with his wife Elizabeth, in the Crystal Valley Cemetery on the south

side of Manitou Springs. He and Elizabeth had three children...his oldest born in 1915, Walter H. Schrader, Jr., was a horticulturalist in Rock Hill, SC and died in 2005.

His younger son was Frank Poley Schrader who worked in the woods and died in Centralia, WA in 2006. His daughter was Elizabeth F. Schrader Niner who lived and died in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

During World War II and in the years after the war, not much new happened at the nursery. By the early 1960's the cost of production, challenging growing conditions, and greater demand for consistency nationally, gave cause to make the decision to shut the Monument Nursery down. Regional Forester Dave Nordwall made that decision final in a letter fifty years ago in 1964. During its peak years of production, in the late 30's, as many as 5 million seedlings were shipped from the nursery. After it was shut down, the production of seedlings for the Region shifted to the Mt. Sopris nursery at Basalt, CO.

For years the ceremonies for the Memorial Grove were held on May 30. In 1989 the Mt. Herman fire swept through the old nursery site and up the mountain to the west. The annual ceremonies were not held for a number of years, but in 1995 the tradition was revived and has been continued now for nearly twenty years on the first Saturday of May each year.

(continued on Page 18)

(continued from Page 17)

This year on May 3 among the honorees that we plan to honor will be Walter Schrader just a little over fifty years after his death. He contributed so much to the Monument Nursery and by his work at the nursery he was instrumental in helping restore many thousands of acres of forest across the Rocky Mountain Region. He was there when the Memorial Grove was established in 1920 and yet his name has never been added.

We very much want to include all eligible 2013 honorees in our ceremony. Please let us know if you know of someone whose name is not on the list below who you think should be. We will be finalizing the list soon. We want to make sure that family notifications are made in a timely manner.



The Memorial Brass Plaque for 2011.

References for this article:

1. "Research Report on Monument Site of Pikes Peak District" compiled and written by: Jim E. Sirhall and Richard V. Wilson, April 30, 1973"
2. "Memorial Grove: Rocky Mountain Region" written by Bill Nelson and R. G. Colwell and published in the National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter, Vol. 18, Number 4, December, 2006.



The colors are presented each year by an honor guard.



The old memorial grove makes a beautiful backdrop for the new tree that is planted each year.



Early day photo of tree planting at the Memorial Grove.

2013 Memorial Grove Honoree List

Ernest William Chapman	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Job Corps	Charles Henry (Charlie) Miller	White River N.F., Engineer, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison
Michael Andrew (Mike) da Luz	Regional Office, Fire	George J. Nagy	Regional Office, Water
Thomas C. (Tom) Evans	Routt, Black Hills, San Isabel, Pike, Roosevelt, and White River N.F.s and R.O.	Wilma J. Pence	Regional Office, Fire
Glen Robert Eyre	San Juan-Pagosa R.D., Wilderness Program	Melvin Keith (Pete) Peterson	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Road Maintenance Foreman
Linda Sue Eyre	San Juan-Pagosa R.D., Wilderness Ranger	Kenneth Carl Scholz	Shoshone, Bighorn, Arapahoe, Black Hills, White River, Custer, R.O. and W.O.
Morris D. (Ferg) Ferguson	Black Hills, Engineer	Roger Shephard	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N.F., Timber and Fire
Marsha Lynn Druker	Regional Office, AQM	Sigur C. (Sig) Stavran	R.O., Routt, Shoshone, Black Hills, Engineer
Charles C. (Charlie) Hathaway	Black Hills, Timber Management	Kathleen D. (Kay) Thompson	Pike San Isabel and Cimarron and Comanche NGS
Duane D. Haywood	Arapaho, Business Mgmt.	Dan E. Williams	R.O., R-6 Forest Supervisor, R-3 and R-8, Director, Recreation
Raymond Michael (Mike) Hegler	San Isabel, Pike	Tom B. Williams	White River N. F., Engineering
Joseph E. (Joe) Jensen	R.O., Aviation and Fire Management		
Melinda (Mindy) Jimenez	South Tier Acquisition Team		
Randall Karstaedt	R.O., Director of Physical Resources		
Delores Ann (Dee) Knorr	White River, Routt, Medicine Bow, Nebraska, R.O., Business Mgmt.		
Andrew J. (Andy) Kordziel	R.O. Geometronics		
Edward D. (Ed) Lockhart	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Pike and San Isabel		
Helen M. McGranahan	Black Hills N.F.		
Hubertus (Herb) Mittmann	Regional Office, Landscape Architecture		
Gary E. Metcalf	Black Hills N.F., Medicine Bow N.F., and R.O.		
Lee Frank Meydrech	Pike/San Isabel N.F., Draftsman, Creator of Pack it in, Pack it out!		

NOT FORGOTTEN

Walter H. Schrader	Pike N.F., Monument Nursery 1943 Retirement after 38 years
Helen Dowe Burgess	Pike N.F., Devils Head Lookout Devils Head Lookout 1919-1920
Carol Dawn Frahm	Geometronics, Regional Office 2008

Retirees Traveling the World

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about retirees' whereabouts and travel

by Glenn and Tedra Hetzel

Having read the travel experience of Johnny & Ellen Hodges in the Fall 2013 edition of Rocky Mountaineers, the Rendezvous, I am offering up a recent travel experience of our own.



In late August and early September of 2013, Tedra & I, along with Tedra's sister Carol & husband Bob, flew to Stockholm, Sweden. After touring the city of Stockholm, comprised of 14 islands, we boarded the cruise ship Marina, one of Oceania Cruise Lines vessels, and toured seven countries and cities on the Baltic Sea. Stockholm is considered to be one of the most beautiful Capital Cities in the world.

We signed up for shore excursions at each subsequent port to learn from guides, the history and culture of this part of Northern Europe. We left Stockholm in the evening and traversed through the archipelago (thousands of islands)

into the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is relatively shallow compared with the adjacent North Sea. The average depth is 800 feet and the deepest part is 1300 feet.

From Sweden, we traveled North to Helsinki, Finland; Then St Petersburg, Russia; Tallinn, Estonia; Gdansk, Poland; Warnemunde/Rostock, Germany with excursion to Berlin, and Copenhagen, Denmark. We flew from Copenhagen to London and back to Denver.

Each destination offered insightful knowledge and reminders of the horror of war. The destruction, and damage from the German occupation of Leningrad (Later St Petersburg) Russia, and of Gdansk, Poland in particular.

In the past 30 years the Baltic countries have accomplished the tedious job of restoring the cities and buildings from the rubble caused by Nazi bombs during WW II.

A highlight of the trip was spending three days in St Petersburg. Visiting the Summer Palace of Catherine the Great outside St Petersburg is an unforgettable experience. Catherine seized power and ruled Russia from 1762-96. She hired famous architects, craftsmen, and groundskeepers and spared no expense.

Disembarking and embarking in Russia requires standing in lines for passport checks. There are no greetings or smiles, just cold

stares. This is the only place we needed to show passports.

The German army occupied the Summer Palace and plundered it, taking valuable art and the inlaid amber panels from the priceless amber room. These panels have never been recovered, although they have attempted to duplicate them as best they could. It is believed they may be hidden in someone's private collection.

The Winter Palace of the Tsar, in the city of St Petersburg, is now the Hermitage Museum, one of the largest and finest in the



world. To see it all requires months, and requires 20 miles of walking.

The restoration of the city square in Gdansk, Poland is remarkable. The building's architecture is very picturesque. Amber, the petrified resin from ancient submerged pine trees is the big jewelry attraction, and amber shops are located throughout the Baltic region.

We feel very fortunate to be retired and have the time and means to enjoy some travel to various parts of the world, as well as many great places in the USA.

NAFSR News



After a number of years serving as the Rocky Mountain Region representative for the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), Bob

Averill has decided to gravitate to where he can play golf almost daily and not have to wear his red long handled underwear in the winter. He has stepped down from his official duties with NAFSR, but still intends to stay active on certain issues. Bob has spent considerable time staying in touch with Forest Service folks in the Region and striving to understand what issues they face and how NAFSR can help them. We thank Bob for his commitment and dedication to NAFSR and "Sustaining the Heritage."

In December, the Rocky Mountaineers Board of Directors nominated Tom Thompson to the NAFSR Board and that nomination was fully supported. So Tom is now R-2's representative to NAFSR. Interestingly, two other regions in the Rocky Mountains have also just had changes in their NAFSR representatives: Rich Stem, who retired as Deputy Regional Forester in R-2 in 2007 and lives in Montana, is now the Region 1 representative. Jack Troyer, who is retired Regional Forester in R-4 and a former Sopris District Ranger on the White River, is now the Region 4 representative. Jack replaces Jack Lavin who passed away in November.

NAFSR accomplished a great deal in 2013 and continues to work on a number of important issues:

- They were instrumental in helping to "Save the Forest Shield" last year.

- They have worked to take an active role in trying to help the agency deal with the ever expanding and complex situation with wildfires, both the funding and the policy areas.
- They respond to requests for an independent view to Congress on proposed annual U.S. Forest Service budgets and assessments of programs of "the outfit".
- They continue to have discussions about how to help the Forest Service adjust to changing times and meet its mission.
- They have been present at important meetings with U.S. Forest Service leaders and many partners who care about the Forest Service.
- Through their John McGuire Award they recognize outstanding accomplishments in implementing the statutory mission of the Forest Service.

If you are not already a member of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, please consider showing your support of what the organization does by becoming an annual member. They are working hard to represent all of our interests in sustaining the Forest Service and its mission and appreciate greatly your support. To join NAFSR simply visit their website at "fsx.org". The first year is free for all new members...what a great deal...and after that, annual membership is only \$25 per year and that helps this dedicated bunch of retirees to "sustain the heritage" that we have all been a part of.

Rocky Mountaineer Profiles

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about retirees from R-2



Leslie "Jock" Hendry

Leslie "Jock" Hendry was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1925. His father was a golf pro from Scotland who immigrated to the United States after World War I. Jock grew up in the Twin Cities area and then attended the University of Minnesota and got his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 1947. Like most natural resource students back then, he attended forestry camp at Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota and worked at a variety of seasonal jobs for the Forest Service.

His first seasonal work was on the St. Joe National Forest in Idaho in 1944 as the Stubtoe lookout. He recalled being picked up in Avery, Idaho and whisked away to this job in a stake bed truck full of seasonals. This job was classified as SP-4 paying a whopping \$1290 a year. He was a lookout again in 1945.

In the summer of 1946 he worked for the Rocky Mountain Research Station at the Manitou

Experimental Forest where he was involved in studies about water retention on various intensively used pastures. Jock characterized this as his "making rain" job. During this job he hitchhiked with fellow employees around the region and learned much about the state of Colorado.

The next summer he worked on the White River National Forest to cruise and map timber. Bruce Murdoch was chief of party and Clayton Pierce along with Jock was one of the crewmembers.

After graduation from the University of Minnesota he worked for the state of Minnesota's Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Commission on the forest timber inventory crew in several counties in northern Minnesota. After that long cold winter he then worked on the Roosevelt National Forest where he did more cruising and mapping.

His big break was in August 1948 when he got a permanent appointment on the Harney National Forest as a P-1 Junior Forester making the huge sum of \$2900 per year. He worked on the Elk Mountain Ranger District out of the old Teepee Ranger Station built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between Custer and Newcastle. His job was marking timber with an ax, fighting forest fires and for several weeks spraying insecticide on beetle-infested trees.

Then it was over to the old Harney Ranger Station on Battle Creek near Keystone as the assistant ranger on the newly combined Hill City and Rockerville Ranger Districts.

Then he transferred to the Black Hills National Forest as the Spearfish District Ranger stationed at Little Spearfish Ranger Station in June of 1952. Walt Metcalf was Jock's faithful assistant. The Harney and Black Hills National Forests were still separated at this time and were not formally combined until February 1954.



Stubtoe Lookout on the Roundtop Ranger District, St. Joe National Forest 1944

(continued on Page 23)

(continued from Page 22)

After the forests were consolidated, the Spearfish District headquarters was moved to Deadwood. He was later reassigned as the Limestone District Ranger in 1956. Then he was reassigned as the recreation lands staff assistant in the Supervisor's Office in Custer in 1957.

He remained on the Black Hills until he was called to the Pike National Forest as a staff officer in January of 1960. Then he was transferred to the Regional Office in 1962 into the Visitor Information Service (VIS) of Information and Education (I & E). There he worked with Ed Littlehales, Kip Hinton, Assistant Regional Forester Joe Hessel and Dave Nordwall who was the Regional Forester at the time.



Left to Right: Clayton Pierce, Ralph _____, and Jock Hendry 1947, Routt National Forest

Jock's last assignment was Director of Administration Management in the Regional Office where he did management analysis and basically "everything else that nobody really wanted to do." Both Bob Ridings and Jim Mathers worked for him then.

He retired in December of 1980 and has now been retired almost as long as he worked.

He lives in Lakewood, Colorado with his wife Shirley. They've been married 65 years and have two children Gregg and John and

Membership News

Membership in the Rocky Mountaineers has climbed to 143 members by the middle of December. We now have members in 15 states across the country.

Thanks to your generous donations, we have raised over \$4,000 in only three months. We have 11 lifetime memberships that have paid their dues of \$250.

Our current mailing lists total about 1,000 people, but we know there are many more potential members out there. Please help us reach those people that may be unaware of the Rocky Mountaineers.

We plan to produce our first membership directory on February 1, 2014. You must be a member to be included in the directory and to receive your own copy.

It is easy to join – just fill out the form in this edition of The Rendezvous and mail it to us. Or go to our website at <http://rockymountaineers.us>, fill out the form there, and mail it to us electronically. Membership for 2014 is free, but we are always glad to accept your contributions.

If you have questions or comments, please write to us at rockymountaineers@gmail.com

Remembrances

Michael Andrew da Luz

Michael Andrew da Luz, age 63, passed away October 13, 2013. Mike worked in fire management in the Regional Office from 1995-2005. Mike was most proud of his family. He was a loving husband



to Althea, his wife of 41 years. He was a great dad, role model, and mentor to his son Nicholas, daughter Michelle, and son-in-law Matthew. He took great joy in being an energetic and playful "Bud" to his granddaughter Quinn. He was admired as a brother, son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, and nephew.

Mike was a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley School of Forestry and completed graduate studies through the Silviculture Institute at Oregon State University and University of Washington. He enjoyed a long and fulfilled career as a forester, working with the U.S. Forest Service for more than 30 years throughout California, Oregon, and Colorado. Following his federal retirement in 2005, he worked with ESRI, a geographic mapping software company, for the past 8 years. In retirement he remained actively engaged in his profession, serving on the Board of Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology and participating with other related organizations.

He enjoyed a wide variety of work experiences, but found particular passion and excitement as a wildland firefighter and responding to natural disaster incidents. He relished opportunities to share knowledge about land and applied fire management by mentoring young professionals, serving as a university guest lecturer, hosting field trips, or during casual walks in the woods. He cared greatly about people and touched the lives of many friends and colleagues, who fondly knew him as "Mikey". He left his mark on many forested

landscapes and looked forward to playing an active role in habitat conservation into the future.

Celebrations of Mike's life will be held sometime in the spring. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that contributions be made to any charity organization tied to good memories of Mike, or that donations be made in his name to the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE). Donations to AFE in his name will support scholarships for students to attend conferences and become engaged in the land management and fire ecology profession. Contributions can be made to Association for Fire Ecology, PO Box 50412, Eugene, Oregon 97405; or via a donations link at fireecology.org.

Roger Shephard

Roger Shepard, of Chandler, Ariz., died Sept. 26, 2013. A family memorial service was held in Windsor, Colo. Roger is survived by his wife, Virginia Clark Shepard; their children, Greg (Grace) Shepard of Durango, Colo.; Genae (Dave) Hill of Arvada, Colo.; and Rich (Simone) Shepard of Windsor, Colo and 3 grandchildren.

Roger retired from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in 1990 from the position of Timber and Fire Staff Officer where he served on a Type 1 fire team.

Raymond Michael (Mike) Hegler

Raymond Michael Hegler, 55, of Pueblo, died on Dec. 12, 2013. Mike was born, raised, and lived his entire life in Pueblo County. He was a valued employee of the Forest Service on the San Carlos District of the Pike San Isabel Cimarron, Comanche National Forests and Grasslands for 33 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Babe Hegler. Raymond is survived by his wife of 29 years, Vickie Hegler; children, Ember, Dylan and Kasey; and granddaughter, Klowey.

Remembrances

Kathleen D. (Kay)Thompson

Kathleen D. (Kay)Thompson passed away Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Kay was born on Nov. 13, 1924, in Harper, Kansas to Elmer and Margaret Tolle. Kay was retired from the U.S. Forest Service where she was a fire dispatcher and later computer specialist to implement the Data General (DG)computer system. Kay was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Foy N. Thompson. She is survived by her children, Candie (Toimi) Martikainen of Bolton, Conn., Vicki (Rex) Lynch of Nampa, Idaho, and Rick (Renee) Thompson of Pueblo. Kay adored her grandchildren (9) and great grandchildren(12).

Malinda (Mindy) Jimenez

Malinda R. (Mindy) Jimenez died on December 26, 2013 in Surprise, Arizona. She was born on August 23, 1952. Mindy was a contracting officer for the Region's South Tier Acquisition Management Team and was stationed in Fort Collins, CO. Mindy will be missed by all who knew her. She was a genuinely kind person who worked hard at everything she did.

She served the agency with distinction for more than a decade. Mindy was a big supporter of firefighters, not just on the Arapaho/Roosevelt, but around the Region, as a purchasing agent and contracting officer. She worked hard to increase good relationships with local contractors who provided firefighting services. She is survived by her husband Marty Jiminez, her daughter Chantel Gifford, and step-sons Eric Jiminez and Martine Jiminez, a sister Nancy and a brother Charles and two grandsons.

Ernest William Chapman

Ernest William Chapman died on October 18, 2013. He was born on May 19th, 1923, at the Chapman Ranch near Collbran, Colorado. He attended College in Chillicothe, Missouri as an Art Major until the war broke out. He joined the US Marine Corps on December 9th, 1942 and served during WWII in the American and Asiatic Pacific Campaign until wounded on Iwo Jima on February 20th, 1945.

Throughout his lifetime, Ernest was able to share his love of the wildlife, mountains and land while working for the Forest Service. During these years he packed a book describing the various wild flowers and plant life. He taught himself the Latin names of the plant life and shared this knowledge with all that were with him, often bringing a bouquet of wildflowers home to his wife at the end of the day. In addition he used his art abilities to make many of the signs welcoming visitors into the Grand Mesa National Forest. After leaving the Forest Service, Ernest worked as a counselor at the Collbran Job Corps. He influenced many young men's lives during his time at the Job Corps helping them find a trade to take them further in life, often bringing them home on the weekends to experience a bit of ranch life. After Ernest retired from the Federal Government, he was able to devote his full time to the love of his family, the land and the cattle he raised.

He leaves behind Helen, his faithful companion of 68 years; four daughters, Lillian, Bonnie, Ernestine and Janice; four grandsons; two granddaughters; five great-grandsons, and nine great-granddaughters.

Remembrances

Charlie Hathaway

Charles Cheney Hathaway, age 89, passed away Mon., November 11, 2013. Charlie worked on the Medicine Bow, the San Isabel, and the Black Hills National Forests.



Charlie was born on August 13, 1924 and was raised in Manchester CT. Charlie was in the army during WWII & served in the European Theatre. He served in Company B, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Division of the 7th Army between 1943 & 1946. Charlie ended active duty as a 1st Lieutenant with a battlefield commission,

earning many medals including the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge & other special commendations.

In 1946, Charlie married his High School sweetheart Joan Carol Todd, also of Manchester. Upon his graduation from the University of Connecticut Forestry Division in 1951, they headed west to WY for Charlie to work with the US Forest Service. They spent their Forestry career in (various places) in WY, CO & SD, on such locations as the Medicine Bow, the San Isabel & the Black Hills National Forests. After serving as timber staff on the Black Hills NF he retired in 1980 with over 33 years of service to his country.

After retirement from civil service, Charlie became a realtor in Custer & consultant on land management. Charlie loved narrating tours of the Black Hills, excursions to various venues, ice cream days and helping to maintaining his plants and the gardens. Charlie always livened the room with his personality, always the jokester & a very loving, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who will be deeply missed. He was a Mason and also active Shriner.

He is survived by his wife Joan and four children: Sue & Mike Schmidt, Andover, CT, Todd & Julie Hathaway, Commerce City, CO, Megan & Dale Williamson, Chadron, NE, Robert (Chip) & Kristina Hathaway, Sheridan, WY.

William Robert (Bill) Floyd

Bill Floyd, 64, passed away Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013 in Arlington, TX. Bill worked in recreation, wilderness, special uses, and minerals on the Sopris



District of the White River N.F. from 1982-1987 and was then District Ranger on the Pawnee National Grassland. Bill was born June 18, 1949, in Denton, TX. He received his BBA from TCU and later earned a Master's Degree in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin University. He also worked for the U.S.

Forest Service in Washington, Oregon, and Texas. After retirement he worked with FEMA on special assignments assisting with disaster relief. He was active in his church and community. Bill loved the outdoors and spent many hours in the mountains hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. He loved to cook for folks and tried to teach his friends the finer points of the Texas language - such as the difference between "Ya'll" and "All Ya'll". He is survived by his son, Joshua Floyd of Dayton, TN and his daughter, Kellie Floyd of Rossville, GA.

Bill arrived at Sopris in 1982 or early 1983 from the Wallowa Whitman NF. He was basically the other GS-11 Assistant District Ranger and had Recreation, Wilderness, Special Uses, and Minerals under him. At that time there was a lot of work with Mid Continent Coke and Coal and the huge powerline up the Fryingpan that was litigated with Pitkin county. He did an outstanding job of administering both projects and improved relationships along the way. He was talented and flexible and when Nick Greer departed and Paul Bradley arrived from the SO with his recreation background Bill agreed to switch over to the resource functions. He eventually along with Wayne, of course, began to help on the Aspen district as well.

Remembrances

Jack Lavin

John Joseph ("Jack") Lavin, a Boise resident whose adventurous, positive personality inspired family and friends, died in Kalispell, MT on November 13, 2013, while visiting family. Jack was born on September 10, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA - the third



of five children. Jack's dream, from his youth, was to be a forester and live in the Western U.S. In 1950, he graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. Jack started his professional career in 1950 in Liberia, Africa, managing a rubber plantation. He returned to Philadelphia in 1952 and

began dating Rosemarie Sucher ("Souci"). Jack and Souci were married in 1953. After 2 years of military service, they embarked upon their life of adventure in the West with the U.S. Forest Service. They raised five children and established life-long friendships as they lived in nine different locations in Idaho, Washington D.C., Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. Jack served as Forest Supervisor on the Shoshone National Forest in the early 70's. Jack retired from the Forest Service in 1988 and embarked on another career with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation through 2007. During this time, he also consulted for Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI-VOCA) in Armenia, Bolivia, and Slovakia. In 1986, he received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Superior Service Award for establishing positive working relationships between state and local government entities and the Forest Service.

George Nagy

George J. Nagy passed away on December 15, 2013 after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was born on June 12, 1932 in Allegheny Co, Pennsylvania to Stephen and Caroline Nagy.

Born in the greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania region, he attended St. Mary's high school, going on to receive his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Forestry from Penn State. He served as a navigator in the Air Force from 1955 - 1961, being the first man in the United States Air Force to achieve 200 ice cap landings in the ski-equipped C-130.

After his military service, George worked as a hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service for over 30 years. He worked in the R2 Regional Office in water rights, water law, and uses from the mid-1970's until the mid-1990's when he retired. He worked on many water litigation cases for the Region, especially those involving the Arapaho-Roosevelt. He received numerous commendations for the work he performed with water rights, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in court costs. A supervisor to George said that when he retired, it was similar to Babe Ruth leaving baseball. It left a big hole to fill.

George's love of nature extended into his personal life. An avid gardener and traveler, he spent time in 48 of the 50 states. He was described by many as always happy, having the greatest sense of humor, the best memory, and when he laughed... everyone laughed.

He is survived by his wife Mary Ann, daughter Mary, and his sons Jim, Bob, and Paul, as well as his 5 grandchildren, and 2 sisters. He was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Remembrances

Randall L. Karstaedt

Randall L. Karstaedt was born January 11, 1954 and passed away on November 14, 2013. Randy had retired from the Forest Service in October 2011 in his last assignment as Director of Physical Resources in the Rocky Mountain Region. Upon retirement Randy and his wife, Clare, moved to Newaygo, Michigan where he was very happy in his retirement. Randy started his career on the Craig Ranger district in Craig, Alaska, Tongass National Forest. He was in recreation there in the late 70's. He also was on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and traveled around the country in various assignments as was the custom many of us Forest Service folks.

One of the assignments where Randy made a lasting impact for the Forest Service and with his colleagues was in the Lands staff in the Washington Office. He enjoyed a solid reputation as a competent, confident, caring professional. His co-workers loved working with him for his good humor and positive attitude towards his job. His boy-like smile seemed to diffuse most any difficult situation. Randy was never officious in his approach to his work and inspired trust from members of the public and groups who may have disagreed with the message he had to deliver. He mentored many people through the years from planning and NEPA to expertise in lands and special uses of National Forests. He has left his mark on many of us in our personal and professional lives. Randy's wife, Clare, would enjoy hearing from his friends and colleagues. Her contact information is: Clare Karstaedt, 6253 Division Street, Newaygo, MI 49337.

Herb Mittmann

Herb (Hubertus) Mittmann, (78) passed away on December 19, 2013. He had suffered a massive stroke ten days earlier, and was receiving care at the Legacy Hopewell House Hospice in Portland, Oregon.



Herb immigrated to New York City in 1956 from Germany when he was 21 years old. Soon after, he married his wife, Imme, also from Germany. He enrolled at Syracuse University and graduated with a degree in landscape architecture.

Herb's first employment with the U. S. Forest Service was with the George Washington National Forest in Virginia (at the time in Region 7) as a landscape architect. In the 1970's he moved his family to Denver where he became the Regional Landscape Architect in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. He was well known for his leadership assistance in development and application of the Visual Resource Management system, as well as many other pioneering design techniques. Herb retired in January of 1996, remained in Lakewood for a few years, then moved to Woodburn, Oregon to be nearer to his families.

Herb is survived by his wife, Imme, daughters Ilke and Karen, and son Jon, and their families, and relatives in Germany.

The Last Word

The Pine Cone Connection: A few thoughts from Tom Thompson

The wonderful thing about working for the Forest Service is the opportunity to be connected with the beauty and wonders of the natural resources in the world which we live. Even if you find yourself in an office taking care of business, a person knows what they are doing contributes to "Caring for the Land." That is why so many of us chose the careers and work that we did. As I looked at this photo of my youngest grandson Levi

the dynamic change that we witness within the Forest Service is the beauty and wonder of nature. In visiting with fellow retirees around the Region and throughout the country, we quite often end up grimacing over the changes that are constantly occurring with and within the outfit. Some of this comes from knowing that things just aren't the way they used to be and for me personally some of it comes from wishing I could have retired

could to adapt to the changes in laws and the ever changing public expectations. Then we looked up and the calendar had turned over thirty or forty years and it was time to step aside and let a new bunch of young folks give it their best shot. As we turned in our key and badge it was apparent that there was still much work to be done. In fact, I think many of us probably breathed a sigh of relief as we went out the door realizing that we could step aside and let someone with more energy and perhaps patience deal with the complex maze of issues and realities that had accumulated over the years.

At a retiree's luncheon a few weeks ago, it occurred to me that even though we have stepped aside, there still exists a deep passion for the resources and an appreciation and respect for nature amongst the generations of yesteryear. And I would say that most in the room still feel pride in having worked for the Forest Service and believe it was the best career they we could ever have hoped for. I know I would do it all over again if I could. Most still love the "outfit" and want the legacy of the agency to continue to be a positive story.

Levi's generation will be faced with huge challenges and extremely difficult realities, but hopefully his link to nature, which I will call the "pine cone connection", will serve him well in being able to contribute productively to society, just as it did for you and me.



Photo by Ryan Thompson

contemplate nature's creation of a pine cone I had to pause, think back six or seven decades, and try to remember about how I looked at and marveled at pine cones, kinnikinnik berries, chipmunks, and golden aspen leaves. How simple and beautiful it seemed.

As I thought about many of the issues, challenges, accomplishments, realities, frustrations, and disappointments associated with the day to day work of the Forest Service, it occurred to me that a constant in

without leaving so much unfinished business or so many unresolved issues still lingering.

Looking at it now, a career goes by way too fast, especially the last 10 years or so. The issues that one faces, day in and day out, just don't seem to get any easier either. I know the folks who went before me worked hard, accomplished a great deal, and were proud of what they did, but even so they left much work for my generation of young and energetic baby boomers to tackle. We worked hard and did all we