



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 3 and Number 3

A Story of Forest Service History

Why it's important to support the effort to tell the history of the U.S. Forest Service

by Tom Thompson

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

The history of the U. S. Forest Service is a rich and remarkable story. It is a story of a fledgling agency that in 1905 took on the huge responsibility for managing many millions of acres of newly created National Forests. But the agency's history is also about the challenges that it has faced over the last 110 years that have tested its resolve and required it to adjust and respond. As it has evolved, its evolution has mirrored that of the nation; a story of men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving the public and building on the strength of a democratic society. The Forest Service and the National Forests it stewards is in its very essence the story of conservation in America, and is therefore a story for all Americans.

To tell this story about the central role that the U. S. Forest Service continues to play in American life, the National Museum of Forest Service History, a non-profit organization founded in 1988, is working to protect invaluable history that exists and helps tell of the work, the challenges, the people, the science, the progress

and development, and the change that has come to play since its very beginnings. We are seeking support to help us not only interpret, study, and share this history but also to ensure it is available for future generations to appreciate and use. We have raised nearly \$4 million thus far and are hoping to gain commitment for another \$8-10 million to complete our National Conservation Legacy Education Center with museum building, exhibits, and traveling interpretive displays that will allow us to bring this history to the public's door step around the country. We need your help.

Even in its creation, President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, knew they needed to have a uniquely decentralized organization to care for these far-flung lands, manage their multiple resources, and serve the public's varied needs. Their direction at the time was to manage these forests for the "greatest good to the greatest number in the long-run."

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The Forest Service has adapted to these growing and ever changing needs of the nation and adjusted to major value shifts that have occurred. We now know that setting aside the National Forest in and for the public interest was a relatively simple undertaking compared to the complexity of managing those lands in the face of huge changes that have come in seeking the “greatest good.”

The National Museum of Forest Service History is committed to preserving this past, promoting its lessons, and helping future generations understand the extraordinary stewardship of men and women of the Forest Service. Change has been constant and required the agency to adapt, adjust, and respond.

A brief overview of some of this history and some of the change:

- *Early on the challenge was just establishing a presence and a sense of order by a Ranger on the ground.*
- *Over-grazing was severe and required both a strong will and a persistence to protect the range and allow use.*
- *The new outfit dealt with huge fires that destroyed large watersheds and endangered communities like those that occurred in 1910 with the Big Burn in Idaho and Montana.*
- *The emergence of the automobile changed how and where people moved around the country and into the woods.*
- *The idea of recreation and wilderness was championed by Forest Service leaders like Arthur Carhart, Aldo Leopold, and Bob Marshall.*
- *The dust bowl and depression brought about a whole new era of CCC and WPA work on the forests along with major development of roads, lookouts, lodges, bridges, trails, nurseries, buildings, and campgrounds.*
- *Responding to both WWI and WWII brought major change to the Forest Service and its people.*
- *The 50's saw major growth and development with new homes, roads, highways, dams, and rail lines.*
- *The Forest Service provided wood and other materials for many, many millions of homes.*
- *Restoring lands in the east and across the plains resulted in new forests and grasslands.*
- *The idea of multiple uses came into full force in the 60's.*
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- *The idea of multiple uses came into full force in the 60's.*
- *A host of new laws in the 70's changed natural resource planning and management on public lands.*

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- *Finding a path through the myriad of new planning regulations required new skills and specialization.*
- *The Forest Service was and still is instrumental in implementing the Job Corps program with our unique Civilian Conservation Centers scattered across the country.*
- *The Forest Service has the bulk of the managed wilderness in the United States and has led that program since the first wilderness was created in 1923.*
- *For over 75 years the Forest Service has provided opportunity for development and use of major winter sports facilities throughout the country and has worked closely with the industry to ensure that this important recreation opportunity provides quality safe experiences.*
- *The Forest Service works cooperatively with the States in providing assistance on both state and private lands and partners with many organizations who also share in the quest to further the cause of conservation of our nation's great natural resources.*
- *When fire or other crises has occurred, the Forest Service has always been the agency that led the response with people, equipment, experience, and leadership. The need for this leadership has never been greater than today.*
- *In the 90's the Forest Service undertook new approaches to management focused on managing the whole ecosystem.*
- *For a century, the Forest Service has proudly conducted research to provide a solid base of science and information for managers to use in making decisions and understanding complex issues like climate change and biodiversity.*
- *Protecting lands and resources and connecting with the public as they use and enjoy these lands remains the central focus of the ranger on the ground today. It requires dedication and commitment to serve the public.*

The story of conservation is the public's story; it is ALL of our story. We invite you to be a part of helping us tell this story and hope that you will consider joining the National Museum of Forest Service History or make a donation that might bring us closer to be able to get on with our work and fulfill our dream of having a facility to protect and interpret this important history.

The National Museum of Forest Service History believes we have a responsibility to do all we can to understand what has happened to and with the Forest Service. We have a responsibility to understand how the course of conservation of our great natural resources has

evolved so that future generations understand our successes and our failures. We know that no one else is likely ever going to do this and it is up to us to ensure that this history is saved. We need your help to tell this story now while we have much of this history intact and the initiative and will to do it. Please join us in doing this so that we may together tell, interpret, and preserve our country's rich conservation story.

For additional information or for information about membership or donations, visit the Museum website at www.nmfs-history.net or contact Lyle Laverty @ 720-490-6878 or Tom Thompson @ 303-552-1711.

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Spruce benches get spruced up by Rocky Mountaineers

The two benches that stand guard at the entrance of the Regional Office were given extra attention on Thursday, September 10 by a small work crew of Rocky Mountaineers. The two benches were presented to the Regional Office by the Yampa District in 1995 and hadn't received attention since then except to offer themselves to anyone who wanted to stop to sit for a moment as the day hurried by. The benches were cleaned, sanded, and stained and now present themselves in a richer and more pleasing condition. As the day unfolded, the crew encouraged those who passed by to consider joining the Rocky Mountaineers as it is not just an organization for retirees, it is open to any Forest Service person who cares to keep connected and be a part this Association. Folks who saw the finished work were very impressed!



Before



After

Left to right with the finished bench; Tom Thompson, Susan Gray, Nancy Warren, Jim Thinnies, Steve Deitemeyer and Pam Skeels.



Rally on the Rio— Celebrating Forest Service Families

Time is running out . . . Get your registration in to the 2015 Reunion Committee and spend the week of October 11-16, 2015, in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. Catch the last weekend of the International Balloon Fiesta or spend time exploring the area. Catch up with old friends, co-workers, and fellow retirees. Join us in a spirited tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of families to the Forest Service mission and our proud heritage.

Register for the reunion (www.2015.fsreunions.org) and make your reservations at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North (1-877-622-3056). For cancellations, a portion of the paid registration fees will be refunded if requested prior to September 1. The refund amount will be 85% per person of the paid registration fee. The retained funds will be used for reunion expenses, administrative handling, and for the benefit of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Any request to refund the registration fee after September 1, 2015, may be approved based on a request documenting hardship consideration such as illness or injury.



The Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 11 - Early arrivals catch some Balloon Fiesta sights and attend casual “chips and salsa” reception.

Monday, October 12 - Registration, Exhibits, NAFSR Board Meeting, Regional Retiree Organization Representatives Meeting, NAFSR Open Meeting, NMFSH Board Meeting, “Glow After” Balloon Tailgate Party.

Tuesday, October 13 - Breakfast, Registration, Welcome to the Southwestern Region, Silent Auction and Oral Histories Begin, Aldo Leopold—A Standard of Change, Lunch, Celebrating Families, Gathering of Regions.

Wednesday, October 14 - Breakfast, Organized Tours (Jemez Pueblo/Valles Caldera/Ponderosa Winery; Chimayo/Santa Fe “The City Different”; Acoma “Sky City” Pueblo; Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge), Rally with the Forest Service.

Thursday, October 15 - Breakfast, Remember When Social (during breakfast), Rangers of the Southwest, Chief’s Comments, Lunch, Concurrent Sessions (National Museum of Forest History Annual Meeting; Developing Forest Service Leaders; Four Forest Restoration Initiative; Cornelia Bryce Pinchot: A Passion for Conservation, Equality, and Peace; Ft. Valley - The First Forest Experiment Station; 10th Anniversary of the Albuquerque Service Center; The Importance of Water and Climate Change in the Southwest; Capturing Memories).

Friday, October 16 - Vaya Con Dios Breakfast

Rocky Mountaineers Board Chair



Kim Vogel - circa 2004

As the nights get cooler, the days get shorter, and the leaves begin to change here in northwest Colorado, we begin to wish our Summer had been longer (as we do every year) and look forward to the crisp mornings and gloriously colorful days of Autumn.

Another school year has begun and the Rocky Mountaineers can say we contributed to the education of one of the students headed back to school. Erin wrote a great little article to update us on her education. Yeah Erin!!

We had some wonderful time with friends and family in the past few months – I hope you all found time to do the same. I had the opportunity to travel a bit this past Spring. It is so fun to hear of all the great trips folks have been enjoying. So cool that the trip to Europe has sold out! We are really looking forward to our trip to Cody in a few weeks to reconnect with friends and past colleagues, revisit some beautiful places and find some new ones. I hope to see many of you there!

The air is still hazy here from the devastating fires in the Northwest. Several weeks ago we received a call from friends in Oregon telling us that all the homes on the county road where we were neighbors had been evacuated the night before. It hadn't been that dry there since the 80's when we lived and worked on the Malheur in eastern Oregon and spent our summers going from one fire assignment to the next. Our connections with colleagues, friends, and neighbors still run deep and our shared experiences are so poignantly front and center during these heavy fire seasons. We are saddened, once again, as we hear news of fallen firefighters. People we worked with and in many cases fought fire beside. Our hearts and prayers are with their families.

These experiences together are a part of the history of the Forest Service – an agency which has been a rich part of the history and growth of our great country. I hope you all read and respond to Tom's article about the importance of preserving the history of our organization with the endeavors of the National Museum of Forest Service History.

I hope to see ya'll in Cody, on the Rio, in an Irish pub, or in downtown Steamboat!

Candidate for 2017



The Board of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association has nominated Nancy Warren to be elected as chair-elect for 2017. Nancy retired from the Forest Service three years ago after a 32-year career as a wildlife biologist, which included assignments on the Shasta-Trinity, Okanogan, and Flathead National Forests, and Regional Offices in Portland, Missoula and Denver. She lives in Golden, CO and is currently serving as Secretary for the Rocky Mountaineers.

Further nominations for this Board position may be made by current members of the Association by email to rmountaineers@gmail.com or mailed to Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527. Nominations must be received by October 17, 2015. After October 17, a ballot will be sent to current members of the Rocky Mountaineers for election of this position. The Chair-elect for 2016 will serve in that capacity as a board member, will become Chair in 2017 and will serve as Past Chair in 2018.

Welcome New Retirees

We're playing a bit of a catch-up in the new retirees list - we had a little SNAFU down in Albuquerque getting the list of new retirees released to us, so below we have the last 8 months of them. Sorry if we repeated your name or left someone out - let us know if you, or someone you know has retired.

Janet Gradwell
Regional Office

Cristie Lee
Regional Office

**Patricia "Patti"
Martin**
Regional Office

Gene Baker
Regional Office

Dana Mees
Regional Office

John Rehmer
Regional Office

Don Rivers
Regional Office

Judy Taylor
Regional Office

**Melanie
Woolever**
Regional Office

Dave Steinke
Regional Office

Craig Cope
Bighorn NF

Deborah Craghill
Bighorn NF

**Gegory
McGrahahan**
Black Hills NF

John Rongstad
Black Hills NF

Thomas Smith
Black Hills NF

Terry Tompkins
Black Hills NF

Leslie Gonyer
Black Hills NF

Charles Harbach
Black Hills NF

Charles Morris
Black Hills NF

Connie Barry
GMUG NFs

Michael Geary
GMUG NFs

Mark Hatcher
GMUG NFs

Leigh Hunt
GMUG NFs

Barry Johnston
GMUG NFs

William Piloni
GMUG NFs

Cindi Range
GMUG NFs

Linda Schmidt
Grand Mesa

John Smith
GMUG NFs

Carol Tolbert
Med Bow-
Routt NFs

Gregory Eaglin
Med Bow-
Routt NFs

Alan Anderson
Nebraska NF

Helen Kent
Nebraska NF

Mary Thomas
Nebraska NF

Geoffrey Bell
Arapaho
& Roosevelt NFs

James Jaminet
Rio Grande NF

**John
Hickenbottom**
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

Mark Varhus
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

Robert Cox Jr.
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

Ann Ewing
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

**Angelina
Sanchez**
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

Robert Dressel
San Juan NF

**Steven
Hartvigsen**
San Juan NF

Michael Johnson
San Juan NF

Mark Tucker
San Juan NF

Janice Burke
White River NF

Glenn Davis
White River NF

Michael Griffiths
White River NF

Elaine Langstaff
White River NF

Bruce Moss
White River NF

Kathleen Shoup
White River NF

Kent Houston
Shoshone NF

Thanks!

A note from our scholarship winner Erin Glankler

Hello! My name is Erin Glankler (niece of Rocky Mountaineers Jim Thinnies and Cindy Dean), and I am the lucky first recipient of the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship. I am so grateful to all the Rocky Mountaineers who made this scholarship possible. It has had such a positive impact on my life as I continue studying biomedical science at The Ohio State University.

This scholarship enabled me to take two classes this summer, which freed up room in my schedule for the coming semester. This will allow me to spend more time volunteering in my research lab, where I am currently in the midst of a project aimed at developing a new, low toxicity treatment for acute myeloid leukemia. I also found a bit of time this summer to indulge my love of traveling by going on a weeklong cruise to the Southern Caribbean.

Once again, thank you so much for your generous donations. This scholarship has truly been a great blessing to me.



From left to right, Erin Glankler, and her sisters Megan Linder, and Rachel Glankler on a recent trip to Paris. They proudly spelled out their home state for all of France.



NAFSR REPORT

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSA representative

As you know, this year the fire season has been epic in proportion. It has challenged state, local, and federal personnel across the west but principally in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. NAFSR has worked to ensure that up-to-date situational information has been provided, especially for the retirees across the country. You can find the latest updates on the Rocky Mountaineers website: (rockymountaineers.us). The importance of finding a long-term solution to the fire funding issue has been shown to be even more important as fire costs mount by hundreds of millions of dollars each week. NAFSR continues to work with others to do all we can to encourage Congress to find a solution to this untenable problem.

Quite often, I am asked what does NAFSR do and why are we important. Over the past months NAFSR has worked on a principles document which is intended to display our core principles and values. We are still working to refine this document a bit but I include the draft here for your information. Please look at it and if you have any questions or concerns with it, please let me know.

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees

"Dedicated to sustaining the Forest Service heritage and adapting to today's and tomorrow's challenges"

NAFSR represents Forest Service retirees who are dedicated to: sustaining the heritage of caring for the National Forests and Grasslands, being a dependable partner with the Forest Service, and helping understand and adapt to today's and tomorrow's challenges.

The Association's principal beliefs and values are:

- Protection and management of diverse lands and valued resources while providing a wide array of uses and services to the public.
- Actively manage landscapes, where needed to improve both health and resilience.
- Protection of Special Areas and Landscapes like designated wilderness, monuments and other special landscapes to maintain their unique and natural character.
- Balance social, environmental, and economic considerations with the best science available.
- Communicate effectively to increase awareness about the importance of National Forests and Grasslands to an increasingly urban populace.
- Respond professionally and responsibly in support of the agency in protecting the public interest and ensuring public safety.
- Address emerging (national) issues professionally and deliberately with facts and science
- Partner with the agency, communities and cooperators in a dependable and credible way.
- Respecting the Forest Service's rich traditions and history.
- Maintaining a diverse and productive field organization that is accessible to the public.

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John Combs has served as Secretary-Treasurer of NAFSR since its very beginning and is stepping down from this important role on October 1st. We are fortunate that Rocky Mountaineer Johnny Hodges has agreed to take over this role and look forward to his support and involvement in this Association. Other recent actions initiated by NAFSR include an op-ed piece by Dale Bosworth and Jim Golden on the need to support projects that actively manage landscapes to prevent wildfire

and to deal with fire funding issue; testimony before a House Natural Resource Committee by Dale Bosworth and Jack Troyer on the Resilient National Forest Act (now passed House) and before Senate Agriculture Committee; and a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture asking that he oppose proposed closings of Job Corps Conservation Centers by the Department of Labor. For more information contact:

tommylthompson@comcast.net

Membership Update September 2015

We have picked up just a few new members over the summer. Our current membership total is 361 and includes 47 lifetime memberships. You can help us recruit new members (we always have room for more). Send us an email or go to our website to find a membership application.

Correction

In an effort to respond to reviews by our members there are two corrections that need to be noted in the article on "Disappearing Districts" in the May edition of the Rendezvous.

In the table summarizing districts that have disappeared on the Routt N.F., the Bears Ears District was misidentified as the Hayden District and on the Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F. it should be noted that the Estes Park District was combined with the Poudre River District in the 1980's, not the 1990's.

Forest Service Humor



Three little boys were playing on the playground and the first little boy said that his Dad was the fastest man in the world. "He's a tennis player and can play by himself. He hits it over the net and then runs over to the other side and gets it back."

"That's nothing," said the second little boy. "My dad's a runner and he's so fast that when he goes to bed at night he turns the light switch off and is under the covers before the light goes out."

"Well my Dad is the fastest of all," said the third boy.

"He works for the National Park Service... and he's off work everyday at 4:30, and is at home watching TV at 3:15!"

Check out You Tube

Nature Rx

Set in the world of a spoofed prescription drug commercial, Nature Rx offers a hearty dose of laughs and the outdoors - two timeless prescriptions for whatever ails you.

<http://nature-rx.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=880315cfc9f7a82166ceb9c1c&id=1cef101b88&e=f303870007>

The Heart of a Firefighter

The men and women involved in Fire and Aviation Management well represent the pride exemplified by all Forest Service and other employees in "caring for the land and serving people." The video portrays the brave wildland firefighters of all federal, state and local agencies serving to protect millions of acres of our forests, our communities, and our natural resources.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxJFIkOOLY&spfreload=10>

Little Scraggy Highlights *by Mountaineer Andy Kratz*

"Little Scraggy" is my favorite mountain biking trail. It was DESIGNED for mountain biking, rather than for hikers or horses; so it takes advantage of BIG ROCKS and the topography in a very different way than most trails. All video scenes are shown in real time (no speeding up or slowing down), and no computer "stabilization" was used (so the camera shakes more on bumpy stretches, but hopefully not enough to make you sick).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWVputWhszA&feature=youtu.be>

Dave Wolf's Proud Public Service Parable



Dave Wolf

This is a speech that that I gave in April 1997 at the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing/ American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ASPRS/ACSM) Annual Convention in Seattle as a Forest Service regional employee working in Geomtronics. The Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS) is a trade association of companies engaged in aerial surveying and mapping. In the 90s and earlier, its primary objective was to exert pressure on Congress and the Administration to force government agencies to outsource mapping activities.

I am going to present a parable: Our story takes us to the annual stockholders meeting of Ajax Timber Company, owner of extensive tracts of commercial timber. Like all publicly-owned companies, Ajax' purpose is to manage its business so as to maximize income for its stockholders. In addition, as an environmentally and publicly responsible company, Ajax manages its lands for the long-term vitality and sustainability of the plants and animals that live there, and also accommodates public recreation by allowing hunting, fishing and camping.

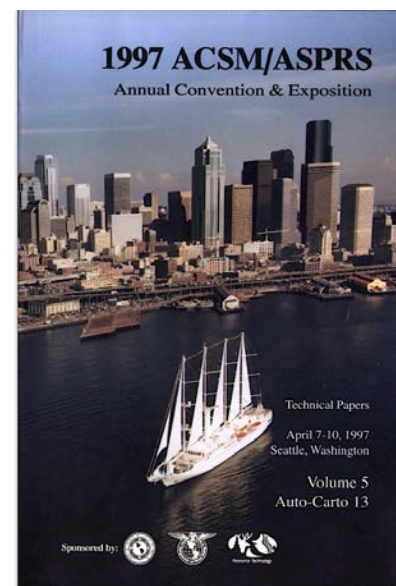
Mr. Curtin, Vice President for Management and Budget, has the floor. "I would like to introduce Mr. Sedgewick, from the Muscular Association for Persuading Public Stockholders. Mr. Sedgewick will speak to us on how we can reinvent our company so as to greatly increase profits, something we are all surely interested in. Mr. Sedgewick, welcome to our meeting."

Mr. Sedgewick addresses the audience: "The Muscular Association for Persuading Public Stockholders is an organization of companies that provide services that Ajax Timber Company needs. Our primary interest is improving the profitability of Ajax Timber and other companies for the benefit of their stockholders. I will now describe how we can help you accomplish just that.

"Ajax Timber employs numerous personnel that are engaged in tasks like tree planting, road construction and maintenance, satellite imagery and air photo interpretation, and topographic mapping. Additional personnel are engaged in administrative tasks, like secretaries, accountants, and mail clerks. These personnel place a tremendous burden on the finances of Ajax through their salaries and benefits, which are generous.

"Our Association represents companies that can perform all these services for Ajax at greatly

reduced costs. By eliminating these employees and performing their work through contracting with our member firms, profitability will soar, and the management of Ajax can concentrate on setting effective policy and standards for the company and will no longer be burdened with personnel management and directing timber operations. Remember, I am telling you this because my primary interest is the welfare of Ajax Timber."



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Ms. O'Brian, Vice President for Operations, follows Mr. Sedgewick. "Thank you Mr. Sedgewick. Ladies and gentlemen, I find Mr. Sedgewick's presentation very interesting, but I have a few doubts. First of all, I believe the Muscular Association for Persuading Public Stockholders' primary interest is promoting the welfare of its member companies, not the welfare of Ajax Timber. If we were the most efficient company on the planet, Mr. Sedgewick would still want our business. While this motivation is entirely appropriate and does not necessarily invalidate the rest of Mr. Sedgewick's presentation, it certainly gives us cause to examine it critically.

"I began my career with Ajax in the mapping department. My experience there and in other production activities has well prepared me for my position in management. Personnel in production jobs today will be equally well qualified to take my place helping to run the company when I retire or leave. Our company policies and standards do not magically materialize in the minds of

management; they evolve out of the collective experience of all our employees. If we hire outsiders to gain that experience, we undermine the very foundation of our company policy and standards.

"I know that most of Ajax' employees, the tree planters, secretaries and others that Mr. Sedgewick refers to, are competent and dedicated to serving Ajax and its stockholders. If the profitability of Ajax is below optimum, as Mr. Sedgewick implies, I suggest we examine our management policies to see if they are inhibiting the productivity of our dedicated workers, not replace those workers with others who cannot possibly have as high a regard for the fortunes of Ajax. If Ajax cannot efficiently perform the basic operations of a timber company through effective management of its own workers, then we managers, not the workers, ought to find other jobs."

Mr. Lujan, Director of Administration, speaks next. "Thank you Ms. O'Brian. I came to Ajax from another timber company which did contract for most of these services. While we employed far fewer personnel engaged in timber management and related activities, we had a large administration department, which prepared contract documents. Our highly paid legal staff helped adjudicate disputes over contract performance. Our staff of MBAs did a good job with the administrative aspects of contracting, but we barely had the technical staff to perform contract inspection. In time, we found our contract costs escalating as it became evident that we no longer had the option of performing these operations ourselves. Ajax, on the other hand, maintains a workforce commensurate with its normal level of business. My department does contract for routine services when our workload increases above normal levels, and for specialized services, and we are well qualified both technically and administratively to manage those contracts."

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Mr. Rose, Director of Human Resources, concludes. "Thank you Mr. Lujan. Like Ms. O'Brian, I began my career with Ajax 'in the trenches' as a tree planter. My department is responsible for maintaining the dedicated workforce she referred to. Ajax does not consider human resources management to be a necessary obligation which should be mostly eliminated through outsourcing. On the contrary, we regard cultivation of our workforce as the most essential ingredient in maintaining a profitable operation. The mail clerks, tree planters, and road maintenance crews comprise the soul of our company, certainly far more than does top management. They are connected to the land we manage. Our salaries and benefits reflect our pride in those employees.

We might save some money in the short term by contracting with companies whose personnel expenses are lower, but in the long term we would sacrifice both our company soul and profits. I agree that Ajax should continue to invest its resources in the continued enrichment of the essence of our company, the employees most responsible for its continued success."

This is the end of my parable. Federal employees, like Ajax employees, are proud and dedicated to the service of our stockholders, who are the Congress and the American people. We are tired of being told that, because we have chosen to work in government, our careers are doomed to be wasteful and inefficient. However some of my colleagues have heard it for so long that they have come to

believe, even espouse, that assertion. I, for one, will never throw in the towel on my professional self respect. Perhaps we need to form our own Muscular Association of Proud Public Servants, to bring the message to our "stockholders" that successful government, like private business, depends upon the cultivation of a corporate soul. While cost efficiency is certainly as important in government as in private business, the corporate soul does not reside in the numbers and accounts. Rather, it is based on the empowerment, not emasculation, of the corporate workforce. Hopefully NAPA can look beyond the numbers and accounts and help us reverse the trend of emasculating the corporate soul of government service.

Want to be a Famous Writer?

Many folks have asked us how to submit an article to be published in the Rendezvous. The Rendezvous Staff is looking for articles on events in the History of the Region; Special People, News Events, Recognition, and Travel. To submit an article, send your story ideas to: rmountaineers@gmail.com. When sending us your ideas, provide us with your name, email address, and a summary of what the article(s) is about. Your ideas will be carefully reviewed and approved and a response will be sent congratulating you on your prose. If you want help, we'll help you write the article.



An update from Regional Forester Dan Jirón

As we wrap up the federal fiscal year, I am once again reminded that the only constant in this job is change. I remain firmly committed to the

Region's focus on resilience as a means to sustain the health of our ecosystems, vitality of our communities, and wellbeing of our employees.

We have seen changes in landscapes, weather, and climate that are driving yet another intense fire season. Approximately 100 uncontained large wildfires are burning on more than a million acres in 15 states. We have reached and continue to operate in National Preparedness Level 5, the highest level, at which all available ground and air assets are committed to priority work. More than 26,000 personnel are currently engaged in the effort; the largest deployment in 15 years.

As we fight these fires, firefighter and public safety are the number one consideration in all Forest Service wildfire management decisions. The agency's goal – and my goal – is for every firefighter to come home safely from every wildfire assignment. This season, however, has brought with it tragic loss of life. I join you and our colleagues mourning the loss of eight brave firefighters in California and Washington, including David Ruhl, an employee of the Black Hills National Forest in Region 2.

We are also aware of changes – dramatic increases – in the costs of wildland fire. Fire now consumes more than half (52%) of the Forest Service budget, up from 16% in 1995. Fire transfer has just hit the Region. In 10 years, that number will likely be 67%, reducing our capacity to invest in non-fire programs including restoration, which can reduce

the risks of severe wildland fire. The agency has reached a tipping point and needs a budget solution that addresses both deterioration in non-fire programs and the stress of fire transfer.

Amid these nation-wide changes and stressors, we have also seen changes in the Region. I and the Regional Forester Team wish all of our employees entering new positions of leadership the very best.

- Brian Ferebee, former R2 Deputy Regional Forester, has assumed his new role in Washington, DC as Associate Deputy Chief for NFS.
- Jacque Buchanan, former R2 Director of Renewable Resources, has joined us as the new Deputy Regional Forester. We will be advertising for a new Renewable Resource Director shortly.
- Glenn Casamassa has also accepted the position of Associate Deputy Chief for NFS in the WO. A new Forest Supervisor on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland will be selected this fall.
- Cheri Ford has left her role as the Colorado State Liaison to be the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Salmon-Challis National Forest in the Intermountain Region.
- Kevin Atchley, former District Ranger on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the ARP, was recently named Supervisor on the Nebraska National Forest and Grassland.
- Debbie Bogus, former Regional Budget Officer, is now serving in a WO virtual position; we will select a new budget director this fall.

OPM Security Breach

What we know now

OPM recently discovered two separate but related cybersecurity incidents that have impacted the data of Federal government employees, contractors, and others:

In April 2015, OPM discovered that the personnel data of 4.2 million current and former Federal government employees had been stolen. This means information such as full name, birth date, home address and Social Security Numbers were affected. This number has not changed since it was announced by OPM in early June and you should have already received a notification if you were impacted.

While investigating this incident, in early June 2015, OPM discovered that additional information had been compromised: including background investigation records of current, former, and prospective Federal employees and contractors. OPM and the interagency incident response team have concluded with high confidence that sensitive information, including the Social Security Numbers (SSNs) of 21.5 million individuals, was stolen from the background investigation databases. This includes 19.7 million individuals that applied for a background investigation, and 1.8 million non-applicants, primarily spouses or co-habitants of applicants. Some records also include findings from

interviews conducted by background investigators and approximately 1.1 million include fingerprints. Usernames and passwords that background investigation applicants used to fill out their background investigation forms were also stolen. Notifications for this incident have not yet begun.

While background investigation records do contain some information regarding mental health and financial history provided by applicants and people contacted during the background investigation, there is no evidence that health, financial, payroll and retirement records of Federal personnel or those who have applied for a Federal job were impacted by this incident (for example, annuity rolls, retirement records, USA JOBS, Employee Express).

OPM and an interagency team from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have been investigating these incidents, and are working to put in place changes that will prevent similar thefts in the future. Based on the analysis and forensics to date, the interagency incident response team assesses that the adversary is no longer active on OPM's network. At this point, it is most likely that no new significant information about exfiltration will be found regarding these incidents.

For the latest information, press releases, updated FAQs, and a place to get on a mailing list for email updates about the security breach go to:

<https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity>

We Came, We Saw, We Stayed Dry



These are the brave souls that journeyed to Ireland on the Rocky Mountaineers inaugural international trip. Most of us spent a fair amount of time in the pubs and we learned two important Irish words - "craic" (crack) - a fun atmosphere with good conversation and "Slainte!" (SLAWN-chuh) - Cheers!

Trip to Europe with the Rocky Mountaineers is **SOLD OUT**

Our trip to the lake country of northern Italy and the Alps of Switzerland and Austria in September, 2016 is sold out.

We have filled all 42 available slots over one year before the trip.

This allows all of the "early birds" to receive a 10% discount by paying in advance (FS retirees are a smart and thrifty bunch). All travelers will receive an additional 10% discount from the Rocky Mountaineers at the end of the trip.

If you were thinking about going with us, but never got around to signing up, we have started a standby list in case we have any cancellations. Just send us an email and we'll add you to the list.

Want to go with us on a future trip? We are still thinking about our next destination in 2017 or beyond. Send us an email and let us know where you would like to go.

Retirees on the Move

Updates on vacations and getaways

by Allan and Beth Green



Gullfoss, one of Iceland's many glacial waterfalls

Allan Green and his wife Beth, from the Durango CO area, spent 18 wonderful days in July with a small tour group, visiting Iceland and Greenland. Allan is a retiree, having worked as a recreation and forest planner on the San Juan NF and District Ranger on the Routt NF.

The group toured Iceland by bus, plane, and boat for 14 days. The rugged, mostly treeless land had many volcanos and geothermal areas, and few people – 320,000 in the entire country. The landscape was filled with vivid contrasts, from lush green hayfields to brilliant wildflowers and stark black lava flows and beaches.

Some of the things that would be interesting to Forest Service folks include:

- Reforestation, especially in the north, is done by private citizens using mostly conifer species from Russian and other European countries. The island was forested when first settled in the 800s, but most trees were cut for firewood and building materials, and did not regenerate.

- Icelanders tend to prefer open space over dense forests.

- Sheep are scattered in small numbers throughout the mountains and valleys, compared to the large bands of 1,000 or more we see here in the western US. They are gathered in the fall and sorted in large, circular pens.

- There are some dairy cattle and very few beef cattle. Iceland is quite strict about allowing any animals into the country, in order to protect its livestock from disease. If a prized Icelandic horse is taken out of the country for any reason, it may not return – ever.

- The water is pure and plentiful, flowing in small streams and large rivers from numerous glaciers.

- Iceland has many spectacular waterfalls, and geothermal energy generates electricity, heats homes and businesses, and warms a multitude of community swimming pools throughout the country.

- People are very friendly, and towns and countryside alike are remarkably clean, well-kept, and devoid of trash.



A black sand beach in southern Iceland - the black sand is volcanic in origin

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The ice-filled fjord in Kulusuk, East Greenland

After touring Iceland, a small group of seven flew to Greenland. This spectacular island is the largest in the world, four times the size of Texas, with a population of less than 60,000. Most people live on the south and southwest coast. Only 4,000 people live in all of East Greenland, where we stayed.

The interior is solid rock, roadless, and covered by glaciers and deep snowpack.

Most people in East Greenland are Inuit. Greenland is an autonomous part of the Danish kingdom, and depends heavily on Denmark for financial support. In exchange, Denmark has a trade monopoly, supplying all imported goods, mostly by ship. The villages we visited receive three

to four supply ships each summer, and their wharves are filled with shipping containers holding the goods they need throughout the year. That includes all food that is not harvested from the sea, since there is no agriculture in that district.

Transportation between villages is by boat when pack ice allows (only a few months of the year) and helicopter. The few vehicles in the villages are mostly owned by government agencies.

People rely instead on ATVs, snowmobiles, and especially dogsleds.

We had an amazing, informative trip, and highly recommend it.

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Ed Duran

Regional Office Photo Lab

Retiree Class of 1998 – 30 Years of Service

Ed enjoys relaxing at his home in Denver’s Harvey Park neighborhood

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Ed Duran: My parents were from Las Vegas, New Mexico and my dad was a chef here in Denver. I was born in Colorado General Hospital and grew up in Denver. I have two brothers and a sister and I went to West High.

TR: Talk about your first jobs before you hired on with the Forest Service.

ED: I had lots and lots of jobs. I delivered the Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Post. I did some farm work and I was a “cuber,” the guy who makes ice cubes down at the old Maddox Ice house - for 50 cents an hour. And I worked at a number of candy factories in town including Brecht’s and Alderson’s.

Then I had a chance to work for a reproduction company named Rapidac Reproduction for four years; it was a printer and photo developing shop along with making copies and blueprints. I started as just a trimmer/helper but then later learned to run just about all the machines in the shop - for \$1.65 per hour - including the Ozalid Machine.

TR: What the heck is an Ozalid machine and why did the Forest Service need one?

ED: Haha. Basically Ozalid is a process of printing positive images on paper from patterns on film or other translucent media. It’s kind of like creating a

photograph using chemically treated paper. We mainly used it for making copies of electrical, mechanical and civil engineering blueprints. Also for the visitor maps. The reason it’s so nice is that it produces an image very close to the finished work and field folks loved to work with it to mark up their work and make changes.

TR: Tell us about getting your first job with the Forest Service.

ED: In 1969 I heard about a couple of jobs at the same time. One was at Lowry Air Force Base and the other was for the U.S. Forest Service. They were similar positions in Photo Labs, and both called with a job, so I had to make a decision. I think my only concern I had about working for the Forest Service would be that they were going to be “too G.I.” for me. Too strict and not let me just do my job. I was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed my job every day.

TR: What was the importance of the Photo Lab and which staff groups did you support?

ED: We supported all the staff groups in the Regional Office and all the forests too. Engineering and Timber and all the forests with their visitor maps. Even the Public Affairs group and Larry Simmons, the graphic artist, who brought in brochures and pamphlets and all sorts of odd jobs.

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TR: There weren't a lot of Hispanics in the workforce when you entered. Was that a big deal?

ED: Not to me. I was raised to respect everyone. I tried to prove myself and work hard every day. I got along with everybody. There wasn't a job I didn't like. I loved all my work because I was allowed to do it. I observed and figured out a way to do my job easier.



Left, Ron Fox, assistant camera operator and Ed Duran show off the copy camera.

TR: What was the Copy Camera and what was it used for?

ED: The used to call it the "dinosaur" because it weighed a ton. It was about twenty feet long and the

big lens ran on a long rail back and forth and could make negatives up to 42 inches by 42 inches. We used it primarily for line work, visitor maps and sometimes for aerial photography and could really make big beautiful prints and copies.

TR: We were told you used to give great Boy Scout tours of the Photo Lab.

ED: We didn't give a lot of them because of all the equipment and chemicals we had in the lab, but I always enjoyed showing kids where we worked and what we did. But one time I remember a pretty rowdy group and I asked for a volunteer to show them what would happen if they got out of line. I helped him step into the revolving door to the darkroom and then left him with Harry Temple in the dark. I came back out to the group and we could hear him on the other side of the door asking for help. When I spun the door and made him reappear to the group, they all were quiet and we had a very nice tour.

TR: What the heck is rubylith?

ED: We used a lot of it over the years in the Photo Lab. Rubylith is really two films sandwiched together. The bottom layer is a clear polyester backing sheet and the top layer is a translucent, red-colored self adhesive emulsion. We used it with most everything in the Photo Lab to mask off areas and then let foresters and others make changes to reflect what was happening in the forest. The region's blaster, Ray Adolphson, and Beetle Bailey, the bugs guy, are two guys that used our products a lot.

TR: Do you have any advice to young folks just entering the Forest Service?

ED: If you do your job; in three years you can be the best at it, if you apply yourself.

TR: Who were some of the folks you worked with during your career?

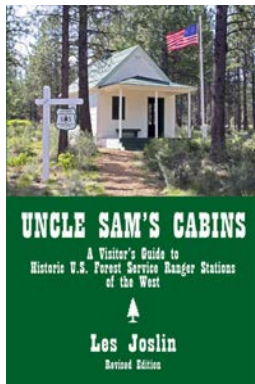
ED: Oh I worked with so many good people I know I'll forget someone...Larry Simmons, Ron Fox, Lloyd Newland. My first boss Joe Merrill and Ed Stein. Ed Williams and Harry Temple and Al Walters and Randy Williams. Don Cioeta, George Ortiz and Pete Ricker. Ron Carter and Dave Wolf and Andre Quoisman all were great to work with.

TR: What's keeping you busy these days?

ED: My wife, Marrinita and I have five grandchildren and three great grandchildren that keep us on the run. I still enjoy fishing, although I don't fish enough.



Ed Duran receiving yet another Certificate of Merit - circa 1971.



Uncle Sam's Cabins

by Les Joslin

Grizzly Creek Ranger Station *Routt National Forest, Colorado*

Ranger George McClanahan completed the historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station cabin—now

called Grizzly Creek Guard Station—in 1922 as part of a proposed tree nursery and research center. He designed and used his woodworking skills to construct this log cabin to U.S. Forest Service specifications and added his own style to the structure by using full dovetail joints at the corners. Instead of serving the original purpose, the cabin along with a ranger's house and barn became a ranger station at which Ranger McClanahan and his family lived during the summer months he spent on his Routt National Forest district.

Ranger McClanahan used the station until 1929 when his office was moved to Walden. The house was torn down in 1932 and the cabin became a guard station for one or two Forest Service men working in the area. By 1961 the foundation was rotting and the roof was in bad shape, but the cabin was otherwise sound and in good shape. Since the Routt National Forest lacked repair funds and the cabin had been declared an excess facility, it was almost moved to a museum in Wyoming. But the people of Jackson County objected, and the Parks Ranger District decided to restore it as a recreation and heritage resource.

Restoration work began in 1999. The cabin, last used in 1987, was overrun by critters. Foxes and skunks lived beneath it. Rodent nests filled the spaces under cabinets, appliances were unusable, and the rusted sink was plumbed with duct tape. Daylight could be seen through the roof. Light fixtures were broken. Because of its historic status, repairs had to be faithful to its original appearance. A new fence was built to resemble the one in 1930s photographs, and new propane



Ranger George McClanahan and his family in front of Grizzly Creek Ranger Station in the early 1920s.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

tanks were hidden from view. By 2002, 80 years after it was built, the historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station cabin was restored to historic and safety standards.

Ranger McClanahan's restored two-room cabin stands as an excellent example of the pioneer construction techniques Forest Service rangers employed before formal engineering standards and designs were introduced. He located it along an access road into the national forest at a site close to water. It is now available for rent by the public under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Rental revenues pay for its maintenance.

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*Historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station, Routt National Forest, Colorado, after restoration.
U.S. Forest Service photograph*

Access: Historic grizzly Creek Ranger Station is 25 miles southwest of Walden. From Walden, take Colorado Highway 14 about 15 miles southwesterly to Hebron Junction. Turn west (right) onto Jackson County Road 24 and drive about 12 miles to the Routt National Forest Boundary. The station is located right next to the forest boundary on the south (left) side of the road. From Steamboat Springs, take U.S. Highway 40 east toward Kremmling for 15 miles, turn north on Colorado Highway 14 toward Walden, drive 20 miles north to Hebron Junction, turn west (left) onto Jackson County Road 24 and drive 12 miles to the cabin on the national forest boundary.

*Les Joslin is author of **Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West**, the revised edition of which was published in 2012, and is editor of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's quarterly **OldSmokeys Newsletter**. Les appreciates the assistance of Kolleen Kralick, Ph.D., Heritage Program Manager, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, for assistance in preparing this article.*

Remembrances



Helen M. Estep

Helen M. Estep of Montrose passed away on July 19, 2015 at her residence at the age of 78. Helen was born in Norwood, Colorado on July 28, 1936 to Manson G. and Gertrude R. (Brummitt) Estep.

She spent most of her childhood in Montrose, where she also attended school. Helen was a Personnel Assistant for the Forest Service in Montrose on the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forests.

Helen was a faithful volunteer at Montrose Memorial Hospital, the Valley Manor Care Center, and The Ute Museum in Montrose for many years. She was a member of R.S.V.P. Helen was an avid traveler and enjoyed crocheting and reading.

Helen is survived by her brothers, J.D. Estep of Cortez, Co; Al (Donna) Estep of Belton, TX; her sister Joyce (Paul) Pirnat of Bentonville, Ar.



Robert Gibbs Gnam

Robert (Bob) G. Gnam passed away on 17 June 2015 in Grand Junction, Colorado, at the age of 91. Born on 16 November 1923 in Cheyenne, WY, to Ethel and Julius Gnam, he served six years in the U.S. Navy between 1941-1947. Shortly after, he enrolled at

University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY, where he met his future wife Vivian L. Oien and received a degree in Geology. Bob and Vivian married on 28 June 1952, and moved to Utah where Bob worked for Shell Oil Company for a brief time.

In 1954, he started a 24-year career with the US Forest Service in Denver, Colorado (Federal Center) as Mining Claims Examiner, and then as Branch Chief, covering the National Forests in Wyoming, South Dakota, and Colorado. He retired from the Forest Service in 1978.

Odean M. Borgen

Odean M. Borgen, died on September 4, 2015. He was born Nov. 2, 1930, in Veblen, SD, to Ole Borgen and Nora (Mannin) Borgen. He was a General District Assistant on the District and Fire Management Assistant on the Black Hills National Forest.

A Custer resident for most of his life, Odean attended Custer schools and graduated from Custer High School in 1950. His life reflects a history of community service to Custer, both as a volunteer ambulance driver and as a volunteer Fire Fighter in the Custer Fire Department.

Bob had a short stint with AMAX Molybdenum, then he and Vivian traveled around the United States, Canada, and Mexico for another 4-5 years before settling in the ranching community of Lewis, Colorado. In the mid 1990's they moved to Grand Junction with a great view of the Grand Mesa.

He loved his profession and the wilderness. Even in retirement he carried canvas bags, a pick, and a shovel in his car and truck for years – always looking for the interesting rock formations and mineral specimens. Bob is preceded in death by his wife, Vivian, who passed away in 2011. He is survived by their three daughters Cynthia V. Gnam of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Valerie C. Tucker of Grand Junction, Colorado, and Jennifer D. Jurassic of Pueblo, Colorado; two grandsons Nikola and Zachary; two granddaughters Jacquelynn and Jeska; and one great-granddaughter Raegan.

He had a great appreciation for life in the Black Hills and a preference for “out-of-doors” work and recreation. After retiring from the Forest Service in 1982, Odean enjoyed ranching, hunting and fishing. He served his Country in the National Guard and was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War.

Odean is survived by his wonderful family and many close friends.

Remembrances



James Robert "Zeke" Hylle

James Robert "Zeke" Hylle, 69, beloved by his wife, children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, and extended family and friends passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in Casa Grande, AZ.

Jim was born on August 16, 1945, in Miller, SD, to loving parents David A. and Delores A. (Ernesti) Hylle. He grew up in Custer, with his six brothers and sisters and graduated from high school in 1963. He attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, and Black Hills State College in Spearfish. He married Marjorie O'Brien in 1968 and they had three children, Colleen,

Katie, and Shaun. They divorced in 1991. He married Marie Miles on St. Patrick's Day 2001.

He retired in 2002, after a 37-year career with the USDA Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest. He was the Forest Fleet Manager when he retired. His last 13 years were spent fully enjoying his retirement by playing lots of golf and spending time with his family and friends. His easy smile and laid back attitude will be missed by all.

Survivors include his wife, Marie; his children, Colleen Hylle of Dublin, GA, Katie (Juan) Morales of Lakeland, FL, and Shaun (Amanda) Hylle of Hot Springs; his stepdaughter, Marjorie (Praveen Rao) Miles of San Francisco, CA; his nine grandchildren, two sisters, and four brothers.



Lisa Ann Fisher

Lisa Ann Fisher passed on June 17, 2015 after a 25 year battle with Anti-Phospholipid Syndrome (APLS), an auto-immune disease that causes blood clots. She was a valiant fighter and won all the

previous clotting episodes; this time it caused her heart too to overcome many problems. She was born in 1959.

Lisa was passionate about the outdoors which drew her to a career with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. She attended the University of Montana on a basketball scholarship and graduated with a degree in Forestry and Recreation Management. Lisa's first "job" was as a volunteer working at Glen Canyon NRA interviewing people and gathering oral histories. She developed a love for indigenous peoples and the history left behind in petroglyphs, pictographs, and structures. She attended seasonal LE training in Santa Rosa, and accepted budget clerk position at Bryce Canyon NP. Here she enjoyed rappelling, rafting and discovered she loved running into burning buildings.

Her next adventure was in Everglades NP as permanent front-country and boat patrol LE Ranger. She loved going out in her boat fishing, catching lobster, watching birds, turtles and manatees, and camping on the chickees

(raised platforms above the water where you could put your tent). Still toying with the idea of a career in fire she accepted a foreman position on the El Dorado Hotshot crew. During this time she had the opportunity to go to Camp Pendleton in CA to train a crew of new firefighters and take them on a fire assignment in Oregon. She was humbled and honored when they presented her with a Marine Corps shovel and "challenge coin".

Deciding she loved law enforcement she accepted a LEO job on the Inyo NF. Most days off were spent cutting firewood, hiking, BBQs, home brewing beer, and camping trips. Lisa's next adventure was on the Deschutes & Ochoco NFs as patrol captain. After that, she returned to Missoula as a patrol commander for R1 where she also attended all the Lady Griz basketball games. Deciding she wanted to do one more thing before retiring, she moved to Golden, CO and accepted an Assistant Director with Job Corps. She was deeply inspired by the students.

She leaves behind a legacy of strong and compassionate leadership. Lisa was a natural born leader and mentor. She was a gifted athlete and enjoyed competitive marathons, half-marathons, swimming, softball, basketball, running, hiking, and water skiing. She was passionate about triathlons and cycling. She is survived by her partner Margot Bucholtz, who is a current R2 employee.

Remembrances



David John (Dave) Ruhl

David “Dave” John Ruhl, 38, died Friday, July 31, 2015, at the Modoc National Forest in Adin, CA.

Dave was born on May 9, 1977, in Thornton, CO, to John Ruhl and Pamela Sachs. He

graduated in 1995 from Whitewater High School in Whitewater, WI, and immediately joined the United States Coast Guard. He was an MK2 Machinery Technician on active duty during the Gulf War and was stationed on the USCG Mackinaw and USCG Chippewa. Dave was honorably discharged in 1999.

He then moved to Pierre, SD, where he became employed with the South Dakota State Women’s Prison as a correctional officer. This is where he met the love of his life, Erin, who was also a correctional officer at the prison. Dave and Erin were married on Oct. 23, 2004, and blessed with two children, Tyler and Ava.

Dave had a deep love for his faith, family, and life as a firefighter. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, bicycling, hockey, and being outdoors, but mostly spending time with his family and friends. Dave was an avid Denver Broncos and Colorado Avalanche fan.

Dave’s career with the U.S. Forest Service began in May 2001 with the Fort Pierre National Grassland as a seasonal firefighter rising to the rank of

an Assistant Engine Captain. In 2008, he transferred to the Dubois Ranger District in Dubois, ID, and became an Engine Captain. In 2010, he transferred to the Mystic Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. He took advantage of every available opportunity to become more knowledgeable about his profession and took on many temporary assignments nationwide in an effort to broaden his firefighting experience and to improve his skills as he was very passionate about his job.

He loved his fire family and always made sure they had every available opportunity to further them in their careers. Dave was a huge advocate of the Wildland Firefighter Foundation and encouraged other firefighters to become members.

Dave was also a volunteer firefighter for the Pierre Fire Department, Pierre Rural Fire Department, Pierre Rescue and Dive Squad through the Pierre Fire Department, and was a volunteer for Clark County EMS in Dubois, ID. He was actively involved with coaching his son Tyler’s youth hockey team and played hockey himself.

Dave is survived by his wife Erin, son Tyler, and daughter Ava, of Rapid City, SD.



Fallen Firefighter Dave Ruhl returns home to the Black Hills

The Last Word

The Family Connection

by Tom Thompson

A few weeks ago I opened a letter from Mary Ann Ott. She offered her thanks for the memorial service in May that honored thirty-three former Rocky Mountain Region folks. The Ott family was well represented at the gathering in Monument on May 2nd. Both Mary Ann's first husband Bill Rawlings, who died in 1959, and her second husband Jack, who died this past year, are now honored at the Memorial Grove. The letter and the memories recorded in it reaffirmed just how special and important having this tradition is in Region 2, but Mary Ann's letter also brought home to me what wonderful stories there are about families who have experienced and been a part of the Forest Service.

In her letter, Mary Ann remembers her early years in the late fifties living at 25 Mesa Ranger Station up on the Uncompahgre Plateau with no electricity (shown in center of the map). She was able to go into Delta every two weeks

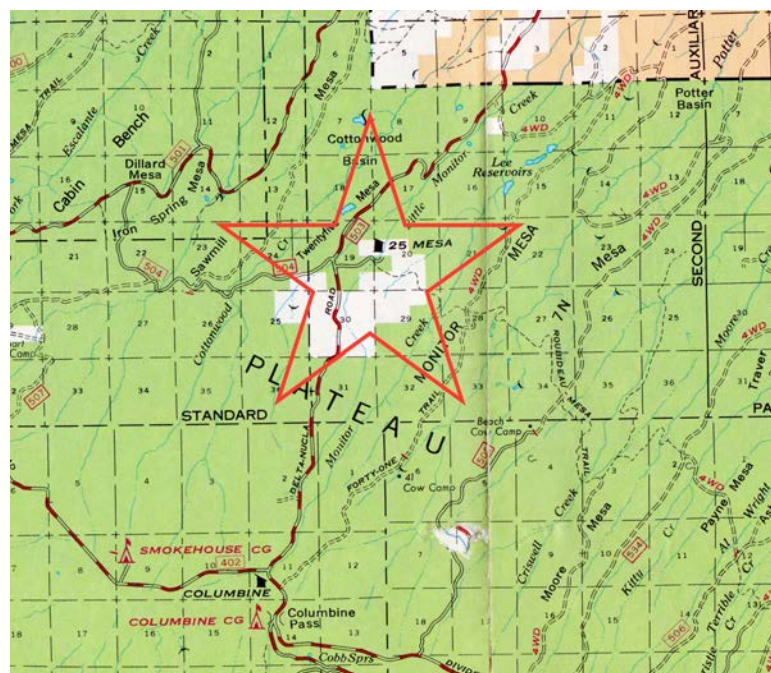
to get groceries and while she shopped Forest Service wives would watch her three youngsters. Mary Ann wrote that "It really was a close knit family in those days." She also shares how she cooked meals during the week for the Forest Service personnel who were up on the plateau doing field work. She writes about the time spent in the evenings listening to rangers' stories around the fireplace that left an impression on her and her young family.

Over the years I have enjoyed listening to many members of Forest Service families as they share memories of their roots and it is amazing what an

influence those connections have as the years pass by. Whether it is love of the woods and outdoors, knowing the difference between the Park Service and the Forest Service, or just knowing what the difference is between a spruce and a pine, there are countless examples of how growing up in the Forest Service left a lasting mark on who an individual is, what their values are, and in some cases what they do ultimately do with their life.

This influence is easily seen with the record of so many young men and women following the footsteps of a Forest Service parent into a

similar career, whether it is as an engineer, forester, biologist, firefighter, or any one of many other paths. But for those whose chosen career doesn't follow along the same path, the influence is quite often still evident and very significant.



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It is enriching to listen to the Ott family or the Molinari, Ball, Hendry, Palpant, Rankin, Rorvig, or Versaw families tell their stories and offer their thanks for having been influenced by being a part of the Forest Service. This is not a yesterday thing. It is just as true today as it was in days gone by.

Each of us is a part of this reality in some way and it is not just the influence or imprint that is made on a son or daughter or grandchild. Through our connections the Forest Service also touches the

brother, a sister, a niece, a nephew, a cousin, and the neighbor kid as well. Our example, our values, our knowledge, our experiences, and our stories weave their way to and through others. These connections may seem small and insignificant, but over time they become the “ties that bind” so to speak.

As most of us went about our careers in the Forest Service, we probably didn’t understand or realize how much influence we might

have on others around us, especially family. Without a doubt, the legacy of the Forest Service is not only what the agency does but what the people in the agency do throughout their careers and who they end up influencing. Pausing and reflecting on this at Memorial Grove is definitely a good thing, but perhaps more satisfying would be to do it before our families gather at Memorial Grove to remember us.



***Thompson family atop 13,420 ft. Baldy Cinco on Rio Grande
National Forest in July, 1991***