



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 4 - Number 1

Pershing's Call For Help

Foresters and Lumbermen needed!

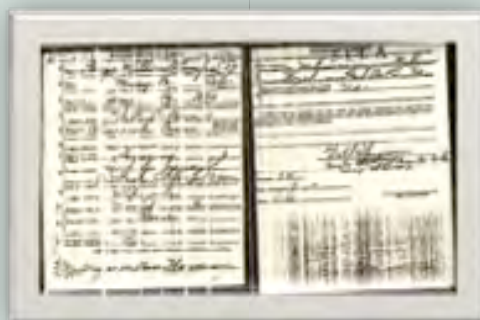
by Tom Thompson

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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.

As we welcome the year 2017, it appropriate that we recognize what was happening a hundred years ago in the early part of 1917. The storm of Great War had burst upon the world's nations and the ravages and consequences of the war were being felt in America. Many of our country's young men were filling out draft registration cards, like my grandfather's shown here,



as our nation was poised to enter what would become known as the 1st World War. This decision on April 6, 1917 to take up arms across the Atlantic would have a

profound impact on our country, its people, and the course of history.

The Forest Service and many of its young and spirited rangers were called upon to play a significant role in the war. It is nearly impossible to know how many in the Forest Service served the country in this time of need, but we know a great many did.

We know that many in District 2 went, and at least five, who are honored at our Memorial Grove, did not return. Harold K. Steen acknowledges in his book that the War impacted the Forest Service greatly and organization was "sapped by loss of men to the Army."

Most of the over 750 ranger stations nationwide at that time had only one or two rangers, so the impact of having a ranger go off to war was hugely significant.

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It was a terrible war and millions lost their lives in Europe during this period of upheaval. Our nation had not experienced this kind of event in a great long while and the hardship and difficulty of the war spread across our nation as well and most everyone was impacted in some way. Helen Dowe, who is well known for being the Devil's Head lookout at this time, had her



U.S. Army general John J. Pershing (1860-1948) commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in Europe during World War I.

opportunity because there was a shortage of qualified men to fill the void created by the drafting of so many in the Forest Service.

Shortly after the state of war existed, plans and

preparations were made to develop a major effort to create a force of forest engineers to provide support to the overall war effort in Europe. This was the first time in the history of American military operations that an operation was focused on lumbering and production of massive amounts of wood products needed to conduct successful operations. Initially the organization was centered on the creation of the Tenth

Reserve Engineers (Forestry) through an emergency measure on May 17, 1917. The Tenth Regiment consisted of two battalions of three companies each. Throughout the summer of '17 recruitment and training commenced. Training was done outside Washington, D.C. and the Tenth shipped out on thirteen ships in early September. The Tenth arrived in Great Britain and made their way on to France to various locations.

During the summer, General Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force, realized that an even greater need to expand the forestry effort would be needed to support the massive buildup of troops. By the time the Tenth had arrived in France, orders and plans were being made filled to mobilize another regiment of over eight thousand men and officers. This regiment was the Twentieth Engineers (Forestry) and initially consisted of ten battalions of forestry experts, officers, and sawmill and logging men. The ranks were made up of men from the Engineer Enlisted Reserve Corps, from recruitment, from the Forest Service, and from the draft. The unit was the largest Regiment in the Army with ultimately over 30,000 men. A large proportion of whom came from the northern woods where there was more population and consequently more logging and sawmilling, but many, many came from the Rocky Mountains and the other western parts of the country.

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The Forest Service was instrumental in the formation of the Twentieth as professionals were recruited and trained from within the young agency's ranks to serve. Even the Chief Forester, Henry S. Graves and Assistant Chief Forester, William B. Greeley, temporarily left the outfit to join the Twentieth as Lieutenant Colonels in the Central Headquarters in Tours, France. Close to home here in the Rocky Mountains in what was then known as District 2 of the Forest Service, many rangers volunteered. Alan S. Peck, who after the War would become District and then Regional Forester for the Region, also served as Lieutenant Colonel in the Central Headquarters. He would be known as Colonel Peck for the rest of his life.

The need for wood materials was great. Each month, the Army needed up to 50,000,000 board feet of lumber and timber, 250,000 railroad ties, 6,500 pieces of piling and cribbing, 1,500,000 poles and entanglements stakes, 100,000 cords of fuelwood. Lumber was needed for boxes, bunkers, shipping, buildings, bridges, and coffins.

In a summary of the Twentieth's accomplishments, W. B. Greeley, who would become Chief Forester in 1920, wrote:

In an incredibly short time, this regiment established an enormous lumber industry in France. It erected, moved, and reset sawmills at a rate which would take away the breath of the peace-time operator. When equipment was lacking, it improvised the tools needed out of any odds and ends of material available. It broke records of lumber production so fast that we could scarcely keep the count. It attained and held a reputation in the Army for being always on the job and for more than good in the work expected of it. Its record is reflected in the recommendations made to the War Department by high Engineer officers that when such an organization can be gotten together and thrown overseas in so short a time there is no necessity for including lumber manufacture in the training of the regular Engineers.

Notwithstanding the rapid expansion of the size of the Expeditionary Force beyond all earlier estimates and the corresponding increase in its demands for timber, the Army was kept well supplied with the vital necessity of modern warfare. The 20th Engineers, including of course the 10th Engineers and the battalions organized originally for road work, delivered the good; and should be a source of lasting pride and gratification to every member of this organization who had a part in its splendid achievements.

William B. Greeley
Colonel--- 20th Engineers

Lieutenant

The war ended with the signing of Armistice of November 11, 1918 but most of the Twentieth stayed in France for another six months to rebuild roads and do restoration work. Of the total of nearly 117,000 Americans who lost their lives in this war, it was estimated that 375 men in the 20th Engineers died either in France or in the sinking of the *Tuscania* by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland in November 1917. Ninety-five of the 20th Engineers were lost in this sinking.

Only about ten per cent of the regiment carried weapons on what was considered the front line and still there were nearly two hundred lost to enemy action in France. Among those were two young rangers from Colorado and Wyoming who were both in the 7th Battalion of the Twentieth Regiment: Thomas V. Keefe, a lieutenant, and Horace B. Quivey, a private. Three other District 2 individuals in other units also died in service there.

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Lots of things have happened in the last century and it is easy to forget the sacrifices made and hardships endured by those of this era of history. It is a time that has been overshadowed by more recent events and generations. This year is a time to pause and remember that these were people very similar to many of us in their love for conservation and passion to work for the outfit called the U.S. Forest Service.

References:

- o Twentieth Engineers: World War I: <http://www.20thengineer.com>
- o World War I: 10th and 20th Forestry Engineers: <http://www.foresthistory.org>
- o [The U. S. Forest Service, A History: Harold K. Steen, University of Washington Press, 1976](#)

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Welcome from our new chair



Nancy Warren - chair of the Rocky Mountaineers

Happy new year! At the end of a year, I often feel a little sad, having to take down the Christmas tree, say farewell to visitors, and try to lose the 5 or so extra pounds I packed on during the holidays! It certainly helps to have some interesting things to look forward to in the coming year. I am excited to begin my term serving as the chair of the Rocky Mountaineers.

It's the 4th year of our young, vibrant organization, which is now one of the largest of the Forest Service associations at around 400 members. Membership in the Rocky Mountaineers is a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and colleagues, maybe make a few new friends, keep up on current events in the agency, and join in with some Forest Service-centered philanthropy. I feel fortunate to be part of it.

I'd like to thank Dan Nolan for bringing a lot of energy, enthusiasm and good humor to serving as chair in 2016. I hope you saw his recent email highlighting some of the many activities and accomplishments last year. We'll do our best to keep the momentum going in 2017.

We were due for some changes in area representatives, and there was quite a bit of turnover recently. We owe a big thank you to Lee Carr, Karen Bergethon, and Frank Cross for their service and spark, and welcome their successors Bob Sprentall, Brent Botts and Craig Bobzien, as well as Jackie Parks for the new northern Front Range area. Jim Thinnies has also agreed to be the liaison to the Denver-area group. A lot of the action of course happens at the local level and the area representatives play a key role in sharing information, building membership, encouraging activities and keeping people connected. By the way, Becky Aus is looking for someone to take the reins for the Bighorn/Shoshone parts of Wyoming; let us know if you are interested.

I hope to see many of you in the coming year. Keep an eye on the web site for information about upcoming events, and be sure to let me or any of our board members know if you have suggestions for continuing to improve the Rocky Mountaineers. And I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the beauty and splendor of our national forests!

Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship – 2017

Call for Applicants

We are currently accepting applications for the 2017 Rocky Mountaineer Annual Scholarship of \$1500!

This is an opportunity for high school seniors to apply for this scholarship. Don't pass this up! Applicants are asked to provide written responses to a series of broad-based topics, showcase their current academic and extra-curricular strengths and describe their future goals.

MANDATORY: Applicants must be sponsored by a current Rocky Mountaineers member.

Scholarship information and application forms can be found at our website <http://rockymountaineers.us> Please direct any other questions to rmountaineers@gmail.com.

Please help us spread the word! We look forward to hearing from many qualified applicants.

Membership and Finance Report

The Rocky Mountaineers finished 2016 with 401 members. We gained another 12 new lifetime memberships for a total of 70 “lifer households.”

Jim and Norma Fischer – Meridian, ID

Matty Quintana – Thornton, CO

Nancy Hollenkamp – Carlyle, IL

Larry and Phyllis Schmidt – Minden, NV

John and Lorraine McCarthy – Glenwood Springs, CO

Sandy and Herbert Smyth – Salida, CO

Mary Moyer – Portland, OR

Carol Tolbert – Laramie, WY

Bill and Lee Nightingale – Rolla, MO

Daniel and Marily Anne Wagner – Glenwood Springs, CO

Ronald and Murle Paris – Overton, NV

Keith Parrish and Lorraine Miller Parrish – Sun City West, AZ

You can become a lifetime member at any time for \$250 per household.

You can also donate to the Scholarship Fund or the Memorial Grove Fund at any time.

The Scholarship Fund is used to award an annual \$1,500 scholarship for a graduating high school senior. We have awarded scholarships since 2014 and will award our next scholarship this spring. Our donors in 2016 included :

Scholarship Fund Donors

- Bruce Holmlund in honor of Helen M. Estep and Paul M. Stewart
- Paul and Robin Langowski in memory of Clint Kyhl
- Bruce Ungari and Kathy Hardy-Ungari
- Jerry and Jeanetta Schmidt
- Sharon, Keith and Craig Kyhl in memory of Clint Kyhl
- Sig and Judi Palm
- Denny and Joyce Lynch
- Johnny and Ellen Hodges in memory of
- Clint Kohl
- Terry and Joy Armbruster
- John and Patricia Ayer
- Ronald and Patty Bauer
- Phil and LeAnn Cruz
- Kathy Kurtz
- Katherine Plym
- Ed and Mae Schultz
- Jim and Liz Torrence
- Elsie Peters
- Frank and Susan Roth

Way to go Scholars!

We thought it might be fun to update you on the academic adventures of our three scholarship recipients. Erin Glankler was the 2015 winner and Abigail Hogan and Anna Huckabee were our 2016 recipients. Enjoy reading their updates.... You'll be impressed and inspired!



Abbie Hogan

I have completed my first semester at Northwest College in Powell, Wy and I am going into my second semester right now. The Rocky Mountaineer scholarship helped me meet my financial goals and allowed me to focus on my studies.

My plans are still the same-- finish my Natural Resources Associate's degree at

Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming, and then transfer to the University of Wyoming for my Bachelor's degree in Zoology.

By far the most interesting class of the semester was my Biology class. My professor would often share interesting stories that would relate to what we were learning. We also would go out to the field and trap small mammals and tag them. It is definitely on my "favorite class" list.

The most frequent question I was asked on campus last semester was, "Is that class hard?" I always responded by stating that, if you study and do the homework, it wasn't. As long as I stayed current on the homework, the classes were not that hard.

By having this scholarship, it is allowing me to spend more time in the books studying. I'm able to enjoy my classes without worrying about how to pay for tuition this semester.



Erin Glankler

Hello, all! My name is Erin, and I am one of the recipients of the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship. I am currently a senior completing a degree in

Biomedical Science at The Ohio State University. Receiving the scholarship enabled me to continue volunteering in a cancer research lab here on campus. I presented my research, entitled "Genetic Engineering of a Novel Protein to Activate Cytotoxic Immune Cells against Multiple Myeloma"

at two research forums in the spring of 2016, including the prestigious Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. There, I was awarded second prize in the Health Professions - Laboratory/Cellular category.

After completing my research in May of 2016, I began studying for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), which is required for entrance into US medical schools. I scored in the 92nd percentile, which was absolutely thrilling!

In my final year of college, I have been focusing on giving back to others. I continue to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio, which provides housing and food to the families of seriously ill children.

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I also serve as the Vice President of Service for one of two senior class honoraries at Ohio State. So far, I have planned events ranging from tutoring children from inner city Columbus to participating in the MLK Day of Service. After graduation, I plan on taking a gap year before applying to medical schools.

I hope to use that year as a time to fully dedicate myself to service of others.

Thank you so much for all your support, and I hope you have a happy New Year!



Anna Huckabee

The University of Idaho has been an amazing school, the classes are great, and I have fallen in love with the tiny town of Moscow. The first semester is the hardest they say and it is true. I ended up moving dorms three times!!

...

When I'm not in classes I'm enjoying my time competing for the University of Idaho on our Logger sports team. We compete all over the west and in Canada; on the collegiate and professional level. This Logger sports team is basically a bunch of college kids pretending to be lumber jacks. Logger sports/ Timber sports major supporter is the chainsaw company Stihl. The events I compete in are, Axe throw, Choker race, Jack and Jill cross cut, Stock saw, Double Buck cross cut and Pole climb. Soon we start our spring travels to Canada and finish up in July in Illinois after many different competitions along the way.

.... Yes, I ended up changing majors! I originally came to Idaho to study Fire Ecology and Wild Land Management. I was the only girl and classes turned out to not be that thrilling and I also realized that I already am a firefighter!... Also, as many people can relate, it's hard to have a family, or a boyfriend or a dog or pet when you're gone all summer. I wanted to be able to find a degree that I could have a stable future and still be happy and get

what I want. I have always loved the medical side of the fire department and always loved helping on the medical calls we get. I like to help people and I am very interested in the human body and its function. Thus, I now find myself on the path of becoming an athletic trainer.

Of course, I want to keep involved in fire, so in the future I am looking to work at hot shot base as a trainer or as a Justin's Healer for the professional bull riders. As of late, I work with students and athletes at the AT Clinic and continue to be a seasonal firefighter and forest mitigator. None of this would be possible without people like you. Thank you so much for the support and kindness on my college journey.

Rocky Mountaineering in Fort Collins



L-R Sue Evans, Jean Wheeler, Robin & Rich Winston, Marla & Mike Foley



L-R Eric & Deb Jensen, Christie Lee, John Heaton, Roger Tarum



L-R Johnny Hodges, Jan and Dave Cook, Ellen Hodges



L-R Mike Parks, Marcia Patton-Mallory, Steve Ambrose



L-R Jerry Schmidt, Harold & Pat Coley, Karen & Don Rogers

Rocky Mountaineers set to take their fourth annual ski day - 1.24.17



Winter Park Ski Area

The Rocky Mountaineers fourth annual ski day will be held at Winter Park Ski Area on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. As in the past, the skiers plan to ski in the morning for a couple hours and then have lunch together at the Lunch Rock lodge between Winter Park and Mary Jane areas. Arrangements have been made to have special discounted lift tickets for everyone who doesn't have a season pass of some kind. It is always a fun and great day for all who care to join up on the slopes. Winter Park has always been a great host.

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

Again, that is Tuesday, January 24 for a great day of skiing at Mary Jane and Winter Park. Bring a friend! We will meet at the Mary Jane Base Lodge at 9 AM to get together and get tickets. We plan to return there around 2:30 PM to socialize and present a few prizes before heading home.

Reunion 2018



Asheville, North Carolina

Here's a Taste of What We Have Planned for Ya'll

It's only a start, but more is coming!

<http://2018.fsreunions.org/>

The first Southern-hosted National Forest Service Retirees Reunion will held on September 24 to 28, 2018 in Asheville, NC.

The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association (SFSRA) is thrilled to host the Forest Service Retirees and help them experience the unique ties of our Forests to the Southern Appalachians.

The web page is intended to be a helpful and growing source of information for Reunion Registration, Crown Plaza lodging Reservations, travel and overall information about the Reunion Program and Committees.

We hope to share with you more information about the history, resources and culture of the Southern Appalachians, the Cradle of Forestry, Pisgah National Forest, the Biltmore Estate, Asheville and the unique natural resources of one of the most biologically diverse regions of the nation.

SFSRA is thankful for the support and permission of the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) to host this 2018. SFSRA is an affiliate of NMFSH, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.



NAFSR REPORT

The next NAFSR Board will be meeting on February 13 and 14, 2017. Work priorities for 2017 will be set and committee assignments will be made. The Board recently released their Transition Paper and is working to distribute it widely to the new administration and to new and returning congressional representative in all states. The three central themes in NAFSR's transition recommendations are:

- 1. Bring back jobs to rural America by aggressively restoring the health, resilience and productivity of the National Forests and Grasslands**
- 2. Reform National Wildland Fire Suppression funding to bring it in line with the mechanisms used for funding other national emergencies and disasters such as hurricanes.**
- 3. Invest in new technologies and improved workforce skills to stimulate the economy of rural America by repairing infrastructure, increasing energy production, improving and sustaining recreation opportunities, and restoring the health and resilience of the nation's forests.**

The paper concludes "that much work lies ahead to rebuild the capacity of the Forest Service to increase the pace of restoration, support to local communities, and improve the opportunity for jobs in rural America. The efforts to respond to improving forest health and resilience will require reinvesting in skills and expertise that have become extremely thin in the agency. It will require an expedited recruitment process and utilizing short term actions such as contracting for services, and movement of personnel. It is a time for action, a time for accountability, and a time to replenish and strengthen the agency's ability to perform and meet the country's expectations. NAFSR firmly believes the new Administration has a unique opportunity and strong ability to change the current unacceptable condition of the nation's forests and grasslands, while improving the economic conditions in rural America, and decreasing dependence for foreign energy. NAFSR stands ready to help!"

National Museum of Forest Service History



The NMFSH Board will be meeting on February 15 and 16 for their annual in person board meeting. As a part of this meeting the Board will be taking part in a fundraising training session and will also be focusing on finalizing a new revised strategic plan for the

Museum. The Museum will be conducting a training session for teachers this spring. The training will be to prepare teachers to emphasize the importance of conservation of resources and the value of our public lands. The Museum is working to open our Museum site to the public with displays and programs in the Ranger Bungalow, which is shown to the right on the site. We would love to see more Rocky Mountaineers become members and support the Museum.



The Ranger Bungalow on site in Missoula, MT.

Plains Farms Need Trees

A History of the U.S. Forest Service and Agroforestry

by Andy Mason and Sarah Karle

Mary Peterson's article "There's a National Forest in Nebraska" in the Fall 2016 issue of *The Rendezvous* provides a great segue to explore another piece of lesser known Forest Service history that also originated in the Great Plains. If you know anything about the Forest Service, you know that our responsibility to manage national forests and grasslands began in earnest with the agency's founding in 1905. As a history buff (or if you worked in State & Private Forestry), you may also know that the 1990 Farm Bill contained the first ever Forestry Title, which authorized the Forest Service, in cooperation with State Foresters, to provide assistance to manage trees and forests in our cities and towns.

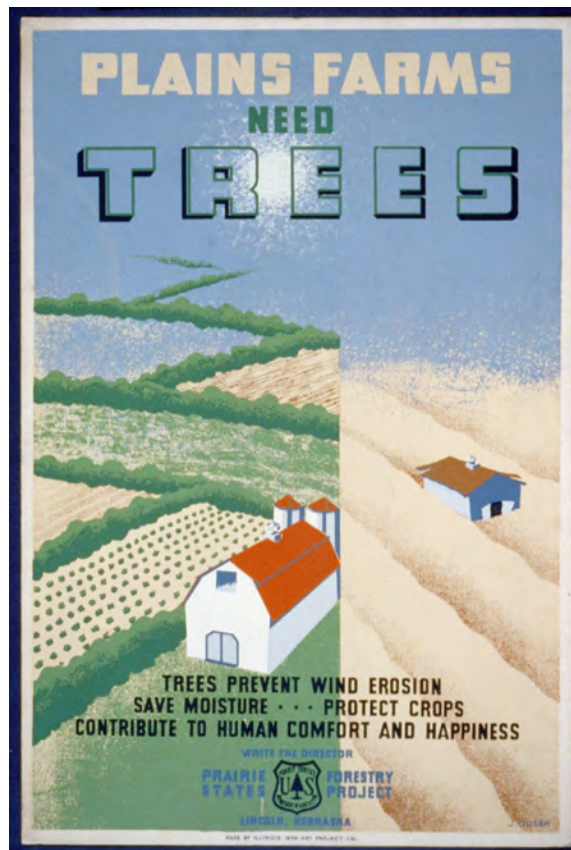
But, did you know that the Forest Service has had a long standing role in advancing the science and practice of using trees on farms that originated in the "Dirty Thirties" with the Prairie States Forestry Project (1934-42)? However, the broader concept of using "working trees" in agriculture, also known as agroforestry, only started gaining traction in the 1970s and 1980s. A commonly used definition for agroforestry today is: "the intentional mixing of trees and shrubs into crop and

animal production systems to create environmental, economic, and social benefits." In addition to windbreaks (includes shelterbelts), we recognize four other categories of agroforestry practices/systems in the U.S.: alley cropping, forest farming, riparian forest buffers, and silvopasture. Used early on to protect crop production and soil health, these practices are now designed to provide many other

services we depend on from agricultural lands.

These services include improved water and air quality, greenhouse gas mitigation especially through carbon sequestration, critical habitat for pollinators and other wildlife and aquatic species, and to diversify production. Today, the Forest Service has national agroforestry science and technology transfer responsibilities, with leadership and coordination provided by the USDA National Agroforestry Center "NAC". Located in Lincoln, Nebraska, NAC is a partnership of the agency's Research & Development and State & Private Forestry arms and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

When asked by Tom Thompson to write an article about the history of the Prairie States Forestry Project (PSFP) and USFS efforts more broadly in agroforestry, I was very fortunate to learn from NAC's Rich Straight that Sarah Karle, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, and David Karle, Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are writing a book about the project.



Early agroforestry poster created by artist Joseph Dusek between 1936-1940 (Work Projects Administration Poster Collection, Library of Congress).

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Sarah agreed to team up with me on this article and very generously provided the following brief history of the PSFP. After that I provide a brief history of USFS-led efforts in the Great Plains (initiated by the Research Branch in 1953), which evolved into the national scope of agroforestry science and technology transfer activities led by the USDA National Agroforestry Center that continue today.

Prairie States Forestry Project (1934-1942)

In 1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the New Deal's Prairie States Forestry Project to create "shelterbelts" of newly planted trees to mitigate the effects of the Dust Bowl in America's Great Plains. The project stretched from North Dakota to northern Texas and helped stabilize soil and rejuvenate farm communities affected by the dust storms. Under Roosevelt's Administration from 1934 to 1942, the program both saved the soil and relieved chronic unemployment in the region. The U.S. Forest Service was responsible for organizing the "Shelterbelt Project," later known as the "Prairie States Forestry Project." Paul H. Roberts from the agency's Research Branch directed the project that was headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When FDR came to office in 1933, the Great Plains and other regions were suffering from what would become an almost decade-

long period of economic, environmental, and social crises. Several large-scale factors led to the environmental devastation of the Dust Bowl and contributed to the economic hardships of the Great Depression, leading to the social upheavals that followed. As president, FDR used conservation projects as a job-creation tool against the Great Depression, and within months of becoming president, he devised the Prairie States Forestry Project. The project, based to some degree on Roosevelt's personal experience with forest management, was proposed as an ambitious "Great Wall of Trees" using shelterbelts across the Great Plains to reduce

thick. At the time, it was believed that shelterbelts at this spacing could intercept the prevailing winds and reduce soil and crop damage. The project used many different tree species of varying heights, including oaks and even black walnut. The plan engaged scientific knowledge with shifting political ideals, including regionalism and the role of government in the conservation of private land.

Though seemingly beneficial, the Forestry Project was ridiculed from its inception. Some professional foresters expressed doubts about its chances of success, while the general public perceived it as an outdated scheme of dubious credibility to "make rain." Despite a general lack of scientific and Congressional support, the Forest Service worked across six states with local farmers, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration to plant over 220 million trees, creating more than 18,000 miles of windbreaks on 33,000 Plains farms. Although Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps workers planted the trees and shrubs, landowners were responsible for their long-term care and maintenance. At the height of the Great Depression, the project employed thousands of residents (notably both men and women) of the Plains states and CCC members from around the country.

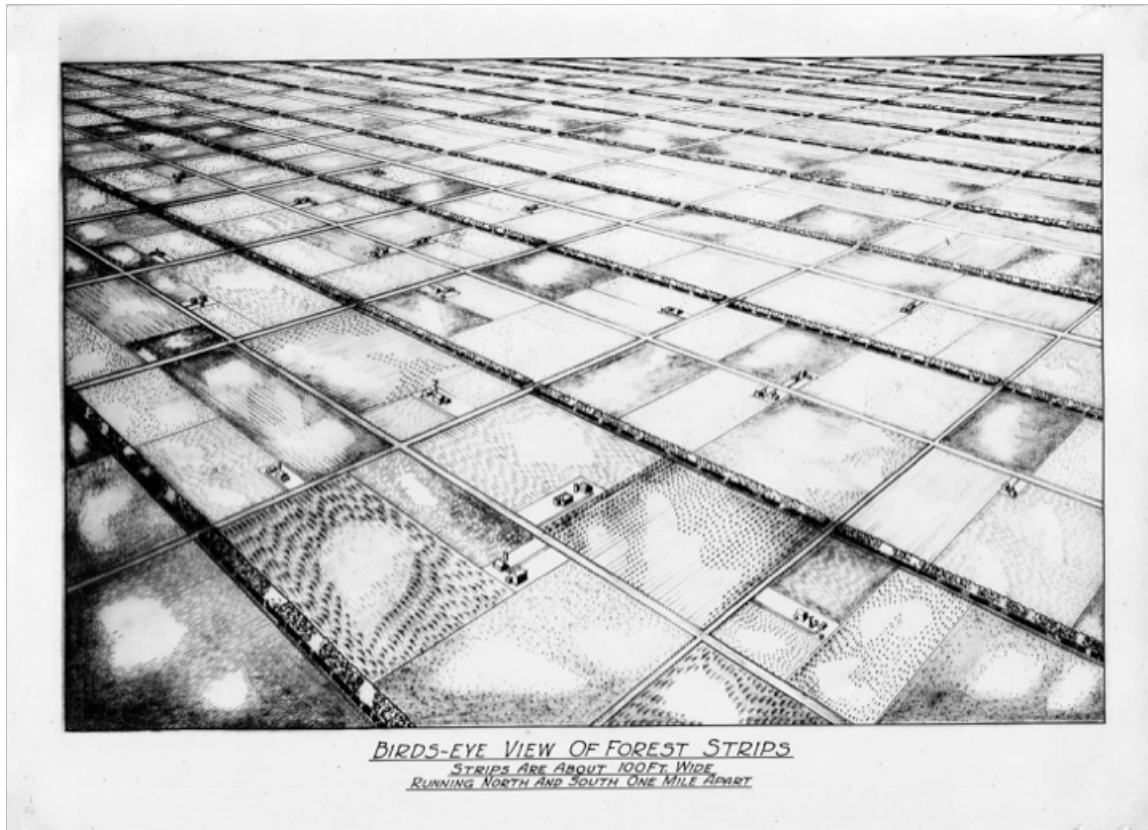


*Raphael Zon stands in front of a U.S. map showing the shelterbelt, a 2,000-mile windbreak of trees planted between crop fields.
Forest Service, USDA, courtesy of the Forest History Society*

soil wind erosion, retain moisture, and improve farming conditions. Trees were typically planted in long strips at 1-mile intervals within a belt 100 miles

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Artistic representation of shelterbelt spacing. Shelterbelt strips are planted in parallel rows following the Jeffersonian grid. Lake States Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1934. Forest Service, USDA.

The program officially ended in 1942, but by 1944 (scarcely a decade after its inception) environmental and economic benefits from these shelterbelts, including land management practices, control of wind erosion, soil conservation, cover for game birds, and the creation of snow traps along highways, were already apparent. Since 1942, tree planting to reduce soil losses and crop damage has been carried out primarily by local soil conservation districts in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) with help in later years

from State forestry agencies aided by U.S. Forest Service programs. Today the rows of shelterbelt plantings, while diminished by subsequent changes in agricultural policies and practices, continue to communicate culturally recognized signs of human intervention and interaction with the landscape.

“Lincoln Lab” to USDA National Agroforestry Center (1953-today)

In 1953, about 11 years after the last tree was planted by FDR's Forestry Project, the U.S. Forest Service established the Lincoln

Forestry Science Lab at the University of Nebraska East Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska. Organizationally the “Lincoln Lab” was part of the new Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and its geographical scope was the Great Plains (all or part of 10 states). During its 39 years, the Lincoln Lab focused its research in four major projects that involved 12 scientists (project leaders shown in parentheses) and many other technical and administrative personnel:

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RM-1501 - Forestry practices for improving environments in 1953-1981 the central and southern Great Plains (Ralph Read)

RM-2206 - Diseases of nurseries, shelterbelts, and other 1961-1981

Plantations in the Great Plains (Glenn Peterson)

RM-4551 - Protection and improvement of trees in the Great 1981-1991 Plains (Glenn Peterson/Bill Rietveld)

RM-4551 - Improvement of stress- and pest-resistance of Great 1991-1996 Plains tree species (Bill Rietveld/Michele Schoeneberger)

with authorization of the “Center for Semi-Arid Agroforestry”, subsequently renamed the USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC). From just being a research unit, the Center was now a combined program of research and development and technology transfer and assistance. The new center was stood up in 1992 with Bill Rietveld as its first director and Michele Schoeneberger as research program leader and Jerry ‘JB’ Bratton as technology transfer and applications leader. The tree stress/pest resilience research of the Lincoln Lab (a focus since inception) carried on and was in fact bolstered for several years at the new Center through the work of transferred

Center’s research expanded in 1994 to include riparian forest buffers and water quality, biomass, carbon, biodiversity and the development of tools to help design and locate these multifunctional plantings within farms, ranches and even communities. This work continues today.

NAC began in 1992 as a partnership between two USFS mission areas, Research (now Research & Development) and State & Private Forestry (S&PF) and expanded in 1995 to formally include the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Support from S&PF and NRCS allowed the Center to significantly expand its efforts in technology transfer, thereby targeting its agroforestry publications, tools, training, etc. at the people in NRCS, State forestry agencies, and conservation districts who provide assistance directly to farmers, ranchers, and woodland owners.

Beginning in the Dust Bowl era and for 80+ years now, the U.S. Forest Service has been helping people put trees to work ‘down on the farm’. This work is now part of a globally recognized science and practice known as agroforestry. Perhaps Joseph Dusek’s 1930s era poster still says it best: “Trees Prevent Wind Erosion; Save Moisture: Protect Crops; Contribute to Human Comfort and Happiness”.



Three intact Prairie States Forestry Project shelterbelts continue to protect farmland and provide cover for wildlife.

From “Lincoln Unit History” (unpublished U.S. Forest Service paper)

The 1990 Farm Bill provided a significant program expansion

and newly hired scientists working in entomology, pathology, and ecophysiology. With the growing recognition of what agroforestry could do, the

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For more information about the history of the Prairie States Forestry Project and the challenges of the “Dust Bowl” period:

- Trees, Prairies, and People, A History of Tree Planting in the Plains States by William H. Droze (1977)
- The Great Plains Shelterbelt by Tom Croker (1991)
- The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan (2005)
- FDR and the Environment edited by Harry L. Henderson and David B. Woolner (2005)
- The Shelterbelt Project: Cooperative Conservation in 1930s America by Joel Orth (2007)
- Conserving the Dust Bowl: The New Deal’s Prairie States Forestry Project by Sarah Karle and David Karle (2017)

Perhaps the earliest writing about agroforestry (without using the term):

- Tree Crops: A permanent agriculture by J. Russell Smith (1929)

For more contemporary information about agroforestry in the U.S.:

USDA National Agroforestry Center: <http://nac.unl.edu/>. See also Working Trees publications: http://nac.unl.edu/Working_Trees/index.htm Agroforestry: USDA, Fiscal Year 2011-2012 In-Brief (2013)

Note from Andy Mason: Many thanks to my co-author Sarah Karle for contributing the section about the Prairie State Forestry Project. Stay tuned for the rest of the story in the book, *Conserving the Dust Bowl: The New Deal’s Prairie States Forestry Project* forthcoming in March. I also appreciate the information and review provided by two current U.S. Forest Service employees at the USDA National Agroforestry Center: Research Program Leader Michele Schoeneberger and Technology Transfer Program Leader Rich Straight.

ALSO A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM HISTORY BUFFS: Several of the books referenced above address the work of Hugh Hammond Bennett, a soil conservation advocate who certainly had FDR’s ear and would go on to serve as the first chief of the Soil Erosion Service (SRS), which in 1935 became the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and in 1994 was renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Bennett served as chief of SRS/SCS (1933-1951). As the founder of NRCS, Bennett is as well known within NRCS as Pinchot is to the USFS community. I have done a good bit of investigation to learn if Bennett and Pinchot and/or other early USFS Chiefs ever had any significant interaction regarding the conservation issues of the day. The lives of our first SCS/NRCS and USFS chiefs had considerable overlap (Bennett 1881-1960; Pinchot 1865-1947) so certainly they knew each other? If you have any additional information about what connections there might be between Bennett and Pinchot or other early USFS Chiefs please contact me (acmason1954@gmail.com). Thanks!

The New Regional Office



Denver West Office Park

Information supplied by the Regional Office move coordinator Jon Sams.

The Denver West Office Park consists of 22 impressive office buildings located throughout a beautifully landscaped park. The park has numerous water features and statues depicting nature and early American explorers.

Q: What amenities does the office park provide?

A: The office park offers multiple conference centers, an extensive greenbelt with walking paths, gazebos, patios and park benches, an on-site fitness center that employees and

their family members can join, and the park has on-site security. A complimentary campus shuttle operates within a three-mile radius of the office park from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm each workday. Additionally, the surrounding Denver West community has more than 40 nearby restaurants, and the Colorado Mills Mall and Village Retail Center offers more than 225 retail stores. Directly across the street from our future Regional Office is the beautiful Applewood Park, which has a large picnic pavilion with seven tables and two charcoal BBQ grills, playgrounds, a baseball/softball field, a soccer field, a sand volleyball court, a horseshoe pit, a basketball court, and a walking/jogging trail that is about one-half mile long.

Q: What is the address of our future building?

A: It is Building 17 of the Denver West Office Park located at 1617 Cole Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80401-3305, which is approximately three miles northwest of our current building, near Interstate 70.

Q: Who will occupy Building 17?

A: Building 17 will be occupied by the R2 Regional Office staffs and existing hosted staffs, which include Civil Rights (CR), Human Resources (HR), and Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI). The building will also be occupied by the staffs of the Job Corps National Office, the Washington Office Minerals and Geology Management, the Chief Information Office (CIO), and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Q: Will there be a front desk or reception area?

A: Yes, the building will have a reception area.

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Q: What else can you tell us about the workspace and offices in the future Regional Office?



A: In alignment with President Obama’s “Reduce the Footprint” policy, we will be the first Regional Office in the agency to follow the Washington Office in utilizing GSA’s Total Workplace FIT (Furniture and Information Technology) initiative. FIT is a cost-effective answer for federal agencies to reduce their office space, foster collaboration, better manage IT spending, and increase energy efficiency and reduce real-estate costs.

To qualify for the FIT program, certain design strategies had to be considered. GSA’s space planning and a nationally certified design team

will ensure that our future workspace meets FIT standards as well as the legal and regulatory standards that protect the health, safety and welfare of employees.

GSA is helping create 21st Century workplaces across government to drive down cost and increase productivity, and our future Regional Office will be a model for a modern workspace. There are two wings (east and west) on each of three floors in the new building and each wing has more than 80 large windows that will provide an abundance of natural light. The building will feature a people-focused, activity-based, and amenity-abundant workplace.

There will only be 21 private offices in the future building, which is a reduction of seven private offices that we currently occupy in this building. Private offices will only be occupied by the Regional Forester Team, Directors and Deputy Directors, and their new offices will not exceed 150 SF, but will allow space for up to two employees or guests to meet with them privately, as needed.

Our future workspaces will become a vibrant environment that emphasizes the importance of collaboration and flexibility. FIT workstations are typically 6’ x 8’ in size. Our current high-walled cubicles will be replaced by 52” high cubicles that feature a 6” frameless glass panel at the top to allow for natural daylight to pass through the space. This is important because increased exposure to sunlight has been linked to more restful sleeping at night and alertness during the day, which helps improve overall employee performance. Each employee workstation can include features such as a dual monitor arm, adjustable height work surfaces, personal storage tower with wardrobe cabinet to hang coats, mobile pedestal with padded top, which serves as an additional seat if an employee visits you; a tool bar and LED task light.



What's Funny?



A former Shoshone employee swears this is true

In light of the frequency of human-grizzly bear conflicts, the Shoshone National Forest started to advise hikers, hunters, anglers and employees to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field.

They advised that outdoorsmen and women wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. They also advised folks traveling in the backcountry to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear.

Also education sessions were held on watching out for fresh signs of bear activity.

Backcountry travelers should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly scat. Black bear scat is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear scat has little bells in it and smells like pepper.

Thanks to the Forest History Society for the picture of Paula Bunyan drawn by Rudy Wendelin in the early 1960's.



"That's the Way I Remember it"

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



Ellie Towns

Regional Forester - R-3

Retiree Class of 2002 - 30 Years of Service

The Rendezvous:

Where were you born and raised?

Ellie Towns: Eleanor "Ellie" Saunders Towns:
Rockford, IL

TR: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

ET: West Rockford (IL) HS (1961); University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL (BA in Teaching of Speech, 1965); University of New Mexico (MA in Counseling and Guidance, 1968); University of Denver College of Law (JD, 1980); Admitted to Bar in October, 1980

TR: How did a nice girl like you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service?

ET: All I knew about the Forest Service was Smokey the Bear and "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!" - never heard of the Public Ad Council or any Forest Service issues. Growing up in Winnebago County, I knew of Chief Black Hawk who, as a young Warrior, was a respected colleague of Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee tribe that lived in Shawnee towns all over Southern Illinois, including on what is now the Shawnee NF.

I was an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist at the Bureau of Land Management, Denver Service Center. When the Forest Service sought Directors of Civil Rights, I transferred for more pay there. Many employees grew up in Forest Service families and were aware of natural resource issues. The Forest Service "grew on me;" I would later say, it grew with

me and in part because of me. One example: employees called themselves "family." After I'd been involved in enough public policy issues I came to embrace the concept because I thought I'd earned a place at the "big" (family) table. Although I was usually respectful to those who were not always respectful to me, I accepted that old timers took pride, nay thought it was their duty, to have their say - tactfully or not. And frankly it took a while and a few issues before I grew confident enough not to give a damn if some, themselves barely at the table, disagreed with me about the "face," roles, skills, and methods that had morphed over time. I heard Chief Dale Bosworth tell Region 8 employees, "You can tell me anything, but tell me 'nice!' (ly)."

TR: Tell us about your career and the different jobs you held.

ET: I began my Forest Service career as Region 2 Civil Rights Director. While in law school, I transferred to the job of Appeals Coordinator. Other jobs included Region 2 Group Leader for Special Uses; Region 2 Director of Physical Resources (Lands, Minerals, Water); WO Lands Director; and Regional Forester, Region 3.

TR: Who were early mentors that gave you good advice in your career?

ET: Carolyn Wones, High School Dean of Girls who encouraged me academically and assisted me in applying to colleges - unlike the Senior Class Girls Counselor, who, despite my academic rank of 12th in a class of about 750, only 38 of whom were African-American, told me to go to trade school, not college;

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my father, Joseph Scott Saunders, Jr., who always told me I could be anything I wanted to, work hard enough to be, who watching me play, with some pride admonished me against being so “bossy” and who always told me I was “smart,” that it was indeed important to BE “smart,” but it was much more important to know WHEN and WITH WHOM to be so; Mrs. Irene Gilbert, wife of the Pastor of Rockford’s Pilgrim Baptist Church, who every year arranged field trips and Shimer College summer camps, confidence-building leadership and public speaking experiences, and holiday potluck dinners for Church youth and Pilgrim’s returning college students; Diane Hribal Lair, now of Winterset, IA, (with whom I am still in touch) high school Debate Coach who coached the four of us to the Illinois Varsity State Debate Championship and me to Top Speaker award at the high school tournament hosted by Northwestern University; Bill McCrum, former R2 Deputy Regional Forester for Administration who eased my transition into the Forest Service, riding shotgun to keep at bay some of those old-time “little sovereign” Forest Supervisors; and his friend (and mine) Dick Caruso, R2 Fiscal Director who was boss of my first job after law school (Appeals Coordinator); Doug Leitz, Associate Chief, who early on recognized my potential and “encouraged” others to find career-building opportunities for me; the late Gary Cargill, R2 Regional Forester, who did what he didn’t have to do – pushed the envelope to make job requirements more representative of the skills required and reassigned me to Lands. His stance opened doors for me, other women, and others (including the “ologists”) with then nontraditional skills. When I finished law school and passed the Bar, I told Gary there were enough of us running around counting the rest of us. He asked what else I thought I could do. At that time, most FS “professional” job descriptions listed a Forestry degree as a requirement. I said a Forestry degree was certainly useful but probably wasn’t needed for Lands and Realty jobs, and that, indeed, a law degree might be more relevant. He directed that the job be advertised in the 101 series, not the 460 Forestry series over vehement objections of the WO Director of Lands. Using that tool to

widen the pool of selectable candidates, was to be an early effective way to diversify the workforce, not only from a Civil Rights perspective, but also to open jobs to other “professional” disciplines. Not that such requirements proscribed the selection process for Chiefs: even subsequent Chiefs had degrees in disciplines other than forestry, range, and engineering. Gary continued to follow my career and I still have the atty’ girl notes he sent when we were embroiled in water issues and its property conflicts and land management implications; Gordon Small, WO Director of Lands who had not been fooled by my frequent WO details and pushed me for the WO Director of Lands job before he retired; Mike Dombeck, Chief, who reassigned me to the job of Regional Forester; F. Dale Robertson, Chief, and George Leonard, Associate Chief, who had the foresight to foresee the inevitability of diversity and arranged for a diverse team of “comers” to interact regularly with Chief and Staff; Janice McDougle, Associate Deputy Chief, my first WO boss who took me under wing from day one; Janelle Starks, WO Travel Specialist who made it her business to come across the Potomoc River from Rosslyn my first week in Washington to tell me she was proud I was one of the “firsts,” and not to screw it up over little stuff – that many others in higher places had fallen from grace over travel issues – and, if I had questions about what to do and not do, call her first; the late Bill Hurst, retired Regional Forester, Region 3, a grand old gentleman, who, when I arrived in the Region, introduced me to those he felt I should know and suggested organizations with whom he felt I should establish a presence and who came by once a month for lunch or cookies and a welcome session of his kindly and timely advice.

TR: Did you want to be a Forest Supervisor from early on?

ET:

No. My first “Ranger” job was Regional Forester. Under circumstances of that day, I didn’t think it was realistic or prudent to spend my cachet and energy trying to become a line officer.

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In retrospect, there were some leadership lessons best learned early as a District Ranger which I still consider to be the most important job in the Service. Undoubtedly many of those most concerned about that void in my resume didn't know or had forgotten I was in good company: Chief Ed Cliff never was a Ranger either.



TR: When did the idea of being a Regional Forester happen?

ET: When Bob Joslin, then Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems, called me to his office. Now, we all know that other than ending the week early, not much other good happens at a late afternoon Friday command appointment with your boss; indeed, you're well advised to

look around for your plants, boxes of your personal stuff, and security guards. He told me I'd soon be reassigned to the position of Regional Forester in Region 3.

TR: What were the most rewarding parts of your career?

ET: Working in Lands and Realty at all levels: it was the case work that I loved: a skill I honed doing research as a high school debater, studying law, and working as Regional Appeals and Litigation Specialist. Every case is unique. Visiting the site of the controversy and walking along what's left of the 2-track wagon trails reveals snippets of the hard work of surviving on the land and settling the West. Reconstructing intent of the parties a hundred years later requires applying the facts as they are now known, usually in the middle of a barrage of political rhetoric, against a patchwork of laws and potential challenges under the Tenth Amendment, Supremacy Clause, and the powerful

Property Clause. Gary always told me and Skip Underwood to walk the land and digest the landscape and READ the documents before you sign any decision. He read every word of the Two Forks EIS.

Allowing me to regularly testify before the Senate Energy Committee was a task tailored to my skill set, and in those times, I was one of few Directors allowed to do so. I got high marks from staffers on both sides of the aisle and from several Senators – especially on the day the Committee was informed I'd been assigned to lead Region 3.

Clearly, the high point of my career was the job of Regional Forester. They do indeed weigh and balance the socioeconomic, legal, and scientific parts of a conflict and decision. When you manage conflict, sometimes you know you've got it right when everybody leaves the table a little unhappy and finally understanding that no matter how much you spend in legal fees, there is no thrill of total victory and there doesn't have to be the indignity of the abject agony of defeat. You learn as did Sir Edmund Burke: "The mark of a great statesman is that he grants graciously that which ultimately cannot be denied."

TR: You played a critical role in lots of interesting events. Tell us about a few of those.

ET: I've already discussed several. Here're summaries of a few more:

At the end of a long day of trying to connect parties battling the latest rendition of the same issue that started the Service, Gary Cargill used to tell me and Skip, "Sometimes all's well that just ends." Grazing and Western water conflicts were around when the National Forest System was created. I can only say that I attempted to move the needle, and such nettlesome issues probably won't be resolved in your lifetime either.

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Sometimes you can think you are technically right and still not be “right” because you don’t control the parts. Elders of Sandia Pueblo (Albuquerque) recalled their elders telling them the Conquistadors gave the Pueblo the land from the top of Sandia Mountain to the middle of the Rio Grande, and they objected to obtaining Forest Service permits to worship and the presence of lookie-loos during their ceremonies. Surveyors, upon whom the Forest Service relied, said the boundary was short of the mountain top. When I got to Albuquerque, a D.C. trial court had just ruled in the Pueblo’s favor, and the Justice Department advised that I preserve Forest Service options by signing an appeal. Forest Service point persons were the late Wayne Thornton also former Ranger of the Sandia Ranger District, and then current Ranger, Cliff Dill. We met with Congressional personnel, Pueblo leadership, and staff of the Department of Justice, the Chief’s Office, and the Office of General Counsel. I’m pretty sure I was the only Regional Forester invited to attend a meeting of the Pueblo elders, and I was firmly admonished in the tribal language, Tewa, by a 95 year-old elder who, among other things, asked how I, a Black woman, could take a position against the Pueblo. Long story, very short: Pueblo and Forest Service realty staff confirmed the Pueblo owned a triangular sliver that was crossed by busy Tramway Road and only the Sandia Ski Resort had a right-of-way across that property – not owners of the high-end homes above that triangle or the utilities serving them, not the general public commuting up and down Tramway Road, not the Forest users, not the County or even Forest Service contractors who undoubtedly had used public money maintaining parts of that Road. Somewhere the late Dick Wilke, former Region 2 Director of Engineering who fought for survey money is saying, “I told you so,” but I digress. Well, that piece of information changed the ballgame. Among other things we now collaborate on fire protection and closures, and the Pueblo worships without signing Forest Service permit documents. In the midst of the conflict, the warring parties took note of critical new information and backed

off enough to focus less on winning the underlying battle for delineation of the rights of each and to address the things that were creating the problems of the day. I’m hoping the matter is still “resolved.” I can say that thanks to Wayne and Cliff and key members of Pueblo leadership and its legal team, I would hope all of the parties (including some of the homeowners pushing condemnation) continue a respectful working relationship. I still exchange pleasantries with Frank Chaves of the Pueblo, and as I often tell him, my life was enriched by the encounter.

TR: What are you doing now?

ET: At 73, I’m watching two “busy” grandsons, one 2 ½ and one 1 ½, both walking. Some mornings as early as 9:00 a.m., it’s like the work days when you wonder how long until 5:30. I’m trying to move on from three “giving back” projects: (1) For a little over 5 years I was a FS orientation keynoter, advisor, and frequent speaker to FS and other agency groups and leadership teams. The travel got to be too much for me. (2) For about 7 years my husband and I bought old computers at garage sales and taught ourselves to repair them. We gave them to deserving students identified by teacher friends and the Pastor of Five Points’ Community Missionary Baptist Church. After 7 years, computers became too heavy for me to lift, my fingers too stiff to fiddle with little parts, my eyes too old to see the parts, and Microsoft stopped servicing the operating systems in the computers people were selling at garage sales. (3) I taught myself to design websites for local nonprofits including these three: Denver NAACP Youth, the current Ethnic College Counseling Center (www.EthnicCollegeCounselingCenter.org), and my high school class website, www.WestHS1961.com. Check out the latter two.

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TR: Tell us about Miss Ellie Rolls.

ET: The short story is I thought I was gonna' be the next Debbie Fields, Salt Lake City chocolate chip cookie entrepreneur. The long story is my mother was reared in Lowell, FL – famous mostly for Brahma cows at the Jim Norris Cattle Ranch. My mother cooked for two married doctors who moved “up north” to Illinois. She was known for her melt-in-the-mouth yeast rolls and used to give them away during the holidays. A few years before I left for the WO, I found her handwritten recipes in a spiral notebook (a pinch of this and a handful of that) including her recipe for yeast rolls. I spent a couple



years altering the ingredients for altitude, even persuaded Conagra to let me test their high-altitude bread flour. Friends ordered holiday rolls for \$5.00 a dozen. I trademarked the catchy (so I thought) name,

“EllyRolls” (sounds like Jelly Rolls, huh?). Even got the recipe analyzed at Colorado State Extension Service. Any-hoo-oo: never figured out how to keep the quality in large quantities. I gave it up ‘cause the task of rolling and shaping by hand was labor intensive and hurt my fingers; inhaling flour was becoming a problem, and local food suppliers quit letting small accounts buy a \$20 25-pound bag of flour every now and then. Now, my family gets Rhodes frozen rolls or Pillsbury Crescent roles like the rest of you lazy souls without a relative who loves to bake. I must say, the R2 Leadership Team certainly enjoyed its share of EllyRolls.

TR: Tell us about your family.

ET: I am the only child of my parents: the daughter of Cleona Saunders, maid and cook who took typing

and shorthand night classes before being hired at the Rockford telephone company as a night janitor. My very strong maternal grandmother owned and ran a peanut farm near Lowell, FL, where she lived in a house with no running water and chickens that could be seen from the cracks in the floor.

My paternal grandparents had 15 children: four of the five girls were nurses, and one was a teacher. Of the 10 boys Uncle Art was a Negro League baseball player, Uncle Tom who acquired his undergraduate degree from Tuskegee University, was a PhD professor of English literature at the University of Chicago and the Middlebury schools in the northeast. Uncle Fred was the first Black supervisor at the Rockford, IL, Post Office. Uncle Jim was Professor of Journalism at Lincoln University (Jefferson, MO) and later Eastern IL University (Macomb), where a building is named for him. My Dad who retired first as a GS-3 Clerk for the US Army Reserves and again as a Postal Worker, was a widely read man who wrote well enough to be offered a job as reporter for the now Rockford Register Star.

Because my father was African-American, the offer was conditioned by a requirement that he use a *nom de plume*. He had come to the attention of the town dailies because he published a weekly newspaper called “The Crusader,” a project he started because he objected to the local papers printing only negative news about African-Americans, and identifying them by race. He chose to retain his editorial independence, integrity, and pride. I’m guessing most of my father’s siblings would have been tagged “gifted.”

My other family was my childhood church and a tight community of surrounding neighbors all of whom instilled in us the importance of a good education and all of whom had been “deputized” by our parents to administer on-the-spot discipline as, in their sole judgment, was required for the situation.

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I am the product of integrated schools that were built in the forties. Rockford simply did not have the money to provide separate (unequal or otherwise) facilities for its children. If you lived on the west side of Rock River, you went to West High School; if you lived on the East side of the River... I well remember picketing the local Ben Franklin store that wouldn't hire African-Americans for the neighborhood store and the Ing Skating Palace that wouldn't allow us to skate. My family didn't patronize the walk-up windows of neighboring restaurants that wouldn't seat us, but then few families had the money to eat out as we know it today. Most of us grew up eating "homeburgers."



Ellie and Grady

My husband of 41 years is Grady W. Towns, PhD (Ecology, University of Utah), Retired, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; daughter, Erika Wyrick Klafehn (Communications, University of Colorado), Advertising Account Executive for a local television station; son, Brandon S. Towns (Metropolitan State College and U.S. Marine), Employment Adjudicator, State of Colorado; and Adrian and Miles, two of the cutest, smartest "grands" on the planet.

TR: When you were in the Forest Service there were not a lot of African Americans in the workforce. Tell us about that experience?

ET: No matter who you are, you cannot live in this country and not experience race; consciously or otherwise, race "colors" your view and expectations of self and others.

Burnie Davidson and I were surprised to learn that in the early 60's we were both students at the

University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus – he in the Forestry building across the quadrangle from Lincoln Hall's Liberal Arts classrooms; we're both in the Yearbook. There's not a single woman or identifiable minority in that year's Forestry Club picture. I think it's reasonable to presume that had I wanted to go to Forestry school (imagine that, Miss High School Senior Girls Counselor who was pushing me toward trade school), admission of a Black female to the School of Forestry and landing a forestry job would have been a challenge. For perspective, Ed Cliff was Chief when I would have been available for my first post-college job (1965), and remember in 1975, the Service was just talking about hiring women fire crews and fretting about where they'd pee and sleep if they were on mixed crews.

The Service hired its first Civil Rights Directors around the mid-70's to help the Service comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. You can probably find somebody who will still complain about "political correctness" and having to go to Jetie Wilds' "sensitivity" sessions. Civil Rights accomplishment in that day was minimal hiring of minimally available diverse candidates for mission jobs, issuing the annual obligatory EEO memorandum, managing the complaint workload, scheduling training sessions, and having diversity potlucks and speakers. In the late 90's, one of priority issues to be addressed in Region 3 was to increase diversity of the workforce to even better match a very diverse external labor pool, an issue past ready to be seriously addressed across the Service and to address the many complaints filed multiple times by a few Region 3 frequent filers. At one of my first leadership team meetings, I told Forest Supervisors we took pride in the "can do" reputation of an organization that accomplished other measurable goals on time and frequently within budget, that we'd wasted enough time, energy, and money, diddling around with Civil rights, and we weren't going to drag it out any longer. We were going to set and meet numerical hiring goals by grade and series during my tenure.

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The Deputies and I announced we'd no longer rate Civil Rights performance on effort; but we'd be reviewing hiring rosters to see if those efforts had yielded hire-able candidates. Hiring decisions would be made jointly by the Regional executive leadership team and the recommending selection official who were to recommend their desired candidate and send to the executive team a summary of the qualifications of all candidates before offering jobs. If they wanted to have potlucks and speakers, fine. When I left, we were within a few percentage points of all numerical goals in all series and in all grades. I also met representatives of each organized underrepresented employee group and told them they'd be working as one diversity council. They were to attend Regional Leadership meetings and report on their assigned measurable goals such as number of referrals of selectable candidates and identifying minority and women-owned business qualified to do business with the government. At my first meeting with Rangers and Forest Supervisors, I said that I expected them to keep their hands and all their other parts to themselves and that if they didn't they might be in the difficult position of explaining to their spouses why they didn't appear to have anywhere to be during weekday work hours.

As for me, I was grateful to those who went out of their way to help me around the rocks in the road. I will never forget the three young Black Rangers who stopped me at the Centennial celebration, and, in the spirit of "family," said, "Sister, please let us hug you. We know you've been through some stuff, and we just want to thank you for propping the door open for us." I was especially touched because I had also been stung by accusations that I was out for myself and not trying hard enough to advance others.



TR: Any words of advice for young people who might want to start a career with the Forest Service?

ET: Forest Service controversies are a continuation of timeless public policy issues that prompted creation of the agency. They won't be resolved soon, and those that may appear to be resolved, will most likely resurface as the players change.

Not too long ago my nephew started a job as a temporary Fed-Ex driver. The night before his first day I told him the Fed-Ex folks had been around long before him and pretty much knew how to run Fed-Ex and that he didn't need to walk in the door telling them how to run the business and increase market share. His job would be to do what they paid him – well – and to shut up and observe and listen and figure out who really ran the place and what the rules really were.

We didn't bumble into this place in the evolution of the organization because we wanted to screw up. A lot of thought and love went into wherever we now are. You young folks will bring to government and other jobs the latest knowledge and technology; still you won't know it all. So, put down your devices and LISTEN. Put down your devices and talk TO people. Put down your devices, get up, and WALK to someone's desk and meet them. Don't wait for an invitation and risk having your feelings hurt if none comes: join folks at lunch – different ones and talk to them about what the Service means to them.

Undoubtedly, at one of your early staff meetings you will make a declarative statement and be greeted by silence. Later in that same meeting someone else's similar statement will be enthusiastically embraced. That silence won't necessarily be because you're female, Black, Latino, or went to CSU or Humboldt or Yale. It'll be because you're new and unproven and because most do not want to align themselves with you publicly until you've proven yourself.

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That nephew later told me the bosses have favorites. I said they probably do, and I just bet their favorites aren't the complainers and moaners who try to call out the boss publicly or huddle and complain. Bosses – all bosses everywhere – want two things: productivity and peace in the valley, and not necessarily in that order. So, don't be fooled by the "I have an open door" speech – bosses want grown folks to resolve their own people issues, and better yet, avoid creating them.

The workplace is just that – a work place. Dress appropriately for the setting and the task. Regardless of the setting and the task, men and women should cover your bottoms, your mid-section, and "the girls." Strive to become known by the work you do. A little bit of old-fashioned manners goes a long way. You are probably old enough to be "Mary's" grandchild. She's probably been there as long as you are old, so treat her with deserved respect. Make friends with the words, "sir," and "m'am." My grandson tested his dad the other day – called him "Brandon" – received a quick course correction from Grammie.

When you get the opportunity, step up and take on (at least don't run from) an issue that needs addressing that nobody else wants – that's what several of us did with instream flows and other water issues in Region 2 – including Jim Maxwell, Hydrologist; Joan Friedlander, Wildlife Biologist; Lois Witte, OGC; Skip Underwood, District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, WO Director of Lands & Minerals; LORD knows we seldom all agreed, and we engaged in "rich and spirited" discussion, but that

issue shaped our careers, and we are all immensely grateful for the experience.



TR: Anything else you want to talk about or that might be of interest to our readers?

ET: Lives are shaped by events, encounters, and choices. I have no doubt that timing and my silver tongue opened doors for me, just as forestry degrees opened doors for others. Success demands mastery of people skills, flexibility, tact, some knowledge of the underlying subject matter (me), the ability to connect parts to the whole, empathy, and the courage to "do right" – and as you move up the ladder – thanks to my Sunday School teachers and all the Easter poems I recited in front of the congregation, a silver tongue "don't" hurt.

I understood that "doing right" is in the eye of the beholder; therefore, I came to the job of Regional Forester living within the financial parameters of a job below the salary range of the Senior Executive Service and financially prepared to leave if necessary. I told Dale, the Second, that I knew he'd need staffing flexibility after the election, and that my preference was to leave shortly after that. Interestingly, I received a call from the incoming Bush Administration asking if they could put me on a short list to head another land managing agency. I did not want another stint in Washington, certainly not an intense one at that stage in my life. I politely declined. I was grateful to be able to leave on my terms and timetable. Them that knows don't talk, and them that talks don't know.

Newly Retired

Direct from the official U.S. Forest Service retirements lists. ALL USE OF THIS DATA IN WHOLE, PART, OR AS TEXT, MUST CREDIT THIS NFC FOCUS REPORT. FROM 10/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

REPORT: FS.HRTRE05. RUN DATE 01/17/2017

BOZARTH, DEBBIE K

Regional Office

CLEMANS, ROBERT J

Regional Office

DICKEY, JOHN H

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

GORZALKA, LONNIE C

Bighorn NF

HOLIFIELD, MICHAEL J

Regional Office

IDA, CHRISTOPHER N

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

LANE, MARK A

Nebraska NF

MAGWIRE, WENDY R

Medicine Bow/Routt NFs

NORRIS, FRANK

Black Hills NF

PFEIFFER, CURTIS L

GMUG NFs

PICKFORD, DAVID M

Black Hills NF

REICHERT, RANDALL L

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

ROMERO, MARTIN J

Regional Office

RULE, PAMELA K

Regional Office

RUSSELL, VICTOR BRAD

Shoshone NF

SHERMAN, ELAINE P

San Juan NF

TINKER, DEBRA L

Black Hills NF

WESTBROOK, CLAYTON

Medicine Bow/Routt NF

WILSON, STEPHEN C

Black Hills NF

ZORNES, JAMES E

Regional Office

Memorial Grove Ceremony - May 6, 2017

This year's Memorial Grove ceremony is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The honorees whose names will be added to the Memorial are listed below. If you are aware of anyone who should be honored this year who is not listed, please let Tom L. Thompson know at 303-552-1711 or tommylthompson@comcast.net

The Memorial Grove is located near Monument, CO and the ceremony will begin at 11 am. More information about this special tribute will be posted later. All Rocky Mountaineers, families, friends, and employees are welcome to attend this gathering which marks the 97th year of this regional tradition.

For more information about the Memorial and a listing of all past honorees visit our website.

2016 Memorial Grove Honorees

James William (Jim) Bailey	Arapaho N.F., R-5, R-10 Special Agent, Law Enforcement
Linda Kay Bledsoe	Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, R.O., GMUG Lands
Martin Cole (Marty) Everitt	FHA, R.O. Engineering
Ronald Frederick (Ron) Greenwald	Pine Ridge, Boxelder, R-6, National Office Job Corps
Gordon W. Griswold	GMUG Engineer
Betty K. Harden	White River N.F., R-2, R-1, and R-3 Computer Tech.
Stephen Ray (Steve) Hemphill	Umatilla N.F., R-6, GMUG Engineer
Robert Earl (Bob) Houser	San Juan, White River
Donald D. (Don) Loff Sr.	R.O. Director Engineering, W.O., R-6, R-4
Walter R. (Walt) Metcalf	R.O. AD R/L, Routt Forest Supervisor, Bl. Hills, WO, R-3
Charles Dwight Minnemeyer	R.O. in S&PF Insect and Disease Mgmt.
John T. Minow	Rio Grande, Black Hills, Gunnison, R.O Water/Wildlife
Harry R. Nickless	Pike San Isabel N.F.
Stephen G. Nielsen	R-9, R-5, Medicine Bow-Routt NF
Willard Charles Rambo	San Juan N. F.
Samuel Carl (Sam) Schroeder	Bighorn, A/R, White River, PSICC Salida
Teresa Olivia Towry	Rio Grande NF Computers
Wendal G. (Van) Van Scyoc	Rio Grande, R.O. Budget
John Carey Watt	R-5, R-2 R.O. Personnel

Not Forgotten:

Doyle William Ashby	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N.F.	2003
Gary P. Hendricks	Regional Office, R-2; R-1, R-5	1991
Morris LeRoy Shiley	Black Hills	2013

Remembrances



Stephen G. Nielsen

Stephen G. Nielsen, a U.S. Army veteran, took his last and longest Harley ride Sunday, May 8, 2016, from Spring Wind Assisted Living. He was born Jan. 15, 1947, in Berkley, California, to Gerald and Frances (née Noren) Nielsen.

Steve disproved the third time is a charm theory and married and divorced three times.

He is preceded in death by his mother Fran. He is survived by his father Jerry; daughter Stephanie (Paul) Hunt, of Bethel, Minnesota; and son Tony (Yoko) Nielsen, of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Steve had more than 39 years of federal government service, first with the U.S. Army, then with the U.S. Post Office in Minnesota. He then switched careers to work with the U.S. Forest Service in Minnesota as

a forester and moved to California before coming to Laramie in 1980 to work with the Medicine Bow National Forest for 25 years. He completed his career with the Forest Service as the NEPA coordinator in Laramie.

Steve enjoyed numerous outdoor activities, including camping, big bonfires, fishing, water skiing, hunting, golfing, snowmobiling, snow skiing, motorcycling, traveling, boating, going to concerts and playing softball. He also enjoyed photography, bowling, cribbage, poker, animals (he had a pet dog) and reading. Steve actively served on the city of Laramie Planning Commission and was a member of the Elks.

Memorial services will be announced later this summer. Steve and his 2003 Sturgis ball cap have been cremated by Montgomery-Stryker Funeral Home, even though at times, he would have preferred to be buried upside down.



Brett Beasley

Brett Beasley, 47, died January 5, 2017 from hypothermia and exposure following a skiing mishap near Leadville. Brett, born January 5, 1970, was an expert skier who was nearing 20 years as a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, died after becoming lost in a

winter storm during an outing as part of a group of around 10 people on a trip to Uncle Bud's Cabin near Leadville.

Beasley, who lived in Salida, leaves behind a wife and two daughters.

Jim Pitts, the Salida District ranger for the San Isabel National Forest, said that Beasley was one of the strongest and most passionate workers he had ever

known. "He was one who would roll up his shirt sleeves and be right there doing things with you," Pitts said.

He said that Beasley brought people together, whether it was through his job, or simply by cruising down trails on his mountain bike and stopping to talk to hikers. Pitts said that if you could keep up with Beasley on a mountain bike, you would have witnessed a thing of grace and beauty.

"He could ride a bike like he was floating on a cloud," Pitts said.

He said the devastating loss of Beasley hit the community hard. Beasley's family was deeply involved in community service in Salida, Pitts explained.

"Brett was full of life; he had a ton of energy," he said.

Remembrances



James William Bailey

James William (Jim) Bailey, 76, died on Friday, December 30, 2016 in Craig, CO. He was born on September 18, 1940.

Jim was a long time LEO and Special Agent for the FS, primarily in R2, Boulder RD from about 1973 - 1980. He

was general district assistant ranger and snow ranger at Eldora and then as snow ranger in Steamboat on the Routt. He then went to California on the marijuana project around 1990. He finished his career as Special Agent in Charge for the Alaska Region where he retired in about 1994 and moved back to Steamboat. He worked for Jim Ficke, Natural Resource Consultants, as a forestry technician in retirement.



Gordon W. Griswold

Gordon W. Griswold of Delta died Nov. 19, 2016. He was 76. He was born Sept. 11, 1940, to W.F. "Bill" and Audrey (Wagner) Griswold in Ada, Okla. He spent his early

childhood in Ada and then moved to Lawton, Okla. He graduated from Lawton High School in 1958. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. After graduating from OSU, he joined the United States Army where he was a combat engineer in Viet Nam.

On April 5, 1968, he married Esther Hagood in Oklahoma City, Okla. They lived in Almont and Lufkin, Texas, prior to retiring to Delta in 1999. They owned Oklahoma State Utilities.

Mr. Griswold was a zone engineer for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. He enjoyed planes, trains and automobiles. He built his last three homes by hand.

He is survived by his wife, Esther of Delta; son, Michael (Pamela) Griswold of Clear Lake, Texas; two daughters, Katherine Griswold of Delta and Karla (Robert) Husted of Paonia; grandson, Austin Husted; and granddaughter, Julia Griswold.

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Remembrances



Stephen Ray (Steve) Hemphill

Stephen R. (Steve) Hemphill passed away on May 15, 2016. He was born on February 20, 1945 in Pendleton, OR. He graduated from Pendleton High School and received an Associate's degree

in Civil Engineering Science in June 1966 from Blue Mountain Community College.

Steve retired from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in June 2001 with 35 years of service. He started his Forest Service career as a seasonal employee in June 1965 as a Civil Engineering Technician on the Umatilla NF. A few months after returning from a tour in Vietnam, he was picked up as a permanent employee. Steve transferred to the GMUG NFs in 1976 as a Civil

Engineering Technician and was the Special Projects Coordinator on the GMUG from 1994 until he retired. One of the last major projects he worked on was the Trans-Colorado Pipeline as it crossed through the GMUG and San Juan NFs.

Steve thoroughly enjoyed his time with the Forest Service as it allowed him time to interact with others and to be outdoors. He enjoyed hiking through the forests, hunting, fishing and camping. Steve was also a proud member of the Elks for over 30 years. He enjoyed being around people from all walks of life and was known for his friendly, easy-going attitude and his great sense of humor and ready laugh.

Steve is preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Phyllis Hemphill, and his brother, Ron. He is survived by his wife, Patty, son and daughter-in-law, Kelly and Jenna, and his grandson, Jack.



Teresa Olivia Towry

Teresa Olivia Towry, 77, of Monte Vista, passed August 22, 2016 in Colorado Springs. Teresa was born on June 12, 1939 in Conejos, Colorado the daughter of Frank Lopez and Siria Large Lopez. Teresa worked as a computer specialist for the

United States Forest Service and was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and

friend who enjoyed sewing, fishing, reading, baking and especially the time she spent with family and friends.

Survivors include her daughters Linda (Tom) Gallegos of Monte Vista, CO and Terry Towry of Nashville, TN; grandchildren Ambre Towry, Tarah Gallegos and Levi Peasley; great-grandchildren Kenya and Andy Borunda; brothers Orlando Lopez and Joe D. Lopez of Indiana. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Remembrances



John T. Minow

John T. Minow, age 92, of Lakewood passed away December 17, 2016. He was born in Olive, MT to Thomas and Dora (Kiosse) Minow on May 26, 1924. He grew up on the Cross S ranch and attended high school in Broadus, MT, where he

graduated valedictorian of his senior class. After high school, he attended college at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, for one year before he was drafted into the military during World War II. He served in the 94th Infantry Division in Europe where he saw action in France, Belgium, and Germany, including service in General Patton's Third Army during the Battle of the Bulge. Following the armistice, he served in the occupation force in Czechoslovakia before his discharge from the Army. He received the Bronze Star for bravery in action with one Oak Leaf Cluster in addition to several campaign medals. Following the war, he returned to college at University of Montana in Missoula, MT, where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry.

John worked summers as a fire lookout for the Forest Service in northern Idaho during his college years and then joined the Forest Service full time following graduation. His first Forest Service positions were on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming as Assistant Ranger and then District Ranger. It was during this time that he met Wilma McRevey and they were married in Laramie, WY, on April 29, 1955. In the first years of their marriage, the Minows lived at Sandstone Ranger Station during the summers and in Rawlins, WY, during the winters. In 1958, they moved to Creede, CO, where John served as the District Ranger. While in Creede, their three sons, Charles, Joseph, and Paul, were born. From Creede, John was transferred to Custer, SD, where he was a staff officer on the Black Hills National Forest. The family then moved to Lakewood, CO, for a short time when John was reassigned to the Region 2,

Rocky Mountain Regional Office. He was promoted to the position of the Forest Supervisor of the Gunnison National Forest and the family moved to Gunnison, CO, where they lived for the next six years. During this time, John renewed an interest in outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, skiing, and exploring the Colorado back country with his family. The family then moved from Gunnison to Delta, CO, when John was reassigned as the Forest Supervisor for the newly combined Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. This new assignment in western Colorado provided the opportunities for John and his family to explore the San Juan mountains, Uncompahgre Plateau, and the Canyonlands and Arches area of southeastern Utah. John's last Forest Service transfer returned him to Lakewood, CO, and the Regional Office where he worked in Range Management until his retirement on February 29, 1980. His final position with the Forest Service at retirement was the Deputy Director, Wildlife and Range Management for the Rocky Mountain Region.

John's retirement years were very active. John and Wilma traveled extensively by car around the United States, ultimately visiting 49 of the 50 states. They regularly visited their sons at locations in Colorado, Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama, as well as making numerous trips to visit his brothers and family in southeastern Montana and his wife's family in Illinois. When at home, he enjoyed working hard on his lawn and gardens in the summers and was active in the Forest Service retiree community in the Denver area and the local AARP Chapter. He enjoyed reading books on a wide variety of topics in American history. In recent years, he enjoyed summer weekends with his family at their place near Walsenburg, CO.

John is survived by sons Charles Minow, Lakewood, Joseph (Pamela Croom) Minow, Huntsville, AL, and Paul (Nancy) Minow, Alamosa, CO. Grandchildren Bonnie Ortega and Rob (Nichole) Hopper, both of Alamosa, CO. Great grandchildren Tyler, Riley and Raelle Ortega and Braiden and Tinlee Hopper.

The Last Word

A New Year's Resolution...with Gifford's Help

by Tom L. Thompson

The New Year has come and the tradition of making a resolution to do something different is upon us. Some have already lost a few pounds. Maybe a few have started washing the dishes more often or others have simply changed some little thing in their daily routine for the better. I don't normally make promises to myself at the New Year as I usually have a full plate of things I am trying to do better and I don't need another to add to the to do list. The New Year comes so quickly with all the holiday hustle and bustle, I just don't take the time to sit down and make a significant New Year's resolution.



Gifford Pinchot

This year is different; I have made a New Year's resolution. I resolve to be more understanding of the differences that separate us philosophically and politically and try harder to appreciate and search for the common ground. As I indicated in my feature newsletter piece a year ago entitled "Neither Left or Right: Politics, Perspective, and Patience", it seems obvious that we are more polarized than we have ever been. The election we've just experienced obviously did nothing to help us come closer together and the media seems to enjoy and nurture this fractured behavior. Since our very beginnings as a country we have had different points of view, values, and ideals. Dealing with our differences has most likely made for a stronger society and brought a degree of competition to do better. However, I believe the level of "we/they" or "us/them" has grown to a point of being very detrimental to what we are as a democratic republic and has become very unproductive.

The Center for the American West has a T-shirt with some of Gifford Pinchot's wisdom printed on the front. It says "It is a greater thing to be a good citizen, than a good democrat or a good republican." How true and appropriate those words are. No matter what our politics and ideas are, on most accounts we all want basically the same things: good health, a safe and comfortable environment, a fulfilling life, family and friends, and a decent income. There seems like a lot of room in the middle. That doesn't mean we let go of our views or ideals, but it does mean being more tolerant, respectful, and understanding of others. My hope has been and will continue to be is that our leaders could truly move further in that direction. Perhaps that is just wishful thinking, but I think there are lots of us thinking wishfully.

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Pinchot was a strong advocate for what he believed as a forester, a leader, and a politician. He didn't shy away from controversy and he was strongly on the side of what he thought was best for the country and its forests, but it is quite evident that he knew that there was a higher order of importance than to perpetuate polarization.

In a letter to Mira Lloyd Dock in 1909 regarding the Hetch Hetchy issue in California, he wrote:

"Whether or not we differ on one or two, or even more items of policy, there can be no doubt

whatever as to our complete sympathy on most things and our ability to work together."

Getting beyond our differences and disagreements and working together as best we can should be important to each and all of us. The election is over and it is time to move on to the next chapter in our nation's history. Enough of this "Last Word" preaching, but I invite you to consider joining me in this New Year's resolution to be more of a good citizen and less of a good democrat or republican.

