



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 10 — Number 1

Who's watching over Smokey's Image?



Photo from USDA Forest Service



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"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers."
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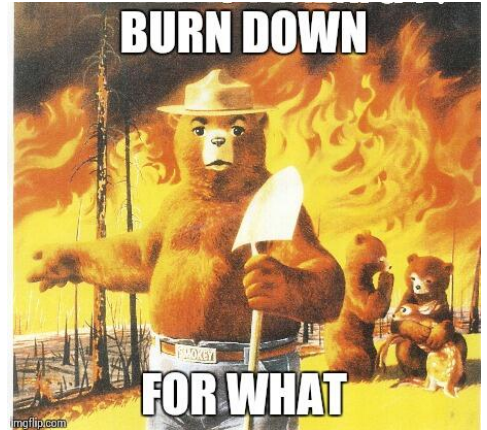
(Continued from page 1)

Smokey Bear is Everywhere!

WHEN YOU EAT CHINESE BAT,
BE SURE TO COOK IT TO 165° F



"It's Smokey Bear not
Smokey THE Bear"



(Continued on page 3)

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They assured us that the entire team at Perpetual Licensing takes this matter seriously and they regularly seek out and report illegal use. When found, they report the offense to the USFS for management and they take it down where appropriate. They asked folks to send them the questionable uses when we come across them, and they will submit them to the USFS legal team. Just remember that many of the uses of the Smokey Bear image are legal and that includes some cartoons and jokes and memes.

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NMFSH Representative
Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO

Liaison for Region 2 (not retired yet)
Jace Ratzlaff, Golden, CO

Website - www.rockymountaineers.us

E-mail - rmountaineers@gmail.com

Editor of Newsletter - Dave Steinke, dave.steinke@gmail.com, 720-289-7621

Website Manager - Bill Disbrow, bdisbrow@aol.com, 303-548-7501

E-Mail Manager - Johnny Hodges, rmountaineers@gmail.com, 970-226-6890

Memorial Grove - Steve Deitemeyer, sdeitemeyer@msn.com, 303-456-0799 or

Tom Thompson, thom46pson@gmail.com, 303-552-1711

Membership & Others - P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527


A Flash From The Past

Rocky Mountaineers - Ten Years and Counting

By Skip Underwood

September, 2013 Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the First Edition



Skip Underwood, circa 1990, Interim Chair, Rocky Mountaineers

I am happy to invite you to explore and join our newly formed association for Rocky Mountain Region Forest Service retirees.

We are beginning as a small, enthusiastic group of retirees who had a grand time planning the national Forest Service reunion in Vail last year. We want to continue and expand the great value we experienced in connecting with friends and former co-workers.

Some of us currently participate in local Forest Service retiree activities but many of us don't have a good connection to friends with whom we shared a wonderful career. The Rocky Mountaineers offer a great opportunity to support and encourage on-going local retiree activities

while enlarging the scope of information and potential engagement with other retirees to the entire Region.

In this newsletter and on our website you can read in depth about who we are, what we hope to accomplish and colorful descriptions of people and activities.

My personal message to you is that I am proud of the years I served in the outfit and would take that same path again. The people with whom I served are the very best at what they do. We share a commitment to the resources and to the citizens that are worthy of our best. While we celebrate what we have been a part of, we can continue to be active for the good of the Forest Service and the resources we value.

It is a pleasure to renew and maintain those relationships in this association. I hope that you will join me and others to renew and strengthen those bonds with membership in the Rocky Mountaineers!

[Go to Volume1, Issue 1](#)

That reunion lit a fire that led to a core group continuing to get together and talk about "what if we launched a retiree organization for the Rocky Mountain Region?" We were still juiced from our shared experience of connections from around the country made at Vail and wanted to extend that enthusiasm to our long-time friends in Region 2.

Those two opening questions still arise after ten years as we continue to invite currently employed and retired folks to join us. Each of us should think about how we would answer. The glow of Rendezvous in the Rockies Vail 2012 has dimmed for some of us but there continue to be many reasons why we are a worthwhile group to invest our time and talent.

A laundry list can be boring but I encourage you to review a few examples of Rocky Mountaineer activities that reflect a variety of values that appeal to a broad perspective of folks.

Why would I want to join another organization? What does this have to offer me? Those were a couple of questions that we heard often from retirees nine or ten years ago as we were in the early stages of building membership for the Rocky Mountaineers.

Go back just a couple of years to 2011. A group of about 15 Region 2 retirees and current employees gathered to plan a national Forest Service reunion that we would host in Vail in fall of 2012. I retired in 2006 and honestly had kept a low profile in Forest Service activities. My friend Johnny Hodges recruited me to join that group and it really did renew interest in a career that had been my identity for 35 years. Well, the next 18 months of gathering, planning, networking, renewing friendships around the country and delivering an awesome reunion gathering truly was a joy for all of us.

1. We share a career of public service in natural resources that reflects core values that we hold in common.

2. We support and encourage local retiree groups around the Region while promoting the same broad appeal of the larger Forest Service that we enjoyed while still working.

3. We hold annual gatherings (not meetings) at different locations around the Region to emphasize the diversity of both our resources and the great people in different locales. Each year is an opportunity to grow our outreach to current employees and retirees.

(Continued on page 5)

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4. We have wonderful diversity in our leadership. Over the past 10 years we have had 9 different chairs of the Rocky Mountaineers coming from different locations in the Rocky Mountain Region and with varying backgrounds in their careers. In addition our Board comprises people from all over the Region as area representatives and leadership in different functions.

5. Some members choose to do international travel together on a regular basis to further promote camaraderie and share exciting adventures.

6. Perhaps the most significant product of the Rocky Mountaineers is how you are reading this article. The Rendezvous is probably the highest quality example of a newsletter among any grassroots organization around. In the beginning we wondered if we had enough meaningful content to share. Every issue is over 30 pages and packed with entertaining, informative, thoughtful, historical and timely articles and pictures. The time and talent contributed by many is a testament to the passion that we hold for our service and our friends.

7. In The Rendezvous you will always find coverage of other important linkages like Memorial Grove, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, National Museum of Forest Service History and current Forest Service activities.

We have come a long way in ten years from a handful of enthusiastic, hopeful veterans to a current membership of almost 500 people. Where do we go from here?

There is great enjoyment in nostalgic reminiscing of a fun, meaningful career but that is a limiting perspective over time. If we have children, grandchildren or young friends, we soon learn the importance of being current, being relevant. In life and as an association of Rocky Mountain Region retirees our continued enjoyment of who we are encourages us to stay current and relevant. Seek relationships with people of all ages who are now in the mainstream where we have been or who are trying to get in the swim. We will lift each other.

In the next ten years we will be mentoring and encouraging newer members of the Rocky Mountaineers to take on leadership roles in our association and to continue to keep us relevant. As the Forest Service approaches it's 120th anniversary surely we will continue what we began just 10 years ago.

Skip Underwood,
Lifetime member, Rocky Mountaineers

A Note From Our Chair



Dan Nolan, Rocky Mountaineers Chair

Hi Everybody,

We just wrapped up our first quarterly board meeting of 2024 with reports of lots going on with the Rocky Mountaineers. Our 11th annual ski day had 24 of us on a powder day at Winter Park, including Joe Reddan who flew in from California, just for this event.

Now our western area folks are hosting a ski day at Powderhorn in March (See story on Page 24). The Memorial Grove ceremony

will be on May 4, honoring 37 of our former coworkers who passed away last year.

Four international trips are in the works thanks to Jim Thinner. We've already received one scholarship application.

Plans for our annual gathering in Fort Collins are coming together likely in early October. And we have 477 members. We would like to increase that number and encourage you to recruit someone new to join and share in the many opportunities for staying connected with old friends and today's Forest Service.

Dan

Membership and Finance

February 13, 2024

The Rocky Mountaineers continue to set new records for membership. We now have 477 members. This includes a record 162 Lifetime Memberships.

Help us break the 500 member barrier! If every member asked just one other person to join, we could quickly boost our numbers. Remember, dues for the first year are complimentary, so it doesn't cost anything to give the Rocky Mountaineers a tryout.

Membership is open to both retirees and current Forest Service employees.

We have added a line to our Membership Application – “Referred by _____.” Have the new member fill in your name and we will give you full credit in the next edition of The Rendezvous.

You can find the Membership Application on our website under the “Membership” drop-down at the top of the page.

Here's the link

[Rocky Mountaineers Retiree Association](#)

Our Newest Members

Chris and Gert Spori, Berkeley Lake, GA

Marisue Hilliard and Bill Cheatum, Watkinsville, GA

Patty Hemphill, Wagoner, OK

Elizabeth Boyst and Philip Bowden, Winters, CA

Kevin and Sue Riordan, Helena, MT

New Lifetime Members

John Baumchen and Angela Safranek, Canon City, CO

Jim and Andrea Bedwell, Golden, CO

Evelyn and Steve Gross, Conifer, CO

Jack Infanger and Bonnie Watson, Glenwood Springs, CO

Katherine Plym, Denver, CO

Thanks to all of you that have paid your dues or made a donation for 2024. We still have some members that haven't gotten around to paying their dues. Don't forget! Annual dues are \$25 per household and a Lifetime Membership remains a bargain at \$250 per household.

You can receive a printed copy of our newsletter, The Rendezvous, for an additional \$20 per year to cover the cost of printing and mailing. All members with an email address will receive an electronic copy in full color. Go to our payment form to pay the extra \$20 for a full year (3 editions) for printed copies.

You can pay with a check or a credit card. Go to our website to complete the payment form.

Here is a link -

[Rocky Mountaineers Retiree Association](#)

If you don't need a receipt, you can drop a check in the mail to:

**Rocky Mountaineers
Box 270462
Ft. Collins, CO 80527**

We have three categories for our donors –

Friend - \$1- \$49

Patron - \$50 - \$199

Sponsor - \$200

You can make a donation to any of our three funds – Memorial Grove, Scholarship or General. If you would like to donate in memory of someone, you can fill in their name on the donor form.

We will recognize all our donors in the spring edition of The Rendezvous.

The Rocky Mountaineers are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Thank you for your support!



<https://2025usfsreunion.org/index.html>

Monday, September 22nd - Friday, September 26, 2025

It's closer than you think - preparations are being made and the program is getting developed and that beautiful Big Sky Country in Missoula, Montana is calling you. It's going to be a good one!

Just Thirty Years Ago

USDA Forest Service Employees' and Retirees' Newsletter

United States
Department of
Agriculture



R2 Rendezvous

April 1994

Issue No. 1

INSIDE

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Disabled for a Day

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Smokejumpers

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Sexual Harassment

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Are you Concerned
about your Career
with the
Forest Service?



R2's Newest Directors



Eleanor S. Towns was named the Rocky Mountain Regional Director of Physical Resources. As director, she will be responsible for lands, soils, watershed and minerals.

Ellie joined the Forest Service in 1978 as director of Civil Rights in the Regional Office. In 1982 she transferred to Operations and Finance as a claims specialist and then to Recreation and Lands where she was group leader for special uses and rights-of-way for five years. She was later reassigned to the assistant director of Lands, where she served for more than a year. She became director of the Lands staff when it was separated from the Recreation and Lands staff. More recently, she has been the acting Rocky Mountain Regional Director of Physical Resources.



Steven Deitemeyer, a former Region 2 employee with a Washington perspective, will bring a variety of experience to his new position as Regional Director of Recreation and Public Service. When asked, about his expectation of Region 2, he commented, "I want to continue the region's focus on high quality customer service and the development of partnerships that directly contribute to sustaining public land and water resources. We need to keep our recreation facilities up-to-date, universally accessible and safe for public use and enjoyment. Our communication programs need to be responsive to public needs and issues."

The announcement of Deitemeyer's appointment was made early this month and will be effective on May 1. Currently, he is serving as the Assistant Director of Recreation Management in the Washington Office, a position he has held for the past 3 years.

"That's the Way I Remember it"

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

Instead of running a retiree profile this edition, we thought it would be nice to look back at a few of the many profiles we have done over the past ten years and highlight those with links to back issues of the Rendezvous.

It's also a time to look forward to the next 10 years of the Rendezvous and let us know who you think would make a fun or interesting or important profile for our readers - and for the researchers who will come after us and want to know who that bunch of Mountaineers were.

In our very first Newsletter in the Fall of 2013 we featured retiree **Lloyd Newland on Page 17.**

"I was born in Bayfield, Colorado and attended a variety of schools throughout the state. My dad was a materials engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation and he was moved around quite a bit. I graduated from Colorado A & M with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1955 and took a job with Phillips Petroleum in Borger, Texas. From there I accepted a job with the Quickway Truck Shovel company in Denver helping to develop the first ever truck mounted crane. After that I ranched a little bit up in Steamboat Springs, hired on with the Bureau of Reclamation building some hydroelectric power plants and then moved over to the Corps of Engineers."

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2013/2013-Fall-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In our Spring edition of 2015 we featured **Melanie Woolever on Page 23.**

"I actually think that I was the second woman wildlife biologist hired in Region 4. It was a challenge, particularly in the conservative culture in Utah where women were expected to fill more traditional roles. Even the women employed in then more traditional roles found it difficult to adjust to a woman wildlife biologist. The wives of those men I worked with were less than excited about having me go to the field with their husbands. Sexual harassment wasn't uncommon and I was not given the same promotion opportunity as my male counterparts. So it was an interesting start to my career to say the least."

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2015/2015-Spring-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Spring of 2014 we highlighted **Chuck Troendle's career at the Rocky Mountain Station on Page 20.**

When asked if he would have chosen a different career path Chuck said "No, maybe change a few decisions that would get to where we are faster." He said there are pros and cons about being a scientist. He dedicated his career to hydrology and was able to do some needed research, but looking over the fence at NFS he observed that NFS managers deal with a variety of issues that he didn't have to deal with, or didn't have the opportunity to deal with.

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2014/2014-Spring-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Fall of 2016 we interviewed our long time mail center director **Judy Dexter on Page 21.**

TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service and what were some of your first duties?

JD: "I attended a job training school in Wenatchee, and while I was in school, I heard about a printing job with the U.S. Forest Service in east Wenatchee – this was around 1972 or 1973 - so I applied for it and got it...I started as a GS-2 – copying/machine operator."

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2016/2016-Fall-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

(Continued from page 9)

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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

Our featured retiree in the Winter Edition of 2017 was **Eleanor “Ellie” Saunders Towns** on Page 21.



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.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2017/2017-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

Sig Palm, with 58 years of federal service, told us about his career in the Winter 2019 Rendezvous on Page 26.



“I was born on Thanksgiving Day in 1942 in Denver, Colorado. When I was 2 weeks old, my Dad who was a Colorado Game Warden for 44 years was transferred to Fort Collins. That is where I lived until age 20. I grew up in a Colorado Game and Fish pickup which contributed to my interest in a natural resource career. My mom was a stay-at-home mom - she and my dad both grew up on ranches south of Hayden, Colorado - and I have one younger brother Stan, who lives with his wife in southern California.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2019/2019-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Spring Edition of 2018 the profile we were honored to print was an interview with **Wally Gallaher** on Page 26.



TR: What was the next move for you?

WG: “Next stop for us was Heber, Arizona, a big timber district and Shirley was pregnant with our first daughter. I was now a permanent employee - and a timber beast. We lived in a small trailer. I had taken Shirley into Flagstaff where she had our first daughter, Susan. Eighteen months later our second daughter, Patricia was born in Holbrook, Arizona.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2018/2018-Spring-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Fall of 2020 we had the pleasure of highlighting the one and only **Pete Clark** on Page 26.



TR: What do you fill your free time with?

PC: “Seriously? We raise and sell hay and between the land we own and the land we lease, we run both commercial and registered SimAngus cattle on about 2500 acres. Once a year I shoot a cow elk in our hay field and go pick it up with my tractor’s bale forks. That’s about it for free time. You can get someone to feed your dog but it’s not so easy to get them to feed your cows.”

TR: Any final words of wisdom?

PC: “It’s easier to hunt grouse with a firearm than a broom.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2020/2020-Fall-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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

In the Fall of 2021 we talked with our first couple, **John and Peggy Morrison** on Page 21.

John: “I was the first one to work for the Forest Service, starting seasonally for three summers, then to full time. Peggy worked seasonally also when she was going to college, then a professional position after she graduated.”

Peggy: “When we told our supervisor, AO John Destito and Forest Supervisor Wally Gallaher that John and I were planning to get married, they said they would have to inform the Regional Office. The Personnel Officer in Missoula decreed that continued employment for both of us would only be approved for six months after the wedding. All in all, everything worked out fine for us. No big issues between us in staff meetings or at home either.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2021/2021-Fall-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

It was the Winter Edition in 2022 when we caught up with one of our longtime grasslands employees **Coleen Oquist** on Page 24.

Colleen: “When I was in the 5th grade, I had the most fantastic teacher, Mariam Hunter, that taught us the importance of environmental conservation and preservation of precious things from the past. I knew at that time I wanted to work for an agency that practiced these lessons. I was granted that opportunity my freshman year of college when I became a COOP Student at the U.S. Forest Service, Comanche National Grassland. Some of my first duties included typing twenty five letters to area permittees with three-part carbons. I had to be fully accurate with my typing because the old typewriter I was using did not have a correction option. I had to use white out. I did a lot of clerical work and tons of filing that had piled up for over a year. The Forest Service manuals and handbooks had constant updates. I have to say that was the least favorite part of my job.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2022/2022-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Spring edition of 2022 we had the high honor to speak with Mr. **Don Heiser** on Page 21.

TR: Any final words of wisdom?

DH: “No, if I had more “wisdom” I would be rich and famous and enjoying more fishing trips.”

TR: Anything we didn’t ask you about?

DH: “Just a final family note: Not only did my wife and I and our two daughters work for the Forest Service, but my youngest daughter’s husband (Tristan Fluharty) is now the District Ranger on the Juneau RD, Tongass NF. We are truly a Forest Service family and I wouldn’t change a minute of our time in the FS.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2022/2022-Spring-R2-Rendezvous.pdf>

In the Spring edition of 2023 we had the pleasure to meet **Millie Lawton** on Page 1.

Millie: “When I was in grade school, I had to walk 1 mile south and 1/2 west to school. All 8 grades were in one room. Usually I would just follow the road to school but if I cut through the fields it was shorter, but the neighbors had a Holstein bull who would follow and chase me. I learned how to work and everyone had a job. After eighth grade I had to go into town and take a test to show them that I had learned everything. It was a different time back then. It was a different world back then - you learned how to work and everyone had a job.”

ML: “One thing I appreciated is the pension - I really appreciate that. A lot of that money was used to get college educations for our sons. I never dreamed of being alive this long. I really appreciated being able to have known lots of nice people in my career.”

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2023/2023-Spring-R2Rendezvous.pdf>

Decades of Pikes Peak Leadership



*Left to Right: Steve Deitemeyer, Bill Nelson, Brent Botts, Oscar Martinez, Carl Bauer.
January 19th, 2024. Pikes Peak Ranger District, 601 S Weber St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.*

Pikes Peak District – Colorado Springs, CO

L. A. Dark 1904–1905	Roan C. Anderson 1961–1967	Gary Edson 1988–1989
John H. Patterson 1905–1928	Richard T. “Dick” Hauff 1967–1969	James R. Montoya 1989–1994
William F. Cochran 1930–1946	Dennis L. Lynch 1969–1972	William R. Nelson 1994–2005
Ray M. Bradshaw 1946–1949	Kenneth H. Wood 1972–1973	Brent O. Botts 2005–2012
Floyd A. Phillips 1952–1956	Ladd G. Frary 1973–1975	Allen D. Hahn 2012–2014
Gordon A. Ince 1956–1957	Bob Wagner 1975–1976	Oscar Martinez 2014–2022
Warren Walters 1957–1958	Steve Deitemeyer 1976–1980	Carl Bauer 2023–Present
Elmer Miller 1958	Vern Schmidt 1980–1988	
John D. Graves 1958–1961		

Ranger Information from the [Region 2 Ranger Roll Call](#) at the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Happy Birthdays

USFS



The National Forests (first called Forest Reserves) began with the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, creating the U.S. Division of Forestry within the Department of Interior (DOI). In 1901, it became the Bureau of Forestry. On **February 1, 1905**, it was transferred from DOI to the Department of Agriculture, and the United States Forest Service (USFS) was born.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The United States currently has 155 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and 222 research and experimental forests, as well as other special areas, covering more than 192 million acres. It has evolved into an agency that manages the national forests for a wide range of uses including recreation, timber, wilderness, minerals, water, grazing, fish, and wildlife.



Smokey

Smokey's actual birthday is **August 9**. However, starting in January, the Forest Service which has, in cooperation with the Ad Council and the National Association of State Foresters, managed the image of Smokey Bear since the 1940s will launch a yearlong celebration. The kickoff will start with Smokey sharing his iconic phrase of Only You Can Prevent Wildfires in the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1.

In fact, across the country all sorts of activities are being planned from guest appearances at local events, a Facebook live stream from the California State Fair in July with Darley Newman, host of the PBS show *Travels with Darley*, and a social media campaign where the Forest Service is asking folks to sing Happy Birthday to Smokey with the hashtag #SingForSmokey.

Some of the #SingForSmokey videos will be streamed across numerous social media platforms on August 9 so get your vocal cords ready to belt for the bear! And the fun continues through the year with the Smokey Bear balloon appearing the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the lighting of the US Capital Christmas Tree!

Watch Movies - Get Smarter

Come to the 18th Annual Colorado Environmental Film Festival the 3rd weekend of February in Golden - or save the trip and watch it online the following week.

63 films from around the world

CEFF presents thought-provoking films and dialogue that raise awareness of a wide variety of interconnected ecological, social, and economic themes.

www.ceff.net



Memorial Grove Ceremony

May 4, 2024 at Monument, Colorado



A Tribute to Memorial Grove
on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=sO5MvIGJoZY&t=32s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO5MvIGJoZY&t=32s)

Good morning Tom,
I wanted to express our thanks and appreciation for the wonderful ceremony last weekend. It was a great tribute to the men and women that served in many ways for the Forest Service.

Debbie Cook Harbin
(Daughter of Dick Cook)

Dear Tom,
The Memorial Grove Ceremony I attended will remain a wonderful memory. My mother, Betty Alexander, was honored by your words and the service. Thanks to you and your staff for all the organization for such an awesome day. I could not speak that day as it was too emotional for me.

Regards, Gwen Hawkins

Dear Tom,
My family and I would like to thank you and the people who helped you put on such a wonderful occasion the fourth of May. We were so glad to have been there. It was such a beautiful day, we enjoyed the music, the flags waving, the ceremony, the beautiful grove, and the lovely horse....
Thank you...Sondra Schwulst

2023 Memorial Grove Honorees

Charles Joseph (Chuck) Alluisi	AR/Canyon Lakes District and R-6
Linda Austin	AR/Pawnee, Gunnison NF & NG, NPS
Linda Carol Drake Bell	PSICC NFs and NG's, Personnel
Sherrel Ann Clark	Nebraska NFPurchasing
Jackie Lee Deeds	Regional Office
Judy Dexter	Regional Office
Richard A. Dieckman	Roosevelt NF, RO
James P. (Jim) Dunn	GMUG NF
Edward Duran	Regional Office, Cartography
Dennis John Eckardt	Bighorn, Shoshone, Pike NF
Floyd Charles Fowler	Black Hills NF, R-1
Sharon Green	White River NF
Roderick Hancock	Black Hills NF Engineering, and R-1
Bonita L. Harris	Black Hills NF
Ronald Lee Hassell	PSICC NFs and NGs, Salida RD
Gary Heath	Medicine Bow NF and 5 other R-1 and R-6 NFs
David R. W. Hoefer	San Juan, White River, Routt, and R-4
Gloria Jean Holley	GMUG, Fire Dispatch
Linda Kay Lanham	GMUG, Environmental Engineer
Paul Glenn Lans	Nebraska NF
Mark Lauer	San Juan NF
Barbara (Bobbie) Brown Ledgerwood	San Juan NF
Vincent E. Maloney	San Juan NFEngineer
Lloyd Clifford Newland	Regional Office, Engineering
Joseph Junior (Joe) Newton	GMUG
Sigfrid George (Sig) Palm	Roosevelt, Bighorn NF, R-3, WO
Gerald Lee (Jerry) Poe	Rio Grande NF, R-3, R-4, R-8
Alex Rudney	PSICC, Silviculturist, Salida RD
Gerald John (Jerry) Ryszka	Black Hills & GMUG NFs, Regional Office
Sandra L. (Sandy) Smyth	PSICC, Salida
Phillip Sprague Steers	White River NF
Sam Suazo	Rio Grande NF, VIS Receptionist
Robert L Vaught, Jr.	Regional Office, R-2; R-4, R-6, R-10 and WO
Marilyn Whalon	Regional Office

Not Forgotten

Lois Heinis	Black Hills N. F. Administrative Asst.
Jose Robert Ortiz	Rio Grande N. F.
Frances Mae Pettit	Black Hills N. F. Finance

When Was The Last Time You Bought Fire Boots?

There are three mandatory criteria that must be met according to the wildland fire boot standard.

1. Boots must be a minimum of 8 inches high.
2. Boots must be leather lace-up style.
3. Boots must have a lug style melt-resistant sole.

White's Boots

<https://whitesboots.com/>



4811 Arch-Ease™ Last
**The Original Smokejumper
Lace-to-Toe**
\$699.00



610 Last
Fire Hybrid
\$599.00

Nick's Boots

<https://nicksboots.com/>



4811 Arch-Ease™ Last
C409LTT Smokejumper
\$599.00



W4811 Arch-Ease™ Last
Women's Smokejumper
\$699.00



Quick Ship



JK Boots

<https://jkboots.com/>



Evolution of the Interagency Hotshot Crew

Jim Cook with contributing author
Kurt La Rue - January 3, 2024

The Interagency Hotshot Crews of today are a chapter in a legacy which goes back to the very beginning of the wildland fire service. Over the years crews have come and crews have gone, but [each crew has its own unique story](#) of origin and growth that is as varied as the personalities drawn to the business. The evolution of hotshot crews is a larger story filled with a little nuance, some conflictive truths, and lots of local legends; to read another thread of the story check out this [article by a U.S. Forest Service Historian](#). Through changes in national fire policies and national resource management objectives, these crews have proven their worth and remain the answer whenever extreme challenges arise.

The wildland fire service that exists today has evolved over many decades through forward thinking experimentation, interrupted by organizational reaction to tragedies, all mixed with public and political pressures. Out of all of this, the Interagency Hotshot Crew has emerged as the premier asset for fighting large fires and doing projects on a landscape scale. Just as the current wildland fire service has evolved, so too have present day crews evolved from those who came before...here is a thread of that story.

During the late 19th century, federally-owned lands were vaguely identified and subject to trespass for a variety of activities. The only protection these early parks and forest reserves had was the U.S. Army. The first military detachment to take charge of federal public lands did so at Yellowstone National Park in 1886. This arrangement was common in other parks and forest reserves until the U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905 and the National Park Service was established in 1916. These troops were tasked with enforcing regulations and protecting resources, which included wildland firefighting duties. Several of these military units were Buffalo Soldiers, which were all-black regiments.

The story of Forest Service Ranger Ed Pulaski's defense of Wallace, Idaho from wildfire and his forceful actions to save 45 firefighters is legendary. But the Fires of 1910 were also a significant turning point for federal land management policy in this country. The epic destruction of whole towns and vast timber resources along with the deaths of 78 men pressed into temporary firefighter roles sparked a national political debate that resulted in the passage of the Weeks Act by Congress in 1911. One piece of this legislation recognized that the federal and state governments needed to start cooperative forest fire protection efforts. It could be argued this was the origin of wildland firefighting as a professional duty.

The documentation for wildland fire activity in the years immediately following the Fires of 1910 is sparse. This is not surprising considering the dispersed nature of the newly established U.S. Forest Service organization; the communication technology of the times; and the effects of World War I and the Spanish Flu epidemic. According to National Wildfire Coordinating Group records there were no wildland firefighter fatalities between 1910 and 1926, while other sources identify a number of fatalities during this time period. Also, there is very little information available about the many large fires during this period.

For the story with lots of nice pictures - here's the link.

<https://storymaps.com/stories/765c6bae762746a9b4ff269e20b6913d>

Move Fast and Fix Things

Using fibers made from fast-growing grasses instead of wood



While launching a sustainable furniture startup during the pandemic, serial entrepreneur Josh Dorfman watched as the price of wood skyrocketed. It got harder to find high-quality lumber, and he started wondering what alternative materials might be possible to use.

At the same time, he connected with two former SpaceX engineers who were interested in wood alternatives for another reason: They saw an opportunity to rework construction materials to speed up carbon capture at a large scale. Trees suck up CO₂ as they grow, but fast-growing grasses, they realized, can capture even more—and can be made into structural panels that are used to build homes.

“We can skip the tree altogether,” says Huade Tan, who previously helped develop spacecraft at SpaceX. Dorfman, Tan, and fellow SpaceX engineer Nathan Silvernail cofounded **Plantd**, a North Carolina-based building materials startup, to bring the new products to market.

The company, which just raised \$10 million in a Series A funding round, uses a tall form of perennial grass that can grow 20 to 30 feet in a single year, absorbing as much as 30 tons of carbon. “Our vision is to take carbon out of the atmosphere as fast as possible and lock it away,” Dorfman says.

While a pine tree grown in a managed plantation might be harvested after 15 years, the grass can be harvested as many as three times in a season, and keeps growing back. Because it can be grown more easily, it can also help avoid supply chain shortages.

The team is developing its own automated, modular, all-electric equipment that can shred the

By Adele Peters

She is a senior writer at Fast Company who focuses on climate solutions. She contributed to the bestselling book "Worldchanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century" and a new book from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies called State of Housing Design 2023.

fiber from the grass and put it back together to form the structural panels that are used in walls, roofs, and subfloors in construction. Like wood, the grass contains strong cellulose fiber. It can be manipulated in a similar way to how mills make engineered wood, though the startup is designing custom equipment to boost the quality of the final product, keep costs low, and shrink the carbon footprint of production. The factory will also be able to make cross-laminated timber for larger buildings, replacing carbon-intensive steel and concrete.

The products can compete on cost with wood panels, the founders say, and are stronger, lighter, and more resistant to moisture. “We see the greatest opportunity to lock away the most carbon when we make a superior product than what exists today,” Dorfman says. “And do it in a way where that end customer can still build exactly the same way . . . they don’t have to change in any respect.”

(More) <https://www.fastcompany.com/90841297/these-building-materials-are-made-out-of-grass>





NAFSR Report

February 17, 2024

Sharon Friedman and Johnny Hodges

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) met in Denver on February 6 and 7. Below are some highlights from the meeting

- The Board welcomed three new Board members – **Bill Avey**, Helena, MT; **Tim DeCoster**, Washington, DC; and **Ralph Crawford**, New Castle, DE. During the meeting another new Board member was approved, **Teresa Benson**, Porterville, CA.
- The Climate Committee, chaired by **Rich Guldin**, has completed two new papers, a Forest Carbon Position Paper, and a Forest Carbon Science Paper. Both papers were approved by the Board.
- NAFSR has been very active in new Forest Service policies related to Old Growth.
- Forest Service Chief **Randy Moore** spent two hours in person with the Board discussing a variety of issues.
- NAFSR held a Membership Drive during the month of January and recruited 91 new members, bringing our total membership to just under 800 members.
- All Board members participated in a 30-minute call-a-thon where they called current members that have not paid their 2024 dues. Within two days, 27 members paid their annual dues including 4 new Lifetime Memberships.
- NAFSR Chair, **Steve Ellis**, recently wrote two op-eds. One was on the topic of the burn boss in Oregon who was arrested by the local sheriff while conducting a prescribed burn. The other was about wildland firefighter pay. Both have been published by several newspapers.
- Go to the NAFSR website at - [National Association of Forest Service Retirees \(nafs.org\)](https://nationalassociationofforestservicetirees.org) for all the latest updates and documents.

Rocky Mountain Region Updates

- **Jacque Buchanan** recently left the Region for the Pacific Northwest Region where she is serving as Regional Forester; announcement for two permanent Deputy Regional Foresters closed recently, and selections are anticipated later this month. **Steve Lohr** is currently on a detail assignment with the National Wild Turkey Federation as part of his SES Candidate Development Program
- The Region currently has three Acting Deputy Regional Foresters (**Chad Stewart**, **Scott Fitzwilliams**, **Gerald Connor**)
- New permanent Forest Supervisors have recently started on the Black Hills NF (**Shawn Cochran**), the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (**Ryan Nehl**), and the Rio Grande NF (**Dennis Kuhnel**)
- **Kevin Khung** starts on 2/11/24 as the Regional Director for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry



National Museum's History Corner

Sharing the rich history and stories
of America's conservation legacy

BIG NEWS! Donor has offered us up to \$500,000. IF WE CAN MATCH IT!

First, THANK YOU Rocky Mountaineers for your unwavering support to the Museum, including your association's 2023 donation (\$1,905) to the Campaign Closers Circle. Our highest priority is to complete the Capital Campaign for the National Conservation Legacy Center (CLC), the flagship building on our Missoula campus. We will break ground this spring but still need to raise funds to ensure all costs are covered for both the building and exhibition. THANKS to **Bill Disbrow** we now have a great promotional video: <https://dizco.com/museum/2024-Museum-Fundraiser.mp4>

At the end of December, one of our long-time donors, offered to help us finish the capital campaign. He and his wife will donate up to \$500,000 by matching every new cash donation (both individual and corporate) we can raise by June 2024. **In essence, any new capital campaign cash donation we receive by June 2024 will be doubled! Our very generous donor has provided us a tremendous opportunity to complete the capital campaign!**

- Can you help us with individual donation(s) and/or connect us with companies that are donor-prospects? Here are some ideas for your consideration:
- Through your USFS retiree networks, ask for a donation of \$100 each from 20 or more of your colleagues, which total up to one or more 1905 CIRCLES (\$1,905). See Campaign Closers Circle brochure on following page or visit: <https://forestservicemuseum.org/campaign-closers-circle/>. The Museum's R-4/Intermountain regional director Dick Smith and now other regional cadres are taking this approach. R-4 has completed two 1905 Circles and are working on a third. Part of this was accomplished by former RF Jack Troyer, who contacted former members of his R-4 regional leadership team. Feel free to contact Dick (dicksandy01@gmail.com) or Jack (ictroyer1@gmail.com) for more information.
- Of course, we welcome larger donations from individual donors or groups of donors that meet the requirements for the FOUNDER'S CIRCLE (\$10,000), CURATOR'S CIRCLE (\$25,000), DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$50,000), or PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE (\$100,000)

If you have ideas for potential donors and/or know people that have connections to those prospects, please contact: Lisa Tate,

lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org,

Tom Petersen,

tom.petersen@forestservicemuseum.org,

or Call the Museum at (406) 541-6374.

You may also call Lisa at (208)

484-6667 (mobile).



Rendering of the National conservation Legacy Center, the Museum's beautiful flagship build on our Missoula. Campus. Featuring mass timber construction. We will break ground this Spring, 2024.

Continued from Page 20

Campaign Closers Circle

Join the CCC's

Hundreds of individual donors have made the Museum's mission and vision a reality over the past 35 years. Many have contributed to the Capital Campaign which has brought us so close to starting construction of the National Conservation Legacy Center. These supportive individuals and companies will be recognized on the Donor Wall at the Center.

Campaign Closers are individual donors who make Campaign-ending gifts between August 2023 and September 2025 specifically to help the Museum end the National Conservation Legacy Center Capital Campaign. Become a member of this elite, once-in-a-lifetime Giving Circle. This specific group will also be uniquely recognized on the Center's Donor Wall. An individual can be a part of both groups!

1905 CIRCLE

Donation of \$1905

1905 marks the first year of the U.S. Forest Service and members of this 1905 Circle will receive:

- Invitation for donor and guest to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and VIP party
- Custom-engraved 1905 Circle champagne flutes
- Donor recognition on the exclusive CCC donor board
- 1905 Circle pin
- Dedicated recognition in the Museum's Annual Report with 10 personal copies to share

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

Donation of \$10,000

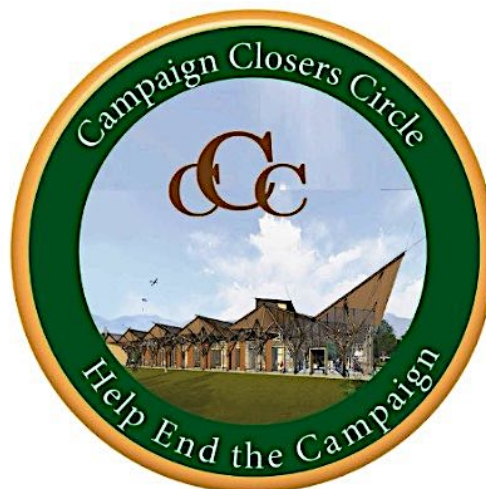
The Founder's Circle is in honor of State Forester and Museum Founder, Gary Brown

- VIP invitation to the ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies for donor and up to five guests
- Custom-engraved Founder's Circle champagne flutes
- Donor recognition on the exclusive CCC donor board
- Founder's Roundtable lapel pin
- Dedicated recognition in the Museum's Annual Report with 10 personal copies to share

CURATOR'S CIRCLE

Donation of \$25,000

- Lunch and Private collections tour with Museum Curator for the donor and up to 10 guests
- VIP invitation to the ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies for donor and up to five guests
- Custom-engraved Curator's Circle champagne flutes
- Donor recognition on the exclusive CCC donor board
- Curator's Roundtable lapel pin
- Dedicated recognition in the Museum's Annual Report with 20 personal copies to share
- Life membership to the Museum



DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Donation of \$50,000

- Private Cocktail Party at the Center for the donor and up to 20 guests with welcome by the Museum Director
- VIP invitation to the ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies for donor and up to five guests
- Custom-engraved Director's Circle champagne flutes
- Donor recognition on the exclusive CCC donor board
- Director's Roundtable lapel pin
- Dedicated recognition in the Museum's Annual Report with 30 personal copies to share
- Life membership to the Museum

PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE

Donation of \$100,000

Our highest and most elite Giving Circle, the President's Roundtable receives the following exclusive amenities in addition to the benefits previously listed.

- Private VIP Dinner Party at the Center for the donor and up to 20 guests with welcome by the Museum President and Director
- VIP invitation to the ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies for donor and up to 10 guests
- Opportunity to speak at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony podium
- Custom-engraved President's Circle champagne flutes
- Donor recognition on the exclusive CCC donor board
- President's Roundtable lapel pin
- Dedicated recognition in the Museum's Annual Report with 50 personal copies to share
- Life membership to the Museum

For information call Lisa Tate or Tom Petersen (406) 541-6374

Travel Reflections

Sailing the Dalmatian Coast, Croatia to Greece

By Cindy Dean



Kotor, Montenegro

Ten Rocky Mountaineers traveled to Southeast Europe in October 2023. We were excited to finally arrive in Slovenia and Croatia after postponing the trip during the COVID pandemic. A few of us started in Bled, Slovenia set in the Julian Alps with its picturesque views. The rest of the group joined us in Zagreb, Croatia before embarking on a two-week cruise along the Croatian and Greek Coasts and finishing in Athens. From Zagreb, we visited the Plitvice Lakes before boarding the 50-passenger ship in Zadar, Croatia.

Our ports of call included Split, Korčula, Dubrovnik, Kotor, and Corfu. Our small ship was able to visit smaller ports and navigate from the Ionian Sea to the Aegean Sea through the impressive Corinth Canal. October was a perfect time to enjoy nice weather, fewer crowds, and beautiful historic sights.

Midway through our trip, our ship docked in Dubrovnik for two full days and nights. This longer stay provided more time to explore the old city and walk its historic walls (20 feet thick and 70 feet high). We also took a ferry to nearby Lokrum Island to check out its gardens



Our group at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece

and craggy shoreline while seeing Dubrovnik's impressive walls from the sea.

The region's lure includes its dramatic coastline of beautiful inlets, islands, and historic ports to explore. The historic towns and cities along the Dalmatian coast on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas feature Roman and Renaissance structures, still intact or restored. The region's culture was influenced by the ancient Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, and Western Europeans. In addition, Slovenia, Croatia, and Montenegro were part of the former Yugoslavia (southern Slavs) that split apart in the 1980s.



The Rocky Mountaineers at Olympia, Greece

Corfu, Greece was our introduction to modern Greek culture as our ship made its way to Athens. We finished our trip traveling through the Peloponnese Peninsula. We visited ancient sites and temples dedicated to the Greek gods and goddesses, including Delphi, Olympia, and the Acropolis. Our travels helped improve our understanding of Greek history and its influence on Western Civilization through its governance, theater, literature, science, philosophy, and art.

The trip was another wonderful chapter in the Rocky Mountaineer travels of shared experiences with friends and the prospects of reminiscing about delightful adventures. We have visited new places, tried new adventures, tasted new cuisines, and discovered hidden gems that we may have missed on our own.

International Travel Coming Up

The Rocky Mountaineers continue to travel. We have 15 travelers for our next trip to Japan March 25 - April 8, 2024. Space is still available for our Morocco trip November 6-21, 2024 – details at [Morocco2024RockyMountaineersBrochure.pdf](#) and for our Sicily & Malta trip April 15 – May 1, 2025 -details at [SicilyRockyMountaineersBrochure.pdf](#) Our Nepal trip October 31 – November 16, 2025 is full but a waiting list is being kept. Contact Jim Thinnes at jimthinnes2@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions regarding future trips.

It Was Really Great Snow

The 11th Annual Ski Day at Winter Park/Mary Jane ski area was held on February 8. It was a beautiful partly cloudy/sunny day with lots of powder, great skiing, and great fellowship. Nearly twenty five folks were there and from reports a great time was had by all. Doug Laraby, shown on the far left, from Winter Park arranged for discounted tickets and Bjorn Dahl, in the inconspicuous red ski suit, made the arrangements.



Doug Laraby (Winter Park), Steve Johnson, Bjorn Dahl, Dan Nolan, Robin Langowski, Susan Gray, Paul Langowski, Jim Thinnes, Judy Wright, Cindy Dean, Mike Sargeant, Nancy Warren, Dave Loomis, Melanie Woolever, Joe Reddan, Gary Patton, Marilyn Norton, Dee Bartlett, Patricia Hesch, Brad Orr, Wendy Maquire.

But Wait - There's More Skiing



*The Western Slope Chapter of the Rocky Mountaineers invites you
to an Alpine and/or Nordic SKI DAY
@ Powderhorn Ski Area and Grand Mesa on
Wednesday March 20, 2024*

All Rocky Mountaineers and USFS employees are encouraged to come up to the Grand Mesa for an Alpine and or Nordic ski on Wednesday March 20. All are also invited to meet up with fellow USFS friends to enjoy the sunshine on the deck and relax for Après ski at [Powderhorn](#).

Alpine Skiers: We will ski in the morning and the plan is to gather around 9:30 - 10 am to ski and then have lunch together at the Cottonwood Room picnic lunch room. We also have the Cottonwood Room for the day to stage out of.

Arrangements have been made with Powderhorn Ski Resort to have special discounted lift tickets for everyone who doesn't have a season pass of some kind.

RSVP to Martha Moran (martha.moran10@gmail.com) or call her at 970-580-9367 if you want a 20% ski pass discount by Monday 3/18.

Nordic Skiers: The plan is to meet up at the Grand Mesa Visitor Center @ 10 am with John Almy (jmalmy@gmail.com) or the Skyway Ski Trailhead at 10:30.

At our summer gathering, it was decided it would be a fun day for all to join up on the Grand Mesa and slopes of Powderhorn and maybe we can start up a tradition?

If you have questions or want to share a ride with someone, contact Martha Moran @ martha.moran10@gmail.com or call her at 970-580-9367

Environmental History Week is April 21-28



Environmental History Week is a volunteer-run, international celebration of environmental history with events organized by environmental historians of all stripes for all audiences.

Events can take nearly any form, from field trips, exhibits and public lectures, to student projects, clean-ups, or scholarly presentations.

Environmental History Week events can take many forms. In person, face-to-face events could be walking or biking tours of your community; hands-on projects in collaboration with non-profits in your area; environmental history lectures on a campus or at a public library or museum; or a film series.

From the good folks at the [American Society for Environmental History](#)

<https://aseh.org/ehw-2024>

Mountaineers Making a Difference

By Frank Roth



*Caden Pitts, 2021
Scholarship Recipient*

Is there a high school senior in your life? Here's great news for them!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship. Deadline is March 31st, 2024. Four scholarships of \$1500 each will be awarded, with two being specifically earmarked for natural resource majors. Applicants must have a Rocky Mountaineer member as a sponsor. Questions: Call Frank Roth 307 754-7063, Scholarship Committee Chair. We are no longer outreaching to local high schools and are only reaching out to seniors who are closely connected to Rocky Mountaineer members and children of Forest Service employees.

Check out all the application details on our website
at www.rockymountaineers@us.com.

Please help spread the word!

Did you know?



A state breakdown of all 26
of the [scholarship winners](#)
since 2015.

CO - 18
WY - 5
NE - 1
OH - 1
SD - 1

Caden Pitts is a 2021 recipient of the Rocky Mountaineers Scholarship. He used the scholarship to attend a fire science program. After a semester he took a permanent fire position on the Shoshone National Forest, in 2022, on a fuels module. In 2023 he hired on with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control on the Montrose helitack crew. He said that over half of their missions had to do with search and rescue or medical emergencies. In 2024 he will continue with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control as a senior fire fighter, a permanent full time position, on a 10 person wildland fire module based in Pueblo. They are responsible for Initial Attack, and other wildland fire fighting locally, regionally, and nationally. The Rocky Mountaineers scholarship enabled Caden to get educational experience and a foot in the door into a natural resources career fighting fire.

Retirees Gather Around The Region



Clockwise from top left—Denise Tomlin, Glen Snyder, Kurt Muenchow, Jim Pringle on edge of photo, Melissa Hunter, Heidi Snyder, Flint Cheney

The Denver area retiree luncheon was Tuesday, January 23 at Jose O'Shea's in Lakewood, CO. About 33 people attended.



Clockwise from top left---Bernie Weingardt, Susan Weingardt, Ed Ryberg, Lynn Larsen (standing), 2 unknowns, Andy Kratz, Jim Bedwell

Seventeen PSICC retirees met in Pueblo West on February 8th for some food and fellowship.



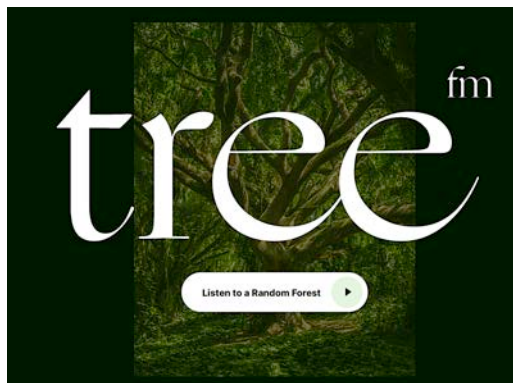
Left to Right: Gail Tyler, Dave Crumley, Lance Tyler, Jan Myers, Ron Myers, Bill Nelson, Brent Botts, Tom Healey, Linda Casteel, Darlene Mattson, Lori Haug, Linda Ellsworth, Rick Ellsworth, Gail Tameler, Karl Tameler, Cheryl Klock, Larry Klock.

Listen to the Forest

Something new for the city folks

Listen to the Forest

LISTEN
[Tree.fm](https://tree.fm)



Remember Forests?

People around the world recorded the sounds of their forests, so you can escape into nature, and unwind wherever you are. Take a breath and soak in the forest sounds as they breathe with life and beauty!

And while you are here, why not help to grow what keeps us alive? Climate change and governments are destroying our forests. Let's leave some trees for our grandchildren to climb and make the steps to restore our planet.

[Tree.fm](https://tree.fm) is a unique website that allows visitors to "listen to a random forest" with the click of a button. Unwind and soak up some nature from home by tuning in to the sonic landscapes of arboreal habitats around the world — an experience made possible by everyday people recording those environments and submitting the audio files to the open source library Sounds of the Forest.



What Did We Get Ourselves Into?

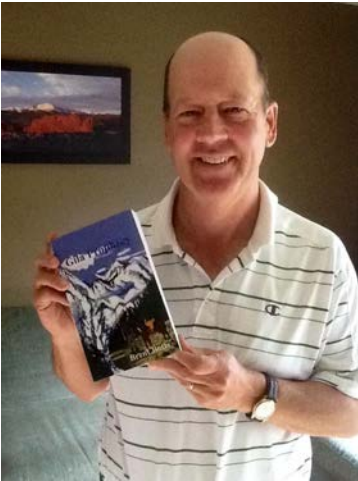
Five unforgettable episodes from the Oral History Program at the National Museum of Forest Service History



A fun and educational look back at the wives of the early Forest Service. Their stories of being unpaid employees of the U.S. Forest Service and the adventure of "going along for the ride" on a lifetime in the middle part of the 1900s.

www.forestservicemuseum.org/oral-history-program/podcasts

Brent Botts, Author



Brent Botts, retiree, author bookseller.

I always wanted to write the great American novel. I finally started that quest in 2005. I knew what kind of books I liked to read, and authors like Clive Cussler, Tom Clancy and Tony Hillerman were some of my favorites. I always liked how they really knew the locations and specific things about those places. I'm certain they visited many of the ones they wrote about. They also knew their subject

matter well. They owned the cars, worked the occupations, and lived in the places found in their books. All I needed to do was incorporate those attributes into what would be the next great American novel.

I was District Ranger on the Pikes Peak Ranger District when I started writing what I thought might take a year's time to complete. I was sure it couldn't take much longer, after all, the aforementioned authors were cranking out books by the month. How hard could it be? Spoiler: I didn't finish until 18 months after I retired, in 2012. The journey was arduous; writers block, edits, rewrites, publishing and, yes, work always found a way to detour my efforts. When finished, I vowed never to put myself through that again, no matter how high I climbed on the best seller list.

Having never taken a writing class other than what was required in high school or college, I started my novel writing experience with learning the basics like having a protagonist, antagonist, tertiary characters and the like. Then there were the numerous rewrites making sure character descriptions were accurate and chapters correctly identified whose prospective it was and that timelines were accurate.

Gila Prophecy was published May, 2013, a novel that takes place on the Gila National Forest. Mostly on the Gila River and the Gila Cliff Dwellings, a place I had visited often as the Deputy Director of Recreation in Region 3. The main character is Jason Beyer, the Director of Recreation for the

Southwest Region, who was also the leader of an inner-city youth group that he would lead down the Gila River. I was the Scoutmaster of Troop 126 while stationed in Albuquerque. It was a great experience, except for the trip I took the scouts down the Gila River, and we almost all perished because of a downpour upstream that caused the river to flood.

Well, you can see how the story was developed. All I had to do was add in a little discovery of gold, some Southwest history and culture, a few greedy and unscrupulous bad guys, and the novel would write itself. I found out it doesn't happen that way.

Here it is 2024, and I am making progress on the sequel. I guess we do forget how hard it was the first time. I learned a great deal about writing. I love the creative part of telling a story. I am still not fond of the numerous rewrites, edits and publishing, but I have hope that part of the job is made easier with better computer programs and the latest in artificial intelligence that does much of that work for me. I have tempered my expectations of ever being on the best seller's list or becoming a millionaire from my book sales. I am motivated solely by my love of writing and by the occasional kind words from the few that have read my book and ask, "When is the sequel going to be finished?"

https://www.amazon.com/Gila-Prophecy-Brent-Botts/dp/1304735338/ref=cm_cr_ar_p_d_pdt_img_top?ie=UTF8

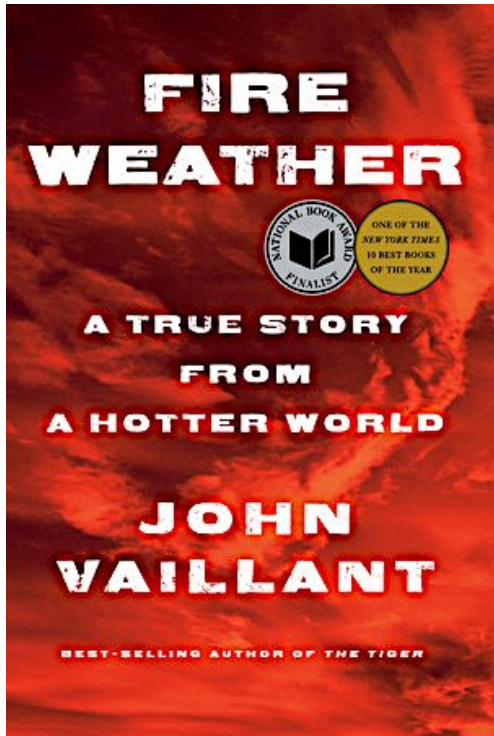
Reviews from Verified Purchasers

"Knowing that half of this story was true made this an even more exciting book. Once the actual canoe trip started, I couldn't put it down. Quite a thriller!"

"A true scouting story wrapped into fiction that quickly becomes a multilayered thriller read almost without pause to its exciting end."

"I really enjoyed reading this exciting adventure that will be a great read for all....ages 8 to 80. The author obviously has a lot of experience being around young people in outdoor settings."

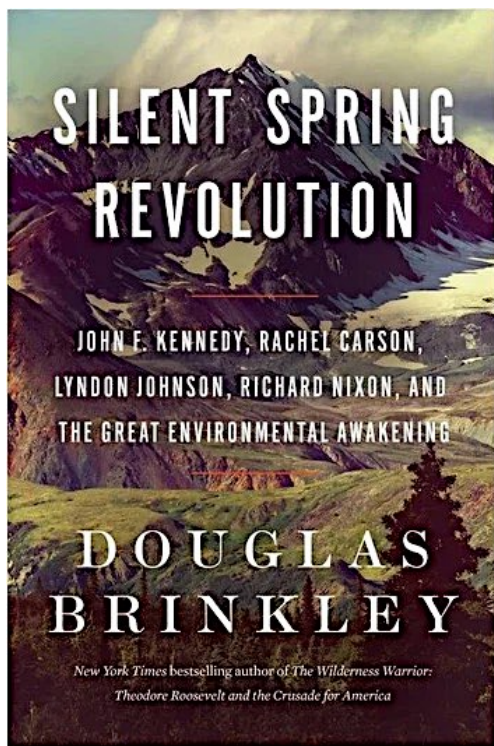
What the Cool Kids are Reading



A NEW YORK TIMES TOP TEN BOOK OF THE YEAR • FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN NONFICTION

A stunning account of a colossal wildfire and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind from the award-winning, best-selling author of *The Tiger* and *The Golden Spruce*. Winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction

In May 2016, Fort McMurray, the hub of Canada's oil industry and America's biggest foreign supplier, was overrun by wildfire. The multi-billion-dollar disaster melted vehicles, turned entire neighborhoods into firebombs, and drove 88,000 people from their homes in a single afternoon. Through the lens of this apocalyptic conflagration—the wildfire equivalent of Hurricane Katrina—John Vaillant warns that this was not a unique event, but a shocking preview of what we must prepare for in a hotter, more flammable world.



In *Silent Spring Revolution*, Douglas Brinkley pays tribute to those who combated the mauling of the natural world in the Long Sixties: **Rachel Carson** (a marine biologist and author), **David Brower** (director of the Sierra Club), **Barry Commoner** (an environmental justice advocate), Coretta Scott King (an antinuclear activist), **Stewart Udall** (the secretary of the interior), **William O. Douglas** (Supreme Court justice), **Cesar Chavez** (a labor organizer), and other crusaders are profiled with verve and insight.

Carson's book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, depicted how detrimental DDT was to living creatures. The exposé launched an ecological revolution that inspired such landmark legislation as the Wilderness Act (1964), the Clean Air Acts (1963 and 1970), and the Endangered Species Acts (1966, 1969, and 1973). In intimate detail, Brinkley extrapolates on such epic events as the Donora (Pennsylvania) smog incident, JFK's Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Great Lakes preservation, the Santa Barbara oil spill, and the first Earth Day.

With the United States grappling with climate change and resource exhaustion, Douglas Brinkley's meticulously researched and deftly written *Silent Spring Revolution* reminds us that a new generation of twenty-first-century environmentalists can save the planet from ruin.

Nature in the Classroom

<https://www.natureintheclassroom.org/featured-installations.html>

Nature In The Classroom seeks to transform the education environment by installing ceiling murals of tree canopies in classrooms. The character of a student's learning environment plays a key role in learning and behavioral outcomes. Bringing nature into the classroom sends a strong message that the natural world isn't separate from the pursuit of knowledge. It is the source of all that is known.

This seemingly simple connection provides students and teachers with context for all of the subjects being taught. Mathematics, physics, social studies, and poetry all emanate from humans engaging with, and attempting to understand the natural world. Including the natural world in the pursuit of learning, whether indoors or out, has the potential to positively influence the outcomes all schools seek.

Greening schoolyards and classroom views to trees has been documented to boost academic achievement, creativity and social emotional learning. Outdoor experiences are essential for the healthy development of children of all ages. But students, faculty and staff spend 85-90% of their day indoors. In urban and inner-city schools, playgrounds are mainly asphalt and windows are often barred, covered or simply have a view to another wall. Due to the increased violence, new schools are being built without classroom windows. Overcrowded schools have brought in portable classrooms to accommodate nine million plus

students, where window views often look out to another portable classroom.

Why This Works

Nature In The Classroom is the embodiment and application of Attention Restoration Theory (ART) and fifty years of supporting research. The science shows that when we view trees or images of trees it calms us, helps us focus and engage. Karyn Smolic, a middle school teacher summed it up, "I can already tell that by having the tree ceiling it has brought a sense of calmness and peace to the students seated underneath them."

Irish Elementary School - Ft. Collins, CO

A team came to install the ceiling tiles today. They're beautiful. I've attached some pictures. My kids came back from PE and started jumping up and down with joy (literally jumping up and down, yelling "yay!") I heard everything from "It's beautiful!" to "Le voy a decir a mi mamá." I wish you could have seen their little faces. It was a very special moment.

I can't wait to practice some mindfulness under our canopy! Thank you so much for your generosity!

Clarissa Hernandez, Kindergarten Teacher



Before installation the ceiling mural



After installation the ceiling mural

What is Forest Service Wallyball?

By Dave Wolf



1990s era retirees Gordon Sloane, DeeAnn Zwright, Tim Clark.

In the 1990's, (last century) with a new emphasis on employee fitness and exercise (employees were granted 30 minutes of work time per week for exercise), a group began playing Wallyball after work. Wallyball is a game that looks much like volleyball, with players on either side

of a high net setting, passing and spiking a ball. The game is actually played on a racquetball court, where bouncing the ball off the ceiling and walls is just part of the game.

The sport has grown worldwide with a player base of over 15 million in over 85,000 facilities worldwide. The game is similar to volleyball, but is played in a racquetball court and has categories for men, women, and co-ed. The ball may be caromed off the walls.

There were about a dozen or two employees who played over the years. Enough that an official tournament was set up and played at the old Carmody Recreation Center on Kipling Street in Lakewood. No one can remember who holds the bragging rights.



1990s era retirees Chuck Harnish, Florence Navarro, Ed Ryberg.

This weekly event survives today. We play after work at Lakewood's Green Mountain Recreation Center on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. We consider five or more players to be a quorum. The group has broadened to include retirees and non-FS folks who were invited by players. Recently a man and his 6th grade daughter and 4th grade son joined us. The daughter raised the average skill level of the group.



Official Rules Book



1990s era retirees Larry Coffelt, Nancy Hollenkamp, Jerry Freehof.

We are always recruiting more players, so if you are interested, please join us. Call or email Dave Wolf (720-289-1851, mjwolf7@juno.com). The mood on the court is competitive, yet friendly. We are not concerned about anyone's skill level, and everyone is welcome no matter their volleyball experience or lack of it. After playing for a week or two, you will be an expert!



Typical Wallyball court setup with three on a side.

The U.S. Forest Service Way

Eddie Brannon's Wit & Wisdom

I retired from the US Forest Service January 2, 2005. Three days later, I was on the road to Richmond, Virginia, to give a presentation at the opening of a conference honoring the agency's centennial. I had been immersed in my work for so long, I did not know how to feel, what to think, or what to do without my work. It took me years to stop introducing myself as the "retired Director of Grey Towers." I know a lot of retired Forest Supervisors do the same. I needed to take a break and stop thinking about the agency 24/7 – maybe become a different person. The real me. Now some fifteen years later, I have learned the Forest Service in me is the real me.

My wife Kathe and I purchased a travel trailer so we could take our grandsons camping in Montana and Idaho. We set out on our maiden Western voyage from Milford, Pennsylvania in 2020. For most of the summer, the Missoula Valley was choked with smoke. The Columbia River Gorge was hot as an oven. In Northern California, the ground was dry as dust, and every evening the sound of the fire-retardant planes taking off, one after another, pierced the quiet of the Sierra Nevada's western slope. It triggered something hidden away in a corner of my brain and I started to think about what Forest Supervisors must be experiencing.

I served as Forest Supervisor of the Flathead National Forest for six years in the 1980's, and Director of Grey Towers, Pinchot Institute of Conservation, for 15 years ending in 2005. Seems like ancient times. Fire may have been 10 percent of the Forest Service's annual budget at that time. We would have the occasional 10,000-acre fire, but mostly we discussed how to introduce "prescribed wildfire" into our management strategy. We prayed for a fire each fall. This was how us worker bees earned extra money to replace our old refrigerator or washing machine or got a new shotgun they had been drooling over. We also knew fire had regenerative properties that were part of healthy forests. When we had a fire, it was typically short-lived. NO ONE is praying for more fires today.

David Brooks, New York Times writer and PBS commentator, said in an interview about his new book, ***How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen***, responded to the question "Is this a self-help book?" His response is telling, "all my books are self-help books. Self-help for me." All writing is about self-learning, and this blog is no different. I know I am writing this mainly for myself. I initially thought I was writing for others.

There are those who believe little can be done to prepare for what arises in today's unpredictable environment. Our history shows we can. As AI

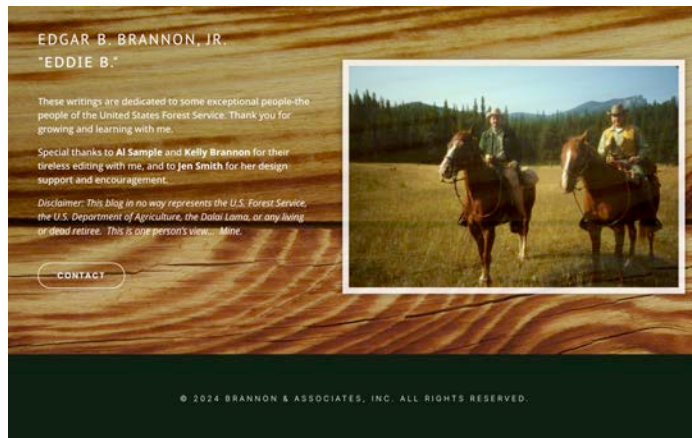
states in the preface, effective leadership is less about directing and more about listening, learning, and understanding, and then adjusting one's own perspectives, biases, and predilections. At its best, this learning process is a shared experience that becomes richer over time and is career-long if not life-long. And finally, basic virtues like honesty, openness, fairness, and

respect (core Forest Service values) play a far larger role in the agency than is often recognized.

These views are mine, and hopefully you will find them of interest. This blog, which I am calling the Forest Service Way, summarizes my experiences and understanding of leadership in the Forest Service and how the need for it developed. So, why am I writing about my leadership experience so long since I began my service in the Forest Service, and so long since I retired, when the agency has clearly continued to develop and deepen its leadership development efforts? Because, I, like most of you reading this blog, I am grateful for having such a meaningful career. I know most of Forest Service employees feel that way. I want to share my contribution to the agency and encourage you to create and share yours.

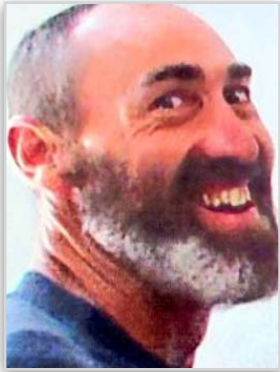
For the whole story, go to:

<https://theusfsway.com/?fbclid=IwAR0JgXZKriNpe8FbS9sHEgMAeyhJswok6JfdAIXifo3mu06e84WcCp9F2N8>





Remembrances



Charles Joseph (Chuck) Alluisi

Chuck Alluisi passed away Sept. 16, 2023. He was born July 1, 1949, in San Mateo, CA to Lester and Viola Alluisi and moved to Portland, OR as a child.

Chuck first attended Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, OR and then Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. This was interrupted by three years in the U. S. Army as an Airborne Sensor Specialist. He returned to Corvallis and graduated with a degree in forestry.

Chuck had an early Forest Service experience on the Forest Survey Crew in Alaska in 1971. In 1974 he worked as a seasonal at the Columbia Gorge RD in Oregon. From 1976-1993, Chuck was with Galice RD in Grants Pass, OR. Chuck married Denise Meyer in 1978, first son Nathaniel born in 1979, second son Michael born in 1981. Chuck moved to Colorado to work in fire management with

Canyon Lakes RD until retiring in Dec. 2004. He continued to fight fire with on-call contracts until he was diagnosed with cancer in 2022.

Chuck loved hiking, spending time with family, working on home projects and gardening. His real passion was helping others, reaching out to them with the love of Christ. He went to various places helping with disaster relief and work projects to help ministries. He was very involved in church activities as he was able. Chuck and Denise were involved in foster care from 2007-2018, being very influential in the lives of these children and their families. Several of these foster children keep close contact still. Chuck and Denise moved to Buena Vista, Colorado in 2019 to be close to family.

Chuck is survived by his wife Denise, sons Nathaniel and Michael, their wives, and 8 grandchildren. Siblings Sharon, Les, and Beth, their families and numerous relatives in Washington, Utah, and Oregon.



Sherrel Ann Clark

Sherrel Clark was born on December 6, 1946, in Norfolk, Nebraska to Pauline and Wilfred Tabler and passed away at Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center in Gilbert, Arizona on November 9, 2023 at 76 years of age. Sherry grew up in Hot Springs, South Dakota

where she had three children, Curt, Karie, and Kim. In the early 70's, she moved her family to Chadron, Nebraska where she could be closer to her mother, Pauline Jung.

In 1980, Sherry began working for the Nebraska National Forest as a Purchasing Agent. She retired

in 2009 and in 2010, she and her husband, Roland, moved to Arizona so Sherry could be closer to her two daughters, Karie and Kim. Sherry's hobbies included spoiling her two dogs, golfing, gardening, crafting, and watching the Denver Broncos! She was a loving mother and grandmother and was so very proud of all her family's accomplishments!

Sherry is survived by her son, Curt Smith, daughter-in-law, Traci, daughters, Karie Jones, Kim Smith, Belinda Petersen, and son-in-law James. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren and brother, John Jung of New Mexico.

Remembrances



Lewis Junior Compton

Lewis Compton, 93, of Hill City, SD, passed away January 26, 2024, at his home in Hill City. Lewis was born September 25, 1930, to Lewis and Eva Compton on the head of Spring Creek on a ranch, now known as the Medicine Mountain Boy Scout Camp.

Lewis grew up on his father's ranch near Moon, SD. He served in the U.S. Army until his honorable discharge in 1955, receiving the Combat

Infantryman's Badge and a Bronze Star. He married Charlotte Sutton of Albion, NE, on June 16, 1957.

He worked as a logger then went back to work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1958, retiring after 27 years. He was a member of the Custer Fire Department. He loved to hunt and fish, and his hobbies included making violins and other wood working.

Lewis is survived by his four children, Lewis (Charlene) Compton of Custer, SD; Kathy Chamberlain of Hill City, SD; Becky (Vernon) Huber of Huron, SD; Jon (Tammy) Compton of Helena, MT, along with several nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Jackie Lee Deeds

Jackie Deeds of Missoula passed away September 30, 2023, peacefully in his home after a hard-fought 12-year battle with complications due to kidney cancer.

Jackie and his twin brother Jimmie were born in Seattle, WA, February 14, 1944. His

father was in the military which moved the family often while growing up. The family settled in Missoula when the boys were in high school. This is where Jack found his calling in fire and after one year on a fire crew, he joined the Missoula Smokejumpers in 1963. Jack held close the lifelong bond and friendships with his band of brothers.

Jack attended U of M and after 3 years transfers to MSU to pursue a degree in Architecture. He accepted a position with the US Forest Service as

an architect which allowed him to continue his passion for fighting fires. Jack had a long successful career with the Forest Service which eventually took him to Denver, Colorado.

In 1998 Jack met the love of his life Peggy and they were married in 1999. They enjoyed traveling, skiing, and working for the Broncos! Jack and Peggy felt blessed when they moved back to Missoula last year and treasured 24 wonderful years together.

Jack is survived by his wife Peggy, his stepson Tom Steffes, his older brother Larry, his sister Kay Ball and his twin brother Jimmie. His Goddaughter Kira and her family held a special place in his heart. Jack loved his nieces and nephews and their families, he especially enjoyed sharing his stories with them.

Remembrances



Edward R. Duran

Edward Duran passed away on June 21, 2023, in Denver. Edward was born in Denver to Abraham and Rose Duran on August 31st, 1938. He went to West High School in Denver. Edward was a hardworking man who mastered the crafts he attempted, working in many fields and industries. Ed worked as a candy maker for many years, where he developed a love and passion for the craft.

He built a career with the Forest Service as a cartographer and photography developer, making

maps and processing film for the needs of the Forest Service for 30 years. Ed had an avid love for the outdoors. He loved to hunt, fish and travel to all corners of the nation with his family and friends. Ed was a man of the people, always willing to lend a helping hand and help those in need. His love and compassion for helping others surpassed his own needs.

Edward is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marianita of Denver, his grandchildren, Adam his wife Christen, Sara her husband Chuck, Alicia her husband Derek, Anthony his wife Ashley and Alexis. His great grandchildren Lilli, Payton, Gage, Hunter, Leo, and Adaline.



Orval DeVere Elliott

Orval Elliott passed away on January 11, 2024. He was born on May 26, 1934, in Buffalo Gap, SD to Frank Orval Elliott and Ruth (Miller) Elliott and grew up on the ranch that his great grandparents homesteaded in the 1800's. Heaven gained a great cowboy.

Orval was a Forestry Technician and did forestry work and log scaling for a good part of his FS career working mostly on the Custer RD on the Black Hills.

Orval is survived by his children: Patty (Ted), Ruthie (Charlie), Frankie, Johnny, and Kara; and his significant other, Donna.

Remembrances



Marvin Wallace Hammer

Marvin Hammer passed away on February 1, 2024 after a short battle with cancer.

Marvin was born the 7th child of Joseph and Irene (Aubert) Hammer on December 6, 1935 in Pringle, South Dakota. At the age of 5, the family moved to Custer

so that the children could attend school.

Marvin graduated from Custer High School in 1954. While in High School, he worked summers for the US Forest Service. After He graduated from High School, he worked 9 months on and 3 months off for the Forest Service, eventually going full time in 1958.

Marvin met the love of his life, Donna Larson, in the fall of 1954 at the roller rink in Custer. They married on October 19, 1956.

Marvin retired from the US Forest Service in 1983 and moved back to Custer to help care for his parents. He went to work for the City of Custer Street Department and soon became the foreman of the street department. Marvin retired from the City of Custer in 1997.

Marvin loved anything that had to do with the outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and

loved camping. He spent many hours walking the creeks and canyons in the Black Hills with his kids and grandkids. Marvin never considered it a bother to have the kids or grandkids tag along with him. He loved the hours he got to spend with them. Whether it was going for a ride through the wild life loop, visiting with loved ones over coffee and desert Donna made or fishing, camping or hunting, Marvin was always open for the adventure. Marvin enjoyed wood working and building things with this hands. He would spend hours in the garage building furniture, picture frames or anything else he could think of. There are many, many memories to be cherished by his children and grandchildren.

Marvin is survived by his wife of 67 years, Donna (Larson) Hammer of Custer and his special "snow ball" pup Kelsey. His daughter-in-law Karen (Ellerton) Hammer of Hermosa, daughter Debra (Curtis) Jensen of Rapid City. His son, Robert (Gloria) Hammer of Ft Collins, CO and his daughter Jeannette (Ernest) Pacheco of Custer, SD; grandchildren Amber Hageman of Fairbanks, AK and Justin (Katie) Hammer of Rapid City. Amy (Hayden) McVeigh of Bellevue, NE, Aaron (Devon) Hammer of Cambridge, WI, Belinda (Brad) Brown of Broomfield, CO and Ryan Pacheco of North Glenn, CO and 10 great grandchildren. His brother James (Deb) Hammer of Pierre, SD and Chuck (Kathy) Hammer of Springfield, OR. A very, very special brother-in-law Bill (Mona Lee) Larson of Fon Du Lac, WI and special sister-in-law Elma DuChateau of Custer, SD. Many nieces, nephews and cousins.

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Remembrances



Bonita L. Harris

Bonita Harris of Custer, SD, passed away December 3, 2023. Bonita was born to Otto F. Prokop and Lois J. Prokop on June 13, 1933, growing up in an eight by ten tarpaper shack on the prairies near Kadoka, SD. The tiny home became more crowded after brother, Veryl, joined the family. Days were full with

hauling water in a horse drawn wagon from the river miles away, haying, caring for stock and the everyday life of living in the depression-era 30's. Education was important to the family and when she grew beyond country schools, Bonita worked at the Pearl Hotel to pay for her room and board while attending Kadoka High School. After graduation, she found a job with the government and traveled first to McIntosh, SD, then White River, SD, where the ladies in the office hooked her up with Clair Harris when he arrived home from Korea. Due to a blizzard delaying the wedding, they were married on Christmas Day in 1955. Their daughter, Sheri, arrived nine months later, followed by Jane in 1960.

Bonita had a small herd of cattle, but no land to run them on. After leasing pasture for many years, her goal was to have a ranch and in 1968 that dream came true when she and Clair bought a ranch outside of Custer, SD. Bonita went to work answering phones for the Forest Service and moving her way up the hierarchy until she became a financial officer for Black Hills National Forest. She ran the ranch and raised her two girls while Clair was on the road working for the USDA.

Bonita was active in Custer and area communities. In the early 70's, she was involved in saving the Custer

Hospital, typing and mailing over 800 letters urging people to band together to keep the hospital open in the growing community. She was heavily involved with Custer's Gold Discovery Days Celebration, serving as director of the Pageant's Second Act, lining up parade entrants, handling advertising and a multitude of jobs to keep things rolling. She also helped to start the Southwest Dakota 4-H Rodeo, serving in many capacities along with Clair. Clair and Bonita helped to bring the World Horseshoe Tournament to Spearfish, SD in 1989 and 1993 where Clair competed and Bonita worked tallying scores, selling souvenirs, wherever she was needed. They traveled all over the US attending World Tournaments. Bonita also was active in the Republican Party, serving in many capacities from delegate to poll worker. A love of camping lead to her helping form the Paha Sapa Good Sam Campers group. Many weekends were filled with friendship and fun as they traveled around the area to different campouts. She also was an active member of many organizations ranging from BPO Does to VFW Auxiliary to Eastern Star.

After retirement, Bonita and Clair traveled to the warmer south, landing in a new resort in Casa Grande, AZ, where they spent nearly 30 winters with their beloved Snowbird family at Val Vista RV Resort. There, Bonita was able to pursue her love of music and joined the band where she played guitar, harmonica, mandolin and sang. After many squeaky, squawky practice sessions, she added the fiddle to her repertoire, teaching herself to read music and play the difficult instrument.

Bonita loved her family, her community, her cows, her music, her multitude of interests and her many friends who gathered often to celebrate whatever needed celebrating. She is survived by her daughters Jane and Sheri and their families, including grandchildren and great grandchildren.

(Continued from page 37)

Remembrances



David R. W. Hoefer

David Hoefer passed away on October 26, 2023. He was born on September 8, 1937, and was the middle child of five children born to Dr. Reverend Elmer and Thekla Hoefer in Rochester, NY. David was known to be a mischievous child who enjoyed pranks and misbehaving in church. His childhood included many family camping trips which influenced his love of the outdoors and led to his choice of a career as a Forester. He attended Colorado State University where he met his wife, Nancy, in the Hikers Club. They were married in Cincinnati, OH on June 25, 1960, and had three children. David's death came only a few weeks after losing Nancy. Their love for each other was so strong they could not be apart in life or death.

David's 35-year career with the Forest Service began in 1959 in Durango and Pagosa Springs, CO with the San Juan National Forest. He went on to work for White River and Routt Forests in Aspen and Steamboat Springs. He enjoyed being involved with the budding ski industry in Colorado. David obtained his master's degree from Michigan State University in 1978. He then worked for the

Sawtooth National Recreation Area and lived in Hailey, ID until taking his final assignment in 1988 as a Regional Environmental Coordinator in Ogden, UT. Retirement led him to Grand Junction, CO. He continued to work as a forestry consultant and was active in the Society of American Foresters for many years. Outdoor activities were prominent in David's life.

He was a mountaineer, hiker, skier, and cyclist. He was the first documented person to ride a bicycle over Trail Ridge Road. He rafted down the San Juan River and through Glen Canyon before Lake Powell was created. He continued to love rafting and camping throughout his life. David enjoyed wine making, Dutch oven cooking, building and refinishing furniture, and celebrating his German heritage by wearing lederhosen. David was known for his DIY skills and could fix anything. He and Nancy were active in their Christian faith and were members of churches in their communities, most recently the First Congregational Church. He supported environmental and social causes.

David is survived by two brothers, Jon Hoefer (June) of Gardnerville, NV and Philip Hoefer (Marcia) of Fort Collins, CO, his children Stephen Hoefer (Deb), Laura Conant (Bill Cort) and Kristen Seiff of Grand Junction, CO and grandchildren Rachel Seiff, Abbey Hoefer and Ben Hoefer.



Gloria Jean Holley

Gloria Holley passed away on July 9, 2023. Gloria was born in Mesa, AZ on October 28, 1943, to Carter Glade and Myrtle Ellen Matthews. She was the last of 5 children and the only daughter.

At the age of 21, in 1964, she married the love of her life, Dennis Wayne Holley. In 1967, they made the move to

Montrose, Colorado with their oldest child in tow. They added 2 more children to the family. A daughter in 1971 and a son in 1979. Gloria and

Dennis were sealed for all eternity in the Mesa, AZ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints temple in 1979. Gloria lost her only son, Patrick, in 2008 and her one and only love, Dennis, in 2017. What a joyous reunion they are having.

Gloria began her career with the Forest Service in August of 1967 and gave 30 years of service before retiring in 1997. She made the transition to Wildland Fire Dispatching where she became "famous." Gloria's faith was a very big part of who she was – which translated into who she was as a human. Not only did she have an unshakable faith and strong belief, but she also actually physically and visually lived it.

(Continued from page 38)

Remembrances

(Gloria Holley continued)

She set the example for everyone she met. The world views never touched her or shook her faith.

Gloria spent 20+ years in the Wildland Fire Dispatch community. Along with her strong faith that shined wherever she went, her name in the fire community is also spoken in reverence. She traveled all over the country working fires or for FEMA. She went to Puerto Rico to teach the official dispatching system, she worked with NASA in Atlanta to recover space shuttle debris, she went to South Carolina to work during hurricane Katrina and stayed for several months to assist – just to name a few.

Anyone who met her remembers the first time they met or worked with her and the impact she had on them. In her final months, she received hundreds of

cards and letters from all over the United States. Mom said at one time that she couldn't believe how many people were reaching out and telling her what an impact she had on them. This was the best thing about her – she was who she was without judgement or realizing her impact. She was inclusive, happy, friendly, loving, caring regardless of how anyone differed from her. Anyone who met or worked with her has been "Gloria-fied."

Survivors include her daughters Jill Cox (Craig) and Dawn Barlow. Her beloved grandchildren – Braunsen Mitchell, Skylar Mitchell (Monica), Tessa Rivera (Andrew), Bethany Robbins (Anthony), Mackenzie Cox, Chantz Barlow (Jasmine), Gannon Barlow and Wiley Harrison. She also has 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



Jim Holloway

Jim Holloway passed away unexpectedly at his home on January 8, 2024, at the age of 59. Jim was born in Marion, Ohio on May 5, 1964, and raised by his grandparents Betty and George Holloway.

He joined the military when he was 18 years old and retired after 20 years in beautiful Alaska. Jim went on to serve his country an additional 21 years with the Federal Government. Jim worked for the Region and supported the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland as well as the Regional Office. He transferred to the Small Business Administration where he retired about 6 months ago due to health reasons. During his time in the service he received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education and a Master of Business Administration.

Jim had a way of making people laugh, he always had a charm to him that people couldn't resist. Jim loved his time in the great outdoors, whether it would be hunting or fishing, hiking and camping. He shared many of these experiences with his children and closest family and friends. Jim had a love for music and playing the guitar. He also couldn't resist his love for hot rods, from his 1972 Super Bee in high school, to his current restoration of a 1986 Chevy K10.

Jim will be truly missed, but his memory will be carried on by his children. Jim leaves behind his eldest daughter Toni and her husband Daniel Bromberg, his son Connor Holloway, his youngest daughter Cara Holloway and his beloved Grandchildren JJ, Natalie, and Benjamin, his aunt and uncle Janet and Dwight Hoffman, and closest family members.

Remembrances



Paul Glenn Lans

Paul Lans of Chadron, NE departed life on October 31, 2023. Paul was born February 20th, 1962, in Alma, Nebraska. He was the 6th child born to Roland Ray and Irene E. (Fischer) Lans. Paul was baptized on March 11th, 1962, and later confirmed on May 20th, 1977, at the Stamford Trinity Lutheran Church. He

received his primary education initially from Stamford High School then transferred and graduated from Alma with the class of 1980. He pursued higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and attained a bachelor's degree in engineering.

Following his education, Paul began his career with the USDI-Bureau of Reclamation as a Civil Engineer in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was a student intern, then became a full-time employee following college and worked for the Bureau of Reclamation from 1982-2004. He then accepted an engineering position with the USDA-Forest Service in Sparks, Nevada. While working in Sparks, he met Ericka (Gahlhoff) Bartlett and they later had a son, Gunnar August Paul Lans, born on July 13th, 2006, in Reno. They were later married on February 7th,

2007. Desiring to live and be near family, they moved to Chadron, Nebraska, continuing both their careers with the Forest Service. On December 5th, 2008, Aksel Reinhold Kimball Lans was born. Paul continued working for the Forest Service, being a licensed Civil Engineer, in both Colorado and Nebraska, until his retirement at age 56 in April 2018, with over 36 years of Federal Government Service.

Paul was previously married to Christella Kay Stucker, from this union came two boys, Logan Branford, born August 22nd, 1993, and Corey Hendrix, born April 4th, 1997. They made their home in Grand Junction, Colorado. During this time, their family enjoyed being outdoors, doing things they loved like biking, hiking, riding motorcycles, and enjoying music.

Paul leaves to celebrate his life, wife Ericka Lans, sons Gunnar and Aksel of Chadron, Logan and Corey Lans of Colorado, along with his brother Bruce and wife Suzanne Lans of Stamford, Nebraska, sister Shirley Chestnut of Glade, Kansas and sister-in-law Trudy Lans of Colorado Springs, Colorado; 16 nieces and nephews; a host of great-nieces and nephews, one aunt Adale Schroder of Kearney, Nebraska and a host of cousins and friends.

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Remembrances



Vincent E Maloney Jr.

Vincent Maloney Jr. died on 10, 2023, at the age of 94. He was born on October 29, 1929, to Vincent and Virginia Maloney in Missouri. He leaves an exemplary legacy in the hearts of all who knew him.

Vince was a faithful husband for 69 years to his surviving wife Romelle Maloney, and a devoted father to their four children- Mark, Marilyn Heide, Jeff, and Tom. He was a loving grandpa to eleven grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and one great, great, grandchild. Vince was a patriot, serving his country in the Seabees and as a Naval Aviator during his second tour. The Stars and Stripes flew at his house every day. Vince competed collegiately in wrestling and football and excelled as a student-athlete at Colorado College and Colorado University where he graduated as a Civil Engineer.

He enjoyed his career with the US Forest Service and was forest engineer on the San Juan NF from 1972 through 1976. He later worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After retiring he still made a huge impact on others, most notably, by voluntarily tutored students at The Liberty School- an elementary school serving dyslexic and gifted students. Most importantly, Vince was a man of faith. He became a member of The River Church (formerly New Life Center) shortly after moving to Durango in 1971 and served in many capacities for 50 years until his health did not allow it. The life Vince led while on earth gives evidence of the reality of his relationship with his Lord and gives his family and friends great comfort.

(Continued from Page 41)

Remembrances



Sandra L. (Sandy) Smyth

Sandy Smyth of Houston, TX died August 15, 2023, in Houston TX. Mrs. Smyth was born March 19, 1945, in Orange, TX. To Mr. and Mrs. Earl Horn.

Sandy served in the U.S. Army and served a tour in Germany where she met

Herbert R. Smyth. They were married on September 28, 1984, in Liberty, Texas. They moved to Salida where Herb helped with the family ranch.

Sandy liked to read, do puzzles, and she loved cats.

Sandy's Forest Service career was with the Salida Ranger District when she joined in 1994 as a seasonal compliance officer. She was hired permanently in 1995 as the District's Administrative Clerk. She retired in April 2012.

She is survived by her sister Marlene Schoubroek, stepdaughter Staci Dewey (Don), stepchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Phillip Sprague Steers

Phillip Steers died on August 13, 2023, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado from a massive heart attack. Phillip (Phil) was born in Glen Cove, New York (Long Island) on January 17, 1958, to J. Rich and Judith Steers. Phillip

attended high school at Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut and graduated in 1978. He attended the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, graduating in 1982.

Phil's career started and ended with the United States Forest Service from 1983 to 2021 working in Wyoming, Oregon, Colorado, California, Michigan, and Oklahoma. Phil worked for the White River National Forest's Rifle Ranger District on and off for many years. He was meticulous and his work was always first rate.

Phil primarily worked in the timber program. He marked, cruised, and prepared timber sale packages for local forest products, including saw timber, post, poles, firewood and Christmas trees. He really enjoyed utilizing all forest products that

would support other Forest Service programs. He loved being outdoors and working in the forest. He took great pride in his work and cared deeply for the lands he worked on.

He started a recycling program at Rifle, and he was always hauling in scraps of recyclable material that visitors left behind. He also spent a lot of his weekends helping local recycling programs, sorting and packaging recyclables.

Phillip had a passion for history and archaeology. While working on the White River National Forest as a forester he was trained to be a para-archaeologist, helping to find and preserve cultural resources. Phillip was a devoted patron of the Glenwood Springs Historical Society, financially supporting urgent needs for the Frontier Museum. He would regularly bring historic artifacts to donate, from World War II medals to a valuable antique table. Phillip was an avid reader of history and would often send museum staff articles from publications of prehistoric and historic interest.

He was a good friend and generous man who lived a life of passion and service. Phillip is survived by his mother Judith Harvey Steers and brothers James, George, and Robert.

The Last Word

By Tom Thompson

Time To Reminisce

*Instead of running a **Last Word** this edition, we thought it would be nice to look back at all of the letters that Tom has written to us over the past decade. His missives are personal, historic, reflective, touching, and sometimes infuriating. He writes about those moments that we can all relate to - to the moments we remember and few that we'd like to forget. But most importantly they are always thought provoking.*

*It's also a time to look forward to the next ten years of the Rendezvous and let us know what you'd like to hear from Tom...when we let him have the **Last Word**.*

The Last Word articles by Tom L. Thompson

2013

[Fall 2013](#)

Helen Dowe

2014

[Winter 2014](#)

The Pine Cone Connection

[Spring 2014](#)

Service to Country

[Fall 2014](#)

One Year Report Card

2015

[January 2015](#)

A Dave Steinke Story
Special Edition

[Winter 2015](#)

Be Thankful

[Spring 2015](#)

Quiet Leadership

[Fall 2015](#)

The Family Connection

2016

[Winter 2016](#)

A Uniform Appearance

[Spring 2016](#)

The Fabric of the Forest
Service

[Fall 2016](#)

Passing the Recipe Down

2017

[Winter 2017](#)

A New Year's Resolution
with Gifford's Help

[Spring 2017](#)

The Value of a Stamp

[Fall 2017](#)

A River Runs Through It

2018

[Winter 2018](#)

The Best Possible
Anniversary

[Spring 2018](#)

Not Forgotten

[Fall 2018](#)

Forest Service Culture
Change

2019

[Winter 2019](#)

The Boots of Life

[Spring 2019](#)

First Things First

[Fall 2019](#)

Conservation in the
Countryside

2020

[Winter 2020](#)

Sid Hangs Up the Rivet
Gun

[Spring 2020](#)

A Different Springtime in
the Rockies

[Fall 2020](#)

I Blame Myself

2021

[Winter 2021](#)

Gone Fishing

[Spring 2021](#)

Closure and Connection

[Fall 2021](#)

A Pleasant Quiet This Fall

2022

[Winter 2022](#)

Normal Will Never Be Normal
Again

[Spring 2022](#)

Reflections on the
Rendezvous in the Rockies

[Fall 2022](#)

Gatherings

2023

[Winter 2023](#)

Respecting the Land and
People Who Came Before Us

[Spring 2023](#)

The Phone

[Fall 2023](#)

Tempus Fugit