

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

January 10, 2014

Know safety, no injury.
No safety, know injury.

WO: Schoolhouse Fire fatality learning review report released

The Forest Service released a [learning review](#) report concerning the death of Token Adams, a 41-year-old engine captain with the Jemez Ranger District on the Santa Fe National Forest. Adams died Aug. 30, 2012, from injuries sustained in an ATV accident. The intent of the report is to improve safety and performance across the Forest Service.

R1: Bitterroot National Forest employee named IOGA's Resource Manager of the Year

Marty Almquist, Bitterroot National Forest's outfitter permit administrator, received the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association's Resource Manager of the Year Award at their annual meeting. The award, handed out since 1988, recognizes a state or federal agency resource manager who enhances communication, understanding and cooperation with individual outfitters and the Idaho outfitting and guiding industry.

Flathead National Forest celebrates Winter Trails Day

The Flathead National Forest is joining several local partners in celebrating Winter Trails Day Jan. 11. Free outdoor activities are provided to show great ways to enjoy the outdoors in winter and discover the fitness and social benefits of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in Northwest Montana.

R2: Ski season is booming

January is [National Learn to Ski and Snowboard](#) month and combined with a good snowpack and great weather, Colorado ski resorts are experiencing banner visitation days this season. National Forests are home to 122 ski area; 22 of those ski areas are in Colorado.



The Rocky Mountain Region has partnered with [Get Outdoors Colorado](#) to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors during all seasons.

R5: San Bernardino National Forest FICC Receives CALFIRE Award

The San Bernardino National Forest Federal Interagency Communications Center received a 2013 CAL FIRE Director's Annual Recognition Award in the Partnership Groups category. The awards recognize exceptional and outstanding individual and team accomplishments that are relative to the goals and objectives of CALFIRE.

R8: Pisgah Ranger District raises money to help feed local families

Employees of the Pisgah Ranger District in North Carolina held a silent auction raising \$520 that was donated to the Change the World Foundation. The local organization, “Backpack Buddies” in Transylvania County, received the donation, which was used to buy food that is sent home from school with the children. Donations were low this year and the funds came at the right time to be able to provide much needed food to children and families in need.

R10: Regional Partnership Council meets

The Regional Partnership Council met in Juneau, January 8-9. The Council worked on a number of critical issues concerning working conditions and employee morale. Topics included telework guidance, employee engagement and recognition, organizational charts, health screening policy, and the employee viewpoint survey results and action plan. All employees were invited to participate in person or by phone.

FPL: Director featured on technology innovation website

Michael Rains, Forest Products Lab director, is featured in an article on [Xconomy.com](#). The online site provides business and technology leaders with timely, insightful, close-to-the-scene information about local personalities, companies, and technological trends that best exemplify today’s high-tech economy.

PNWRS: Station scientists receive national honors

The PNW Research Station is proud to announce that four of its own have received national Forest Service honors. Research plant pathologist Paul Hennon and research ecologist Dede Olson each received a 2013 Research and Development Deputy Chief’s Award for distinguished science and science delivery, respectively. Research biologist David L. Peterson and Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center Director Nancy Grulke received 2013 Chief’s Awards for excellence in the science and technology and sustaining forests and grasslands categories, respectively.

RMRS: Station data now part of the Forest Service Research Data Archive

The Rocky Mountain Research Station has provided archived digital research data to the public and science community since 2005. In 2010, the FS created the [Forest Service Research Data Archive](#), housing data for Research and Development (R&D) and affiliated programs. In 2013, the RMRS Data Archive completed integration into the FS-RDA. FS-RDA assigns Digital Object Identifier names ([DOI](#)) to each data product within the Archive – allowing data users to find cited data sets using a permanent URL. Data authors can track citations of their products across the scientific literature. FS-RDA supports an extended search capability, allowing users to find data using keywords, author, location, funding agency, etc.

Soil scientist Receives five-month research fellowship

Soil Scientist Dan Neary recently received a research fellowship award from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an internationally recognized economic organization of 34 countries formed to stimulate economic progress and world trade. Neary’s research project, titled *Maintaining Water Quality under Sustainable Intensification of Plantation Forestry in New Zealand*, addresses OECD Theme I: The Natural Resources Challenge, including innovative approaches to assessing the environmental vulnerability of

management practices involving renewable resources. His five-month fellowship begins October 2014, at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute in Rotorua, New Zealand.

SRS: The emerging chromosomes of the American and Chinese chestnuts

Nurul Faridi, Southern Research Station research geneticist, and his colleagues at the Forest Genetics and Ecosystems Biology unit are working with Penn State University, Clemson University, and The American Chestnut Foundation to map and characterize the American chestnut genome. The team plans to integrate the DNA sequence of both American and Chinese chestnut to a physical map of their chromosomes that will help accelerate breeding efforts and ultimately help to return the American chestnut tree to our forests.

Press Announcements

None to report

Executive News

Personnel News

Carl Lucero has accepted the position of Director for Resource Use Sciences, Washington Office Research & Development. He is currently the Deputy Director for Water Markets with the Office of Environmental Markets, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.



Footprint Area of the Month: Fleet & Transportation

Action Item of the Week: Forest Service Vehicle Reservation System

The Vehicle Reservation System is a national program that consists of a database of available vehicles in your Unit available to reserve and use. If you are interested in learning more, please contact your Unit fleet manager to find out if your Unit is actively using the program or plans on using the program in the near future. For more information on fleet and transportation tips and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).



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Want to read more about what our employees are doing? Read the [forestry category](#) of USDA blogs. More than 540 blogs are posted on the site. Have an idea for a blog? Contact your public affairs officer. Blogs are a great way to tell our story to the public. **Congratulations to Nick Schmal, Eastern Region Fish and Aquatic Ecology, whose post [Recycling Christmas Trees on National Forests a Seasonal Tradition](#) was the most-read USDA blog for the week of January 3.**

People, Places and Things is compiled by the **Office of Communication** from input by field units and Washington Office staffs. Field units need to submit items through their R/S/A PAO offices, which approve and prioritize submissions that are due by 8 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesdays. Please send submissions, each 100 words or less, to the [WO Weekly Report inbox](#). An archive of back issues [is available online](#).