

THE CHIEF'S DESK

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

May 2, 2014

It's time to start moving. Get Up!Get Fit!and GO!

WO: TEAMS Enterprise unit lends assistance to stabilize collapsing river banks

A unit of the [Enterprise Program](#), [TEAMS EU](#), helped restore river banks along the Sandy River, a 74-mile tributary of the Kennebec River in Maine. The restoration project started in the wake of August 2011's Tropical Storm Irene. TEAMS partnered with several federal and local agencies on the project and recently finished by the schedule due date.

R1: Untrammelled full-length film available on YouTube

The 27-minute film, *Untrammelled*, is now available on [YouTube](#). The movie was produced by the Forest Service Northern Region, in partnership with Back Country Horsemen of Montana, local outfitters and others to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Please fill out the form on the [R1 Untrammelled website](#) if you plan to feature the film at a Wilderness 50th celebration.

R2: Annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training scheduled

The Forest Service and U.S. military's annual air tanker Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training will be this week in Cheyenne, Wyo., and beginning May 14 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The week-long training includes classroom sessions, flight training and recertification for military flight crews, civilian lead plane pilots and support personnel.

R3: Youth learn outdoor and camping skills

More than 75 youth hunters recently attended the annual Wallow Fire Turkey Science and Hunting Camp on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Wildlife managers taught junior hunters and their parents about gun safety, turkey anatomy, calling and hunting wild turkeys, wildfire and wildlife sciences, outdoor skills, camping and safety while traveling in the Wallow Fire burn area. The camp was hosted by Youth Outdoors Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arizona Elk Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Arizona Game and Fish.

Students visit Southwest Jemez Mountains landscape restoration project

Santa Fe National Forest's Jemez Ranger District recently hosted students from Albuquerque's Manzano High School for a field trip to discuss Forest Service careers, fire regimes and the important role of fire in the Jemez Mountains. The students visited several Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Collaborative Restoration Project areas that restore the landscape through prescribed fire and other treatments.

R4: Salmon-Challis National Forest recognized Earth Day and Arbor Day

The Salmon-Challis National Forest recognized Earth Day with clean up days, planting trees and shrubs at administrative sites on the forest and coordinating an “I didn’t know I could recycle that” event. The forest celebrated Arbor Day by distributing free blue spruce seedlings in cooperation with partners, including Idaho Forest Products Commission, University of Idaho Extension- Custer and Lemhi Counties, and Salmon Valley Stewardship.

R5: Region joining CAL FIRE to promote Wildfire Awareness Week

The Pacific Southwest Region will join CAL FIRE to promote Wildfire Awareness May 5-9 at various locations in California. Wildfire Awareness Week focuses on fire safety around the home and while visiting public lands. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is joining in as well, encouraging community awareness events for residents to work together and learn from their local fire districts and agency representatives.

Show & Shine event held on the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

The Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area recently teamed with the Shasta County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council to host their 2nd Annual Show & Shine Kool April Nites event. The event was held at the Shasta Lake Visitor Center while others at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station participated in fire prevention games, viewed vintage fire trucks, and interacted with the award-winning Shasta-Trinity pack mules.

R8: Federal Lands Access Program funding to improve Alabama roads

Funding under the Federal Lands Access Program will benefit horse riders and recreationists with a major road improvement project that will impact seven miles of county/forest roads through the Bankhead National Forest. The federal award and the county contribution will enhance degraded roads-eliminating drop-offs and ruts and adding centerline stripes, making the roads safer and improving access to recreation areas. Alabama is the first Southern State to receive these funds.

R9: New Hampshire celebrates Earth Day by going WILD!

More than 4,700 people discovered the wilds of New Hampshire and celebrated the earth at the annual Discover WILD New Hampshire Day. This family-friendly event features exhibits from environmental and conservation organizations across the state, including the White Mountain National Forest. The forest’s exhibit focused on the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

R10: Employees participate in Alaska Wood Energy Conference

Alaska Region staff recently presented information and research at the Alaska Wood Energy Conference in Fairbanks, which drew representatives from other federal and state agencies, local governments, industry, and the public. The conference enabled attendees to share resources and ideas to further the development of wood energy in the state. U.S. Senator Mark Begich addressed the crowd and demonstrated his support for biomass energy development.

NA: Six States receive \$678,000 to restore forests on degraded mined land

Forest Service -State and Private Forestry- and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently awarded \$678,000 in grants through the Appalachian Forest Renewal Initiative to Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Appalachian Forest Renewal Initiative was established in August 2013 to restore forest habitat on small- to medium-sized

project areas across the coal mining region of Appalachia. Targeted sites include a mixture of existing forest, quality streams, and previously mined lands.

NRS/RMRS: Website delivers demographic data for national forests and grasslands

A research project supported by the Forest Service and the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire resulted in the launch this week of a demographic [database](#) that provides access to recent information on demographic change, related to National Forest System lands and social and economic characteristics for each U.S. county. Team members included research scientist Miranda Mockrin of the Rocky Mountain Research Station, demographer Ken Johnson of the University of New Hampshire, and Sue Stewart, a recently retired Northern Research Station social scientist.

Northern Research Station scientist receives award

Kevin Smith, a supervisory plant physiologist in the Northern Research Station's Durham, N.H., office, recently received an International Society of Arboriculture award at the organization's annual conference in Pasadena, Calif. The award recognizes outstanding research that has contributed substantially to the sum knowledge of arboriculture.

FPL: Researcher honored

Junyong Zhu, research general engineer at the Forest Products Laboratory, was named winner of the 2014 Research and Development Technical Award and the William H. Aiken Prize by TAPPI's International Research Management Committee. This award is given for outstanding accomplishments which have advanced the technology of the paper and related industries in the field of research and development. TAPPI is the leading association for the worldwide pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and converting industries.

SRS: Station hosts USDA assistant secretary

Dr. Gregory Parham, USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration, was the keynote speaker at an employee engagement meeting recently held at the Russell Research Center in Athens, Ga. He spoke on the agency's strategic plan, improving employee engagement and developing a 21st century workforce. Dr. Cassandra Johnson Gaither, project leader for Southern Research Station Integrating Human and Natural Systems research, provided an overview of station activities.

RMRS: Post fire mulching effects on forest recovery

After Colorado's High Park Fire, collaborators at Colorado State University, University of Idaho, and Rocky Mountain Research Station worked quickly to establish monitoring plots to examine mulch effects on forest recovery and, for the first time, obtained soil moisture data underneath three types of mulch. Researchers demonstrated that mulching increases soil moisture and may accelerate forest regrowth. The team will expand this monitoring scheme to multiple fires to gain a broader understanding of mulch effects on forest recovery.

PNWRS: Scientist presents on Blue Mountains climate change issues

Station research biologist David L. Peterson and John Laurence, Wallowa-Whitman forest supervisor, recently gave a presentation to 40 people on the interactions between climate change and natural resources in the Blue Mountain region of Northeast Oregon. The public session at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande included an hour-long question-and-answer session.

PSWRS: Scientists help organize and run educational bioblitz for youth

Pacific Southwest Researchers Patricia Winter and Pamela Padgett organized and participated in a bioblitz, a biological surveying event that records living species in a designated area, for 7th graders in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park in Riverside, Calif. The event, part of the Riverside Citizen Science program, included a one-mile hike with four stops, each highlighting a different ecological component in the park. The bioblitz was one of the first activities undertaken by the program, which seeks to get kids involved in outdoor activities, to appreciate wild lands, and to begin understanding the importance of conservation.

Sagehen project underway after extensive collaboration

Collaboration between the Pacific Southwest's Sagehen Experimental Forest, the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest and the University of California-Berkeley is finally underway after a lengthy effort to design an innovative approach for restoration and enhancement within the adjacent forest areas. The Sagehen Project was recently sold to a local logging company which will aid in activities to protect and enhance marten habitat, restore forest stand ecological conditions, and manage fire and fuels on the forest lands.

Press Announcements

Cost of fighting wildfires in 2014 projected to be hundreds of millions of dollars over amount available

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2014--According to a Congressionally-mandated report issued today, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are projected to spend over \$470 million more than is available to fight wildfires this season. According to the report, the Forest Service and Interior may need to spend \$1.8 billion fighting fires this year, while the agencies have only \$1.4 billion available for firefighting.

U.S. Forest Service Proposes New Management Practices for Stewardship of Water Resources

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2014--The U.S. Forest Service today announced its intent to strengthen agency management direction for groundwater resources and the use of best management practices to improve and protect water quality on national forests and grasslands. This action is an integral component of watershed stewardship and land management.

Press Interviews

None

Executive News

On May 5-9, **Associate Chief Mary Wagner** will attend the MegaFlorestais Conference in Cameroon.

Personnel News

Arthur Welton has accepted the position of WO-AQM Branch Chief in Albuquerque, N.M. He is currently the Contracting Officer with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, N.M.



Footprint Area of the Month: Green Purchasing

Action Item of the Week: Participate in National Bike Month

May is [National Bike Month](#), sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. [Bike to Work Week](#) is May 12-16, with National Bike to Work Day on May 16. More than half of the U.S. population lives within five miles of their workplace, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get to work. Take the challenge. Get on that bike and reduce your need for gasoline! For more information on green purchasing and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit [SusOps Demonstration](#).

Read much more about what Forest Service employees are doing on the [USDA Blog site](#).



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