





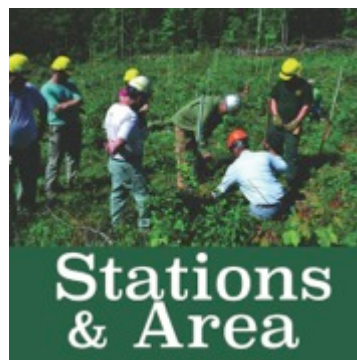
The Chief's Desk

Weekly News from across the Forest Service

People, Places and Things

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Friday, September 12, 2014



Safety Tip of the Week

National Preparedness Month

You can receive important lifesaving alerts no matter where you are. Public safety officials use reliable systems to alert you and your family in the event of natural or man-made disasters. Many communities also offer emergency alert notifications through their own systems. Check with the [Integrated Public Alert & Warning System Authorities](http://www.integratedpublicalert.com) website to find options near you.



Photo/Video of the Week

Chief Tidwell [testified](#) Wednesday about the Forest Service proposed groundwater directive. The hearing was held before the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry.

[Email](#) us your ideas for Photo/Video of the Week.



Region & Washington Office Reports

**R1****Northern Region**

Rescued kittens' story goes viral

The two young mountain lion kittens rescued by firefighters from the Three Mile Fire are being monitored at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks rehabilitation center and will remain there until a permanent location is found, as the kittens are not suitable for reintroduction to the wild. The Bitterroot National Forest has received more than 100,000 hits on its [Facebook](#) page and Public Affairs Specialist Tod McKay has fielded calls from media outlets worldwide.

Region 1 hosted South African team

At the end of August, Region 1 and partners hosted the South African Shadow Incident Management Team. The team reported they learned new lessons they plan to implement. The team was impressed by the interagency cooperation displayed among stakeholders, particularly with the integrated planning and the pooling of resources.

**R2****Rocky Mountain Region**

Gold mine interpretive trail opens

Next week, the Black Hills National Forest is hosting an opening ceremony for the Gold Mountain Mine interpretive trail outside of Hill City, S.D., in partnership with the [Black Hills Historic Preservation Trust](#). The Gold Mountain Mine is one of the few standing gold mines left in northwestern South Dakota and the only one left on the Black Hills National Forest.

Region celebrates Land and Water Conservation Fund

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, the Rocky Mountain Region participated in the dedication of the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch easement acquisition on Sept. 10. The 3,201-acre area links two large tracts of the Roosevelt National Forest along Colorado's rapidly developing Front Range. In addition to protecting important wildlife habitat and watersheds, an easement keeps the area open to more than 10,000 visitors annually.

Rocky Mountain Region celebrates Wilderness Act

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service participated in events throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. Last month, the Aspen Youth Seminar and Maroon Bells Birthday Bash attracted more than 1,500 people to Aspen, Colorado. The seminar focused on 50 youth leaders exploring environmental leadership and wilderness stewardship, while the birthday bash commemorated the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness as one of original wilderness areas designated by the 1964 act.



Intermountain Region



Idaho celebrates wilderness

Mayor Herbert Mumford of Stanley, Idaho, proclaimed September 2014 as Wilderness Appreciation Month and encouraged all citizens to celebrate and appreciate the wilderness surrounding them. Mayor David H. Bieter of Boise proclaimed Sept. 3, 2014, to be Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Day.

Forest hosts wilderness walk

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests' Logan Ranger District, Utah State University, Backcountry Horsemen, Leave No Trace and the American West Heritage Center hosted a Walk for Wilderness event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Booths and activities focused on the evolution of the Wilderness Act and information about local wilderness areas. Participants received anniversary commemorative items.

Ranger district name change

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has changed the name of the Buffalo Ranger District to the Blackrock Ranger District. The change matches the name of the district to the name of its ranger station and reflects the long-standing local use of Blackrock. The change also clears the confusion caused by other areas with similar names, including a portion of Grand Teton National Park.



Pacific Southwest Region



Visions of the Wild

Region 5 employees and partners joined together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act during the three-day "Visions of the Wild" festival held in Vallejo, Calif., the most diverse city in the country. Festival activities included educational films, an interpretive Pacific Crest Trail display, art, music, panel discussions and a visit from Chief Tidwell. The festival focused on engaging people in an urban environment with wilderness.

Renewable energy for remote offices

Region 5 will receive an \$850,000 Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for off-grid renewable energy installations throughout California. This will allow the region to deploy a total of 220 kW of renewable energy installations, including both photovoltaic (PV) systems at 14 locations across 11 national forests and a single small-scale hydroelectric turbine on one additional national forest. These installations will be prototypes for replication at Forest Service locations nationwide.

Office recovering from earthquake damage

The regional office in Vallejo experienced significant water damage after a water pipe burst during the earthquake two weeks ago. Half of the building is operational. Clean-up is on schedule and employees are continuing work by teleworking or from temporary workspaces in the operational portion of the building.

Lake Tahoe wetland restoration

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit plans to restore wetlands and remove the dam at the site of the former Incline Lake. The parcel was purchased in 2009 for its recreation, scenic and natural resource values; however, during the acquisition process a site investigation determined that the dam and spillway do not meet federal, state or local standards for a high-hazard dam. Removing the dam will allow the agency to address public safety concerns, protect water quality, improve aquatic and wetland habitat and continue to provide recreational opportunities.



Pacific Northwest Region



Wolf Creek celebrates anniversaries

Wolf Creek Job Corps Center hosted an open house in late August to celebrate the 50th anniversaries of Job Corps, the Wilderness Act and Umpqua Community College. Center Director Sherri Chambers and Umpqua Deputy Forest Supervisor Gina Owens spoke about Job Corps' impact on students' lives and its legacy on National Forest System lands. The program included planting three commemorative trees and burying a time capsule for students to open in 2034.

Forest celebrates Job Corps anniversary

Timber Lake Job Corps on the Mount Hood National Forest recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps program and the students' spring graduation. Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Jim Peña was a featured speaker for the graduation. Visitors enjoyed tours of the facility and live entertainment.



Cherokee National Forest celebrates Wilderness Act

Associate Chief Mary Wagner joined Cherokee National Forest Supervisor JaSal Morris, Jimmy Gaudry from the Southern Region Office and a host of partners in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The celebration began with a field trip to the Bald River Gorge Wilderness in the Tellico Ranger District and concluded with an evening event at the East Tennessee History Center in Knoxville, Tenn. Approximately 150 people attended the evening festivities.

Forests host wilderness celebration

Hundreds of people joined the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and partners to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a celebration in downtown Dahlonega, Ga. The event, titled "Inspiring Stewardship," included wilderness experts, educational exhibits, traditional skills demonstrations and activities for kids. The keynote speaker for the event was Dale Bosworth, the 15th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.



Forest launches social media campaign

In partnership with [Southernmost Illinois Tourism](#), the [Shawnee National Forest](#) is encouraging visitors to participate in a new social media campaign during the fall color season. Individuals can snap a nature inspired photo, even a selfie at their favorite outdoor destination, and then post on Facebook and/or Twitter using the hashtag #FallinLovewithSoIL. Through such digital strategies, the forest hopes to build consistent messaging and branding with partners across the region.

Youth get field experience

The Region 9 Urban Connections program, [Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center](#) and Wilderness Inquiry partnered to bring 50 middle and high school youth from the Twin Cities to visit the Superior National Forest. The students learned about forest ecology, campsite cleanup and the value of wilderness and fisheries through hands-on activities.



Tongass celebrates wilderness

The Tongass National Forest, which has 19 wilderness areas covering 5.8 million acres, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with “Wild Reads,” a public event in Juneau that showcased new and classic writings about wilderness and wild lands. Forest Service staff and members of the public gathered to share works by writers ranging from original wilderness advocate John Muir to local poet Aleria Jensen, who read from her original collection.



Human Resources Management hiring event

Human Resources Management will hold a hiring fair at the Society of American Foresters Convention in October. The Forest Service is partnering with USDA and the Office of Personnel Management for this event. The Forest Service will use the Pathways Internship Program for current students to hire interns in forestry and natural resources positions.

Fellowship recipient tours Southern California

Next week, Ecosystem Management Coordination employee Tracy Hancock will tour Southern California’s agricultural region as part of the Washington, D.C., [Educational Fellowship Program](#). This program brings together government representatives from Congressional staff to federal agency employees for an in-depth learning opportunity. The program educates D.C.-based decision makers about current issues and complex challenges facing California’s farmers and ranchers while fostering open communication.

Data Resources Management Team receives award

GIS program manager Zahid Chaudhry and team members Laurie Campbell, Leo Chan, Byron Folwell, Ed Hall, Robin Harris, Jesse Nett and Chaochung Tsai received recognition at the government-wide Nextgov Bold Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. The awards recognize those who have conceived and implemented bold ideas for using technology to improve the way government works and serves citizens. The Region 6 team developed ways to provide real-time, interactive geospatial information (regardless of device) to support public policy engagement and decision making.



Research Stations & Area



FPL

Forest Products Laboratory



Researcher to serve as panelist at international meeting

Alex Wiedenhoft, research botanist and team leader for the Forest Products Laboratory's Center for Wood Anatomy Research, will serve as a panelist at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime's meeting for Forensic Laboratory Methods and Procedures of Timber Identification and Analysis. The December meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, and will convene a select group of scientists and law enforcement personnel from around the world to standardize operating procedures for forensic wood science, especially as it pertains to global efforts to combat illegal logging.



NRS

Northern Research Station



Scientists present research at Drexel seminar

Northern Research Station scientists Erika S. Svendsen and Lindsay K. Campbell presented urban environmental governance research as part of "A Seminar Series on Green Infrastructure, Climate and Cities" in collaboration with the Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast. The seminar, hosted by The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, reached over 160 participants and covered topics such as institutions, discourses and effective policy outcomes.



PNW

Pacific Northwest Research Station



New issue of Science Findings

The [latest issue](#) of "Science Findings," Pacific Northwest Research Station's monthly science series, highlights a study that tested the model projections generated by the Forest Vegetation Simulator, a widely used computer model that projects forest growth and predicts disturbance effects. Research forester Susan Hummel revisited a site she had sampled before it burned. By using her original data she was able to assess how accurately the model could predict post-fire conditions.



Scientists mentor students in educational ecology program

Pacific Southwest research ecologists Dr. Christina Liang and Dr. Carolyn Hunsaker mentored students in the SEEDS program during the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting in Sacramento, Calif. SEEDS is the society's education program and is designed to diversify and advance the ecology profession through opportunities that stimulate and nurture the interest of underrepresented students.



Urban students attend natural resources camp

In early August, a group of African American, Hispanic and Native American high school students participated in the Rocky Mountain Research Station's (RMRS) 2014 Natural Resources Science Camp, presented in conjunction with Colorado State University's Warner College. The camp was designed to expose and heighten the awareness level of junior and senior high students about natural resources science research and college and career opportunities. During the three-day camp, students attended research presentations at RMRS headquarters and the university and drove to Pingree Park, the university's outdoor natural resources training facility.

New science bulletin released

Science You Can Use Bulletin #13, [Burgeoning Biomass: Creating Efficient and Sustainable Forest Biomass Supply Chains in the Rocky Mountains](#), is now available. Forest management activities, such as thinning and removing beetle-killed trees, produce a byproduct called woody biomass. The Biomass Research and Development Initiative is developing technologies to collect, process, transport and convert woody biomass into fuel, heat and electricity rather than burning it, thus using this abundant, renewable fuel source.



Media Outreach

Chief Tidwell interviewed with the Associated Press on the proposed groundwater directive on Sept. 10.



Leadership Travel

Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon will attend next week's Leadership for Collective Intelligence training in Italy.

The National Leadership Council will meet September 16-18 at International Programs.



On the Move

Kolleen Beesley has accepted the position of Fire & Aviation Management program specialist with WO-State & Private Forestry in Washington, D.C. She is currently a program specialist for the Chief Information Office in Washington, D.C.

Mark Bethke has accepted the position of planning & financial resources director with the Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. He is currently a senior project manager for AMEC International in Irvine, Calif.

Tracey Hanson has accepted the position of deputy area budget coordinator to the Deputy Chief for Business Operations in Washington, D.C. She is currently a chief of the Budget Presentation and Formulation Branch with the Food Safety and Inspection Service in Washington, D.C.

Rachel Smith has accepted the position of National Fire Plan assistant director for Fire & Aviation Management with the Southern Region in Atlanta, Ga. She is currently a deputy assistant regional director for the Southern Region.

Robert Trujillo has accepted the position of director, Biological & Physical Resources, for the Southern Region in Atlanta, Ga. He is currently a deputy director for the Ecosystem Analysis, Planning, Watershed and Air Staff with the Southwestern Region in Albuquerque, N.M.



Green Living

Footprint Area of the Month: Waste Prevention & Recycling

Action Item of the Week: Reduce wasted food

Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day — from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. More than 96 percent of the food we throw away ends up in landfills. Freeze, preserve or can surplus fruits and vegetables — especially abundant seasonal produce. Compost food scraps rather than throwing them away. For more information on waste prevention and recycling and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).




About People, Places and Things

The Forest Service Office of Communication compiles input by field units and Washington Office staffs. Field units should submit items through their region, station or area Public Affairs Office, which approve and prioritize submissions. The deadline is 8 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesdays. Each submission must be 100 words or fewer in order to be considered. Send items to WO Weekly Report inbox.



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