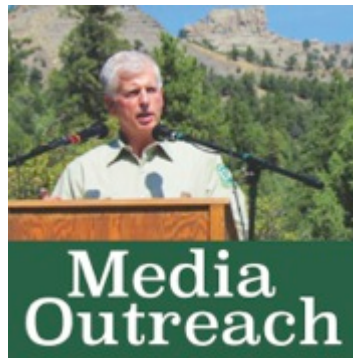
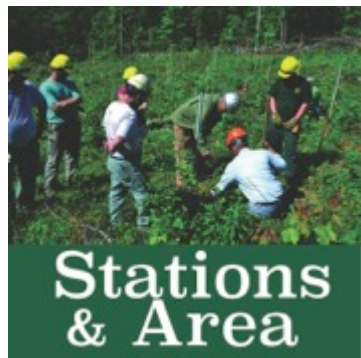




Friday, September 5, 2014



**Safety Tip of the Week**

**Be disaster aware! Take action to prepare.**

The *Ready* Campaign established four universal building blocks of emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get Involved. America's [PrepareAthon!](#) builds on this foundation by encouraging millions of Americans to focus on a simple, specific activity that will increase preparedness. The month of September will focus on disaster awareness and actions to take to be prepared.



**Photo/Video of the Week**

Forest Service opens a new [Outdoor Nature Explore Classroom](#) in Denver. The new space encourages outdoor learning through the use of nature play spaces.

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



# Region Reports

**R1****Northern Region**

## **Input sought for trail plan revision**

Public meetings will be held in September and October to gather tribal and public input to help guide the Nez Perce National Historic Trail's comprehensive plan revision. The trail commemorates the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce from their homelands while being pursued by the U.S. Army, and it stretches from Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Mountains near Chinook, Montana.

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

## **Volunteers help to restore trails**

Devastating flooding last September affected many Forest Service roads, trails, bridges and watersheds within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. Partner agencies like the Federal Highway Administration are helping restore access with road and bridge repair. On September 13 and 14, the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will repair the flood-damaged North Fork Trail near Glen Haven, Colo.

## **Regional leaders discuss wilderness**

Regional Forester Dan Jiron, National Park Service Regional Director Sue Masica and BLM Colorado State Director Ruth Welch will lead a wilderness discussion September 23 as part of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The panel will be held in Denver's Central Library, which is currently showing the exhibit "The Legacy of Wilderness" in its Vida Ellison Gallery.



### **Gila National Forest celebrates Wilderness Act**

More than 300 people attended the Gila National Forest's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, the first designated wilderness area in the Forest Service. The Wilderness Ranger District demonstrated primitive use of crosscut saws and skills in wilderness trail maintenance. Forest Service personnel were on hand to answer questions about wilderness values and benefits.

### **Proclamation celebrates watershed restoration**

Recently, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Robert Bonnie and U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor joined representatives from the Payson Bureau of Reclamation and the National Forest Foundation for the Restoration of C.C. Cragin Reservoir Watershed signing ceremony. The ceremony and proclamation were in celebration of the one-year anniversary of the Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership, which seeks to restore watersheds in the West. Multiple agencies and partners in Arizona recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines how partners will work together to ensure the viability of C.C. Cragin Reservoir and the watersheds which surround it.

### **Kaibab National Forest teams with tribes for Spring Restoration Project**

In early August, Hopi Tribe elders and youth teamed with Kaibab National Forest employees to restore the hydrological function and vegetation on two springs on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The springs are of historical importance to the Hopi Tribe and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The Kaibab National Forest and the Hopi Tribe are also collaborating on a film to train Forest Service employees to work with tribes on issues of tribal importance.



### **Red Canyon Visitor Center celebrates 10 years**

The Dixie National Forest recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Red Canyon Visitor Center. Over 90,000 people have visited the center this year. Festivities included a lunch sponsored by the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association and live music by the Nisson Band.



### **Forest Service first responder assists with Ebola Outbreak**

Kai Olsen, Center Manager for the Southern Area Coordination Center, recently deployed to Liberia, Africa, where he is assisting the U.S. Agency for International Development and international efforts to respond to the ongoing outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in sub-Saharan Africa. Olsen will help distribute 16 tons of medical equipment, including plastic sheeting to build temporary shelters, water purification kits and personal protective equipment for medical workers treating patients.

### **Puerto Rican parrot on the road to recovery**

A pair of endangered Puerto Rican parrots has reproduced outside of captivity for the first time in 144 years, thanks in part to tremendous partnership efforts to restore and manage tropical habitat on the island. Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa joined partners from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources at the Rio Abajo Forest Preserve to make the announcement, which received world-wide media coverage. The Puerto Rican parrot population has grown from nine on the El Yunque National Forest in the late 1960s to over 409 parrots in captivity and an estimated 75 to 142 living in the wild today.



### **Forest trail improved for mountain bikers**

For the past year, the Green Mountain National Forest has collaborated with [Jolly Rovers Trail Crew](#) and [Vermont Bike Association](#) to complete tread improvements on a popular trail in the forest's [Moosalamoo National Recreation Area](#) (NRA). In addition to advancing mountain biking opportunities and improving safety, the Jolly Rovers also hosted an Introduction to Stonework workshop for volunteers and partners, sharing techniques to prepare others for future trail maintenance projects.

### **Volunteers restore historic building**

Veterans, a [HistoriCorps](#) crew, participants in the Passport in Time program and nearby neighbors recently worked in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to restore Cow Palace at [Forest Lodge](#). Volunteers replaced the one-story building's rotted wooden siding, sealed the exterior's wood, installed four window wells, repaired and installed screens on the building's three cupolas and replaced several missing rafters.





### **Deputy Under Secretary Blazer visits Alaska**

Last week, U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer visited the Chugach National Forest with Regional Forester Beth Pendleton, Deputy Regional Forester Becky Nourse and Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron. The group's activities focused on strengthening relationships and building partnerships with Alaska Native organizations.

### **Under Secretary Bonnie discusses young growth**

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Robert Bonnie penned an op-ed for the Juneau Empire to offer support for local Southeast Alaska communities transitioning to a young-growth timber program on the Tongass National Forest. Bonnie acknowledged the historical controversy surrounding timber harvest on the forest and provided an update to residents outlining steps that the Forest Service is taking to achieve the goals of the transition.



### **Forest Service participates in WoodWorks fair**

Director of Forest Management Bryan Rice delivered the keynote address at the Mid-Atlantic Wood Solutions Fair to nearly 500 architects, engineers and other building professionals, focusing on the link between increased wood use and forest health and resiliency. The event was organized by WoodWorks, a non-profit that provides free technical assistance to encourage the use of wood instead of other more energy- and carbon-intensive construction materials such as steel and concrete. WoodWorks has reported more than 100 successful conversions to wood construction this year.

### **Urban Forest Connections monthly webinars**

The Forest Service is launching a new webinar series that will bring experts together to discuss the latest science, practices and policies on urban forestry and the environment. Starting September 10, [Urban Forest Connections webinars](#) will engage Forest Service employees, stakeholders and partners in learning about a number of contemporary urban topics as part of the effort to meet the growing demand for quality urban natural resources science and technology. These webinars are organized and delivered by the [National Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team](#).

## **Pathways Program workshop strives to improve hiring**

The Office of Personnel Management recently hosted a Pathways Program Workshop in Albuquerque attended by Forest Service employees including Sam Foster and Berlinda Baca-Sanchez. The event identified disconnects and bottlenecks in the Pathways recruiting process. The workshop included interactive discussions on topics such as potential changes to the program, Office of Personnel Management initiatives and improvements and overall program statistics.

## **Employees help nation's hungry families**

Since its start in 2009, the Feds Feed Families campaign has raised millions of pounds of food for American families. This year, agency champions rolled up their sleeves and set out to "Beat Our Best." Although official totals haven't been released, the unofficial count shows that Forest Service employees have donated over 300,000 pounds to hungry families across the nation. Congratulations to everyone who participated.



# Research Stations & Area

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NA

Northeastern Area



## **Northeastern Area charters new team**

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry recently chartered a collaborative, multi-program team to guide implementation of the Area's ecosystem services and climate change strategies. The Ecosystem Services & Climate Change Team broadens the Area's technology transfer role with respect to climate change and ecological services. Strategies include engaging staff and partners in dialogue and supporting incorporation of applicable science into management activities for increased forest resilience and adaptation.



### Latest log and lumber export data released

Each quarter, Station Research Economist Xiaoping Zhou compiles data on West Coast log and lumber exports for economists, business reporters and others using data from the U.S. International Trade Commission. The [second quarter of 2014](#) saw an approximately 10 percent increase in West coast log exports compared to earlier this year, but a slight decrease in West coast lumber exports. China remained a significant market.



### Research unit hosts Bulgarian study tour

A Bulgarian study tour recently visited the Southern Research Station's Utilization of Southern Forest Resources Unit in Blacksburg, Virginia. Philip Araman, Research Team Leader for the unit, led the tour which included presentations on wood products and the environment, green building systems, zero wood construction waste and products from reclaimed wood as possible green building materials for flooring, furniture and cabinets. The tour also visited a "Green Housing Development."



## Media Outreach

### U.S. Forest Service to host international forest research conference

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4, 2014 – For the first time in 43 years, the U.S. Forest Service is hosting the World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the premier event for forest research worldwide. The event, which is scheduled for Oct. 5-11 in Salt Lake City, is expected to draw 2,500 forest scientists from 100 nations.

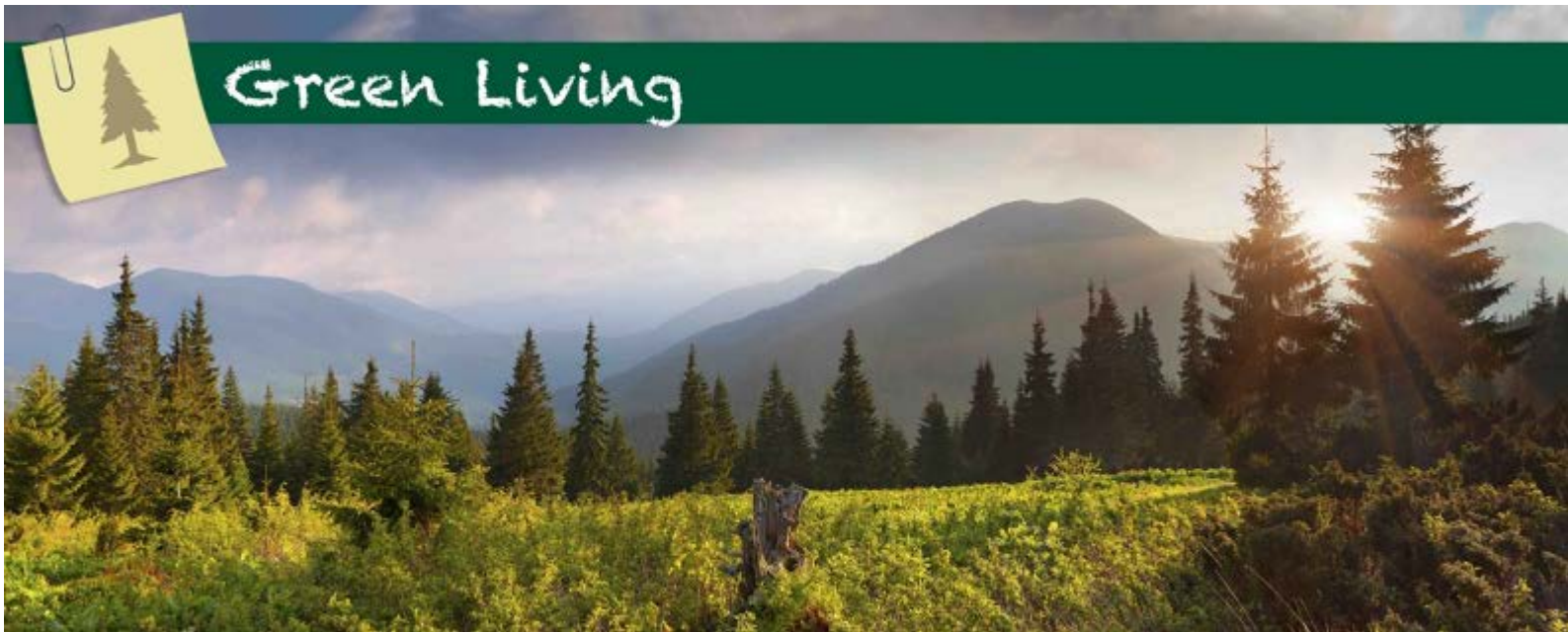


## On the Move

**Dr. Luanne Lohr** has accepted the position of National Program Lead for Research Economics with the WO-Research and Development, in Washington, DC. She is currently Associate Deputy Administrator for the Agricultural Marketing Service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Washington, DC.



## Green Living



**Footprint Area of the Month: Waste Prevention & Recycling**

**Action Item of the Week: Reuse through donation**

One person's trash is another person's treasure. Rather than discarding unwanted appliances, tools or clothes, try donating them instead. Community centers, thrift stores, schools and nonprofit organizations may accept a variety of donated items, including and books, working electronics and unneeded furniture. For more information on waste prevention and recycling and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).



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## 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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